## THE DIGITAL MAGAZINE OF THE FORT WAYNE CHAPTER APRIL 2025

## **CHAPTER ON THE MOVE!**



FORT WAYNE CHAPTER



IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA, INC.

### THIS ISSUE PAGE 1

Winter at the Chapter

PAGE 2
Wood Duck Lore

PAGE 3

New Shelter In Camping Area

PAGE 4

**Fund Raiser Status** 

PAGE 5

Chapter House Renovation Continues

PAGE 5

Skeet Buildings Repaired

PAGE 6

Chapter Member Named ALL AMERICAN

PAGE 7

Will Kayaking Become an Amenity?

PAGE 8

Things Jumping At Walton Pond

PAGE 9

Camp Sites Added

PAGE 10
Revisions In Grounds
Rules

PAGE 10

New Archery Amenities

PAGE II

We Got A Beaver Problem

PAGE 12
Gift A Membership

PAGE 13
Garden Planning

## THE FORT WAYNE CHAPTER IS ON THE MOVE!

#### WINTER AT THE CHAPTER





Our families are increasingly enjoying serene walks along our enchanting woodland trails throughout the four seasons of the year. Some were present to witness the magical first skim of ice forming on Walton Pond, its crystalline surface sparkling in the winter sun. Meanwhile, a few adventurous souls boldly embraced the chill, continuing to utilize our rifle and pistol ranges, even as winter often cloaked these activities in silence.

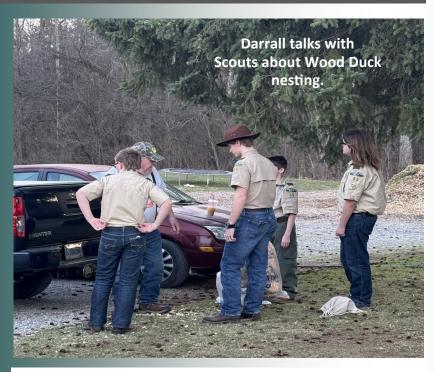
Others have taken to the tranquil art of ice fishing on Walton Pond, casting their lines into the frosty waters in hopes of a catch. Still, some intrepid explorers made their way down to Cedar Creek, experiencing the serene beauty of the area blanketed in a soft layer of snow, transforming the landscape into a winter wonderland.





The bottom line? More and more of our members are discovering new and delightful ways to immerse themselves in the breathtaking outdoor vistas provided by our Chapter.

#### WOOD DUCK LORE



In the captivating photograph, long-time member Darrall Fish is caught in a moment of sharing his extensive knowledge with our Scout Troop, passionately explaining the fascinating world of Wood Ducks. His enthusiasm shines as he details the intricacies of the expertly crafted nesting boxes he builds, along with the careful consideration he gives to their placement in the serene waters of Walton Pond.

Darrall is not only a master of DIY projects but also a budding artist; he recently painted the vibrant United States flag that adorns our fencing section of the skeet range, adding a touch of pride to the grounds.

Frequently, you can find him diligently puttering around the chapter grounds, lending a helping hand wherever needed. His commitment and dedication were recognized last year when he was honored for his many years of service to the chapter. The next time you cross paths with him, be sure to extend

your hand in gratitude for all he does.





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## NEW SHELTER IN CAMPING AREA

One of our campsites recently underwent a much-needed transformation, thanks to the efforts of one remarkable individual. We had a dilapidated picnic shelter that was not only unsightly but posed a significant risk to our campers. A heartfelt thank you and a tip of the lke Hat goes out to Steve Regnier, a dedicated member of our chapter. Recognizing the danger, he rallied his contracting crew to not only demolish the old shelter but also construct a stunning new one—all at no expense to our chapter. THANK YOU STEVE!



The new shelter is strategically positioned to offer breathtaking views overlooking Cedar Creek, enhancing the camping experience for all.

### We are immensely grateful for Steve's generosity and commendable efforts in bringing this vision to life.

For those who may not know, Steve, along with his wife and their two spirited dogs, can often be spotted in their white van near Walton Pond. Additionally, he played a pivotal role in adding a new section to our dock and placing two charming bench seats for everyone to enjoy. If you happen to see him around, don't hesitate to shake his hand and express your gratitude. Steve truly deserves our heartfelt thanks.

