

JANUARY 2020 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

We had a wonderful December. We had a live auction at the dinner meeting (thank you again to Bill Miller and Walt Allensworth for the donations and to auctioneer William Price). We had a bountiful, joyful, crowded holiday party. And throughout, the Chapter house was a wonderland, with a glowing twelve-foot tree from our own grove (thank you, Larry Anderson), greenery and lights, thanks once again to Carol Efdimis and crew.

But that's behind and winter is fully upon us. By the time you read this, the Chapter house decorations will be stored away for next year.

Things may seem colder and grayer now. It's generally quieter at the farm than it was in the fall. But remember that the Chapter house is surrounded by a winter wonderland. About six hundred twenty-four acres of it. So perhaps you are catching up from things you'd put aside for the holidays. You're busy. Or maybe just the opposite. Perhaps you are missing the activity of last month. Either situation presents reasons to consider a January visit to the farm.

In that regard, here's part of an old poem. The poet is near some woods with a case of the winter blues.

*At once a voice arose among
The bleak twigs overhead
In a full-hearted evensong
Of joy illimited;
An aged thrush, frail, gaunt, and small,
In blast-beruffled plume,
Had chosen thus to fling his soul
Upon the growing gloom.

So little cause for carolings
Of such ecstatic sound
Was written on terrestrial things
Afar or nigh around,
That I could think there trembled through
His happy good-night air
Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew
And I was unaware.*

– Thomas Hardy

Remember also the annual Conservation Education dinner January 25 (more details elsewhere in the newsletter). I hope to see you there.

Jeff Seaman, B-CC IWLA President

Annual Conservation Dinner January 25, 2020

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

Jack Shaw, B-CC IWLA Board Member
and Ruffed Grouse Society Member
jshaw110@verizon.net

Every year in January the Conservation Education Committee holds a free spaghetti dinner with a speaker who addresses some aspect of Conservation. This year the dinner is scheduled for January 25, 2020. Dinner starts at 6:00pm and the speaker will begin around 7:00pm.

Bill Harvey, Game Bird Section Leader, Department of Natural Resources will present on the **North Eastern Woodcock Telemetry Migration Study**. Our chapter has contributed to this study through our Ruffed Grouse Society annual donation. Dave Hansroth, RGS Regional Director, Potomac Valley Chapter will co-host and introduce Bill Harvey.

The Conservation Dinner is open to the general public as part of our 501(c)3 commitment. Please invite your friends and acquaintances that have an interest in conservation. We have extended an invitation to the RGS Members of the Potomac Valley Chapter.

Mark Gochnour and his kitchen crew will serve a robust spaghetti dinner. Help is needed with the set up, preparation, serving, and cleanup. If you are able to help, contact Mark at mgdonutman@gmail.com.

Dinner is free of charge, but reservations are required. We want to make sure that there is enough spaghetti for all!!!!

RSVP by JANUARY 21, 2020 to:
Jack Shaw
jshaw110@verizon.net



Check out our Facebook page!
Izaak Walton League of America
Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter

Board of Governors

Fiscal Year: September 1, 2019 – August 31, 2020

OFFICERS

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301 252-8825 • MembershipSecretary.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com

Janet Lamkin, Corresponding Secretary

301 466-6557 • j.lamkin@comcast.net

Joe Trotter, Recording Secretary

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David Waterman

816 812-4917 • seandavid@me.com

Jack Mandel, Past President

202 487-8440 • jmandel@design@gmail.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 or
Newsletter.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com
301 466-6557



Summary of the November 2019 Board of Governors Meeting and December 2019 Dinner Meeting

Joe Trotter, Recording Secretary

210 352-0055 jtrotterccp@gmail.com

Wednesday, November 20 Board of Governors Meeting

- Paid for a report about a year ago pertaining to the presence of easements to help the agriculture reserve.
- Family campout went great! Truly a wonderful event. The ponds were great.
- Farm Chairman Phil Taylor encouraging prospective members to attend dinner and board meetings before initiation.
- We have one outstanding Cap Ex project – berm remediation at the R&P Range.
- **Website:** We received bill for \$1,724.28, to be paid from Management Reserve.
- Dwane Duvarkis walked the farm with Phil Taylor. This was Dwane's second visit looking at cover crops. He is working on an opportunity with the soil conservation district.
- **Membership Committee:** Consider encouraging members to get their renewals in, getting it out of the way before the holidays. Membership party December 7th, second billing will go out for people who failed to renew.
- County Council established an economical development committee that has recommendations forthcoming. They mentioned the agricultural reserve as important.
- **Archives Committee:** Had a meeting with History IT, Scott Kavarovitch from National was present. Met with Georgetown Library Archive Specialist. They gave us contacts to county resources. The actual Chapter charter was burned in a fire, National doesn't keep copies.
- **Chapter House Committee:** Joe Ryba came out and looked at the R&P shed and the grill roof. We need to come up with a list of all proposed improvements for long-term planning, possibly in the winter.
- **Maryland Division:** Convention! Get yourself a room, help find sponsors, and donate auction items.
- Ag. Reserve is under threat. Developers will look for the slightest crack and then move in. The land fund is incredibly important, and future acquisitions are going to be expensive. December 8 is Land Fund Telethon night. We have netted over a million dollars in forest mitigation fees. We are one of the largest contiguous wooded property owners in the state of Maryland.

