# **DECEMBER 2025 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 winter approaching we seem to follow the lead of our animal friends at the chapter in our path to getting ready for the season ahead. Some of us start our preparations by stocking our shelves, making sure our woodpile is full and preparing to hibernate thru the cold months to come, while others only pause to change to warmer boots and add a layer or two before heading back outside to embrace the change and continue their outdoor adventures. Then there are a few who pack up and head south as the cold approaches. While you are following your path, take some time to celebrate the Holiday season. This is a time to gather with family and friends, give thanks for what we have, and to share our good fortune with others.

Having an all-volunteer workforce can be challenging, but our committee chairs do a great job in planning, organizing and delegating the work needed to keep the chapter running. I want to say thank you to all the members who have volunteered their time and talent at the chapter this year. Their efforts are on display every time you drive onto the farm, especially now with the chapterhouse and log cabin transformed for the holidays. I hope you will come to our holiday events. I look forward to seeing our Izaak Walton family at the Christmas party, December dinner meeting, and New Year's Day brunch.

Jerry Murray President

# **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.

# B-CC IWLA 2nd ANNUAL HOLIDAY SPORTSMAN RAFFLE

\$10 Per Ticket or \$100 for 11 Tickets



Ruger 10/22 semi-auto 22 cal. Rifle

Glenfield (Marlin) Model 60 semi-auto 22 cal. Rifle with scope

> Ruger 10/22 semi-auto 22 cal. Rifle

Need not be present to win.
Tickets are available at the Dinner
Meetings, Christmas Party, R&P Range,
and by contacting Jerry Murray
(jerrym5@comcast.net or
202 438-4202)

Winning ticket will be drawn during the December 17, 2025
Dinner Meeting

#### **Board of Governors**

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

#### **OFFICERS**

Francis (Jerry) Murray, President 202 438-4202 • jerrym5@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

Jason (Andy) Abell,\* Recording Secretary j.andrew.abell@gmail.com

#### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Stephen Austin Alexander Cowan\* Sebastian Fainbraun Lloyd Iden Warner Parks\*

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.



The Chapter will host its Holiday Party on Saturday, December 13 starting at 6:00pm.

Members and their families and/or guests are all invited to attend this casual event for an evening of great company, wonderful food, and holiday cheer. All attendees are asked to bring an entree to share with their fellow holiday revelers. A side dish and/or dessert are a welcome choice also. We will provide the beverages.

You may also bring your own beverage of choice.

This year's party will be festive and fun with the food being a feast for the holidays. So kick your holiday spirit in gear and come on out!

# December 2025 1,082nd Monthly Dinner / **Membership Meeting**

Wednesday, December 17

50 / 50 Raffle

Dinner Tickets are sold in the Boardroom

Ham, Taters, Carrots, Salad, and Desserts **Bring your own Libations** 

Gun Raffle Ticket Sale

Tickets - \$10 each or 11 for \$100

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

# December 2025 **Board of Governors Meeting**

Wednesday, December 17

Immediately following the Membership Meeting

#### From the Farm Committee

As a friendly reminder – if you are in the fields hunting, always pick up your empty shells.

# **Coyote Predator Control**

A group is being formed to look into the feasibility of controlling the coyote population on the chapter property. The group will be working on a proposal with a set of guidelines to be presented to the BOG. Anyone interested in participating should contact John Lamb: jpatricklamb@aol.com or Mark Gochnour: mgdonutman@gmail.com.

#### **Electrician Wanted**

Jerry Murray, President jerrym5@comcast.net

We have several projects at the chapter that require a licensed electrician. We have received funds to install a safety lighting system at the R&P range to replace the current flag arrangement and we want to have several new circuits installed in the chapterhouse to feed some upgraded equipment. We are looking to get pricing from electrical contractors to have this work done. So if you have any recommendations for electricians that have done good work for you in the past, please send me their contact information.