## ONE OF NINE CAMPSITES SUITABLE FOR GROUP CAMPING



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#### **FUNDRAISER UPDATE**

AS OF 2/28/2025
We thank all donors for their generosity!.

#### Work Completed

- East Hall Renovated
  - Fireplace
  - Floor
  - Painted
  - Storage Partition, etc
- North Hall Painted
- Chapter House Painted
- Tables Painted

#### Working on NOW

- Handicap Bathroom
- Kitchenette
- Foyer

More to come!



We have also received significant donations in supplies and manual labor!

MOST DONATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE AS PRE-TAX PAYOUT FROM ANNUITY RETIREMENT FUNDS





### RENOVATION TO CHAPTER MEETING HALL CONTINUES:

Through the incredible and substantial donations from our members and the McComb Family Foundation, the renovation of the hall continues. If you are considering a donation of your own, please contact Melissa Doepke, our Treasurer, at (email) for details.

#### MAIN MEETING HALL:

- The concrete floor has been sanded and sealed.
- New electric fireplace insert.
- Window drapery treatment.
- Plant stands
- Walls painted
- A half-wall closet was added to hide the gun safe and filing cabinets

#### KITCHEN AREA

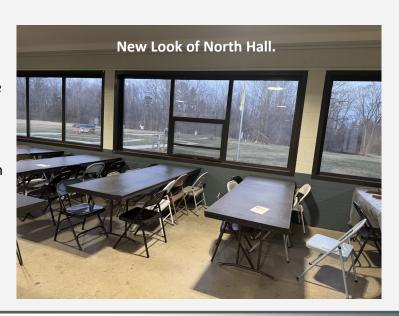
- Sink is being relocated.
- Stainless steel wall splash being added to kitchen walls.
- ♦ New stove/refrigerator/microwave
- Walls and counter repainted.

#### NORTH HALL

- Walls and window trim repainted.
- Floor to be sealed (same as main hall)

- Old unused furniture was replaced.
- New requirements of Scouts to leave the North Hall in better shape than they found it.

The public rental rate is a very reasonable \$175.00 reflecting the building improvements made, with a discounted rate for members.



#### Trap & Skeet Buildings Repaired



Our devoted Trap and Skeet shooters may have noticed some dramatic enhancements to our facilities, which had been in a rather deplorable state. In the past, our buildings bore the scars of neglect, with gaping holes large enough for a basketball to pass through easily—one ominously situated in the roof and another precariously positioned in a side wall. The roofing materials had been overdue for replacement for over twenty years, leaving our structures vulnerable to the elements.

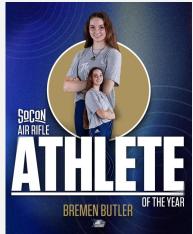
However, you would hardly recognize the extent of the damage now, as the roofs have undergone a remarkable revival, adorned with new underlayment and beautiful, high-quality shingles that gleam in the sunlight. The exterior has received a fresh coat of vibrant paint complemented by contrasting trim, giving the buildings a stunning new look that enhances the overall ambiance of our shooting range.

This incredible transformation is a testament to the generosity and dedication of Gabe Bowser and his skilled contractor crew. Many of you are already familiar with Gabe, so please take a moment to express your gratitude for his unwavering support and commitment to elevating our shooting experience.



## CHAPTER MEMBER NAMED NCAA ALL AMERICAN







AR RIFLE MINTER

She was honored by the National NCAA Coaches
Association AllAmerican and the Southern
Conference "Athlete of the Year" in both smallbore rifle and air rifle, showcasing her exceptional talent and dedication as part of the Georgia Southern
University Rifle Team.

Bremen Butler, a thirdgeneration member of our chapter, has made an impressive mark in the world of collegiate rifle shooting. The daughter of members Chris and Angie Butler, and the granddaughter of member Jay Butler, Bremen has achieved remarkable recognition in her sport.

