



## JANUARY 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](http://www.bcciwla.org)

## President's Message

New Years is a time for rebirth, a time for resolutions. Among the many self improvement activities you might take on in 2023, I implore you to make one resolution this year, and that is to introduce a friend or a child to the outdoors. Tom Brown, in *The Tracker*, quotes a native American saying that makes the point very bluntly: "Every animal knows more than you do!" Aldo Leopold is a bit more intellectual: "No matter how intently one studies the hundred little dramas of the woods and meadows, one can never learn all the salient facts about any one of them." If you have spent decades in the woods in pursuit of wild



game, you already know this to be true. Nature gives up its secrets very grudgingly, and they are extremely easy to miss even though they are often right there in front of you. A novice might walk right by a scrape in the woods that was made by a rutting buck, not realizing that this is the equivalent of a pick-up bar scene in the deer woods. Many deer, both male and female, come by and leave their scent-laden calling cards. A buck breaks a "licking branch" above the scrape and deposits pheromones there that does are quite sensitive to. The height of the broken branch tells the does something about the size of the buck. Bucks visit often throughout the day to smell if a doe in estrus (receptive to mating) has visited the scrape. So to Leopold's point, a hundred such dramas are playing out every day in the woods and we are blissfully ignorant of most of them. Leopold tells us that "... the most fun lies in seeing and studying the unknown." He also says that "we grieve only for what we know."

So if we are going to preserve our outdoor heritage and the environment, education is the only way! Every single member of the Izaak Walton League can be a mentor, an enabler, and a teacher of the wonder of the woods. The beautiful thing about it is that you don't even have to know anything. It takes nothing more than a pair of sturdy boots and the gumption to hit the woods with your eyes and ears open. What flowers bloom in the winter? Where do deer hole-up on a cold and wintery day? How does ice form on a creek bank? What animal tracks and trails can we find in the snow? On an easy-paced two hour amble through the woods (the slower the better) I guarantee you that you or your hiking companion will see something wonderful that you have not seen before. If people come to love the wild outdoors they will want to protect it. Our conservation farm has 623 acres of land with over ten miles of trails, two ponds, and many miles of streams. So if I can be so bold, please make one of your New Year's resolutions to bring a friend into our woods starting in January and learn more about what every animal knows.



Walt Allensworth  
President

PHOTOS FROM WALT ALLENSWORTH

## 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**

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**Dan Dutton**

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

**Joe Finnegan**

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**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 November 2022 Board of Governors Meeting and the December 2022 Membership Meeting

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

### Wednesday, November 16, 2022 – Board of Governors Meeting

- President Walt Allensworth called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.
- Butch Mezick asked that board members sign up to volunteer at the Land Fund Telethon on Saturday, December 11.
- John Lamb introduced an Eagle Scout who requested permission to revamp the existing fire circle near the chapter house into a new fire pit for the chapter as his Eagle Scout project. The new fire pit would be approx. 6' in diameter and approx. 16" high. The pit would be made out of stone blocks.
- A power outage earlier this month required a reset of the entrance gate and the shotgun range security system breakers. Security chair (Carol Hulce-Efdimis) recommends replacing/upgrading the existing computer with a laptop that would allow an easier reset of the system.
- President Walt Allensworth completed the food service course, and we are still looking for more volunteers to take the class so we will have coverage at all the chapter events that serve food.
- There was discussion about balancing the amount of food prepared for the meetings with the attendance. We should look into past dinners and see if there is a pattern of higher or lower attendance depending on the month or menu.
- The 50 / 50 raffle was a success.
- Blaine Elkins reminded the Board that all our vendors need to submit a current insurance certificate to us showing their liability and workman's compensation insurance. All the committee chairs should be reminded of this when they are looking into having companies work on the property.