NEW BUSINESS

- Motion to move \$1,117.94 to Cap Ex for the new website – Passed unanimously.
- Motion to approve new members – Passed unanimously.

TALKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER

- Have rules changed on campgrounds for firearms season? There were campers during youth firearm season last weekend.
- Mackall Ricketts, Past President from the 70s passed away. We sent flowers to the funeral.
- John Estep donated a food-warming lamp to the kitchen.
- Member who declined to renew his membership this year belongs to several chapters, just getting worn down paying multiple dues. Maybe we should lobby for a Retired Lifetime Membership. We're looking into process.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:31pm.

(continued on page 3)

SUMMARY

(continued from page 2)

Wednesday, December 18, 2019 Dinner Meeting

- President Jeff Seaman called the meeting to order at 7:15pm.
- **President's Message:** Thanked our generous donors for contributing firearms for auction tonight. Firearms auctioned to benefit the land fund.
- **Farm Committee:** Phil Taylor is busy with maintenance of farm equipment and sent in soil samples for analysis. We've gotten a lot of rain so it's fairly muddy, be careful with vehicles off-road. You can gain access to the UTV from Jack Mandel or Phil.
- **Wildlife Committee:** Shotgun season is over, muzzleloader is about to begin, followed by another shotgun season. 11 deer taken on the property so far. This Sunday we have a bird count, we hosted a feeder watch last week for the Montgomery Bird Club. They were able to flush two turkeys! Great Backyard Bird Count is this February. Common Red Pole seen on the property, only seen twice before.
- **Ponds & Streams Committee:** Save Our Stream monitoring event in December. There is no specific date yet.
- **Archery Committee:** Closed for the season. Lots of trees down, so plenty of maintenance in the spring.
- **R&P Committee:** Closed for the season except for RO's and escorted guests.
- **Shotgun Range Committee:** January 25 signup for RO duty. Hours are 9-4 for the winter season.
- **Campgrounds Committee:** Closed for the season
- **Conservation Education Committee:** March is kid-friendly dinner meeting. Mid April family campout.
- Conservation Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, January 25. Woodcock telemetry project speaker for Conservation Dinner. 13 states are involved in the project, tracking the birds. You must RSVP for the meeting, and this is an opportunity for volunteer hours if you're willing to work in the kitchen.
- Wild Game Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, February 29.
- **Website Committee:** Data is still being transferred. Committee chairs will need to be trained.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

MEMBERSHIP DINNER MEETING

The 1,011th dinner meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 15** at the B-CC IWLA Chapter House. Dinner will be served beginning around 6:15pm. All members and guests are invited.

Appetizers will be available before dinner. Dinner this month will include Salad, Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Vegetables, Rolls, Lemonade, and Dessert.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

The Board of Governors meeting will be held at the B-CC IWLA Chapter House on **Wednesday, January 22**. Board Members are expected to attend.

UPCOMING EVENTS

for B-CC IWLA and Community

Chapter Monthly Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, January 15
6:30pm

New Member Tour & Orientation (all members are welcome)

Saturday, January 25
10:00am – 12:00 noon

Conservation Dinner

Saturday, January 25
6:00pm

Reservations Required

Shotgun Range – Range Officers Sign Up

Sunday, February 9
9:00am

New Member Tour & Orientation (all members are welcome)

Saturday, February 29
10:00am – 12:00 noon

Wild Game Dinner

Saturday, February 29
6:00pm



SAVE THE DATE!

Kid Friendly Chapter Dinner

Our first kid friendly chapter dinner of 2020 will be held on March 18. As usual, we will have kids activities while adults enjoy the regular chapter meeting. Hot dogs, cookies and juice boxes will be provided. Save the date, and use this opportunity to bring your kids to the chapter.

Donations are needed...

The Maryland Division needs our Chapter's help with the 2020 IWLA Convention in Cambridge, Maryland on July 20-22.

Donations are needed for the Silent Auction (3 per chapter) plus items for the Regular Auction and the Youth Convention. All items should be new. Auction items ideas: hunting, shooting, fishing, possible fishing trip, conservation related items (beekeeping, bird watching, etc.).

Corporate and Individual Sponsors are also welcome. Names will be included in a program booklet and also on a banner.

Contact Bob Pavlick for more information – roberpav1@verizon.net or 301-526-4303 (cell).