The all-girl team not only earned individual accolades but also achieved a remarkable triumph, winning both individual and team championships in the Southern Conference. Their hard work and determination propelled them to the national stage, as they were one of only eight teams selected to compete in the prestigious NCAA finals held in Lexington, KY, where they placed fifth in their inaugural appearance. It is also worth noting that the entire team puts in hours of range practice before the rest of the University wakes up, and they participate in weight training as the University in calling it a day!. The entire team also regularly makes the Dean's

Recently, Chapter CRSO Patrick White interviewed Bremen, where she shared

insights about her journey and experiences in shooting sports. This engaging interview can be viewed by accessing <a href="https://youtu.be/vTLbXiOoKJw">https://youtu.be/vTLbXiOoKJw</a>

Bre began her shooting career on our range, and her achievements serve as an inspiration to our youth, illustrating



## WILL KAYAKING BE NEW CHAPTER AMENITY?

You Can Make It Happen!



Indiana is home to three remarkable Indiana streams designated as "scenic rivers and one of these beautiful waterways winds its way through our chapter property. In 1976, the state officially recognized Cedar Creek as a Scenic Stream, celebrated for the deep glacier cuts that sculpt its shores, the vibrant flora and fauna that flourish along its banks, and the serpentine path that the stream has gracefully carved through the landscape over time. This picturesque area, known as the Cedar Creek Corridor, encompasses large tracts of land preserved by the Girl Scout Council, the Acres Land Trust, and the Izaak Walton League, all of which are designated and protected as forest preserves. Our section of this scenic oasis spans both sides of the Auburn Bridge, and the stream between Cedar Canyon Drive and Griffin Road. Addi-

tionally, we own both sides of Griffin Road as you turn at Auburn Bridge.

We are excitedly exploring the possibility of introducing kayaking as one of our chapter amenities, and we are cur-

rently seeking donated or reasonably priced kayaks to kick-start this venture for our members. Our vision includes constructing a kayak "tree" capable of storing five to ten kayaks, which members can reserve for launch at the tranquil Cold-Water bridge, with the delightful opportunity of floating downstream to the Auburn exit. With some dedicated effort, we aim to enhance a "cut" through the fallen tree barricade south of the Auburn bridge, opening the stream to a delightful kayaking experience all the way to the Tonkle Bridge and onward to Leo, where we have property conveniently located on the right side of the RR 1 bridge before entering the charming town.

If you are as excited as we are about making this vision a reality and happen to know of kayaks that could be donated or purchased at a reasonable price, please reach out to Gabe Bowser, our Vice



President and Chair of Buildings and Grounds. He would love to hear from you! You can contact him via email at gbows09@yahoo.com.

A KAYAK EVENT IS PLANNED FOR MAY 3RD. WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS BY BULLETIN!



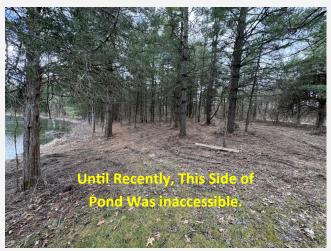
## Things Are Jumping At Walton Pond, Besides Just The Fish!

The Walton Pond Committee would like to remind you that we have stocked a limited number of grass carp in Walton Pond to control the growth of weeds. They can often be seen in the shallows, reminding everyone that these are not ordinary fish, but a special breed of carp. Do not throw stones, and for goodness' sake, do not shoot them with a gun or bow fishing gear, as they are an integral part of our Pond Improvement program.

**REMINDER:** The gate lock combination for the Walton Pond area has been updated for 2025. It is stamped on the back of your 2025 member IWLA membership card. This combination must not be shared with non-members.

Our Grounds Crew is removing all of the scrub around Lake Walton, opening the view and providing additional access to the water for our fishermen. At some point, plans call for a travel trailer campsite with 110V service, which will be provided underground, once the REMC has completed their grant of power to the Pond area.









