



## APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER

# The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter of The Izaak Walton League of America

Serving the Community Since 1935

PO Box 542, Poolesville, MD 20837

[www.bcciwla.org](http://www.bcciwla.org)

## President's Message

Hi Folks,

Now that the weather is warming up nicely, hopefully you will be visiting the property more often to either participate in an organized activity or just to come out and hike the trails. Our colony of Purple Martins should have arrived or will be arriving shortly on their annual migration by the time I am writing this letter. Their aerial feats are spectacular to watch.

Thank you for supporting our Spring Cleanup Day(s). Our Fall and Spring Cleanup Days provide an excellent opportunity to earn service hours cleaning up the Chapterhouse and grounds from Winter and preparing for Summer. We are blessed with such a wonderful property comprising 624 acres with fields under cultivation, hiking trails, ponds, streams, and outdoor shooting ranges. And, like all landowners we are also dedicated to caring for and improving our facilities for future members. It is a never ending yet, a wonderful enterprise of which we are all proud.

It is in the Spring that our Outdoor Activities Programs start to energize. And, hopefully the Covid-19 social distancing rules will continue to be relaxed as we increase vaccinations. So, please pay attention to the Newsletter for upcoming events as we try to increase our activities from the previous year.

Do not forget the Gun Raffle! There are only 500 tickets and they are rapidly being sold. If you have not purchased a ticket and would like to, see the newsletter for more information and Carol Hulce-Efdimis' contact information.

In closing, the days are getting longer so check the calendar for scheduled outdoor activities and come out to the farm.

Stay Healthy!

Ron Marchessault  
President

## APRIL 2021 MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The 1,026th monthly Membership Meeting will be held via Zoom on **Wednesday, April 21**, starting at **6:45pm**.

Meeting contact information is listed below and can also be found on the website calendar.

All prospective members should arrive into chapter Zoom meetings early to sign the digital attendance form in order for the meeting to count. The link will be sent in the Zoom chat and available on the front page of the website until the morning after the meeting.

Please text us at 301 252-8825 if you have any trouble connecting or entering the meeting.

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89119876726?pwd=QXdldE5BVkp3c1JsR0ZNaEpGRmxKdz09>

**Dial: 301 715 8592**

**Meeting ID: 891 1987 6726**

**Passcode: 953816**

## NEW-MEMBER ORIENTATION TOURS

There will be two tours in April - Saturday, April 17 and Sunday, April 25 from 10:00am until approximately 1:00pm. Newly-initiated members who have paperwork / fees to settle should arrive by 9:15am to get this done in time to limit any delays to the tour's start time. A signup Genius for the tour has been published on the Chapter's website calendar.

## DUE DATE

for the May Newsletter Articles  
**Friday, April 30**

Submit articles to:  
[j.lamkin@comcast.net](mailto:j.lamkin@comcast.net)  
[Newsletter.BCCIWLA@gmail.com](mailto:Newsletter.BCCIWLA@gmail.com)

## Board of Governors

Fiscal Year: September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021

### OFFICERS

**Ron Marchessault, President**

202 320-3834 • rmarchessault12@aol.com

**Lin Schmale-Tate, 1st Vice President**

703 517-3675 • lin@tate-tate.us

**Walt Allensworth, 2nd Vice President**

301 221-3594 • twangermd@gmail.com

**Bill Brockman, Treasurer**

301 652-3978 • bill.brockman@hotmail.com

**Joe Trotter, Membership Secretary**

210 352-0055 • jtrotterccp@gmail.com

**Janet Lamkin, Corresponding Secretary**

301 466-6557 • j.lamkin@comcast.net

**John Stinson, Recording Secretary**

301 325-7454 • ringfort3@gmail.com

### BOARD MEMBERS

**David Boynton\***

301 318-3622 • dboynton@mcccourt.com

**Brett Davis**

240 506-5588 • bdbrettdavis@gmail.com

**Shannon Novak**

301 785-8461 • snovak516@gmail.com

**Sean-David Waterman**

816 812-4917 • seandavid@me.com

**Pete Wirth**

301 915-6763 • peter\_wirth@verizon.net

**Jeff Seaman, Past President**

301 775-4973 • jeff\_seaman@hotmail.com

\* Indicates Officers and Board Members who were absent from the previous month's Board of Governors meeting.

The Izaak Walton League of America – a non-profit conservation organization – is recognized as a Section 501(c)(3) public charity under the Internal Revenue Code.

Address, phone and email changes should be sent to the Membership Secretary at the above address.

Submissions to the *NEWSLETTER* should be sent to:

Janet Lamkin  
j.lamkin@comcast.net or  
Newsletter.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com  
301 466-6557



## Summary of the January 2021 Board of Governors Meeting, February 2021 Membership Meeting, February 2021 Board of Governors Meeting, and March 2021 Membership Meeting

John Stinson, Recording Secretary  
301 325-7454 ringfort3@gmail.com

### Wednesday, January 27, 2021 – Board of Governors Meeting

- The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.
- Ron Marchessault talked of the Chapter's planning for modifications to the Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP).
- Past President Jeff Seaman summarized the proceedings and straw vote of the County Council granting conditional approval of Zoning Text Amendment 20-01. The ZTA had proposed designation of 1,800 acres of Ag Reserve land for industrial solar panel placement.
- Per Treasurer Bill Brockman, transfer of Land Fund monies to the Legacy Foundation will take place at the end of this month.

### ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- Richard Latimer, the Chapter's insurance agent, reviewed the policy.
- Spring cleanup day dates need to be decided upon.
- A plan is being formulated for removal or trimming of the holly bush encroaching on the Chapter House chimney.

### NEW BUSINESS

- A motion to transfer Land Fund monies to the Legacy Foundation passed unanimously.
- A motion was passed to present to the membership a bylaws amendment defining the IT committee as a permanent committee under the Public Relations and Education committee, reporting to the Corresponding Secretary.
- A vote was passed approving 6 candidates for induction.

### TALKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER

- The Membership Committee chair is arranging a working group for testing of a program for online payments and receivables via PayPal.
- There are approximately 100 new members who have yet to participate in a cleanup. Prepping and painting the interior of the Chapter House, up to maybe a height of 9', may satisfy their work obligation.
- The flagpole, embedded in concrete, requires attention, repair (cable pulley needs to be fixed) or replacement. This could be an Eagle Scout project.

The meeting was adjourned 9:10pm.

### February 17, 2021 – 1,024th Consecutive Membership Meeting

Note that your Recording Secretary was away on planned leave for the February Membership and BOG meetings. These minutes were transcribed from Dropbox, which had been expertly set up for the Chapter by Tucker Mostrom.

- The meeting was called to order at 6:47pm.
- President Ron Marchessault thanked to Land Fund committee and contributors.
- Online renewals will be available for 2022.
- Members were reminded to log-in work hours electronically.

(continued on page 3)

## SUMMARY

(continued from page 2)

- Members living more than 60 miles away may become Associate Members with lesser work requirements.

## FEATURED SPEAKERS

- Bob Cissel provided a legislative update regarding ongoing deliberations in Annapolis relevant to the Chapter:
  - HB 1069: A proposed 2.5% tax on sales of properties with septic/well systems (approximately 20,000 in Montgomery County) to fund future septic repairs/improvements is stuck in committee.
  - The Attorney General has proposed modification of the state Forest Mitigation Easement program to only include open land on which new trees are to be planted rather than existing woodland. A counter proposal to include existing forested land has been made (HB 0991) and is supported by the AG community.
  - The bill discussed at the last meeting that was proposed to ban glyphosate (Roundup®) has died in committee.
  - Bills (HB 0581, SB 0486) are proposed by committee leaders to stipulate that employees of certain classifications (agriculture, farmers' markets, food processing, nursing etc.) will be paid an additional \$3/hour, plus Social Security matching, retroactively to March 2020.
- Merikay Smith, Landscape Architect, Master Gardener and Chair of Seneca Creek Watershed Partners, provided a presentation on the rich history, geology, flora, fauna, topography, monitoring, enjoyment and stewardship of Seneca Creek from Black Rock to the Potomac. Seneca Creek Watershed Partners is affiliated with Muddy Branch Partners and shares their website.

