

October 2026

Fort Wayne Chapter



News

PAGE 1 - 3

Granpa Creates Memory

PAGE 4
RENT OUR HALL

**GREAT IDEA
Best Deal
In Town**

PAGE 5

View From the Top

PAGE 6—7

Mega Data Centers in
Indiana

PAGE 8

Improving Chapter
Accessibility

PAGE 9—11

Disappearing
American Butternut

PAGE 11

ACTION ALERT—EPA
and U.S. Corp of Engi-
neers attack Clean Wa-
ter Act

PAGE 12

Mark These Dates

PAGE 13 –14

Your Bow Ready For
Opening Day Deer Sea-
son?

PAGE 15

Watch For These Events To
Be Announced

PAGE 16-17

Deer Season Revisions

PAGE 17

We Want You to Pass
on Chapter on Social
Media

PAGE 18

Support Our Local
Chapter Sponsors

PAGE 19

Rent Our Hall

This is an official
publication of the Fort Wayne
Chapter of The Izaak Walton
League of America and All
Rights are Reserved.

GRANPA CREATES A MEMORY

**Range Manager Pat White Introduces
Granddaughter Grace to Small Bore Shooting.**



As I reach my 8th decade being a resident of the big blue marble called Earth, I have come to the realization that we are all made up of memories. Many good, some bad but memories, nonetheless. Recently I was given a new memory which I will cherish to my grave. It was the day my daughter told me I could teach my granddaughter how to shoot a firearm.

My youngest daughter is not a fan of my love of the Sport Shooting. Many of her generation feel the same way since firearms produced bad memories thanks to events in history.





So, I bided my time in hopes that a day would come when she would relent and allow her father to teach his 10-year-old grandchild the fine art of shooting a firearm. That day came when I was given her blessing to take her oldest child to the Izzak Walton Chapter of America Chapter of Americas rifle and pistol range for an introduction into a sport of kings. My goal was to start with a small bore .22 caliber rifle shooting steel plates 50-yards down range.

Her training was based on Firearm safety and my experience as a chief Range Safety Officer and Firearms Instructor. She was shooting my Bergara B14r which had been modified for competition. And much to my surprise, she took to shooting like a “duck takes to water.”

After shooting 25-round, she asked if there was anything more difficult to hit. I said yes, thinking of the KYL targets at 100-yards. So, we moved from one end of the rifle range to the other end where that target system is located. I then set up the rifle, aligned the scope and adjusted the settings for the longer distance. She then calmly sat down, assumed the correct shooting position, loaded the rifle and started shooting. Much to my amazement, the 50-yard Know-Your-limit (KYL) targets started to spin with every shot she fired. From the 2" circle to the ¼' bar, she aimed with precision. She then said she wanted to try the 100-yard array and I agreed.

To my further amazement, she hit a total of five of the eight circles on her first round.



I don't mean to brag, but in my world, this is a memory I shall ever cherish. Her mother's permission and my granddaughter's natural ability to focus and succeed in her first outing.

And who knows, if she becomes dedicated to shooting firearms in a competitive environment, she may even earn a full scholarship to an accredited college or university saving her parents the cost of higher education. After that she may become a certified instructor and earn a very respectable living.

H-m-m-m!



I wonder..?



Fort Wayne IWLA's Home Grown Youth National Sport's Shooting Champions



THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA
FORT WAYNE CHAPTER

FT. WAYNE IZAAK WALTON
CONSERVATION - RECREATION - COMMUNITY

CHAPTER HOUSE
RENTAL
for the Holidays

Perfect for
**FAMILY AND
CORPORATE
GATHERINGS**

**CAPACITY UP TO
200 PEOPLE**

**FULL KITCHEN
AVAILABLE**

**HANDICAP
ACCESSIBLE
FACILITY**

**LIMITED DATES
AVAILABLE,
PLEASE CONTACT
US FOR AVAILABILITY.**

Ft. Wayne Izaak Walton
17100 Griffin Rd
Huntertown IN 46748

www.IWLA-FW.org
 iwlafwchapter@gmail.com

Conservation
Recreation
Community



The View From The Top

CHAPTER ON THE MOVE!



