



AUGUST 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

August is when we begin to hand the reins over to the incoming leadership administration that will be sworn in at the monthly dinner meeting. Please join me in thanking the outgoing board for a job well done. Please also show your appreciation to the incoming officers and Board of Governors, to be led by President Carol Hulce-Efdimis, for stepping up to the plate to run this place for another year. Ours is an all-volunteer organization; and many people give freely of their time to keep our Conservation Farm running smoothly. Please pitch in!

Summer is also the time when IWLA National makes awards to the chapter. This year our chapter and members received the following seven awards at the National Convention:

- Defenders Chapter Achievement Award – (Chapter)
- Judge John W. Tobin Volunteer Appreciation Award – (Carol Hulce-Efdimis)
- National Best Chapter Newsletter Award – (Chapter)
- National Hall of Fame Award – (Bob Pavlick)
- National Honor Roll Award – (Poolesville High School Global Ecology Program)
- National James Lawton Childs Award + \$250 – (Chapter)
- Conservation Award – (Dan Dutton)

Again, please join me in a hearty round of thanks to those who worked so hard that they have received recognition at a national level in our organization.

In just a couple of weeks the first hunting seasons will kick off with the September 1 dove hunt over our many acres of sunflowers, closely followed by the deer archery season. The archery 3D course will soon be closed, but we will still have target bags in the field for archery practice, and specialty broadhead targets for getting your arrows tuned up for deer season. It will seem like no time has passed at all before the leaves start turning orange and the early muzzleloader season starts.

This will be my last president's message, as I will be handing the torch over to Carol. Please help her out wherever you can. Thank you Carol; and good luck in your presidency over the next year.

Walt Allensworth

AS A REMINDER...

All chapter members wishing to hunt on our farm
must register on the Chapter website

<https://bcciwla.org/b-cc-iwla-chapter-hunting-rules/>
to acknowledge understanding our rules and
property boundaries. This is a yearly requirement.

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 Jack Mandel or Walt Allensworth. The help does not have to be a long-term commitment, even cooking or helping for one dinner would be appreciated.

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*

301 922-1174 • drbehrend@aol.com

Marc Bouchard

202 906-9406 • combat750@gmail.com

Dan Dutton

540 558-8253 • mr.dutton.CBG5@gmail.com

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 June 2023 Board of Governors Meeting and the July 2023 Membership Meeting

Jerry Murray, Recording Secretary
202 438-4202 jerrym5@comcast.net

Wednesday, June 28, 2023 – Board of Governors Meeting

- President Walt Allensworth called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
- Blaine Elkins is looking into the cost of getting permanent posts (metal) and signage for the buffers to replace the wooden stakes installed by WSSI; once we get these we will need volunteers to help install them.
- Archery Committee Chair Jack Mandel provided a new plan for the proposed archery tower using tubular metal scaffolding. Jack will put together a package with a plan, spec. sheet, and a description of the proposed security for submission to the grantee.
- Conservation Education Chair Andy Wight provided a recap of Heritage Day weekend. We need to look into increasing the promotion of our involvement in this event, possibly through advertising in the local paper, flyers, and social media to attract more people.
- Long-Term CapEx was discussed (See Bylaws Article IX, Section3).
- As we get more clarity on the available funds in CapEx there are several priority projects: painting the exterior of the Chapter House and purchasing a new kitchen stove.
- The National Convention in 2024 will be held in Cambridge, MD. Meg O'Rourke has agreed to head up the committee and is coordinating with Bill Gordon.
- Jerry Murray gave a summary of the shotfall test that was performed on June 17 at the range to see what shooting positions were putting lead into the buffers now that they have been physically located by WSSI's surveyors and if portions of the ranges could be re-opened prior to the lead reclamation work. Another round of testing will be scheduled for July.

NEW BUSINESS (requiring a vote):

- Motion was made to authorize the Treasurer to open another Money Market account with Sandy Spring Bank for the purpose of separating the long-term and short-term capitol expenditure deposits. **The Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**
- Motion was made to approve 3 applicants for membership into the chapter. **The Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**
- Motion was made to host the IWLA Maryland State Division meeting on March 16, 2024. **The Motion was seconded and passed.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00pm.

Wednesday, July 19, 2023 – 1,053rd Membership Dinner Meeting

- President Walt Allensworth called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.
- George Coakley will be representing the chapter at the National Convention in Lincoln, Nebraska. We will be having our annual awards ceremony at the August meeting and George will provide an update about the Convention.
- Blaine Elkins reported that we have all the necessary permits in hand to start the work and our reclamation contractor has scheduled us for May of 2024. This means we will start the prep work of Surveying, installation of

(continued on page 3)

SUMMARY

(continued from page 2)

Erosion & Sediment Controls and Pre-Construction meetings with the governing authorities in April.