Following Merikay's presentation, a discussion regarding various aspects of invasive plant management was held. The County/State should consider banning marketing of invasive plants. Merikay noted that invasives are inedible by insects and native animals, granting them an advantage.

- Poolesville HS is considering integration of their Fall curriculum with several Chapter operations, including Chestnut, Farm, and Ponds & Streams.
- Volunteers are needed for electric fence application around sunflower field. Contact BCCfarmchairman@gmail.com to volunteer.
- UMD Extension is interested in studying cover crops as related to deer management.
- Ponds & Streams Committee received a donation of pea gravel for spawning beds.

## TALKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER

- The Chapter will conduct fundraising through a second firearms raffle.
- Frank Parker noted that the County Forest Conservation Advisory Committee, of which he is a member, is open to new participants.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48pm.

## Wednesday February 24, 2021 – Board of Governors Meeting

- The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.
- President Ron Marchessault spoke about lead management. The Board will consider recommendations made by Dr. Peddicord, who is updating the Chapter's Environmental Stewardship Plan.

- Dates for the spring cleanups are: April 3 for planting of new Christmas Trees, April 10 for range cleanups, and April 17 for the Chapter cleanup.
- The Chestnut and Security Committees have requested CAPEX funding, for orchard expansion and tech upgrades, respectively.
- Archery requested some old telephone poles that may be available through one of the Members.
- Past President Jeff Seaman summarized the proceedings and straw vote of the County Council granting only conditional approval of Zoning Text Amendment 20-01. Commercial solar will be considered on a case-by-case basis, on Class 3 soil or worse. Overall, this is a welcome outcome for B-CC IWLA, Montgomery County Alliance, and numerous other stakeholders.

## ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- Ticket sales for the next gun raffle will commence March 17.

The meeting was adjourned 9:00pm.

## March 17, 2021 – 1,025th Consecutive Membership Meeting

- The meeting was called to order at 6:50pm.
- President Ron Marchessault kicked off the second annual gun raffle. Carol Hulse-Efdimis provided details for ticket purchase. The drawing will be held once 500 tickets are sold, at \$20/ticket. Cash may be awarded in lieu of a firearm.
- The slate for the 2021-2022 Board of Governors candidates is being compiled. If interested, contact Scott Harmon
- Bob Cissel provided a legislative update relevant to the Chapter:
  - A bill will be submitted to the Council in June requiring County homeowners so equipped to pump-out septic tanks at a minimum of every 5 years.
  - The County Council will expand from 9 to 11 members. At-large membership stays at 4 but district seats increase from 5 to 7.
- The Ponds & Streams Committee plans an electrofishing survey for May-June.
- The Chapter will be a BSA Archery Merit Badge qualification site.

## TALKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER

- During the last week of April there will be an historical event at Ft. Frederick State Park, Big Pool, MD. Muzzleloader use will be a feature.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19pm.

## B-CC QUIZ

**Question:** The B-CC Archives Committee recently came across this 4" cloth shoulder patch among the boxes, files, and other stuff in the 'Game Room.'



Do you know anything about it?

- Who had it made?
- Why was it made?
- When was it made?

## 2021 B-CC IWLA Board of Governors Nominations

Your B-CC IWLA's 2021 Nominating Committee is presently seeking interested members in good standing to serve on the B-CC IWLA's Board of Governors. The term of service for this slate of proposed officers and Board members will begin September 2021 and conclude August 2022. Members of the Board are expected to attend two meetings a month, the chapter membership meetings held on the third Wednesday of each month, and Board of Governor's meetings held on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

Serving on the chapter Board is an extremely rewarding opportunity. The great success of our chapter is due to the dedication and talents of our Board of Governors. As a Board Member, you will learn how the chapter functions as a conservation organization and help make the decisions for our future. The experience of working with men and women from completely different backgrounds and professions as a Board member often provides an opportunity for personal growth. Everyone that has been a member of the B-CC IWLA for one year as of September 2020 is welcome to submit their name for consideration as a Board of Governors member. If you have any interest, please reach out to Scott Harmon 301 467-0645 or one of the other members of the nominating committee: John Lamb, Butch Mezick, Jeff Seaman, Jack Mandel.

## 2021 IWLA Maryland Division Officers and Directors Nominations

The Nominating Committee of the Maryland Division of the IWLA is announcing openings for President, Vice President, Treasurer, and four National Director positions.

### Maryland Division IWLA – openings

President  
Vice-President  
Treasurer  
National Director (2021-2023)  
National Director (2021-2023)  
National Director (2021-2024)  
National Director (2021-2024)

Unless otherwise noted, each term runs from 2021 to 2023. Elections will be held at the Annual Convention of the Maryland Division on June 12, 2021. Nominations, with evidence of the nominee's consent, should be sent to B-CC Chapter President Ron Marchessault at 202 320-3834 by May 1st. Nominations may also be made from the floor during the annual Convention.

–Nancy Gladden, Chairperson

## Farm Report

Phil Taylor, Committee Chair  
bccfarmchairman@gmail.com

The Farm Committee has been busy during the winter months. We started by planting warm season grass plugs in the meadow below the Chapter House last November. The grass plugs that we planted were Indian grass and Big Blue Stem. We planted them to help add to the habitat in the meadow. The warm season grasses will grow in clumps at different heights providing shaded areas, wind breaks, nesting cover, and hold bugs. Our hope is the grasses will spread throughout the meadow over time providing great habitat for our wildlife.

We started an orchard last year for the wildlife and pollinating insects. Our goal was to plant a total of twenty fruit trees. We planted eleven fruit trees last year. Of the eleven trees that we planted nine survived. In late January of this year, we completed our orchard by planting twelve more trees making a total of twenty-one fruit trees. Our plan was to plant in the early spring but due to limited supply at the nursery we decided to plant them earlier. We had a break in the weather for a few days and we were able to get them planted. The orchard has many different types of fruit trees planted on it. We planted different varieties of pear, apple, and crabapple trees.

The month of March is the time of year that we begin our mowing around the farm fields. Each year our plan is to leave areas of grass standing over the winter to provide habitat for wildlife. We mow those areas in March each year so that the grass will regrow providing habitat for nesting birds, small game, and fawns in late spring. Each spring we are excited to get to work. The winter months are spent putting a plan together for the following growing season. We will report this plan as it unfolds in the newsletter throughout the year.

I want to take a moment to thank all of those who helped on the projects throughout this winter. We could not have completed these projects without the help from the volunteers. As I close this article, I want to ask all members who walk our farm fields to please share any pictures taken while on their walk. Any pictures of the fields, flowers, wildlife, ponds, streams, and trees would be great to share with the members.

## APRIL 2021 BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

The Board of Governors meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 28 at 7:30pm**. Effective April 28, **Board Members and members in good standing** can attend the meeting **in person at the Chapter House** or **via Zoom**.

Zoom contact information is listed below and can also be found on the website calendar. Please text us at 301 252-8825 if you have any trouble connecting or entering the Zoom meeting.

### Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82999982929?pwd=OXFuaFQzZMkQvSC9pZlBXMktvMERPUT09>

Dial: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 829 9998 2929

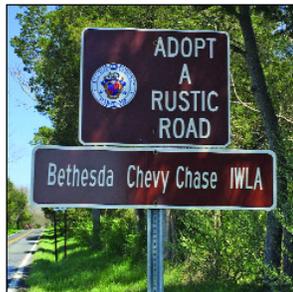
Passcode: 343901

## 2021 Adopt-A-Road Clean-up Schedule

The B-CC IWLA Adopt-A-Road team will meet at the Chapter House at 8:15am for clean-up on the following dates:

Saturday, April 10  
Saturday, July 10  
Saturday, September 11

Trash bags, gloves, and orange traffic vests will be made available for participants. Please direct any questions to John Robinson, 301 641-1188.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date(s)	Activity	Time
<b>APRIL</b>		
<b>All dates are tentative and subject to change. Check the website for updates.</b>		
Saturday, April 3	Summer Biathlon at the R&P Range	7:30am
Saturday, April 3	Plant Christmas Trees – Contact Larry Anderson	starting at 9:00am
Sunday, April 4	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 5:00pm
Tuesday, April 6	Tuesday Sporting Clays	3:00pm – last squad out at 5:00pm
Saturday, April 10	<b>Adopt-A-Road Clean-up – meet at the Chapterhouse parking lot</b>	<b>8:15am</b>
Saturday, April 10	Cleanup Day for Archery, R&P, and Shotgun Ranges – Contact Range Chairs	starting at 8:00am
Saturday, April 10	Invasive Species Reduction Cleanup – sign up ahead of time, via the Sign-Up Genius	starting at 9:00am
Sunday, April 11	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 5:00pm
Tuesday, April 13	Tuesday Sporting Clays	3:00pm – last squad out at 5:00pm
Saturday, April 17	Summer Biathlon at the R&P Range	7:30am
Saturday, April 17	Chapter Cleanup Day	starting at 8:30am
Saturday, April 17	Archery Range – 3-D Shoot	9:00am
Saturday, April 17	New-Member Orientation Tour (first of two) – meet at Chapterhouse	tour 10:00am – 1:00pm
Sunday, April 18	Shotgun Range Current Range Officer signup – at the Chapter House	9:00am
Sunday, April 18	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 5:00pm
Tuesday, April 20	Tuesday Sporting Clays	3:00pm – last squad out at 5:00pm
<b>Wednesday, April 21</b>	<b>1,026th Monthly Membership Meeting – via Zoom</b>	<b>6:45pm</b>
Sunday, April 25	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 5:00pm
Sunday, April 25	New-Member Orientation Tour (second of two) – meet at the Chapterhouse	tour 10:00am – 1:00pm
Tuesday, April 27	Tuesday Sporting Clays	3:00pm – last squad out at 5:00pm
<b>Wednesday, April 28</b>	<b>Board of Governors Meeting – at Chapterhouse and via Zoom</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>
Friday, April 30	May Newsletter Articles due – send to <a href="mailto:j.lamkin@comcast.net">j.lamkin@comcast.net</a>	<b>By End of Day</b>
<b>MAY</b>		
<b>All dates are tentative and subject to change. Check the website for updates.</b>		
Saturday, May 1	Summer Biathlon at the R&P Range	7:30am
Saturday, May 1	Spring Hunter Education Class – two-day class – Registration Required	
Sunday, May 2	Spring Hunter Education Class – two-day class – Registration Required	
Sunday, May 2	Montgomery Bird Club conducts its annual Spring Bird Walk	7:00am – 12:00pm
Sunday, May 2	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 5:00pm
Tuesday, May 4	Tuesday Sporting Clays	3:00pm – last squad out at 5:00pm
Sunday, May 9	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 5:00pm
Tuesday, May 11	Tuesday Sporting Clays	3:00pm – last squad out at 5:00pm
Saturday, May 15	Summer Biathlon at the R&P Range	7:30am
Sunday, May 16	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 5:00pm
May 18	Tuesday Sporting Clays	3:00pm – last squad out at 5:00pm
<b>Wednesday, May 19</b>	<b>1,027th Monthly Membership Meeting – via Zoom</b>	<b>6:45pm</b>
Saturday, May 22	New-Member Orientation Tour – meet at the Chapterhouse	tour 10:00am – 1:00pm
Sunday, May 23	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 5:00pm
Tuesday, May 25	Tuesday Sporting Clays	3:00pm – last squad out at 5:00pm
<b>Wednesday, May 26</b>	<b>Board of Governors Meeting – at Chapter House and via Zoom</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>
Friday, May 28	June Newsletter Articles due – send to <a href="mailto:j.lamkin@comcast.net">j.lamkin@comcast.net</a>	<b>By End of Day</b>
Sunday, May 30	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 5:00pm
<b>JUNE</b>		
<b>All dates are tentative and subject to change. Check the website for updates.</b>		
Saturday, June 5	Introduction to Hunting Seminar – Sign Up required	8:30am – 4:00pm
Sunday, June 6	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 5:00pm
Tuesday, June 8	Tuesday Sporting Clays	3:00pm – last squad out at 5:00pm
Saturday, June 12	Summer Biathlon at the R&P Range	7:30am
Sunday, June 13	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 5:00pm
Tuesday, June 15	Tuesday Sporting Clays	3:00pm – last squad out at 5:00pm
<b>Wednesday, 16</b>	<b>1,027th Monthly Membership Meeting – via Zoom</b>	<b>6:45pm</b>
Saturday, June 19	New-Member Orientation Tour – meet at the Chapterhouse	10:00am – 1:00pm
Sunday, June 20	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 5:00pm
Sunday, June 20	Father's Day Swap Meet and Silent Auction	9:00am – 3:00pm
Tuesday, June 22	Tuesday Sporting Clays	3:00pm – last squad out at 5:00pm
<b>Wednesday, June 23</b>	<b>Board of Governors Meeting – at Chapter House and via Zoom</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>
Friday, June 25	July Newsletter Articles due – send to <a href="mailto:j.lamkin@comcast.net">j.lamkin@comcast.net</a>	<b>By End of Day</b>
Saturday, June 26	Summer Biathlon at the R&P Range	7:30am
Sunday, June 27	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 5:00pm
Tuesday, June 29	Tuesday Sporting Clays	3:00pm – last squad out at 5:00pm
<b>THE CAMPGROUND IS CLOSED DURING ALL BLACK POWDER AND FIREARMS DEER SEASON.</b>		
Check the online <a href="http://www.bcciwa.org">www.bcciwa.org</a> electronic calendar for current and updated scheduled times of events.		

# SPRING CHAPTER CLEANUPS

## RANGE CLEANUPS Archery, R & P, Shotgun Saturday, April 10

Information to come from Range Committee Chairs

## CHAPTER CLEANUP Saturday, April 17 8:30am

Chapter members and their families are invited to take part in this event and help prepare the farm for spring and summer. This is a great opportunity for new members to become acquainted with the Chapter, and for new and current members to work off their required volunteer hours.

*Volunteers should arrive at the chapter house by 8:30am.*

The chapter house will still be closed, except for the restrooms, so no formal breakfast will be served.

There are always plenty of things needing to be done: planting, raking, tree trimming, and trail clearing to cleaning, washing, and sweeping of the outside of the Chapter House to meet anyone's interest and physical ability!

Bring your work gloves, shovels, rakes, loppers, and leaf blowers. If you bring a chain saw or weed wacker, please be sure you have the necessary safety equipment.

Social distancing guidelines will be observed by all. In order to assure that the B-CC IWLA maintains compliance with MD State COVID-19 guidelines, a **Signup Genius** will be used to help us plan for food and social distancing.

**BE SURE** to sign-in at the table on the front porch of the chapter house. Families please enter the name of each family-member participating. You will be paired up with other chapter members who will provide details of the tasks for the day (committee chairs or crew chiefs). Some of the work may take place on different parts of the farm and may require driving to the location.