Dear Members,

October has arrived, bringing cooler temperatures, changing leaves, and some of the best opportunities of the year to enjoy the outdoors. Whether you are preparing for hunting season, spending time at the

range, fishing Walton Pond, walking our woodland trails, or simply enjoying the beauty of fall, this is a wonderful time to visit the Fort Wayne Izaak Walton League.

As another busy season begins to wind down, I want to thank everyone who volunteered their time throughout the year. Our Chapter is entirely volunteer-operated, and every successful event, maintained facility, improved trail, repaired target, and welcoming experience is possible because members are willing to help. Your efforts make our Chapter stronger and ensure these opportunities remain available for future generations.

We have several important activities scheduled for October. On Saturday, October 3, our Rimfire Championship will be held from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. The competition includes a \$10 cash entry fee and a 50/50 prize-pot split.

Our Fall Work Day and Cookout will take place October 3, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is an excellent opportunity to meet other members, help prepare the property for winter, and complete several much-needed maintenance projects. Lunch will be provided.

On Saturday, October 10, we will hold our KYL (Know Your Limits) Championship from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. The entry fee is \$10, with the prize pot split 50/50. This exciting rimfire competition will challenge shooters to know their abilities, make smart decisions, and determine just how far they are willing to push their skills.

On Saturday, October 17, we will also host a Range Safety Officer class beginning at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided, and participants should RSVP to Chief Range Safety Officer instructor Mark Ceccarelli. Our Rifle and Pistol Range depends upon trained volunteers to maintain safe operations and keep the range available to our members.

We are currently in need of additional volunteers to serve as Range Safety Officers. We are asking each RSO to serve just one four-hour shift per month. This small commitment can make a tremendous difference in our ability to keep the range open, safe, and available to our membership. If you enjoy shooting and would like to become more involved, becoming an RSO is one of the most valuable ways you can serve the chapter.

As hunting seasons begin, please make safety your highest priority. Positively identify your target and what lies beyond it, wear the appropriate blaze-orange clothing, inspect your equipment, and let someone know where you will be hunting and when you expect to return. Ethical hunting, responsible firearm handling, and respect for landowners and fellow sportsmen reflect the principles our organization has promoted for generations.

(Continued on next page)



Fall is also an important season for conservation. Leaving some natural vegetation and leaf litter provides winter habitat for birds, insects, and other wildlife. Native trees and shrubs planted during the cooler months can become lasting additions to the landscape. Even small efforts at home can contribute to healthier soil, cleaner water, and better wildlife habitat.

As outdoor activities begin to slow during the colder months, we are planning several indoor seminars this winter. These programs will provide opportunities for our members to remain active, informed, and connected while learning about topics related to conservation, outdoor recreation, safety, and responsible stewardship. Additional information will be announced as the seminar schedule is finalized, so please stay tuned.

As we approach the end of the year, I encourage every member to consider how they might become more involved. A little bit of your time truly makes a big impact on the Chapter!

We continue to need volunteers throughout the Chapter, including the News Magazine, Membership Dues committee, Trap and Skeet helpers, Archery volunteers, campsite and trail maintenance assistance, pond volunteers, and members interested in grant writing. You do not need to be an expert—just willing to contribute some time and work alongside others.

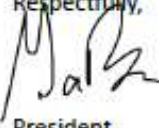
It's that time of year again.....Keep your eyes peeled for membership renewals. They will be hitting your mailboxes soon!

Thank you for your continued membership, support, and dedication to the Fort Wayne Chapter. Together, we are preserving a special place where people of all ages can enjoy conservation, recreation, fellowship, and the outdoors.

Have a safe and enjoyable October.

Sincerely,



Respectfully,

President
IWLA-FW

Conservation • Recreation • Community



Chapter Runs on Volunteers

Shooting Ranges, Operations, Social Media, Building & Grounds, Events, etc...etc...etc



MEGA DATA CENTERS IN INDIANA

What is also critical, yet often overlooked, is their impact on natural resources such as prime farmland, an unbelievable amount of fresh water, air pollution, and the strain on our aging electrical grid, and the ultimate long-term cost to be borne by individual homeowners and small businesses.