### NEW BUSINESS (Requiring A Vote):

- A Motion was made to move the unfunded security upgrades item on the CapEx list to the Funded list and move forward with them. The motion was seconded and passed.
- A Motion was made to approve the use of the Chapter House by NAVHDA in January for their Executive Meeting, on February 6 for their mid-year Winter meeting, and use of the property for their Field tests on April 15-16. The motion was seconded and passed.
- A Motion was made to approve the purchase of a used shipping container for storage at the shotgun range to replace the old truck body. The motion was seconded and approved.
- A Motion was made to approve the Eagle Scout project. Funds for the construction materials would come from Management Reserve. The motion was seconded and passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40pm.

### Wednesday, December 21, 2022 – 1,046th Consecutive Dinner Meeting

- President Walt Allensworth called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.
- President Walt Allensworth reported that the 50 / 50 raffle that we have restarted to replace our Adirondack chairs netted \$184 this month.

(continued on page 3)

## SUMMARY

(continued from page 2)

- Butch Mezick gave a recap of the Land Fund drive and reminded everyone of the importance of being able to purchase adjacent land when it becomes available, so as to buffer us from encroaching development. He explained how the land fund has helped our chapter grow from the original 366 acres purchased in 1949 to the current 624 acres. We need to encourage our fellow members to donate to the fund. All donations will go toward the purchase of additional land and not be used for any other purpose.
- Eleven prospective new members introduced themselves and listed their main interests in the chapter's activities. Four new members were sworn in.
- Larry Anderson, Wildlife Committee Chair, reported that starting in January DNR is conducting a 3-year study on wild turkey flocks. The reporting is done on-line and they are looking for the size and location of the flock.
- John Novak, Ponds & Streams Co-chair, would like your old Christmas trees to create a fish habitat structure at the small pond. This was one of the recommendations in the report from October's electro-fishing survey. The fish biologist had several other recommendations to help the small pond. These included: a fish feeder, stocking larger bluegills and removing some of the larger bass. John has the report, and if you would like a copy please e-mail him.
- Dave Mecklenburg, Log Cabin Committee and Bee Aviary Committee, has several projects he could use some help with at the cabin. Please contact him if you could lend a hand. He reported that the bees remain active year round as they work to maintain the temperature in the hive.
- Andy Wight, 2nd VP and Conservation Education Committee Chair, reminded everyone that the Spring Family Campout will be in April, the Conservation Dinner will be in May, and he is looking for suggestions for a guest speaker at the dinner.
- The March Dinner Meeting will feature a 'kid friendly' meal and will have an activity for the kids while the meeting is held.
- John Lamb, Hunter Safety Education Committee Chair, stated that the dates for the 2023 Hunter Education classes at the Chapter are May 5-6 and September 9-10. Sign-up information will be in the newsletter, and please sign up even if it says the class is full since he always gets cancellations and no-shows. His two pop quiz questions (the 4 parts of ammo and 4 parts of a firearm) were from the exam.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

## Adopt-A-Road Cleanup Schedule for 2023

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.

**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**

## Advanced Planning & Finance Committee Meeting

A meeting of the AP&FC is scheduled for Sunday, January 22 at 2:00pm.

## January 2023 1,047th Monthly Dinner / Membership Meeting

Wednesday, January 18

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

## January 2023 Board of Governors Meeting

Wednesday, January 25  
7:00pm (note time change)

## Holiday Decorating

Carol Hulce-Efdimis, 1st VP

After a 3-year hiatus, it was great to be able to see the chapter house decorated for the holidays, and a big thank you to Meg O'Rourke, John Lamb, Andy and Marie Mayer, Chris Bogdan, John Stinson, Sharon Wine, Christine Peterson, and Jerry Murray for helping to decorate and undecorate.