Carol Hulce-Efdimis and her crew will be serving a wrapped-up lunch to all who attend after the bulk of the cleanup work has been completed, around 1:00pm.

Certain projects will require more time and some less time to accomplish. Come out whether you can commit for the entire day or part of the day. Your contribution is greatly needed and most appreciated.

**Any committee chairs or crew chiefs who are planning work projects for Cleanup Day, please contact 1st V.P., Lin Schmale-Tate at the email below to help her coordinate equipment, volunteers, and other resources!**

The Rifle & Pistol and Shotgun ranges will be closed until 1:00pm.

**We look forward to seeing YOU at the Cleanups!**

Lin Schmale-Tate  
B-CC IWLA 1st Vice President  
lin@tate-tate.us

## Brood X is coming in more ways than one...

I once shared an office in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service with an interesting ornithologist, fly fisherman, and all around character straight out of Patrick McManus' stories. His name is Jay Sheppard, and he has created several popular and unusual fishing flies over the years.

You may have heard of his Patuxent Special, a popular fly for fishing the trout on our local streams. Or you might have heard of his Mulberry Fly we use to catch the big carp in the C&O Canal. Well now Jay has come up with another winner- the Brood X.



One of the best fishing fly tiers that I know once said to me, "You won't really get good at tying a new pattern until you have tied at least twenty dozen." That would be just short of 250 flies. You won't have time to tie that many Brood X flies before the periodic cicadas arrive this spring. But you can tie enough to get by if you follow Jay's video instructions on vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/523045024>.

For the full write-up on this creation, go to the Potomac Patuxent TU page at: <https://www.pptu.org/images/flytying/TheCicadasareComing.pdf>

Thank you Jay, for this creation, and letting us feature it here. -TATE

## Vegetable Gardens

Larry Anderson  
240 246-5302 andupton9@hotmail.com

Pat Tarquinio  
ptarq@hotmail.com

The days are growing longer and gardeners are eagerly anticipating and planning for the next growing season. At B-CC IWLA we have an active gardening community, full of members who enjoy the opportunity to play in the soil. Generally, our gardeners find the gardens a pleasant distraction from the hustle and bustle of daily life even with our onslaught of amazing weeds. Again this year, Pat and I will be the organizers of the garden plots.



As has been our custom, current gardeners have first choice of reserving garden plots, so now is the time to contact either Pat or me with your intentions for this year. Single plots (~25x25ft) will rent for \$20 each. For members wishing to become new gardeners please contact either Pat or me, and we will compile a list and start assigning plots as they become available. We hope to have the list and assignments ready to go in time for early crop planting.

## Membership Operations Report

Joe Trotter, Membership Secretary  
210 352-0055 MembershipSecretary.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com

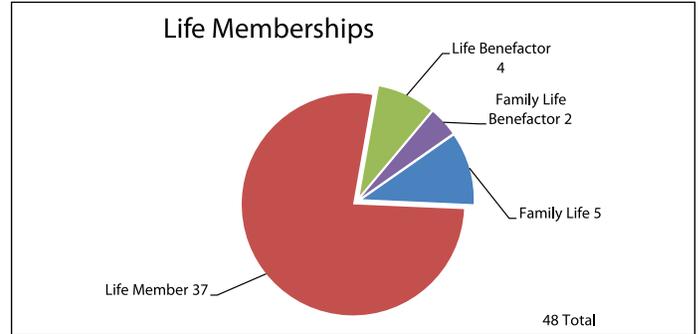
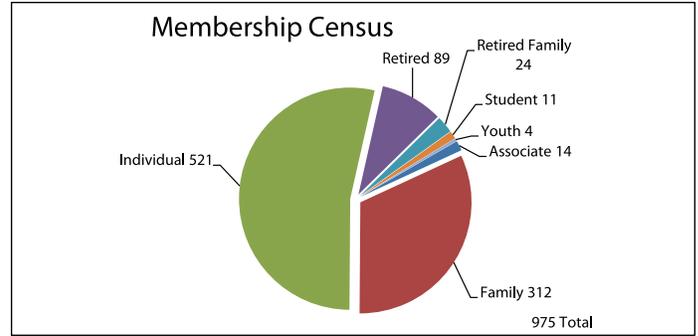
The USPS logjam has been broken, and all members who joined the chapter or renewed their membership before March 1st of this year should have received their 2021 membership cards and vehicle decals in the first week of April. Additionally, since we received delivery of new padlock keys, all members who purchased keys as new members or through renewal should have received their keys as well. For those who joined or renewed after March 1st, we will get your 2021 membership cards and decals out to you as soon as we receive them from IWLA National.

As of the end of March 2021, over 93% of B-CC IWLA's 2021 membership has renewed for 2021.

For ongoing membership or 2021 renewal questions, please email Joe Trotter, the Membership Secretary, at [MembershipSecretary.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com](mailto:MembershipSecretary.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com).

There will be **TWO New-Member Orientation Tours** in April, scheduled for **Saturday, April 17th** and **Sunday, April 25th**, both at 10:00am. Newly-initiated members who have paperwork / fees to settle, should arrive by 9:15am to get this done in time to limit any delays to the tours' start time. Wet-weather footgear is generally a good idea out at the conservation farm this time of year.

As of the end of March 2021, the membership breakdown was:



Participants from the postponed (2 times) February tour (March 6th)



Participants from the March tour (March 21st)

## Shotgun Range Report

Warner Parks, Committee Chair  
240 620-6942 wparks29@gmail.com

There will be a **sign-up meeting** on Sunday, April 18 at 9:00am at the chapter house for any **current Range Officer** that has not signed up. This will be the last sign-up and **is not a RO training class**.

Effective immediately the **Range Hours** have returned to normal hours of operation – 9:00am until 5:00pm.

**Tuesday Sporting Clays Shoots** began on April 6 and continue until Tuesday, September 28. Shoots begin at 3:00pm with the last squad starting promptly at 5:00pm. All shooters must sign-in at the range house before they join a squad. Any and all COVID-19 precautions in place at the time must be strictly observed: <http://bcciwla.org/2021/03/updated-covid-protocols-for-farm-and-ranges/>.

### Range Officers:

- Please do not unplug any of the skeet machines and do not turn off any circuit breakers.
- Double-check and make sure all release cords and extension cords are returned to the range house.

### Shooters:

- Please pick up your empty shotgun shells and trash when finished shooting.

### Range Officers and Shooters:

- Keep the range clean and restocked for the next range officer and shooters.

All Shotgun Range Equipment is to be used by **pre-qualified Shotgun Range Officers ONLY**. If any equipment is malfunctioning, please let Joel or me know ASAP.

### RANGE OFFICER SCHEDULE

#### APRIL

Sunday, April 4	<b>Need Range Officers</b>
Sunday, April 11	<b>Ken Gentzel, Dave Bixler</b>
Sunday, April 18	<b>Richard Latimer, Andrew Silverburg</b>
Sunday, April 25	<b>Gary Melvin, Brian Moncak</b>

#### MAY

Sunday, May 2	<b>Greg Ossi, Hap Hoffman</b>
Sunday, May 9	<b>Raymond Vincent, Peter Shanley</b>
Sunday, May 16	<b>Douglass Craig, David Boynton</b>
Sunday, May 23	<b>Christian Lowe, Ed Stewart</b>
Sunday, May 30	<b>Harry Simpson, Need a Range Officer</b>

### HOURS OF OPERATION

Sundays 9:00am to 5:00pm Trap, Skeet, Sporting Clays

## Rifle & Pistol Range Report

Thoran Menser, Committee Chair  
301 972-8353 thoran.menser2@verizon.net

Chris Efdimis, Chief Range Officer  
240 372-2258

**Covid Range Usage Procedures** are still in place and can be found on the website. **Masks** are to be worn when you are entering the range and only taken off when you are at the shooting positions. The range is open to **ONE** guest outside of your immediate family household.