2020 Adopt-A-Road Cleanup Schedule

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

- Saturday, February 8, 2020
- Saturday, April 11, 2020
- Saturday, July 11, 2020
- Saturday, September 12, 2020

Trash bags, gloves, and orange traffic vests will be made available for participants. Please direct any questions to John Robinson, 301 641-1188.



Welcome to the B-CC IWLA Family

The following members were inducted at the December dinner meeting:

Stephen Austin

Interests: Chapter Public Affairs; Rifle & Pistol; Trap, Skeet & Sporting Clays

Larry Harris

Interests: Farm; Legislation; Chapter Public Affairs

Hunter Looney

Interests: Hunter Education; Rifle & Pistol; Trap, Skeet & Sporting Clays

Sherban George Naum

Interests: Photography; Star Gazing; Trap, Skeet & Sporting Clays

Ari Roth

Interests: Grant Writing; Charity Fundraising; Hunter Education

For the Birds: The Great Backyard Bird Count and You

jim@tate-tate.us

At the Dinner Meeting just after the Christmas Bird Count, I heard one of our members comment about our guests from the Montgomery Bird Club. **"It must take a lot of study to learn all of those details about the wild birds!"** she said.

Wrong! I have watched complete strangers to bird watching dip their toe into the waters when they notice something they haven't seen before. What it takes to get involved is nothing more than opening the senses to the natural world and learning from it. This is a trait any successful hunter or fisher learned early, and practices often.



The **Great Backyard Bird Count** (GBBC) is an opportunity for everyone to learn about birds, is free, easy, and fun. Designed as a Citizen Science opportunity to create a real-time, world-wide snapshot of bird populations. Participants count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the four-day event and report their sightings online at

(<https://gbbc.birdcount.org/>). Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning bird watchers to experts, and they can participate from their own backyard, or anywhere else in the world.

Each checklist submitted during the GBBC helps researchers learn more about birds and the environment we share with them. Last year, more than 214,000 participants submitted observations of nearly 6,000 species worldwide, and created the largest instantaneous snapshot of global bird populations ever recorded.

The GBBC is a world-wide Citizen Science project. The top ten reporting countries are: United States, Canada, India, Australia, Mexico, Spain, Costa Rica, Portugal, Taiwan, United Kingdom.

In addition to submitting your checklists, you can also compete in the GBBC Photo Contest. (<https://gbbc.birdcount.org/photo-contest-rules/>) Even if you don't submit a photo to the contest, you can images from past contests in the GBBC Photo Contest Gallery (<https://gbbc.birdcount.org/photo-subs-2017/results/>).

The 23rd annual GBBC will be held Friday, February 14, through Monday, February 17, 2020.

Mags for Vets Winter 2019

Thank you to all the Ikes that donated mags and books to the 7th semiannual winter program.

The books (hard and paperback) almost outnumbered the magazines this year, which is a good thing. If you have a book club or are a voracious reader and want to recycle your books, please keep us in mind for the summer donation. Current magazines also help keep our service men and women in touch with a world that goes on outside of their hospital rooms.

New this year were books on CD's (tape is an outdated media format). These are uniquely popular to those vets who are visually impaired.

Thank you again for help in this worthwhile volunteer effort.

Warm Regards,
Douglas Smith

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date(s)	Activity	Time
JANUARY 2020		
Wednesday, January 1	HAPPY NEW YEAR!	
Saturday, January 4	Eagle Court of Honor – Private Event	1:00pm – 6:00pm
Sunday, January 5	Take Down Chapter Holiday Decorations	10:00am
Monday, January 6	Scout Troop 496	7:30pm
Saturday, January 11	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Sunday, January 12	Private Member Event at Chapter House	12:00 noon – 6:00pm
Monday, January 13	Scout Troop 496	7:30pm
Wednesday, January 15	Monthly Dinner Meeting	6:30pm
Monday, January 20	Scout Troop 496	7:30pm
Wednesday, January 22	Board of Governors Meeting	7:30pm
Friday, January 24	February Newsletter Articles due – send to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Saturday, January 25	Shotgun Range – Range Officers Sign Up – Chapter House	9:00am
Saturday, January 25	New Member Orientation Tour	10:00am – 12:00 noon
Saturday, January 25	Annual Conservation Dinner with DNR Speaker	6:00pm
Monday, January 27	Scout Troop 496	7:30pm
FEBRUARY		
Monday, February 3	Scout Troop 496	7:30pm
Saturday, February 8	Adopt-A-Road Cleanup – meet at Chapter House Parking Lot	8:15am
Saturday, February 8	Girl Scout Father-Daughter Dance	3:00pm – 10:00pm
Sunday, February 9	Shotgun Range – Range Officers Sign Up – Chapter House	9:00am
Monday, February 10	Scout Troop 496	7:30pm
Saturday, February 15	Private Event at Chapter House	11:00am – 4:00pm
Sunday, February 16	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Monday, February 17	Scout Troop 496	7:30pm
Wednesday, February 19	Monthly Dinner Meeting	6:30pm
Monday, February 24	Scout Troop 496	7:30pm
Wednesday, February 26	Board of Governors Meeting	7:30pm
Friday, February 28	March Newsletter Articles due – send to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Saturday, February 29	New Member Tour & Orientation	10:00am – 12:00 noon
Saturday, February 29	Wild Game Dinner	6:00pm – 10:00pm
MARCH		
Monday, March 2	Scout Troop 496	7:30pm
Saturday, March 7	Shotgun Range – Range Officers Sign Up – Chapter House	9:00am
Saturday, March 7	Shotgun Range Officer Training Class	After the Sign Up
Monday, March 9	Scout Troop 496	7:30pm
Sunday, March 15	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Monday, March 16	Scout Troop 496	7:30pm
Wednesday, March 18	Kid Friendly Monthly Dinner Meeting	6:30pm
Monday, March 23	Scout troop 496	7:30pm
Wednesday, March 25	Board Of Governors Meeting	7:30pm
Friday, March 27	April Newsletter Articles due – send to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Saturday, March 28	Spring Chapter Cleanup Day	8:00am
Sunday, March 29	New Member Tour & Orientation	10:00am – 12:00 noon
Monday, March 30	Scout Troop 496	7:30pm
<p>The Campground is closed during all black powder and firearms deer season. Check the online www.bcciwa.org electronic calendar for current and updated scheduled times of events.</p>		

