



APRIL 2023 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

President's Message

Our latest trip around the sun has brought us to spring, and the world is being renewed and refreshed. Hopefully by the time you read this we'll have had a successful spring cleanup around the Chapter. Spring is also a time for many animals to bear their young. In central Maryland red fox bear their young in April, deer fawns are generally born in May, and turkey nesting occurs from April through July. So, if you are out on our farm and see a lone young fawn nestled in the grass with mama nowhere to be found, don't despair. This is completely normal and there is no need to "rescue" the fawn. Does will leave their fawns in a safe place while foraging for food, and then return to claim them several hours later. You can learn more about this behavior on the Maryland Department of Natural Resources web site. (see: <https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2017/05/05/marylanders-reminded-to-keep-fawns-wild-4/>)



PHOTO BY CHRIS EFDIMIS

Newborn fawns are well camouflaged and have no natural scent so they will hold tight and not move even when you walk right up to them. This is their best chance of survival against predators; because, if they don't move the predator may walk right by. However, this behavior makes them vulnerable to farm and garden equipment. If tall grass is still not mown by mid-May, it may be best to leave it alone until July. It will provide cover for the fawns; and keeping equipment out of the field will keep you from running over a fawn by accident. By July fawns will generally have their legs well under control and will run like the wind if disturbed, so the risk of harming them while mowing is significantly diminished.

Similarly, wild turkey nest on the ground. A nesting female will bolt if you approach her on the nest, leaving it vulnerable to predation. If you are hiking our woods and trails, please resist the urge to check out wild turkeys resting on the ground, or their nests, during breeding season. Lastly, resident geese will be pairing up and nesting this time of year wherever water is found. They can be pretty aggressive so please take extra care around our ponds if you see mature geese there. Most of all, please come out to the chapter, stretch your limbs and enjoy the spring weather and the property; but please respect our wildlife so they may thrive and multiply.

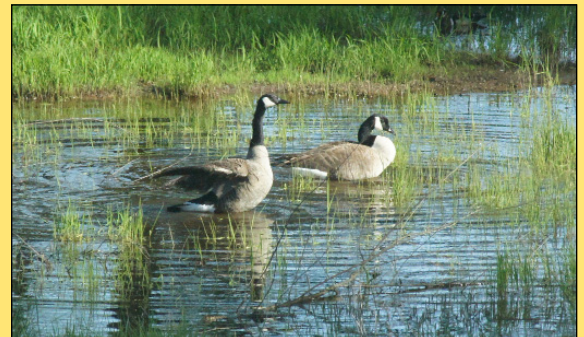


PHOTO BY WALT ALLENSWORTH

Walt Allensworth
President

IWLA Maryland Division Elections and Nominations

Elections for leadership positions for the Maryland Division will be held on June 17th. This year's openings are for President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary each for 2 year terms, and two National Director positions each for 3 year terms. Information on position responsibilities can be found in Article VII of the Division by-laws at: <https://www.marylandiwla.org/constitution-and-by-laws>. If you know of someone that might be a good candidate, please send their name to President Walt Allensworth (twangermd@gmail.com) who will forward the recommendations to the Maryland Division. The deadline for receiving nominations is May 17th! Contact Cindy Stevens for more information on any of the positions and to volunteer.

Board of Governors

Fiscal Year: September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023

OFFICERS

Walt Allensworth, President

301 221-3594 • twangermd@gmail.com

Carol Hulce-Efdimis, 1st Vice President

240 277-2494 • carol2017@aol.com

Andy Wight, 2nd Vice President

240 205-3982 • andywight1@hotmail.com

Bob Kelly,* Treasurer

202 445-7097 • rnkelly1974@gmail.com

Meg O'Rourke, Membership Secretary

301 275-5907 (text)

MembershipSecretary.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com

Janet Lamkin, Corresponding Secretary

301 466-6557 • j.lamkin@comcast.net

Francis (Jerry) Murray, Recording Secretary

202 438-4202 • jerrym5@comcast.net

BOARD MEMBERS

Deborah Behrend*

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Marc Bouchard

202 906-9406 • combat750@gmail.com

Dan Dutton

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Joe Finnegan

202 679-9135 • j.finnegan@comcast.net

Kenny West

301 758-3978 • west372ken@yahoo.com

Lin Schmale-Tate,* Past President

703 517-3675 • lin@tate-tate.us

* 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
301 466-6557



Summary of the February 2023 Board of Governors Meeting and the March 2023 Membership Meeting

Jerry Murray, Recording Secretary

202 438-4202 jerrym5@comcast.net

Wednesday, February 22, 2023 – Board of Governors Meeting

- President Walt Allensworth called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
- An email blast went out looking for feedback on updating the Handbook.
- Greenfest will be on April 22 at Brookside Gardens in Wheaton.
- Jim Tate notified the Board that he is stepping down from his position as our Chapter State Director and we are looking for someone to replace him. *See article in newsletter.*
- We passed our kitchen inspection. We need a few more people to take the food service course.
- Chapter House Chair John Lamb reported that he has gotten pricing from an exterminator for the chapter house. Also, the next termite inspection/treatment for the log cabin is due in 2028.
- President Walt Allensworth will get in touch with the county regarding the debris in the culvert at Izaak Walton Way.
- Scout Liaison Doug McKenney contacted President Walt Allensworth about the annual rechartering of the 3 scout units we support: Boy Scout 496, Girl Scout 2027 and Cub Scout 694.
- Blaine Elkins, Walt Allensworth and Jerry Murray met with an electrician about the existing electric service at the archery pavilion.
- Treasurer Bob Kelly asked if we would be doing donations to organizations similar to last year.

