



JULY 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

Last month was a busy one at the chapter; NAVHDA ran a dog training event, we held an NRA Basic Pistol class, hosted the quarterly Maryland Division meeting for representatives from the other Maryland chapters, brought back the Father's Day picnic and swap meet and held a Heritage Day event for Montgomery County in addition to our usual activities. I hope everyone attended at least one of those events because they showcased what the Izaak Walton League is all about and highlighted the diversity of our chapter's assets.

Sometimes people say they can't tell you how proud they are of you; well, I am going to try. Watching the work our volunteers put in both before, during and in the clean-up after these events was incredible. Many of them put in 5 years or more of their 'volunteer' hours getting ready for one event, others worked on several of the events and most come back year after year to do it again. Their hard work shows in the many comments and compliments I heard from the representatives from the MDs division and the other chapters, our members and the many guests in attendance at the events. So, I hope I speak for everyone at the chapter to say thank you to our volunteers for all your hard work at these and the other events and activities we host.

'Should we do it again next year?', 'Where do we go from here?', 'How can we make it better?', 'Did we keep it under budget?', 'Did we have enough help?' These are some of the questions that get asked after these events at the board of governor's meetings and by the committee or the members who put on the event. Some we can answer based on attendance, money and chapter availability, but the big question of 'should we do it again' will depend on you and how much volunteer help we get. Ask any of the members who helped put on these events if they could have used some additional help and I think you know what the answer will be. So make the offer and commit some of your time.

We all have activities and events we enjoy and most of us have ideas on how to improve things at the chapter, but they all require more than an idea, they need someone to pursue it. Recently we re-started several programs that have been dormant for years thanks to members who have stepped up their involvement in the chapter activities: Donations to the chapter, NRA shooting classes, and our junior rifle program. So, if you have an idea or want to help more, please reach out to the committee chair or a board member and tell them how you want to help, and we will try and make it happen.

Jerry Murray



PHOTOS BY ARTHUR BELENDIUK

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.

Induction of 2026 – 2027 Board

The 2026 – 2027 Officers and Board Members will be inducted at the August 2026 dinner / membership meeting. Come to the meeting to welcome them and to thank the outgoing Officers and Board Members for their service.

Membership Committee Report

Scott Harmon, Membership Secretary & Committee Chair
301 467-0645 (cell) membershipsecretary.bcc.iwla@gmail.com

As of the June Board Meeting, membership stands at: **654 total Members: 325 Individuals, 220 Family, 62 Retired Individuals, 34 Retired Families, 9 Associates, 3 Student, and 1 Youth.**

The new member area should be live now. You should have received an email to sign on and change your password. Please check your junk folder if you did not see the email. The member area has many features. Some of them are Pay My Dues, Log Volunteer Hours, Volunteer Opportunities, Update Vehicles and Decals, Register to Hunt and much more. Pay My Dues will not be live until September.

You can still log your volunteer hours with the link below.

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

If you have an interest in joining the Membership Committee, reach out to me as we can always use the help.

Promote our great organization by inviting a friend to a dinner meeting or take them on a tour of our farm.

Welcome to the B-CC IWLA Family!

The following was inducted as a member to the Chapter at the June Dinner Meeting:

Nick Carone – Individual Membership
Interests: Archery; Hunter Safety; Rifle & Pistol

July 2026 1,089th Monthly Dinner / Membership Meeting

Wednesday, July 15

50 / 50 Raffle

(tickets are available in the Boardroom)
Price per ticket: \$1 or 6 tickets for \$5

Dinner Tickets are sold in the Boardroom
Adults – \$15; Kids – \$7

Menu

Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Salad
Appetizers, Rolls, Dessert
Bring your own Libations

Dinner served starting at 6:15pm

Membership Meeting starts at 7:30pm

July 2026 Board of Governors Meeting

Wednesday, July 22

7:00pm

Donations and Grants Committee

Valerie Carregal, Chair
carregalv@gmail.com 202.421.4964

Dan Clayton-Luce, Vice President of Communications at Henry Repeating Arms has offered to donate a Henry .22 rifle for our shotgun field lead containment fundraising effort which will be raffled to fund our work in the near future. Henry Repeating Arms typically supports conservation and youth programs through product donations.



A huge thank you goes out to Henry Repeating Arms— this donation is going to be a game-changer for our fundraising. We really appreciate their support and partnership.

