



JANUARY 2026 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

As we welcome in the new year and work on our list of resolutions for 2026 please consider adding one more. I would like for you to commit some more of your time and talent to the chapter. Our chapter relies on volunteers, and while many contribute the 'work hours' requirement, I'm asking more of you to go beyond that. While the Board of Governors oversees the overall chapter operations and finances, a large portion of the day to day running of the chapter's many parts falls to the committees and especially the chairpersons.

Two of our long-term committee chairs, Larry Anderson (Wildlife Management, Hunter Ethics, Xmas trees, and Gardens) and Warner Parks (Shotgun Range) are stepping down from their positions, and as we thank them for their many years of work at the chapter and wish them well in their new endeavors, their departure leaves a large void in the leadership of the chapter's committees.

When each of you stood up at the meetings as a prospective member and introduced yourself, you talked about your reasons for joining the chapter; when you filled out your application you listed three of your primary interests and hopefully since you have been a member you have participated in some of the many outdoor activities we have to offer. Well now is your chance to get more involved in those interests or help out with some new ones. In this newsletter is an article about joining committees with a list of the chairs and their contact information; please reach out to them and volunteer to get more involved in the chapter. The more help we have the easier it is to share the work and open up new activities and programs. All of our committee chairs have long and short-term plans and ideas they want to implement but they need help to make them happen. Your time and talent can help put those plans in motion and help improve the chapter.

A thank you to everyone that helped with the Christmas Party and New Year's Brunch. The team picked out a beautiful tree from our lot and the decorations were outstanding, as was the food and drink.

Jerry Murray

Proposed Changes to the By-Laws

(Edits in red – to be voted on at the January 2026 Membership Meeting)

Article III – Membership

Section 2.a Any person may become a Probationary Member upon completion of the following steps:

First, the applicant must pre-register interest.

Second, the applicant shall attend two meetings of the Chapter. Acceptable events include: the Monthly Dinner/Members Meeting, New Member Tour, Heritage Day, Family Campout, Christmas Party, New Years Brunch Party, The Wild Game Dinner, Hunter Education (counts as one), Conservation Education Dinner, Spring / Fall Cleanup and monthly Chapter Cleanups. At each of these events, applicant must sign in using a meeting specific QR code to register attendance. Applicants must still attend the 3rd dinner meeting to be sworn in.

Third, the applicant shall file with the Membership Secretary a properly completed application for membership.

Fourth, the Membership Secretary shall submit the completed application after applicable background checks to the Board of Governors at its next regular monthly meeting.

Fifth, the Board of Governors shall review the application and make its recommendation to the Chapter Membership at the following regular monthly meeting of the Chapter.

Sixth, the applicant may be accepted for Probationary Membership by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members present.

Seventh, after being properly sworn in, an accepted applicant shall become a Probationary Member upon payment of the appropriate amounts of monies as prescribed in Article VIII of these By-Laws.

(Adopted August 16, 1972; amended February 16, 1977, January 19, 1983, February 21, 1991, July 1992, September 2006, February 19, 2025, **January 20, 2026**)

Voting at the January Dinner / Membership Meeting

Please consider attending the January meeting so you can vote on the By-Laws changes.

CAMPGROUND NOTICE

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

Board of Governors

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

OFFICERS

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

Shannon Novak, 1st Vice President
301 785-8461 • snovak516@gmail.com

Sean-David Waterman,* 2nd Vice President
816 812-5763 • seandavid@me.com

Bob Kelly, Treasurer
202 445-7097 • rnkelly1974@gmail.com

Scott Harmon, Membership Secretary
301 467-0645 • MembershipSecretary.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com

Janet Lamkin, Corresponding Secretary
301 466-6557 • j.lamkin@comcast.net

BOARD MEMBERS

Stephen Austin
Alex Cowan
Sebastian Fainbraun*
Lloyd Iden

Andy Wight, Past President
240 205-3982 • andywight1@hotmail.com

* Indicates Officers and Board Members who were absent from the previous month's Board of Governors meeting.

The Izaak Walton League of America – a non-profit conservation organization – is recognized as a Section 501(c)(3) public charity under the Internal Revenue Code.

Address, phone and email changes should be sent to the Membership Secretary at the above address.

Submissions to the *NEWSLETTER* should be sent to:

Janet Lamkin
j.lamkin@comcast.net
301 466-6557

IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA MISSION STATEMENT

To conserve, restore and promote the sustainable use and enjoyment of our natural resources, including soil, air, woods, waters and wildlife.

