

The Digital Magazine Of The Fort Wayne Chapter

Story on Page
Eight

Fort Wayne News

Izaak Walton League of America



the Fort Wayne Chapter

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Cover Photo

By: Danielle Doepke

Chapter Photos

By Karla Wyss

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

Lest we Forget...

“We Are Not Just A Sports Shooting Chapter!”

We start each Chapter 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.”*

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE NOW!

Our Izaak Walton League Chapter is situated in the scenic Cedar Canyon, which is one of Indiana's last protected woodland areas that has been preserved in its natural form. Our chapter offers well-maintained hiking trails that wind through rolling hills that were carved millions of years ago by glaciers. Although our shooting ranges are crucial to our chapter, we aspire to be more than just a shooting location. As we approach our 100th Anniversary, our aim is to re-establish ourselves as a conservation-based organization that provides enjoyable and family-friendly outdoor activities, in addition to offering Northeast Indiana's finest shooting ranges. As we plan for the future, we need to consider what our members find important in revitalizing our chapter grounds and how to finance these changes and additions. Soon, you will receive a survey that will allow you to assist us in planning our future over the next three to five years.

In the meantime, we know that our meeting hall needs significant upgrades, including new flooring, painting, sound-deadening drapes, and other improvements that will create a more welcoming atmosphere for indoor member and community rental activities.

As a donor, you have a unique opportunity to contribute tax-free dollars to our 501(C3) organization, which will allow us to upgrade our chapter hall. You can support your chapter while satisfying your RMD amount by making a tax-free qualified charitable distribution (QCD) or donating excess from your annual required minimum distribution (RMD). This is an excellent way to reduce your taxable income and keep you in a desirable tax bracket.

As 2023 comes to an end, you can consider including the Fort Wayne Chapter in your charitable giving plans for the new year. We encourage you to thoughtfully consider supporting our chapter house refurbishment. As a member, you can help us continue to offer a variety of activities by beginning with this first installment of our long-range plan, which will ensure the same for future generations. It's essential to note that any charitable donation should be made in a philanthropic spirit and not solely for tax purposes. With your generosity, we can refurbish our Chapter House's main meeting room and entranceway in time for our 100th Chapter Anniversary this summer. Your kindness can be the financial cornerstone of this happening.

“the FW CHAPTER NEWS” a Publication of the Fort Wayne Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America

Jay Butler— Managing Editor Email: jaybutler1940@gmail.com
Melissa Doepke—Assistant Editor
Carl Ehinger—Distribution
Victoria Boyd-Devine—Copywriter
Karla Wyss—Photo Journalist



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A Letter From Our Chapter President



Izaak Walton League of America - Fort Wayne

17100 Griffin Rd

Huntertown, IN

Dear Member,

We hope this message finds you in good health and spirits as we enter into this Holiday season. By now, you should have received your 2024 Membership renewal notices, and you may have noticed a slight increase in dues due to the State organization raising their rates. We want to remind you that we have not raised our chapter's portion of your overall IWL A dues for several years. Remember, your 2024 dues card must have the Range Stamp in order to use the Rifle & Pistol Ranges.

Apart from minor upgrades like adding lights to our skeet range, constructing a new bat habitat, and enhancing the trails, we have not been able to generate extra funding, over expenses, necessary to carry out major improvements for our members' convenience. These upgrades include cleaning and restocking the Walton pond, developing our camping areas, setting up family playground equipment, and providing new restroom facilities. Additionally, our chapter house meeting rooms are in dire need of renovation. Despite our efforts, after budgeting for upkeep, there have not been funds to secure the improvements that, while sorely needed, can only be considered discretionary.

We included a tri-fold pamphlet in your renewal packet, listing a few reasons why maintaining your membership is a great choice. We will continuously strive to provide you with the best membership experience possible.

The Fort Wayne Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America is a non-profit 501(C3) corporation and is qualified to receive tax-free charitable donations. You can contribute directly to our chapter program improvement funds, or by pre-arrangement, you can make your donation project or purpose-specific. When planning your philanthropic allocations, please consider how your help, at any level, can be a significant benefit to our Chapter.