# Welcome to the B-CC IWLA Family!

At the November 2025 Membership Meeting, the following were inducted as members to the Chapter:

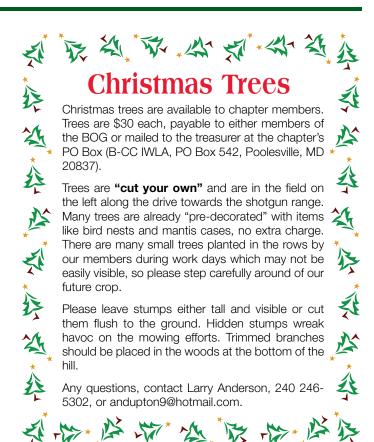
Rick Ducey – Family Membership Interests: Rifle & Pistol Range, Hunter Safety, Star Gazing

William Kelly – Individual Interests: Archery Range, Rife & Pistol Range, Shotgun Range

#### Calendar Submissions

Meetings and events that need to be added to the website calendar and newsletter calendar should be sent to President Jerry Murray, jerrym5@comcast.net; Andy Wight, andywight1@hotmail.com; and Corresponding Secretary Janet Lamkin, j.lamkin@comcast.net.





# **Interpretive Walk in the Woods**

Andy Wight, Conservation Education Committee Co-Chair andywight1@hotmail.com

Each year, B-CC IWLA hosts an Interpretive Walk in the Woods for Global Ecology students at Poolesville High School, giving them a chance to experience conservation, ecology, and the outdoors firsthand on our chapter property. Over the course of two days, we take groups of students on a walk through the woods, passing through several stations on topics such as forest ecology, wildlife habitat, water quality, and land stewardship.

We are looking for volunteers to help with leading or assisting at station stops (ecology, wildlife, trails, habitat, etc.) You do not need to be a professional educator, just comfortable with kids, willing to be outside, and able to follow a simple station script or support role. If you're interested in helping, please contact andywight1@hotmail.com for more details.

We are targeting February/March for this event; typically we run 4 sessions (2 per day). Please watch the newsletter and email blasts for updated information.

#### 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.

# **UPCOMING EVENTS / VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**B-CC IWLA and Community** 

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

#### **Trout Fishing**

at the Small Pond See rules on page 4

#### **FeederWatch**

Weekends Saturdays & Sundays thru Sunday, March 15 Observe birds from the Chapter House See page 8

#### **Rifles Rafle Ticket Sales**

Tickets - \$10 each or 11 for \$100 Available at the December Dinner Meeting and R&P Range See page 1

# **Annual Holiday Party**

Saturday, December 13 Starting at 6:00pm See page 2

#### **Membership / Dinner Meeting**

Wednesday, December 17 Dinner – 6:15pm; Meeting – 7:30pm See page 2

#### **New Year's Day Brunch**

Thursday, January 1 12:00 noon – 2:00pm See page 6

#### **Wild Game Dinner**

Saturday, February 28 6:00pm – 10:00pm See page 9

# **Rifle & Pistol Range Committee Report**

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

The Rifle and Pistol Range will be open to current Range Officers only, except for special events, until the first weekend in April 2026 when it will reopen for all members and guests. Non-Range Officer members and guests may use the Range if arrangements are made in advance with a current Range Officer and prevailing fees are paid.

#### Range Officer Training

In February, the Rifle and Pistol range committee will have an on-line training session and test for members who want to become range officers. There will be a sign-up genius and additional information in the January newsletter.

#### **New Year's Day Hours**

The Range will be open from 10:00am - 3:00pm on New Year's Day only!

# Muzzleloader - Blackpowder Day

This annual event has been rescheduled and will be held on Saturday, March 28 at the Rifle and Pistol Range. More information will be posted in the January 2026 newsletter. Contact Mark Gochnour at mgdonutman@gmail.com if you have questions.

# **Shotgun Range Lead Reclamation Update**

Jerry Murray, President jerrym5@comcast.net

On November 17 we met with J. Harne of the Soil Conservation District (the permit holders for the range reclamation work) for an inspection of the range to discuss the possibility of removing some of the sediment control devices and reopening a portion of the range. Based on the growth of the seed mix Mr. Harne agreed to the removal of the silt fences and filter logs closest to the range houses, the removal of the filter logs, and majority of the silt fence on the far (north) side of the stream, and to the removal of the stone construction entrances at the range parking lot and the base of the farm road. The silt fence along the south side of the stream and wetland buffer along the far edge of the range must remain until we get additional seed growth in that area. We have notified our site contractor of this and they have completed this part of the work and reused the stone from the construction entrances to upgrade the new farm road on the slope past the barn.

