IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE FORT WAYNE

Trickorfreat the Tails November 2024

Come and join us for a spooky Halloween night! Kids crafts, local vendors, Bonfire & S'mores, Food trucks, and Trick or Treating through our trails Costume Contest at 7PM

FORT WAYNE CHAPTER



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SUPPORT OUR FINE BUSINESS SPONSORS!

TRICK OR TREAT THE TRAILS

Chapter Attendance Record Set With Over 1,200 In Attendance

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our "Trick or Treat the Trails" 2024 Halloween event! We are thrilled to report that it was a resounding success, with well over 1,200 attendees enjoying a night filled with fun, frights, and fantastic festivities!



The energy throughout the evening was palpable, with excitement building as the event progressed. Guests began arriving around 4:30 PM, even before the event officially started, and we were pleasantly surprised by the steady stream of attendees. The trails felt packed the entire time, and even as the event drew to a close, people lingered, reluctant to leave the enchantment behind. We were still welcoming guests right up until the official end time, as everyone seemed eager to soak in every last bit of the festive atmosphere. The buzz of laughter, chatter, and joy filled the air, creating a heartwarming sense of community. With over 1,200 attendees, the trails were

alive with energy,

making it a night to remember.

If you ever doubted the enthusiasm of our community, just consider the parking situation on Hollopeter Road that night. Cars lined on one side of our drive and both sides, stretching all the way up Hollopeter to the stop sign. Imagine our normally quiet Rifle Range full of vehicles and our parking lot transformed into a sea of vehicles!





It was a sight to behold, with the vibrant colors of costumes spilling out of parked cars, creating a festive atmosphere before stepping onto the trails!

One of the highlights of the evening was undoubtedly our food offerings. The aroma of delicious

bites wafted through the air, drawing in hungry guests like a spell. King Arthur's Food Truck was a hit, almost selling out as they served mouthwatering dishes to a swarm of

eager attendees. Their breaded tenderloin sandwich was a must-try (trust me on this one!). Inside, our very own Brian D. manned the grill, whipping up hot dogs that vanished by the end of the evening. And let's not forget about MaryAnn J., who worked tirelessly at our S'mores station, which also ran out due to overwhelming demand. She helped divvy out marshmallows and S'mores supplies



And it was clear that everyone had a taste for treats!

The Vendor Village added a unique flair to the event, showcasing local artisans who brought their creativity to life. Evy Epoine Crochet displayed cozy crochet items—I got the cutest blue and green turtle and will be ordering more! Teri Hugs offered delightful, quirky skeleton martini candles that filled the air with comforting scents, while PolaroidByJess enchanted guests with charming wooden magnets and cups. Lines formed at their booths throughout the night, demonstrating the community's support for our talented local crafters.

The variety of costumes was simply breathtaking! From spooky ghouls to whimsical characters, the creativity of our attendees shone brightly. Among the notable costumes was Carl, who sported a ghoulish getup while handing out candy, and Keaton, dressed as a monkey, entertained everyone by bounding up and down the trail. Rory

impressed all with his knightly attire, complete with shining armor.

Our costume contest was a fantastic addition to the festivities! First place went to an incredible Optimus Prime, who amazed the crowd with a transformation act. A Scooby-Doo family took second place, bringing their own mystery machine to life in a stroller. In contrast, a Super Mario family—complete with Princess Peach,



Princess Daisy, Bowser, and a Piranha Plant—snagged third. Two runners-up also caught our attention: Lidia from Beetlejuice and a Toy Story family with their dad and mom as Slinky Dog. Judges Lily, Anne, and Zach had their



hands full but enjoyed every moment!

We can't forget the stunning decorations that set the perfect Halloween atmosphere. Thanks to Anne for her creative vision, which transformed the trails into a magical experience. Many attendees commented on how fantastic everything looked! A heartfelt thank you to Rory C for generously donating his decorations, adding to the spookiness of the event.

The evening's ambiance was nothing short of enchanting, perfectly capturing the spirit of Halloween. As guests wandered the trails, they were greeted by whimsical and

perfectly capturing the spirit of Halloween. As guests w eerie decorations that transformed the area into a true Halloween wonderland.