Summary of the November 2025 Board of Governors Meeting and the November 2025 Membership Dinner Meeting

Sean-David Waterman, 2nd Vice President

Wednesday, November 19, 2025 – Board of Governors Meeting

- Meeting called to order by President Jerry Murray.
- Board members and guests were introduced.
- NAVHDA Potomac requested use of Chapter House in February for its Annual Meeting. Motion approved for the request.
- Quantico Orienteering Club (QOC) discussed with the BOG about hosting a large orienteering event on the property approximately every 2 years (total of 5 events over 10 years). Motion made to negotiate a commercial-use agreement, subject to a satisfactory written agreement and insurance naming the Chapter as additionally insured. Seconded and passed.
- President Jerry Murray intends to schedule an advance planning meeting in January.
- Grant Applications are in progress/under consideration.
- Current Forestry Chair Blaine Elkins has agreed to cover responsibilities temporarily and form a committee but does not wish to serve as permanent chair.
- Bookkeeping Support needed with bookkeeping/QuickBooks skills, to ensure accounts are current before advance planning/finance meeting.
- Inventory and appraise the six donated firearms to decide whether to use them for auction, raffle, or other fundraising.
- Draft a formal list of pre-approved events that can count as the first two "dinner meetings" for new members.
- Work-Hour Policy – retired status and past-president status do not automatically exempt members from work hours. Exemptions are Board approved case-by-case (primarily medical hardship).
- Demonstrate to members how to log hours individually using the new system.
- Need more certified food managers for Chapter House events. Consider hosting another ServSafe/food manager class at the Chapter or organizing a coordinated online/proctored session.
- Interest expressed in hosting more range-related classes at the Chapter (e.g., NRA RSO classes).
- Reserve Chapter House for Hunter Education on April 25–26 and September 12–13. Coordinate with other committees to ensure range and grounds availability.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Hunting and trapping coyotes on chapter property. Several experienced hunters testified to a significant increase in coyote presence on the property, affecting deer and other wildlife. Continue discussion at next BOG on a formal policy for hunting/trapping coyotes on chapter property, compliant with MD regulations and chapter safety rules.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

Wednesday, November 19, 2025 – Membership Dinner Meeting

- 1,081st meeting called to order by President Jerry Murray at 7:30pm.
- New and returning members were welcomed.
- Emphasized importance of the Land Fund and encouraged donations during renewals.

(continued on page 3)

SUMMARY

(continued from page 2)

- Reminded members of hunting season rules and chapter safety expectations.
- 50/50 raffle raised funds for AV equipment.
- Membership Secretary Scott Harmon introduced third-meeting prospective members.
- Membership Secretary Scott Harmon reported that the membership stands at 723.
- Members encouraged to report volunteer hours.
- Reminder to contact membership secretary if hours were completed but not logged.
- Treasurer Bob Kelly gave the breakdown on the Chapter's 6 accounts.
- Finance Committee seeks data-entry volunteers.
- Wildlife Management Chair Larry Anderson encouraged hunter photos for newsletter.
- Environmental Stewardship Chair Blaine Elkins reported that invasive species work is ongoing.
- Ponds & Streams Chair John Novak reported that the small pond is stocked with 200 trout; limit 3 fish/day.
- President Jerry Murray reported that the erosion/sediment controls to be removed from the Shotgun Range.
- Hunter Safety Chair John Lamb reported that the recent internet field-day class successful; 24 students graduated. Next class planned for April.
- IT Committee Chair Julie Wight – website relaunch in progress; membership area to open in January. Members asked to submit corrections and photos.
- Diane Seward reported that volunteers are needed for Cornell bird study FeederWatch Program.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Request for electrician referrals to assist with facility needs.

TALKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER:

- Call for volunteers for decorating, party planning, data entry, and event staffing.
- Encouraged reporting of trout catches and submission of content to the newsletter.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:02pm approved.

Interpretative Walk in the Woods – March 5 & 6

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

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

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

The event will be held on **Thursday, March 5 and Friday, March 6**. Typically we run 4 sessions (2 per day). Please watch the newsletter and email blasts for updated information.

NOTE – on the days of the walks, hunting will be suspended across the chapter.

Membership Committee Report

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

Happy New Year!

As of the December Board Meeting, membership stands at: 729 total Members: 372 Individuals, 236 Family, 67 Retired Individuals, 38 Retired Families, 12 Associates, 3 Student, and 1 Youth.

Your membership renewal is now past due. A new past due membership invoice will be sent with a late fee of \$37.50. If we do not receive your renewal by the end of January, your access card will be turned off. Please reach out if you did not receive a renewal.

Individual

\$230.00

\$ 75.00 Volunteer fee – if you did not volunteer 6 Hours this year

\$ 37.50 Late Fee

\$342.50 Total

Family

\$340.00

\$ 75.00 Volunteer fee – if you did not volunteer 12 Hours this year

\$ 37.50 Late Fee

\$452.50 Total

If you need to be exempted from volunteer hours, send me a brief explanation for exemption and I will bring it to the board for approval in January. You will be responsible for recording your work hours going forward. You can record your hours in your profile on our new Website. Just click the link below to enter the information.

<https://bcciwla.org/log-your-hours/>

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

Volunteers Needed

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

Welcome to the B-CC IWLA Family!