We still await the B-CC IWLA website team to add the 'Donate' button in full view on the homepage which was approved at the Board of Directors meeting 22 APR 26.

Until then, you can scan the QR code below to access the Zeffy donation site.

Remember, beginning with the 2026 tax year (filed in 2027), and onward, you can deduct up to \$2000 in cash charitable contributions (\$1000 for single) on your IRS Form 1040 while taking the standard deduction, thanks to the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

This is an "above-the-line" deduction, meaning it reduces your adjusted gross income (AGI) even without itemizing. So not only a wonderful gift to our qualified 501(c)3 non-profit, but the donation will help offset your AGI resulting in a lower tax bill. A win-win for everyone!



Donate today!
BCC-IWLA

PROSPERITY in
CONSERVATION

COMING IN SEPTEMBER!
Dove Hunt and Cookout
Tuesday, September 1

Volunteers will be needed at the cookout.

Cactus Garden

BCC_Wildflowers@yahoo.com

Did you know that we have native cactus in Maryland? The next time you arrive at the Chapter pause near the gate and check out the Cactus Garden. It's on the hillside to the east of the gate. You will see cactus growing there. It turns out that Prickly Pear Cactus are a native wildflower. The cactus garden was created by the Wildflower Committee to help remind members that we have naturally occurring cactus in our West Woods Shale Barren. This hillside is not quite a Shale Barren, but it's close.



Cactus Garden near the main gate.

We can all be proud of our Chapter's role in conserving a rare and endangered habitat called a Shale Barren. It's a place where heat-loving plants and animals thrive on the dry shale slopes. Shale Barrens face south and are devoid of trees. So the summer surface temperatures there can reach as much as 140 degrees Fahrenheit. The rare plants depend on these hostile conditions to eliminate competitors. In fact it is one of the few places you won't find foreign invasive plants.

For more information contact: BCC_Wildflowers@yahoo.com.



Prickly Pear Cactus growing in our West Woods Shale Barren.

PHOTOS BY WILDFLOWER COMMITTEE

Hunter Safety / Education Course

John Lamb
jpatricklamb@aol.com

On September 12 & 13, the chapter will host one of its bi-annual Hunter Safety/Education courses. This class is free of charge and open to anyone wishing to get certified through the State of Maryland. All new potential hunters must enroll-in and satisfy a certification program. Our class is a 2- day course from 8:00am to 4:00pm on each day. I do encourage those hunters, whom are exempt from completing this program due to grandfather clauses, to enroll as well. Typically, the class age range runs from 6 – 75 years of age. This certification is recognized throughout the U.S and all over the world.

All participants must enroll online with the State of Maryland. Pull up www.register-ed.com, click on Maryland, click on Hunter Education Classroom Course, and find the date with Poolesville location. The site will ask a few questions pertaining to the student from there on. Once enrolled, mark the date on your calendar and then wait for further announcements. You can cancel your enrollment at any time if needed but please try to do so at least a week ahead of time so that another student may occupy that spot.

Students can bring a lunch and an enthusiastic learning attitude to class. The state will provide all other materials required. Members wishing to work off volunteer hours are welcome to assist. If you have any questions, please contact me at jpatricklamb@aol.com.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Monthly Dinner/Membership Meeting

Wednesday, July 15

Contact Carol Hulse-Efdimis, carol2017@aol.com, if you can help with food preparation, setup, and/or cleanup.

Montgomery County Agricultural Fair

Friday, August 14 through Saturday, August 22

Volunteers for IWLA booth needed

Contact Steve Poss 301 332-5259 or Bill Leaman 240 888-7600

Dove Shoot and Cookout

Tuesday, September 1 (Labor Day)

Need help at the cookout after the shoot

Poolesville Day

Saturday, September 19

10:00 – 4:00pm

Volunteers are needed at our booth

Calendar Submissions

Meetings and events that need to be added to the website calendar and newsletter calendar should be sent to **Archaeology Chair**, bcc_archaeology@yahoo.com, **1st Vice President Shannon Novak**, snovak516@gmail.com; **Corresponding Secretary Janet Lamkin**, j.lamkin@comcast.net.

Opening Day Dove Hunt and Picnic

Contacts: Shannon Novak, snovak516@gmail.com or
Jerry Murray, jerry5@comcast.net

Tuesday, September 1, will be opening day for dove hunting and is usually a busy day at the chapter. As is our tradition, we welcome the new hunting seasons with our dove opening day picnic. The picnic will start around 5:00pm, with the philosophy to encourage our hunters to come out of the fields around 5:00pm to let doves roost and feed, thereby extending future hunting opportunities to those that might be able to only come out on weekends.