These mega facilities can be staggering in size, sometimes encompassing millions of square feet, and are filled with rows upon rows of server racks. Each rack houses some of the most advanced computer processors and sophisticated data storage systems, all linked by a complex web of networking cables. Always operational, they support a range of digital services, from seamless video streaming and expansive cloud storage to robust e-commerce platforms.

Indiana is becoming a major hub for mega data centers, with numerous facilities built or under development across the state. This trend is driven largely by the state's tax incentives designed to attract investment. Notably, data center operators can take advantage of sales tax exemptions for specific equipment and energy expenses. These favorable exemptions can significantly decrease tax liabilities, potentially resulting in savings that reach billions of dollars over the operational life of the facilities at the cost of the lives and businesses of our state.

These incentives are designed to last through the first 50 years of a mega data center's operation, with potential for renewal upon expiration. A remarkable illustration of this financial backing is New Carlisle, Indiana, where Amazon secured an impressive subsidy surpassing \$8 billion in 2024 for its vast data center campus.

Tracking the many operating and planned mega data centers can be challenging. As of early 2026, a report from the Weldon Cooper Center at the University of Virginia documented that Indiana has a substantial network of data centers, with 38 already in operation and 37 more in the planning stages or under

construction.

WHY WORRY ABOUT THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF DATA CENTERS? Primarily, it is the secrecy surrounding negotiations between local and state government agencies, coupled with communities seeing only potential economics and not considering the increased absorption cost of lost tax revenue, plus loss to family constituents and businesses that will bear additional cost through reduced disposable income and loss to their investment in generational homes and lifestyle. Add to that the impact on our natural recourses and you have created a perfect storm.

New hyperscale data centers require enormous amounts of land, electricity, and water. For instance, a hyperscale data center campus can cover anywhere from 200 to over 1,000 acres and may have power needs exceeding 1,000 megawatts—enough electricity to power hundreds of thousands of homes. In 2023,

U.S. data centers consumed 4.4% of the nation's total electricity usage, and that share is forecast to rise to 133%. This is a substantial share for a single industrial sector.

Energy demand from data centers in Indiana is projected to increase, with the share of Indiana's total energy demand rising from around 1% to 6.3% in 2025. In 2025, Indiana enacted

House Bill 1007, which provided an expedited process where Indiana utilities may, but are not required to, seek approval in grid support for large new load customers such as data centers. The law also does not provide Indiana consumers equal protection from the additional costs of providing electricity to these facilities either in the near or long-term, given the magnitude of new infrastructure costs. This matters because data centers are signing electric grid service contracts for only about 15-year terms, while power infrastructure (Power Grid Utilities) costs passed on to the community often remain in ef-

In the U.S., we treat fresh water as inexhaustible, not realizing that freshwater is not an infinite resource. While 99% of our world is water, only 3% is fresh water essential for life on our planet.



water as inexhaustible, not realizing that freshwater is not an infinite resource. While 99% of our world is water, only 3% is fresh water essential for life on our planet. While conserving water and protecting it from pollution are essential, few states and the Federal Government are continuing to turn back conservation laws to protect them. Compounding this, city, county, and state governments are also negligent in their responsibility for well-thought-out planning, which is missing from approvals for these mega data centers.

and state governments are also negligent in their responsibility for well-thought-out planning, which is missing from approvals for these mega data centers.

These mega data centers require millions of gallons of water each day to cool the digital data banks, comparable to the water usage of a small city. In 2023, U.S. data centers used around 17.4 billion gallons of water, a number expected to double by 2028. Over the next five years, they are projected to use more than 150 billion gallons, with Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio likely to feel the greatest impact.

AIR QUALITY: These emergency generators used in Data centers could be powered by wind or solar with battery storage, but to date, almost all mega data centers under construction deploy backup diesel generators. For example, our Fort Wayne Data Center under construction includes 179 generators, along with 179 one-thousand-gallon fuel storage tanks in a storage farm for “emergency” use.

These diesel generators produce significant amounts of harmful emissions, including particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and carbon monoxide, and release carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas. Also, as “emergency generators” are usually tested monthly to ensure they function properly, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not mandate pollution controls for data centers that claim their generators will only be used in emergencies. This is particularly troubling because these centers fail to define

“emergency instances” due to energy grid failures that do not meet the daily demands of these large mega data centers. Some are reporting “mini nuclear” generators as the answer, but the first to be certified and tested are still under research/development. The first of these in Indiana is reported to be installed on the Griffith Air Force Base.