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

Darrin Davis – Family

Interests: Rifle & Pistol Range; Shotgun Range; Archery Range

Chris Frazier – Individual

Interests: Rifle & Pistol Range; Archery Range; Hunter Safety

UPCOMING EVENTS / VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

B-CC IWLA and Community

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

Trout Fishing
at the Small Pond
See rules on page 7

FeederWatch
Weekends
Saturdays & Sundays thru Sunday, March 15
Observe birds from the Chapter House
See page 6

Flintlock Rifle Raffle Ticket Sales
Tickets – \$20 each
Available at the January Dinner Meeting
See page 8

Membership / Dinner Meeting
Wednesday, January 21
Dinner – 6:15pm; Meeting – 7:30pm
See page 4

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

Interpretative Walk in the Woods
Thursday & Friday, March 5 & 6
7:30am – 3:30pm
See page 3

Blackpowder / Muzzleloader Shooting Match
Saturday, March 28
9:00am – 4:30pm
See page 11

January 2026 1,083rd Monthly Dinner / Membership Meeting

Wednesday, January 21

50 / 50 Raffle

Dinner Tickets are sold in the Boardroom

Menu
Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable,
Salad, and Desserts
Bring your own Libations

Flintlock Rifle Raffle Ticket Sale
Tickets – \$20 each

Dinner served starting at 6:15pm
Membership Meeting starts at 7:30pm
Vote on By-Laws Changes

January 2026 Board of Governors Meeting

Wednesday, January 28

7:00pm

New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour

Tours will not be held in January nor February.

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

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

Hunting Logbook

We ask that deer, turkeys, and coyotes taken on our farm be recorded in our game logbook, located outside the chapterhouse's main door, and by sending an email to President Jerry Murray (jerrym5@comcast.net). When reporting your deer, we ask for the following information; your name, doe or buck (antler count), date and weapon used and the total number of ticks found on the ears or your deer. Other details may also be included such as estimated weight or unusual features.

**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 improve the A/V system:
update sound/projector system, with
ability to host and record zoom meetings

DUE DATE

for February Newsletter Articles is
Monday, January 26.

Submit articles to: j.lamkin@comcast.net
If the article contains photos, please submit
them as separate jpg files and
include a caption and photo credits.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Monthly Events

Mondays

Mondays

Saturdays and Sundays

Troop 2027G Meetings (Board Room)

Troop 496B Meetings (Chapter House)

FeederWatch – From the Chapter House

7:30pm – 9:00pm

7:30pm – 9:00pm

Weekends through March 15

JANUARY 2026

Thursday, January 1	Annual New Year's Day Brunch – College Bowl Games	Brunch 12:00 noon – 2:00pm
Thursday, January 1	R&P Range Open	10:00am – 3:00pm
Saturday, January 3	Holiday decorations to be taken down – Chapter House	9:00am
Sunday, January 4	Eagle Court of Honor in the Chapter House	12:00 noon – 5:00pm
Thursday, January 15	Cub Scout Pack 694 Meeting in the Chapter House	6:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday, January 17	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Wednesday, January 21	Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:30pm
Monday, January 26	Articles for February 2026 Newsletter are due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Wednesday, January 28	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 7	NAVHDA Annual Meeting in Chapter House	11:00am – 5:30pm
Saturday, February 14	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Wednesday, February 18	Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:00pm
Thursday, February 19	Cub Scout Pack 694 Meeting in the Chapter House	6:00pm – 8:00pm
Wednesday, February 25	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Saturday, February 28	Articles for March 2026 Newsletter are due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Saturday, February 28	Wild Game Dinner	6:00pm – 10:00pm

MARCH

Thursday, March 5 - Friday, March 6	Interpretative Walk in the Woods NO HUNTING ON CHAPTER PROPERTY ON BOTH DATES	7:30am – 3:30pm 7:30am – 3:30pm
Saturday, March 14	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Wednesday, March 18	Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:30pm
Thursday, March 19	Cub Scout Pack 694 Meeting in the Chapter House	6:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday, March 21	New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour	10:00am – 11:30pm
Sunday, March 22	Articles for April 2026 Newsletter are due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Wednesday, March 25	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm

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

Izaak Walton League of America

Maryland State Division Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for:
Saturday, March 28, 2026

Rockville Chapter
18301 Waring Station Road
Germantown, MD 20874

Coffee and refreshments will be served at 9:15am.
The meeting will convene at 10:00am.

All members of the Maryland Division are welcome to attend. Only members of the Board can vote on any issues.

You can request a meeting packet by contacting Jeff Deschamps (jeff.deschamps@verizon.net).

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.

By-Laws Changes

Please consider attending the January Dinner / Membership meeting so that By-Laws changes can be approved.

Barbeque Pit

The barbeque pit is closed for the winter and only authorized persons are allowed to use it. Questions? Contact Carol Hulse-Efdimis, carol2017@aol.com.

FeederWatch News

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

Counting birds is both enjoyable and educational. Please consider joining other chapter members who count species and numbers of birds observed within species on weekends through March 15.

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

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

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

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

Happy Feeder Watching!



Rifle & Pistol Range Committee Report

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

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

Upcoming Events:

These are some of the events we have coming up in conjunction with the Rifle & Pistol Range. Additional information will be coming in the February newsletter and upcoming e-blasts.

- March 8: NRA Basic Range Safety Officer Course
- March 29: NRA Basics of Rifle Shooting Course
- April 25: NRA Basics of Pistol Shooting Course

Sign up for these courses will be on the NRA website and a link will be included with the descriptions in the future notices.