NEW BUSINESS (requiring a vote):

- Motion was made to approve 5 prospective members to be inducted into the chapter. **Motion approved.**
- Motion to approve NAVDA's use of the dog training fields and ponds on April 29 – 30 for a clinic and use of the chapter house on April 30. **Motion approved.**
- Motion to add a debit card to the operating account for use by the treasurer to streamline payments. **Motion approved.**
- Motion to approve contracting with an infestation control company for the chapter house. **Motion approved.**

Wednesday, March 15, 2023 – 1,048th Membership Dinner Meeting

- President Walt Allensworth called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.
- The 50 / 50 raffle collected \$180 split between the winner and the chapter. The chapter's portion goes toward the purchase of new Adirondack chairs for the chapter house.
- 12 prospective members introduced themselves and talked about their interests and reasons for wanting to join the chapter.
- A motion was made to induct 5 new member candidates. The motion was seconded and passed. The members were sworn in.
- Farm Chair Phil Taylor reported that the first round of mowing the fields has been completed. He also is looking for help in putting up the electric fence.
- Wildlife Management Chair Larry Anderson reminded everyone that deer season is closed, **turkey season starts**

(continued on page 3)

SUMMARY

(continued from page 2)

on April 18 and there will be a youth hunting day on April 16. He also reported that the invasive insect Spotted Lanternfly has been sighted in central Maryland and we are under quarantine for moving plants or trees to different areas of the state.

- Chestnut Orchards Chair Blaine Elkins provided an update on the orchards. There are potted hybrids available for planting if anyone is interested in taking some home. There is a new variant of American Chestnut, the Darling 58, that is awaiting government approval to be released for distribution (planting). If approved, he hopes to get some for our orchard.
- 2nd VP Andy Wight reminded everyone that the Family Campout will be held on April 15 starting at 3:00pm.
- Archery Chair Jack Mandel reported that seminars will be held at the Archery range starting April 20.
- The new Range Officer training class for the Rifle & Pistol Range has been completed; 18 members took the course. There will be a Groundhog shoot at the range on April 22 from 9:00am -11:00am. See newsletter for more details.
- Butch Mezick praised all the volunteers that helped out with the recent Walk in the Woods. They kept the participants engaged and interested even with the challenging weather conditions.
- Hunter Education Chair John Lamb stated that there are still spots available in the upcoming Hunter Education class.
- Conservation Dinner will be held on May 20. Speaker is to be determined.

TALKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER:

- The chapter will have a booth at GreenFest at Brookside Gardens in Wheaton on April 22. If you want to help out, please contact Meg O' Rourke.
- A Weeping Red Bud tree has been planted in the garden on the side of the chapter house. The tree was donated and planted by member Josh Maisel.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Conservation Education Dinner (Spaghetti)

Saturday, May 20

Dinner – 6:00pm; Speaker – 7:00pm

Our annual Conservation Education Dinner, a free Spaghetti dinner with a speaker who addresses a topical aspect of Conservation, will be held on Saturday, May 20th. We have moved the date of the dinner from our traditional month of January to allow for better weather.

This conservation-focused dinner is open to the general public as part of our 501(c)(3) commitment. Although our speaker is to be confirmed (will be announced shortly), please remember to mark this date on your calendar.

We will provide further updates in our May newsletter and email blasts.

Looking for volunteer hours? Help will be needed with the setup, preparation of the spaghetti dinner, serving, and cleanup.

Questions? Contact:

Andy Wight, Conservation Education Committee Chair
ConservationEd.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com

FeederWatch/NestWatch News

Diane Seward

Citizen-Science Projects Coordinator

trina65@verizon.net

Our FeederWatch project closed at the end of March. We saw a record number of Red-winged Blackbirds, 49 in mid-March, and witnessed interesting inter-species behavior. Team member Jim Stables wrote the following account after his counting duty at the conservation farm:

After filling the sunflower seed feeders and suet holders, the feeding station was swarmed with Red-winged Blackbirds. It was interesting to observe the mid-flight jostling. The blackbirds displayed the red portion of their wings and brushed side by side against each other. What was uncommon for me was to see both male and female Red-bellied Woodpeckers on the ground at the same time. The male aggressively defended his space against the Redwinged Blackbirds. He actually pecked at the blackbirds multiple times. The female was less aggressive and gave way more easily. It was interesting that both male and female woodpeckers would hunch down close to the ground, then stand up and peck. Seeing multiple male Northern Cardinals next to brightly colored Blue Jays was nice, too. Just a real diversity of birds today. Also, five squirrels were underneath the feeders; one climbed up the feeder pole and succeeded defeating the baffle to get to the box.

Spring's a poppin' by mid-April with Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows looking for suitable housing, building nests, and laying eggs. The Purple Martins will follow suit in May. The NestWatch team needs additional box checkers to record nesting data. The job takes a couple hours once a week. Please consider signing up. Besides contributing to species population studies, team members enjoy spending time outdoors, walking our beautiful farm. Please email me if you would like to join up.

Lastly, the Montgomery Bird Club will hold its annual spring walk at the farm on Sunday, May 7, 7:00am to 12:00 noon. Larry Anderson will escort the group of ten MBC participants.

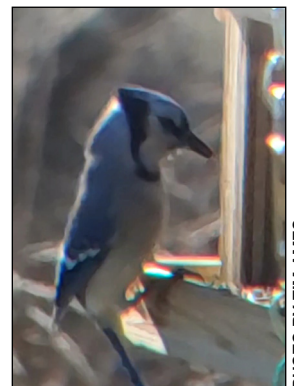


PHOTO BY TIM AMES

Chapter State Director Position is Open

Jim Tate notified the Board that because of health reasons he is stepping down from his position as the Chapter's State Director, and we are looking for a member to replace him. A Chapter Director attends all Division meetings (generally two per year plus the annual Maryland Convention that is held in June), participates in the proceedings of the meetings, and reports all business of the meetings to their chapter (serves as liaison between the Division and the Chapter).

Please contact President Walt Allensworth if you can donate your time and fill the position as Chapter State Director.

Thank you Jim for your years of service as our State Director!

Volunteer for the New Adventure Committee!

Michael Dobson, Committee Chair
michaeldobson@protonmail.com

An Adventure Committee has been established at the Chapter. The Committee's focus is outdoor education. At regular intervals, the Committee will host skills workshops and practice sessions around the chapter property on topics like land navigation, bushcraft, and basic wilderness medicine. Participants could then use these skills in their own adventures, as well as on annual group excursions organized by the Committee.

The Adventure Committee is looking for volunteers to support these efforts. If you have outdoor skills you are willing and able to teach to other chapter members, or would like to help execute workshops and plan annual excursions, email Committee Chairman Michael Dobson at michaeldobson@protonmail.com.