#### NEW CAMP SITES & TRAILS OPENED FOR MEMBERS

This past fall and winter, the Building and Grounds team undertook an exciting project to enhance our outdoor experience by creating seven new primitive campsites nestled near our main trails and the tranquil Walton Pond property. Each site has been thoughtfully cleared and equipped with essential amenities, including trash cans, sturdy firewood holders, and cozy fire rings, ensuring a pleasant camping experience. The spacious sites can easily accommodate multiple tents, making them perfect for large gatherings or families seeking adventure together.

In total, we now proudly offer nine primitive campsites for our members to enjoy. Soon, we will also be introducing a small camper site for Trailer Camping at Walton



Pond, complete with electrical hookups for added convenience. As we look forward to your enjoyment of these sites, we will be crafting camping rules and detailed site maps that will be distributed to all members.

If you're eager to embrace the great outdoors, you can find the camping rental form conveniently located in the chapter house next to the sign-in sheet. Our current rates are very reasonable at just \$10 per tent per night and \$5 per guest per night.

We're also on the lookout for enthusiastic members who share a passion for the outdoors to join our Building and Grounds team. Your ideas and efforts could help enhance our chapter and improve our camping amenities even further. If you're interested in getting involved, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at gbows09@yahoo.com. Happy camping and may your adventures be filled with joy.

#### GABE





#### REVISION TO RULES FOR MEMBER ENJOYMENT

The Board calls to your attention some minor changes to both enhance your enjoyment and to protect our amenities.

**PARKING ON GRASS:** The chapter rules have been updated to allow parking on the grass **ONLY for members who have an ID with Handicapped License Plates or a mirror-mounted Handicapped tag.** This change is intended to assist members and their families who have difficulty accessing amenities such as Trap & Skeet, Archery, and the Walton Pond amenities. **All other members are requested to park in the graveled parking lots.** Please be considerate of others by complying with these rules. If you are asked to provide the necessary evidence as specified, please do not be offended.

**TROLLING MOTORS NOW ALLOWED ON WALTON POND:** Battery-operated trolling motors are now permitted on the chapters Walton Pond watercraft. <u>Use of a Trolling Motor will be at you own risk!</u>

#### **NEW ARCHERY AMENITIES**

- ⇒ Through the generosity of the IN-Division Endowment, a grant was received to purchase new archery equipment that will:
  - Archery Clinics for Youth
  - New outreach amenity for groups such as BB/BS
  - Exploring the potential of indoor archery during the winter months. (Stay tuned).



Youth Archery on the Horizon!

- New Elevated Shooting Platform.
- ⇒ The archery tower was pulled from the woods and renovated as part of the archery range.
- ⇒ 3D Archery is gaining popularity among both members and the public through shoots.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT ANNE BOWSER AT EMAIL: amarieb3810@gmail.com





#### WE GOT A BEAVER PROBLEM!

#### Yep, You Heard Right!

When we think of beavers, we often picture the majestic Rocky Mountains and the daring trappers who once roamed the mountain valleys in search of beaver pelts. However, it may surprise many that beavers were once common in Indiana. Although their populations dwindled due to overharvesting, these industrious creatures have made a remarkable comeback thanks to plantings by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Beavers can now be found thriving in nearly every county in the state. As North America's largest rodent, adult beavers typically weigh up to 70 pounds. These remarkable animals are master architects, constructing intricate dams that transform flowing streams and small ditches into large water impoundments. They skillfully block the flow of water using sticks, mud, and local vegetation. A beaver colony represents a



double-edged sword; while their activities create rich habitats for fish, wildlife, and waterfowl, enhancing the local ecosystem, they are also oblivious to property lines and can cause significant damage to neighboring landscapes by gnawing down decorative trees and even mature hardwoods that can measure two feet or more in diameter. Over the years, their relent-

less efforts can result in substantial changes to the land as they shape it to suit their needs.



Beavers live in family units called colonies, consisting of adult pairs and their offspring. The adult pair is monogamous and mates for life. If one mate dies, the survivor will find a new partner, which is essential for the continued growth of the colony and the rearing of young beavers.