- B-CC IWLA Range Officer training will be available on-line in February (date TBD) and an in-person session will be held after the NRA course on March 8.
- The Junior Rifle Program will be starting back up in the spring. There will be more information in the February newsletter.
- Watch for the upcoming annual Blackpowder event information.

B-CC IWLA Summer Biathlon Program 2026 Practice Schedule

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

To provide a vehicle to introduce athletes of other sports to the shooting sports and consequently an understanding of firearms and the Second Amendment.

(B-CC IWLA members – please recruit, in particular, middle school, high school, and collegiate athletes – freedom/liberty is never more than one generation away from extinction.)

ELIGIBILITY: Summer Biathlon is open to all B-CC IWLA members 12 years and older, as well as, sponsored guests. **B-CC IWLA members rate is \$2.00 per session. Non-member rate is \$5.00 per session. SEASON PASS:** member – \$25; non-member – \$65

EVENT: Running distances at B-CC IWLA are set at 5 kilometers (3.1 miles) split into 5 loops or 3 -- one-mile loops. Currently, a single course at each length has been laid out. A short course for those working up to the other distances has been laid out as well. The regulation shooting distance is 50 meters, however, targets are also set at 25 meters for development of the shooting art. There are four shooting stops on the 5km course and two stops on the 3 mile course. Shooting stops alternate between prone (lying down) and off-hand (standing) positions. Five rounds are fired at each stop for a total of 20 shots on the 5km course and 10 shots on the 3 mile course. An equal number of shots are fired from each shooting position.

SCORING: Scoring is based on a time to complete basis. A penalty of either one (1) minute or a 50-100 meter penalty lap will be assessed for each shot missed.

EQUIPMENT: .22 caliber biathlon rifles are the standard; however, any magazine fed, .22 caliber rifle with either bolt or lever action is permitted. **Only standard velocity .22 caliber target ammunition is allowed.**

If you have questions or wish to be on the B-CC IWLA mailing list, contact Steve Eschholz c: 240 472-6512 (text/best) / fitnesscrafters@proton.me, chairman B-CC IWLA Biathlon Committee. Other points of contact are: Sonny Lacey c: 469 360-3500 (text best) / sonny@coldwaterdesign.com; Sean Stevens c: 202 230-2256 (text best) / seanhoya@gmail.com.

Practice Schedule Dates

Saturday, March 28	7:30am
Saturday, April 11	7:30am
Saturday, April 25	7:30am
Saturday, May 9	7:30am
Saturday, May 30	7:30am
Saturday, June 6	7:30am
Saturday, June 20	7:30am
Saturday, June 27	7:30am
Saturday, July 11	7:30am
Saturday, July 25	7:30am
Saturday, August 8	7:30am
(3rd Annual B-CC IWLA Biathlon)	
Saturday, August 22	7:30am
Saturday, Sept. 12	7:30am
Saturday, Sept. 26	7:30am
Saturday, Oct. 3	7:00am*

Firearms Hunting Season

Saturday, Nov. 7	7:30am
Saturday, Nov. 14	7:30am

Firearms Hunting Season

Saturday, March 20	7:30am
Saturday, April 10	7:30am
Saturday, April 24	7:30am

Archery Committee Planning for 2026

Chuck Thornton, Chair
Archery.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com

Happy New Year! As we welcome 2026, the Archery Committee is using the winter season to plan our activities for the year. We welcome any and all ideas, including updates to the field range and 3D course, instruction and certification offerings, use of the pavilion and equipment shed, and the Apollo Archery program. We are also considering a competition or tournament at our range this year.

Members have three options to participate in the conversation: (1) join our monthly committee meetings (usually held virtually by videoconference); (2) join the email group; and, (3) seek out one of the archery committee leaders.

Monthly Archery Committee Meetings: held on the second Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm. Request to be added to the invite list: Archery.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com.

Archery Email Group: join by visiting <https://groups.google.com/g/bcc-iwla-archery/> or email the Committee.

Apollo Archery will resume in April 2026. The Apollo program is open to all military, first responders, nurses, and veterans of those professions. To learn more, contact us at apolloarchery.bcciwla@gmail.com.

In the meantime, the field range is in great shape and remains open to members and guests during daylight hours throughout the winter.

Stay tuned for announcements as we develop our plans for the year!

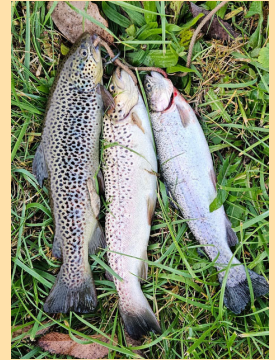
From the Farm Committee

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

Small Pond Trout Fishing

Rules

1. Trout fishing is for chapter members and immediate family only.
2. Anglers 16 and older must have a Maryland fishing license and \$5.00 trout stamp. Those aged 65 and older qualify for a senior consolidated fishing license; no trout stamp required.
3. Fish from shore only; do not use the boat.
4. Anglers may keep 3 trout per day – no size limit.
5. Anglers may use only one fishing rod at a time.
6. Anglers should park in the chapter house parking lot.
7. Pick up and take all trash out of the small pond area when leaving.