- Membership Secretary Meg O'Rourke reported that we currently have 833 members.
- 6 prospective members introduced themselves and talked about their interests and reasons for joining the chapter.
- One new member (Nate Johnson) was presented for membership.
- Larry Anderson requested a correction to last month's minutes under the Wildlife Management Report. The minutes should state that: "Deer must be taken to an approved processor. The processor does not have to be in the same county as where the deer was harvested."
- Chestnut Grove Chair Blaine Elkins reported that Blight has been spotted on some of the trees in the new orchard and he is looking for volunteers to help remove the tree tubes to identify which trees are affected.
- George Coakley has been managing the monthly water sampling of our streams and pond outfalls for over 20 years and wants to pass the baton in January. The job requires coordinating with our testing company and accompanying them every month to the various test locations on the property. Blaine Elkins would like for 2 or 3 people to team up and take over this task.
- R&P Committee Chair Gus Zinsser reported that Summer Biathlon is testing a new target stand. There are some new rules coming on October 1st regarding the transporting of firearms.
- A second shotfall test was conducted and the results and recommendations will be presented to the Board.
- Hunter Ethics Chair Scott Harmon reminded everyone that hunter's must register EVERY year to hunt on the farm and the information is in the newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

2023 – 2024

B-CC IWLA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

President:	Carol Hulce-Efdimis
1st Vice President:	Andy Wight
2nd Vice President:	Jerry Murray
Membership Secretary:	Scott Harmon
Treasurer:	Bob Kelly
Corresponding Secretary:	Janet Lamkin
Recording Secretary:	Mark Lauver
Board Member:	Deborah Behrend
Board Member:	Marc Bouchard
Board Member:	Dan Dutton
Board Member:	Joe Finnegan
Board Member:	Phil Taylor
Legacy Board:	Ted Whitehouse

The 2023 – 2024 B-CC IWLA Board of Governors has been voted in and will be formally inducted during the August Dinner meeting. The Nominating Committee would like to thank these chapter members for volunteering to dedicate their time and energy by agreeing to become the leaders and directors of our Chapter.

Apollo Archery Program



We're hosting our next session of the Apollo Archery program on Wednesday, September 6 starting at 6:00pm and ending at dark.

Our mission is to provide archery instruction and experiences for current and former members of the United States Armed Services and their families.

- ◆ There is no fee for participation.
- ◆ Beginners and experts are welcome.
- ◆ All equipment provided for adult and child participants: bows, arrows, release aids, etc.
- ◆ We invite experienced archers to bring their own equipment.
- ◆ The course and facilities are wheelchair accessible.
- ◆ Check out Apollo Archery on the chapter website [CLICK HERE](#) and on facebook [PAGE HERE](#)
- ◆ For additional details contact Chuck Thornton (apolloarchery.bcciwl@gmail.com)!

Please share this opportunity with veterans and current Service members near the Montgomery County, Maryland area.



Montgomery County Ag Fair Booth



We are looking for volunteers to help work the booth at this year's Montgomery County Agricultural Fair. The fair starts on August 11, 2023 and runs through August 19, 2023. We are looking for volunteers to work the 6-hour shifts. The early shift runs 10:00am to 4:00pm and the late shift 4:00pm to 10:00pm. Volunteers get free admission and a parking pass. It's a great way to earn your volunteer hours, as well as an opportunity to promote our organization and educate the community about our mission.

I'm also looking for any promotional material about the chapter and our activities that can be displayed or handed out at the booth. Please contact Steve Poss (301 332-5259) bandsposs@gmail.com if you have any questions, or Bill Leaman with the Rockville Chapter to schedule a time slot (240 888-7600).

Chapter House Committee Report

John Lamb, Chair
jpatricklamb@aol.com

Its coming up on one year since I was appointed Chapter House Chairman and there has been no shortage of work to be done. However, I've had a lot of help throughout the last 11 months. So it is time to say thanks to all the members who put their time and efforts into to our chapter house upkeep.

To start; I want to thank Roger Johnson who has been working with me on the chapter house clean-up days, almost every month, since last September. Roger also assists with the dinner meeting set-ups and take downs regularly. As I understand, Roger had been doing this for many years under Tucker Mostrom. He is definitely a dedicated member and deserves recognition for it! Thank you Roger!!!

I want to thank the two Eagle Scouts and their separate team of workers. Walt Gaskin and Greg Klein both put their time, energy, and ingenuity into their projects which the chapter will benefit from for many years to come. Walt built a custom made stone fire pit in January under some very cold conditions. Greg just completed the refurbishing of all 15 chapter house picnic tables in the heat. Great job guys! I've already heard some positive feedback on both projects.

I also want to extend gratification to Janet and Tom Lamkin for the chapter house grounds keeping. I also want to thank Ted Gaskin, Shawn Jeffers, and all the volunteers for their time and expertise. Together, this place is starting to look sharp. The work is still ongoing but thank you, thank you, thank you....everyone!!!

COMING IN SEPTEMBER! Dove Hunt and Cookout Friday, September 1

Volunteers will be needed at the cookout.