Beavers were introduced to the Fort Wayne region by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) in the 1970s. Their populations can become problematic if they grow too numerous, posing threats to beneficial land drainage, blocking road drainage culverts, and causing significant damage to private property. Landowners have the right to manage beaver populations on their land, but according to IDNR guidelines,

while beavers may be eradicated, they cannot be live-trapped and relocated to other ecosystems.

Their dam-building activities have extended to

our meadowland north of Walton Pond, resulting in the Beaver Pond now covering approximately five acres, covering hiking trails and prime meadowland used by deer to bed down and raise their young fawns. A female beaver typically has one litter of kits each year, with litter sizes ranging from one to four kits. The kits, along with those born the previous year, stay with their parents inside their lodge, as other lodges are created, contributing to an ever-expanding population. These populations are stable, with few predators, and beavers have an average lifespan of 12 years, al-



Some Big, Some Small.... They All Gotta Go, Sez the Beaver!

accordance with IDNR regulations.

As an organization dedicated to conserving air, soil, water and wildlife, this decision has not come easily, as it weighs heavily on our

County Colvert Bridge.

As stewards of air, land, water, and wildlife, we find ourselves in a challenging position. We must navigate the delicate balance of protecting our property and several other parcels of private land while nurturing wildlife. After discussions with our neighbor, whose property the dam occupies, and other residents affected by the escalating land damage, we have devised a plan to manage the beaver population in





For More Information **Contact Carl** 



## NOW IS THE TIME TO BE PLANNING YOUR VEGGIE GARDEN By Lily Smith

Spring is just around the corner, and now is the perfect time to start preparing your garden for a successful growing season. Whether you're planting vegetables, flowers, or native plants, a little early preparation can lead to healthier plants and a more bountiful garden.

**Start Seeds Indoors:** Many plants benefit from an early start indoors before being transplanted outside. In Indiana, vegetables like **tomatoes**, **peppers**, **broccoli**, **and lettuce** can be started indoors in late winter so they are ready for outdoor planting once the frost risk has passed. Herbs such as **basil**, **parsley**, **and thyme** also grow well indoors and can be moved outside in the spring. Use seed trays or small pots with nutrient-rich soil and place them in a sunny window or under grow lights. Keep the soil moist but not too wet and watch for sprouts in a couple of weeks!

**Prepare Your Soil:** As the ground begins to thaw, it's a great time to start preparing your garden beds. Remove any leftover plant debris from last season, add compost or organic matter to enrich the soil, and turn the earth to aerate it. If your soil is compacted, consider adding mulch or peat moss to improve drainage. Testing your soil's pH can also help you determine if any amendments are needed for optimal plant growth. For example, **blueberries prefer acidic soil**, while **spinach and cabbage** thrive in more neutral soil.

**Plan Your Layout:** Before planting, take some time to map out where each plant will go. Consider crop rotation if you're planting vegetables to help prevent soil depletion and disease buildup. Companion planting—such as placing **basil near tomatoes** to enhance growth or **marigolds near vegetables** to deter pests—can help promote healthier plants. **Corn, beans, and squash**, known as the "Three Sisters," grow particularly well together and have been used in traditional planting for centuries.

**Get a Head Start on Perennials:** If you have perennials in your garden, now is a great time to prune back dead growth, divide crowded plants, and add fresh mulch around the base to help retain moisture. For native plant lovers, early spring is an ideal time to plant species like **milkweed**, **purple coneflowers**, **black-eyed Susans**, **and wild indigo** to support local pollinators and enhance biodiversity.

**Check Your Tools & Supplies:** A successful garden starts with the right tools! Inspect your gardening equipment, sharpen tools like pruners and shovels, and stock up on seeds, soil, and organic fertilizers before the spring rush. Having a **rain barrel or compost bin** ready can also help provide natural resources for your garden throughout the season.

By taking these simple steps now, your garden will be ready to flourish when warmer days arrive. Happy planting!