## Lost and Found

**Missing item** – metal ramrod to a flintlock shotgun, 30 inches long, 3/8" in diameter. Possibly in archery woods, in the field up to the chapter house by the crop plot, or in the woods/field to the north of the R&P range to the west of the Nature Trail. If found, please contact Mark Gochnour – mgdonutman@gmail.com. **\$25 reward.**



## Take a Few Minutes to Help Bring Back American Chestnut Trees!!!

BCC members are asked to take this opportunity to write the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) **BEFORE JANUARY 26** to support the new, blight-resistant variety of the American Chestnut tree. Our Chapter has for many years continued work to help re-establish the American Chestnut, which will be tremendously valuable to US wildlife if it can be reintroduced in the wild. We strongly support deregulation of the new "Darling 58" variety so it can be planted here and elsewhere in the US. The American Chestnut, which once was a major wildlife food source all over the eastern US, was wiped out by an introduced disease. Scientists have been trying for many years to find a variety of American Chestnut that would survive ... and B-CC IWLA continues to participate in that effort. Here's a very good way to help!

The original deadline for comments has been extended until January 26 because they want more comments. You can post your email comments online at:

<https://www.regulations.gov/commenton/APHIS-2020-0030-8291>

It's easy, and you don't have to stress to do it! Even just say something like, "I'm a member of BCC Izaak Walton League and we are very, very supportive of reintroducing this species." **BCC SUPPORT IS NEEDED!** If you would rather write a snail mail letter, that's fine (click the link for the address).

Every voice will help... Your voice, too!

## 2022 B-CC IWLA TELETHON

Byron "Butch" Mezick  
Land Fund Committee Chair

The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter of the Izaak Walton League held its annual "Land Fund Telethon" Sunday evening, December 11. The telethon team called just under 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. It was a pleasure to hear, "Yes, I will definitely donate to the Land Fund."

Many thanks to all who worked to support this year's telethon. Meg O'Rourke and Carol Hulce-Efdimis provided our telethon team with a highly accurate list of over seven hundred names and phone numbers. Meg and Carol are also coordinating the pledges and donations from the membership. Janet Lamkin will provide tax receipts to everyone who contributed and a letter from the current president, Walt Allensworth, who will personally thank those who made large donations. A warm fire, cold drinks, and an assortment of pizzas helped create camaraderie among those members calling from the Chapter House.

The following individuals participated in the 2022 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 dedication. Many thanks to our Telethon Callers – Walt Allensworth, Lin Tate, Deborah Behrend, Kenney West, John Lamb, George Coakley, and Dan Dutton.

A special thank you to our members who continually donate to 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.**

## Black Powder Day / Muzzleloader Event 2023

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](mailto: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 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 OF EVENTS

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

### Monthly Events

<i>Saturdays &amp; Sundays</i>	<i>FeederWatch Season – Inside Chapter House</i>	<i>8:00am – 4:00pm</i>
<i>Sundays</i>	<i>Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five-Stand</i>	<i>9:00am – 5:00pm</i>
<i>Mondays</i>	<i>BSA Scout Meetings in the Chapter House</i>	<i>7:30pm – 9:00pm</i>

### JANUARY 2023

Sunday, January 1	News Year's Day Pajama Brunch – Chapter House	12:00 noon – 3:00pm
Sunday, January 1	Shotgun, R&P, and Archery Ranges Open	9:00am – 4:00pm
Saturday, January 7	Take Down Holiday Decorations at Chapter House	9:00am
Saturday, January 14	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Sunday, January 15	NAVHDA Training Meeting – Chapter House	8:00am – 11:00am
Tuesday, January 17	Pack 694 Den Meeting – Chapter House	7:00pm – 8:00pm
Wednesday, January 18	1,047th Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:30pm
Saturday, January 21	New-Member Orientation Tour	10:00am – 1:00pm
Sunday, January 22	Advanced Planning & Finance Committee Meeting	2:00pm
Wednesday, January 25	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Thursday, January 26	Pack 694 Den Meeting – Chapter House	7:00pm – 8:00pm
Friday, January 27	Articles for February Newsletter due – send articles to <a href="mailto:j.lamkin@comcast.net">j.lamkin@comcast.net</a>	By End of Day
Tuesday, January 31	Pack 694 Den Meeting – Chapter House	7:00pm – 8:00pm

### FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 4	Shotgun Range Officer Course – 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
Sunday, 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
Friday, February 24	Articles for March Newsletter due – send articles to <a href="mailto:j.lamkin@comcast.net">j.lamkin@comcast.net</a>	By End of Day
Tuesday, February 28	Pack 694 Den Meeting – Chapter House	7:00pm – 8:00pm

### MARCH

Sunday, March 12	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Sunday, March 12	Spring Interpretative Walk in the Woods – Chapter Members and Guests	TBD
Tuesday, March 14	Pack 694 Den Meeting – Chapter House	7:00pm – 8:00pm
Wednesday, March 15	1,049th Membership Dinner Meeting	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 <a href="mailto:j.lamkin@comcast.net">j.lamkin@comcast.net</a>	By End of Day
Saturday, March 25	Archery Range Cleanup Day	8:30am – 3:00pm
Saturday, March 25	Black Powder Day / Muzzleloader Event	9:00am – 4:30pm
Tuesday, March 28	Pack 694 Den Meeting – Chapter House	8:00pm – 8:00pm

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

## DUE DATE

February Newsletter Articles

Friday, January 27

Submit articles to: [j.lamkin@comcast.net](mailto:j.lamkin@comcast.net)

If the article contains photos, please submit them as separate files.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### B-CC IWLA and Community

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

#### Chapter House CleanUp

Saturday, January 14  
9:00am – 12:00 noon

#### 1,047th Membership Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, January 18  
Dinner – 6:15pm  
Meeting – 7:30pm

#### New-Member Orientation Tour

Saturday, January 21  
10:00am – 1:00pm  
Meet Christine Peterson at the Chapter House

#### Board of Governors Meeting

Wednesday, January 25  
7:00pm

#### 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

#### Interpretative Walk in the Woods

Members and Guests Welcome  
Sunday, March 12  
Time TBD

#### Black Powder / Muzzloader Event

Saturday, March 25  
9:00am – 4:30pm

#### Spring Family Campout

April 2023

*More information will be posted in the February Newsletter*

#### Conservation Dinner with Speaker

May 2023

*More information will be posted in the February Newsletter*

seedlings in the old orchard, since the blight is so well established. We may try some of the more resistant hybrids to see if they are up to the challenge.

In the new orchard, we suffered some losses of seedlings over the course of the year. We have additional American seedlings to replace the losses, but weather conditions have prevented planting in November and December. If an opportunity presents itself, we will try to get them in before the ground freezes. Or we will plant them in the spring.

In 2023, we will need volunteers to maintain the orchards and clean up the greenhouse area.



Burrs



Catkins

PHOTOS BY BLAINE ELKINS

## Turkey Research

Larry Anderson, Wildlife Committee Chair  
andupton9@hotmail.com

Maryland DNR has started a large collaborative, 3-year project in wild turkey research and needs assistance from the public in collecting information. The reason this study is being done is that the annual summer surveys of wild turkey have shown mixed results across Maryland in turkey populations success. The goal of this project is to determine what factors influence the success of the wild turkey populations and what wildlife management practices are appropriate in sustaining populations. DNR is asking for the people to report turkey sightings, and when feasible, allow access to private land so DNR biologists to trap and tag turkeys for in depth analysis. The trapping and tagging will be concentrated mainly to western Maryland counties and the lower eastern shore counties. Reporting of turkey sightings needs to be statewide and between January and March, so we can help by reporting any turkey sightings at:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdjAsFJvMZrm-gj\\_-A1ZG3q17p8-Y2UWWFmNfftVp\\_a0PXjg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdjAsFJvMZrm-gj_-A1ZG3q17p8-Y2UWWFmNfftVp_a0PXjg/viewform)

More information can be found at:

<https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2022/12/21/groundbreaking-wild-turkey-research-set-to-begin-in-maryland/>

See flyer on page 7.

