

THE DIGITAL MAGAZINE OF THE FORT WAYNE CHAPTER

SPRING IS HERE!



April 2024

FORT WAYNE CHAPTER **NEWS**

IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA
CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FORT WAYNE CHAPTER



the Fort Wayne Chapter

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An Interview With Karla Wyss, Our Rifle & Pistol Range Manager

I'm at the Range Shed of our Rifle and pistol Range today, interviewing Karla Wyss,

our Range Manager. Hi Karla, What a beautiful day it is on the range!

KW: Yes, a beautiful day, and thanks for this opportunity to chat with you.

JB: You're welcome.

Before we discuss your interest in shooting, would you mind telling us a bit about yourself? Do you have children?

KW: I've been married 32 years and have three children and 4 step kids.

JB: Do they all live in the local area?

KW: My son is the only one of the 7 that lives in Indiana.

JB: What about Grandkids?

KW: Between us, we have 11 grandkids.

JB: What has been your work experience working outside the home?

KW: I have many jobs. I worked at a Sheriff's Department in Kansas, was a paralegal in Ft. Wayne, and owned two businesses here.

JB: And you are married to Mar Wyss, right?

KW: Yes, we have been married 32 years,

the best years of my life!

JB: How did you two meet, and how long have you been married?

KW: We met in Kansas and worked together at the same Company.

JB: I heard that you celebrated an anniversary here at the Chapter. What led you to that choice?

KW: There was a need for someone to step up to the position of Range Manager, and I was interested and felt I could offer a fresh perspective.

JB: Tell us a bit about how you get around the area. I see that you each have your own cycles.

KW: Mar and I own Can-Am Spyder motorcycles.

JB: Do you use them for long trips or just around the rural area?

KW: We enjoy short rides to our lake house and, of course, to the gun range.

JB: Any other interesting transportation?

KW: Last year, I bought myself a 1975 MG Midget convertible for my Birthday.



(Continued on Page Three)

"the FW Chapter NEWS is a Publication of the Fort Wayne Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America"

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Cover Photo By K. Wyss

All photos, unless noted, appearing in this issue are the property of the Fort Wayne Izaak Walton Chapter.



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NEEDED IF YOU ARE A MEMBER WHO CAN WALK, CRAWL, OR STAND!

The Walton League of America has been a champion of the nation's soil, air, woods, waters, and wildlife for over 100 years. Through member-driven governance, the league works to protect outdoor America in communities across the country while also strategically fighting conservation battles at the national level.

Our Fort Wayne Chapter offers pristine forest preserve trails, a stocked fishing lake, and excellent Public Sports Shooting events, including Public 3D Archery and Trap and Skeet events. Our Rifle and pistol ranges, and two of the best outdoor ranges in Northeast Indiana, are available only to members with a Range Pass and their guests. Finally, these facilities, amenities, and the chapter house are available to the public for rental.

Our chapter will be celebrating our 100th Anniversary on June 22nd as one of the oldest chapters in the League, having been chartered just two years after the League was formed!

The Fort Wayne chapter of the league is a non-profit organization with no paid staff. Its members maintain the beautiful facilities mentioned above. We have a truly wonderful unpaid Site Manager who takes care of the basics needed, and everything else that you see and enjoy is maintained through volunteer member efforts, including management of Public Shooting events, and RSO management of our Rifle & Pistol Ranges.

If you appreciate and take pride in your membership and want to assure it maintained in the manner that you have come to expect, then your help is needed to do routine maintenance. We have work for members of all ages. **For more information, contact chapter secretary Carl Ehinger at Email crehinger@gmail.com**

Jay L. Butler—President Fort Wayne Chapter



Our Trap & Skeet program is at a crucial juncture and needs your support. We're seeking an enthusiastic Trap & Skeet Manager and Advisory Committee members to help us keep the program alive and thriving. Our Wednesday schedule is temporarily stable, but we need good trap shooters to manage our Sunday shoots. Without them, we may need to pause the program starting Easter Sunday. While our Youth trap program is well taken care of, our Public Trap Program is only partially covered.