This is an exciting opportunity, but we need your help to bring it to life. Volunteer today!



Adopt-A-Road Cleanup Schedule

The B-CC IWLA Adopt-A-Road team will tentatively meet at the Chapter House on Saturdays at 8:15am for cleanup on the following 2023 dates:

- July 8
- September 9
- December 9

Point of contact for Adopt-A-Road is John Robinson, 301 641-1188.

April 2023 1,050th Monthly Dinner / Membership Meeting

Wednesday, April 19

Dinner served starting at 6:15pm
Membership Meeting starts at 7:30pm

Menu

Something yummy!

Menu was not available in time for newsletter.

Speaker
Bob Cissel

April 2023 Board of Governors Meeting

Wednesday, April 26

7:00pm (note time change)

**50/50
Raffle**
Help Support
the Chapter!



**Raffle tickets will be available
at the monthly dinner meeting**

\$1 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5

**50% goes to the ticket holder –
50% goes to the Chapter to help
purchase new Adirondack chairs
for the Chapter House porches**

Vegetable Gardens

Larry Anderson
240 246-5301 andupton9@hotmail.com

Pat Tarquinio
ptarq@hotmail.com

The days are growing longer and warmer temperatures becoming more common which means gardeners are getting restless, 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 are 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.

Archery Seminars

Beginner Adult and/or Child
Equipment Provided

6:00pm – 7:15pm

Thursdays

April 20 • April 27 • July 20 • July 27

Questions?

Contact: Jack Mandel, Committee Chair
jmandel@design@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All dates are tentative and subject to change. Check the website for updates.

Monthly Events

Mondays

BSA Meetings in the Chapter House

7:30pm – 9:00pm

APRIL

Saturday, April 1	Spring Chapter Cleanup Day	8:15am – 3:00pm
Wednesday, April 5	Apollo Archery – Archery Range	6:00pm – 7:30pm
Saturday, April 8	Adopt-A-Road Cleanup – meet at the Chapter House	8:15am
Tuesday, April 11	Pack 694 Den Meeting	7:00pm – 8:00pm
Wednesday, April 12	Pack 694 Crossover – Chapter House	6:00pm – 8:30pm
Saturday, April 15	NAVHDA Field Tests – front fields and ponds	8:00am – 5:00pm
Saturday, April 15	Spring Chapter Cleanup Day (RESCHEDULED)	8:15am – 3:00pm
Saturday, April 15	Spring Family Campout	starts at 3:00pm
Sunday, April 16	Spring Family Campout	ends by 9:00am
Sunday, April 16	NAVHDA Field Tests – front fields and ponds	8:00am – 5:00pm
Sunday, April 16	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Wednesday, April 19	1,050th Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:30pm
Thursday, April 20	Beginner Adult and/or Child Archery Seminars – at Archery Range	6:00pm – 7:15pm
Saturday, April 22	Groundhog Shoot – R&P Range	9:00am – 11:00am
Saturday, April 22	Scout Troop 1988 ILST (Leadership Training) – Chapter House	9:00am – 4:00pm
Saturday, April 22	New-Member Orientation Tour	10:00am – 1:00pm
Sunday, April 23	R&P RO CPR/First Aid Course – Chapter House	8:00am – 5:00pm
Tuesday, April 25	Pack 694 Den Meeting – Chapter House	7:00pm – 8:00pm
Wednesday, April 26	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Thursday, April 27	Beginner Adult and/or Child Archery Seminars - at Archery Range	6:00pm – 7:15pm
Friday, April 28	Articles for May Newsletter due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Saturday, April 29	NAVHDA to use fields and ponds for clinic	8:00am – 5:00pm
Sunday, April 30	NAVHDA clinic in Chapter House	8:00am – 5:00pm

MAY

Wednesday, May 3	Apollo Archery – Archery Range	6:00pm – 7:30pm
Saturday, May 6	Spring Hunter Education Course	7:00am – 6:00pm
Saturday, May 6	R&P Range Closed for Hunter Education Course	Starting at 12:30pm
Sunday, May 7	Montgomery Bird Club's Walk on the Conservation Farm	7:00am – 12:00 noon
Sunday, May 7	Spring Hunter Education Course	7:00am – 6:00pm
Saturday, May 13	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Wednesday, May 17	1,051st Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:30pm
Saturday, May 20	New-Member Orientation Tour – meet at the Chapter House	10:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, May 20	Conservation Dinner (spaghetti) with speaker	Dinner – 6:00pm Speaker – 7:00pm
Sunday, May 21	1st Annual Military Fun Shoot – R&P Range	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Wednesday, May 24	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Friday, May 26	Articles for June Newsletter due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day

JUNE

Saturday, June 3	Introduction to Hunting Seminar	8:30am – 4:00pm
Wednesday, June 7	Apollo Archery – Archery Range	6:00pm – 7:30pm
Saturday, June 17	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Sunday, June 18	Father's Day Events – TENTATIVE EVENTS AND TIMES Swap Meet & Silent Auction – in the Chapter House Fishing Derby at the Large Pond Shotgun Range Family Picnic	9:00am 9:00am 9:00am 1:00pm
Wednesday, June 21	1,052nd Monthly Dinner Membership Meeting	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:30pm
Saturday, June 24	New-Member Orientation Tour – meet Christine Peterson at the Chapter House	10:00am – 1:00pm
Monday, June 26	Cub Scout Pack Day Camp	8:00am – 4:00pm
Tuesday, June 27	Cub Scout Pack Day Camp	8:00am – 4:00pm
Wednesday, June 28	Cub Scout Pack Day Camp	8:00am – 4:00pm
Wednesday, June 28	Board of Governors Meeting – Board Room	7:00pm
Thursday, June 29	Cub Scout Pack Day Camp	8:00am – 4:00pm
Friday, June 30	Cub Scout Pack Day Camp	8:00am – 4:00pm
Friday, June 30	Articles for July Newsletter due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day

The Campground is closed during all black powder and firearms deer season.