August 2023 1,054th Monthly Dinner / Membership Meeting

Awards Night Induction of 2023-2024 BOG

Wednesday, August 16

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

August 2023 Board of Governors Meeting

Wednesday, August 23

7:00pm

Reducing Body Visibility – Becoming One with the Woods

Mike Dodson, Adventure Committee Chair
michaeldobson@protonmail.com

We are pleased to be hosting our first Adventure Committee workshop on Saturday, November 4th from 9:00am – 1:00pm (including lunch).

How would you like to be able to spot your quarry first and choose the best moment for your shot or taking a photo? Would you like to have squirrels pass by 10 feet away, climb a tree, and not bark at you? How about foxes trotting by at less than 6 feet or be close enough to kick? How would you like to watch a raccoon family walk up in a creek bed and not even realize you are only feet away; or have birds – a turkey, a great blue heron, and songbirds land near you and be totally unaware of your presence; or deer walk by you at less than 15 yards or even 10 feet and not be spooked? All this may happen while sitting or standing on the ground. **Becoming One with the Woods** is something that Mark Gochnour has been practicing for several years. These concepts can be easily applied so that others can enjoy these types of experiences.

In this family friendly workshop, Mark will share his techniques with participants. Use this opportunity to develop your own skills so that animals will not be as aware of you taking shots of them with a camera or a weapon. Please sign up in advance on the link below.

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

ATTENTION New Members! Chapter House cleanup this month will be on: Saturday, August 12 Starting at 9:00am

Join us and earn volunteer hours

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Monthly Events

2nd and 4th Saturdays through August
2nd and 4th Sundays through August
Saturdays & Sundays
Mondays - starting August 28

Archery Range 3-D Courses Open
Archery Range 3-D Courses Open
R&P Range Open
BSA Scout Meetings in the Chapter House

9:00am – 1:00pm
9:00am – 1:00pm
9:00am – 5:00pm
7:30pm – 9:00pm

AUGUST

Wednesday, August 2	Apollo Archery – Archery Range	6:00pm – 7:30pm
Saturday, August 5	Summer Biathlon Practice at the R&P Range	7:30am
Saturday, August 12	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Saturday, August 12	Private Event in Chapter House	12:00 noon – 10:00pm
Wednesday, August 16	1,054th Membership Dinner Meeting – Awards Presentations	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:30pm
Thursday, August 17	Archery Range 3-D Courses Open – includes special events, fun competitions	6:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday, August 19	Summer Biathlon Practice at the R&P Range	7:30am
Saturday, August 19	New-Member Orientation Tour – if weather permits	10:00am – 11:30am
Wednesday, August 23	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Friday, August 25	Articles for September Newsletter due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Saturday, August 26	Potomac District BSA – Cub Scout Summer Event	All Day
Sunday, August 27	RAIN DATE – Potomac District BSA – Cub Scout Summer Event	All Day

SEPTEMBER

Friday, September 1	Opening Day of Dove Season	12:00noon – 5:00pm
Friday, September 1	Cookout After Dove Shoot – at the Shotgun Range	5:30pm
Wednesday, September 6	Apollo Archery – Archery Range	6:00pm – dark
Saturday, September 9	Summer Biathlon Practice at the R&P Range – CANCELLED	
Saturday, September 9	Rifle & Pistol Range CLOSES AT 12:30PM for Hunter Safety / Education Course	Closes at 12:30pm
Saturday, September 9	Fall Hunter Safety / Education Course – Chapter House & Chapter Grounds	8:00am – 4:00pm
Saturday, September 9	Adopt-A-Road Cleanup – meet at the Chapter House parking log	8:15am
Sunday, September 10	Fall Hunter Safety / Education Course – Chapter House & Chapter Grounds	8:00am – 4:00pm
Saturday, September 16	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Saturday, September 16	Archeological Dig at the Log Cabin	9:00am – 1:00pm
Wednesday, September 20	1,055th Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner starts 6:15pm Meeting starts 7:30pm
Saturday, September 23	Summer Biathlon Practice at the R&P Range	7:30am
Saturday, September 23	New-Member Orientation Tour – if weather permits	10:00am – 11:30am
Saturday, September 23	NAVHDA Fall Test	8:00am – 5:00pm
Sunday, September 24	NAVHDA Fall Test	8:00am – 5:00pm
Wednesday, September 27	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Friday, September 29	Articles for October Newsletter due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day

OCTOBER

Wednesday, October 4	Apollo Archery at the Archery Range	6:00pm – dark
Saturday, October 7	Summer Biathlon Practice at the R&P Range	7:00am
Saturday, October 7	Fall Cleanup Day and Cookout	8:30am – 3:00pm
Saturday, October 14	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Saturday, October 14	Rural Women's Republican Club Dinner – Chapter House in Use – Private Event	12:00 noon – 8:00pm
Wednesday, October 18	1,056th Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner starts 6:15pm Meeting starts 7:30pm
Thursday, October 19	Rifle & Pistol Range Closed	Closed All Day
Friday, October 20	Rifle & Pistol Range Closed	Closed All Day
Saturday, October 21	Rifle & Pistol Range Closed	Closed All Day
Saturday, October 21	New-Member Orientation Tour – if weather permits	10:00am – 11:30am
Wednesday, October 25	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Friday, October 27	Articles for November Newsletter due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Saturday, October 28	First Aid/CPR Course – in Chapter House	8:00am – 5:00pm
Saturday, October 28	Annual Family Campout	2:15pm to
Sunday, October 28	Breakfast and Cleanup – Annual Family Campout	10:00am

