



APRIL 2026 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

With spring in the air it's fun to watch as the chapter follows nature and starts to wake up from its winter hibernation. Our farm chair is out on the tractor cutting the fields and preparing them for the spring plantings. The rifle & pistol range held a clean up on Saturday, April 4 and over 30 members turned out to help clean up and make improvements to the range for the season opening. The other committee chairs all have plans for the chapter work day on Saturday, April 18 and are looking for volunteers, so please come out and help.

Our chapter's success is tied to our volunteers and thru their efforts we have this wonderful place and all its many amenities. Sometimes these volunteers do not get the recognition they deserve for all the work they do and we do not always remember to say thank you, so I am honored to post this letter from the national office for our chapter's recipient of the **Judge John W. Tobin Chapter Volunteer Appreciation Award**.

Jerry Murray



IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA ENDOWMENT

Funding conservation, education, and outdoor recreation across the League
www.iwla-endowment.org

April 1, 2026

Janet Lamkin
Bethesda - Chevy Chase Chapter IWLA

Dear Janet:

It is indeed a pleasure by means of this brief note to say *congratulations!*

You have been honored in a very special way by being the Bethesda - Chevy Chase Chapter's recipient of the **2025 Judge John W. Tobin Chapter Volunteer Appreciation Award**. All too often, those who give untold hours of service to their chapters are never recognized in any formal or tangible way. Frequently, they just continue on, sometimes year after year, helping the chapter in its conservation activities.

I trust that this special award citation, presented in appreciation of your devoted service to the Bethesda - Chevy Chase Chapter, will represent, in at least some small way, how valuable you are to the League in general, and your chapter in particular. It is people such as you who make things happen!

The Izaak Walton League's Chapter Volunteer Appreciation Award was first made possible in 1976 through a generous gift given to the IWLA Endowment from Judge John W. Tobin of Vinton, Iowa. As a former League president, Judge Tobin recognized the need for greater contact and communication between national officers, national directors, and the chapters of the League. He observed the hours of dedicated work that made these chapters successful. To that end, and to help draw chapters and their members and the national leadership closer together in mutual effort and understanding, he initiated and funded this national recognition program.

Please know and understand that this award is conferred upon you by the members of the Bethesda - Chevy Chase Chapter of Maryland—not a national awards committee. It is your fellow Ikes who know and appreciate all you have done.

May this award bring you much personal satisfaction, for it is both your chapter's and the Izaak Walton League's way of saying a very sincere *thank you* for a job well done.

Sincerely,

Pamela A. Meara
IWLA Endowment President

The Izaak Walton League of America Endowment, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.
Patricia Huum - Executive Secretary
P.O. Box 189
Stephenson, VA 22656-0189
iwlaendowment@gmail.com



June 6, June 13, and July 4, 2026
**No recreational fishing license
required on these days.**

**All other state fishing
regulations apply.**

**Go to dnr.maryland.gov
for more information.**

Board of Governors

Fiscal Year: September 1, 2025 – August 31, 2026

OFFICERS

Francis (Jerry) Murray, President

202 438-4202 • jerry5@comcast.net

Shannon Novak, 1st Vice President

301 785-8461 • snovak516@gmail.com

Sean-David Waterman, 2nd Vice President

816 812-5763 • seandavid@me.com

Bob Kelly, Treasurer

202 445-7097 • rnkelly1974@gmail.com

Scott Harmon, Membership Secretary

301 467-0645 • MembershipSecretary.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com

Janet Lamkin, Corresponding Secretary

301 466-6557 • j.lamkin@comcast.net

BOARD MEMBERS

Stephen Austin

Alex Cowan

Sebastian Fainbraun

Lloyd Iden

Andy Wight, Past President

240 205-3982 • andywight1@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
301 466-6557

IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA MISSION STATEMENT

To conserve, restore and promote the sustainable use and enjoyment of our natural resources, including soil, air, woods, waters and wildlife.

Summary of the February 2026 Board of Governors Meeting and the February 2026 Membership Meeting

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 – Board of Governors Meeting

- Meeting called to order by President Jerry Murray.
- Muzzleloader raffle drawing date changed to TBD.
- Discussion about proposed projects from advanced planning meeting including new concrete walkway (ADA compliant) with railing into chapterhouse; adding stone/millings to chapterhouse and shotgun range parking lots; adding posts with a chain and lock at the top of the farm road to limit access; small parking lot for handicap use at the base of the farm road; update exterior signage around the chapter; new fence at bee aviary; repair waterline to grille area and log cabin; new shed at the garden area; purchase a used sea container for the mowers to be placed next to the Kubota storage shed; repairs to the Shotgun Range existing buildings.
- Discussion regarding existing main kitchen range.
- Discussion of available funds and a review of the status of existing 'funded' projects.
- Motion was made to approve 5 short-term improvements projects recommended by the advanced planning committee with a targeted completion of the projects by the end of the fiscal year. **Motion passed.**
- Stephen Austin clarified that data entry (bookkeeping) is the most critical type of accounting help needed.
- Discussion about filing for Federal grants and additional paperwork required.
- Shotgun Range update with a targeted April start date.
- Article in Waltonian about our reclamation efforts.
- MD Division requested use of chapterhouse for June quarterly meeting.
- Calendar coordination team: Andy Wight for website, Shannon Novak to book use of chapter, Janet Lamkin for newsletter.
- All renewals thru January 29 are submitted to National.
- Motion to accept three new member applicants. **Motion passed.**
- All requests to use the chapter facilities are to go through Shannon Novak.
- John Novak will hold a fly tying class on March 22 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm at the chapterhouse.
- Jerry Murray talked about having a speaker from DNR talk about fur trapping in Maryland at one of the next dinner meetings.
- Request by the Lois Green chapter to borrow one of our rowboats, Jerry cleared it with John Novak. **Motion made and passed.**
- Jerry talked about the upcoming volunteer opportunity section of the website and that board members and committee chairs submit their requests so they can be posted.