This approval completes the first phase of the lead reclamation at the range and turns the range back over to the shotgun committee to start setting up the sporting clays course and test the other venues to see if any of those can be re-opened along with the sporting clays prior to making the changes needed to limit the shotfall area.

# **Small Pond Trout Fishing Rules**

- 1. Trout fishing began on Saturday, November 15.
- 2. Trout fishing is for chapter members and immediate family only.
- 3. Anglers 16 and older must have a Maryland fishing license and \$5.00 trout stamp. Those aged 65 and older qualify for a senor consolidated fishing license; no trout stamp required.
- 4. Fish from shore only; do not use the boat.
- 5. Anglers may keep 3 trout no size limit.
- 6. Anglers may use only one fishing rod at a time.
- 7. Anglers should park in the chapter house parking lot.
- 8. Pick up and take all trash out of the small pond area when leaving.
- 9. Report the number and species caught to: John Novak, novakgang4@comcast.net, 301/385-0943 or Pete Wirth, Peter\_Wirth@verizon.net, 301/915-6763.

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

# **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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

## **Monthly Events**

Mondays Mondays Saturdays and Sundays Troop 2027G Meetings (Board Room) Troop 496B Meetings (Chapter House) FeederWatch – From the Chapter House 7:30pm – 9:00pm 7:30pm – 9:00pm Weekends through March 15

DECEMBED		
DECEMBER		
Monday, December 1	R&P Range reopens to Range Officers	All Day
Saturday, December 6	Decorate the Chapter House for Christmas	Starting at 10:00am
Saturday, December 13	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Saturday, December 13	Annual Christmas Party in the Chapter House	Starting at 6:00pm
Sunday, December 14	Montgomery Bird Club, Christmas Bird Count	7:00am – 12:00 noon
Wednesday, December 17	Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:30pm
Wednesday, December 17	Board of Governors Meeting	Following Dinner Meeting
Thursday, December 18	Cub Scout Pack 694 Meeting in the Chapter House	6:00pm – 8:00pm
Monday, December 29	Articles for January 2026 Newsletter are due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
JANUARY 2026		
Thursday, January 1	Annual New Year's Day Brunch – College Bowl Games	Brunch 12:00 noon – 2:00pm
Thursday, January 1	R&P Range Open	10:00am - 3:00pm
Sunday, January 4	Eagle Court of Honor in the Chapter House	12:00 noon – 5:00pm
Thursday, January 15	Cub Scout Pack 694 Meeting in the Chapter House	6:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday, January 17	Holiday decorations to be taken down – Chapter House	9:00am
Saturday, January 17	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Wednesday, January 21	Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:30pm
Wednesday, January 28	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Monday, January 30	Articles for February 2026 Newsletter are due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
FEBRUARY		
Saturday, February 7	NAVDHA Annual Meeting in Chapter House	11:00am – 5:30pm
Saturday, February 14	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Wednesday, February 18	Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:00pm
Thursday, February 19	Cub Scout Pack 694 Meeting in the Chapter House	6:00pm – 8:00pm
Wednesday, February 25	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Saturday, February 28	Articles for March 2026 Newsletter are due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Saturday, February 28	Wild Game Dinner	6:00pm – 10:00pm
The Campground is closed during all black powder and firearms deer season.		

#### **ATTENTION New Members!**

Chapter House cleanups will be held on the following Saturdays: January 17 • February 14 • March 14 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/ 10C0D4DACAA28A7F8C25-51060445-monthly

Questions? Contact John Lamb – jpatricklamb@aol.com

# AS A REMINDER... Registering to Hunt on Chapter Property

If you intend on hunting on the Chapter property, you must register on the Chapter website to acknowledge understanding our rules and property boundaries. This is a yearly requirement.

Link to register:

https://bcciwla.org/b-cc-iwla-chapter-hunting-rules/

Questions? Contact Hunting Ethics and Oversight
Committee Chair Larry Anderson at
andupton9@hotmail.com



# 3rd Annual New Year's Day Brunch **Thursday, January 1**

Join your fellow members on New Year's Day in the Chapter House for Brunch and Football!