*Report the number and species caught to:

John Novak, novakgang4@comcast.net,
301-385-0943 or

Peter Wirth, Peter_Wirth@verizon.net,
301-915-6763.

Great Backyard Bird Count - February 13 - 16, 2026

Celebrating 29 years of coming together to watch, learn about, count, and celebrate birds.

Founding
Sponsor:



The Great Backyard Bird Count is an inter-organizational effort between the **Cornell Lab of Ornithology, National Audubon Society, and Birds Canada**. They work together to bring the joys of birdwatching to our members.

Participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count. Spend at least 15 minutes a day, on at least one of the four count days, observing and counting the birds in your back yard, local park, or wherever you spot a bird, and submit your observations online at birdcount.org.

Have you noticed robins, chickadees, starlings, woodpeckers or cardinals in your yard or neighborhood? Here is an opportunity to count them all for science. The annual count helps scientists assess species populations.

Join the fun! Mark your calendar!

Friday, February 13 through Monday, February 16

Diane Seward, Citizen Science Projects Coordinator



Vandalism at the Willard Log Cabin

David Mecklenburg, Committee Chair
dmecklenburg1@gmail.com

I am looking forward to the New Year, especially when it comes to the Willard Log Cabin and its surrounding buildings as we have a lot planned for the complex. First, I would like to thank all the chapter members who have helped with the maintenance of the cabin in 2025. Every little bit helps from the major repairs to sweeping the floor. Thank you.



We accomplished a lot in 2025 at the cabin complex. A major accomplishment was rebuilding the windows in the cabin. The reasons the windows had to be rebuilt were many. They needed it, but the reason they had to be made a priority is because over the last three years that I have been the log cabin chair the cabin has been vandalized at least four times. The chapter has been looking into ways to make the cabin more accessible to chapter members and their guests but unfortunately, we have had vandalization that has taken place. A couple of times the cabin was broken into, and nothing was damaged. More recently we have had material taken, walls damaged, and windows broken. Because of this we rebuilt the windows, have had to change the locks on the doors, and taken other measures. As a member of the chapter this is your property that is being damaged. Personally, I feel violated as should you! I encourage you to come down to the cabin but be on the lookout for anything that is amiss. Walk around the buildings when you are at the chapter. If you see something not as it should be, please get in touch with me or call one of the Board of Governors.



PHOTOS BY DAVID MECKLENBURG

The Chapter Leadership and I are determined to have the cabin open more often to members this year. The cabin committee is looking into a way to make this work. We would like to get it to the point that it is available for tours, classroom usage, and meetings. This will take a lot of work, you can help. We are in the process of applying for grants to help pay for some of the needed repairs and improvements that need to be done. We will need help from people who are willing to open the cabin, give tours, and clean it up after the activity is finished. Every little bit helps. I have an email list of people who are already volunteering but we need more members to

support us. Volunteering is a great way to get your work hours in. You can email me at dmecklenburg1@gmail.com. I will only email you when we are looking for help.

By the way, we call the building the Willard Log Cabin, but it should really be called the Willard Log House. It is too big to fall under the definition of a log cabin.

FLINTLOCK RIFLE RAFFLE

\$20 Per Ticket



Austin & Halleck

Half Stock Mountain Rifle

(1.66 twist)

.50 Caliber Flintlock

and related items

Tickets are available at the Dinner Meetings

(January – April)

and Muzzleloader Day on March 28

or

Contact Mark Gochnour – mgdonutman@gmail.com

and Jerry Murray – jerrym5@comcast.net

Drawing at the April Dinner Meeting

Need not be present to win

AS A REMINDER...

Registering to Hunt on Chapter Property

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

Link to register:

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

Calendar Submissions

Meetings and events that need to be added to the website calendar and newsletter calendar should be sent to 1st Vice President Shannon Novak, snovak516@gmail.com; Andy Wight, andywight1@hotmail.com; and Corresponding Secretary Janet Lamkin, j.lamkin@comcast.net.

Wild Game Dinner

Connect — Share — Celebrate Tradition!



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

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

Share your harvest!

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

Share your photos – build our shared history

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

Share your stories – link generations and experiences

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

Build connection – strengthen our community network

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

Points of Contact

1. Please let us know what dish you will bring to share as soon as you can, so we can coordinate logistics.
2. We are also looking for pictures for the Hunt and Harvest slide deck. Please forward any photos you would like to share and brag about to Walter Allensworth at twangermd@gmail.com
3. For general questions about the Wild Game Dinner, feel free to reach out to me. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Sean David Waterman, 2nd Vice President
Email: seandavid@me.com

Coyote Control Project on the B-CC IWLA Property

Chapter Members are aware that coyotes have been increasing in numbers and their activity has caused concern with their impact on other animals on the property. Although coyotes can be hunted almost 365 days a year, usually other game is being sought so they are not a priority for most hunters. Individuals or groups of hunters will be engaged in an effort to reduce the coyote predation on the property next month. Those engaged will follow Chapter Hunting Rules and the SOPs and abide by Maryland State Hunting Regs.