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION TOUR

This month's **New Member Orientation Tour** is on Saturday, January 25 from 10:00am until 12:00 noon.

Membership Committee Report

Tucker Mostrom, Committee Chair
301 252-8825 MembershipSecretary.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com

THE LATE FEE DEADLINE FOR YOUR 2020 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL HAS BEEN EXTENDED INTO JANUARY!!!

Due to an unforeseen data issue, a number of renewal invoices were sent to out-of-date addresses.

- Please text me directly at 301 252-8825 if you have not received an invoice.
- Without mailing a printed newsletter, the chapter lost access to postal address-forwarding updates.
- The new web chapter website will shortly give the members the ability to log-in and update their contact information.
- A process will be established to share updates between the chapter's data and IWLA National's database.



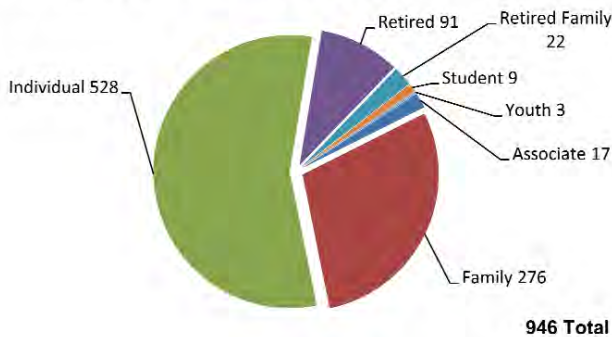
December New Member Orientation Tour

I appreciate your patience during this difficult time.

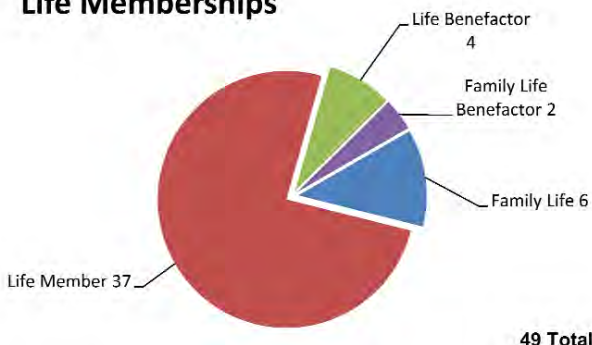
The **New Member Orientation Tour** this month will take place on **Saturday, January 25**.

The active membership breakdown as of the December board meeting is:

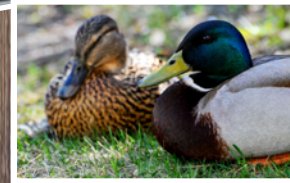
B-CC IWLA Membership Census



Life Memberships



Wild Game Dinner Slide Show Pictures Needed



If you have hunting pictures or pictures of nature you would like to share for a slide show shown at the wild game dinner, please email them to Scott Harmon (scott.w.harmon@verizon.net) and Lin Tate (lin@tate-tate.us).

B-CC QUIZ

Question: OK, it is only the middle of January, but it is not too soon to be thinking about Spring. Do you know which symphony by Ludwig von Beethoven features bird call imitations?

Answer can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

January Dinner Meeting Wednesday, January 15

Contact Chip Dunn, cdunn20842@aol.com, if you can help with food preparation, setup, and/or cleanup. 1:00pm setup start time.