NEW BUSINESS THAT REQUIRES A MOTION:

- Shannon Novak requested approval for use of the chapterhouse for a fly-tying class for March 22 and for Cub Scout Troop Pack 773 for camping around the chapterhouse May 2 (3:00pm) to May 3 (10:00am). **Motions for both events passed.**
- Motion made for the use of the chapterhouse on March 7 and March 15 from 9:00am - 12:00 noon for the Rifle and Pistol range officer sign-ups. **Motion passed.**

(continued on page 3)

SUMMARY

(continued from page 2)

- Use of the chapterhouse by the IWLA Maryland division for their quarterly meeting on June 20 from 9:00am - 2:00pm. **Motion passed.**
- Andy Wight requested approval to open the chapter for Heritage Day on June 27 from 12 noon - 5:00pm. **Motion passed.**
- Discussion about firearms that have been donated to the chapter, Jerry Murray proposed several options depending on the value of the firearms.

TALKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER:

- Jerry Murray provided an update on the spending of the grant funds by Ponds & Streams and Rifle & Pistol to date. He will order the boats; the rifles and biathlon targets have been ordered.
- Andy Wight talked about scheduling a family friendly dinner. He will coordinate with Dave Lenard.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 – 1,084th B-CC IWLA Membership Dinner Meeting:

- Meeting was called to order by President Jerry Murray at 7:30pm.
- We are waiving late fees on renewals until April 1.
- Talked about volunteer opportunities at the chapter. This will be posted on the website.
- Reminded hunters to be respectful of others and log your harvests.
- We are still looking for help with accounting and kitchen help.
- Raffle tickets are available for the blackpowder rifle, see Jerry after the meeting.
- Prospective members introduced themselves and talked about their reasons for wanting to join the chapter.
- Membership Secretary Scott Harmon reported that he has sent in over 500 renewals to National and should be getting the cards in early March.
- Two prospective members were there for their 3rd meeting, a motion was made and seconded to induct them. The motion passed and they were sworn in by the 1st VP.
- There will be a fly tying class in late March.
- There are still trout in the small pond. Limit is 3 to keep and please report your catch.
- John Lamb talked about the upcoming Hunter Education class on April 25 and 26.
- Brian King is looking for some help with the trails.
- Larry Hess talked about R&P range officer sign ups.
- Jerry Murray provided an update on the Shotgun Range. Targeting an April opening.
- Jerry also talked about the NRA RSO and Basic Rifle courses being held at the chapter. You must register thru the NRA website.
- Andy Wight talked about the upcoming Walk in the Woods with Poolesville HS Global Ecology program.
- Janet Lamkin reported that Julie Wight (IT committee) is looking for someone to take over committee. Contact Julie or Jerry Murray.
- Bob Cissel talked about upcoming county and state legislation that affects us and the Ag Reserve.
 - o There is a zoning text amendment in front of the county to amend the zoning requirements for data centers. The amendment would only allow data centers on industrial zoned areas and no closer to 500 ft from a residential property.
 - o Discussion of existing and planned data centers in Fredrick Co. and in Virginia.

- o Discussion about Maryland's electric power needs and solar in the Ag Reserve.

TALKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER:

- Mark Gochmour talked about coyote hunting on the property and reminded everyone about our rules.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

Conservation Education Event

A quick reminder that our annual Conservation Education Dinner is coming up next month. We'll once again be offering a free spaghetti dinner followed by our guest speaker and the recognition of this year's Global Ecology students. Please keep an eye out for additional announcements as we finalize event details.

CAMPGROUND NOTICE

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



Spring Chapter CleanUp Day & Picnic

Saturday, April 18 • 8:30am – 3:00pm

Come to the Chapter, earn some volunteer hours, enjoy a picnic lunch, and join with our fellow chapter members as we clean and prepare the Chapter for the upcoming year.

- 8:30am: Members will assemble at the chapter house to sign-up for work crews
- 9:00am – 1:00pm: work crews will complete projects across the conservation farm, trails, and facilities
- 1:00pm-3:00pm: Volunteers will have lunch prepared for them to enjoy while sharing cleanup-day war-stories

Any committee chairs or crew chiefs that are planning projects for Cleanup Day, please contact 1st V.P. Shannon Novak, snovak516@gmail.com or 301-785-8461, to help coordinate equipment, volunteers, and other resources.