The farm committee has been busy tending the fields to improve habitat and attract a wide variety of wildlife to our farm. Once again, Phil Taylor and all the volunteers working with him have worked hard to prepare our farm for hunting seasons.

The sunflowers, in the A2 and B3 fields will be manipulated in accordance with MD DNR guidelines, so the fields will be ready for opening dove season.

The planting of crops are also benefiting other wildlife, including our deer population and a wide variety of birds. We do ask that our members do not place salt blocks in our fields; they wreak havoc with our crops and equipment. As a reminder, we do not allow baiting on our farm.

As with most dove opening days, we anticipate that there will be many hunters in the field. A few things to remember and consider for early dove season:

- **Check in at the table on Izaak Walton Way when you head into the property. (9:00am – 3:00pm)**
- **Please be sure to register to hunt through our website by the night before September 1.**
- **Bring your hunting license and current membership card with you.** (If you don't have a card, please email the membership secretary to get a confirmation email of current membership)
- **Ensure your car has a current year B-CC IWLA sticker on it**
- Shotguns cannot hold more than 3 shells, a state regulation
- No shot larger than 7.5 may be used during the first split of dove season
- Keep all shots between "10 and 2"
- Shoot time for the first split of dove season starts at noon
- It is usually very warm on opening day, lightweight camo and lots of water is the order of the day
- Know what a dove looks like, we are very proud of the wide variety of birds on our farm, but only doves are in season
- Please pickup and carry out empty shotgun hulls
- Have fun and be safe!

We also suggest that bird hunters come out to our shotgun range to reacquaint themselves with their shotguns and get some practice by enjoying our range by busting some clays. The Shotgun Range is open on Sundays for Sporting Clays from 9:00am – 4:00pm.

From the MDDNR website:

REPORT YOUR BIRD BANDS ONLINE:

WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV

Each year state and federal biologists mark tens of thousands of migratory birds with numbered leg bands. Hunters who report bands recovered from harvested birds receive specific information on when and where the bird was banded while providing important information for migratory bird management. Hunters who recover a banded migratory bird should use www.reportband.gov. Anyone reporting a band will need the following information: the band number, hunters name and address, and the date and location (nearest town) of the harvest.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Weekly Events

Sundays

Shotgun Range Open – Sporting Clays

9:00am – 3:00pm

JULY

Wednesday, July 1	Apollo Archery – Veterans & First Responders	6:00pm – dusk
Thursday, July 2	Log Cabin Workday	10:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, July 4	No Maryland DNR Fishing License Required	6:00am – 10:00pm
Thursday, July 9	Log Cabin Workday	10:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, July 11	Summer Biathlon Program Practice	7:30am – 9:30am
Saturday, July 11	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Sunday, July 12	NRA Basic Pistol Shooting Class with MD HQL Training	8:30am – 6:00pm
Wednesday, July 15	Monthly Dinner & Membership Meeting	Dinner 6:15pm Meeting 7:30pm
Thursday, July 16	Weekly Log Cabin Workday	10:00am – 1:00pm
Wednesday, July 22	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Thursday, July 23	Weekly Log Cabin Workday	10:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, July 25	Summer Biathlon Program Practice	7:30am – 9:30am
Saturday, July 25	Private Event in Chapter House	All Day
Saturday, July 25	3-D Archery Course Open to members and guests	9:00am – 1:00pm
Sunday, July 26	3-D Archery Course Open to members and guests	9:00am – 1:00pm
Thursday, July 30	Weekly Log Cabin Workday	10:00am – 1:00pm
Friday, July 31	Articles for August Newsletter due – send to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day