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

Opening Day Dove Hunt & Cookout

It's time to start planning for Dove Season. Opening day is Friday, September 1st, which will be here before we know it. As usual, we will be holding our annual members dove hunt with a cookout to follow. With over 27 acres of sunflowers planted this season, we are hoping for a lot of doves, so please clear this day on your calendar. Please come and join us at the Shotgun range shortly after the shooting hours end for food and drink.

Leveraging from previous events, we have a few reminders for those both new and seasoned to ensure everyone's experience is safe and enjoyable:

- Please check in at the table on Izaak Walton Way when you head into the property.
- Please be sure to register to hunt through our website by the night before on August 31: <https://bcciwla.org/b-cc-iwla-chapter-hunting-rules/>
- Bring your hunting license & current membership card with you. (If you don't have a card, please email the membership secretary to get a confirmation email of current membership)
- Ensure your car has a current year B-CC IWLA sticker on it.
- Shotguns cannot hold more than 3 shells at a time, per state regulations.
- Keep your barrel pointed in a safe direction at all times.
- Doves only may be hunted between 12:00pm and 5:00pm.
- Know what a dove looks like to ensure the correct species is harvested.
- Opening day is typically very warm, so please dress for the weather and bring lots of water to stay hydrated.

As mentioned above, there will be a cookout at the Shotgun range pavilion starting around 5:30pm, where we will have burgers, hotdogs, cold drinks & snacks. A suggested \$5 donation per person to cover our costs is greatly appreciated. We hope to see you on September 1st.

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:

- September 9
- December 9

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



Welcome to the B-CC IWLA Family!

At the July 2023 Membership Meeting, **Nathan Johnson** was inducted into the Chapter. His top three interests are: *Archery, Rifle & Pistol, and Skeet & Trap.*

Summer Biathlon Committee Report

Steve Eschholz, Chair

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

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

ELIGIBILITY: Summer Biathlon is open to all B-CC IWLA members 12 years and older, as well as, sponsored guests. B-CC IWLA members no range fee. Non-member rate is \$5.00 per session.

If you have any questions or wish to be on the B-CC IWLA mailing list, contact Steve Eschholz. Contact information is listed above.

This year's **practice schedule** is below:

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 September Newsletter Articles is
Friday, August 25

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.

Please submit your articles on time – after the due date, we only have one week to ask questions and edit the articles before proceeding to the layout stage.

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

Our goal is to purchase 15 chairs

UPCOMING EVENTS

B-CC IWLA and Community

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

Chapter House Cleanup

Saturday, August 12
9:00am – 12:00 noon

1,054th Membership Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, August 16
Dinner – 6:15pm; Meeting – 7:30pm
Induction of New Officers
Awards Night

New-Member Orientation Tour

Saturday, August 19
10:00am – 1:00pm
Meet Christine Peterson at the Chapter House

Board of Governors Meeting

Wednesday, August 23
7:00pm

Opening Day of Dove Season & Cookout

Friday, September 1
Hunt – 12:00 noon – 5:00pm
Cookout – 5:30pm

Fall Hunter Safety Education Course

Saturday & Sunday, September 9 & 10
8:00am – 4:00pm each day

Archeological Dig at the Log Cabin

Saturday, September 16
9:00am – 1:00pm

Fall Cleanup Day & Cookout

Saturday, October 7
8:30am – 3:00pm

CPR / First Aid Course – Open to the B-CC IWLA Membership

The R&P Committee has made arrangements for a CPR / First Aid course to be held on Saturday, October 28, 2023 in the chapter house. This course will run from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

There is 20 spots available so it is on a first come first serve basis. The SignUp Genius link is below with a reminder set for 4 days before the course.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACA28A7F8C25-first1>

The fee for this course is \$70 with lunch included at \$65 for the course and \$5 for the lunch that will be provided. Payments made out to B-CC IWLA must be submitted by October 13, 2023 to the address below or you can contact Carol Hulce-Efdimis for other options.

B-CC IWLA
P.O. Box 542
Poolesville, MD 20837

If you have any questions, contact R&P Chair Gus Zinsser at guszinsser4@gmail.com or 240 750-0979.

Annual Fall Family Campout



Bring your Family & Friends to the Fall Family Campout this October!!!

The B-CC IWLA Conservation Education Committee welcomes chapter members, their families, and their escorted guests to the Annual Fall Family Campout on Saturday / Sunday, October 28th & 29th!

