



FEBRUARY 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

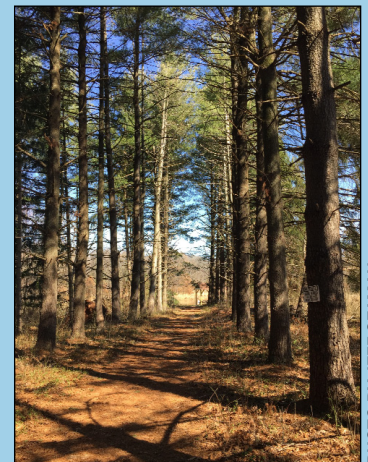
www.bcciwla.org

President's Message

Imagine if humans could build a solar-powered miracle machine that turns carbon dioxide into oxygen. Imagine if this machine could make strong and beautiful building materials and food as a byproduct and provide shelter for humans and animals. Imagine if this machine was self-replicating! It would be the ultimate recycling machine. Of course, you've probably guessed by now the miracle machine of which I speak – the tree. American poet Joyce Kilmer opines in his poem *Trees*, "I think that I shall never see A poem lovely as a tree." I'd like to think that Kilmer would have become a great conservationist, but alas he was cut down by a sniper's bullet in the Second Battle of the Marne in 1918. His point is well made, though. Not only are trees immensely valuable they are incredibly beautiful. A walk through our cathedral of the pines on the way to the large pond will leave with you with a profound appreciation to the beauty and majesty of the tree. Our 624 acres of mostly wooded property hosts a variety of native, imported, and invasive trees. There are huge white oaks and red oaks that are a primary fall food source for deer and turkey. There are straight, tall tulip poplars perfectly suited for climbing tree stands for deer hunting. There are black walnut trees that produce delicious nuts for industrious squirrels and other woodland creatures, and also for humans who don't mind a few stained fingers. We have Chinese chestnut trees that are producing fruit right at the entrance to the rifle and pistol range, and at the corner of the chapter house. Though we may take trees for granted, thinking about what they provide us, food, shelter, cover, tools, it's easy to imagine that human beings would not have flourished without them.

As we shiver through the depths of winter, I urge you to think about the warm lovely spring that is right around the corner, and the coming Arbor day on April 28th. Now is the time to start planning to plant some trees, and to get your orders in so they are delivered at the right time. It's also a good time to reach out to our committee chairs. Blaine Elkins is in charge of our hybrid chestnut project and can often use a hand planting, weeding, and watering seedling trees. We often get a delivery of trees to be planted on our spring cleanup day which is scheduled for April 1st this year. Larry Anderson (Christmas Tree Chair), Phil Taylor (Farm Chair), and Joe Snider (Forestry Chair) are active around our conservation farm and can also use help from time to time, so please reach out to them. Planting trees is a great way to get in your work hours and help these miracle machines that have provided us with so much.

Walt Allensworth
President



Cathedral of Pines

PHOTO BY JEFF SEAMAN



Trees in the field between the gardens and chapter house

PHOTO BY ARTHUR BELENDIUK

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 December 2022 Board of Governors Meeting and the January 2023 Membership Meeting

Jerry Murray, Recording Secretary, 2022-2023
202 438-4202 jerrym5@comcast.net

Wednesday, December 11, 2022 – Board of Governors Meeting

- President Walt Allensworth called the meeting to order at 8:20pm.
- Butch Mezick lead a discussion about the land fund and ways to maintain a sense of urgency with the membership to contribute during the year and not just during the annual December drive. Andy Wight will get together with Butch to put together a presentation and fine tune the ideas into a plan to keep the land fund in front of the membership throughout the year.
- Blaine Elkins said that the new wellhouse has been constructed and the electrical contractor has completed their work. Blaine is scheduling the plumber to come out next.
- The Public Relations and Education Committee notified the board that we are starting to run low on copies of the Conservation Farm Guide that is given to new members along with educators and scout leaders that bring groups out to the farm.
- Chapter House Committee Chair John Lamb provided an update on the new Fire Pit Scout project. John is also looking into pest control services for the chapter house.