AUGUST

Wednesday, August 5	Apollo Archery – Veterans & First Responders	6:00pm – dusk
Thursday, August 6	Weekly Log Cabin Workday	10:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, August 8	Summer Biathlon Program Practice (3rd Annual B-CC IWLA Biathlon)	7:30am
Thursday, August 13	Weekly Log Cabin Workday	10:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, August 15	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Saturday, August 15	NAVHDA Fall Test	8:00am – 5:00pm
Sunday, August 16	NAVHDA Fall Test	8:00am – 5:00pm
Wednesday, August 19	Monthly Dinner & Membership Meeting BOG for 2026 / 2027 Inducted	Dinner 6:15pm Meeting 7:30pm
Thursday, August 20	Weekly Log Cabin Workday	10:00am – 1:00p
Saturday, August 22	Summer Biathlon Program Practice	7:30am
Wednesday, August 26	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Thursday, August 27	Weekly Log Cabin Workday	10:00am – 1:00pm
Friday, August 28	Articles for September Newsletter due – send to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Saturday, August 29	3-D Archery Course Open to members and guests	9:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, August 29	Trapper Education Training and Certification	10:00am – 6:00pm
Sunday, August 30	3-D Archery Course Open to members and guests	9:00am – 1:00pm

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, September 1	Opening Day Dove Shoot	12:00 noon – 5:00pm
Tuesday, September 1	Opening Day Picnic	Starting at 5:00pm
Wednesday, September 2	Apollo Archery – Veterans & First Responders	6:00pm – dusk
Saturday, September 12	Summer Biathlon Program Practice	7:30am
Saturday, September 12	Hunter / Safety Education Course	8:00am – 4:00pm
Saturday, September 12	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Sunday, September 13	Hunter / Safety Education Course	8:00am – 4:00pm
Wednesday, September 16	Monthly Dinner & Membership Meeting	Dinner 6:15pm Meeting 7:30pm
Saturday, September 19	Poolesville Day (in Poolesville)	10:00am – 4:00pm
Wednesday, September 23	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Saturday, September 26	Summer Biathlon Program Practice	7:30am
Friday, September 25	Articles for October Newsletter due – send to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day

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



B-CC Chapter to Participate in Poolesville Day 2026 Festival

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, September 19
10:00am – 4:00pm

Volunteers are needed to host a booth to showcase our Chapter.

This family-oriented event, bringing the Poolesville community together for more than 25 years, attracts over 12,000 visitors to the town and includes food, drink, entertainment, multiple kids' activities, art & craft vendors, and other exhibitors.

It provides a great opportunity for us to connect with local residents and visitors and highlight what the IWLA is about, and more importantly what we do in our Chapter.

Great day out for the family.

Anyone looking for volunteer hours - we need your help in staffing the booth.

Sign-up genius link will be sent to the membership later this month.

Questions? Contact Andy Wight,
Conservation Education Chair
ConservationEducation.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com

HELP NEEDED IN THE KITCHEN -

Membership Dinner Meetings

We are still in need of additional cooks for our dinner meetings. If you can help out in any way, either short or long term, please get in touch with Carol Hulse-Efdimis. The help does not have to be a long-term commitment, even cooking or helping for one dinner would be appreciated.

ATTENTION New Members!

Chapter House cleanups will be held on:

Saturday, July 11

Saturday, August 15

and Saturday, September 12

Starting at 9:00am

Join us and earn volunteer hours

As a reminder – probationary (new) members need to help out in one chapter house cleanup as part of their sixteen volunteer hours.

Signup for the cleanups using the
signup genius link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACAA28A7F8C25-51060445-monthly>

Questions? Contact John Lamb –
jpatricklamb@aol.com

Montgomery County Ag Fair Booth

Steve Poss
bandsposs@gmail.com



We are looking for volunteers to help work the booth at this year's Montgomery County Agricultural Fair. The fair starts on August 14, 2026 and runs through August 22, 2026.

Volunteers are needed to work the 6 hour shifts. The early shift runs 10:00am to 4:00pm and the late shift 4:00pm to 10:00pm. Volunteers get free admission and a parking pass. It's a great way to earn your volunteer hours, as well as an opportunity to promote our organization and educate the community about our mission.

I'm also looking for any promotional material about the chapter and our activities that can be displayed or handed out at the booth.

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Poss (301 332-5259) bandsposs@gmail.com, or Bill Leaman with the Rockville Chapter to schedule a time slot (240 888-7600).

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**

Rifle & Pistol Range Committee Report

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

Any current Range Officer who has not received their duty day assignments should contact Larry Hess (larry.a.hess@gmail.com).

FIREARMS TRAINING COURSES

We will be hosting a variety of firearms training courses at the chapter this year thanks to member Rich Clement who is certified in a wide variety of firearms training courses. The **NRA Basics Shotgun Shooting Course** will be held on August 9th from 8:30am – 6:00pm starting at the Chapter House.

<https://www.nrainstructors.org/CourseDetails.aspx?Courseid=893704>

More courses are being planned subject to scheduling restrictions.