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. Events will start Saturday afternoon and continue overnight for those camping into Sunday morning

Saturday

- The chapter's front gate will be locked-open from 2:15pm until 6:00pm
- Family tent setup around the chapter house begins at 2:30pm
- Fishing at the big pond and visit a pumpkin patch from 3:00pm – 5:00pm
- Burgers & 'dogs cooked up for campers 6:00pm – 7:00pm
- "Mystery Activities" 7:30pm – 8:00pm
- S'mores & hot chocolate by firelight 8:00pm – 8:45pm

Sunday

- Breakfast served to campers 7:30am – 8:30am
- Breakdown & cleanup should be completed by 10:00am

Schedule some more family time at the farm on your own for the day!

There is NO fee for the family campout.

Questions? Contact Andy Wight, andywight1@hotmail.com

New-Member Orientation Tour

- The next tour will take place on **Saturday, August 19** from 10:00am to approximately 11:30am **if weather permits**.
- Meet Christine Peterson at the Chapter House.
- The front gate will be open until the tour begins.
- New members, prospective members, and current members are invited to take the tour.
- Contact Christine – christineakcp@comcast.net if you have questions.

Rifle & Pistol Committee Report

Gus Zinsser, Chair
240 750-0979 guszinsser4@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.

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

REMINDER:

The Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) for the range have changed. Please review the SOP's before coming to the range to re-familiarize yourself and guests with the firearms transporting and safety procedures for our range. This will help you and our range officers to maintain a safe environment.

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:

AUGUST

Saturday, August 5	Rogers, B.; Hollar, D.; Shafer, R.
Sunday, August 6	Kelly, P.; Manan, F.; Chung, J.; Scott, D.
Saturday, August 12	Pedersen, P.; Dady, P.; Adams, J.; Kim, H.
Sunday, August 13	Finn, K.; Woodman, G.; Hollar, D.,
Saturday, August 19	Thorburn, M.; Gage, K.; Shafer, R.; Stopher, D.
Sunday, August 20	Thornton, C.
Saturday, August 26	Suleman, S.
Sunday, August 27	Adams, J.; Crowley, D.; Hammes, P.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, Sept. 2	Zoulis, T.; Sauri, M.; Davis, P.; Studley, T.
Sunday, Sept. 3	NO RANGE OFFICERS ON DUTY
Saturday, Sept. 9	Boynton, D.; King, D.; Haake, T.; Eschholz, S.,
Sunday, Sept. 10	Hunt, J.; King, D.; Haake, T.; Zoulis, T.
Saturday, Sept. 16	Schweikert, B.; Daniel, B.; Hess, D.; Mulford, G.
Sunday, Sept. 17	Schweikert, B.; Roth, A.; Meima, S.; Mulford, G.
Saturday, Sept. 23	Johnson, G.; Jacobs, R.; Gage, K.; Donovan, P.
Sunday, Sept. 24	Donovan, P.; Sanfuentes, J.; Kawamoto, D.; Vinokurov, A.; Jacobs, A.
Saturday, Sept. 30	Suleman, S.

OCTOBER

Sunday, October 1	King, B.; Hoover, J.; Chung, K.; Jacobs, R.
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CPR / FIRST AID COURSE – OPEN TO THE B-CC IWLA MEMBERSHIP

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B-CC IWLA
P.O. Box 542
Poolesville, MD 20837

If you have any questions, contact R&P Chair Gus Zinsser at guszinsser4@gmail.com or 240 750-0979.

R&P RANGE OFFICERS TRAINING COURSE

We are exploring interest in a late Summer/early Fall R&P Range Officer (RO) training course for those who are eligible. To be eligible to take the RO course, you must:

- be current members of the B-CC IWLA Chapter in good standing and have completed their probationary membership year
- be 21 years of age
- be eligible to legally possess a firearm
- be current in all B-CC IWLA Chapter dues

If you are eligible and interested, please get in touch with Chief Range Officer Matthew Chambers at 202 854-8671 or matthewschambers@gmail.com.

**Join Us for the last Special Session of
3D Archery of the Summer**
**Archery + Prizes + Food + Bonfire = a fun evening for
the whole family!**

**Thursday, August 17
6:00pm – Dark**

Entry fee:

\$10 for B-CC members; \$15 for non-members;
Veterans shoot for free!

Entry fee includes:

- Unlimited shoots on both courses (30 total targets): Red Course (15 targets); Blue Course (15 targets)
- Unlimited shots on the practice range during the event
- Food including sausages grilled over the bonfire
- Water and soda
- Prizes

If you have any questions, contact Chuck Thornton at clthornton@gmail.com.

2023 NestWatch Wrap-up

Diane Seward, Citizen Science Projects Coordinator
trina65@verizon.net

Seventy-one nest sites were monitored in 2023. There were 91 total nesting attempts, all species, producing 406 eggs; 342 nestlings, and 310 fledglings. Species monitored: Eastern Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, Purple Martins.

The Purple Martins had an excellent breeding season at the conservation farm: 46 nesting attempts produced 240 eggs, 218 young, and 203 fledglings, an amazing 49 more birds than in 2022! The first martin egg appeared in mid-May and the last clutch fledged in late July. Happily, there were no losses to snakes or owls. In sum, the martins had a very good breeding season.