NEW BUSINESS REQUIRING A VOTE:

- Carol made a motion requesting the use of the chapter grounds by the Seneca District Scouts for their Day Camp from June 26 thru June 30, 2023. The Motion was seconded and passed. An e-blast will be sent out to the R&P range officers notifying them that the range will be closed on these dates.

TALKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER:

- Jerry Murray passed out some pricing information for Adirondack chairs that we can use as a budget number.
- Jerry Murray mentioned that one of the R&P committee members donated an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) to the R&P Range and questioned why we did not have them in the chapter house and at all the ranges where we have events with large groups of people. While the cost of the units is high, we may want to put this on the CapEx list and discuss at our meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37pm.

Wednesday, January 18, 2023 – 1,047th Membership Dinner Meeting

- President Walt Allensworth called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.
- We are still in need of volunteers to help out in the kitchen for the dinners, any help would be appreciated. Contact our kitchen chairs, Jack Mandel and Scott Harmon, or President Walt Allensworth if you can help.
- 50/50 Raffle – this month the chapter netted \$135 in the raffle for the replacement of the Adirondack chairs.
- Membership Secretary Meg O'Rourke reported based on the response to the New Year's Day Brunch we are looking to have more events like this in the future and any suggestions would be welcomed.
- Fifteen prospective members introduced themselves and four member candidates were sworn in.
- Treasurer Bob Kelly reported on the SSB account balances.

(continued on page 3)

SUMMARY

(continued from page 2)

- Security Committee Chair Carol Hulce-Efdimis reminded everyone that the chapter house door can sometimes stick in this weather and to give it a push to open.
- Chapter House Committee Chair John Lamb reminded probationary (new) members that they need to help out in one chapter house clean-up. Check the newsletter calendar for dates.
- Chestnut Grove Committee Chair Blaine Elkins reported that they have been doing a fall planting of seedlings with 15 planted so far and about 40 to go. He is looking for help now and more in the spring. There are still hybrids available to take home and plant, get with him if you are interested. The Dept. of Agriculture has a genetically modified chestnut (Number 58) up for review and approval for distribution. This chestnut is blight resistant.
- Log Cabin Committee Chair Dave Mecklenburg reported that the log cabin smokehouse is in need of structural repairs and he is looking for help with the design and implementation of a fix.
- The March Dinner Meeting will be a kid friendly dinner and meeting with a 'kid friendly' meal and some educational and arts and crafts activities for the kids during the meeting time.
- The Family Campout will be toward the end of April. The event is for members, guests and their families. There will be more information in the March newsletter.
- This year the Conservation Dinner will be held on a Saturday night probably in May with the date TBD.
- Mark Gochnour displayed a thank you letter (poster) from the Global Ecology students that recently took the Interpretive Walk in the Woods.
- The Archive committee has started to score and research the provenance of the trophies in the chapter house. There is very little information on them. Anyone who knows something of their history please get in touch with Jim Tate.

TALKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER:

- Mark Gochnour reminded everyone that Blackpowder Day at the R&P range is the last Saturday in March.
- Art Belendiuk is looking to start an invasive species management plan for the farm. Anyone interested in helping please contact Art or Blaine Elkins.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.



Aerial view of log cabin and out buildings

PHOTO BY ARTHUR BELENDIUK

**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**

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:

- February 11
- April 8
- July 8
- September 9
- December 9

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

**February 2023
1,048th Monthly Dinner /
Membership Meeting**

Wednesday, February 15

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

**February 2023
Board of Governors Meeting**

Wednesday, February 22

7:00pm (note time change)



Kid Friendly Chapter Dinner

Our next Kid Friendly Chapter Dinner will be held on March 15. As usual, we will have kids' activities while adults enjoy the regular chapter meeting. Hot dogs, chips, cookies/ice cream, and juice boxes will be provided. Keep the date clear and use this opportunity to bring your kids to the chapter.

Questions?

Contact Andy Wight,
Conservation Education Chair, at
andywight1@hotmail.com.

Hunter Education Report

John Lamb, Committee Chair
jpatricklamb@aol.com

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

All participants must enroll online with the State of Maryland:

- pull up **register-ed.com** on your browser,
- click on Maryland,
- click on Hunter Education Classroom Course,
- find the date with Poolesville IWLA location,
- the site will ask a few questions pertaining to the student from there on,
- once enrolled, mark the date on your calendar and then wait for further announcements.