### PLEASE REMEMBER

- Keep watch on guests you bring. It is your place to brief them on the SOP's.
- Be safe and enjoy the range respectfully.
- All must **PICK UP THEIR BRASS!**

### RANGE OFFICER SCHEDULE

#### APRIL

Saturday, April 3	<b>Waterman, S., Twomey, P., Bouchard, M., Mostrom, T.</b>
Sunday, April 4	<b>Panashchenko, O., Twomey, P., Waterman, S., Williams, B.</b>
Saturday, April 10	<b>Williams, B., Sullivan, A., Saiz, J., Ryba, J.</b>
Sunday, April 11	<b>Sullivan, A., Saiz, J., Kipfer, J., Panashchenko, O.</b>
Saturday, April 17	<b>Hoover, J., Ryba, J., Schweikert, B., Boynton, D.</b>
Sunday, April 18	<b>Griffin, J., Riccio, R., Kawamoto, D., Chung, W.</b>
Saturday, April 24	<b>Bouchard, M., Lan, K., Mostrom, T., Peterson, C.</b>
Sunday, April 25	<b>Watt, D., Hoover, J., Harmon, S., Carroll, P.</b>

#### MAY

Saturday, May 1	<b>McDaniel, M., Pickett, M., Schweikert, B., Griffin, J.</b>
Sunday, May 2	<b>Princiotto, M., McDaniel, M., Pickett, M., Finn, K.</b>
Saturday, May 8	<b>Lan, K., Quattlebaum, R., Pasquale, D., McUlsky, A.</b>
Sunday, May 9	<b>Pasquale, D., Watt, D., Harmon, S., Widenhofer, S.</b>
Saturday, May 15	<b>Hunt, J., Fiol, C., Kelly, P., McUlsky, A.</b>
Sunday, May 16	<b>Betmarik, J., Hunt, J., Hess, A., Finnegan, J.</b>
Saturday, May 22	<b>Quattlebaum, R., Behrend, D., Suleman, S., Shi, P.</b>
Sunday, May 23	<b>Suleman, S., West, K., Urgo, C., Kipfer, J.</b>
Saturday, May 29	<b>Fiol, C., Chung, W., Eschholz, S., Gallagher, J.</b>
Sunday, May 30	<b>King, K., Kawamoto, D., West, K., Carroll, P.</b>

The Rifle & Pistol Range **will be closed till 1:00pm** on the following days:

April 10th for Range Clean-Up  
April 17th for Chapter Clean-Up.

### B-CC Quiz Answer:

If you have any information on the cloth shoulder patch, please contact one the Archives Committee members: Jim Tate ([jim@tate-tate.us](mailto:jim@tate-tate.us)), Bill Gordon ([wgordon14@verizon.net](mailto:wgordon14@verizon.net)), Janet Lamkin ([jlamkin@comcast.com](mailto:jlamkin@comcast.com)).

### B-CC Quiz by Jim Tate

## Archery Range Report

Jack Mandel, Committee Chair  
jmandeldesign@gmail.com

Next Committee Zoom Meeting is scheduled for: April 6th at 7:30pm. All members are welcome; email a request to me, and I will get you an invite.

Dave Drazen arranged a USA Archery Level 2 instructor class that was done via zoom for three evening sessions and one full day at the range. We are proud to announce that we have now added nine Level 2 instructors to our Range Officer staff, all of whom are now certified to train our own Level 1 instructors. The bonus for our membership is that when out at the Archery Range on most weekends, you will more than likely be able to get some instruction!

We will host some evening Youth Archery classes this summer, but if you are interested in getting a bigger program set up for your kids, contact us, and we can work with you to put it together. We plan to meet with the Rockville Chapter for guidance.

Deborah Behrends has been hard at work getting a handful of ROs registered with the Boy and Girl Scouts, so we can work with them on merit badges. Contact us if you'd like to be a part of this effort.

We are hosting yet another Gold Award project for a local girl scout who is planning a night sky observatory on the Archery grounds.

If you'd like to be on our mailing list, write us at the following addresses:

### Contacts:

Jack Mandel jmandeldesign@gmail.com  
and Marc Bouchard combat750@gmail.com

**The 3-D course will open for the  
first official 3-D Shoot  
on Saturday, April 17 at 9:00am.**

**The 3-D course is new and improved for the  
2021 season, and we will be installing it on  
April 10th starting at 8:00am.**

**Many hands make light work.**

It is a perfect opportunity to meet the ROs and see the woods if you are new to B-CC. There are painting, planting, carpentry, and other projects available to volunteers.

***Please join us!***

**BBQ to follow the set-up.**



PHOTO BY JACK MANDEL

*Instructor Dave Grant with our RO group*

## Welcome to the B-CC IWLA Family

The following members were inducted in March 2021.

### Mike Bowman

**Interests:** Chapter Public Affairs; Rifle & Pistol; Trap, Skeet, & Sporting Clays

### Steve Choquette

**Interests:** Conservation Education; Rifle & Pistol; Trap, Skeet, & Sporting Clays

### David P. Cohen

**Interests:** Legislation; Rifle & Pistol; Trap, Skeet, & Sporting Clays

### Sean Christopher Duncan

**Interests:** Archery; Rifle & Pistol; Wildlife Management

### Joe Engbert, Jr.

**Interests:** Rifle & Pistol; Star Gazing; Trap, Skeet, & Sporting Clays

### Tim Firestine

**Interests:** Ponds & Streams; Rifle & Pistol; Trap, Skeet, & Sporting Clays

### Everett T. Greenstreet, III

**Interests:** Archery; Star Gazing; Trap, Skeet, & Sporting Clays

### Chris Lueddeke

**Interests:** Archery; Hunter Education; Wildlife Management

### Deb Lyle

**Interests:** Chapterhouse; Conservation Education; Wildlife Management

### Fabian Paul Manan

**Interests:** Hunter Education; Photography; Rifle & Pistol

### Michael W. Miller

**Interests:** Trap, Skeet, & Sporting Clays; Wildlife Management

### Eric H. Potter

**Interests:** Archery; Hunter Education; Wildlife Management

### Dave Ruf

**Interests:** Ponds & Streams; Trap, Skeet, & Sporting Clays

Communications for  
**LEAGUE  
LEADERS**



Dear Members:

Established to promote conservation leadership among future natural resource managers and professionals, the [IWLA National Conservation Scholarship](#) annually supports rising junior and senior college undergraduates from recognized conservation or environment-related degree programs.

Two scholarships, made possible by the [Izaak Walton League of America Endowment](#), are currently available for the 2021-2022 school year. Applications are now being accepted, with a submission deadline of May 15 (postmarked).

Each scholarship category includes a **\$2,500 scholarship** and a one-year IWLA Student membership. Applicants can be either:

- A previous recipient of an IWLA chapter/division scholarship, or
- A son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter of a current IWLA member, or a current IWLA Student or Individual member (at the time of application submission)

Winners will be officially announced at this year's IWLA National Convention. They will also be featured in the July edition of the Conservation Currents e-newsletter and in a future issue of *Outdoor America* magazine.

We encourage you to reach out to those previous eligible chapter scholarship recipients as well as to members with children or grandchildren currently enrolled in conservation or environment-related undergraduate degree programs.

[Get all the information about our scholarships and how to apply.](#)

Earl Hower  
Director of Chapter Relations  
[ehower@iwla.org](mailto:ehower@iwla.org)

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Visit us online at [www.iwla.org](http://www.iwla.org).