Unfortunately, production rates of both Tree Swallows and Eastern Bluebirds were down this year compared to prior years. The Tree Swallows' 15 nesting attempts yielded only 47 fledglings, compared to 66 fledglings from 14 nesting attempts in 2022. Eastern Bluebirds fared worse, producing only 60 fledglings from 30 nesting attempts, the lowest number of fledglings of that species recorded in the seven years that we have been keeping records. One clutch of eggs did not hatch; a few others disappeared.

The chapter's NestWatch data, reported to Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology for 2017 through the current season, appear below.

I. Total nesting attempts, all species:

	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young	Fledglings
2023	91	406	342	310
2022	98	459	334	299
2021	84	436	354	341
2020	79	402	310	284
2019	52	226	182	162
2018	34	142	123	104
2017	24	109	102	92

II. Species summaries:

Purple Martins

	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young	Fledglings
2023	46	240	218	203
2022	52	252	175	154
2021	43	234	185	176
2020	36	221	170	153
2019	19	78	51	38
2018	5	unknown	19	15

Tree Swallows

	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young	Fledglings
2023	15	62	51	47
2022	14	76	68	66
2021	13	71	67	63
2020	14	71	46	46
2019	11	47	44	43
2018	7	unknown	32	25
2017	5	18	18	13



Mama Tree Swallow protecting her eggs or young

PHOTO BY LINDA GREEN

Eastern Bluebirds

	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young	Fledglings
2023	30	104	73	60
2022	28	116	89	79
2021	28	131	102	101
2020	25	110	94	85
2019	22	95	82	81
2018	17	unknown	72	64
2017	18	86	79	74

Once again, our paired field boxes near the road down to the shotgun range hosted overlapping Tree Swallow and Eastern Bluebird nests.

First egg and first fledge dates for the three species appear below.

	First Egg Date	First Fledge Date
Eastern Bluebird	April 2	May 9
Tree Swallow	April 24	June 4
Purple Martin	May 13	July 2

House Sparrows attempted one nest in the field, but no eggs hatched. Unlike last year, none attempted to nest in the Purple Martin towers and gourds.

Many thanks to our dedicated NestWatch team who monitored nesting activity from mid-March through early August: Pat McNeilly and Linda Green, and to Sandi Garcy who joined us in June. The team especially appreciated Ela Green's contributions during her summer break from college: each week she checked the 18 Purple Martin gourds, and counted eggs and young. She also replaced the nesting pine needles at the appropriate time. We are grateful to Tom Lamkin, Janet Lamkin, and Mike Noble for keeping the grass around the boxes well trimmed.

Archeological Dig at the Log Cabin



Come and join us on Saturday, September 16th to investigate the basement of the Log Cabin. This is a great family event and will be a great way to learn about archeological processes, or to find out what secrets are contained under the log cabin. We start at 9:00am and plan to go through to about 1:00pm. We will have dogs/burgers/drinks for lunch.

Please use the link below to sign up.

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

REMEMBER...

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

Hunters Ethics and Oversight Committee Report

Scott Harmon, Committee Chair
301 467-0645 (cell)

The 2023-24 Hunting Season has started on August 1st, and we need all members hunting our property to register to hunt the farm (<https://bcciwla.org/b-cc-iwla-chapter-hunting-rules/>). In doing so, you acknowledged that you have read our hunting rules and know the property lines. Last year there were no reported incidents of trespassing on our neighbor's properties, which is a good thing. In years past though, there have been trespasses causing tensions between us and our neighbors. Let's make it two years in a row with no incidents.

If you have game, a wounded deer, cross our property line onto our neighbor's property, give me a call so that I can contact them to get permission to track and retrieve the deer. (Scott Harmon 301-467-0645) The best way to avoid having game cross the property line is to not hunt on the property line. Also, only take shots that you are confident you can make that are killing shots so the animal does not suffer.

If you are caught trespassing, you will lose your privilege to hunt and may lose your membership. Trespassing on posted property is a serious crime and punishable under Md. Criminal Law §6-402. A first offense is punishable by imprisonment of up to 90-days or a fine not exceeding \$500, or both. This includes all private land adjacent to public hunting areas.

If you have any questions about our rules or the property lines, feel free to reach out to me.

As always, be safe out there.

Hunter Safety Education Course

John Lamb
jpatricklamb@aol.com

On September 9 and 10, 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 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. This certification is recognized throughout the U.S and all over the world.

All participants must enroll online with the State of Maryland. Pull up <http://www.register-ed.com>, click on Maryland, click on Hunter Education Classroom Course, and find the date with Poolesville 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 can bring a lunch and an enthusiastic learning attitude to class. 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 at jpatricklamb@aol.com



B-CC IWLA to Participate in Poolesville's Day 2023 Festival

We are planning on attending and hosting a booth to showcase our Chapter at "Poolesville Day" which occurs on Saturday, September 23rd, 10:00am – 4:00pm. This family-oriented event, now celebrating more than 25 years, attracts over 12,000 visitors to the town and includes food, drink, entertainment, multiple kids' activities, arts & craft vendors, and other exhibitors. It provides a great opportunity for us to connect with local residents and visitors and highlight what the IWLA is about, and more importantly what we do in our Chapter. This is a great day out for the family.