For the 3rd year, Meg O'Rourke will be cooking up a delicious brunch for all to enjoy. We will have College Bowl Games on the big TV, a waffle bar, and a wonderful selection of hot food and cold drinks. Enjoy the Chapter House decorations one last time before they come down for the

Brunch will be served from 12:00 noon - 2:00pm but feel free to hang out and watch college football all afternoon. We will have ROs at the R&P Range so get in some range time then head on up for mimosas, Bloody Marys, and some brunch!

Be mindful that it is Archery Season so hikers need to be wearing bright colors (orange or pink).

Volunteers are desperately needed to help prep cook and clean up! If you would like to volunteer to help prep plan, be at the chapter house around 8:00am. Cleanup starts at 2:00pm.

#### **Membership Committee Report**

Scott Harmon, Membership Secretary & Committee Chair 301 467-0645 (cell) MembershipSecretary.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com

As of the November Board Meeting, membership stands at: 726 total Members: 371 Individuals, 234 Family, 67 Retired Individuals, 38 Retired Families, 12 Associates, 3 Student, and

With the end of the year fast approaching, your membership renewal is needed by December 31st. A late fee of \$37.50 will be added to your renewal if we do not receive your renewal by then. I have added the renewal rate for regular memberships below.

- Individual \$230, Volunteer fee \$75 if you did not volunteer 6 Hours this year. Total \$305
- Family \$340, Volunteer fee \$75 if you did not volunteer 12 Hours this year. Total \$415

There has been some confusion I would like to clear up about exemptions from work hours. In order to be exempt from volunteering 6 hours for individuals or 12 hours for family memberships, you must petition the Board of Governors to become exempt. Unfortunately exemptions have not been added to our new database management system. I will be compiling a list to submit to the Board of Governors in January for approval. Simply being a retired member does not

exempt you from volunteering. Some of the reasons for an exemption are, medical, caring for a loved one, military deployment, or ability to travel. Drop me an email if you would like to be added to this list with a brief reason for your

You are responsible for recording your work hours going forward. Our new invoicing system is tied to this login. Just click the link below to enter the information.

#### https://bcciwla.org/log-your-hours/

Lastly, it's important to increase our membership this year. Share our beautiful farm by inviting friends and family to join you at our ranges, fish at the big pond, go for a hike, or bring them to a dinner meeting.

## **New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour**

Tours will not be held in December, January, nor February.

The date for the next Orientation Tour will be posted in the February 2026 Newsletter.

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

# **CAMPGROUND NOTICE**

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



Thanksgiving Hearth

# 

for January Newsletter Articles is Monday, December 29.

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.

#### **Volunteers Needed**

We are looking for members who have a financial background or just like numbers to help our treasurer and the board to manage the chapter finances. The duties would include exploring new avenues for bringing in revenue, saving on our expenses, and running cost analysis on future improvement projects and maintenance. If you are interested, please contact Jerry Murray at jerrym5@comcast.net or 202 438-4202.

Land Fund Chairman Byron "Butch" Mezick

# **B-CC IWLA LAND FUND**

# Please Contribute to the 2025 B-CC IWLA Land Fund

The B-CC IWLA Land Fund began in 1994 to raise the required funds to purchase 127 acres of woodland on our western border known as the West Woods. Since its inception, the Land Fund has raised over 1,000,000 dollars from past and current members' contributions for the sole purpose of purchasing properties adjacent to our conservation farm. So, yes, our chapter has increased the size of the 366-acre farm it bought in 1949 to its present 624 acres.

Âll funds donated to the B-CC IWLA Land Fund are used solely for land purchase as articulated by the chapter's bylaws. Further, land fund contributions are tax-deductible and 100% efficient, meaning every dollar goes for its intended purpose.

Nation-wide the overwhelming reason IWLA chapters lose their shooting ranges and hunting opportunities is the encroachment of residential and commercial development. Individually we can't stop the advancement of development towards our present boundaries, but collectively we can, and we have. So yes, by coming together as a membership, we will preserve the opportunity for present and future generations to enjoy our lifestyle and chosen value system.

From shooting ranges to bird identification to understanding wildlife, woodlands, and open spaces, to hiking, gardening, fishing, and conservation education, we will inspire and motivate one another, our families, and

Please contribute by using our website, BCCIWLA.org, donate with your membership renewal, or mail a check to B-CC IWLA, PO Box 542, Poolesville, MD 20837. In the memo section of your check, write B-CC IWLA Land Fund.