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

2023 R&P Range Training & Events Survey

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

Thank you to the 56 members, including 33 rifle & pistol range officers, who responded to the rifle & pistol range training & events survey. Of the respondents, 35 (62.5 percent) used the range 5 or more times, and 21 (37.5 percent) used the range 4 or fewer times last year. We will plan future surveys to help guide our training and events schedules.

Twenty-nine (29, 53.7 percent) of respondents have no range safety training, which means 27 (48.2 percent) of respondents have some range safety training. Thirteen (24.1 percent) of the respondents have Civilian Marksmanship Program Range Officer certification training, and 10 (18.5 percent) have National Rifle Association (NRA) Range Safety Officer certification training. The R&P committee took note that 30 (54.5 percent) were interested in taking range safety officer training.

Thirty-eight (38, 77.6 percent) responded have no emergency medical training (e.g., AED, CPR, First Aid, Stop-the-Bleed, etc.). However, 31 (59.6 percent) are interested in emergency medical training. The R&P committee again took note of 31 (59.6 percent) interested in emergency medical training. We are already exploring ways to offer this life-saving training to our chapter members.

In terms of informal clinics/workshops, we had a 3-way tie between 1) Defensive Pistol, 2) Pistol Marksmanship, and Rifle Marksmanship (35 respondents, 70 percent). Though an AR-15/AR-10 Workshop (32, 64 percent) was not too far behind. By far the leader, the NRA Pistol Qualification had 27 (64.3 percent) respondents vote for it, and the NRA Higher-power Qualification came in a distant second with 22 (52.4 percent).

Lastly, 42 of the respondents (77.8 percent) were interested in informal "fun" shoots. We're already planning several for later this year. Again, we greatly appreciate everyone who took the time to respond to the 2023 R&P Range Training & Events Survey.

If you have any questions or comments, contact me at matthewschambers@gmail.com.

Spring Chapter Cleanup

is tentatively scheduled for

Saturday, April 1

More info to come in the March newsletter and eblast!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Monthly Events

Saturdays & Sundays
Mondays

FeederWatch Season – Inside Chapter House
BSA Meetings in the Chapter House

8:00am – 4:00pm
7:30pm – 9:00pm

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 4	Shotgun Range Officer Course – Chapter House – signup required – see Newsletter Article	10:00am
Sunday, February 5	NAVHDA Winter Meeting – Chapter House	1:00pm – 4:00pm
Saturday, February 11	Adopt-A-Road Cleanup – meet at the Chapter House	8:15am
Saturday, February 11	Wild Game Dinner	5:30pm – 8:30pm
Saturday, February 12	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Wednesday, February 15	1,048th Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:30pm
Saturday, February 18	New-Member Orientation Tour	10:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, February 18	Pack 694 Blue & Gold Banquet – Chapter House	3:00pm – 9:00pm
Wednesday, February 22	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Thursday, February 23	Pack 694 Den Meeting – Chapter House	7:00pm – 8:00pm
Thursday, February 23	R&P VIRTUAL Range Officer Course	VIRTUAL 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Friday, February 24	Articles for March Newsletter due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Tuesday, February 28	Pack 694 Den Meeting – Chapter House	7:00pm – 8:00pm

MARCH

Thursday, March 2	R&P VIRTUAL Range Officer Course	VIRTUAL 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Saturday, March 4	R&P Range Training	10:00am – 12:00 noon
Saturday, March 4	R&P Range OPEN to General Membership	1:00pm – 4:00pm
Saturday, March 11	R&P Range Training	10:00am – 12:00pm
Saturday, March 11	R&P Range OPEN to General Membership	1:00pm – 4:00pm
Sunday, March 12	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Sunday, March 12	Kid Friendly Spring Interpretive Walk in the Woods – Chapter Members and Guests	1:00pm – 3:30pm
Tuesday, March 14	Pack 694 Den Meeting – Chapter House	7:00pm – 8:00pm
Wednesday, March 15	1,049th Membership Dinner Meeting – Kid Friendly Meal & Activities	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:30pm
Saturday, March 18	New-Member Orientation Tour	10:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, March 18	Pack 694 Pinewood Derby – Chapter House	12:00 noon – 5:00pm
Wednesday, March 22	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Friday, March 24	Articles for April Newsletter due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Saturday, March 25	Summer Biathlon Program at the R&P Range	8:00am
Saturday, March 25	Archery Range Cleanup Day	8:30am – 3:00pm
Saturday, March 25	Black Powder Day / Muzzleloader Event	9:00am – 4:30pm
Saturday, March 25	Archery Range – USA Archery Level 1 instructor certification program, lunch provided	9:00am – 2:00pm
Tuesday, March 28	Pack 694 Den Meeting – Chapter House	8:00pm – 8:00pm