Wed R&P Range Closed

Wed Public Trap Shoot

30-Apr

30-Apr

#### Upcoming chapter events

2025		EVENT	TIME	2025		EVENT	TIME
1-Apr	Tue	Boy Scout N hall & Trails use	5p-7p	1-May	Thu	R&P Range Closed	All day
2-Apr	Wed	R&P Range Closed	All day	3-May	Sat	Kayaking on the Creek	9:30 AM
2-Apr	Wed	Public Trap Shoot	4p-7p	4-May	Sun	Public Trap Shoot	9a-1p
3-Apr	Thu	R&P Range Closed	All day	4-May	Sun	Girl Scout N hall use	4p-6p
6-Apr	Sun	Public Trap Shoot	9a-1p	6-May	Tue	Boy Scout N hall & Trails use	5p-7p
6-Apr	Sun	Girl Scout N hall use	4p-6p	7-May	Wed	R&P Range Closed	All day
	Cun	Fishing Contest	2pm-	7-May	Wed	Public Trap Shoot	4p-7p
6-Apr	Sull		7pm	8-May	Thu	R&P Range Closed	All day
8-Apr	Tue	Boy Scout N hall & Trails use	5p-7p	8-May	Thu	Date night at the range	6:30p
9-Apr	Wed	R&P Range Closed	All day	10-May	Sat	Youth intro to archery shoot	10a-12p
9-Apr	Wed	Board Meeting	6:30p	11-May	Sun	Public Trap Shoot	9a-1p
9-Apr	Wed	Public Trap Shoot	4p-7p	13-May	Tue	Boy Scout N hall & Trails use	5p-7p
10-Apr	Thu	R&P Range Closed	All day	14-May	Wed	R&P Range Closed	All day
12-Apr	Sat	Easter Egg Hunt	1pm	14-May	Wed	Board Meeting	6:30p
13-Apr	Sun	Public Trap Shoot	9a-1p	14-May	Wed	Public Trap Shoot	4p-7p
15-Apr	Tue	Boy Scout N hall & Trails use	5p-7p	15-May	Thu	R&P Range Closed	All day
16-Apr	Wed	R&P Range Closed	All day	15-May	Thu	Homeschool group	9a-2p
16-Apr	Wed	Public Trap Shoot	4p-7p	17-May	Sat	3D Archery shoot	9a-2:30p
17-Apr	Thu	R&P Range Closed	All day	17-May	Sat	RSO class e hall	9a-4p
19-Apr	Sat	3D Archery shoot	9a-	18-May	Sun	Public Trap Shoot	9a-1p
			2:30p	18-May	Sun	Girl Scout N hall use	4p-6p
20-Apr	Sun	Public Trap Shoot	9a-1p	20-May	Tue	Boy Scout N hall & Trails use	5p-7p
20-Apr	Sun	Girl Scout N hall use	4p-6p	21-May	Wed	R&P Range Closed	All day
22-Apr	Tue	Boy Scout N hall & Trails use	5p-7p	21-May	Wed	Public Trap Shoot	4p-7p
23-Apr	Wed	R&P Range Closed	All day	22-May	Thu	R&P Range Closed	All day
23-Apr	1	Public Trap Shoot	4p-7p	25-May	Sun	Public Trap Shoot	9a-1p
24-Apr		R&P Range Closed	All day	27-May	Tue	Boy Scout N hall & Trails use	5p-7p
26-Apr	Sat	Plant sale/Earth day celebration	9a-3p	28-May	Wed	R&P Range Closed	All day
27-Apr	Sun	Public Trap Shoot	9a-1p	28-May	Wed	Public Trap Shoot	4p-7p
27-Apr	Sun	Plant sale/Earth day celebration	9a-3p	29-May	Thu	R&P Range Closed	All day
29-Apr	1	Boy Scout N hall & Trails use	5p-7p				

All day

4-7p



# EASTER EGG HUNT & CRAFTS

SATURDAY 12 APRIL | 1 PM

17100 GRIFFIN RD. HUNTERTOWN, IN 46748

GATHER UP
THE KIDS OR
GRANDKIDS
AND COME
OUT FOR AN
AFTERNOON
OF FUN!
See live
Bunnies!

For More
Information On
Rifle and Pistol
Ranges Contact
Mark

at

atrumpeteer@yahoo.com

or

**CRSO Pat** 

at

ftwayne@hotmail.com