Kids Friendly Interpretative Walk In The Woods

Byron "Butch" Mezick

The first ever B-CC IWLA "Kids Friendly Interpretative Walk In The Woods" was held on Sunday, March 12th, with 14 children and parents in attendance. There were also five presenters: Walt Allensworth, Andy Wight, Frank Parker, Blaine Elkins, and Butch Mezick. Before the walk, Brian King, the B-CC IWLA "Trails Committee Chairman," cleared downed trees to prepare the way for our hike.

So, how do you keep children and parents engaged during a mile-plus walk through our West Woods in thirty-degree weather while occasionally snowing? Our solution to the engagement challenge was to provide lots of hands-on presentations for the children and share fun, easily understood information.

At the start of our hike, at the gate just above River Road, we introduced the concept of seeing **in-depth** and some cautions to be considered before walking the woodlands. We spoke of seeing deeply, orientation using maps, and the learned talent of navigation. Preceding past the gate and up a steep slope, we arrived at our second stop, where we explained a precious natural resource, topsoil. After sharing how vital farmable land is as the foundation of food production, we asked the children to dig into the topsoil below them using small garden rakes. As they dug, an incredible fact was shared, one teaspoon of topsoil holds 5,000,000 to 1,000,000,000 tiny organisms. To emphasize that 70% of the earth is under water, several children tossed a sizable softball covered with a map of our planet to one another. After catching the ball, we asked, "is your right thumb touching land or water?" Continuing our walk up a steep grade, we stopped to see and learn what an "Invasive plant and animal" looks like as we were shown a cut bush honeysuckle plant before passing around a jar holding stink bugs. During our next stop, Blaine Elkins presented three American Chestnut seedlings protected with surrounding wire enclosures. A portion of a blight-infected Chestnut tree that clearly showed where the blight killed the tree was passed among the children as Blaine explained its fate. Trash and littering were next presented at the top of the hill, sharing how long, if ever, different types of discarded trash last before degrading. To make the point that littering is unacceptable, we asked several children to walk and litter as others followed and picked up the trash. The concept of becoming a "Seer" was introduced, and a short demo of how to walk through the woods slowly and softly was demonstrated. Yes, the habit of often stopping to listen, smell, and observe was exhibited before asking the children to walk with purpose as they looked deeply into their surroundings. Tree ID was taught using the bark of a White Oak ("Miss Shaggy"), a Chestnut Oak ("Mr. Lumpy"), and a Red Oak ("Miss Ski Slopes") before heading along the trail where the children discovered an eight-point antlered deer head. As a special treat, another antlered deer head was shown mostly covered with velvet. Of course, the children took turns passing around the newfound trophies as many deer facts were shared.

Ok, you get the point. We keep everyone interested and evolved with continuous interactions with the children moti-



*Class presenters
Andy Wight and Frank
Parker with some
of the attendees.*

vating them to ask and answer many questions. Whenever possible, we encouraged our young hikers to touch what we spoke of and to see deeper into the wonders of the woodlands they walked through. For examples of some of the other hands-on exhibits, several children used a turkey box call and a slate call to mimic the sounds of a female turkey while observing three turkey decoys. During other presentations, the children touched artificial deer and bear droppings, observed deer tracks made from plaster imprints, and ate a marshmallow to sensually connect the miracle of photosynthesis-produced energy to the "the energy of the marshmallow's sugar."

Final exam: The formal presentations were concluded with an exam. We asked everyone to stand shoulder to shoulder before searching the immediate area for items previously placed by the presenters. After several minutes everyone returned and reformed the line with their newly found treasures in hand. One by one, children and adults held up their discovered items and shared their recently learned facts with everyone.

At the last stop, before walking back to the chapter house, we observed what is lovingly called the Gold Mine after taking caution not to approach too closely.

In seconds, a line from the Izaak Walton League Pledge, "To Know the Beauty and Understanding of Nature," can be said. However, it may well take a lifetime to comprehend.

Summer Biathlon Program

Steve Eschholz

240 472-6512 (text) fitnesscrafters@earthlink.net

Biathlon is open to all B-CC IWLA members 12 years and older, as well as sponsored guests. Contact me if you have any questions or a desire to be on the B-CC IWLA Summer Biathlon Program mailing list – fitnesscrafters@earthlink.net or text 240 472-6512. There were five on the line for the March 25 opening day this season.

This year's schedule is below:

Saturday, April 15	7:30am
Saturday, April 29	7:00am
Saturday, May 13	7:30am
Saturday, May 27	7:30am
Saturday, June 10	7:30am
Saturday, June 24	7:30am
Saturday, July 8	7:30am
Saturday, July 22	7:30am
Saturday, August 5	7:30am
Saturday, August 19	7:30am
Saturday, September 9	7:00am
Saturday, September 23	7:30am
Saturday, October 7	7:00am
Saturday, November 4	7:30am
Saturday, November 11	7:30am

DUE DATE
for
May Newsletter Articles
is
Friday, April 28

Submit articles to:
j.lamkin@comcast.net

If the article contains photos, please submit them as separate jpg files and include a caption and photo credit.

UPCOMING EVENTS

B-CC IWLA and Community

**Check the Chapter website for updates!
All dates are tentative and subject to change.**

Spring Family Campout

Saturday, April 15 starting at 3:00pm
until 9:00am, Sunday, April 16
See page 7 of the Newsletter

Chapter House CleanUp

Sunday, April 16
9:00am – 12:00 noon

1,050th Membership Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, April 19
Dinner – 6:15pm; Meeting – 7:30pm

New-Member Orientation Tours

Sunday, April 22
10:00am – 1:00pm
Meet Christine Peterson at the Chapter House

Board of Governors Meeting

Wednesday, April 26
7:00pm

Spring Hunter Education Course

Saturday, May 6 and Sunday, May 7
8:00am – 4:00pm
Sign up required –
See page 9 of the Newsletter

Conservation Dinner (Spaghetti) with Speaker

Saturday, May 20
Dinner – 6:00pm; Speaker – 7:00pm
See page 3 of the Newsletter

Welcome to the B-CC IWLA Family!!