Picture this: a skeleton lounging by a fire, its head resting in its lap as if deep in thought, setting the perfect tone for the evening. Jack-o-lanterns



flickered with mischievous grins, casting playful shadows on the ground. Bats and candles hung gracefully from the trees, swaying gently in the



breeze, while a mock crime scene added an element of thrilling mystery. Ghouls, goblins, and eerie masks peeked from behind bushes and trees, creating a spooky and inviting atmosphere.

Our 3D archery targets prowled among the tall grasses, adding an unexpected twist to the scenery. The witch circle, surrounded by ghosts and other spooky figures, demanded a guest's pause while taking in the haunting beauty. Every detail, from the intricately placed

decorations to the soft rustle of leaves, contributed to a truly magical night. We were also thrilled to have a



local business man set up a charming candy table. He heard about our event through Anne and Gabe and offered his services for exterior home cleaning. His sweet generosity truly added to our festivities, and we hope to see him return next year!

The excitement and laughter added to the vibrant atmosphere, making it a highlight for families and little ones

alike. This made the many hours in prep worthwhile!

It was a night to remember, filled with laughter and community spirit as strangers mingled as the kid's had a

blast.





FW Chapter Lane to Chapterhouse







We can't wait to do it all again next year!

Lily Smith Director—Fort Wayne Board









PRESIDENTS LETTER



Fort Wayne Chapter, IWLA 17100 Griffin Rd. Huntertown IN

My first month of being President has now passed and it has been a busy one. We had two great events in October. The Fishing Derby, October 6, and the Trick or Treat the Trails, October 19. Both events had attendance over our expectations. To say the least the events were a success and met our goal of reaching out to the community and getting more people familiar with IWLA and the many amenities available at our Fort Wayne Chapter.

Since both were first time events, we learned a lot and we will be able to take the experience to plan future events. A couple lessons learned are: saturating social media to broadcast the event works. Second is we need to use social media and our email system to get more chapter members involved. We found ourselves short on volunteers for the Trick or Treat event. The events were a lot of fun and we received many compliments from those that attended. Be sure to get involved in future events.

Other activities in the Chapter in October included nominations for positions on the Board of Directors. The position of Secretary will be voted on in November and the two positions for Directors will be voted on in December. There is still time if any members want to be considered for the position of Director.

We had a visit from the IDNR to walk our Rodenbeck Preserve area bordered by Cedar Canyon Drive, Auburn and Griffin Roads. Gabe Bowser and I accompanied Ryan Smith for most of the inspection. Ryan pointed out several invasive species that we need to consider eradicating. Ryan also found that we have some neighbors that have taken the liberty to blaze a trail from their property through the Preserve to Cedar Creek. This is against the requirements of the Preserve agreement. Outside of the inspection it has also been discovered that our property In Leo has become a place for running 4 Wheelers and off-road vehicles. It has created damage to the property. We have contacted the DNR and they are working with us to resolve these two issues.

In October we sent off our request to the IWLA State Endowment Committee expressing our desire is to obtain an Endowment Grant for purchase of youth archery equipment. The Endowment Committee meets in December, after which we hope to get approval. If we succeed, we will be planning some youth archery training and experiences in the Spring.

Everything that has gone on in October is too much to mention in this letter. A few other items include, REMC has offered us a Grant to install a metered pole at our pond to bring electricity to the pond. Thanks to Brian Doepke for being persistent and pursuing the Grant.

Carl and Melissa have designed a new "Welcome Pamphlet" to help new members know about all the amenities at our FW Chapter. The pamphlets will be sent to all members as they renew their membership as well as new members.

Woody Woodling

Chapter President

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A Tale of Two County's

This is the tale of two counties in the kingdom of NULA who have felt the pinch of hands at their throat as higher costs in the coin of the realm increased for maintaining their grounds and structures upon which their members seek joy and solitude. The teller of this tale attests to the truth of every sworn over one last tankard of ale enjoyed in the wee hours of one dark night.