ADDED JOBS A BENEFIT? Project proponents and supporters argue that data centers bring jobs and tax revenue, while also meeting the growing needs of AI.

While they do create construction jobs and a small number of permanent tech jobs, they employ relatively few people compared to their size and cost. For instance, a \$2 billion facility may only hire a few hundred workers once it’s fully operational, according to reputable sources.

Counties may receive property tax payments from data centers, though a 2019 state law allows local governments to waive prop-

erty taxes if they wish (Indiana General Assembly, 2019). But that same law exempts data centers from paying Indiana sales and using tax on data center equipment

However, IDEM’s resources appear to be ineffective. For instance, at a recent hearing called in accordance with state law on the expansion of diesel generators at the Fort Wayne mega data center, IDEM passed out a statement prior to the meeting that, without specific legislation to regulate these matters, IDEM has no choice but to approve them. This appears to be a classic example of failure of state legislation.

SOURCES:

Research Report Nguyen and Green, (2025)
United States Energy Report (2024)
Congressional Research Service (2025)



Improving Accessibility at Our Chapter

The Fort Wayne Izaak Walton League is committed to making our facilities welcoming and accessible to members and guests of all abilities. To support this commitment, we have added additional handicap accessible parking spaces at the Chapter House and the Rifle and Pistol Range.

These designated spaces will provide safer, more convenient access for individuals with mobility limitations, allowing them to park closer to the facilities they use. This improvement is another step toward ensuring everyone can comfortably participate in chapter meetings, activities, shooting sports, and community events.

We appreciate the continued support of our members as we work to improve our grounds and make our chapter more inclusive for everyone.



THE DISAPPEARING AMERICAN BUTTERNUT

Butternut canker and the effort to save Juglans cinerea



Abstract

American butternut, or white walnut (*Juglans cinerea*), is disappearing from eastern North America. Its principal threat is butternut canker, caused by the invasive fungus *Ophiognomonia clavigignenti-juglandacearum*. The pathogen's native range remains unknown, although Asia has been proposed as a possible origin. U.S. tree numbers have fallen by more than half since the 1980s. Planting verified, genetically diverse native stock can help keep the species reproducing while researchers identify and breed trees with greater resistance.

Native Range and Value

Butternut is a medium-sized walnut-family tree whose pale wood inspired the name white walnut. Its historic range extended from southeastern New Brunswick through southern Quebec and Ontario; across most of New England; south through New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, northwestern South Carolina, northern Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Arkansas; and west to central Iowa and Minnesota, including Wisconsin and Michigan. It favored sunny stream terraces, coves, lower slopes, and fertile, well-drained soils. Because it naturally grew as scattered trees rather than dense stands, each mature tree lost to disease can leave the next seed source miles away (Rink 1990).

Its elongated, deeply ridged nuts contain sweet, oily kernels that may be eaten fresh or lightly roasted. They can replace walnuts in breads, cakes, cookies, candies, and ice cream; maple-butternut candy was once a regional favorite. Indigenous peoples and early settlers valued the nuts, while wildlife disperse them. by Butternut also supplied wood for furniture and carving, sap for syrup, and husks and bark for yellow-brown dyes.



Butternut Canker

First reported in Wisconsin in 1967, butternut canker is caused by *Ophiognomonia clavigignenti-juglandacearum*, formerly *Sirococcus clavigignenti-juglandacearum*. Genetic evidence supports a recent introduction to North America, but its exact source is unresolved. The U.S. National Invasive Species Information Center lists its origin as unknown and possibly Asian.

The fungus spreads through rain splash and may travel farther on insects, birds, air currents, or infected plant material. It forms sunken, dark cankers on twigs, branches, trunks, and root flares. As cankers expand and merge, they girdle the stem, interrupt water and nutrient movement, and kill the crown and tree.

Since the 1980s, U.S. butternut numbers have declined about 58 percent and live volume about 44 percent (Morin et al. 2018). A 2026 study reported losses exceeding 50 percent nationally and 77 percent mortality in the Southeast (Conrad et al. 2026). No treatment can protect forest populations at landscape scale. Some native families show modest inherited resistance, but no complete immunity has been found. Resistant Japanese walnut hybrids may aid research, yet they can also displace the genetics of pure *Juglans cinerea*.