The following members were inducted in March 2023:

Jack Caulfield

Interests: Hunter Education; Ponds & Streams; Rifle & Pistol

Richard Chang

Interests: Archery; Ponds & Streams; Rifle & Pistol

Jon Duvall

Interests: Rifle & Pistol; Skeet & Trap; Wildlife

Sarah Turnoff

Interests: Conservation Education; Farm; Nature Trails; Public Relations; Water Quality

Walter Robeson

Interests: Forestry; Rifle & Pistol; Youth Programs



**Saturday, April 15 starting at 3:00pm
until Sunday, April 16 at 9:00am**

The Annual Spring Family Campout is scheduled for Saturday, April 15th (weather permitting). This event is open for members and their guests. Events will start Saturday afternoon and continue into Sunday morning (dinner and breakfast provided). The Chapter house will remain open throughout the event. This is a great opportunity for first-time campers.

SATURDAY

- Tent setup around the chapter house begins at 3:00pm
- Fishing for the kids at the big pond/small pond from 4:00pm to 6:00pm
- Evening cookout will be provided from 6:00pm to 7:00pm
- S'mores around the campfire at the chapter house firepit

SUNDAY

- Breakfast will be served Sunday morning to campers starting at 7:00am
- Breakdown & cleanup will be completed by 9:00am

This is a great time to spend time with your immediate family and to meet some of the chapter family of B-CC IWLA members, spouses, and kids.

Below is the **SignUpGenius** link for this event. Please sign up with your name and the number of people in your party attending in parentheses to help us with food planning. Indicate any dietary restrictions.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACC2A28A7F8C25-spring1>

Andy Wight

Conservation Education Committee Chair
ConservationEd.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com

Chapter House Committee Report

John Lamb, Chair
jpatricklamb@aol.com

I'd like to thank Ted Gaskins and the gardening committee for all their help around the exterior of the chapter house. It is really starting to look and feel more appealing/inviting for members to come out and enjoy the facility. We will continue our efforts to make improvements throughout the coming spring and summer months.

Rifle & Pistol Report

Gus Zinnser, Committee Chair
240 750-0979 guszinnser4@gmail.com

Matthew Chambers, Chief Range Officer
202 854-8671 matthewschambers@gmail.com

The R&P Range is now open on Saturday and Sunday from 9:00am – 5:00pm.

RANGE CLOSURE

On Saturday, May 6 at 12:30pm, the range **will be closed** to all shooters for the Maryland Hunter Safety course to use the range. Sunday, May 7 will be regular operating hours.

The R&P Range is allowing only 2 guests per member.

PLEASE REMEMBER

- Put paper in the trash. If the cans are full, please empty them.
- 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 1	Waterman, S.; Panashchenko, O.; Taylor, P.; Chung, W.
Sunday, April 2	Hunt, J.; Waterman, S.; West, K.; Williams, B.
Saturday, April 8	Summers, D.; Stemp, K.; Taylor, P.; Shi, T.
Sunday, April 9	West, K.; Summers, D.; Stemp, K.; Harmon, S.
Saturday, April 15	Panashchenko, O.; Griffin, J.; Twomey, P.; Williams, B.
Sunday, April 16	Lowe, C.; Twomey, P.; Watt, D.; Wight, A.
Saturday, April 22	Chung, W.; Behrend, D.; Thornton, C.; Carroll, P.
Sunday, April 23	Saiz, J.; Riccio, R.; Ives, S.; Kipfer, J.
Saturday, April 29	Urigo, C.; Calderwood, J.; Shi, T.; Shi, P.
Sunday, April 30	Griffin, J.; Kelly, P.; Calderwood, J.; Crowe, C.

MAY

Saturday, May 6	Burns, M.; Ma, A.; Roth, A.; Shi, P.; Maisel, J.; Tarkowski, J.; Jones, R.; Snider, J.
Sunday, May 7	Zic, T.; Carroll, P.; King, B.; Roth, A.
Saturday, May 13	Kang, M.; Yau, T.; Kang, J.; Kang, Y
Sunday, May 14	Saiz, J.; Finn, K.; Snider, J.
Saturday, May 20	Hensley, J.; Efdimis, C.; Capalupo, P.; Weixel, P.
Sunday, May 21	Jones, R.; Hensley, J.; Watt, D.; Batteh, K.
Saturday, May 27	Fiol, C.; Efdimis, C.; Myers, J.; Ossi, G.
Sunday, May 28	Hoover, J.; Thornton, C.; Bouchard, M.; Woodman, G.

FUN SHOOT AT THE RIFLE & PISTOL RANGE

Please join us for the 1st annual **Military Fun Shoot** on Sunday, May 21, 2023, from 9:00am – 12:00 noon to honor our Military past and present. Prizes will be awarded. Bring your 20th Century or later US Military rifle, carbine or handgun, (AR-15, M1A, .22 caliber training rifles and any pistol firing 9mm .45ACP or .38 Special will also be allowed but no .50 BMG). Don't have any of those options? Bring your favorite .22 caliber rifle or borrow one at the event. Iron sights, scopes, and red-dot sights will all be allowed, but in separate categories. Bi-pods, rests and slings will also be allowed.

Please bring your own ammo. We will be using non-standard targets at 100yds, 50yds and 50ft, designed to allow everyone an equal chance to win a prize. If we have enough willing participants, we will have an optional skill competition to determine the best shot in each category. Cost will be \$10 for the event plus any applicable range fees.