As you make your financial plans for charitable donations or a portion of your income, please give some thought to assisting your chapter for your family's enjoyment and future family generations to come.

Finally, as we enter the Christmas season, on behalf of your Board of Directors, we want to wish you a joyous time as we close out 2023. We invite you to pause in the hustle and bustle of the Holiday's and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. We wish you many blessings in the coming year!

Best regards,

Jay Butler

Jay L. Butler
President, Fort Wayne Chapter
National Director—IWL A

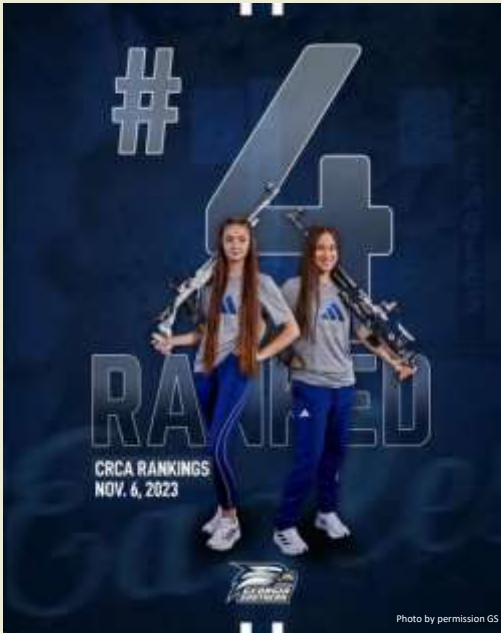
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Chapter Proud Of Our Young Athletes

In the November issue, we introduced Xander New as an upcoming youth athlete shotgunner for the Fort Wayne Chapter.

In this story, we follow the journey of a talented NCAA athlete and also a member of the Fort Wayne chapter who is now shooting on a scholarship for Georgia Southern University. This month, we revisit another excellent shooter from the Fort Wayne Chapter who recently received a half-page write-up in the Fort



Wayne Journal Gazette. She is now a member of the Georgia Southern Rifle team, making a name for herself in the world of athletic sports. Her team consists of eight young ladies, five of whom are freshmen. They are performing exceptionally well in the NCAA circuit in Small-Bore Rifle and Air Rifle competitions.

The team's impressive performance has caught the attention of those who follow them. They have been breaking Georgia Southern's records in each match and their NCAA placement standing has been steadily climbing. Starting at 12th place, they moved to 9th, then 7th, followed by 4th. **As we go to press, they have moved up to 3rd place,** outscoring well-known collegiate rifle teams that are used to holding a spot in the top ten.

Recruited by **Coach Soren Butler**, five of the eight team members are freshmen from the world competitor venue, including shooters from Israel, Germany, Spain, and the US. Soren said, *"This last match was an awesome day for our program overall. I think that the girls finally got a little glimpse of their work paying off, and we are very proud of them."*

When asked about their progress, Bremen said, *"We'll take a moment to recognize our progress, but there is still a lot of work to be done, and we have a lot of season left before we celebrate."*

These young athletes have a tight schedule. They wake up at 5:45 a.m., are at the range by seven for practice, followed by strength training in the gym three times a week, and class study from 12:30 to 5:30. Then it is homework time and in bed by 9:30.

Fort Wayne Chapter veteran small bore shooter **Patrick White**

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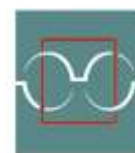
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shared his thoughts on the team's success: "The coach of Georgia Southern University took a bold risk that few have taken. He created a team of international stars led by a seasoned and experienced upperclassman. This team is reminiscent of the 1985-1986 Chicago Bears, where each player was a star in their own right. Top-of-the-heap random marksmen are becoming legends as a Team. The phrase 'How bout those Bears?' is being replaced by 'How bout those Eagles?.' Over the next four years, we will have the opportunity to witness history in the making."