## American Chestnut Update

Blaine Elkins, Chestnut Committee Chair  
301 767-5731 blaineelkins@verizon.net

2022 was a landmark year for the Germ plasm orchard planted in 2013 by Bob Benson in cooperation with the Maryland Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation. This was the first year that any of the trees flowered. The late frost in the spring of 2020 and the cicada damage of 2021 kept the trees from flowering for those years. This year half a dozen trees flowered and one set fruit. Burrs and nuts were collected this fall and turned over to the American Chestnut folks. Unfortunately blight is well established in the orchard and the tree that bore fruit may not survive to repeat its production in 2023. We will not plant additional 'wild' American

### ATTENTION New Members!

**The next Chapter House cleanup is on**  
**Saturday, January 14**  
**Starting at 9:00am**





PennState



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## WILD TURKEY RESEARCH PROJECT

*The first large-scale wild turkey research project in Maryland has begun and will continue through 2025. This study will investigate how weather, predators, disease, and habitat impact nesting success and survival of females. Other valuable information such as breeding season timing and gobbler harvest rates will also be determined. This research is part of a multi-state collaborative project involving many other agencies, universities, and partners.*

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### ***How do we conduct our field work?***

Each January-March, turkeys will be captured and outfitted with leg bands and/or GPS radio-transmitters. Research will be conducted in Western MD and on the Lower Eastern Shore. All turkeys will be released at the trap site.

Field crews will track the hens with radio-transmitters throughout the year to monitor survival, nesting, brooding, and habitat use. Wild turkeys have large home ranges and may travel through or nest on properties other than where they were initially captured.

### ***How can you help?***

Sightings of winter turkey flocks from the public are encouraged to help us locate potential trapping sites. You can report turkeys here: <https://forms.gle/qWsnzuR3Doq9cWdD7>

If a flock happens to be on your property and it is a good trapping location, permission to bait and trap the birds would be helpful. Also, we may need landowners to allow biologists to access your property, either on vehicle or foot, to download valuable data from the radio-transmitters or investigate events. These visits may only be once, or they may be up to a few times per week, depending on the situation.

Anyone who harvests or finds a banded turkey or transmitter can report it at:

<http://tagreport.maryland.gov/>

### ***Questions?*** Please contact:

Bob Long (Wild Turkey/Upland Game Bird Project Leader) at [bob.long@maryland.gov](mailto:bob.long@maryland.gov) or 410-260-8578



## Rifle & Pistol Report

Gus Zinnser, Committee Chair  
240 750-0979 guszinnser4@gmail.com

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

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

The range is now closed to the general membership until March 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.
- Pick up YOUR BRASS

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

### R&P RANGE OFFICER COURSE

The Range Officer course is being scheduled tentatively for the end of February with a back up date at the beginning of March.

To be eligible to take this course you must:

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

A list is being created and you will be contacted with significant notice of the date. If you have not completed your probationary year, please contact us anyway. We will be able to create a list for future classes.

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.

### R&P RANGE TRAINING & EVENTS SURVEY

We ask that members complete the following survey, which will help us prioritize and plan training and events on the Rifle & Pistol Range in 2023:

<https://forms.gle/SpTCuvbX7fpZA3Zc8>

If you have any questions, contact the Chief Range Officer Matthew Chambers at 202 854-8671 or matthewschambers@gmail.com.

### BLACK POWDER DAY

This event has been scheduled for Saturday, March 25. Information and the SignUp Genius link will be in February's newsletter.

## Shotgun Range Report

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

There will be a **Range Officer Training Course** for anyone that would like to become a Shotgun Range Officer on Saturday, February 4 at 10:00am. If you are interested, use the SignUp Genius link below. You will be contacted a week before the course with the details.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACA28A7F8C25-shotgun3>

To be eligible to take this course, you must...