One Chapter has its domicile in the County of Loudon and the other in the County of Allen. Both have notified their subject-owners by a blast of energy that delivers messages by the marvel of an alchemy process known as email by which they informed their members that their tribute renewals and new membership assessments were being increased for the year 2025. Thus, this chapter of the kingdom of TULA raised its annual tribute for renewals and new applicants for the year 2025. For years, too many to count, in addition to the regular fees, they have required their subject-owners to donate nine hours of volunteer labor to maintain the grounds and facilities where they frolic. If the nine-hour requirement is not met by the end of three hundred and sixty five days, an additional penalty of \$99.00 is tacked onto their tribute fee for the following year.

Their dues notice had a codicil attachment reading. "Verily. the dues for both renewal and new membership did change for the year of 2025. and this increase will help maintain our grounds. There is still time to register your 9 volunteer hours, said those in leadership, but if not, for those who use the magic of email at the site of the web to is a place to pay the \$99 additional tribute fee."

Meanwhile, a Hamlet located in the County of Allen was also struggling with the increased cost of maintaining their subject-owners' grounds and facilities, and their leaders notified their subject-owners at their Fall membership gathering: "Be it known that our subject owner's yearly tribute assessment would be increased in the year 2025. In addition, their extra fee assessment for shooting the target would be increased a wee, but important amount, but it would impact only those subject-owners wishing to hone their target skills." This organization of the Kingdom of TWLA is also having problems with subject-owners not volunteering and in growing costs. They notified its subject-owners that they too, have a problem getting volunteer work for the good of their subject-owners.

Thus both counties of MULA Kingdom. found the means of survival.

The moral of this tale of two Counties in the Kingdom of NULA is that all chapters of the realm of NULA depend on subject-owners for the upkeep of their refuge in the manner that those subject-owners have come to expect. If subject-owner volunteers for work are not found, expenses will, without fail, be met in one fashion or another.

Thus ends the Tale of two counties in the Kingdom of MULA.

3607 North Wells Street Fort Wayne, Indiana 46808

Stemen Align & Brake

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A.A.A. PLANO WORKS, LLC Piene Tuning, Cleaning, Repairing and Evals Brian Doepke (dep-kee) R.P.T.* (SEE BACK) 260-417-1298 Menter of Reno Technican Guild - Over 25 Years of Mare Education Menter of Reno Technican Guild - Over 25 Years of Mare Education





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CHAPTER CAPITAL

IMPROVEMENT PLAN

john.patrick.michaels@gmail.com

6:00 pm

PROTECTION IN PUBLIC SPACES FREE CLASS

"Navigating the Dangers of Holiday Shopping Season"

Hosted by:

Fort Wayne and Huntington Chapters Izaak Walton League of America, Inc Wednesday, November 20, 2024

HELP US HELP OUR YOUTH



For Information

Earlier this year, with a minimal deposit, our Chapter established an account with Midway USA Foundation (Midway) entitled "IWLA FW Shooting Sports". The intent was to initiate a path toward a perpetual source of funding for our youth shooting programs. Midway provides a wide array of great

17100 Griffin Road

Huntertown, In 46748

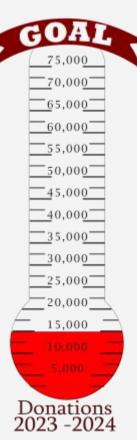
opportunities and methods of growing our account balance through fund-raising events, grants, and their matching funds. Our first venture was participation in their recent "Hometown Challenge" event that was presented to our members in the October newsletter. During the month of October, through donations made by our members, our account balance was increased to \$1620.16. Midway will soon be 1:1 matching the contributions made during October, swelling our account balance to over \$3000.00. This is just the beginning! Our Board of Directors has determined that promoting our youth shooting programs is to be one of the primary goals of the Chapter and utilization of the opportunities offered by Midway USA will be one of the main methods of achievement. Watch for more information to follow in the upcoming newsletters.

In 2024 our Chapter initiated a capital improvement project that was to take place over a five-year period and would require raising \$50,000. over normal operating costs, an average donation goal of \$10,000. per year. Specific facility upgrades are being prioritized based on urgency and undertaken as funds become available. Thanks to all our generous donors, at this point, we have received donations totaling \$15,124, since beginning of our campaign in 2023.