Please use the link below to sign up for the CleanUp Day.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACC28A7F8C25-62715509-chapter>

UPCOMING EVENTS / VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

B-CC IWLA and Community

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Flintlock Rifle Raffle Ticket Sales

See page 8

Membership / Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, April 15

See this page

New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour

Saturday, April 18

See page 11

Military Fun Shooting

Saturday, May 16

See page 13

Spring Family Campout

Saturday May 16 – Sunday, May 17

See page 12

Swap Meet and Silent Auction

Sunday, June 21

See page 13

Heritage Day

Saturday, June 27

See page 8

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Log Cabin

See page 13

Chapter House Cleanup

Saturday, April 11

Saturday, May 16

See page 12

Chapter Spring Cleanup Day & Picnic

Saturday, April 18

See page 3

Assist Chapter Treasurer

See page 7

Heritage Day

Saturday, June 27

See page 8

Hunting Logbook

We ask that deer, turkeys, and coyotes taken on our farm be recorded in our game logbook, located outside the chapterhouse's main door, and by sending an email to Wildlife Committee Chair Paul Spangler (spanglerpaul63@gmail.com). When reporting your deer, we ask for the following information; your name, doe or buck (antler count), date and weapon used and the total number of ticks found on the ears or your deer. Other details may also be included such as estimated weight or unusual features.

Christmas Tree Grove Committee

Ernie Koutras, Chair

240 606-9668 eiljap@aol.com

Thank you to Larry Anderson who has overseen the Christmas Tree Grove for many years. Larry is now passing this duty onto me, Ernie Koutras.

After talking with Jerry Murray, Phil Taylor – farm chairman, Brian King – trails chairman, Demetre Koutras – consultant, and I met on Sunday, March 29 to access the Christmas Tree Grove and plan for its up keep. We are in need of volunteers to help with the Christmas tree grove cleanup and to get it in condition for new plantings. We would like to clear out dead wood, over grown brush, and remove dying trees.

If you are interested in helping with this task, please plan on bringing gloves, rakes, shovels, hedge sheers, pruning sheers, loppers, bug spray, etc. There are upcoming days available to sign up and volunteer – Saturday, April 11 is the Chapter House cleanup and Saturday, April 18 is the Spring Chapter CleanUp Day & Picnic. Please see the sign up sheet to volunteer and earn some volunteer hours.

April 2026 1,086th Monthly Dinner / Membership Meeting

Wednesday, April 15

50 / 50 Raffle

Dinner Tickets are sold in the Boardroom
Adults – \$15; Kids – \$7

Menu

Appetizers, Ham, Potatoes,
Green Vegetable, Rolls, Dessert
Bring your own Libations

Flintlock Rifle Raffle Ticket Sale

Tickets – \$20 each

Dinner served starting at 6:15pm

Membership Meeting starts at 7:30pm

April 2026 Board of Governors Meeting

Wednesday, April 22

7:00pm

HELP NEEDED IN THE KITCHEN -

Membership Dinner Meetings

We are still in need of additional cooks for our dinner meetings. If you can help out in any way, either short or long term, please get in touch with Carol Hulce-Efdimis. The help does not have to be a long-term commitment, even cooking or helping for one dinner would be appreciated.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Monthly Events

*Mondays
Mondays*

*Troop 2027G Meetings (Board Room)
Troop 496B Meetings (Chapter House)*

*7:30pm – 9:00pm
7:30pm – 9:00pm*

APRIL

Saturday, April 4	Rifle & Pistol Range Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Saturday, April 4	Rifle & Pistol Range reopens to members & guests after Range Cleanup	
Wednesday, April 8	Apollo Archery at the Archery Range	6:00pm – 7:30pm
Saturday, April 11	Summer Biathlon Program	7:30am – 9:30am
Saturday, April 11	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Wednesday, April 15	Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:30pm
Thursday, April 16	Cub Scout Pack 694 Meeting in the Chapter House	6:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday, April 18	New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour	10:00am – 11:30 am
Saturday, April 18	Cleanup Day at Archery Range	Starting at 8:00am
Saturday, April 18	Spring Chapter Cleanup Day & Picnic	Starting at 8:00am
Wednesday, April 22	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm – 10:00pm
Friday, April 24	Articles for May 2026 Newsletter are due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Saturday, April 25	Summer Biathlon Program	7:30am – 9:30am
Saturday, April 25	Spring Hunter Education Course	7:00am – 6:00pm
Sunday, April 26	Spring Hunter Education Course	7:00am – 6:00pm

MAY

Sunday, May 3	Montgomery Bird Club's Spring Walk	7:00am – 12:00 noon Saturday
Wednesday, May 6	Apollo Archery at the Archery Range	6:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday, May 9	Summer Biathlon Program	7:30am – 9:30am
Saturday, May 16	Chapterhouse Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon Saturday
Saturday, May 16	4th Annual Military Fun Shoot at R&P Range	9:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, May 16	Spring Family Campout	Beginning at 3:00pm
Sunday, May 17	Spring Family Campout Breakfast and Cleanup	9:00am
Wednesday, May 20	Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:30pm
Thursday, May 21	Cub Scout Pack 694 Meeting in Chapter House	6:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday, May 23	New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour	10:00am – 11:30am
Wednesday, May 27	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Friday, May 29	Articles for June 2026 Newsletter are due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day