Conservation Dinner Saturday, January 25, 2020

6:00pm
Contact Andy Wight at andywight1@hotmail.com if you are able to help with the planning, setup and cleanup.

Adopt-A-Road Cleanup Saturday, February 8

8:15am
Meet at the Chapter House parking lot

February Dinner Meeting Wednesday, February 19

Contact Chip Dunn, cdunn20842@aol.com, if you can help with food preparation, setup, and/or cleanup. 1:00pm setup start time.

Wild Game Dinner Saturday, February 29

6:00pm
Contact Lin Tate at lin@tate-tate.us if you can help with the setup and cleanup.

March Dinner Meeting Wednesday, March 18

Contact Chip Dunn, cdunn20842@aol.com, if you can help with food preparation, setup, and/or cleanup. 1:00pm setup start time.

Rifle & Pistol Range Report

Thoran Menser, Committee Chair
301 972-8353 bcciwla.rp@gmail.com

Chris Efdimis, Chief Range Officer
240 372-2258 bcciwla.rp@gmail.com

The Rifle & Pistol Range is officially closed to all members except Range Officers, their escorted guest(s), and for any events approved by the R&P Committee until Saturday, April 4, 2020.

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 shooters must **PICK UP THEIR BRASS!**

Shotgun Range Report

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

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY!

Winter hours for the Shotgun Range are 9:00am to 4:00pm.

There will be **Range Officer Sign Ups** on Saturday, January 25, Sunday, February 9 and Saturday, March 7 in the chapter house at 9:00am – please mark your calendar. There will be a Range Officer Training Class following the March 7th meeting for anyone interested in becoming a Shotgun Range Officer.

Range Officers – please double check and make sure all release cords and extension cord are returned to the range house.

Please pick up your empty shotgun shells and trash when finished shooting. Keep the range clean and restocked for the next range officers and shooters.

All Shotgun Range Equipment is to be used by pre-qualified Shotgun Range Officers **ONLY**.

If any equipment is malfunctioning, please let Joel or me know ASAP.

RANGE OFFICER SCHEDULE

JANUARY

Sunday, January 5	Need Range Officer
Sunday, January 12	Need Range Officer
Sunday, January 19	Need Range Officer
Sunday, January 26	Need Range Officer

HOURS OF OPERATION

WINTER HOURS

Sundays 9:00am to 4:00pm Trap, Skeet & Sporting Clays

COMING SOON

SPRING FAMILY CAMPOUT

We plan to hold the
Spring Family Campout in April.
More information to come
in the February Newsletter.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please submit all articles for the February 2020 newsletter
NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, JANUARY 24.

Training New Beekeepers

Tracy Waterman
tracyjbw@me.com

On two Saturdays in October, the Montgomery County Beekeepers Association (MCBA) used the B-CC IWLA Chapter House to train 50 individuals, including two Izaak Walton members, to become beekeepers. Students learned about bee behavior, anatomy, beekeeping equipment, and how to manage hives throughout the year. The 13 hours of classroom instruction is combined with hands-on mentoring in a bee yard that MCBA maintains at Brookside Nature Center in Wheaton, MD. This comprehensive instruction prepares students to obtain and start their own hives in the spring. In early 2020, additional beekeepers classes will be held. To learn more about MCBA, beekeeping, how to support pollinators, or to purchase local honey visit their website (<https://montgomerycountybeekeepers.com>).

Montgomery County
BEEKEEPERS
Association

Deep Creek Lake Dam Water Release Policy

Jack Shaw, Legislative Affairs Committee Chair
jshaw110@verizon.net

At its meeting on December 18, the Officers and Board Members considered and agreed to submit a formal statement to the Maryland Department of the Environment in Proceedings related to Deep Creek Lake Dam Water Release Policy. Issues under consideration in these Proceedings included potential limits on summer cold-water drawdowns affecting trout streams and Catch and Release Programs downstream on the Youghiogheny River.

Hydroelectric dams in Maryland are subject to regulation in the public interest and must undergo periodic review and renewal of their operating permits. Dam safety is paramount, but such proceedings also enable stakeholders to share their views and make recommendations on policies regarding the operation of Brookfield Dam.

Major stakeholders in this case include the dam owners, who need sufficient water releases to meet their electricity generating requirements, lakeshore property owners who desire lake levels sufficient to reach and operate their various watercraft, the whitewater rafting community which needs sufficient water flow at appropriate times, and Waltonians who have enjoyed and appreciated a successful catch and release program between Hoyes and Sang Run on the Yough for the past 25 years.

During these proceedings a movement has come forward advocating the termination of the cold-water release program in the interest of supporting higher lake water levels during periods of drought and low water. This proposal argues that the River is 'lightly fished' and the trout migrate downstream to Pennsylvania – for which there is no reliable evidence. The practical effect of this change would be to destroy the trout fishery in the River.