Warnings From Other Trees

Tree extinction is recent history. Cuba's *Banara wilsonii* is known only from material collected before 1938, and the Saint Helena olive (*Nesiota elliptica*) lost its last wild tree in 1994 and final cultivated tree in 2003. American chestnut and American elm are not extinct, but introduced diseases removed most mature trees and much of their ecological role. Butternut now occupies a

similar middle ground: still living, but increasingly scarce and fragmented.

Planting as Conservation

Planting will not cure canker, but it can keep native genes on the landscape and help researchers find tolerant trees. Use verified pure butternut nuts or seedlings from state nurseries, conservation programs, reputable native-tree growers, or documented seed trees. Because butternut hybridizes readily with Japanese walnut, unidentified stock may not be pure. Collect seed, with permission, from several widely separated mother trees rather than from one tree.

Plant within the historic range in full sun and fertile, well-drained soil, preferably among a diverse mixture of native trees. Protect seedlings from deer, rodents, and competing vegetation. Sow nuts one to two inches deep in fall, or give them about 120 days of moist chilling before spring planting; hardware cloth can deter squirrels. Map and inspect trees annually. Do not move symptomatic wood or seedlings, and report unusually healthy mature trees to extension foresters or forest-genetics programs. Such survivors may support seed orchards and resistance breeding.

Keeping a Native Lineage Alive

Butternut gives this generation a chance to act before ecological disappearance becomes extinction. Plant a verified seedling, protect a healthy seed-bearing tree, report a possible resistant survivor, and support seed banks and breeding programs. Repeated across its native range, these practical acts can keep *Juglans cinerea* present, reproducing, and genetically diverse long enough for natural tolerance and scientific breeding to improve its future.



References

- Broders, K. D., and G. J. Boland. 2011. *Reclassification of the butternut canker fungus Sirococcus clavigignenti-juglandacearum into the genus Ophiognomonia*. Fungal Biology 115: 70-79. [Source](#)
- Conrad, A. O., et al. 2026. *Susceptibility to butternut canker disease in field trials is influenced by disease level and hybridization*. Canadian Journal of Forest Research 56: 1-13. [Source](#)
- Farlee, L., K. Woeste, M. Ostry, J. McKenna, and S. Weeks. 2010. *Conservation and Management of Butternut Trees*. Purdue Extension FNR-421-W. [Source](#)
- Morin, R. S., K. W. Gottschalk, M. E. Ostry, and A. M. Liebhold. 2018. *Regional patterns of declining butternut suggest site characteristics for restoration*. Ecology and Evolution 8: 546-559. [Source](#)
- Rink, G. 1990. *Butternut*. Silvics of North America, USDA Forest Service. [Source](#)
- U.S. National Invasive Species Information Center. 2026. *Butternut Canker*. U.S. Department of Agriculture. [Source](#)
- Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. 2026. *Nesiotia elliptica*. Plants of the World Online. [Source](#)



On September 4, 2026, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Corp of Engineers announced a proposal to dramatically weaken the protections of the federal Clean Water Act, eliminating essential safeguards for waters across the country. While long standing protections will continue for traditionally navigable waters and perennial streams that flow continuously year-round, the new proposal would eliminate protections for nearly all streams and wetlands that flow seasonally. These are important for training water, retarding threat of flood, and providing nesting and flight path resting areas.

Comment on the proposed rule: The agencies are accepting public comment on the proposed rule for only 30 days and will close comments on October 9, 2026.

TAKE ACTION NOW

Isaak Walton League of America.

(Click Here For Interactive link to send your personal message)



Ready for Opening Day: Essential Bow & Arrow Maintenance for Indiana's 2026 Archery Season?

As summer gives way to fall, bowhunters across Indiana begin the annual countdown to opening day. Success in the woods isn't just about scouting, stand placement, or shot opportunities—it starts long before the season opens with a properly maintained bow and dependable hunting arrows. A few hours spent inspecting and tuning your equipment now can prevent costly failures when the moment of truth arrives.