JUNE

Wednesday, June 3	Apollo Archery at the Archery Range	6:00pm to dusk
Saturday, June 6	No Maryland DNR Fishing License Required	6:00am – 10:00pm
Thursday, June 18	Cub Scout Pack 694 – Chapter House	6:00pm – 9:00pm
Thursday, June 12	Legacy Board Meeting – Board Room	7:00pm – 9:30pm
Saturday, June 13	No Maryland DNR Fishing License Required	6:00am – 10:00pm
Saturday, June 14	Summer Biathlon Program Practice	7:30am – 9:30am
Saturday, June 13	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Saturday, June 14	Introduction to Hunting Seminar	9:00am – 4:00pm
Wednesday, June 17	Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner 6:15pm Meeting 7:30pm
Saturday, June 20	IWLA MD Division Meeting	9:00am – 2:00pm
Sunday June 21	Father's Day Swap Meet & Silent Auction & Picnic & Fishing & Shotgun Range Shoot	9:00am – 3:00pm
Saturday, June 20	Summer Biathlon Program Practice	7:30am – 9:30am
Saturday, June 20	New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour	10:00am – 1:00pm
Wednesday, June 24	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm – 10:00pm
Friday, June 26	Articles for June Newsletter due – send to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Saturday, June 27	Summer Biathlon Program Practice	7:30am – 9:30am
Saturday, June 27	Heritage Day at the Chapter	12:00 noon – 4:00pm

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

IN MEMORIAM

DR. TOM DILLINGHAM



Longtime B-CC member and public servant, Thomas Brown Dillingham, Jr., passed away on March 16, 2026, at the age of 84.

He is survived by his wife Patsy, their two daughters Mechelle and Shannon, and their families.

Tom's commitment to service to the community was wide, especially in local government. He was the commissioner of the Town of Poolesville for twenty years, including terms as president and vice president. His service also reached beyond the town through his involvement in numerous organizations including the Bethesda-Chevy Chase chapter.

Small Pond Trout Fishing

There are still plenty of trout in the small pond!

Rules

1. Trout fishing is for chapter members and immediate family only.
2. Anglers 16 and older must have a Maryland fishing license and \$5.00 trout stamp. Those aged 65 and older qualify for a senior consolidated fishing license; no trout stamp required.
3. Fish from shore only; do not use the boat.
4. Anglers may keep 3 trout per day - no size limit.
5. Anglers may use only one fishing rod at a time.
6. Anglers should park in the chapter house parking lot.
7. Pick up and take all trash out of the small pond area when leaving.



*Report the number and species caught to:

John Novak, novakgang4@comcast.net,
301-385-0943 or

Peter Wirth, Peter_Wirth@verizon.net,
301-915-6763.

REMEMBER...

Guest hunters **are not** permitted at B-CC IWLA.

B-CC IWLA Summer Biathlon Program 2026 Practice Schedule

MISSION: To provide a venue for novice through world class summer biathletes to learn and/or refine the skills inherent to the sport.

To provide a vehicle to introduce athletes of other sports to the shooting sports and consequently an understanding of firearms and the Second Amendment.

(B-CC IWLA members – please recruit, in particular, middle school, high school, and collegiate athletes – freedom/liberty is never more than one generation away from extinction.)

ELIGIBILITY: Summer Biathlon is open to all B-CC IWLA members 12 years and older, as well as, sponsored guests. **B-CC IWLA members rate is \$2.00 per session. Non-member rate is \$5.00 per session. SEASON PASS:** member – \$25; non-member – \$65

EVENT: Running distances at B-CC IWLA are set at 5 kilometers (3.1 miles) split into 5 loops or 3 -- one-mile loops. Currently, a single course at each length has been laid out. A short course for those working up to the other distances has been laid out as well. The regulation shooting distance is 50 meters, however, targets are also set at 25 meters for development of the shooting art. There are four shooting stops on the 5km course and two stops on the 3 mile course. Shooting stops alternate between prone (lying down) and off-hand (standing) positions. Five rounds are fired at each stop for a total of 20 shots on the 5km course and 10 shots on the 3 mile course. An equal number of shots are fired from each shooting position.

SCORING: Scoring is based on a time to complete basis. A penalty of either one (1) minute or a 50-100 meter penalty lap will be assessed for each shot missed.

EQUIPMENT: .22 caliber biathlon rifles are the standard; however, any magazine fed, .22 caliber rifle with either bolt or lever action is permitted. **Only standard velocity .22 caliber target ammunition is allowed.**

If you have questions or wish to be on the B-CC IWLA mailing list, contact Steve Eschholz c: 240- 472-6512 (text/best) / fitnesscrafters@proton.me, chairman B-CC IWLA Biathlon Committee. Other points of contact are: Sonny Lacey c: 469-360-3500 (text best) / sonny@coldwaterdesign.com; Sean Stevens c: 202-230-2256 (text best) / seanhoya@gmail.com.