APRIL

Saturday, April 1	Spring Chapter Cleanup Day – TENTATIVE DATE	8:00am – 3:00pm
Sunday, April 2	Montgomery Bird Club's Spring Walk	7:00am – 12:00 noon
Wednesday, April 5	Apollo Archery – Archery Range	6:00pm – 7:30pm
Saturday, April 8	Summer Biathlon Program at the R&P Range	7:30am
Saturday, April 8	Adopt-A-Road Cleanup – meet at the Chapter House	8:15am
Tuesday, April 11	Pack 694 Den Meeting	7:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday, April 15	Summer Biathlon Program at the R&P Range	7:30am
Saturday, April 15	NAVHDA Field Tests – front fields and ponds	8:00am – 5:00pm
Saturday, April 15	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Sunday, April 16	NAVHDA Field Tests – front fields and ponds	8:00am – 5:00pm
Wednesday, April 19	1,050th Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:30pm
Thursday, April 20	Archery Range – Beginner Adult and/or Child Seminar – equipment provided	6:00pm – 7:15pm
Saturday, April 22	New-Member Orientation Tour	10:00am – 1:00pm
Tuesday, April 25	Pack 694 Den Meeting – Chapter House	7:00pm – 8:00pm
Wednesday, April 26	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Thursday, April 27	Archery Range – Beginner Adult and/or Child Seminar – equipment provided	6:00pm – 7:15pm
Friday, April 28	Articles for May Newsletter due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Saturday, April 29	Summer Biathlon Program at the R&P Range	7:00am

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

B-CC IWLA and Community

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

Adopt-A-Road Clean up

Saturday, February 11
8:15am

Meet at the Chapter House parking lot

Wild Game Dinner

Saturday, February 11
5:30pm – 8:30pm

Chapter House Cleanup

Sunday, February 12
9:00am – 12:00 noon

1,048th Membership Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, February 15
Dinner - 6:15pm
Meeting – 7:30pm

New-Member Orientation Tour

Saturday, February 18
10:00am – 1:00pm

Meet Christine Peterson at the Chapter House

Board of Governors Meeting

Wednesday, February 22
7:00pm

Kid Friendly Interpretative Walk in the Woods

See Signup Genius on page 7 of February Newsletter
Members and Guests Welcome

Sunday, March 12
1:00pm – 3:30pm

Black Powder / Muzzleloader Event

Saturday, March 25
9:00am – 4:30pm

Spring Chapter Cleanup

Saturday, April 1
Starting at 8:30am

Spring Family Campout

April 2023

More information will be posted in the March Newsletter

Conservation Dinner with Speaker

May 2023

More information will be posted in the March Newsletter

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.

Calendar Submissions

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

Black Powder Day / Muzzleloader Event

Muzzleloading enthusiasts will gather for the annual Black Powder Clinic and Shooting Match, Saturday, March 25th from 9:00am – 4:30pm. The Rifle & Pistol Range will be closed to any other shooters until after the event is over.

Participants should meet at the Rifle & Pistol Range before 9:00am. Inlines, percussion, or flintlock shooters are all welcome. There will be instruction time for new shooters or those with new muzzleloaders while "veterans" and more experienced shooters will sight-in their guns. Don't miss out on this marvelous opportunity for knowl-



edgeable instruction, loads of fun, and the unique smell of black powder smoke!

Pizza will be served in the Chapter House around noon time with the shooting competition beginning at 1:00pm.