To keep our beloved Trap & Skeet range open and active, we need dedicated volunteers who are in it for the long haul. The future of our Trap & Skeet range is in your hands; let's work together to prevent its closure.

E-mail to Volunteer

(Trap & Skeet In Danger of Shutting Down Due To Lack Of Volunteers)



Our chapter is in urgent need of a dedicated Building & Grounds Manager and a proactive advisory committee to help keep our clubhouse and its surroundings pristine. The unpaid site manager is tasked with mowing, clubhouse tidying, and other daily chores. However, there are additional maintenance projects that call for a capable manager and committee to oversee and coordinate. For example, power washing the outside of the clubhouse, trail clearing, mulch distribution etc.

Our chapter thrives solely on the selfless commitment of our volunteers, and the upkeep of our facilities depends on our members generously donating their time. So, consider this a call to action to help us build a better, well-maintained community space.

E-mail to Volunteer

REPRINT OF BULLETINS SENT TO
MEMBERS EMAIL

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JB: Your jeep's color surely stands out. Was that deliberate, or was the luck of the draw at the dealership?

KW: I like bright colors; this is my 2nd green Jeep. As you get older, finding it in the big parking lots is easier.



JB: Any Bling added?

KW: I have added decals to my Jeep and rhinestones on the windshield of my motorcycle. Every gal needs a little or maybe a lot of bling.

JB: I saw a photo of you in our chapter's NEWS magazine, which made me wonder if you participate in craft shows frequently.

KW: I have participated in several local craft shows. Last fall, Carl Einger, our

membership V.P. and I shared a table at the Churubusco Craft Show.

JB: Do you have a specialty in crafting, or do you do multiple things?

KW: My hobbies have changed over the years, from embroidery to stained glass-work, ink paintings, and laser engraving.

JB: What got you started and for how long have you been doing this?

KW: I believe I have always enjoyed some



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crafts.

JB: Tell me a bit about your craft area where you do your work.

KW: I have two craft rooms, one upstairs and one downstairs to do my wood laser engraving.



JB: Have you come across any other interesting crafters who are chapter members?

KW: Yes, Carl Ehinger and Melissa Doepke share some of the same crafting interests, and we chat a lot about our hobbies, especially stained glass and laser engraving.

JB: There are two kinds of gun owners, those that never sell a gun and those who trade them frequently. Which group do you belong to?

KW: I think a little of both. I have a few guns I would never sell, but others, if I don't shoot well, I'll trade-in.

JB: Do you have a favorite?

KW: I have several that are my favorites, Ruger Mark IV, Kimber K6, and Chippa Rhino.

JB: Is there a point that your crafts and your firearms meet?

KW: Yes, I have laser engraved on leather holsters, gun barrels, and gun mags.



JB: Do you have any other female shooting companions, or do you feel like a small fish in a big

pond, as gun ranges are typically male-dominated?

KW: Deb Warnick, our RSO scheduler, and I have become great friends, and we shoot together several times a week. I wish we had more women shooters at the range.



JB: Do male shooters ever give you a tough time as the manager or RSO of our range?

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KW: No, the male shooters are very respectful of me, and I truly value their help at the range.

JB: You also serve on our Board. Is that a lonely position for a woman?

KW: We have other women on the BOD, and we all contribute our best to make Izaak Walton a better place for our members.

JB: Well, I see by that very unique Range clock that we are just about out of time. By the way tell me about that clock.

KW: We reclaim our range brass and I made that clock from some of the empty cartridges.

JB: More Crafting, right?

KW: Yep!

JB: Are there any parting words for those reading this, whether male or female.

KW: I enjoy my position as Range Manager and feel it is a privilege to work with so many wonderful shooters. Since joining Izaak Walton, I have made many new friends, both men and women. One goal I would like to achieve is to establish a women's shooting group.

JB: Thanks, Karla, it is always a pleasure.

KW: Thank you, Jay, I've enjoyed chatting with you as always.