Intrigued? Use the link below to sign up if you are interested in participating.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACA28A7F8C25-military>

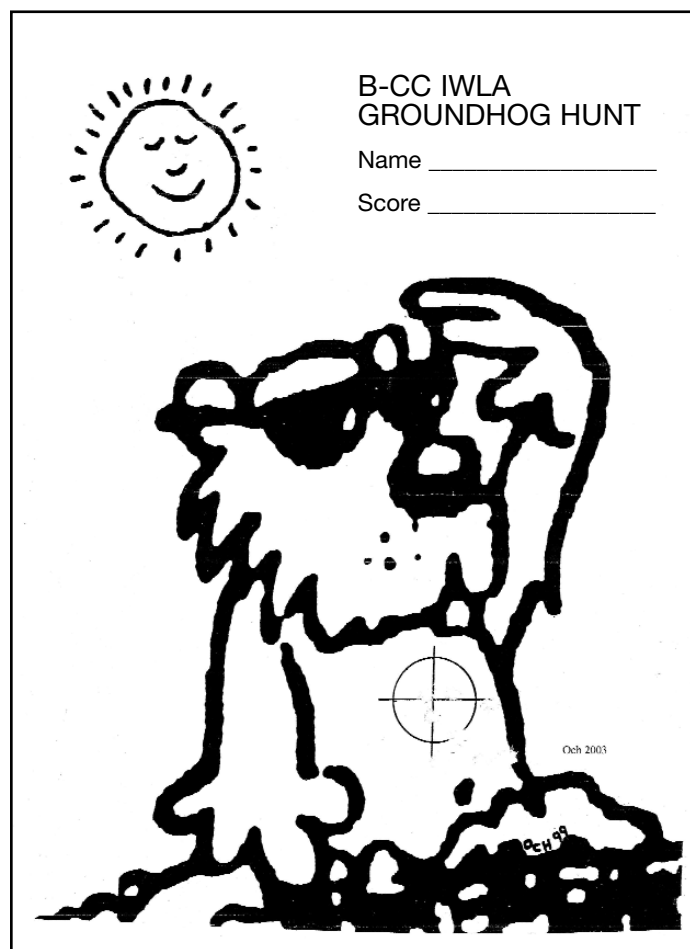
More information to follow in next month's newsletter. The R&P range will be closed to regular shooting during the event.

Contact Event coordinator, Gus Zinnser or Larry Hess if you have any questions: guszinnser4@gmail.com or larry.a.hess@gmail.com.

GROUNDHOG FUN SHOOT

Come out to the R&P Range on April 22 from 9:00am – 11:00am for a **Groundhog Fun Shoot**. We will be shooting at paper Groundhog targets with random numbered squares on the back. The cost is \$5 per target (5 shots). We will be using .22's from the bench at the pistol side of the range. Ammo will be provided and .22 rifles will be available for use. You can also bring your own .22 rifle or pistol. The targets will be set at 50ft for juniors and 25yds for adults. Highest score for each relay of 6 shooters will win a prize of a gift card or box of ammo.

Come on out and try your luck. Any questions, contact Jerry Murray at: jerrym5@comcast.net or 202 438-4202.



Apollo Archery 2023 Program

Chuck Thornton
apolloarchery.bcciwa@gmail.com

APOLLO ARCHERY IS BACK FOR ANOTHER EXCITING SEASON!



We inaugurated the Apollo Archery program in 2021 to provide archery instruction and experiences for current and former members of the United States Armed Services and their families.

For 2023, we will host Apollo Archery sessions on the first Wednesday of each month through October. Sessions will start at 6:00pm (we will try to start by 5:30pm if you would like to come early for the extra daylight) and finish when it gets dark.

2023 dates:

May 3; June 7; July 5; August 2; September 6; October 4

If you know of veterans and current Service members in the Montgomery County, Maryland area, please share this opportunity with them. There is no fee for participation.

For additional details contact Chuck Thornton at apolloarchery.bcciwa@gmail.com!

Conservation Farm Guide Survey

We want and need your input!

We are in the process of revising the Conservation Farm Guide and are interested in how members use and access the information in the guide. Your input is really important, and your responses will help us make the revised guide more usable and accessible to our members. The survey takes about 2 minutes to fill out and can be found here:

B-CC IWLA Conservation Farm Guide Member Survey
([google.com](https://www.google.com))

April Membership Meeting Speaker



Bob Cissel, Chapter member and Director of Montgomery Agricultural Producers (M.A.P.), will be the speaker at the Wednesday, April 19 membership meeting. M.A.P. is a non-profit organization representing the agricultural producers of Montgomery County.

Come enjoy the monthly dinner and listen to Bob's talk on current and upcoming County and local legislative issues.

Hunter Education Report

John Lamb, Committee Chair
jpatricklamb@aol.com

On May 6th & 7th, the chapter will host one of its bi-annual Hunter Safety/Education courses. This class is free of charge and open to anyone wishing to get certified through the State of Maryland. All new potential hunters must enroll-in and satisfy a certification program. Our class is a 2-day course from 8:00am to 4:00pm on each day. I do encourage those hunters, whom were / are exempt from completing this program due to grandfather clauses, to enroll as well. Typically, the class age range runs from 6 - 75 years of age. The certification is recognized throughout the U.S and all over the world.

All participants must enroll online with the State of Maryland:

- pull up **register-ed.com** on your browser,
- click on Maryland,
- click on Hunter Education Classroom Course,
- find the date with Poolesville IWLA location.
- the site will ask a few questions pertaining to the student from there on,

- once enrolled, mark the date on your calendar and then wait for further announcements.

You can cancel your enrollment at any time if needed but please try to do so at least a week ahead of time so that another student may occupy that spot. Students should bring a lunch and an enthusiastic learning attitude. The state will provide all other materials required. Members wishing to work off volunteer hours are welcome to assist. If you have any questions, please contact me (John Lamb) at jpatricklamb@aol.com.

Stream Monitoring

Dan Dutton, Save Our Streams (SOS) Program
mr.dutton.cbgs@gmail.com

We barely snuck in our winter stream sampling on March 19. Luckily our early spring had taken a break and it still felt like winter while we measured the water chemistry and looked for aquatic organisms to continue monitoring water quality. Eight people came out to sample the tributary of Horsepen Branch that flows through the 3-D archery course here on the conservation farm. Based on the number of types of organisms we found and their susceptibility to water pollution, we gave the site a "Good" rating.

This year we plan to continue to sample the same area on the farm to see how the aquatic community changes over the year. In our fall sample we collected many aquatic amphipods, or scuds. This time we also caught many amphipods but also saw a large number of free living caddis larvae. Over the next several months, you may see these metamorphosize into small, moth-like adults flying around the creek.

The next sampling will occur sometime in June. Luckily we've had many volunteers brave the cold weather for our past few samplings, but the spring sampling will be warm enough for everyone to enjoy getting in the creek or at least getting their hands wet to catch animals living in the creek. If you would like to join us or be informed about future sampling events, please contact Dan Dutton mr.dutton.cbgs@gmail.com.