## Introduction to Hunting Seminar

The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America will sponsor its annual "Introduction to Hunting Seminar" on **Saturday, June 5**. If you have never been hunting before, know someone who would be interested, or had a disappointing experience yourself, you are encouraged to attend. Women, men, and teens are all welcome.

This nationally recognized and award winning training will include instruction and discussions about conservation and ethical behavior, the five W's and How of hunting, what is hunting success, preparing to go hunting, techniques and skills for being in the woods, trailing game, animal habitats and habits, choosing a tree stand location, safety and first aid, being skunked, what can you learn when you miss, advan-



tages and disadvantages of hunting companions, choosing an appropriate bow, long gun, or muzzleloader and more. There will be plenty of time for questions.

This seminar does not replace the required Hunter Safety Education courses but is to supplement that course and to expand one's hunting knowledge. The instructors have had nearly 100 years of hunting experience and what they will share is intended to help participants have a more enjoyable time while hunting.

The seminar will be held in or outside the B-CC IWLA Chapter House, depending on Covid-19 protocols at the time of the seminar. Masks and social distancing are required. Check in begins at 8:30am and we will start at 9:00am and continue until around 4:00pm. The cost is \$15 to cover materials. We will be walking in the woods and fields for at least a mile or more so participants should be prepared for that level of activity. Bring your own lunch, drinks, and wear clothes for outdoor walking and going through briars. Participants should make sure that their clothes are treated with Permethrin or bug spray and exposed body parts with regular bug spray.

All non-B-CC IWLA members must bring their printed and signed off Hold Harmless Agreements, which are available from <http://www.bcciwla.org/>.

**Interested individuals must contact Mark Gochnour to register at [hunting.seminar.bcciwla@gmail.com](mailto:hunting.seminar.bcciwla@gmail.com). Questions about the seminar should also be sent to Mark at the same email address.** As the event gets closer, a Sign-up Genius link will be sent out to those who have contacted Mark. This link will be made available to others if there is still room later in May. Class size is limited to 23, so registering early is recommended. Registration deadline is May 31.

## New, Online Fishing Log

Dan Dutton, Ponds & Streams Committee  
mr.dutton.cbgs@gmail.com

Have you fished in the ponds on the conservation farm and realized just as you leave the gate that you forgot to write in the fishing log? Don't worry, it just got easier to enter your fishing report in the B-CC IWLA fishing logbook. Like so many things this year, the fishing log has gone virtual. While you are still welcome to write in the hard copy log by the pond, you can fill it out anytime, anywhere by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/BCCfishlog>.

Keep a lookout for new signage around the ponds with the link and a QR code.

The fishing log is voluntary but having a record of what people catch helps us improve the fishing for everyone.

## Summer Biathlon Program

Steve Eschholz  
240 472-6512 (text) [fitnesscrafters@earthlink.net](mailto:fitnesscrafters@earthlink.net)

The primary mission of the B-CC IWLA Summer Biathlon is a safely run program. Range safety is paramount. A rolled ankle on the run course is acceptable. A glitch on the range is not. Within the bounds of safety, the secondary mission is to provide a venue for fun and comradery. Our goal is to expand the number of participants so we that we fill both the small and big ends. To that end, members please advertise to all the

athletes you know – runners, LAX, soccer, triathletes, etc.

The event as conducted at B-CC IWLA consists of 5-1 kilometer loops and 4 shooting stops at the range. Shooting stops 1&3 are from the prone position; stops 2&4 are off-hand. 22-bolt action, iron sight rifles firing 22LR standard velocity are the standard for summer biathlon. For our practices, any rifle chambered in 22LR is acceptable. Standard velocity ammo is mandated for target preservation.

Questions or a desire to be on the B-CC IWLA Summer Biathlon Program mailing list, contact Steve Eschholz – [fitnesscrafters@earthlink.net](mailto:fitnesscrafters@earthlink.net) or text 240 472-6512. This year's schedule is below:

Saturday, April 17	7:30am
Saturday, May 1	7:30am
Saturday, May 15	7:30am
Saturday, May 29	7:30am
Saturday, June 12	7:30am
Saturday, June 26	7:30am
Saturday, July 10	7:30am
Saturday, July 24	7:30am
Saturday, August 7	7:30am
Saturday, August 21	7:30am
Saturday, September 11	7:30am
Saturday, September 25	7:30am
Saturday, October 9	7:30am
Saturday, November 6	7:30am
Saturday, November 13	7:30am

# B-CC IWLA GUN RAFFLE

**DONATION IS \$20.00 PER TICKET**

**ONLY 500 TICKETS  
WILL BE SOLD!!!!**

- WHAT:** A Gun Raffle
- WHY:** Raise funds to benefit the Chapter
- WHO:** Tickets can be sold to Members, Family, Friends, and Colleagues
- WHEN:** Once all of the tickets are sold.
- WHERE:** Drawing will be held at a Monthly Membership Meeting, but you do not have to be present to win.

*Stateline Gun Exchange, LLC located in Emmitsburg, MD  
will provide the following three guns for the raffle:*

**RETAY 12 GA MASAI MARA SHOTGUN, MAX 5 CAMO  
or \$700.00**

**WEATHERBY VANGUARD 270 W/LEOPOLD SCOPE AND DNZ SCOPE MOUNT  
or \$650.00**

**TRADITIONS OUTFITTER G2 SS 45/70 RIFLE  
or \$400.00**

*Questions or to purchase tickets – contact Carol Hulce-Efdimis at [carol2017@aol.com](mailto:carol2017@aol.com)*

## Everything you will need to know about Short-eared Owls...

Short-eared Owls (*Asio flammeus*) were spotted by a group of enthusiastic birders at dusk throughout the month of March flying over the Willard's field at the intersection of West Willard Way and Izaak Walton Way. Short-eared owls are medium sized, more frequently seen in the daytime than other owls. Especially active around dawn and dusk when they fly lazily over open fields or marshes in search of small mammals. Overall the owl is rather pale brown, palest on belly, with streaks and spots on wings and chest; a large buffy patch near the wingtips is easily visible in flight. Females are darker brown than males. Rarely heard vocalizing away from breeding grounds, where they make a low series of hoots and a variety of harsh barking noises. Here are the most important web-links to the species.

- The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology page for the Short-eared Owl  
[https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Short-eared\\_Owl/id](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Short-eared_Owl/id)
- The National Audubon page for the Short-eared Owl  
<https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/short-eared-owl>
- A world-wide view of Short-eared Owl from Wikipedia  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Short-eared\\_owl](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Short-eared_owl)
- The owl specialist group's page on the Short-eared Owl  
<https://www.owlresearchinstitute.org/short-eared-owl>
- eBird Short-eared Owl page  
<https://ebird.org/species/sheowl>
- The distribution of observations in Maryland from eBird records  
<https://ebird.org/species/sheowl/US-MD>



PHOTO BY TIM WADE, AREA RESIDENT



PHOTO BY JACK MANDEL

*Rocket launch? No, Short-eared Owl watchers on Izaak Walton Way.*

## IT'S TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT... the **FATHER'S DAY SWAP MEET** and **SILENT AUCTION**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 21st**  
**9:00am - 3:00pm**



**We all have too much stuff!**  
**And you've had a year to see just how much...**

If you have anything **outdoors** related and ...  
would like a **table** for the **Father's Day swap meet**  
or to **donate** an item for the **silent auction**, please call or email:

**Lawrence Kotchek 240 793- 5316 lawrence@print1.com**

Tables are likely to be limited and  
will be reserved in the order requested.

Open to both members and prospective members.  
Tables cost **\$10.00** with money going to the Land Fund.  
Silent auction benefits the Land Fund.