Coyotes may be hunted February 5 – 28. Any hunting after dark will require notification and approval 48 hours ahead of time.

Chapter Members will be informed by email blast about this opportunity and the details regarding how to participate.

Each hunter must register using a QR code linked to a Google Document and will be required to follow specific rules as some hunting might be done after dark. Any game violations will be submitted to the DNR and may result in charges and membership removal.

Any coyotes killed must be reported to Mark Gochnour, mgdonutman@gmail.com, or John Lamb, jpatricklamb@aol.com, and must be written down in the logbook next to the Chapter House door within 24 hours. Hunters killing any coyotes are responsible for the respectful disposal of said animal and they are not to be left on the chapter property.

This coyote control project is being done on a trial basis this year and may be repeated in subsequent years. A report of this effort will be submitted to the Board of Governors.

If you have any questions or interest regarding the coyote control project, please contact Mark and/or John at the above email addresses.

Seneca Christmas Bird Count

Jim Nelson

Past President of the Montgomery Bird Club

Birds Counted on B-CC Chapter Izaak Walton League Conservation Farm December 14, 2024

These are the total birds counted on the Conservation Farm by two field parties on the Farm and two feeder watchers at the Chapter House feeders. Species total – 30 (down from 38 last year, 42 in 2023, and 41 in 2022). Total birds counted – 299 (way down from 576 last year, 1,997 in 2023, and 453 in 2022). These results are not surprising. The weather on December 14 was very cold and windy after an overnight snow fall, which made it very difficult to find birds. In spite of that, the 6 people counting in the field parties and 2 at the feeders managed to turn up a good array of species, including some not found last year, and good numbers of birds, including better numbers than last year on a number of species. Species not found in 2024 are marked with an *. Parenthetical comments compare some totals to last year's count on the Farm.

Mourning Dove	22	(way better than 7 last year)
Black Vulture	8	(way better than 1 last year)
Turkey Vulture	19	
Bald Eagle	1	
Red-tailed Hawk	3*	
Hawk species	3	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	4	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	10	
Pileated Woodpecker	1*	
Northern Flicker	2	(well below last year's 12)
Blue Jay	17	(well below last year's 31)
American Crow	4	(well below last year's 154)
Crow species	9	
Carolina Chickadee	3	(well below last year's 18)
Tufted Titmouse	2	(well below last year's 27)
White-breasted Nuthatch	6	(one more than last year)
Carolina Wren	3	(one more than last year)
Northern Mockingbird	4	(one more than last year)
Eastern Bluebird	2	(well below last year's 24)
Hermit Thrush	2	(one more than last year)
American Robin	3	(same as last year)
Cedar Waxwing	22	(way better than 9 last year)
House Finch	33	(way better than 5 last year)
American Goldfinch	5	(way better than 1 last year)
Dark-eyed Junco	22	(way better than 9 last year)
White-throated Sparrow	35	
Song Sparrow	6	(way better than 2 last year)
Eastern Towhee	11	(way better than 1 last year)
Sparrow species	17	
Red-winged Blackbird	7	(well below last year's 56)
Brown-headed Cowbird	5*	
Northern Cardinal	7	(well below last year's 28)

DRIVING ON CHAPTER PROPERTY

Any vehicle including but not limited to cars, trucks, bikes, UTVs, or horses are not allowed off the designated roadways and parking areas due to the risk of soil displacement and erosion on our trails and fields.

Permission to drive on the property can be granted by the Board of Governors or the Committee Chairs in the event of participating with Committee events.

Grant and Donations Committee Report

Valerie Carregal, Chair

carregalv@gmail.com 202 421-4964

We await a decision in January for the 2026 National Rifle Association (NRA) Foundation State Fund grant application number 26MD015 Project: "Shot Stop Shield: Securing Our Range" in support of our lead containment shot curtain funding.

I have requested Pittman-Robertson Funding for Lead-Shot Containment at Izaak Walton League Range from MD DNR Federal Grants Manager at the Wildlife and Heritage Service which is in deliberation.

Our request ID #14785 for funding from The Richard King Mellon Foundation to install a lead-shot containment curtain system at shotgun range to capture/recycle 95%+ lead-shot, prevent watershed pollution, protect wildlife habitats, and promote safe, sustainable hunting recreation has been assigned to their grant review process where it will be given careful consideration.

I have obtained proposals for installation of the lead shot containment curtain from Midwest Netting and Net Connection. Both companies have submitted samples of the fabric to be used for evaluation.

I am actively working with Heritage Montgomery for the submission of The Maryland Heritage Areas Authority FY27 Project Grant for \$100,000 to rehabilitate the Willard Log House and outbuildings.

We have obtained estimates from several contractors to include CraftWright Timber Frame Company and Fitzgerald's Heavy Timber both restoration specialists for historic preservation.

The BCC IWLA Endowment request for Orienteering proposal is ready for submittal Q1 2026.