Anyone looking for some volunteer hours, we need your help in staffing the booth. Please use the link below to sign up.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACA28A7F8C25-20232>



★★ ATTENTION HUNTERS ★★

Tree stands, ground blinds, or any other material that might "save" a location for a hunter must not be left out on chapter grounds overnight.

Farm Committee Report

Phil Taylor, Chair
bccfarmchairman@gmail.com

The farm committee has been busy around the farm throughout the spring and summer months. We were able to trim, fertilize, and mulch all twenty-eight fruit trees in our wildlife orchards during the spring clean-up. On May 6th we were able to plant our sunflowers in the B3 and front field (dove field). Our sunflowers fields were beautiful this year. It was wonderful to see members and their families' taking pictures and enjoying the beautiful fields.

Considering the extremely dry conditions on the farm this year, the sunflowers grew very well. After doing a little research on the average rainfall throughout the months of May, June, and July and comparing that to the data from our chapter weather station, the results showed that we were over eight inches below our average total for those three months. Our commitment to building our soils health on the farm really paid off this year. The results from our soil test show that our sunflower fields average three and a half inches of organic matter compared to the one- and three-quarter inches they measured seven years ago. According to the



Sunflower with bees

PHOTO BY JACOB OSBORNE

USDA Forest Service, every one inch of organic matter in the soil per acre can hold as much as 25,000 gallons of water. Research also showed that one inch of rain over one acre of land equals around 27,154 gallons of water. So even though we only got around three and a half inches of rain during those three months, our soil was able to absorb and hold it for the plants to utilize. Unfortunately, our garden field doesn't have the same organic matter levels. That field has about two and a quarter inch of organic matter according to the soil test. That is the field we decided to plant the vegetables in that we donate to WMUCO. Due to the lack of moisture in the soil the vegetables have not produced very much at all. We were really looking forward to donating again this year to those in need. Some of the warm season plants like squash and a few others may still produce but it will not produce three tons like it did last year.



Squash plants in garden field

PHOTO BY PHIL TAYLOR

Each year we experience different challenges while planting our fields. It is those challenges that have taught us how to be better managers of our farm. The most valuable practice we can do is continue to keep a living root in our fields all year long. We achieve this by planting cover crops. Cover crops for us check all the boxes. Cover crops feed wildlife, provide habitat, feed the soil biology, cover the soil, prevent

erosion, and that is just to name a few of the benefits. We are often asked why we plant the cover crops in the sunflower fields so soon after opening day of dove season. We just listed many of the reasons in the previous sentence but for the sunflowers one important reason is to prevent crop disease. Because we plant the same fields with sunflowers each year, it is extremely important to plant another crop to help prevent crop disease. We don't harvest any seed from the plants, the planning device pushes the sunflowers to the ground leaving the seed for wildlife to eat.

The farm committee is looking for volunteers each year to help plant the sunflowers and to set an electric fence around the fields and to maintain it until the plants flower. Please email me to be added to the list of volunteers if you would like to help. The farm committee sends an email with the work details, and you reply if you can help, there is no commitment.

I want to thank all the volunteers that have helped the farm committee this year. The farm committee couldn't achieve their goals each year without the help from the volunteers.

As always, I encourage everyone to take a walk and enjoy our beautiful farm.

How to Become a Member!

1

Start by going to our BECOME A MEMBER page.

Here you can download the application and get some basic questions answered.



2

Once your application is completed, email it to:

Applications.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com

3

Attend 2 dinner meetings AND make sure to sign in so we know you are here!



4

Once you have attended 2 dinner meetings, your application will be presented at the next board meeting.

5

Go to the NEW MEMBER FEES page and decide which type of membership suits you and your family!



6

Attend your 3rd meeting and get sworn in!

You must attend in person to be sworn in.

New member tours happen monthly! Check the newsletter for the date. You may attend a tour before you are sworn in!

Questions?

MembershipSecretary.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com

Calendar Submissions

Meetings and events that need to be added to the website calendar and newsletter calendar should be sent to both 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

The 2023-2024 hunting season is almost upon us, with several seasons opening the first week of September, notably dove season and resident goose on Friday, September 1st, and Deer archery season on Friday, September 8th. All chapter members wishing to hunt on our farm must:

- 1) Have a valid MD hunting license (including all necessary stamps, i.e. HIP stamp for doves)
- 2) Have a current and valid B-CC IWLA membership card as proof of permission to hunt on private land
- 3) Have a current and valid parking sticker displayed on their vehicle
- 4) Register on our website to acknowledge understanding our rules and property boundaries. This is a yearly requirement.