For the 2026 season, Indiana's Archery Deer Season runs from October 1, 2026 through January 3, 2027, giving hunters more than three months of opportunity to pursue whitetails. The season overlaps portions of the firearms and muzzleloader seasons, making it one of the longest hunting seasons in the state.

Consider these steps in getting your equipment ready:

1. Start with a Complete Bow Inspection

Whether you shoot a compound bow, traditional recurve, or longbow, perform a thorough inspection several weeks before opening day.

2. Check the String and Cables

Bowstrings endure thousands of pounds of cumulative stress throughout the year.

- Inspect for:
- Frayed strands
- Broken serving
- Flat spots from cam contact
- Excessive fuzzing
- Separation around peep sights

If the string shows significant wear or has exceeded the manufacturer's recommended replacement interval, replace it before the season—not after.

Apply a quality bowstring wax every few weeks during practice and work it into the fibers using your fingers. Proper lubrication reduces friction and helps protect against moisture and UV damage.

3. Inspect Limbs and Riser.

Even minor limb damage can lead to catastrophic failure under full draw. Carefully examine both limbs under good lighting.

LOOK FOR

- Hairline cracks
- Splintering
- Delamination
- Deep scratches
- Loose limb bolts
- verify that: Limb bolts are tight, Sight screws are secure, Stabilizers are snug, Arrow rest mounting screws remain tight, and Quiver

hardware has not loosened from vibration. A small amount of blue thread-lock on accessory screws can prevent surprises during the season.

4. Tune Your Bow

An accurately tuned bow produces tighter groups, quieter shots, and better arrow flight. Even if your bow was perfectly tuned last fall, strings can stretch and components can shift over months of storage.

CONFIRM

- Draw weight
- Draw length
- Cam timing (for dual-cam systems)
- Paper tune or bare shaft tune
- Center shot alignment
- Peep sight alignment
- Sight-in at multiple distances

5. Arrow Inspection: Never Skip This Step.

Many hunters focus heavily on their bow while overlooking their arrows. Before every practice session—and certainly before hunting—spin and inspect every arrow individually.

DISCARD

- Arrow showing: cracks or splits
- Carbon splinters



- Carbon splinters
- Bent aluminum shafts
- Loose inserts
- Damaged nocks
- Loose fletching

Flex-test carbon arrows while listening carefully for cracking sounds. If an arrow shows any sign of structural damage, retire it immediately. A failed carbon arrow can cause serious hand injuries upon release.

Broadhead Preparation

Broadheads deserve as much attention as the bow itself. Practice with identical-weight field points and confirm that hunting broadheads impact the same point of aim. If they don't, minor tuning adjustments are usually needed before hunting.

VERIFY

- Blades are razor sharp
- Ferrules are straight
- Mechanical blades deploy correctly
- Retaining bands or clips are fresh
- Broadheads spin true on each arrow

6. Check Your Release Aid

Release aids often receive little attention until something goes wrong.

Inspect:

- Jaw engagement
- Trigger travel
- Safety mechanisms
- Wrist strap wear
- Connecting webbing
- Buckles and stitching

Replace:

- Worn straps before they fail during a draw.

7. Practice from Hunting Positions

Summer range shooting is valuable, but hunting situations are rarely level ground. This helps identify clearance issues before opening morning.

Practice

- From elevated tree stands
- Sitting positions
- Kneeling
- Wearing your hunting clothing
- With your hunting backpack
- Using your actual broadheads (where safe and permitted)

8. Prepare for Indiana's Fall

Weather. Moisture, mud, freezing rain, and snow all affect equipment. Indiana weather during archery season can range from warm October afternoons to freezing temperatures in December.

CARRY:

- Extra release aid
- Replacement D-loop cord
- String wax
- Allen wrench set
- Spare nocks
- Extra mechanical broadhead bands
- Soft cloth for drying equipment

After each hunt, wipe down the bow to remove moisture before storing it in a cool, dry location.

9. A Quiet Bow is an Effective Bow. Whitetails notice unnatural

sounds. Sometimes the smallest noise costs the biggest buck.

BEFORE OPENING DAY:

Tighten every accessory.

- Eliminate rattles from your quiver.
- Replace worn string silencers.
- Verify arrow fit in the quiver.
- Check that nothing vibrates during the shot.