I am working with The Conservation Fund Director for the State of Maryland to explore options for land grant endowments.

Any Committee who needs assistance with procuring funding through grant opportunities, please reach out.



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

*If you would like an event to be posted on
Facebook, contact Andy Wight at
ConservationEd.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com*

Shotgun Range Update

Jerry Murray, President
jerrym5@comcast.net

While the title of this series of updates has changed, the goal remains the same. With the lead reclamation work at the range complete except for some additional growth from the plantings, the re-opening of the facilities is now the primary focus. Our long-time committee chair, Warner Parks, has stepped down and we need a team of members to help get things started back up, run the range, and continue with the next set of range modifications.

If you want to help, please contact our 2nd VP, Sean-David Waterman: seandavid@me.com to get on the list for a planning/scheduling meeting.

Questions, please contact me.

Chapter Entrances

Members must not block chapter entrances (main gate and cattle gates) along Izaak Walton Way and West Willard Road. Emergency vehicles and farm equipment must have access at all times.

Goose and Duck Decoys

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

Blackpowder/Muzzleloader Sight-In and Shooting Match 2026

After being postponed due to sickness and other reasons in the fall, Muzzleloader enthusiasts and the newly interested are invited to participate in the rescheduled Muzzleloader Day Clinic and Shooting Match, Saturday, March 28th from 9:00am – 4:30pm.



Did you receive a blackpowder firearm as a gift or inherited one and don't know what to do with it? You don't want to miss out on this marvelous opportunity for knowledgeable instruction, loads of fun, and the unique smell of blackpowder smoke! Would you like to test your skills against others in the afternoon shooting match and compete for prizes?

Participants will meet at the Rifle & Pistol Range at 9:00am. (Check-in beginning 8:45am) Inline, percussion, or flintlock shooters are all welcome. There will be instructional time for new muzzleloader shooters to develop a workable shooting load, for "veterans" and more experienced shooters to sight-in their guns, and for all to practice shooting.

Bring the muzzleloader (flintlock, percussion, or inline) that you want to shoot or let Mark Gochmour know in an email that you would like to try one out so he can arrange for a loaner. If you are new to shooting a muzzleloader, a veteran shooter will be assigned to work with you. (Mark is a certified NRA/NMLRA Blackpowder Instructor.) If you have never fired a black powder gun or you have one you have never used or are having issues with one you have forgotten or ignored, come for the morning but stay for the afternoon shooting match!

Afternoon Match participants will be provided opportunities to shoot at some unusual novelty targets. Targets will be shot at a variety of ranges from up close and out to 100 yards

with prizes awarded to some individual shooters. An overall Grand Prize could be a frozen turkey or ham.

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

Only muzzleloader shooting participants will be allowed to use the Range during the event. Upon its conclusion, Range Officers and their guests may shoot until shooting time expires.

Contact Mark Gochmour at mgdonutman@gmail.com for further details or questions. It is important to contact him; especially, if you are bringing a new gun because you may need extra equipment or gear that you were unaware of and their lack could sabotage your experience.

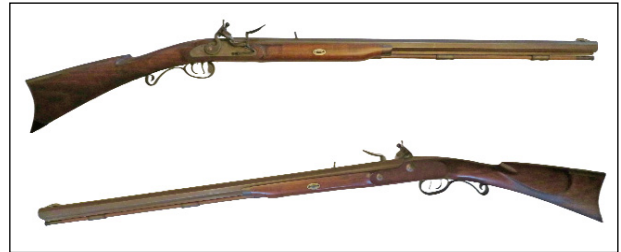
Non-members and guests – use this link and bring this filled out Hold Harmless Form:

<https://bcciwla.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/B-CC-IWLA-Hold-Harmless-Document-1907124-5.pdf>

Members and their guests may register using the following Sign-Up Genius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACA28A7F8C25-61468366-2026>

A small fee will be charged to cover range fees (if applicable), lunch, and the event – \$20.



As a bonus, a donated almost new but hardly used Austin & Halleck .50 caliber flintlock half stock Mountain Rifle (1:66 twist) and related items will be raffled off at the April 15th Dinner Meeting; tickets will be available at the January – April dinner meetings for \$20 each. The rifle will be available at the dinner meetings to check out, as well as at the Muzzleloader / Black Powder match. Look for more details and photos in the Chapter's monthly newsletters and email blasts.



JOIN A COMMITTEE AT B-CC IWLA!

In addition to volunteering for our projects and events, we need members to step up and join our committees. Committees are the backbone of our chapter, helping to plan and drive initiatives, organize activities, and ensure that we're meeting our goals effectively.

Why Join a Committee?

- **Make an Impact:** Play an active role in shaping the direction of our chapter and its activities.
- **Support Collaboration:** Work with others to share the responsibilities and lighten the load.
- **Build Community:** Connect with members who share your interests and passion for the outdoors.
- **Grow Together:** Learn new skills and make a lasting difference for our chapter and community.