We are a large chapter with many hunters and non-hunters that all enjoy a day in the field, so we ask that everyone be safe, courteous and respectful in their activities on our farm. We adhere to and endorse MD DNR hunting regulations and policies. The MD hunting regulations can be found at: <http://www.eregulations.com/maryland/hunting/>, and can be downloaded on our website. Again, there are not many changes to the MD DNR hunting regulations this year from last. The bag limit remains at 2 antlered deer per year across all hunting seasons (archery, muzzleloader and firearm) and only one of those deer may have fewer than 3 points on one antler. In region B (our farm is in Region B), hunters may purchase a bonus antlered deer stamp that allows harvest on 1 (one) additional antlered deer. The bag limit of antlerless deer is now unlimited for archery seasons (we are in the Suburban Deer Management Zone), 10 for muzzleloader seasons and 10 for shotgun seasons.

Please report any sightings of bears on our farm to the wildlife committee; we have had numerous sightings this year, and we like to believe our habitat is healthy enough to support an occasional bear or two. Bears in Montgomery Co. are protected and should not be harassed.

Happy hunting and think safety.

Catch a Poacher 24 Hour Hotline 1-800-635-6124

OPENING DAY DOVE HUNTER'S PICNIC

Friday, September 1st, will be opening day for dove hunting and is usually a busy day at the chapter. As is our tradition, we welcome the new hunting seasons with our dove opening day picnic. The picnic will start around 5:00pm, with the philosophy to encourage our hunters to come out of the fields around 5:00pm to let doves roost and feed, thereby extending future hunting opportunities to those that might be able to only come out on weekends.

The farm committee has been busy tending the fields to improve habitat and attract a wide variety of wildlife to our farm. Once again, Phil and all the volunteers working with him have worked hard to prepare our farm for hunting seasons. Thanks all!

This year, the challenge was an exceptional dry spring, but the sunflowers persevered and came up beautifully. Once again the e-fences were in place to provide protection from deer predation. The sunflowers will be manipulated in accordance with MD DNR guidelines, so the fields will be ready for opening dove season. Doves have been spotted in the fields and across the farm already.

The planting of crops are also benefiting other wildlife, including our deer population and a wide variety of birds. We do ask that our members do not place salt blocks in our fields;

they wreak havoc with our crops and equipment. As a reminder, we do not allow baiting on our farm.

As with most dove opening days, we anticipate that there will be many hunters in the field. A few things to remember and consider for early dove season:

- shotguns cannot hold more than 3 shells, a state regulation
- no shot larger 7.5 may be used during the first split of dove
- keep all shots between "10 and 2"
- shoot time for the first split of dove season starts at noon
- it is usually very warm opening day, lightweight camo and lots of water is the order of the day
- know what a dove looks like, we are very proud of the wide variety of birds on our farm, but only doves are in season
- please pickup and carry out empty shotgun hulls
- have fun and be safe

Usually, we also suggest that bird hunters come out to our shotgun range to reacquaint themselves with their shotguns and get some practice by enjoying our range by busting some clays. Obviously, this year that won't happen, our shotgun range has been closed since January. For the conscientious sportspeople that value practice and proficiency, a few alternatives do exist. The Damascus chapter of IWLA has a well functioning shotgun range with skeet and trap fields and a well equipped 5-stand field. They charge current IWLA members the same rate as they charge their own members. The Tuscarora Gun Club has skeet and trap fields and on Wednesdays afternoons, set up a sporting clays course. They are currently looking for members. Prince George's Trap and Skeet center, a county run facility, is a modern fully equipped shotgun range, offering skeet, trap, 5-stand, wobble trap, and a 22 station sporting clays course. They are open to the public 7 days a week. Bull Run Public Shooting Center, another county run facility in Centreville, VA, is also a modern fully equipped facility offering trap, skeet, wobble, 5-stand, and a 15 station sporting clays course. They are open Wednesdays through Sunday. There are a few more shotgun ranges in the area, but most are not usually open to the public, requiring membership or a specific invitation to be able to shoot there. Please ask around, a friendly smile may be rewarded with an invite.

Also this year, be aware that there may be people stationed in our wetlands determining shotfall patterns that may lead to further restrictions on shooting in the dove field, dog training field and the agriculture fields B3 and B4. Shotfall patterns have been reason for restrictions and limitations on the shotgun range and may lead to restrictions throughout our farm.

**FROM THE MDDNR WEBSITE:
REPORT YOUR BIRD BANDS ONLINE:
WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV**

Each year state and federal biologists mark tens of thousands of migratory birds with numbered leg bands. Hunters who report bands recovered from harvested birds receive specific information on when and where the bird was banded while providing important information for migratory bird management. The 1-800 telephone number for reporting bird bands has been discontinued. Hunters who recover a banded migratory bird should now use pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/bblretv/. Anyone reporting a band will need the following information: the band number, hunters name and address and the date and location (nearest town) of the harvest.

Sunflowers!

Many thanks to Phil Taylor and the Farm Committee for planting the sunflower fields. They are beautiful this year.



PHOTOS BY
ARTHUR BELENDIUK
AND
ERIC PEDERSEN