The engagement of our Chapter in this matter is in response to a request for support from the Mid-Atlantic Council of Trout Unlimited and is supportive of Maryland's Department of Natural Resource's recommendations as well.

Copies of the letter together with a one-page explanatory statement will be available in limited quantity at our January meeting, or copies can be requested via return email from Jack Shaw at jshaw110@verizon.net.



B-CC IWLA Wild Game Dinner *Share the Tradition*

Appetizers, Pot Luck Dinner, and Door Prizes

Saturday, February 29
6:00pm – 10:00pm

Join your B-CC IWLA hunting buddies for the annual "Share the Tradition" Wild Game Dinner. Bring a guest! Join in storytelling of hunting adventures or non-adventures.

Send your favorite hunting-related photos to Scott Harmon (scott.w.harmon@verizon.net) or Lin Tate (lin@tate-tate.us) and get ready to "Share the Tradition."

There will also be a silent auction. Proceeds of the silent auction go to the Land Fund, so come prepared to bid!

This is a potluck dinner. Bring your best wild game (or other) contribution. We will need salads, vegetable, bread, and desserts.

Appetizers start at 6:00pm
With dinner to follow



2019 B-CC IWLA TELETHON

Byron "Butch" Mezick, Land Fund Chairman

The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter of the Izaak Walton League held its annual Land Fund Telethon on Sunday evening, December 8. The telethon team called over 700 members in three hours speaking directly with individual members or leaving a detailed message. Our volunteers requested donations for the chapter's land fund, explaining how we protect our outdoor activities by purchasing additional acreage to buffer our conservation farm from development. The callers shared with our members that all donations to our land fund are tax-deductible and the fund is 100% efficient without overhead expenses. The team, comprised of our chapter's board of governors, past presidents, and dedicated members, created an atmosphere of positive energy and comradery. The overwhelming response from our members receiving the calls was positive.

Every successful telethon stands on the foundation of a database comprising all the names and phone numbers of those to be called. Many thanks to Tucker Mostrom who provided our telethon team with an extremely accurate list of over seven hundred names and phone numbers and to Carol Hulce-Efdimis who is coordinating the pledges and donations from the membership. Telethons require a bank of phones located in a large area with a family-style table. Many thanks to Ted Whitehouse for once again donating such a room. Our team enjoyed a large conference room located at Ted's K Street law office in NW Washington, DC complete with coffee and soft drinks. The common room greatly enhanced the success of the telethon by allowing our callers to experience the energy of the other callers. Many thanks to Janet Lamkin who will provide tax receipts to everyone who contributed, as well as a letter from the current president to personally thank those members who made large donations.

The following individuals participated in the 2019 B-CC IWLA Telethon, many of whom have donated their time and talent to this endeavor year after year. When you see them around the farm please thank them for their time and talent. Many Thanks to Jeff Seaman, Jack Mandel, Tucker Mostrom, Ernie Smith, Byron Ricketts, Frank Parker, Jim Tate, Lin Tate, John Lamb, Scott Harmon, Michael J. Ryan, Eugene Katzman, Walt Allensworth, and Jeffery Kop. A special thank you to our members who continually support one another in our efforts to protect the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Conservation Farm. **Our chapter accomplishes in conservation what so many speak of but so few achieve.**



Land Fund Telethon 2019

Left to Right: Frank Parker, Jeff Seaman, Walt Allensworth, Jeffery Kopp, Byron Ricketts, Jack Mandel, Michael Ryan, Ernie Smith, Butch Mezick, John Lamb, Tucker Mostrom, Eugene Katzman, Lin Tate, Jim Tate, Scott Harmon

2020 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 (written out to B-CC IWLA) to B-CC IWLA, PO Box 542, Poolesville, MD 20837

2019 Ponds & Streams Activities Report

John Novak, Co-chair Ponds & Streams Committee
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During 2019, the Ponds & Streams Committee (P&S) had another busy year with multiple projects and activities on and near chapter property. The following summarizes those activities and projects.

Spring Cleanup: April 6, 2019. We planted 50 buttonbushes around the small pond to control runoff into the pond. These bushes will also provide habitat and food for waterfowl and other wildlife as well as perching sites for birds and dragonflies. The partially submerged turtle platform in the small pond was removed and later replaced by two boy scouts. An attempt was made to skim a recurring problem of floating algae on the small pond, but it was unsuccessful because the skimmer needed more weights. At the big pond we: (1) removed a large tree that had fallen onto the shoreline; (2) cut brush from around the boat and along the shoreline; and, (3) set four minnow traps below the dam to determine if any fish had escaped from the big pond (none were captured). A site was selected for construction of the big pond shelter.

Fly Fishing Class: A Georgetown University fly-fishing class was held on April 13, 2019. A P & S member escorted a group of students and an instructor down to the big pond for this class.