Be an Ambassador for the Chapter

One of the key indicators of good health in an organization, such as our chapter is steady, year after year, growth in the number of members. You can be a major factor in promoting that type of performance at the Fort Wayne Chapter. It's as simple as always being ready to take advantage of each opportunity that presents itself, to share your membership experience with friends, family, or acquaintances who you interact with .

Explain what a value it is to have access to the facilities that go along with membership and how you benefit from them. Share how it is all available to them for the bargain price of our annual dues. Remind them that through their membership, they will be taking an active role in local, regional, and national conservation efforts. Direct those interested in getting more information to our website at iwla-fw.org

There is nothing more effective in gaining participation than giving positive, personal testimony and offering a direct invitation to join. For the benefit of our Chapter, *always be ready to do both.*

Carl Ehinger
Membership Vice President

Your 2024 Membership Card must have the Range Fee Stamp for use of Rifle & Pistol Ranges.



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INDIANA DEPARTMENT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PLANS TO PAVE OVER 9,000 ACRES OF INDIANA FARMLAND

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IDEC) has a plan in motion to develop a commercial high-tech and manufacturing "campus" called LEAP, which would mean paving over 9,000 acres of prime Indiana farmland near Lebanon, IN.

Even more concerning is that the water aquifer that supplies Lebanon is not large enough to support this project and this rural community. Therefore, the state will lay a massive pipeline to move one million gallons of water daily from another Indiana water aquifer that serves prime farmland and communities almost 50 miles away. This is a short-sighted solution that ignores the red flags that are flying.

This project proves the statement that "Man will not be satisfied until he has concreted over every square foot of land in the name of progress." And what about the short-sightedness of overcoming a water shortage by piping water a distance of one-third of the width of Indiana, stealing from one geographic area of Indiana to feed the artificial "need" of another, at a daily rate that boggles the mind.

Sources: www.iedc.in.gov, journalgazette.com, indianacapitalchronicle.com

SUPREME COURT GUTS CLEAN WATER PROTECTION

The recent decision of the Supreme Court in Sackett v. EPA, coupled with the revised regulations of the EPA and Army Corps, has resulted in the loss of Clean Water protection for nearly 60 million acres of wetlands in the United States. This action is unprecedented and will lead to a decline in water quality, hasten wetland drainage, and negatively impact the economy of outdoor recreation.

SOURCE: iwla.org

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For that special person in your life, give the gift that keeps giving all year long. A membership in the Fort Wayne Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America not only provides a yearlong opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty and offerings of the Chapter, but also contributes to conservation efforts locally, and at the state and national levels. Contact our Membership Chairman at 260-619-3242 or crehinger@gmail.com for details. Gift certificates for presentation are available.



Fort Wayne Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America

Gift Certificate

To: *Joe S. Ragman*

Application for membership in the Fort Wayne Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America has been submitted, and the dues have been paid, for the family of Joe S. Ragman for the period Jan 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. During this period they are entitled to enjoy the full benefits of membership, including use of the range facilities.

Carl R. Ehinger
Carl R. Ehinger, Membership Chairman

DON'T MISS THIS HOLIDAY SPECIAL!

Would you like to give someone the gift of their very own Business Ad, just like the ones you see on the right side of this page? You can do that right here! With this offer, the Gift Ad will appear in 12 consecutive issues of our NEWS Magazine, and will also be displayed in a 12x24" format on our huge Business Ad Board at our Rifle & Pistol range. Don't miss out on this opportunity to give a special that will keep on giving!

We are currently offering our Marketing Package, usually priced at \$150.00, for a limited time at a 10% Discount. Don't miss out on this opportunity - fill out the application on Page 9 of this issue. **DON'T WAIT-THIS IS FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY!**



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OH NO!!! I forgot to include the range fee with my renewal dues payment!!
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Over Fertilizing Creating Havoc With Nitrates!