Shooting Match participants will be provided opportunities to shoot at novelty targets including – the Flopping Plate, playing cards, and a buffalo off of cross sticks. Targets will be shot at a variety of ranges from up close and out to 100 yards with prizes awarded to individual shooters. An overall Grand Prize could be a frozen turkey or ham.



Bring your muzzleloader or let Mark Gochmour know in your email that you would like a loaner. Contact him at mgdonutman@gmail.com for further details or questions, especially if you are bringing a new gun because you may need extra equipment or gear that you were unaware of and its lack could sabotage your experience. (Mark is a certified NRA/NMLRA Blackpowder Instructor.)

Cost is only \$20 for the entire day and that cost includes lunch and the shooting match. Any applicable R&P range fees are extra. Members and guests are welcome.

A Signup Genius will be created at the beginning of March so watch for an email or a link in the March newsletter to register for the day.

ATTENTION New Members!

Chapter House cleanup this month will be on:

Sunday, February 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.

REMEMBER...

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

Kids Friendly Interpretative Walk In The Woods

Sunday, March 12th

Meet in the Chapter Parking Lot at 1:00pm
Return to the Chapter Parking Lot at 3:30pm



Please use the sign-up genius listed below to register for the kids-friendly interpretative walk in the woods.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACAA28A7F8C25-spring>

We will meet in the chapter parking lot before being transported to our River Road starting point. The hike will begin by slowly walking up a steep grade that may not be acceptable to those with limited mobility. Our first presentation will explain how topsoil is a foundational natural resource of our food chain. Then, continuing to hike the hill, we enter an area surrounded by invasive plant species that block sunlight by being the first to leaf out in the spring and the last to drop their leaves in the fall. Next, we will enter a small chestnut planting area where we will observe several experimental blight-resistant trees genetically engineered by cross-breeding Chinese chestnut trees with American chestnut trees to produce a blight-resistant species. Finally, reaching the top of the high ground, we will encounter an assortment of discarded trash and discuss the time required for natural processes to eliminate them. A short distance from the trash pile, everyone will learn how to identify a white, red, and chestnut oak tree by its leaf and bark. As we continue to walk the woodland trail, deer antlers will be discovered, allowing everyone to hold them as we explore the life cycle of bucks, does, and fawns. Entering the intersection of two paths, we will observe intense development across the Potomac River and contrast it to our beautiful woodlands. From this location, we will explore how long we can survive without food or water as we define the five components of habitat. Walking along the West Woods trail, turkey decoys will be observed, followed by a box, slate, and mouth turkey call demonstration. Next, we proceed down a hill to reach a seasonal creek and discuss our absolute dependence on the magic of our planet's most important natural process, photosynthesis. Yes, we will explain at a level intended for children how photosynthesis is powered by sunlight, as oxygen and water chemically combine to produce carbon dioxide and sugar. Following the trail uphill, we will reach an area surrounded by items of interest. The walkers will then use several minutes to individually hunt for the items previously distributed by the presenters before sharing information about their findings. Our last stop as we walk back to the chapter house will be at a unique stone-lined well-like hole in the ground. After cautioning about the danger of falling into it, we will carefully approach and observe it.

Chapter House Report

John Lamb, Committee Chair
jpatricklamb@aol.com

We have a new fire pit at the chapter house grounds! Walt Gaskin selected his Eagle Project to be the construction of our fire pit. It replaced a ring of rocks that could barely contain hot embers to a more affective and aesthetically pleasing fire pit. Walt did this over this Holidays Season during some very cold days. I hope everyone enjoys Walt's project and that it gets a lot of use for years to come. Thanks Walt!!!



PHOTO BY TED GASKIN

Summer Biathlon Program

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

Contact me if you have any questions or a desire to be on the B-CC IWLA Summer Biathlon Program mailing list – fitnesscrafters@earthlink.net or text 240 472-6512. This year's schedule is below:

Saturday, March 25	8:00am
Saturday, April 8	7:30am
Saturday, April 15	7:30am
Saturday, April 29	7:00am
Saturday, May 13	7:30am
Saturday, May 27	7:30am
Saturday, June 10	7:30am
Saturday, June 24	7:30am
Saturday, July 8	7:30am
Saturday, July 22	7:30am
Saturday, August 5	7:30am
Saturday, August 19	7:30am
Saturday, September 9	7:00am
Saturday, September 23	7:30am
Saturday, October 7	7:00am
Saturday, November 4	7:30am
Saturday, November 11	7:30am

DRIVING ON CHAPTER PROPERTY

Privately owned vehicles are to remain on the main Chapter roads at all times. They are NOT allowed to drive through the fields or park in open areas. This includes no vehicle traffic to the back pond or in the fields unless the vehicle is in use in conjunction with a project being overseen by a Chairman or Committee.