PHOTO BY SUZANNE NOVAK



PHOTO BY ANGIE KIM

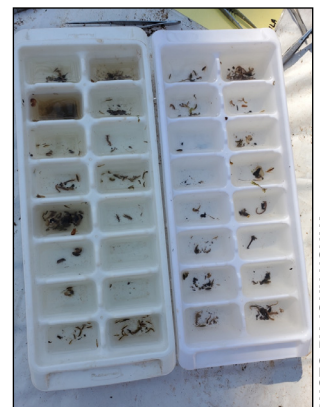


PHOTO BY JOHN NOVAK

Call for Bows and Archery Gear to Support Our Veterans

Chuck Thornton
apolloarchery.bcciwa@gmail.com



Do you have a bow hanging in your garage that you no longer use? Do you have a pile of release aids or other archery gear that you won't need this season? Why not donate those bows and gear to the Apollo Archery program?!

Apollo Archery provides archery instruction and experiences for current and former members of the United States Armed Services and their families. We have acquired several bows, but can always use more. Donated equipment must be serviceable and in decent condition. If needed, Apollo Archery will take your donated bow to be professionally tuned or re-strung and will cover those expenses. Of course, donations of new equipment would be appreciated.

We prefer donations of compound bows, but we're happy to accept other styles. Both adult- and child-sized bows and equipment, please. Along with the bow, we need arrow rests, sights, and stabilizers. Other equipment you might donate include arrows, release aids, quivers, forearm guards, and training aids.

To arrange your donation contact Chuck Thornton at apolloarchery.bcciwa@gmail.com!

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 3**. 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, advantages 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 the B-CC IWLA Chapter House and outdoors. 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.bcciwa.org/>. Participants will be sent a questionnaire to fill out and bring to the event.

In May, an email blast with a Signup Genius link will be created to register for the event. Emails with questions should be directed to Mark Gochnour at hunting.seminar.bcciwa@gmail.com.

NATIONAL IWLA CONVENTIONS

2023 National Convention

"Conservation at a Crossroads: Putting Solutions Into Action"

Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln, NE
July 27-29, 2023

Note the Thursday-Saturday dates

(a shift from the usual Wednesday-Friday schedule)

Convention is the one time every year that Ikes – every member, not just chapter and division leaders – come together to network, share ideas, and enjoy popular social events like the Parade of States.

Convention is also the forum for important League business, including choosing our leaders and setting organizational policy through a unique bottom-up process. Read on for the latest updates.

Convention is also the forum for important League business, including choosing our leaders and setting organizational policy through a unique bottom-up process.

More information is available at iwla.org

ATTENTION New Members!

Chapter House cleanup this month will be on:

Sunday, April 16

Starting at 9:00am

Join us and get volunteer hours

As a reminder – probationary (new) members need to help out in one chapter house cleanup as part of their sixteen volunteer hours.

Calendar Submissions

Meetings and events that need to be added to the website calendar and newsletter calendar should be sent to 1st Vice President Carol Hulce-Efdimis, carol2017@aol.com, and Corresponding Secretary Janet Lamkin, j.lamkin@comcast.net.

Wildlife Committee Report

Larry Anderson, Chair
240 246-5302 andupton9@hotmail.com

From a recent report, there is some encouraging news in the battle against Lyme Disease:

White-tailed deer blood kills bacteria that causes Lyme disease

Date: March 30, 2023

Source: University of Massachusetts Amherst

Summary: As tick season kicks in across the country, scientists have completed research that offers a promising lead in the fight against Lyme disease.

As tick season kicks in across the country, the executive director of the University of Massachusetts Amherst-based New England Center of Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases (NEWVEC) and his team have completed research that offers a promising lead in the fight against Lyme disease.

The study, published recently in the journal *Vector-borne and Zoonotic Diseases*, demonstrates that the blood of the white-tailed deer kills the corkscrew-shaped bacterium that causes Lyme disease, a potentially debilitating illness. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that each year some 476,000 people are diagnosed with and treated for Lyme, the most common vector-borne disease in the U.S.

"Deer are vitally important to the survival of deer ticks, but they are not involved with transmitting the Lyme bacteria, *Borrelia burgdorferi*," explains senior author Stephen Rich, professor of microbiology. "We've known for some time that ticks taken from white-tailed deer are not infected, and we speculated that something about the deer prevented those ticks from becoming infected. But until publication of our paper, no one had done the experiment to show that deer blood -- specifically the serum component of white-tailed deer blood -- kills Lyme."

The results of the study may one day lead to new strategies and approaches for Lyme disease prevention and treatment, says lead author Patrick Pearson, a Ph.D. student in NEWVEC, whose upcoming doctoral examination focuses in part on this research.

"In these experiments we determined that white-tailed deer serum kills the Lyme bacterium. The next important question will be to understand exactly how deer blood kills Lyme bacteria," Pearson says.

The research is one project of NEWVEC, which was funded by the CDC last year with a \$10 million award to prevent and reduce tick- and mosquito-borne diseases in New England. NEWVEC aims to bring together academic communities, public health practitioners, residents and visitors across the Northeast, where Lyme infections are concentrated.

The Lyme disease bacterium is passed to juvenile blacklegged (*Ixodes scapularis*) deer ticks from mice the arthropods feed on. The infected ticks then pass the bacterium on to humans when they feed on people.

"We are the accidental host," Rich says. "The ticks that bite us are actually looking for a deer because that's where they breed. Without the deer, you don't have ticks. But if you had only deer, you wouldn't have any Lyme."

To carry out their experiment, the researchers obtained blood serum from a semi-captive white-tailed deer herd at Auburn

University in Alabama. The deer were believed to have no exposure to ticks and the bacteria that causes Lyme disease.

The researchers then grew the Lyme disease germ in test tubes and added the deer serum. "And lo and behold, it killed the bacteria," Rich says. "Whatever it is in the deer that's killing the germ is part of the innate immune system, a part of the immune system that precedes antibodies."