Using those funds, we have been able to remodel and update the East Room of the Chapter house making it more functional for Chapter use and more

attractive for generating rental opportunities and income. The next project on t he agenda is to remodel the restrooms, allowing at least one to be compliant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Today, our challenged members and guests are relegated to use of the rented outhouse in the main parking lot.

At this time of year, some of our retired members may have late-year investment distribution funds available to donate to qualified 501(c)(3) organizations. Others may be lagging in their charitable-giving goals for the year. Remember that our Chapter is fully qualified to receive charitable contributions that are tax-deductible, and our Treasurer is prepared to issue appropriate tax-filing documentation for any donation received. Please consider making a generous donation and help us improve the facilities you enjoy as a member.



Membership Renewal Notice

mi (Agent up to and including 21 years): \$74,00

Not. spoone and dependents up to age 243. \$172.00

enter operatione anno enterente a processo de la 110.00 mily (agad 65 pain apouna): \$185.00

(Ages 22 - 64 (nck/mine) \$122.00

Anyone Johnson 711 Palooka St. Anytown USA 54321

Your Renewal Notice Was Mailed

2025 Membership Renewal

The membership renewal notices for 2025 were mailed on October 14th. and should be in your mailbox by now. The exceptions are those members who joined after September 1st of 2024, and missed the first-printing cutoff date at National. They will be picked up in the second printing in December. However, as an alternative, any member can use the renewal form provided as the last page of our monthly newsletter.

Please be prompt in responding before materials are misplaced and the thought passes. You don't want to suffer the loss of membership benefits, and multiple mailings of notices is costly to the Chapter.

Renewal time is when you want to be sure that the type of membership you have is appropriate to your circumstances, ie. "Single" if you are the only one using the Chapter facilities, "Family" if there are others who could benefit, "Senior" if you are aged 65 or older, etc. To change membership type simply note what you want to change on the renewal slip, include the appropriate dues amount and send it in using the peel-off label provided. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Carl at 260-310-9701 or crehinger@gmail.com. He will be happy to assist.

Once again, please return your renewal promptly to ensure your continuous enjoyment of membership benefits.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT !!

Remember, you must hold a hold a 2025 membership card by February 28th. **Our R&P** and **T&S** Staff has been instructed to not allow participation after that date.

If You Have Misplaced Your Renewal Card, Use The Form On Page 12 Of This Issue.

Youth Trap Activities



Under the leadership of Alan New, Chapter Member and Coach, with the Bishop Dwenger Trap Team began practice. This is the second partnering of the Chapter with X-Count to bring new shooting opportunities to the youth of Fort Wayne. Under the MOU for this enterprise, X-Count will furnish the shells/clays and the chapter will furnish the Trap Range and Coaching. In addition, each team member will become an IWLA student member of the Chapter. We welcome these new chapter members.

Last season, Coach New took our 1st team, Carroll High School to two state team championships , with several team members doing very well too.



The photo on the left is our Youth Trap Camp Shooters. This is a five week event meeting every Wednesday.

Trevin Carpenter became only the 3rd youth shooting athlete from Indiana to earn the ATA's top honor of All-American and he is the 2nd from Izaak Walton in as many years. Trevin competed in several states to earn this honor and when the final numbers were released, our guy was #20 in the country! Some of Trevin's other top honors this year were:

- Indiana All-State Team
- AIM All State Team
- Indiana State Sub Junior Singles Champion
- Champion of Champions representing Indiana at the Grand American World Championship
- Ohio Buckeye Open First 100 straight to win the Singles Championship
- Ohio State Championship Personal Best in Doubles (96) to take Sub Jr. Runner Up
- Indiana Northern Zone Singles, Doubles, Handicap, HAA & HOA Sub Jr. Champion
- Great Lakes Grand Sub Jr Handicap & Doubles Champion
- Member of Carroll Shotgun Sports 3 State Champion Squads

Trevin Carpenter

Trevin is currently taking some time off and focusing on rebuilding a truck that he purchased with his dad. We look forward to seeing where Trevin's talents take him over the next few years...Congratulations Trevin!!