## FeederWatch Wrap-up

Diane Seward  
Citizen Science Projects Coordinator

Many thanks to our FeederWatch team for another productive counting season: Tim Ames, Brett Davis, Dave Gravalese, Pat McNeilly, Suzanne Novak, Suzanne Papiewski, Bob Plumb, Lin Schmale, Jim Stables, Jim Tate, Chuck Thornton, and Bill and Ayla White. We are grateful for the new FeederWatch poster of common feeder birds graciously donated to us by Suzanne Papiewski. Thanks to Larry Anderson for keeping the shed stocked with sunflower and nyjer seed and suet. We welcomed four new members to our team: Dave Gravalese, Pat McNeilly, Suzanne Papiewski, and Chuck Thornton. We bid farewell to Anita Goldshine, who moved away.

Our team joined 20,000 other birders who counted species at feeders across the United States and Canada from mid-November through the first weekend in April. FeederWatch is organized by the Lab of Ornithology at Cornell University and Birds Canada. The project helps scientists track broad-scale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance. The protocol involves counting for a couple of hours on two consecutive days each weekend. The data gathered each week are reported online to the Cornell Lab. Visit [www.FeederWatch.org](http://www.FeederWatch.org) to learn more about the program.

This winter our high counts occurred on two weekends in December, 71 individual birds 90 birds in January, 90 and 85 in February, and 72 in March. We counted a total of 1,031 birds at our feeders over 19 weekends from November through the end of March, considerably higher than last year's total of 700 birds and 2019's total of 652 birds counted over the same weekends. Each weekend, 15 or so species visited our feeders.

The highest numbers of individuals of a species reported at our feeders on a single weekend were: 10 American Goldfinches, 12 Dark-eyed Juncos, 55 European Starlings, 15 House Finches, 21 Northern Cardinals, 22 Red-winged Blackbirds, and 21 White-throated Sparrows. Species fewer in number but which were regular visitors to our feeders included the Blue Jay, Carolina Chickadee, Downy and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Purple Finch, Tufted Titmouse, and White-breasted Nuthatch. We recorded lower numbers than in past years for American Goldfinches, Brown-headed Cowbirds, Dark-eyed Juncos, House Finches, and Mourning Doves.

In addition to feeder birds, our counters observed a number of species on the chapter grounds or flying over the farm but not at the feeders, including a Northern Mockingbird, Turkey Vultures, 100 American Crows in the field at the corner of Izaak Walton Way and West Willard, a Redshouldered Hawk, a Blue Heron at the small pond, a Pileated Woodpecker, Tree Swallows, an Eastern Bluebird, a Northern Flicker, a Northern Harrier, a couple Wild Turkeys, and an American Kestrel. All in all, a very interesting FeederWatch season!

## American Chestnut Committee Update

Blaine Elkins, Committee Chair  
[blaineelkins@verizon.net](mailto:blaineelkins@verizon.net)

Work on the second orchard has begun. The fence lines have been laid out, the bases for the corner posts have been set, the planting points have been laid out, and the installation of fence posts has begun. Many thanks to Phil Taylor, Jack Mandel, Jerry Murray, Josh Strachura, Mike Dawson, Chris Gregorski, Ed Staunton, Zu-Xi, Pat Twomey, and Dan Pasquale for their hard work in getting us this far.

On April 10, we will be planting 113 American Chestnuts in the new orchard and planting roughly 800 hybrids in pots at the green house with our partners from the Maryland Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation. Once that is done, we will finish the fence and settle into mowing both orchards weekly and watering as needed.

In anticipation of another dry spell this July/August, we have a need for clean 5 gallon paint buckets or dry wall mud buckets. If you happen to be a paint or drywall contractor and have a surplus of buckets, please contact Blaine Elkins at [blaineelkins@verizon.net](mailto:blaineelkins@verizon.net), and I will come and get them.



PHOTO BY JACK MANDEL

Seedling chestnuts with young fruit trees thanks to Blaine Elkins, American Chestnut Committee Chair, and Phil Taylor, Farm Committee Chair

### As a Reminder

Due to Covid-19, the chapterhouse is currently closed and off limits to the general membership.

## Muzzleloader/Blackpowder Day

For a decade of shooting, with the exception of last year, since March of 2011, muzzleloaders have been coming to the B-CC IWLA Rifle and Pistol Range for this special event. In the morning, there is a sight-in time for the experienced and instructional time for new and interested shooters. The afternoon is spent shooting at non-traditional targets in a shooting match for prizes.

This year, three Venture Scouts with their Moms and some adults participated in the morning instructional time. Mark Gochnour, NMLRA Blackpowder Instructor, was ably assisted by Larry and Daniel Hess and Bill Rogers who introduced them to the unique experience of shooting old styled guns. Due to Boy Scout restrictions, Venture Scouts can only shoot percussion guns but there were not limitations on the moms. Deborah Behrend shot Mark's flintlock and put her round ball right next to Mark's earlier shot and Brian Pepper, guest but former member put his shot very close by, with a mom shooting a flintlock for the first time hitting to the left. One of the adult new shooters, who worked with Daniel Hess, commented upon leaving that he discovered a new expensive hobby, at least that is what Mark thought he heard with his hearing protection on. Another convert!



With the peculiarities of muzzleloaders, the percussion firearms seem to have the most issues this year, with not going off while the flintlocks performed nearly flawlessly. That tiny distance from little hole in the nipple to the main charge in the barrel was the main culprit for the multiple misfires, especially after cleaning but even when caps were fired as recommended. As always



in the case of misfires, it provides opportunities for teaching safety – muzzleloaders are to be kept pointed in a safe direction for one minute and then are reprimed or recapped to fire again.

Three flintlock and four percussions shooters competed with the flintlocks carrying the day number wise. This year the following targets were shot at:

- The traditional buffalo target at 100 yards off of cross sticks with a plastic jug filled with water and colored with red dye hanging on the back (easier to see if a hit was made)
- Playing cards to be split in half at 16 yards
- Eggs hanging by a string at 20 yards or thereabouts, kneeling
- Candle snuffing or candle cutting at 12 feet off a rest (it was so breezy, the targets kept blowing out)
- Clay pigeons at 50 yards offhand



Daniel Hess won the first prize hitting all 5 prizes, including cutting the Queen of Spades in half and snuffing a candle. He chose a gift certificate from Track of Wolf. Brian Pepper

using Mark's rifle, hit four targets, came in second, and decided to take home the large ham. There was a 3-way tie for 3rd place while hitting two targets and since it was getting late, Mark used three playing cards not shot at and they drew highest to lowest. A knife kit from Track of the Wolf, and two bags of cleaning patches were selected by Larry Hess, Bill Rogers, and Jason Griffin. Larry shot an egg and since it was still hanging there, Brian shot it, also.

Paul Krause brought his two teenage sons and they shared a Pedersoli Hawken Rifle in the shooting match but had to leave before the prize distribution. Larry Hess worked with them in the morning.

Dave Draley was the ERO and made sure the shooting range safety protocols were enforced. Safety is always of critical importance so the targets and firing positions were set up so that all shots impacted the berms. With COVID restrictions in place, there was a limit of 25 for the events so shooting stations were limited due to social distancing.



Chris Efdimis brought pizza and drinks for the lunch from Papa Johns who gave the chapter a discount. Due to hand surgery Mark did not shoot in the match but took videos and photos. Deborah Behrend supplied the Venture Scout photos. Some of these will know doubt appear on the website or on the Chapter's Facebook page, so watch for them. Important to the day were the Venture Scouts and adults having the opportunity to be introduced to muzzleloading firearms and shooting them. Thanks to the instructors for providing their expertise, their firearms, gear, and time for the benefit of others.

Blackpowder Day provides a unique learning experience, garners new members, and notoriety for the chapter. Consider coming next year for a special time of muzzleloader shooting and fun.