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

If you are still in your probationary period but would like your name on the list for future courses, please contact Carol Hulce-Efdimis at carol2017@aol.com.

**As of November 1, the range is operating under Winter Hours – 9:00am to 4:00pm.**

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

All Shotgun Range Equipment is to be used by pre-qualified Shotgun Range Officers ONLY. If any equipment is malfunctioning, please let me know

### RANGE OFFICER SCHEDULE

#### JANUARY

Sunday, January 1	Joel Graham, Patrick Weixel
Sunday, January 8	Joel Graham, Christian Lowe
Sunday, January 15	Patrick Tarquinio, Scott Spear
Sunday, January 22	<b>Need Range Officers</b>
Sunday, January 29	Jose' Saiz, Ed Stewart

#### FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 5	Michael Leahy, Olaf Pedersen
Sunday, February 12	Lawrence Kotchek, Douglass Craig
Sunday, February 19	Victor Kernus, Andy Wight
Sunday, February 26	Pat Weixel, <b>Need a Range Officer</b>

### HOURS OF OPERATION

Sundays 9:00am to 4:00pm

## 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.

## 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/>



## Seneca Christmas Bird Count *Birds Counted on the Conservation Farm* December 18, 2022

Diane Seward  
Citizen-Science Projects Coordinator

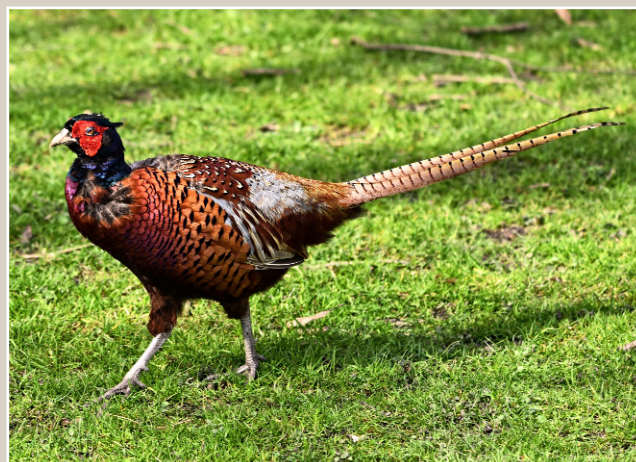
On December 18, 2022, members of the Montgomery Bird Club under the leadership of Jim Nelson met well before sunrise at the chapter house to participate in the annual Christmas Bird Count. The count has been conducted nationwide since 1953 under the auspices of the National Audubon Society. We have hosted the Sector 7 portion of the Seneca count for several years.

Participants at the farm were organized into two groups, escorted by Larry Anderson and Scott Harmon. The groups walked the west woods and fields for three-to-four hours, noting the species they observed. Separately, Chuck Thornton counted birds at the feeding station located behind the chapter house. Chuck's count was submitted to Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology as part of our FeederWatch project. Counters returned to the chapter house as the morning ended to tally their observations and enjoy refreshments.

Jim Nelson shared the following list of the birds counted on the Conservation Farm during the CBC. Total species – 41 (up from 31 last year). Total birds counted – 453 (up from about 395 last year). Species not found in 2021 are marked with an \*.

Canada Goose	11	Brown Creeper	1
Rock Pigeon	4*	Carolina Wren	7
Mourning Dove	8	European Starling	6
American Woodcock	1*	Brown Thrasher	1*
Black Vulture	2	Northern Mockingbird	3
Turkey Vulture	10	Eastern Bluebird	20
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	Cedar Waxwing	5
Red-tailed Hawk	2*	House Sparrow	2*
Belted Kingfisher	1*	House Finch	8
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3	Purple Finch	4*
Red-bellied Woodpecker	5	American Goldfinch	10
Downy Woodpecker	4	Field Sparrow	1
Pileated Woodpecker	2*	Dark-eyed Junco	29
Northern Flicker	2*	White-throated Sparrow	24
Blue Jay	13	Song Sparrow	5
American Crow	119	Swamp Sparrow	1*
Fish Crow	25	Eastern Towhee	4*
crow species	29	sparrow species	15
Carolina Chickadee	10	Red-winged Blackbird	23
Tufted Titmouse	8	Brown-headed Cowbird	1*
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1*	Northern Cardinal	16
White-breasted Nuthatch	5		