JUNIOR RIFLE PROGRAM

The new season of the Junior Rifle Program started in May and we are having practices approximately twice a month on Tuesday evenings. We started with some introductory sessions followed by a structured marksmanship program with regular practices that include safety briefings and skill development with the opportunity to compete in local competitions. All equipment will be provided. If interested, please contact Larry Hess: larry.a.hess@gmail.com or Daniel Koehn: dkoehn13@gmail.com.



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)

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.



New Biathlon Targets

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, July 11	7:30am
Saturday, July 25	7:30am

Saturday, August 8 (3rd Annual B-CC IWLA Baithlon)	7:30am
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Saturday, August 22	7:30am
Saturday, September 12	7:30am
Saturday, September 26	7:30am
Saturday, October 3	7:00am*

*Note earlier start time

Shotgun Range Report

Jerry Murray
jerrym5@comcast.net

First, I want to apologize to everyone that has expressed interest in becoming a range officer at the shotgun range. I have not been in contact because we have not picked a date for the class but we do have a plan for the curriculum and instructors and will set some dates soon.

Last week the sporting clays course was re-set to a new layout so come on out and give it a try.

We will be working on the trap machines this weekend and will have an update on that soon.

We are still making range improvements and if you have some carpentry skills we could use some help repairing parts of the pavilion siding and putting some new plywood doors on the range towers.

OPEN TO PUBLIC!!



IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE

3-D ARCHERY

20601 IZAAK WALTON WAY
POOLESVILLE, MARYLAND

-WARM UP ON TARGET BAG RANGE!
-SHOOT OVER 30 LIFE-SIZE ANIMALS
ON OUR NATURE TRAIL COURSE IN WOODS

2026 SEASON
CALENDAR
Weekends 9am-1pm

July 25-26
August 29-30



Guests-\$15 Members-\$10 KIDS-FREE!



Archery.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com

Trapper Education Training and Certification Opportunity

Saturday, August 29th 10:00am – 6:00pm

On Saturday, August 29, from 10:00am – 6:00pm, there will be a training at the Chapter to be certified as a Trapper as part of the Maryland Advanced Hunter Education program. Attendees will be taught by experts with years of experience. Take advantage of this opportunity as this training is usually hours away; instead the instructors will be coming to Poolesville.

This class is the in-person Maryland Trapper Education Course. This is part of the Maryland Hunter Safety Program's Advanced Hunter Education Series. However, a Maryland Furbearer Permit AND Trapper Ed Certification is required if a person intends to trap furbearers in Maryland.



Here is the link to register:

<https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/244359>

It is important to follow all of the instructions in this registration announcement including reading the Welcome Letter and using the QR code to download and print the Maryland Trapper Ed Workbook which needs to be filled out ahead of time as part of the training. The Maryland Trapper Student Manual is also downloadable as an aid.



Next Session on Wednesday, August 5

We'll be onsite for anyone looking to sling some arrows.

Family's are welcome and no prior experience needed.

We can also help seasoned shooters chrono their equipment or paper tune.

Location:

https://maps.app.goo.gl/tsqSfHNWPhWfpJHk7?g_st=com.google.maps.preview.copy

Apollo Archery's monthly sessions start at 6:00pm and finish at dusk.

2026 remaining dates:

August 5; September 2; October 7

As always, there is no fee for participation and we have equipment for use for folks of all ages and abilities.

Check out full program details here:

<https://bcciwla.org/apollo-archery/> or on facebook at:
<https://www.facebook.com/share/1Dq2rg8HNa/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

And be sure to email us if you have any questions at:
apolloarchery.bcciwla@gmail.com

See you on the range!

Sunflowers are Blooming!

Farm Chair Phil Taylor planted sunflowers in the A2 front field (along West Willard Road and Izaak Walton Way) and the B3 field. They should peak around July 11 – 12 but should be in bloom until the end of July.

Bring the family and take pictures!

Please be cautious of the electric fence around the fields.