Please reach out to the committee chairs below if you are interested in helping to make a difference:

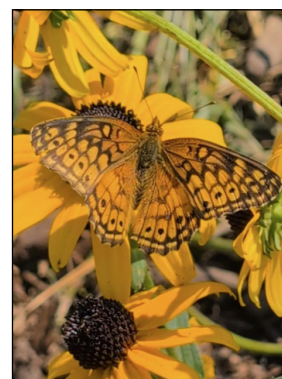
Committee	Committee Chair	Email
Adventure	Michael Dobson	michaelvdobson@protonmail.com
Archery Range	Chuck Thornton	archery.bcc.iwla@gmail.com
Archaeology	Don Perino	bcc_archaeology@yahoo.com
Archive	Bill Gordon	WGordon14@verizon.net
Calendar Submissions	Shannon Novak	snovak516@gmail.com
Campgrounds	Jack Kang	jackhkang@gmail.com
Chapter Farm	Phil Taylor	farm.bcc.iwla@gmail.com
Chapter House	John Lamb	jpatricklamb@aol.com
Chestnut Groves	Blaine Elkins	blaineelkins@verizon.net
Christmas Trees	Vacant *	
Conservation Education	Andy Wight	andywight1@hotmail.com
Dinner Meeting Speakers	President & BOG	jerrym5@comcast.net
Environmental Stewardship	Blaine Elkins	blaineelkins@verizon.net
Father's Day Family Picnic/Auction	Lawrence Kotchek	lawrence@print1.com
Feeder/Watch	Diane Seward	trina65@verizon.net
Forestry	Blaine Elkins	blaineelkins@verizon.net
Holiday Party	Carol Hulce-Efdimis	carol2017@aol.com
Hunter Ethics & Oversight	Vacant *	
Hunter Safety Education	John Lamb	jpatricklamb@aol.com
IT Committee	Julie Wight	jwight00@gmail.com
Junior Rifle Team	Daniel Koehn	dkoehn13@gmail.com
Kitchen	Carol Hulce-Efdimis	carol2017@aol.com
Legislative Outreach	Jeff Seaman	jeff_seaman@hotmail.com
Legislative Affairs	Bob Cissel	bobcissel50@gmail.com
Log Cabin	David Mecklenburg	dmecklenburg1@gmail.com
Membership	Scott Harmon	membershipsecretary.bcc.iwla@gmail.com
Memorials	Janet Lamkin	j.lamkin@comcast.net
Newsletter	Janet Lamkin	j.lamkin@comcast.net
Ponds and Streams	John Novak	novakgang4@comcast.net
Rifle and Pistol Range	Larry Hess	larry.a.hess@gmail.com
Scout Liaison	Dave LeNard	davelenard@yahoo.com
Shotgun Range	Vacant *	
State Division	Bill Gordon	wgordon14@verizon.net
Summer Biathlon	Steve Eschholz	fitnesscrafters@proton.me
Trails	Brian King	plsvllking@msn.com
Vegetable Gardens	Vacant *	
Wildflowers	Don Perino	bcc_wildflowers@yahoo.com
Wildlife Management	Vacant *	
Membership Drive:	Shannon Novak	snovak516@gmail.com
Ad Hoc Committee		
Donations and Grants:	Valerie Carregal	carregalv@gmail.com
Ad Hoc Committee		

* Contact President Jerry Murray, jerrym5@comcast.net, if you are interested in being on the Committee.

Troop 773 Summary of Events

September 2025

With the beginning of our new troop season in September, we kicked off the year with our first fall campout. There, our scouts participated in stand-up paddleboarding along the Potomac River, while also fishing and camping at the Izaak Walton League campground, earning merit badges for each of these activities.



In total, 19 scouts from our troop earned the Fishing Merit Badge, while 10 fifth-grade boys from Pack 773 earned their Fishing Adventure pin, and we are very thankful for being able to host these activities with the Izaak Walton League. Additionally, 23 scouts and 6 parents had a great time staying overnight at the League's campgrounds, with 10 Cub Scouts attending through the evening campfire.



On the second day, 26 boys assisted in a service project where they worked with Izaak Walton League members to plant wildflowers, spread bark mulch, and remove invasive species from milkweed patches, a plant vital to the health of the monarch butterflies. All of our scouts had a great time on the trip, and we are very thankful for having access to the amazing activities and campsites that the Izaak Walton League provided for us.

October

Every year, Potomac hosts a Potomac Day parade, and our troop has been participating in it for years. On October 11th, we led the parade throughout Potomac, helping to kick off this community event.

In mid-October, our troop embarked on our annual fall backpacking trip in the George Washington National Forest, where they hiked over 10 miles and enjoyed the amazing scenery at the top of the mountain. Many of our senior scouts helped guide the new scouts on their first backpacking trip, and the scouts practiced their survival skills with backpacking stoves, limited water, and navigating mountainous terrain.

We ended this month with a meeting where scouts worked on the Emergency Preparedness and Search and Rescue Merit Badges, learning important skills that will prepare them for unexpected medical emergencies in the wilderness, and a Halloween Party in which scouts had fun carving pumpkins and enjoying some treats.





Chapter Holiday Party

Saturday, December 13, 2025