Practice Schedule Dates

Saturday, April 11	7:30am
Saturday, April 25	7:30am
Saturday, May 9	7:30am
Saturday, May 30	7:30am
Saturday, June 6	7:30am
Saturday, June 20	7:30am
Saturday, June 27	7:30am

Additional Practice Dates will be listed in the May 2026 Newsletter.

DUE DATE

for May Newsletter Articles is
Friday, April 24.

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 credits.

Rifle & Pistol Range Committee Report

Larry Hess, Chair
larry.a.hess@gmail.com

The Rifle and Pistol Range reopened for the season to all members and guests the afternoon of April 4, 2026 following the R&P Range Spring Clean-up.

Range officer sign-ups will continue through the month of April. Any member wishing to become a range officer should contact Larry Hess (larry.a.hess@gmail.com).



Access ramp poured at R&P Range. All part of our improving the accessibility at the chapter.

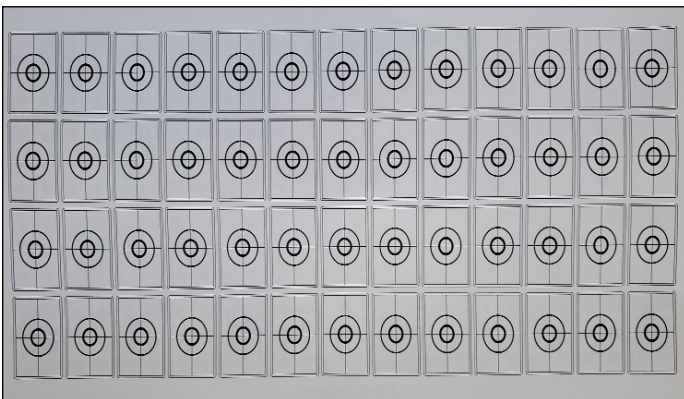
4th Annual Military Fun Shoot

The shoot will be held on May 16 (Armed Forces Day) from 9:00am – 1:00pm. The target contains likenesses of a deck of 52 cards (see target photos). Best poker hand wins. Prizes will be awarded for each relay.

\$20 Admission includes lunch and one target (Range fee waived). Additional targets may be purchased for \$1 each.



Card Deck Target – Front



Card Deck Target – Back

Firearms Training Courses

We will be hosting a variety of firearms training courses at the chapter this year thanks to member Rich Clement who is certified in a wide variety of firearms training courses. The first courses were the **NRA Basic Range Safety Officer Course**

held on March 8 and the **NRA Basics of Rifle Shooting Course** on March 29 and were very well attended and well received. The **NRA Basic Pistol Training** will be the next course offered with more to come.

Junior Rifle Program

We are getting ready for a new season of the junior rifle program. We will start with some introductory sessions followed by a structured marksmanship program with regular practices that include safety briefings and skill development with the opportunity to compete in local competitions. All equipment will be provided. If interested, please contact Larry Hess: larry.a.hess@gmail.com or Daniel Koehn: dkoehn13@gmail.com.

Archery Range Committee Update

Chuck Thornton, Chair
Archery.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com

The Archery Range is going to see a lot of action throughout the 2026 season!

We will resume hosting military service members and veterans and the first responder community for Apollo Archery on the first Wednesday of each month (except April) from April through October. Apollo Archery dates: April 8th; May 6th; June 3rd; July 1st; August 5th; September 2nd; October 7th.

We will offer the 3D shoots from 9:00am – 1:00pm on the last weekend of each month. Public 3D shoot dates: April 25 – 26, May 30 – 31, June 27 – 28, July 25 – 26, and August 29 – 30.

The Archery Committee will also be offering instructional sessions throughout the Summer. Stay tuned to the archery email list for announcements.

Finally, we are planning to host a fun tournament this Summer. Specifics to be announced soon. Please contact Scott Gordon at Archery.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com if you would like to help us with planning and logistics.

And of course, the range is always open – come out and shoot any time!

Volunteers Needed to Assist Chapter Treasurer

We are looking for members to help our treasurer and the board to manage the chapter finances. The duties would include Data Entry (bookkeeping). If you are interested, please contact Jerry Murray at jerrym5@comcast.net or 202 438-4202.

Chapter Entrances

Members must not block chapter entrances (main gate and cattle gates) along Izaak Walton Way and West Willard Road. Emergency vehicles and farm equipment must have access at all times.

Calendar Submissions

Meetings and events that need to be added to the website calendar and newsletter calendar should be sent to 1st Vice President Shannon Novak, snovak516@gmail.com; Andy Wight, andywight1@hotmail.com; and Corresponding Secretary Janet Lamkin, j.lamkin@comcast.net.

Shotgun Range Update

Thanks to the hard work of a dedicated group of our volunteers a 50 - round sporting clays course has been set back up and test fired at the range. We are hosting a re-training of the current and new range officers in the operation of the



course on Saturday, April 11 and Sunday, April 19 and will have a 'soft' opening later this month. We will send out an e-blast with the opening date and will put the range schedule on the website and in next month's newsletter. We will be participating in the spring cleanup on Saturday, April 18 if you want to come down and help.