Pearson adds, "The Lyme bacterium has proteins on its surface that protect it from the human innate immune system. Deer blood is somehow different such that Lyme bacteria are apparently unable to protect themselves from the innate immune system of white-tailed deer."

The next research step is to determine the precise mechanisms in deer blood that kill the bacteria.

"We'd like to determine if it's something we can induce in humans," Rich says. "Or maybe we could use this somehow to our advantage to reduce the incidence of Lyme disease in the wild."

Story Source: [Materials](#) provided by [University of Massachusetts Amherst](#). Note: Content may be edited for style and length.

Journal Reference: Patrick Pearson, Connor Rich, Martin J.R. Feehan, Stephen S. Ditchkoff, Stephen M. Rich. **White-Tailed Deer Serum Kills the Lyme Disease Spirochete, *Borrelia burgdorferi***. *Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases*, 2023; DOI: [10.1089/vbz.2022.0095](#)

Greenfest in the Gardens!

B-CC IWLA will be participating in Montgomery County Greenfest in the Gardens! We are partnering with National's "Salt Watch" program to share a booth and promote all things IWLA - and hopefully recruit some new members!!

Greenfest will be held at Brookside Gardens, April 22, 2023, 11:00am – 4:00pm. Greenfest is part of Montgomery County's Earth Day celebration and focuses on things such as land use, conservation and preservation, as well as ways to be more green in your daily life. Last year they had over 50 info tables and vendors as well as food trucks and activities for both kids and adults. This is a great event for the whole family!

We will be looking for a few chapter members to staff our table and tell people about the B-CC IWLA. If you enjoy the chapter and would like to help show it off to potential members, this is the volunteer opportunity for you! And yes, anyone who helps out will earn some volunteer hours.

This will be WAY more fun than writing that check!

If you are interested in helping out at the table, please text Meg O'Rourke at 301 275-5907. And even if you aren't able to help, come on by and say "Hi!"



Blackpowder Day 2023 Update

Rain on Friday, plus a variety of precipitation predictions for the day of, did not dampen the enthusiasm for those who came to the R&P Range for Blackpowder Day 2023. Thanks to all who came, who were Range Officers for the Day, and those who assisted in making this year's event so memorable. Many videos and photos were taken. Efforts will be made to collect, and exhibit, and share them on the website over the next month.

In the morning time, Mark Gochnour, event director and instructor went over how the muzzleloaders work, what to do if they don't fire as one would like, care and cleaning, transportation of them, safety features, and more. Many questions were asked to ensure clarity and most especially safety when a variety of issues are faced on the range. Misfires and hangfires and the correct way to be handled by the shooter and the Range Officers were covered.

Larry Hess, Bill Rogers, and Mark Gochnour worked with several individuals who had never fired primitive firearms before. Some of those who came were Range Officers who wanted to have a better understanding of how to deal with shooters who bring them to the range and others wanted to learn as they had inline muzzleloaders, a modern version of a muzzleloading firearm. After going over everything, targets were set up, and participants got to shoot at targets at 12 feet. The advantage of this is the targets are close so one can see where they hit and keeping the sights on the target is much easier. Everyone had the opportunity to shoot a flintlock or a percussion rifle multiple times over the course of the morning. Some soon learned that set triggers, making the



gun off more quickly, had advantages and disadvantages. One has to be on target with a good sight picture before touching the trigger or pulling an unset trigger while holding still can be a challenge, but some preferred that. One individual spent much of the morning trying to get his inline sighted in with some new loads. We did some troubleshooting on some guns which was beneficial process for those involved.

Correct placement on the berm was critical in the shooting of all targets. So in the morning though multiple two-inch dots were on the otherwise blank targets, how they were shot was dependent where on the berm the round ball would hit. Some shots were done from stools, others were done off hand and that influenced target placement in the afternoon shooting match.

As usual, Chris Efdimis obtained pizza from Papa Johns in the Quince Orchard area, at a discount, and we enjoyed some more camaraderie in the Chapter House. Then it was off to the shooting range to clean up for those who were leaving early due to other commitments and setting up the targets for the afternoon shooting match.

The course of fire included shooting off of cross sticks from a stool like was done in the later 1800s as the participants shot at a buffalo target at about 95 yards. Clay pigeons were hung from hooks at 50 yards on the pistol side, Charcoal briquets were hung from strings at 25 yards, while the splitting playing card stand was done at 12 feet. The final target at 50 feet was a novelty paper target which was the tie breaker. One side was the back of deck of playing cards which faced the shooter and the other side were the unseen and unknown face of the cards. So after shooting, the target was flipped over and the card amount was added to the other scores.



With the six shooters involved in the shooting match, two of the targets were shot offhand and shot a second time with one elbow supporting the rifle on the bench. With the cardboard backer behind the charcoal, it was easy to see how close shooters were to the briquets without actually hitting them. This year's playing card splitter was Marc Bouchard. A video revealed Daniel Hess's ball hitting the 2 by 6 and bouncing off into the dirt but the ball was not found, though a diligent search was made. He did knock off the queen but there was no damage to the card. Larry Hess had two rifles which he had to load for himself and one other and Mark's rifle was shot by him and two additional shooters- Dan Pasquale, Marc B., Mark G., and Larry were kept busy loading their guns for themselves.



Although the consensus was the targets were not difficult, shooting was not up to the usual standard, as even superior shooters were having trouble hitting the mark this year. Why that was so, is still being determined. This year's prizes included a ham or a Giant Gift Card as no turkeys were in evidence at the time of purchase, cleaning patches, a knife kit, and a Track of the Wolf Gift Certificate was won by Daniel Hess with the highest score. Marc chose the knife kit. Our elementary school star chose the gift card.

Much thanks to Mike Bowman, Deborah Behrend, and Bill Miller for being the Range Officers for Blackpowder Day and ensuring safety on the range.

Gus Zinsser was there for most of the day and got to see how the Blackpowder Day shooting match was done. This led to a conversation regarding future shooting events as the Rifle and Pistol Committee is committed to having more shoots for the members over the next year.

We had a blast as always. There will be other matches to take part in soon so watch for the notification and join in the fun.



PHOTOS BY MARK GOCHNOUR, BILL MILLER, AND DANIEL HESS' SON