## 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. Send your pictures in JPEG format to Scott Harmon via email – [scott.w.harmon@verizon.net](mailto:scott.w.harmon@verizon.net).

Hope to see you there!

Scott Harmon  
301 467-0645 (cell)

## 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.

## Welcome to the B-CC IWLA Family!!

The following members were inducted in December 2022:

**Art Baker**

*Interests:* Farming

**Travis and Suzanne Vaught**

*Interests:* Rifle & Pistol; Scouting; Wildlife

**Gini Staver**

*Interests:* Fishing; Horticulture; Water



## Plant Community Recovery

A new ecological experiment was established on our Conservation Farm in October of 2022. The aim of this global study is to assess the factors that influence plant community recovery and assembly after disturbance in herbaceous dominated ecosystems. Dr. Betsy von Holle is conducting this 10-year study in coordination with approximately 100 other sites worldwide.



Bob Cissell plowed the experimental plots for the disturbance treatment with his tractor. Arthur Belendiuk, Scott Bohn, Blaine Elkins, David Escalante, Marc Shaffer, and Lin Tate helped clear the plots before and after plowing the plots and Magic the Weimaraner provided moral support. The Global Ecology Program at Poolesville High School helped remove the plants in the disturbance treatment plots the following month. The site is near the Boy Scout camp and is



located in the field across and down from the chestnut tree enclosure. T-posts mark the site, with flagging on the posts and individual plots, and signs have been placed to explain the goals of the project. Details of the global study can be accessed at <https://nutnet.org/dragnet>.

There are opportunities to participate in the project in the coming years. Please contact Betsy directly with your interest in participating in this plant science project: [betsy.vonholle@gwu.edu](mailto:betsy.vonholle@gwu.edu).

## Interested in becoming a beekeeper or learning about beekeeping?

Honey bees are one of the key pollinators of our gardens, foods, and recreational landscapes. Products of the hive (honey and wax) can be a source of supplementary income. However, keeping bees is much like keeping livestock – it takes planning and commitment to keep a colony of 50,000 insects healthy and productive.

The **Montgomery County Beekeepers Association (MCBA)** has opened registration for its “Beekeeping 101” class, which begins on February 2, 2023. The class includes six two-hour virtual sessions taught by experienced beekeepers via Zoom on Thursday evenings, as well as two in-person sessions at its Brookside apiary in March and April. Post-class learning continues with monthly educational programs, monthly mentoring sessions at the Club’s apiary, and “Bees After Hours,” a monthly online discussion group for new beekeepers. Class details and registration information at:

*Montgomery County*  
**BEEKEEPERS**  
*Association*

<https://montgomerycountybeekeepers.com/>

Questions? Maureen Jais-Mick at  
301-801-6253 or [jaismick1@verizon.net](mailto:jaismick1@verizon.net)

*Article submitted by B-CC IWLA Member Tracy Waterman.*

## **REMEMBER...**

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



## Save Our Streams Monitoring

Dan Dutton, Save Our Streams (SOS) Program  
mr.dutton.cbgs@gmail.com

On December 17, six ponds and streams committee members braved the cold to conduct our fall stream monitoring. We often sample streams nearby, but this time we sampled on the conservation farm. We selected a site on the tributary of Horsepen Branch between the gardens and the archery pavilion. Luckily, the recent rains ensure there is plenty of water for sampling but the recent cold weather really dropped the water temperature to 39 degrees Fahrenheit.