Save our Streams: In April, under the leadership of Dominic D'Ambrosi, we monitored a stream on chapter property using the Save our Streams (SOS) protocol for water quality and macroinvertebrates. Water quality was found to be generally good chemically; however, a low number of aquatic macroinvertebrates collected in two seine hauls indicated a fair water quality rating. In August, a SOS monitoring event occurred on Hookers Branch, a tributary to Seneca Creek. Water quality on Hookers Branch was found to be very good chemically while the water quality rating for aquatic macroinvertebrates was poor. A fall monitoring event occurred in November on Horsepen Branch in McKee Beshers Wildlife Management Area. Water quality was found to be good; no macroinvertebrate sampling was completed due to low stream flow. A date has not been set for a winter monitoring event. All data collected under the SOS program was forwarded to IWLA headquarters.

Big Pond Shelter: Construction of a 12' X 16' pavilion-type shelter under the leadership of Frank Parker started in May. Frank developed detailed architectural and construction plans and purchased the necessary lumber and hardware for the shelter. On May 17th, six holes for the shelter support beams were dug by the farm chair, Phil Taylor, using an auger attachment to one of the chapter's tractors. P&S members constructed the shelter over the summer months with some interruptions due to extremely hot daytime temperatures. The shelter was completed near the end of August. Past chapter president, Jack Mandel, provided valuable carpentry expertise and power tools. Jack and his business work crew roofed the shelter and donated and placed gravel inside the shelter to complete construction. On fall cleanup day, Phil Taylor used a tractor equipped with a shovel to move dirt to the shelter for landscaping around the perimeter. Thanks Jack and Phil. Final landscaping was completed during the October P&S meeting.

Spring Family Campout: May 18 & 19, 2019. P&S members assisted with the kids' fishing down at the big pond. This was a very successful event with twelve kids catching about 50 fish, mostly bluegills and one 15-inch largemouth bass. All kids caught fish; with some catching more than ten fish. The chapter provided the fishing equipment and worms.

Big Pond Scuba Dive: June 22, 2019. John Stinson, a P&S member, did a scuba dive in the big pond to locate the fish habitat structures, reattach a float to one of the aerators, retrieve a sunken turtle platform, and inspect the upstream face of the dam. Due to poor underwater visibility, he was only able to do a cursory inspection of the upstream face of the dam; no potential problems regarding dam integrity were observed. Depending on water clarity, another dive may take place in 2020.

Heritage Days: June 29 & 30, 2019. P&S members assisted with kids' fishing events on both days. Also, P & S members had exhibits of aquatic macroinvertebrate specimens, the monarch butterfly life cycle, and wildlife in the chapter house.

Fall Cleanup: September 28, 2019. Projects included cutting the tall grass along the big pond shoreline, cleaning the life ring, cutting tall grass and brush around the kiosk and boat, and setting four minnow traps to determine if successful sunfish spawning had occurred. About 70 bluegill fingerlings were caught documenting that successful spawning had occurred during the previous months. Bluegills may spawn more than once during the summer season.

Small Pond Projects: October 19, 2019. These projects included cutting tall grass/other vegetation around the pond with a heavy duty mower and a gasoline powered hedge trimmer, cleaning the life ring, touch up painting of the kiosk, and setting four minnow traps to determine if any successful sunfish spawning had occurred during the previous months. There was successful spawning as about 50 bluegill fingerlings were caught.

Fall Family Campout: October 26 & 27, 2019. P&S members assisted with the kids' fishing event down at the big pond. This was a highly popular event with over twenty kids participating. All kids caught fish, mostly bluegills, ranging from 4-6" in size. Two and half tubs of worms were used down to the last half-inch of worm.

Big Pond Creel Census: The big pond voluntary creel census was conducted during 2019 from the middle of March to the middle of November. This was the fifth voluntary creel census conducted down at the big pond. A preliminary review of the reported catch data indicates that the number of largemouth bass caught was twice the catch in 2018 and was also higher than the 2015-2017 average. Bluegill reported catch was lower than in 2018 and lower than the 2015-2017 average. A detailed report on the 2019 voluntary creel census will be prepared for a future newsletter.

Winter Salt Watch Project: In October and early November, baseline readings for chloride were taken from streams and both ponds on chapter property and on some streams nearby. After a snowfall or ice event when roads are treated with salt (sodium chloride), there will be follow-up testing for chloride. All results from this salt watch project will be reported to IWLA headquarters via the Water Reporter app.

The following P&S members participated in the above activities and projects: Frank Parker, Pete Wirth, Dave Gerth, Vic Erzeski, Brett Davis, John Estep, Mike Spencer, Nona Colburn, Dominic D'Ambrosi, Andy Oetman, Guy Wiegold, John Stinson, Suzanne Novak, Shannon Novak, Bryan Kurtz, Neill Morgan, and Mark Fleury. Many thanks to you all for making 2019 a successful year for the P&S committee. We thank Kevin King for his work maintaining the aerators in both ponds.