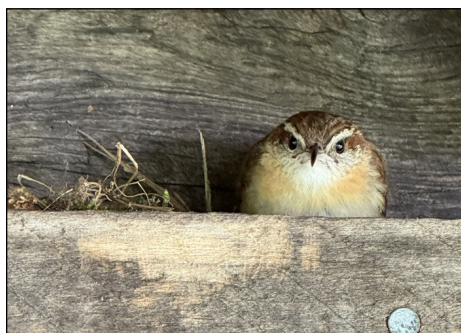
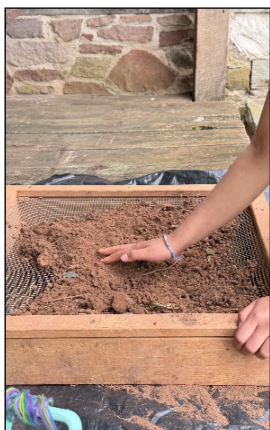
PHOTO BY ARTHUR BELENDIUK

The Log Cabin Committee Report

David Mecklenburg, Chair
dmecklenburg1@gmail.com

We had a beautiful day for Heritage Days, and a lot of fun around the log cabin giving tours and showing the improvements that we have made to it so far. It was also enjoyable watching other committees sharing the area around the cabin and small pond with chapter guests. The Archeology Committee had metal detecting with the Boy Scouts and sifting for arrowheads for smaller children. The reenactors were busy showing off how life may have been in the early 1800's. Ponds and Steams looked like they were having a fun time introducing people to fishing.

If you have not participated in Heritage Days at the chapter, please put it on your list. There is something for everyone.



WANTED: Carpenter/Sign maker

We are looking for someone who can make a duplicate of our chapter sign at West Willard/Izaak Walton Way. It has been pointed out that you cannot see our sign if you are driving south on West Willard except in your rear-view mirror. To increase our visibility, we would like to have a duplicate made that we can install facing north. We understand that this could be a costly and time-consuming job and while donations are welcome, we would like to get some pricing in order to put this on the project list. If you know of a person or company who would be interested, please contact Jerry Murray.



Large Pond Issue

There has been a substantial fish kill at the big pond. About 400-500 fish, mostly bluegills and some large bass, are dead.

Until further notice, everyone needs to avoid contact with the big pond water and to keep pets out of the water.

A warning sign has been posted at the big pond and at the chapter house.



Milkweed May Help Kill the Spotted Lantern Fly

Wildlife Committee
bcc_wildflowers@yahoo.com



Our conservation farm faces a new threat from the Spotted Lantern Fly (often called "SLF" for short). These pests were accidentally transported here from China. Back in their home environment there are natural predators that maintain a healthy ecosystem. But in some places in this country the SLF population has exploded due to insufficient predator control.

Good news is that breaking research supports the belief that milkweed might help kill Spotted Lantern Fly.* Here's how that works. Milkweed contains a fairly powerful toxin named cardiac glycoside. As the name implies, this chemical affects the heart and is toxic to both animals and most insects. A few insects, most notably the Monarch Butterfly, have developed immunity to this toxin and in-turn use its presence in their bodies for self-defense. Native insects act as if they know to avoid eating milkweed. But as somebody said: "The Spotted Lantern Fly is not from around here! It doesn't know to avoid milkweed." Initially there were reports that dead bodies of SLF were found next to milkweed plants. Preliminary research has confirmed that the pests do indeed eat milkweed and then about 75% subsequently die. So, here's another reason for us to grow milkweed on our farm.

More about the Spotted Lantern Fly

The Spotted Lantern Fly is a plant-eating insect. It sucks the sap out of pretty much any plant. But it does seem to have some favorites. In its native China, the host plant for SLF is *Ailanthus altissima*, commonly called "Tree of Heaven". Research supports the belief that SLF population expands the fastest when Tree of Heaven is available. However it is not required for them to reproduce. The fact that Tree of Heaven helps SLF further motivates us to destroy the invasive Tree of Heaven (which poses its own threat to our forests). Furthermore when the SLF feeds from the Tree of Heaven the insect develops a bitter taste. That bitter taste quickly teaches birds to avoid eating them.

What's so bad about the Spotted Lantern Fly? First of all the SLF sucks nutrients from desirable plants, such as soybean, maple and black walnut. Second, this insect excretes a sugary waste called "honeydew". This sticky material causes further harm to the host plant because it encourages mold growth.