We conducted our usual, chemical and biological monitoring to determine the short and long-term condition of the creek. The chemical water sampling suggested good to excellent conditions while the results of the biological sampling gave a good water quality rating.



Some members had sampled this location in the past but several of us had never sampled here before and there were some surprises in the macro invertebrates that were found. Many of the organisms that are sensitive to pollution, and indicate good water quality are the immature or larval stage of insects. Fly fishermen's will recognize the nymphs of mayflies, caddisflies, and stoneflies. Many of the local streams we've sampled have these organisms in abundance, but this was not the case on the farm.

Most of the organisms we found were not the juvenile stages of taxa that will leave the water but we're full-time



residents of the stream. We found snails, leeches, aquatic worms and adult riffle beetles, but the most abundant organisms were crustaceans. We found many aquatic sowbugs, close relatives of the roly polys you may find under rocks or logs in your yard. These lifelong residents of the stream require good water, quality and plenty of calcium to build their shells. As scavengers, they help break down the leaves and other debris that fall in the stream and are very important food source for other invertebrates, fishes, and amphibians.

If you are interested in seeing what is living in nearby streams, please consider helping with our winter sampling event in early March. Details will be provided later, but if you would like to help in anyway, please contact the ponds and streams committee.



Check out our Facebook page!

Izaak Walton League of America  
Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter

## New-Member Orientation Tour

- The next tour will take place on **Saturday, January 21** 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.



## Global Ecology Program at Poolesville High School "Interpretive Walk in the Woods"

The Interpretative Walk in the Woods held on November 8 and 9 with the Global Ecology 9th graders from Poolesville High School was a remarkable experience. Recently the chapter received a letter from Erin Binns, Head of House of the Global Ecology Program at Poolesville High School thanking members of the chapter for taking the students on the walk.

A thank you card from the students was also received. Some of the participants' comments are listed below!

## Thank You!

"Thank you for another wonderful hike with Poolesville High School's 9th grade Global Ecology students on November 9th and 10th. While we missed Butch this year, and greatly appreciated his organization of this trip, we are grateful to Mark, Gregg, and Frank for leading a great hike for our students. The students very much enjoyed being outside on such beautiful days learning about the importance of conservation and the need to take note of their surroundings and appreciate nature. This is the first of many interpretive hikes that the students go on during their four years in the Global Ecology Program at Poolesville High School, and it's wonderful for them to see people, other than their teachers, that appreciate and value the environment and act as stewards of nature. The value of environmental conservation is such an important message we try to instill in these students throughout their four years in the Global Ecology Program, and this hike conveys that message perfectly.

We greatly value your support of our program, and we appreciate everything you have done for us to help make the Global Ecology Program at Poolesville a unique and memorable experience for our students."

Erin Binns

Thank you for taking the time out of your day to educate us about the wildlife and nature. I really enjoyed learning and identifying the different types of trees based on their bark.

I really enjoyed learning about the turkey's mating habits and how chestnut trees have been dying.

Thank you for teaching us about the environment! Who knew Chestnut and oak trees could be so interesting?

I really enjoyed learning about turkeys and the sounds they make in their natural habitats.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to learn about the woods and world around me!

Thank you so much for showing us around your trails! It was really interesting to learn all about the Ag Reserve and wild turkeys!

Thank you for taking time out of your day to teach us! It was a fun and informative hike, and I learned a lot about the trees.

Thank you guys for taking time from your day to teach us about different things in the environment with passion. I liked the interesting stations and I appreciate the time and effort put in.

Thank you for having us! I loved carrying the decoy turkey after the turkey lesson! Have a great day!

Thank you for taking the time to take us on this trip! My favorite part was when we learned about the mine and how places like the IWL have been used in the past. You're my favorite!

Thanks for dealing with a bunch of teens for a day.





# Chapter Holiday Party

Saturday, December 10