B-CC Quiz Answer: Symphony No. 6 (in F major, Opus 68; also known as the Pastoral Symphony)

Christmas Bird Count and FeederWatch – December 15, A Good Day

Diane Seward
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You saw the day come up bright and sunny- if you were up at sunrise with the bird watchers from the Montgomery Bird Club gathered in our parking lot. For the last eight years, birders doing part of the 15-mile Seneca Christmas Bird Count circle have started their day with hot coffee and rolls at our chapter house instead of meeting on the corner of River Road and West Willard Way. As a bonus, the Conservation Farm bird life gets added to the Seneca CBC tallies each year.

Some of the twenty MBC birders were escorted by our Wildlife Chairman Larry Anderson and Scott (“Turkey Whisperer”) Harmon around the property, while Diane Seward and Jim Tate started the four-hour FeederWatch session. Others went further afield to cover the rest of Sector 7 of the Seneca CBC circle (which includes parts of Montgomery County, Maryland, and Fairfax, and Loudon



counties, Virginia). Everyone returned to the chapter house by noon to summarize their observations and plan the mop-up of birds and areas in the sector that may have been missed.

Combined, the field counters and the FeederWatchers tallied 39 species and 1,055 individual birds on the Conservation Farm. The 39 species observed this year were markedly higher than the 31 species counted last year in inclement weather and about the same as the 40 species observed in 2017. This year the only Sharp-shinned Hawk and Winter Wren observed in Sector 7 were found on the Conservation Farm.



Of particular note for the birding community, Jim Tate identified a Common Redpoll, a species observed only twice before (in other sectors of the count circle) in the 60-year history of the Seneca CBC, most recently in 2012. A detailed report has been prepared about the unusual sighting so that the CBC administrators at National Audubon and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology can evaluate and, hopefully, confirm the record.



The high number of individual birds reported this year, 1,055, largely due to the crows, increased dramatically from last year when only 315 birds were found on a rainy and dismal day, and 2017 when only 645 birds were observed.

Species	2017	2018	2019
American Robin	88	2	5
Crows, American and Fish	96	18	710
European Starling	148	40	25
Cedar Waxwing	32	0	28
Carolina Wren	15	7	8
House Finch	16	0	17
American Goldfinch	9	3	5
Blue Jay	14	29	11
Northern Flicker	6	10	6
White-throated Sparrow	9	24	19
Dark-eyed Junco	12	20	13
Eastern Bluebird	23	4	17

Canada Geese were much more abundant this year (70) than in the last two years (50 and 70).

Nine Eastern Towhees were counted this year, none observed in 2018.

The numbers of other species counted, for example Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush, Northern Mockingbird remained relatively stable compared to past counts. When the final numbers for all sectors of the CBC have been tallied, and the Common Redpoll hopefully confirmed, we plan to publish them on our B-CC IWLA newly revised website.

If you would like to see a complete listing of the 2019 count, please let me know, and I will send it to you.

January Dinner Speaker

This month we are fortunate to have as our guest speaker Ms. Lori Mayhew. Ms. Mayhew has for two decades been a teacher at Damascus High School and at Future Farmers of America. She is also the 2019 recipient of the Royce Hanson Award, which is given annually to persons for their work to improve the Agricultural Reserve or local agriculture. Ms. Mayhew has, often against the odds and against common expectations, guided many students to careers in agriculture. She will talk to us about the challenges of agricultural education, about some successes in the classroom and in the community, and about her hopes for the future of agricultural education locally.

2019 Chapter Christmas Party
Saturday, December 14



2020 IWLA National Convention
July 20 to 22, 2020
Early Bird – July 19, 2020



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Other attractions include: charter boat fishing in the Chesapeake, sea kayaking, sporting clays, bird watching.

\$165/night (group rate)

This rate is over 50% off the normal rate.

Plus Free Parking, RV Parking, and No Resort Fee

The IWLA group room rate applies three days before and three days after the convention, but rooms availability is only guaranteed for the three days of the convention and not for the three day extended periods before and after the convention. The Cambridge Hyatt Regency is a very popular luxury resort that normally sells out well before the beginning of the summer season, and if you are planning to stay at the hotel during one of the extended periods, you should make your reservation now, while rooms are available. Note: Most people arrive a day before the convention to attend the Early Bird social event held the night before the convention.

Nearby Attractions and Activities

- Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge
- Harriet Tubman Museum
- Phillips Warf Environmental Center
- Pickering Creek Audubon Center
- Tilghman Island
- St. Michaels

Extend your vacation at our Atlantic beach resort of Ocean City, MD or explore Chincoteague Island and its famous wild ponies. Whatever you choose please join us to play, relax, and discover Maryland's Chesapeake.



For reservations:

800-323-7249

<https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/CHESA/G-IWLA>