# 2025 Land Fund As a member of the B-CC IWLA, I want to do my part and contribute the following amount to the B-CC IWLA Land **Fund Campaign.** Name Address \_\_\_\_\_ City State Zip \$100 \$200 \$1000 **OTHER** Your contribution is tax deductible.

Please mail contribution form and check (made payable to B-CC IWLA) to B-CC IWLA, PO Box 542, Poolesville, MD 20837, donate via paypal on the Chapter's website, or give your donation to a Board Member at a monthly dinner meeting.

### FeederWatch News and Seneca **Christmas Bird Count**

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

#### FeederWatch News

The overwintering birds are here, and our 14th FeederWatch season is underway! Counting birds is both enjoyable and educational. Please consider joining other chapter members who count species and numbers of birds observed within species on weekends through March 15.

Our data is reported to Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology, along with data submitted from thousands of other participants across the country. Our data helps Cornell scientists analyze shifts in bird species and numbers within species in the United States and Canada. Next Spring the Cornell Lab will publish results by geographic area. Maryland falls in the Lab's southeast region.

We welcome and seek new participants. Please email me if you can help, trina65@verizon.net. I will send you our tally sheet and instructions. Count birds for at least an hour on two successive days, or on one day if you are pressed for time, from the comfort of the chapter house.

Reserve a weekend, or a single weekend day, using our Signup Genius listed below:

> https://www.signupgenius.com/go/ 10C0D4DACAA28A7F8C25-bcc#/

Happy Feeder Watching!

#### Seneca Christmas Bird Count

On Sunday, December 14, we will host the Montgomery Bird Club (MBC) for a portion of the sixty-fourth Sector 7, Seneca Christmas Bird Count (CBC). The CBC, organized by The Audubon Society, is an annual nationwide event first conducted in 1958. Several MBC birders plus chapter members acting as escorts will meet at 7:00am at the chapter house and set out for the morning count, which typically lasts until noon. If you would like to join the count, please contact the MBC count compiler, Jim Nelson, at kingfishers2@verizon.net.

#### **Goose and Duck Decoys**

A member has donated both goose and duck decoys to the Chapter. If you are interested in any of them, contact President Jerry Murray (202 438-4202 or jerrym5@comcast.net).





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

# The Willard Log Cabin News in December

David Mecklenburg, Log Cabin Committee Chair dmecklenburg1@gmail.com

The cabin is a valuable asset for the chapter and should be used more often. Do you have an idea on how the cabin could be used? I am making a list of possible activities so please email me with any suggestions. All suggestions will be appre-

We still need to paint and caulk all the windows. If you would like to help, please email me. We may have to wait until the weather warms in the spring for the outside, but we may be able to work inside. So please email me at dmecklenburg1@gmail.com if you are willing to help. I will create an email list and contact you only when we have a painting date scheduled.



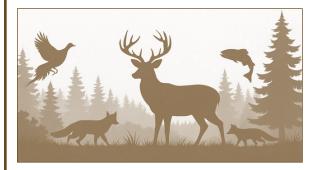
Chapter House Christmas Tree

# 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.

# Wild Game Dinner

# Connect — Share — Celebrate Tradition!



Bring your family and friends and link up with fellow chapter members at the annual B-CC IWLA Wild Game Dinner - a night of food, fellowship, memories, and shared outdoor heritage.

> Saturday, February 28, 2026 6:00pm - 10:00pm **B-CC IWLA Chapter House**

### Share your harvest!

Plug into the community potluck: bring your favorite wild game (or other) dish - main course, appetizer, salad, or dessert. We start with appetizers at 6:00pm, followed by dinner shortly thereafter.

#### Share your photos - build our shared history

We're compiling a slideshow gallery of hunting and outdoors photos from the past year. Submit your best images to help create a living album representing our collective experiences.

#### Share your stories - link generations and experiences

After dinner, members and quests are invited to tell their best hunting stories, outdoor adventures, and conservation highlights.

#### Build connection - strengthen our community network

This isn't just a dinner – it's a living network: every dish, every photo, every story strengthens our connection as a chapter.

Sean David Waterman, 2nd Vice President

Email: seandavid@me.com



PHOTO BY ARTHUR BELENDIUK

# Sights to enjoy at B-CC IWLA











PHOTOS BY ARTHUR BELENDIUK