10: Final Thoughts. Indiana's long archery season rewards hunters who prepare well before October arrives. Regular maintenance not only improves accuracy but also extends the life of expensive equipment while increasing safety in the field. A carefully inspected bow, properly tuned arrows, and razor-sharp broadheads allow hunters to focus on woodsmanship and ethical shot placement rather than worrying about equipment failures.

When that once-in-a-season opportunity finally steps into range, confidence comes from knowing your equipment has already proven itself long before the hunt began.

2026 Indiana Deer Season Quick Reference

- * **Archery: October 1, 2026 – January 3, 2027**
- * **Youth: September 26 –27, 2026**
- * **Firearms: November 14–29, 2026**



Indiana deer hunters will head into the woods this fall under updated regulations from the **Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR)**. The 2026–2027 season provides opportunities for youth, archery, firearms, muzzleloader, and Deer Reduction Zone hunters across the state. Before heading afield, hunters should familiarize themselves with season dates, county-specific antlerless limits, licensing requirements, and property-specific rules.

2026–2027 Indiana Deer Season Dates

According to the Indiana DNR, the primary deer seasons are:

1. **Deer Reduction Zones:** September 15, 2026 – January 31, 2027, where open
2. **Youth Deer Season:** September 26–27, 2026
3. **Archery Season:** October 1, 2026 – January 3, 2027
4. **Firearms Season:** November 14–29, 2026
5. **Muzzleloader Season:** December 5–20, 2026

Archery season is continuous through January 3 and overlaps both the firearms and muzzleloader seasons. Crossbows are legal throughout archery season when the hunter possesses an appropriate license.

Legal hunting hours for Indiana deer are generally **one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset**. Hunters using DNR properties or participating in special or reserved hunts should always check that property's rules because additional restrictions may apply.

Bag Limits and County Regulations

One of the most important things for hunters to understand is that Indiana now uses **county antlerless bag limits**. The combined statewide regular-season limit is **one antlered deer and six antlerless deer**, but the number of antlerless deer that may be harvested in a particular county can be lower. County antlerless limits currently range from **one to four deer**.

A standard firearms deer license is **buck only** and cannot be used to harvest an antlerless deer. Hunters wishing to harvest antlerless deer during firearms season must have an appropriate multi-season antlerless, youth, deer bundle, lifetime license, or qualify for an exemption.

Deer Hunting Regs. Changing in Upcoming Season

Deer Reduction Zones

Indiana's **Deer Reduction Zones** are separate from the normal statewide deer framework and are intended to increase harvest in designated areas, including certain urban areas and highway corridors.

The 2026–2027 Reduction Zone season runs **September 15 through January 31**. Hunters working toward the Reduction Zone bag limit may take as many as **10 deer statewide, only one of which may be antlered**. Indiana also uses an **"earn-a-buck"** requirement for this bag limit: a hunter must first harvest an antlerless deer within a Reduction Zone before taking an antlered deer toward the Reduction Zone limit.

Being inside the boundary of a Reduction Zone does **not** automatically mean the property is open to hunting. Hunters must have permission from the landowner or managing authority, and local ordinances regulating firearms and bows remain in effect.

2026 Deer License Costs

For an **Indiana resident**, the DNR currently lists:

Deer Archery License — **\$39**

Deer Firearms License — **\$39**

Deer Muzzleloader License — **\$39**

Deer Reduction Zone License — **\$39**

First Multi-Season Antlerless License — **\$39**

Second and additional Multi-Season Antlerless Licenses — **\$24 each**

Deer License Bundle — **\$91**



- Resident Youth Hunt/Trap License — \$12
- For nonresidents, an individual deer archery, fire-arms, muzzleloader, Reduction Zone, or first multi-season antlerless license is **\$240**, while the nonresident Deer License Bundle is **\$550**.

The **Deer License Bundle** is an attractive option for many resident hunters because it provides privileges for **one antlered and two antlerless deer**, although county and statewide bag limits still apply. The bundle cannot be used to satisfy the special Deer Reduction Zone bag limit.

Youth Hunting Opportunities

Indiana's Youth Deer Season will be held **September 26–27, 2026**. Hunters must be **17 or younger on the date of the hunt** and must be accompanied by an adult who is at least 18 years old. The resident Youth Hunt/Trap license costs only \$12 and covers deer hunting privileges subject to applicable limits.