Thanks for your patience and support.

FLINTLOCK RIFLE RAFFLE

\$20 Per Ticket



Austin & Halleck

Half Stock Mountain Rifle

(1.66 twist)

.50 Caliber Flintlock

and related items

Tickets are available at the Dinner Meetings
or

Contact Jerry Murray - jerrym5@comcast.net

Need not be present to win



Heritage Days Celebration at the Chapter

Saturday, June 27
12:00 noon – 4:00pm

The B-CC IWLA Chapter is pleased to open its doors once again for Heritage Days and will offer access to our site to promote our conservation message as well as share our local history. This year marks the 27th annual Heritage Days weekend, a countywide festival offering programs, activities, and tours appealing to visitors of all ages and interests.

We will be opening our doors on Saturday, June 27th. We encourage you to come to the Chapter, enjoy our displays, activities, and discover things about the chapter you may not know. Family activities such as fishing, archeology, colonial living, archery, air pistols, bird watching, wildlife and insect displays, in addition to a picnic lunch and soft drinks. This is a great chance to visit the chapter with your family and/or bring guests to show what the IWLA is all about. Gates will be open from 12:00 noon to 4:00pm on Saturday, June 27th (Rain or Shine).

Questions, contact Andy Wight -
ConservationEducation.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com

Have time to volunteer or need volunteer hours? Please sign up using the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DCAA28A7F8C25-63229059-2026>

Nominating Committee

Past President Andy Wight will be heading this year's Nominating Committee. The Committee oversees the selection of candidates for our Board of Directors, and as our chapter continues to grow we rely on dedicated members to help shape its future. Current open positions for next year include membership secretary, recording secretary, 2nd VP, as well as normal Director positions. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, we encourage you to step forward! Board members play a vital role in guiding our initiatives, programs, and community engagement efforts. To volunteer or learn more about these opportunities, please reach out to Andy Wight at andywight1@hotmail.com or 240 205-3982.

Your involvement makes a difference!!

JOIN A COMMITTEE AT B-CC IWLA!

In addition to volunteering for our projects and events, **we need members to step up and join our committees.** Committees are the backbone of our chapter, helping to plan and drive initiatives, organize activities, and ensure that we're meeting our goals effectively.

Why Join a Committee?

- **Make an Impact:** Play an active role in shaping the direction of our chapter and its activities.
- **Support Collaboration:** Work with others to share the responsibilities and lighten the load.
- **Build Community:** Connect with members who share your interests and passion for the outdoors.
- **Grow Together:** Learn new skills and make a lasting difference for our chapter and community.

Please reach out to the committee chairs below if you are interested in helping to make a difference:

Committee	Committee Chair	Email
Adventure	Michael Dobson	michaelvdobson@protonmail.com
Archery Range	Chuck Thornton	archery.bcc.iwla@gmail.com
Archaeology		bcc_archaeology@yahoo.com
Archive	Bill Gordon	WGordon14@verizon.net
Calendar Submissions	Shannon Novak	snovak516@gmail.com
Campgrounds	Jack Kang	jackhkang@gmail.com
Chapter Farm	Phil Taylor	farm.bcc.iwla@gmail.com
Chapter House	John Lamb	jpatricklamb@aol.com
Chestnut Groves	Blaine Elkins	blaineelkins@verizon.net
Christmas Trees	Ernie Koutras	eiljap@aol.com
Conservation Education	Andy Wight	andywight1@hotmail.com
Dinner Meeting Speakers	President & BOG	jerrym5@comcast.net
Environmental Stewardship	Blaine Elkins	blaineelkins@verizon.net
Father's Day Family Picnic/Auction	Lawrence Kotchek	lawrence@print1.com
Feeder Watch	Diane Seward	trina65@verizon.net
Forestry	Blaine Elkins	blaineelkins@verizon.net
Holiday Party	Carol Hulce-Efdimis	carol2017@aol.com
Hunter Ethics & Oversight	Paul Spangler	spanglerpaul63@gmail.com
Hunter Safety Education	John Lamb	jpatricklamb@aol.com
IT Committee	Julie Wight	jwight00@gmail.com
Junior Rifle Team	Daniel Koehn	dkoehn13@gmail.com
Kitchen	Carol Hulce-Efdimis	carol2017@aol.com
Legislative Outreach	Jeff Seaman	jeff_seaman@hotmail.com
Legislative Affairs	Bob Cissel	bobcissel50@gmail.com
Log Cabin	David Mecklenburg	dmecklenburg1@gmail.com
Membership	Scott Harmon	membershipsecretary.bcc.iwla@gmail.com
Memorials	Janet Lamkin	j.lamkin@comcast.net
Newsletter	Janet Lamkiin	j.lamkin@comcast.net
Ponds and Streams	John Novak	novakgang4@comcast.net
Rifle and Pistol Range	Larry Hess	larry.a.hess@gmail.com
Scout Liaison	Dave LeNard	davelenard@yahoo.com
Shotgun Range	Vacant *	jerrym5@comcast.net
State Division	Bill Gordon	wgordon14@verizon.net
Summer Biathlon	Steve Eschholz	fitnesscrafters@proton.me
Trails	Brian King	plsvllking@msn.com
Vegetable Gardens	Andy Wight	andywight1@hotmail.com
Wildflowers		bcc_wildflowers@yahoo.com
Wildlife Management	Paul Spangler	spanglerpaul63@gmail.com
Membership Drive: Ad Hoc Committee	Shannon Novak	snovak516@gmail.com
Donations and Grants: Ad Hoc Committee	Valerie Carregal	carregalv@gmail.com