If you'd like to volunteer to help eradicate invasive Tree of Heaven please contact the Chair of either the Wildflower Committee or Farm Committee:

bcc_wildflowers@yahoo.com
farm.bcc.iwla@gmail.com

*Link to SARE research project testing if using milkweed planted along vineyard borders might help reduce SLF damage: https://projects.sare.org/sare_project/Ine25-494r/

NestWatch Committee Report

Linda Green and Pat McNeilly
Citizen Science Project Co-coordinators

This is the busiest time of year for the NestWatch Team at the BCC chapter! We have continued doing weekly monitoring of the Bluebird and Tree Swallow nest boxes around the ponds and fields, nearly all of which have active nests. The Tree Swallow chicks are mostly fledging now, as the Eastern Bluebirds are eagerly working on second broods. We have even seen multiple nests that have been built directly on top of a recently fledged Tree Swallow nest! Late June and early July is when most of the Purple Martin chicks in the towers and gourds are about 2 weeks old. This midpoint in their brood period is the time the team does nest changes for the young chicks, providing fresh pine needle material to improve the success of the chicks' survival, by decreasing parasite growth. This year has been a very prolific year for the Purple



*Eastern Bluebird Nest
on Tree Swallow Nest*

Martins, with only a couple of gourd nests impacted by likely competing bird predation. Both of these were recovered with newly laid eggs. While most nests of Purple Martins have 5-7 eggs, one nest that we are tracking has 11 eggs! This is likely the result of a second female taking over a previous nest, but we are curious to see how many chicks actually hatch.

We are very grateful for the enthusiastic support of guest Annie Mealey throughout this busy season. If anyone else is interested in joining this team, please

email Linda at lindakpgreen@gmail.com. We would love to have additional help!



Purple Martin Eggs



Purple Martin Hatchlings



*Purple Martins - Naked Young -
1 week old*

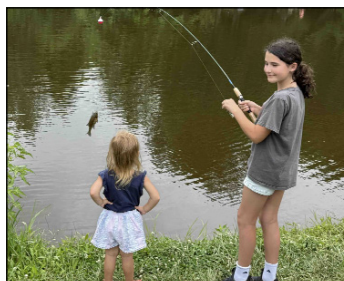


*Purple Martins - Partially
Feathered Chicks - 2 weeks old*

Heritage Day Fishing

John Novak, co-chair, Ponds and Streams Committee

We had a record turnout of anglers, both adults and kids, at the small pond on Heritage Day, June 27. An estimated three dozen or so people cast their lines in the water and most caught at least one fish. The bluegills must have been hungry as many were pulling in one fish after another. One young lady caught 12 bluegills! Another angler caught a painted turtle (which was quickly released unharmed). We even ran out of worms (two whole tubs!) which is a first. Everyone seemed to have a great time and the fun was topped off with delicious hotdogs and hamburgers afterwards at the Chapter House. A special thanks to those who helped with the event – John Estep, Pete Wirth, Mike Spencer, and Suzanne Novak.



Youth Shooting Program

Youth shooting has a long history at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase chapter. The rifle range opened in the mid 1950's and instructing youths in the shooting sports started right away as seen in this photo taken at the chapter's rifle and pistol range in 1955.



Past president Frank Och founded the chapter's smallbore (.22) youth team, the B-CC Eagles and coached them for many years. Other members carried on the tradition and our Rifle & Pistol committee chair Larry Hess and NRA rifle instructor Daniel Koehn coach the current program. Our program starts with introductory sessions followed by a structured program with regular practices that include safety briefings and skill development with the opportunity to compete in local competitions. Thanks to the Grant from IWLA Endowment we were able to upgrade our equipment, better accommodate left-handed shooters and shooters of smaller stature, and expand the program to include air rifles to be used indoors in the winter.

The funds also allowed us to expand our summer biathlon program. Summer biathlon has been one of the programs at the chapter's rifle & pistol range since 1992. Summer biathlon is in operation from March thru November on Saturday mornings and consists of a 5-kilometer running course with four (4) equidistant, integrated shooting stops. The shooting stops alternate between prone and standing positions. We used the funds from the Grant to purchase new targets which allow us to have more participants in each relay and the rifles we pur-



chased can be used by both the youth rifle and the biathlon programs. We are expanding the youth biathlon program by reaching out to several local high schools and inviting their students to participate. Our group participates in several competitions during the season and three years ago we started hosting our own event: The Annual B-CC Biathlon Classic. This year we have included a youth division in the event.

The shooting sports offer a gateway to many outdoors activities and by hosting a variety of shooting programs with a youth component we are able to reach a wide range of students.



New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour

There will not be a tour in July nor August. Tours will resume in September. A new link to the signup genius for the monthly events will be included in the August 2026 Newsletter.

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

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.