Rifle & Pistol Report

Gus Zinsser, Committee Chair
240 750-0979 guszinsser4@gmail.com

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

Winter hours are in effect running from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

The range will be open to the general membership on March 4 and March 11 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. It will reopen to the general membership in April 2023.

Current R&P Range Officers can use the range. The range is open to no more than 3 guests outside of your immediate family household.

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!**

Current R&P Range Officer signup will occur on March 4 and March 11. An email will be sent to the ROs with the instructions and dates.

RANGE OFFICER COURSE

We will be holding part of this class virtual on the following dates: February 23rd, 7:00pm – 9:00pm and March 2nd, 7:00pm – 9:00pm. For those taking the virtual classes, there will be an in-person Range Training on March 4 and March 11 at 10:00am – 12:00 noon.

To be eligible to take this course you must:

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

If you are interested in becoming an R&P Range Officer, please contact Chief Range Officer Matthew Chambers at 202 854-8671 or matthewschambers@gmail.com.

FUN SHOOT

Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls

Please join us for the 1st annual Military Fun Shoot. Bring your rifle, handgun, or replica cartridge firearm (e.g. AR15, M1a, etc.) used by the U.S. military and see if your aim is the best. This event will be held in May.

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

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACAA28A7F8C25-military>

More information to follow in next month's newsletter.

Contact Event coordinator, Gus Zinsser, if you have any questions: guszinsser4@gmail.com.

Register to Hunt

As a reminder ... all chapter members wishing to hunt on our farm must register on the Chapter website to acknowledge understanding our rules and property boundaries. This is a yearly requirement.

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

Wild Game Dinner

Saturday, February 11th

5:30pm to 8:30pm

Share the Tradition



We invite you to share in the bounty of the great outdoors. Bring your favorite wild game dish to a potluck feast. No worries if you don't have wild game to share, bring a dessert or any other dish you like. Join the comradery of the hunt by sharing your fondest hunting stories. Every year we put together a slide show of wildlife pictures and harvests.

Hope to see you there!

Scott Harmon

301 467-0645 (cell)

Shotgun Range Report

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

The activities on the Shotgun Range are SUSPENDED until further notice.

Range Officers who signed up for duty during this time will be contacted to reschedule once activities commence.

New-Member Orientation Tour

- The next tour will take place on **Saturday, February 18** from 10:00am to approximately 12:00 noon.
- 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.

Welcome to the B-CC IWLA Family!!

The following members were inducted in January 2023:

Zaid Barsoom

Interests: Fishing; Shooting

Chris Cahoon

Interests: Building Maintenance; Farming; Youth Programs

Daniel Carrero

Interests: Event Planning; Photography; Rifle / Pistol & Shotgun Ranges

Sarah Uria-Wittman

Interests: Farming; Nature Trail; Youth Programs

DUE DATE

for
March 2023 Newsletter Articles
is

Friday, February 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 credit.

Conservation Education Free Spaghetti Dinner with Speaker

Date to be determined (May)

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

Archery Range

Beginner Adult and/or Child Seminars
Equipment Provided

6:00pm – 7:15pm

April 20 • April 27 • July 20 • July 27



Coming in April

Annual Spring FAMILY CAMPOUT

More information in the March Newsletter



2023 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 _____

_____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$200 _____ \$500 _____ \$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 or donate via paypal on the Chapter's website, www.bcciwla.org.