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Revitalization Of Chapter's Walton Lake

Since the last issue of the FW Chapter NEWS, here's what has been happening in regards to the 3- 5 year pond improvement plan for our Lake Walton.

We have received the wildlife-friendly weed control product. The ideal time to apply the treatment is when the water temperature reaches 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The treatment is expected to begin in May, but the exact date cannot be determined due to unpredictable weather conditions and the need to monitor the water temperature. We are located in Northeast Indiana, so the

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Saturday 6A-3P
Sunday 7A-3P

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Start date may vary. The weed control product will be applied using a liquid sprayer and the chapter rowboat. By the way, we are hoping to find some clamp-on boat seats for the rowboat. If you happen to have any that are still in good condition and appropriate for use in the water, please let me know at the email address listed below. This will be a great help to all the members of IWL-FW who use the rowboat, especially those who need extra back support.

When you visit the lake or pond area, kindly ensure that you have your membership card handy. Our lake is exclusively for members and their guests, and sometimes uninvited individuals take advantage of this beautiful location, offered only to our members. We kindly request you to be gracious if asked to show your membership card, and also feel free to ask to see the membership card of anyone using our lake during your visit. This is your lake, and we need your assistance in protecting it, which will be particularly important after we restock the lake.

When you go fishing, it is important to remove all the fish that are under 14 inches in length. The **"catch and release"** strategy should only be used in larger and heavily fished bodies of water. If you do not feel comfortable throwing the fish into the long grass, you can always take them home for a delicious meal or use them as fertilizer in your garden. And if your children do not understand the importance of this practice, you can explain to them the famous quote from the movie Lion King that says: **"Everything you see exists together in a delicate balance. As king, you need to understand that balance and respect all the creatures, from the crawling ant to the leaping antelope."** - Mufasa. Remember that in the circle of life, we are helping the four-legged wildlife in our Forest Preserve find the food they need to survive.

We plan to post this information regarding fish harvesting by the water. Stay tuned for monthly updates in this publication.

We are always looking for Committee members to help maintain our lake, so if fishing or boating is your thing, or you just enjoy the serenity of sitting in this beautiful setting, please consider joining in the donation of a few hours each month in its upkeep. I can be reached at Email briandoepke@gmail.com or cell phone 260-417-1298
By BRIAN DOEPKE—Committee Chair



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RANGE TALK

It is a well known fact that Patrick White of WOWO fame, spends a whole lot of time out at our rifle and pistol range. The other day, while Patrick was trying out the latest enhancements to his Bergara precision target rifle, someone heard Patrick telling about his wife yelling upstairs asking, ***“Do you ever get a shooting pain across your body, like someone has a voodoo doll of you and they are stabbing it?”***

Patrick said that he answered, ***“No, dear!”***

To which she responded. ***“OK, how about now?”***

Don't know if this is true or not, it could be just a rumor, but I thought worth passing on! Ask him the next time you see him at the range.

The Editor

TRAP & SKEET REPORT—John Kurtz

RESULTS OF PUBLIC TRAP SHOOTS

2/18/24: No shooters showed up

2/25/24 : 2 public shooters & 1 member.

3/3/24: 7 public shooters & 3 Members.

3/10/24: 1 public shooters & 1 member.

SUMMARY 4 monthly events: 10 Public Shooters and 5 members for total of 15 shooters.

CARROLL HIGH SCHOOL TRAP TEAM— Alan New

- 2/27: 9x50 = 450 Clays Expended
- 3/5: 9x50 = 450 Clays Expended
- 3/12: 9x50 = 450 Clays Expended
- Annie Oakley Shoot: 50 Clays Expended
- 3/19: 9 x 50 = 450 Clays Expended
- Elimination Shoot: 50 Clays Expended
- 3/24: Xander practice: 50 Clays Expended.

SUMMARY: Expended 1,950 Clays

Clay Piercers

- The chapter team, the Clay Piercers, are reorganizing with an Open House held on March 12th with the Carroll Team doing a practice demonstration shoot for attendees.