Plan Before You Hunt

Indiana offers deer hunting opportunities across public and private lands, but regulations can differ considerably by county, Deer Reduction Zone, Fish & Wildlife Area, state property, or reserved-hunt location. Hunters using public land should check the specific property's regulations before hunting; some properties have additional restrictions, drawings, check-in requirements, or limitations on antlerless harvest.

Hunters should also verify the latest regulations immediately before the season. Indiana DNR notes that hunting regulations can change through administrative rule, so the DNR's current online information should take precedence over older printed material.

Insights

Last 28 days: Aug 14 - Sep 10



Facebook



Instagram

Views

18.7K ↑ 240%

Content interactions

72 ↑ 30.9%

Messaging contacts

7 ↑ 75%

Follows

26 ↑ 62.5%

See more insights



Top content by views

Views

Interactions

Follows





MARK THESE ON YOUR CALENDAR!

FW CHAPTER
RANGE SAFETY OFFICER TRAINING

LEARN GUN SAFETY
and how to conduct the safe operation of our R&P Range.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED
to help keep our range open 5 days a week.

JUST ONE
4 HOUR SHIFT PER MONTH!

PLEASE RSVP TO INSTRUCTOR & CHIEF RANGE SAFETY OFFICER
MARK CECCARELLI

253-548-7944

OCTOBER 17 9AM

LUNCH PROVIDED

CONSERVATION - RECREATION - COMMUNITY



Protect Your Membership Investment!

VOLUNTEER TODAY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

CHAPTER WORKDAY

Saturday, October 3, 2026

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Help us clean up and maintain our Chapter facilities.

LUNCH PROVIDED TO VOLUNTEERS!





UPCOMING EVENTS

**DATES
TBD**

STAY TUNED!

LEARN • PARTICIPATE • MAKE A DIFFERENCE



STOP THE BLEED CLASS

 Learn life-saving skills that can make a difference when seconds count.



HONEY BEE CLASS

 Discover the importance of pollinators, beekeeping basics, and how you can help protect our bees.



COMPOSTING CLASS BY ACDEM

 Learn composting basics, reduce waste, and help create a healthier environment.



CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

 Friendly competition, prizes, and a great time with fellow members!



Sip and Paint

 Unleash your creativity, enjoy good company, and take home your masterpiece!



RSO APPRECIATION

 A special event to thank our dedicated Range Safety Officers for their time, commitment, and service to our Chapter.



Ft. Wayne Izaak Walton
17100 Griffin Rd
Huntertown IN 46748



www.IWLA-FW.org



Conservation
Recreation
Community

Conservation - Recreation - Community

SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS SPONSORS



A.A.A. Piano Works, LLC
Piano Tuning, Minor Repairs, Evaluations

Brian Doepke, RPT
(dep-key)

Phone: (260) 417-1298
Email: aaapianoworks@comcast.net
Website: aaapianoworks.com

AUBURN ARMS



401 West Auburn Dr.
Auburn, IN 46706
260-413-6148
auburnarms2@gmail.com



WELL GROUNDED CAFE
SPECIALTY COFFEE • SALADS • SMOOTHIES • SANDWICHES • BAKERY
EST. 2014 • LOCAL

Carrie White
Realtor | Broker
(260) 310-5037



FASTSIGNS
Fort Wayne South

6646 West Jefferson Blvd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46804
260-399-6434

www.fastsigns.com/2348 email: 2348@fastsigns.com



Stemen Align & Brake

3607 North Wells Street Fort Wayne, Indiana 46808
Stemenalignandbrake.com
Stemenalignandbrake@gmail.com
(260)483-4030



BYRNA
LESS-LETHAL

STORE ADDRESS: 4534 Industrial Road
Fort Wayne IN, 46825
Hours: Mon-Sat 9:30AM-5:30PM

STORE PHONE NO: 260.800.1815
CUSTOMER SERVICE NO: 978.868.5011
byrna.com

**YOUR SPONSORSHIP AD
COULD BE HERE.**

(Contact Melissa Doepke at
melissadoepke@gmail.com
for details.)