Fishing Derby A Success

The chapter held its first annual Fishing Derby on October 6th. Each participant reached into a 5-gallon bucket and picked out a door prize. Approximately 50 people roamed the pond grounds while 38 contestants threw lines into the water, looking to catch those pesky fish.

Category	Prize	Result
Youngest Fisher	Container with Lures	3 years old
Oldest Fisher	Container with Lures	64 years old
Longest Fish	Tackle Box	10 ¼ inch Largemouth Bass
Shortest Fish	Expanding Fishing Pole	2 ¼ inch Bluegill
Most Fish Caught	Sleeping Bag	3 fish (there was a tie, and both received a prize)







We asked everyone to park in the Chapterhouse

parking lot. Then, everyone enjoyed a short hayride down to the pond. Some longtime members commented on the pristine water, the expanded parking lot, and the spruced-up surroundings. Many people expressed appreciation for the children's enjoyment of the swing set at the pond.

The event coordinators and volunteers were overjoyed to watch families make memories. We saw parents with children, grandparents with grandchildren, and three generations all spending time on a glorious day at Walton Pond. What better way is there than to spend time outdoors, taking in the sun and fresh air, and making family memories? Now, next year, we are hoping to move the time of the derby so the fish will be biting!

Thank you, Gabe and Anne Bowser, for donating the door prizes and award prizes! It made the event a little more special.

Brian Doepke-Walton Pond Chairman





HEC Works to Create Permanent Indiana Conservation Fund

HEC is the acronym for Hoosier Environmental Council.

Indiana has fallen far behind its neighboring states in preserving and protecting natural areas because we have relied on uncertain funding from the Governor and General Assembly budgeting process.

At most, we have \$10-25million over two years compared to ten times that other conservative states have permanently embedded in their state revenue for conservation. This legislative session, January-April 2025, watch for an HECsupported bill to establish a permanent and reliable funding mechanism to support conservation efforts into the future.

> Reprinted from the Hoosier Environmental Council Donations can be made at https://www.hecweb.org/donate/ 317-685-8800 www.hecweb.org

Editor Note: Much of our Rodenbeck property by the Auburn Road Bridge is a seasonal wetland as part of the Cedar Creek overflow basin. The Hoosier Environmental Council is the most influential conservation lobbying group in Indiana and is supported by many different Conservation organizations in the





Jay Butler Managing Editor

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

Email: jaybutler1940@gmail.com

TO: Fort Wayne Chapter

IWLA "Trick or Treat the Trails." Steve and I brought the family, including adults and grandkids

Our Family loved the Chapter Trick or Treat the Trails!

L. Rignier & Family

SIGNS OF THE TIMES!



If You Are Hiking Our Trails, Using Archery Range, Mechanical Trap Thrower, Shooting at Pattern Board or Visiting our Walton Pond You Need to Sign in at the Chapterhouse and the Guest Fee is \$5.00 each. We Will Be Putting a Sign–In Station at Walton Pond.

Special Notice

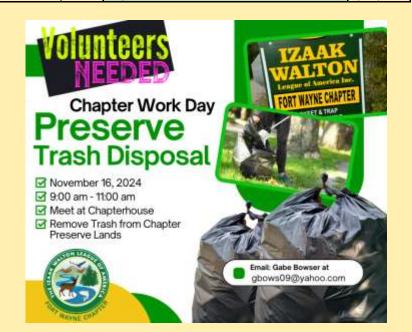
As a convenience to our members we are stamping the combination to the pond area gate lock, on the backside of all annual membership cards. A new combination number will be assigned for 2025 and that new number will be stamped on 2025 membership cards. The new number will not be effective, however, until after January 1, 2025.