* Contact President Jerry Murray, jerrym5@comcast.net, if you are interested in being on a Committee.

Eagle Scout Presentation

At the March Dinner Meeting, Eagle Scout Michael Garland gave a presentation to the membership highlighting Troop 773 activities in 2026.

Below is a summary of Michael's presentation:



This scouting year, with the support of the Izaak Walton League and the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter, our troop was able to accomplish the following:

1. Introduce 9 new Eagle Scouts with 3 more on the way before this summer.
2. Have 3 Eagle Projects (community service projects) with 4 more planned before this summer.
3. Participate in multiple charitable events, such as the Manna Food Center Food Drive as well as RISE Against Hunger.
4. Learn lifelong skills, such as etiquette, sales, interpersonal skills, and more.
5. Learn safety skills, such as first aid, rescue, and CPR.
6. Go on multiple campouts, including a paddleboarding campout, backpacking campout, orienteering campout, zipline campout, ski campout, and 2 high adventure campouts.
7. Meet Eagle Scouts from our own troop including an Astronaut who was on the ISS.
8. Help to run Cub Scout activities.
9. Learn merit badges according to scout interests, such as electricity, rifling, fishing, and more.



Boy Scout Troop 773

10. Run a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser, in which scouts not only raised money for the troop, but also worked as servers, hosts, salesmen, and more.
11. Scouts in our troop and cub scout pack met with astronaut, Dr. Williams, who was on the ISS. He is a home-grown Eagle Scout.

Some of our work with the B-CC Chapter:

1. Helped at an invasive species removal on September 14th.
2. Had a fishing campout on Izaak Walton League where scouts were introduced to fishing and outdoor activities.
3. Helped at Heritage Day.



Garden Plots

Andy Wight, Acting Garden Chair
andywight1@hotmail.com

At B-CC IWLA, we have an active gardening community, members who enjoy the opportunity to play in the soil, and some of you may have benefited from their harvest at the dinner meetings, when surplus produce has been shared. Generally, our gardeners find the gardens a pleasant distraction from the hustle and bustle of daily life even with our onslaught of amazing weeds.

As has been our custom, current gardeners have the first choice of reserving garden plots, so now is the time to contact me with your intentions for this year. Single plots (~25x25ft) will rent for \$20 each, and you can rent multiple plots (subject to availability).

For members wishing to become new gardeners, please contact me, and we will compile a list and start assigning plots as they become available.

We plan to do a clean up of empty plots and the garden area during the Spring Clean up on April 18.



New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour

Come join us on the B-CC IWLA Orientation Tour. Tours will take place on **Saturday, April 18; Saturday, May 23** from 10:00am to approximately 11:30am *if weather permits*.

This event is open to all members (new and old) and those who are interested in membership to the chapter or just curious about what we do.

Meet Christine Peterson at the Chapter House. Follow Izaak Walton Way through the gate to the Chapter House parking lot where we will be meeting to start the tour.

Signup for the tour using the signup genius link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACC28A7F8C25-62715355-bcc>

Please make sure you include your email address and cell phone number so that if the tour needs to be canceled due to a change in the weather, Christine will be able to contact you.

Contact Christine – christineakcp@comcast.net or 301 938-9773 (cell) if you have questions.

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 improve the A/V system:
update sound/projector system, with ability to host and record zoom meetings

Coyote Predation Project

Much work went into developing a plan, getting approval, and organizing the efforts to deal with the predation of coyotes on the chapter property in the month of February 2026. Hunting during the nighttime had to be approved by the Board of Governors but trapping was not permitted and limitations on the types of firearms for safety reasons was an additional requirement.

Mark Gochnour and John Lamb worked with a group of interested hunters in order to monitor who would be on the property and when, so registration was required and notification when people would be hunting ahead of time was necessary to know where and when hunters would be on the grounds. Fifteen hunters registered on the Google Document which Andy Wight created and this was helpful. This provided contact information for Mark and John.

When news and notifications were sent out to the members, this “advertising” of the hunting generated some interest and resulted in them receiving emails asking clarifying questions and from two hunters expressing interest in mentoring and assistance since they had never hunted coyotes before. One chapter member was very concerned about the hunting of coyotes and wondered about our reasoning behind why we were doing it. Mark replied but also included Jerry Murray and Paul Spangler in the emails so they were aware of this individual's concerns.

Only four hunters hunted coyotes but no one saw any coyotes. There were signs of their activities in the woods – prints in the snow, scat, and a small deer carcass which were photographed during the Deer Hunting primitive season.