RIFLE & PISTOL REPORT—Karla Wyss

- 153 Members and 20 guests shooters in February.
- Range was open 19 days.
- Appreciation box donations of \$11.00 and \$409.00 in sale of expended Brass.
- KYL precision shooting steel plate target has been donated and Dick is working to install a suitable backdrop on Rifle lane two.
- Range Hours are on Daylight Savings time 10:30 am—7:30 pm as of March 10th.
- Our Spring RSO meeting will be on April 20th at 6:00 pm.

ARCHERY PROGRAM—Rick Thompson

- 3D Public Archery Season will begin soon on 3rd Saturday of each month, open 10:00—4:00 pm.
Admission: Adults \$10.00 and children under 12 FREE
 - March 16: 1st date of season
 - April 20th
 - May 18th
 - June 15th
 - July 20th
 - August 17th
 - September 21st: Last date of season
- The old archery tower has been towed out of the woods and will be refurbished for use on the static bulls eye target range.

Trap & Skeet Public Shoots

Sundays: 9:00 am—2:00 pm
Wednesdays: 5:00 pm - Dusk

Members & Guests Rifle & Pistol Ranges

Summer: 10:30 am—7:30 pm
Winter: 10:00 am—5:00 pm

Our Milkweed Is Ready To Plant

Our supply of milkweed seeds have been “on ice” for a couple of months and are ready to plant. We are offering some to our Chapter neighbors, and others, to disperse on their property and then we will have an organized scattering of the seeds in certain areas of our own property.

Volunteers are asked to show up at The Chapter house at 9:30 am on Saturday April 13th to accomplish the task on our grounds. With enough help it shouldn't take very long, and this is something that even the younger members can take part in.



Make it a “family affair”!

DID YOU KNOW...

Your Chapter Board of Directors starts each board meeting with this pledge: *“To strive for the purity of water, the clarity of air, and the wise stewardship of the land and its resources; to know the beauty and understanding of nature and the value of wildlife, woodlands, and open space; to the preservation of this heritage and to man's sharing in it. I pledge myself as a member of the Izaak Walton League of America.”*

NOTED....

Last month, our Committee Chair for Lake Walton Revitalization, asked anyone had a fish/depth finder that they might consider donating to his committee to assist his team working on Lake Walton. Almost immediately he got a response and an offer. Our thanks and a tip of the Hat to Scott Passwater for his generous donation of a depth finder that he was no longer using. This month, Brian is asking if anyone has a clamp-on boa seat with a back for use while spraying the weed inhibitor (See page six for more details.) Brian can be reached at \ Email briandoepe@gmail.com or cell phone 260-417-1298

the Fort Wayne Chapter

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Chapter Event Calendar

31-Mar	Sun	Public ATA Trap Shoot
1-Apr	Mon	
2-Apr	Tue	
3-Apr	Wed	R&P Range Closed
3-Apr	Wed	Public Trap Shoot
4-Apr	Thu	R&P Range Closed
5-Apr	Fri	
6-Apr	Sat	
7-Apr	Sun	Public rap Shoot
8-Apr	Mon	
9-Apr	Tue	
10-Apr	Wed	R&P Range Closed
10-Apr	Wed	Public Trap Shoot
11-Apr	Thu	R&P Range Closed
12-Apr	Fri	
13-Apr	Sat	
14-Apr	Sun	Public Trap Shoot
15-Apr	Mon	
16-Apr	Tue	
17-Apr	Wed	Range Closed
17-Apr	Wed	Public Trap Shoot
18-Apr	Thu	Range Closed
19-Apr	Fri	
20-Apr	Sat	RSO Staff Meeting & Dinner
20-Apr	Sun	Public 3D Archery Shoot
21-Apr	Sun	Public Trap Shoot
22-Apr	Mon	
23-Apr	Tue	
24-Apr	Wed	R&P Range Closed
24-Apr	Wed	Public ATA Trap Shoot
25-Apr	Thu	R&P Range Closed
26-Apr	Fri	
27-Apr	Sat	RSO Staff Meeting
28-Apr	Sun	ATA Public Trap Shoot
29-Apr	Mon	
30-Apr	Tue	