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Chapter Events Calendar

202	4	EVENT	TIME	2024	1	EVENT	TIME
3-Nov	Sun	Public Trap Shoot	9A-1P	1-Dec	Sun	Public Trap Shoot	9a-1p
3-Nov	Sun	Girl Scout N hall use	4р-6р	1-Dec	Sun	Girl Scout N hall use	4р-6р
5-Nov	Tue	Boy Scout N hall & Trails use	5р-7р	3-Dec	Tue	Boy Scout N hall & Trails use	5р-7р
6-Nov	Wed	R&P Range Closed	All day	4-Dec	Wed	R&P Range Closed	All day
7-Nov	Thu	R&P Range Closed	All day	5-Dec	Thu	R&P Range Closed	All day
10-Nov	Sun	Public Trap Shoot	9A-1P	8-Dec	Sun	Public Trap Shoot	9a-1p
10-Nov	Sun	Girl Scout N hall use	4р-6р	8-Dec	Sun	Girl Scout N hall use	4р-6р
10-Nov	Sun	Boy Scout N hall & Trails use	5р-7р	10-Dec	Tue	Boy Scout N hall & Trails use	5р-7р
13-Nov	Wed	R&P Range Closed	All day	11-Dec	Wed	R&P Range Closed	All day
14-Nov	Thu	R&P Range Closed	All day	12-Dec	Thu	R&P Range Closed	All day
16-Nov	Sat	Chapter Workday - Trash Disposal	9a-11a	15-Dec	Sun	Public Trap Shoot	9a-1p
17-Nov	Sun	Public Trap Shoot	9A-1P	15-Dec	Sun	Girl Scout N hall use	4р-6р
17-Nov	Sun	Girl Scout N hall use	4р-6р	17-Dec	Tue	Boy Scout N hall & Trails use	5р-7р
19-Nov	Tue	Boy Scout N hall & Trails use	5р-7р	18-Dec	Wed	R&P Range Closed	All day
20-Nov	Wed	R&P Range Closed	All day	19-Dec	Thu	R&P Range Closed	All day
20-Nov	Wed	USCCA Workshop	6PM	22-Dec	Sun	Public Trap Shoot	9a-1p
21-Nov	Thu	R&P Range Closed	All day	22-Dec	Sun	Girl Scout N hall use	4р-6р
24-Nov	Sun	Public Trap Shoot	9A-1P	24-Dec	Tue	Boy Scout N hall & Trails use	5р-7р
24-Nov	Sun	Girl Scout N hall use	4р-6р	25-Dec	Wed	R&P Range Closed - CHRISTMAS DAY	All day
26-Nov	Tue	Boy Scout N hall & Trails use	5р-7р	26-Dec	Thu	R&P Range Closed	All day
27-Nov	Wed	R&P Range Closed	All day	29-Dec	Sun	Public Trap Shoot	9a-1p
28-Nov	Thu	R&P Range Closed	All day	29-Dec	Sun	Girl Scout N hall use	4р-6р
				31-Dec	Tue	Boy Scout N hall & Trails use	5р-7р





THURDH LEAGURD	2025 Membershi	p Renewal Form
I	Please fill in the requested information payment, based on the table at the both Place this completed form and your pays ort Wayne Chapter, IWLA, c/o Carl Ehinge 46818. You may also submit your applica t the range, or drop it into the countertop of	com of this page (Total Dues column). ment into an envelope and mail to: r, 2709 Bearberry Ct., Fort Wayne, tion and payment to the RSO on duty
Name:	Member	No
Email address:	-20	
Type of Membership:	2	Dues:
If you wish to purchas	se range privileges—add \$50.00	R/P:

Total Enclosed:

\$_____

Thank you for your continued support of our Fort Wayne Chapter.

Current Dues Distribution

Туре	National	Ind/Division	FW Chapter	Total Dues	% retained	Range Fee
Youth/ Student	\$25.00	\$6. <mark>0</mark> 0	\$43.00	\$74.00	58 %	*\$50.00
Individual	\$50.00	\$8.00	\$64.00	\$122.00	52 %	*\$50.00
Family	\$75.00	\$12.00	\$85.00	\$172.00	49 %	*\$50.00
<u>Senior</u>	\$50.00	\$6.00	\$54.00	\$110.00	49 %	*\$50.00
Senior Family	\$75.00	\$10.00	\$80.00	\$165.00	48 %	*\$50.00

choose to purchase range privileges, remit the "total dues" amount plus the range fee.