Farmers often wonder if they need fertilizers to obtain a good corn yield. Recent studies from the University of Illinois indicate that corn gets most of its nitrogen from natural sources in soil rather than from fertilizers. The studies also show that only a small percentage of artificial fertilizers (12-24%) are absorbed by growing corn plants. Although timing is thought to be crucial in fertilizer effectiveness, the studies suggest that when it is applied during the growing season, it makes barely any difference in uptake.

Jared Mott, IWLA, reports that the EPA is reassessing the health risks of nitrate and considering new safe-level standards. Nitrate in drinking water has long been known to be hazardous to human health, but the standard for what is considered too much hasn't been updated in 60 years. The assessment was put on hold in 2018 but is now back in progress since nitrate pollution in waterways is on the rise.

To help combat nitrate pollution, hundreds of League volunteers across the country are monitoring waterways for nitrate pollution through the IWLA's Nitrate Watch community science program. At the Fort Wayne IWLA chapter, Board member "Woody" Woodling will be measuring Chloride and Nitrate levels in selected waters in Greater Fort Wayne. If you'd like to work with Woody on this, you can contact him at (woodman.in@gmail.com).

Unfortunately, in May 2023, the US Supreme Court weakened the Clean Water Act, leaving most wetlands and many streams unprotected by federal law. This extreme rollback has opened the door for attacks on clean water. Fortunately, the Clean Water Act of 2023, introduced on October 18, of this year would undo much of the damage.

SOURCE: Excerpt from IWLA SOIL MATTERS

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Fort Wayne Chapter Installs Bat Habitat for Four Colonies of Bats

In the November issue, we published an article about REMC's kind gesture of setting the poles for our new Bat Habitat. We have three traditional bat boxes, made by Eagle Scout Jonathan Marret, now a Sophomore studying Engineering at Perdue-FW. The Marret family is a third generation Izaak Walton member.

We also have a pole uniquely wrapped in Brandenbark, a material specially designed to imitate the loose bark of a dead hardwood tree. This pole habitat, with its loose bark appearance, serves as a roosting spot for the Indiana Bat, an endangered species that spends the summer months in dead trees in our region before migrating to caves in southern Indiana and Kentucky for the winter.

Indiana Bats, which are very small, about the size of a house mouse, can cluster in groups of up to 500 per square foot during hibernation. These clusters look like a large hanging pinecone. The mating season for these bats occurs just before hibernation. In the spring, female bats migrate to form maternity colonies in wooded areas further north in Indiana and Michigan. These females return to the same colony location each summer, which Males and non-reproductive females usually don't roost in these migrant female colonies and remain near their cave hibernation spot migrating shorter distances. This means it may take several seasons to populate our unique Indiana Bat habitat. Both males and females return to their cave winter hibernation spot in the late summer or early fall to mate and enter hibernation.

The IN-DNR has stated that bats in Indiana are essential to humans because they eat half their body weight in beetles, mosquitoes, and moths each night, which are harmful to agriculture and a nuisance to humans. The loss of insect-eating bats in North America may cost the agriculture industry over \$3.7 billion per year as well as being a disaster to birds.

We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who contributed to this project, including the REMC team, who installed our poles, Jonathan for building the three bat

boxes, Ron Hessert for moving poles into place, V.P. John Kurtz for installing the habitats, and our sister chapter, Porter County, who agreed to sell us Brandenbark at a significantly lower price than current retail from the source.



Photo by Patrick White



Photo by Danielle Doepke



Photo by Danielle Doepke

SOUND OFF!



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

Email: jaybutler1940@gmail.com



Jay Butler

Managing Editor

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Happy Thanksgiving, Everyone!

Karla Wyss caught this flock of turkeys strolling down the road, having just left our chapter grounds on the left.'

"What better way to wish everyone a HAPPY THANKSGIVING?"



RSO CLASS SCHEDULED

Date: Dec. 9th

Time: 9:00—5:00 P. M.

Members: Free

Reqm't: Weekends One 4 hr. Shift/Month

Non-Mbr, Fee: \$100.00

Instructor: James Ramsey

Email: jrsr7@aol.com

Register By: NOV 28TH

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Fort Wayne Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America

News



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the Fort Wayne Chapter

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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**