1-May	Wed	Deadline -National & IN Division Endowment
1-May	Wed	Public Trap Shoot
1-May	Wed	R&P Range Closed
2-May	Thu	R&P Range Closed
3-May	Fri	
4-May	Sat	
5-May	Sun	Public Trap Shoot
6-May	Mon	
7-May	Tue	
8-May	Wed	R&P Range Closed
8-May	Wed	Public Trap Shoot
9-May	Thu	R&P Range Closed
10-May	Fri	Spring Membership meeting
11-May	Sat	
12-May	Sun	Public Trap Shoot
13-May	Mon	
14-May	Tue	
15-May	Wed	R&P Range Closed
15-May	Wed	Public Trap Shoot
16-May	Thu	R&P Range Closed
17-May	Fri	
18-May	Sat	Public 3D Archery Shoot
19-May	Sun	Public Trap Shoot
20-May	Mon	
21-May	Tue	
22-May	Wed	Range Closed
22-May	Wed	Public Trap Shoot
23-May	Thu	Range Closed
24-May	Fri	
25-May	Sat	
26-May	Sun	ATA Public Trap Shoot
27-May	Mon	
28-May	Tue	
29-May	Wed	R&P Range Closed
29-May	Wed	Public Trap Shoot
30-May	Thu	R&P Range Closed
31-May	Fri	

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Nearby IWLA Chapter Starting Monthly Sports Shooting Day

Our neighboring chapter is starting a monthly Shooting Sports Day. If you enjoy Shooting Sports and want to participate, we encourage you to drop in and give it a try.

If you have an RSO rating and are interested in helping out, please visit their website. For more information contact their website at www.izaakwaltonhuntington.com.

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AGES 9-15

IWLA
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Play begins at 7:00 pm

Open to family, friends, or neighbors - IWLA membership is not required. Entry fee is \$5.00 per person

Bring a favorite snack and beverage for your own enjoyment, or to share.

SOUND OFF!



Jay Butler
Managing Editor

Tell us your thoughts about our **“FW Chapter NEWS”** or any other Chapter related topic.

Email: jaybutler1940@gmail.com



OH NO!!! I forgot to include the range fee with my renewal dues payment!!

Not a problem. Pay it at the range the next time you go. The RSO will be happy to help you out.

GRACE PERIOD ENDS!!
Beginning March 1st, shooters must be active 2024 members and have paid their range access fees to use the rifle and/or pistol range. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
Don't waste time. Send in your 2024 membership renewal **TODAY!!**

the Fort Wayne Chapter

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Fort Wayne Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America

News



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2024 Membership Renewal Form

Please fill in the following information and determine the appropriate remittal amount from the table below. Place this completed form and your payment into an envelope and mail to: Fort Wayne Chapter, IWLA, Membership Director, 2709 Bearberry Ct., Fort Wayne, IN 46818.

Name: _____ Member No. _____

Email address: _____

Type of Membership: _____ Total Dues: _____

If you wish to purchase range privileges—add \$40.00 R/P: _____

Total enclosed: _____

Please list any changes from your previous membership (type, address, names, etc.) _____

Current dues distribution

Type	National	Ind/Division	FW Chapter	Total Dues	% to Chapter	Range Fee
Family	\$75.00	\$15.00	\$53.00	\$143.00	37%	\$40.00*
Senior Family	\$75.00	\$8.00	\$53.00	\$136.00	38.9%	\$40.00*
Individual	\$50.00	\$10.00	\$42.00	\$102.00	41%	\$40.00*
Senior	\$50.00	\$8.00	\$34.00	\$92.00	37%	\$40.00*
Student	\$25.00	\$8.00	\$29.00	\$62.00	47%	\$40.00*

* To use the rifle/pistol ranges you must purchase range privileges. **If you choose to purchase range privileges, please remit the "Total Dues" amount plus the \$40.00 range fee.** Range fees are wholly retained by the Chapter and are necessary to help offset the operating and maintenance expenses that are specifically associated with the ranges.

**Thank you for your continued support
of our Chapter**