### 2021 IWLA Virtual National Convention July 20-23, 2021 4:00pm – 6:00pm

The League will hold a virtual convention in July minimally to elect new national officers and members of the Executive Board and consider policy resolutions submitted by chapters and divisions. All convention-related information on the date, times, format, and any additional components of the virtual convention, such as speakers or workshops, will be posted as it becomes available on the national website – [iwla.org/events](http://iwla.org/events).

## Return of Brood X Cicadas!

John T. Lill  
Professor and Chair of Biology, George Washington University  
lillj@gwu.edu

Martha R. Weiss  
Professor of Biology, Georgetown University  
weissm@georgetown.edu

After 17 long years of covert, subterranean feeding, millions of periodical cicada (*Magicicada* spp.) nymphs will begin digging their way to the surface this May to complete their long journey to adulthood. After molting for the final time aboveground, the red-eyed adults will begin a raucous mating frenzy that has captivated humans for as long as people have resided in North America! The noise will be made by adult male cicadas, each of which is equipped with a pair of sound-producing membranes, called tymbals, which they can vibrate several hundred times a second to produce a loud, droning call that can be heard for miles around. In the canopies of mature trees, the adult males will sing species-specific courtship songs in non-socially-distanced gatherings, called choruses, which serve to attract hordes of female cicadas of the same species to their prospective suitors. Once mated, female cicadas will slice holes in the twigs of nearby trees and lay their eggs inside. Finally, in early August, these eggs will hatch into tiny nymphs, which will drop from the trees to burrow into the soil in search of a suitable underground feeding location to spend the next 17 years, not to be seen again until 2038.



PHOTO BY MARTHA WEISS

We expect the B-CC Chapter of the Izaak Walton League to host a large population of periodical cicadas, and a team of local entomologists from George Washington and Georgetown Universities will be conducting research on the ecological effects of their emergence on the local forest ecosystems. Drs. Martha Weiss, John Lill, and Zoe Getman-Pickering began collecting field data from the property during the spring and summer of 2020 and will be returning again this spring. They are investigating how this extra bounty of tasty insects alters the foraging activities of local insect-feeding birds, and how these diet shifts impact local forest ecology. They hypothesize that the birds will gorge themselves on the abundant cicadas, and the caterpillars they normally eat will be able to feed and grow in peace. To test this hypothesis Martha, John, and Zoe are documenting the abundance and diversity of caterpillars feeding on understory white oak trees at the site. The researchers are primarily conducting their studies in the oak forests near the scout camps, and if you see small white tents (cicada emergence traps) on the ground, or small trees marked with their orange-and-white striped flagging, please don't disturb them! Their research team will also be observing birds visiting feeders and nest boxes to document the foraging activities of resident bird species, so you may see observers out with binoculars. They will report their findings and give a general talk on their research at a future meeting. The team has also worked with an experienced environmental educator from the Audubon Naturalists Society (Diane Lill) to develop freely available educational materials about the cicadas for use by local schools. Learn more by visiting their website: [www.friendtocicadas.org](http://www.friendtocicadas.org)



PHOTO BY JOHN LILL



## 2021 Chapter Stream Monitoring Kickoff

Dominic D'Ambrosi, Save Our Streams  
dominicdambrosi@yahoo.com



On Sunday, March 7 members of the Ponds and Streams committee conducted our first Save Our Streams monitoring session for the year. We monitored a portion of Horsepen Branch on the chapter grounds that runs parallel to West Willard Road. The chemical water quality of the stream was rated as excellent, and the biological quality was rated as fair. This fair rating was due a low diversity of macroinvertebrates. A Caddisfly and a few Stoneflies were collected, but by far the most predominant macroinvertebrate collected was a little over 60 Black flies.



We are planning for three more monitoring sessions this year, at least two of which will be out in the community. One of the streams will be Hookers Branch on Berryville Road that feeds into Great Seneca Creek, and the other will be Horsepen Branch at Sycamore Landing in McKee Beshers Wildlife Management Area. This section of Horsepen Branch is fed by all streams from our chapter's grounds as well as

several from the town of Poolesville. Any stream off the chapter grounds where we attempt to collect macroinvertebrates requires a permit



Crane fly Larvae



Blackfly Larvae

issued by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Fortunately, this year the permit application process was all online, and we received our permits in about two weeks for the aforementioned streams. The past two years the permit application process took almost two months. We are always looking for new members to join our team and are open to suggestions for additional locations to monitor.

PHOTOS BY SUZANNE NOVAK

## Seneca Christmas Bird Count

In January, we reported preliminary data for the B-CC IWLA conservation farm from the December 20, 2020, Seneca Christmas Bird Count (CBC). This report details findings for the entire Seneca CBC count circle.

**First off, the Seneca count circle.** The Seneca count takes place in a 15-mile-diameter count circle, centered at Violette's Lock on the C&O Canal. The Seneca circle includes portions of Montgomery, Fairfax, and Loudon counties. The count circle is divided into 16 sectors, five in Virginia (Sectors 12-16) covering about 40% of the circle, and 11 in Maryland (Sectors 1-11), covering the remaining 60% of the circle. Our chapter lies in Sector 7. This was the 62nd Seneca CBD recorded. The count compiler was Jim Nelson, a past president of the Montgomery Bird Club. Jim led the 33 counters in Sector 7, while 152 people counted birds in the Seneca circle.

**Second, species and individual birds counted.** The participants tallied 107 species in the Seneca circle on count day, with another four species counted during the week surrounding December 20. The total 111 species is the largest since count week species were first included in 2007. The counters tallied 35,439 individual birds, the highest number since 2007. Sector 7 had the highest number of count day species of any sector—69. Our sector also counted the largest number of individual birds of any of the sectors—6,638.

**Unusual species in this year's count.** In our sector, 2 Sandhill Crane and an American Woodcock. Found along the C&O Canal, 10 Evening Grosbeak and 22 Common Redpoll, a Snow Bunting, a Pine Warbler, and several Lapland Longspur.

**High counts.** Five new high counts for the sector: 60 Gadwall, 25 Double-crested Cormorant, 426 American Pipit, 22 Common Redpoll, and 19 Common Raven. Three high counts tied with previous high counts: 2 Peregrine Falcon, 3 House Wren, and 30 Chipping Sparrow. Other significant high counts—looking back 10 years or so for the Seneca circle: 20 Lesser Scaup, 18 Cooper's Hawk, 109 Red-shouldered Hawk, 142 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 244 Horned Lark, 662 Carolina Wren, 6 Brown Thrasher, 731 Eastern Bluebird, 2,079 American Robin, 25 Purple Finch, 61 Pine Siskin, 970 American Goldfinch, 3,588 White-throated Sparrow, 743 Song Sparrow, 68 Eastern Meadowlark, 1,249 Red-winged Blackbird, 225 Brown-headed Cowbird, and 1,124 Northern Cardinal.

**Significant low counts, looking back 10 years or more:** 227 Mourning Dove, 12 Red-headed Woodpecker, 262 Red-bellied woodpecker, 488 Carolina Chickadee, 361 Tufted Titmouse, 9 White-crowned Sparrow, 11 Common Grackle, and 121 Yellow-rumped Warbler.

**And now for a little historical perspective.** The first Seneca CBC in 1955 tallied 32 species and 1,305 individual birds on count day. The number of species counted has increased in all of the 61 subsequently reported counts, and only one count since then had fewer total individual birds counted. Twenty species have been counted on all 62 Seneca CBCs, and 11 more have been tallied on 61 Seneca CBCs. At the other end of the spectrum, 13 species have been tallied on only one Seneca CBC.

*(This report was adapted from the final report for the 2020 Seneca CBC by Jim Nelson, count compiler.)*