In March, Mark sent out an email to all those who registered in order to gather information for the a report to the Board of Governors. Twelve sent back their responses and the following is a summary of what they shared. The January snow mixed with ice put a real damper on the endeavor so the first two weeks of February were a bust. As to why they did not hunt – the weather, family, and work demands were the main reasons. Weapon limitations was mentioned by at least one person. Some hunters would have preferred varmint rifle capabilities but there usage is not permitted on the property. One individual suggested having a class on hunting coyote in order to learn more about doing so.

This was a project with many moving components. The entire process gave the Board, John and Mark some information to consider and discuss regarding how to proceed in any future coyote hunting plans. Though no one shot, saw, or even heard any coyotes in February we can learn from this experience for a possible repeat effort next year. Mark and John submitted a report to the Board of Governors about the project on March 25th.

Things to be followed up on:

- Having a trapping presentation – done at the March Dinner Meeting
- Having a trapping certification class run by Maryland Hunter Education – is in process. This does not mean trapping will be permitted but such a class will be open to members and others interested in this training
- Having a presentation/class on hunting coyotes by an local expert. Under consideration
- Another attempt next February? To Be Decided / Determined

Contact Mark mgdonutman@gmail.com or John jpatricklamb@aol.com if any members have any input, interest, or questions regarding this project.



The Annual Spring Family Campout is scheduled for Saturday, May 16 (weather permitting). This event is open for members and their guests. As usual, the 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 chapterhouse begins at 3:00pm
- Fishing and Crafts 4:00pm – 6:00pm
- Evening cookout will be provided from 6:00pm – 7:00pm
- S'mores around the campfire at the chapterhouse 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 other B-CC IWLA members, families and guests. The event is free to members, but we ask for donations from guests to help offset our costs.

Please register by May 13 so we can plan for food and provide updates due to weather.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACA28A7F8C25-63229055-2026>

DRIVING ON CHAPTER PROPERTY

Any vehicle including but not limited to cars, trucks, bikes, UTVs, or horses are not allowed off the designated roadways and parking areas due to the risk of soil displacement and erosion on our trails and fields.

Permission to drive on the property can be granted by the Board of Governors or the Committee Chairs in the event of participating with Committee events.

Kid Friendly Dinner Wednesday, March 18

Many thanks to Troop 773 for helping out with the Kid Friendly Dinner Meeting and guiding the younger children through the treasure hunt. All the kids had smiles at the end, and full bellies of candy.



ATTENTION New Members!

Chapter House cleanup will be held on:

Saturday, April 11

Saturday, May 16

Starting at 9:00am

Join us and earn volunteer hours

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

Signup for the cleanups using the signup genius link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACA28A7F8C25-51060445-monthly>

Questions? Contact John Lamb –
jpatricklamb@aol.com



The Log (House) Cabin Committee Report

David Mecklenburg, Chair
dmecklenburg1@gmail.com



PHOTO BY DAVID MECKLENBURG

Willard Log Cabin – Open House & Volunteer Opportunities

The Willard Log Cabin and its related buildings will be open throughout the year for chapter members and visitors to explore and participate.

Open Schedule:

- The cabin will be open once a month on the Saturday for New and Interested Member Tours.
- We will also host an open house on Heritage Day June 27th.


Whenever the Log Cabin Committee has the cabin open, we'll fly the American Flag out front as a sign that visitors are welcome. Please see the attached picture.

Work Sessions:

- Ongoing projects at the cabin take place every week, with work sessions held on both weekdays and weekends.
- All skill levels are welcome to volunteer, and your time will count toward your yearly work hours at the chapter.

Invitation:

If you have any questions or would like to join our volunteer list, please email David Mecklenburg at dmecklenburg1@gmail.com with your contact information. We'd love to welcome you, show you around, and get you involved!




4TH ANNUAL MILITARY FUN SHOOT

May 16, 2026
(Armed Forces Day)
9:00am-1:00pm
at
Bethesda-Chevy Chase Izaak Walton League

The target contains the likeness of a random 52-card Poker Deck, Fire 10 shots per target at the back side of the target (card values not shown), Best 5-card Poker Hand wins the relay. Prizes will be awarded for each relay. If you can hit 5 shots on a 12"x18" target you could win a prize. Optional skill competition using the front side of the target. Any rifle, carbine, or pistol, firing a 20th century or later US Military cartridge may be used (including but not limited to .30-06, .308, 5.56x45, .30 Carbine, .30-40 Krag, .22 Hornet, 38 Special, 9mm, .45ACP and .22LR). Lunch will be served.

\$20 Admission includes lunch and one target (Range fee waived). Additional targets may be purchased for \$1 each. Bring your favorite Military Firearm and Ammo or borrow one at the Range. Contact: Larry Hess 301-461-7585 or Jerry Murray 202-438-4202.



IT'S TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT... the **FATHER'S DAY SWAP MEET** and **SILENT AUCTION** **SUNDAY, JUNE 21**

Set up - 8:00am

Event - 9:00am to 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 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.