2022 Big Pond Creel Census Report

John Novak, Co-chair, Ponds & Streams Committee
novakgang4@comcast.net

The eighth voluntary creel census was conducted in 2022 at the big pond (Walton) which provides "catch and release" fishing for B-CC IWLA members and accompanied guests. The first reported catch was on February 27, 2022, and the last catch was reported on November 17, 2022. As in the past, the purpose of this census was to continue gathering information on angler interest, fishing effort and catch success, and to get an idea of the abundance and species composition of the fish resource in the big pond. Anglers were requested to enter their fishing information and catch results in the logbook in the metal box on the kiosk near the shelter. The following summarizes the data voluntarily provided by anglers for 2015-2021 and 2022.

	2015-2020	2021	2022
Total hours fished	124-255	265	200
Average no. of hours fished per angler	1.7-2.2	2.0	1.9
No. of angler trips	68-156	131	104
Average no. angler trips per month	9-14.6	14.6	10.4
Total no. of bluegills caught	31-274	100	243
Percent bluegills <5"	43-74	42	58
Percent bluegills >5"	26-57	58	42
Total no. of largemouth bass caught	177-404	522	344
Percent largemouth bass <10"	27-64	43	54
Percent largemouth bass >10"	36-73	57	46
Largest largemouth bass caught	5-8 lbs.	7 lbs.	7 lbs.
Catch rate for bluegills/hr.	0.6-1.4	0.38	1.22
Catch rate for largemouth bass/hr.	1.1-2.4	1.97	1.72
Catch rate for bluegills & largemouth bass/hr.	2.0-3.8	2.3	2.94

The amount of fishing pressure or effort in the big pond was less in 2022 compared to 2021. In 2022, there were 104 angler trips and 200 total hours fished. In 2021, there were 131 angler trips with 265 total hours fished. For the previous seven years the average number of angler trips was 106 and the average number of hours fished was 213. The average number of angler trips per month for 2022 (10.4) was less than 2021 (14.6) and less than the average of 11.9 for the years 2015-2021. One angler made 65 trips to the big pond which accounted for about 65 percent of all angler trips reported for 2021. The highest number of angler trips per month in 2022 (20) occurred in June while the highest per month in 2021 (26) occurred in July. The highest number of angler trips per month trips per month (40) reported to date occurred in April 2017.

The number of largemouth bass reported caught in 2022 (344) was about 34 percent less than that reported in 2021 (522). This was the second lowest reported catch of largemouth bass since the 2015 beginning of the voluntary creel census. Seventy-three percent of the largemouth bass reported in the logbook were caught by one angler. This angler

reported catching three largemouth bass over 5 pounds and the largest at 7 pounds. The catch rate for largemouth bass in 2022 was 1.72/hr. compared to a catch rate of 1.97/hr. in 2021. The reported catch of bluegills in 2022 was 243 compared to 100 caught in 2021. The 2022 catch rate for bluegills was 1.22/hr. compared to 0.38/hr. in 2021.

As shown in the above table, the total hours fished (200) and angler trips (104) were down in 2022 compared to 2021 when the total hours fished was 265 and angler trips was 131. However, the 2022 numbers for hours fished, and angler trips are close to the averages of 205 and 102, respectively, for the years 2015-2020. The lower 2022 largemouth bass catch relative to that in 2021 may have been due to the reduced number of angler trips and hours fished in 2022 compared to previous years. Floating mats of duckweed on the big pond during the summer of 2022 likely interfered with fishing success for largemouth bass. Further, largemouth bass are a little more challenging to catch than bluegills. Largemouth bass often require employing a variety of lures for success whereas bluegills are easily caught using only worms. The reported bluegill catch for 2022 (243) was over twice the catch for 2021 (100) and the catch rate was also higher in 2022. Perhaps this is due to an increase of young anglers fishing at the big pond who can easily catch bluegills. This would also indicate a successful spawning year for bluegills that generally spawn twice a year. This is good news for the fishery as a healthy bluegill population will provide dependable forage for largemouth bass which will in turn support a sustainable fishery for anglers young and old.

The 2022 voluntary creel census data for the big pond indicated some declines in angler effort and success for largemouth bass, but nothing alarming is shown by the data. The 2022 reported data for largemouth bass is within the ranges for previous creel census as shown in the above table. As every angler knows, angling success is dependent on many factors including environmental conditions, choice of lures, and angler experience.

The Ponds & Streams Committee thanks those anglers who took the time to enter their catch data in the logbook.



Check out our Facebook page!

**Izaak Walton League of America
Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter**