



MARCH 2024 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

Spring has sprung and the chapter is starting to come alive with activity. We are starting to prepare for our Spring clean-up day on April 6, the gardens will be opening up, and activities are starting to be planned for the rest of the year.

The nominating committee is being formed to provide a slate of candidates for this year's election of Officers and Board of Governors. Any members interested in becoming involved in our chapter's leadership and direction, please be on the look-out for an announcement. Serving on the BOG is a wonderful opportunity to further contribute to our chapter's mission and heritage and can be personally very satisfying.

Carol Hulce-Efdimis
President

Environmental Stewardship Committee

Blaine Elkins, Chair
blaineelkins@verizon.net

Lead Reclamation Update March 3, 2024

The chapter is gearing up to begin the actual lead reclamation work. We are in the final phase of soliciting bids and selecting a contractor or contractors for the installation of the erosion and sediment control (ESC) items and the clearing of the meadow areas and final grading. The project engineers are scheduled to layout and mark the ESC features and the limits of disturbance of the project this month. Once that is done, there will be a preconstruction meeting with the Government officials, consultants, contractors, and chapter representatives to make sure that the controls will protect the undisturbed areas during the construction process. Prior to the start of the sediment and erosion control work in April, the Sporting Clays on the shotgun range will need to be suspended, the traps and protective log barriers removed from the field, and the electrical connections for trap machines marked and flagged.

After the sediment and erosion control features are installed in April, they will be inspected by a representative of the Soil Conservation District. Once they are approved by the SCD, reclamation work can begin. EN Range, the reclamation contractor, has us on their schedule to start on Monday, May 6.

The reclamation work will proceed through late spring and the summer as weather permits. EN Range will strip soil from the wooded and grassy areas of the work zone in 1 to 2 acre increments. The resulting organics and soil will be processed to separate out the organics, stones, and rocks. The lead shot will be separated from the dirt, collected and sent off to be recycled in accordance with state and federal regulations. Once the dirt is processed, it is tested for Ph, treated to maintain a neutral Ph, and then replaced where it came from and rough graded. The ESC contractor temporarily stabilizes each segment with hydroseeding.

Once the reclamation contractor completes the wooded areas designated to be converted to meadowlands, the ESC/Clearing contractor will clear the area removing all timber and stumps, finish grade and hydroseed for final stabilization. As part of this work, areas of the managed woodlands will be finish graded and given their final stabilization seeding.

Once the areas have been stabilized by the growth of the cover from the final stabilization seeding to the satisfaction of the Soil Conservation District inspector, the sediment and erosion control features can be removed and the permit closed out.

We anticipate the shotgun range could be able to resume the sporting clay set ups currently in use in October of 2024.

Please be aware that once the work starts the shotgun area will be a construction zone with heavy equipment that can be dangerous. Members and guests must stay out of the work area even when the equipment is not operating. The work will bring increased traffic to the chapter roads and areas around the shotgun range and the operators are not as familiar with the chapter as we are. There is a work area in the C2 field, so do not block the farm road by the barn and bird pen. Be mindful of this when out with your children or animals.

POSTPONED

Black Powder Day / Muzzleloader Event

This event, scheduled for
Saturday, March 23, has been postponed.
New date will be announced via eblast
and in the April Newsletter.

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.

Board of Governors

Fiscal Year: September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024

OFFICERS

Carol Hulce-Efidimis, President
240 277-2494 • carol2017@aol.com

Andy Wight, 1st Vice President
240 205-3982 • andywight1@hotmail.com

Francis (Jerry) Murray, 2nd Vice President
202 438-4202 • jerrym5@comcast.net

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

Scott Harmon, Membership Secretary
301 467-0645 • scott.w.harmon@verizon.net

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

BOARD MEMBERS

Deborah Behrend*
Marc Bouchard
Dan Dutton
Joe Finnegan*
Phil Taylor

Walt Allensworth, Past President
301 221-3594 • twangermd@gmail.com

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

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

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

Submissions to the *NEWSLETTER* should be sent to:

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

Welcome to the B-CC IWLA Family!

At the February 2024 Membership Meeting, the following was inducted as a member to the Chapter:

Jason Lawrence
Interests: Farming; Legislative Affairs; Wildlife

Summary of the January 2024 Board of Governors Meeting and the February 2024 Membership Meeting

Mark Lauver, Recording Secretary

Wednesday, January 24, 2024 – Board of Governors Meeting

- Chapter President Carol Hulce-Efidimis called the meeting to order at 8:22pm.
- Treasurer's Report – account balances were discussed.
- Discussion on updating the Chapter Facilities Use Regulations – driving on the property.
- Kitchen hood cleaning was scheduled for January 29.
- Log Cabin Committee Chair David Mecklenburg reported that a tree in proximity to log cabin needs to be removed.
- Help is needed with escorting company that takes monthly water samples around property.
- Rifle and Pistol Range – existing range officers need to take a refresher course.
- Board approved chartering new Scout troops and pack.
- National and State Award applications are due to be sent to Chapter.

ITEM FOR DISCUSSION:

- Some items on the website are out of date

Meeting adjourned at 10:01pm.

Wednesday, February 21, 2024 – 1,060th Membership Dinner Meeting

- President Carol Hulce-Efidimis called the meeting to order at 7:31pm.
- 50/50 Raffle collected \$197 which was split between the winner and the Chapter. The chapter's portion goes toward the purchase of new Adirondack chairs for the chapter house porches.
- Finance Meeting was held on February 10.
- Account balances were reported by Treasurer Bob Kelly.
- Membership Secretary Scott Harmon reported that the Chapter currently has 696 members.
- 17 prospective members introduced themselves. Motion made to induct one new member. The motion passed and the candidate was sworn in.
- 1st Vice President Andy Wight reported that the spring Chapter cleanup will be held on Saturday, April 6. Great opportunity for members to earn volunteer hours for the year.
- Farm Chairman Phil Taylor is getting ready to plant the farm.
- Shotgun Range: Blaine Elkins reported he is getting bids for the erosion and sediment control. Engineers will start work in March. Most work will be done in April. Lead reclamation should start in May. Shotgun Range activities will be suspended towards the end of March and anticipate reopening at the end of October 2024.
- The Committee Chair and Chief Range Officer for the Rifle & Pistol Range have resigned.
- The Family Campout is scheduled for Saturday, April 13 through breakfast on Sunday, April 14. Fishing, food, night time activities, s'mores, etc., will be included.
- Conservation Education Dinner and Awards is scheduled for Saturday, May 18 (May 25 alternate date).
- A survey concerning the Chapter will be distributed to members soon.

TALKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER:

- An AED for cardiac events has been installed in the Chapter House by the bar. A link will be included in the

(continued on page 3)

SUMMARY

(continued from page 2)

March newsletter for a 3-minute instruction on YouTube. First Aid classes will be available with an opportunity to learn more about the AED. In the future, an AED will be placed at each range (Archery, R&P, Shotgun) and one at the pavilion at the big pond.

- Mark Gochnour recommended watching the PBS program about American Bison by Ken Burns.
- Jim Hubbard spoke about the Global Ecology Program at Poolesville High School. Chapter will rely on prospective members to keep the program going.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Coming in May ...

CONSERVATION EDUCATION DINNER AND AWARDS

Date to be confirmed – either Saturday, May 18th or 25th

This annual dinner is open to members, their guests, and interested members of the public, and traditionally features a speaker who addresses a conservation-oriented area, work, or issue. Speaker to be announced in the April newsletter.

Again this year we will present our B-CC IWLA Conservation Education Awards to selected projects from the Global Ecology Program at Poolesville High School that our review team feels are aligned with the conservation values of our chapter. The Global Ecology Program at PHS is a field-based program that provides students with the knowledge and understanding of the scientific, cultural, social, political, economic, and technological conditions that affect the quality of life on our planet. All seniors in the program are required to complete a hands-on environment-related project prior to graduation.

Adding an excellent spaghetti dinner to a compelling speaker and a chance to recognize our Award recipients promises that this Conservation Dinner will be another that you don't want to miss.

Dinner will be served 6:00pm – 7:00pm, with awards starting at 7:00pm, followed by our guest speaker.

Dinner is free of charge, but reservations will be required.

If you are able to help with the setup, preparation of the dinner, and / or cleanup for this event, please contact:

Andy Wight

B-CC IWLA Conservation Education Committee Chair

ConservationEd.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com

Swap Meet / Silent Auction

We are looking into moving the annual events that are held on Father's Day to a Saturday in June that is not on that weekend. Further details will follow next month.

UPCOMING EVENTS

B-CC IWLA and Community

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

IWLA MD State Division Meeting In the Chapter House

Saturday, March 16
8:00am – 3:00pm

Chapter House Cleanup

Sunday, March 17
9:00am – 12:00 noon

1,061st Membership Dinner Meeting

Kid Friendly Event

Wednesday, March 20
Dinner – 6:15pm; Meeting 7:30pm

New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour

Saturday, March 23
10:00am – 11:30am

Board of Governors Meeting

Wednesday, March 27
7:00pm

Spring Chapter Cleanup Day and Picnic

Saturday, April 6
Starting at 8:30am

Family Campout

Saturday, April 13 – starting at 2:30pm
thru Sunday, April 14 – ending at 10:00am

Fire by Friction Workshop

Saturday, April 20
10:00am

Help is Needed!

Environmental Stewardship Committee

On a monthly basis, our Chapter has a Maryland certified lab take scheduled samples of the surface and potable water on our property. In addition to ensuring safe drinking water, these results allow us to monitor the impact of development outside our property, the containment of lead on our ranges, and the quality of our streams and ponds for aquatic life. The Chapter member who has been escorting the lab technician to the designated sites for the past 20 years has retired from this duty and we are looking for more members to take over this important work. The process takes a couple of hours once a month on a weekday.

If you are willing to help, please contact Blaine Elkins at blaineelkins@verizon.net.

Membership Committee Report

Scott Harmon, Membership Secretary
scott.w.harmon@verizon.net 301 467-0645 (Cell)

As of the February board meeting, membership stands at 732 total Members: 391 Individuals, 246 Family, 6 Students, 1 Youth, 75 Retired, and 13 Associates. It's not too late to renew for 2024. By renewing you support our chapter's mission to protect wildlife, woodlands, and open spaces.

To renew online copy, paste the following link into your web browser:

<https://bcciwla.org/memberrenew>

You can also go to our website home page and in the upper right corner of the page hover over the drop down menu called "Member Area." At the bottom of this menu, you will see Renew Your Membership, click on it to renew your membership.

As of February 1st, all renewals received have been submitted to National for processing and we hope to have your membership cards back to you by the middle of March. If you have not received a membership card, I would like to hear from you. Please email me to let me know.

We need your help to increase membership this year. Introduce our farm to others. If you go to our ranges, take a hike, or go fishing, bring a guest with you.

We will be hosting a membership drive where we will be reaching out to past members to see if they would be interested in rejoining our chapter. If you are interested in helping make calls, reach out to me.

Warmest Regards -

March 2024 1,061st Monthly Dinner / Membership Meeting (Kid Friendly Event)

Wednesday, March 20

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

Menu

Appetizers will be available before dinner
Corned Beef, Cabbage, Potatoes, Carrots,
Rolls, Salad, and Dessert

Children's Menu

Hot Dogs, Chips, Cookies/Ice Cream
and Juice Boxes

Speakers

Professors John Lill and Martha Weiss
Update – Cicada Research Project

March 2024 Board of Governors Meeting

Wednesday, March 27

7:00pm

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 Hulce-Efdimis. The help does not have to be a long-term commitment, even cooking or helping for one dinner would be appreciated.

Grants Committee

Jerry Murray
202 438-4202 jerrym5@comcast.net

We are forming a committee to solicit grants from organizations to help support and expand our chapter activities. The areas we are currently looking at include: invasives removal, farm operations, tree planting, wetlands reforestation, log cabin renovation, student ecology programs, and the shooting sports. We need help in matching the organizations with the programs and writing and presenting the proposals. If you would like to help out, please contact me.

New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour

Come join us on the B-CC IWLA Orientation Tour. The next tour will take place on **Saturday, March 23, 2024** from 10:00am to approximately 11:30am *if weather permits*.

This event is open to all members (new and old) and those who are interested in membership to the chapter or just curious about what we do.

The guided tour of our property will include an overview of our history and mission, our facilities, the partnerships with local schools and organizations, and a chance to meet and ask questions to current members.

Meet Christine Peterson at the Chapter House. Follow Izaak Walton Way through the gate to the Chapter House parking lot where we will be meeting to start the tour.

Contact Christine – christineakcp@comcast.net if you have questions.

DUE DATE

for April Newsletter Articles is
Saturday, March 23
(note early date)

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Monthly Events

Saturdays & Sundays (through late March)
Sundays (through March 31)
Mondays

FeederWatch Program
Sporting Clays at Shotgun Range
BSA Scout Meetings in the Chapter House

9:00am – 4:00pm
7:30pm – 9:00pm

MARCH

Saturday, March 2	New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour	10:00am – 11:30am
Sunday, March 3	R&P Range Closed	8:00am – 5:00pm
Sunday, March 10	R&P Range Officer Card Issuance (Chapter House)	10:00am – 11:00am
Sunday, March 10	Cub Scout Pack 694 Pinewood Derby	1:00am – 5:00pm
Wednesday, March 13	Cub Scout Pack 694 AoL Crossover	6:00pm – 8:30pm
Thursday, March 14	Pack 695 Den Meet (Kyle) – in Chapter House	7:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday, March 16	IWLA MD State Division Meeting – in the Chapter House	8:00am – 3:00pm
Sunday, March 17	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Wednesday, March 20	1,061st Membership Dinner Meeting Kid Friendly Dinner!	Dinner starts 6:15pm Meeting starts 7:30pm
Saturday, March 23	Muzzleloader Day POSTPONED – will be rescheduled for a later date	9:00am – 4:00pm
Saturday, March 23	New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour	10:00am – 11:30am
Saturday, March 23	Articles for April Newsletter due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Wednesday, March 27	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Thursday, March 28	Pack 694 Den Meet (Kyle) – in Chapter House	7:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday, March 30	Archery Range Cleanup Day	8:30am – 3:00pm
Sunday, March 31	Last day of Sporting Clays at Shotgun Range until after Lead Reclamation	9:00am – 4:00pm

APRIL

Wednesday, April 3	Apollo Archery – Archery Range	6:00pm – Dusk
Saturday, April 6	Spring Chapter Cleanup Day & Picnic	Starting at 8:30am
Sunday, April 7	Montgomery Bird Club's Spring Walk	7:00am – 12:00 noon
Thursday, April 11	Pack 694 Den Meet (Kyle) – in Chapter House	7:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday, April 13	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00noon
Saturday, April 13	Family Campout	Starts at 2:30pm
Sunday, April 14	Family Campout	Ends by 10:00am
Wednesday, April 17	1,062nd Membership Dinner Meeting Meeting starts 7:30pm	Dinner starts 6:15pm
Thursday, April 18	Cub Scout Pack 694 Meeting – in Chapter House	6:30pm – 8:30pm
Saturday, April 20	New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour	10:00am – 11:30am
Wednesday, April 24	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Thursday, April 25	Pack 694 Den Meet (Kyle) – in Chapter House	7:00pm – 8:00pm
Friday, April 26	Articles for May Newsletter due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day

MAY

Wednesday, May 1	Apollo Archery – Archery Range	6:00pm – Dusk
Thursday, May 2	Past Presidents' Dinner	6:00pm
Saturday, May 4	Spring Hunter Education Class	8:00am – 4:00pm
Sunday, May 5	Montgomery Bird Club's Spring Walk	7:00am – 12:00 noon
Sunday, May 5	Spring Hunter Education sClass	8:00am – 4:00pm
Thursday, May 9	Pack 694 Den Meet (Kyle) – in Chapter House	7:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday, May 11	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Wednesday, May 15	1,063rd Membership Dinner Meeting Meeting starts 7:30pm	Dinner starts 6:15pm
Thursday, May 16	Cub Scout 694 Meeting	7:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday, May 18	New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour	10:00am – 11:30am
Saturday, May 18	Conservation Education Dinner and Awards with Speaker	Dinner – 6:00pm Awards and Speaker – 7:00pm
Wednesday, May 22	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Friday, May 24	Articles for June Newsletter due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of /day
Saturday, May 25	Conservation Education Dinner and Awards – alternate date	

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

AED (Automatic External Defibrillator)

Jerry Murray, 2nd Vice President
jerrym5@comcast.net

There is a new addition in the chapter house. We have installed an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) that can help if someone has a cardiac related incident. The unit is installed on the wall over the bar and is made by Avive Solutions, Inc. The device is in a portable bag that also contains gloves and an air mask. Once activated the device will use verbal and visual prompts to help guide the user thru the steps needed to properly attach it. The company's website: www.avive.life has a short instructional video that will help you understand its operation.

The unit will be checked monthly to ensure it stays operational. If you need to use the unit, please let me know afterward so I can have it serviced/reset: Jerry Murray at: jerrym5@comcast.net.

We will be offering First Aid classes at the chapter again this year and the class will include additional information about AED's. We are looking into installing additional units at other locations on the chapter grounds.

If you have any questions, please contact me.



Apollo Archery 2024 Program

Chuck Thornton
apolloarchery.bcciwla@gmail.com

APOLLO ARCHERY IS BACK FOR OUR FOURTH SEASON!



We inaugurated the Apollo Archery program in 2021 to provide archery instruction and experiences for current and former members of the United States Armed Services and their families. Check out program details here: <https://bcciwla.org/apollo-archery/>.

As in prior years, we will host Apollo Archery sessions on the first Wednesday of each month from April through October. We will start at 6:00pm and finish at dusk.

2024 dates:

**April 3; May 1; June 5; July 3;
August 7; September 4; October 2**

If you know of veterans and current Service members in the Montgomery County, Maryland area, please share this opportunity with them. There is no fee for participation.

We're always in search of modern equipment donations. We store the Apollo equipment in a dedicated shed with access limited to use by our participants. Please contact us if you'd like to make a contribution.

For additional details, contact Chuck Thornton at apolloarchery.bcciwla@gmail.com!

Fire by Friction Workshop

Michael Dobson, Adventure Committee Chair
michaeldobson@protonmail.com

You've seen it on television – people in the woods, naked and afraid, rubbing crude implements together to make fire. Now learn how to do it yourself (clothed) in the Adventure Committee's latest workshop, Fire By Friction, on Saturday, April 20th, at 10:00am. The chapter's own Jack Kang will lead participants in making and using a bow drill fire set. Participants will also receive a Mora knife, Ferro rod, and food grilled on the fires we make. (Those unsuccessful at building fires will be allowed to graze nearby.)



This event is free to chapter members and \$50 for non-members. Individuals must be 16 or older to attend. This event will take place on the chapter property, with details to follow by email to those who register. Sign up at the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACA28A7F8C25-48325153-fire>

Calendar Submissions

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



Kid Friendly Dinner

Our next Kid Friendly Chapter Dinner will be held on Wednesday, March 20. As usual, we will have kids' activities while adults enjoy the regular chapter meeting. Hot dogs, chips, cookies/ice cream, and juice boxes will be provided. Keep the date clear and use this opportunity to bring your kids to the chapter.

Questions?

Contact Andy Wight,
Conservation Education Chair, at
ConservationEd.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com.

2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION

Restoring Our Great Waters – Taking Action Today to Secure a Better Future Hyatt Regency Chesapeake, Cambridge, Maryland Sunday July 14 – Wednesday July 17, 2024

Planning your 2024 summer vacation? You should consider attending the IWLA National Convention being held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Cambridge, MD. The Hyatt Regency is a five-star hotel located on the banks of the Choptank River, near where it empties into the Chesapeake Bay. There will be lots of opportunities for all kinds of water sports. A great opportunity for a Family Vacation.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

Sunday, July 14

A travel day. There will be an *Early Bird Social* held in the evening featuring door prizes, raffles and an auction. Finger food provided. Cash Bar.

Monday, July 15

Convention opens. A *Parade of States* social in the evening. Always fun. Each attending state has an open room at which they provide food and drink. You will not go away hungry or thirsty.

Tuesday, July 16

Convention work terminates at close of business day. *Convention Banquet* in the evening. (Ladies you can dress up for this one.)

Wednesday, July 17

A totally fun day. Tentatively scheduled are deep sea fishing out of Ocean City, Chesapeake Bay fishing, sailing, dining on a paddle boat featuring all-you-can-eat buffet or crabs, sight seeing, etc.

YOUTH CONVENTION:

A program for kids from 8-18 years featuring chaperoned ecology oriented fun activities. The youth may be divided into two or more age groups. Always a great hit with the kids. Details concerning registration and activities will follow.

FEATURED SPEAKERS:

Steven Marking

A Visit from Will Dilg

Millicent Sparks

Harriet Tubman: Living History Experience

NOMINATION SLATES:

The convention rate is \$175 per night + taxes. There will be no Resort Fee (which would have been an additional \$40 per day). You can also stay at one of the other neighboring hotels, and still participate in the convention activities.

The Chapter is allotted a certain number of voting delegates. The Chapter provides financial support for the voting delegates, and you should inform the Chapter President Carol Hulce-Efdimis if you wish to attend as a voting delegate.

The deadline for making hotel reservations is June 17. Hotel reservations can be made through the National IWLA website.

Fishing at the Small Pond

The large Bluegill was caught at the small pond and released as part of the Ponds & Streams catch and release policy.



Bluegill



Trout

PHOTOS BY JOHN NOVAK

Rainbow and Brown trout can still be caught at the small pond and kept to be part of a scrumptious meal. Limit of three per person per visit.

Weather is getting warmer – come out to the chapter and wet a line!

Hunter Safety / Education Course

John Lamb

jpatricklamb@aol.com

On May 4th & 5th the chapter will host one of its bi-annual Hunter Safety / Education courses. This class is free of charge and open to anyone wishing to get certified through the State of Maryland. All new potential hunters must enroll-in and satisfy a certification program. Our class is a 2 – day course from 8:00am to 4:00pm on each day. I do encourage those hunters, whom were / are exempt from completing this program due to grandfather clauses, to enroll as well. Typically, the class age range runs from 6 – 75 years of age. The certification is recognized throughout the U.S and all over the world.

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

Students should bring a lunch and an enthusiastic learning attitude. The state will provide all other materials required.

Members wishing to work off volunteer hours are welcome to assist. If you have any questions, please contact me at jpatricklamb@aol.com.



Update – Introduction to Shotgun Shooting

Mike Dobson and Andy Wight



PHOTO BY ANDY WIGHT

On February 24th, a brisk Saturday morning, the Adventure Committee and Shotgun Range hosted 16 participants in an Introduction to Shotgun Shooting. Attendees included men, women, and children, both current and prospective members. The chapter's own Pat Tarquinio discussed range safety and shotgun types with the group before leading everyone out to try and break clays. Some were more successful than others, but a great time was had by all.

Big thanks to Pat for sharing his wealth of knowledge (and for showing how easy it is to break doubles with enough practice).

Keep an eye out for more from the shotgun range as the lead reclamation project proceeds.

Rifle & Pistol Range Committee Report

Jerry Murray, Chair
202 438-4202 jerrym5@comcast.net

The Committee has been getting ready for the re-opening of the range to the membership and their guests on the afternoon of April 6. All the range officers (new and existing) have taken an on-line or in-person training course and test on range operations, safety protocols, and the updated standard operating procedures (SOP's).

Many of our range officers have recently taken the NRA's Range Safety Officer certification course to improve their knowledge of safe range operations.

We are putting together a list of upcoming events at the range. These will include training classes, competitions and fun activities for all ages and disciplines. If you have any suggestions for events, please send them to me.

Lastly we have quite a few maintenance items that need to be completed before we open up and could use your help. If you cannot help on work day but have some other time you are available to help, please contact me at jerrym5@comcast.net.



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

**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**

Our goal is to purchase 15 chairs

Vegetable Gardens

Larry Anderson
240 246-5301 andupton9@hotmail.com

Pat Tarquinio
ptarq@hotmail.com

The days are growing longer and warmer temperatures becoming more common which means gardeners are getting restless, anticipating and planning for the next growing season. At B-CC IWLA we have an active gardening community, full of members who enjoy the opportunity to play in the soil. Generally, our gardeners find the gardens a pleasant distraction from the hustle and bustle of daily life even with our onslaught of amazing weeds. Again this year, Pat and I will be the organizers of the garden plots.

As has been our custom, current gardeners have first choice of reserving garden plots, so now is the time to contact either Pat or me with your intentions for this year. Single plots (~25x25ft) will rent for \$20 each. For members wishing to become new gardeners, please contact either Pat or me, and we will compile a list and start assigning plots as they become available. We hope to have the list and assignments ready to go in early April in time for early crop planting.



Friendly Reminder Concerning Hunting on B-CC Chapter

All chapter members wishing to hunt on our farm must:

- have a valid MD hunting license (including all necessary stamps, i.e. HIP stamp for doves)
- have a current and valid B-CC IWLA membership card as proof of permission to hunt on private land
- have a current and valid parking sticker displayed on their vehicle
- register on our website to acknowledge understanding our rules and property boundaries. This is a yearly requirement.

Questions? Contact Larry Anderson, Wildlife Committee Chair, andupton9@hotmail.com or 240 246-5302.

FeederWatch/NestWatch News

Diane Seward
Citizen Science Projects Coordinator
trina65@verizon.net

We had an interesting counting season this winter despite the damage to our feeders caused by a bear in December. We found that if we hung our suet feeders only on counting days, which were weekend days, the sow did not disturb our feeder station behind the chapter house. Three of our sunflower seed feeders were hung on a cable about eight feet high, strung between two trees behind the feeding station, well out of a bear's reach. Most weekends Downey and Red-bellied Woodpeckers visited our feeding station.

The highest number of individual species counted at our feeders since early November was 19, one less than last year. The highest number of individual birds reported on a single weekend was an amazing 205, an improvement over the 171 birds counted on one weekend during the 2021-2022 season. The highest count for a single species at the feeders was 120 Red-winged Blackbirds in February, identical to the 120 counted in January 2022. We counted 30 House Finches (a record at our feeders), 21 Mourning Doves (23 last season), 21 Dark-eyed Juncos (20 last year), and 8 White-throated Sparrows (10 two years ago). Other species typically counted at our feeders included American Goldfinches, Northern Cardinals, Downey and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Tufted Titmice, Carolina Chickadees, and White-throated Sparrows. Eastern Bluebirds were counted on most weekends near the feeders.

FeederWatch wraps up at the end of March. Many thanks to our team: Pat McNeilly, Tim Ames, Jim Stables, Brett Davis, Linda Green, Bob Plumb and Suzanne Novak. The team thanks Larry Anderson, Wildlife Chair, who kept our sunflower seed and suet well stocked.

In early April we will open the Purple Martin houses and gourds. By mid-March we should begin to see Purple Martin scouts in the skies. A few Eastern Bluebirds will begin nest building and egg laying in March as well.

Please let me know if you are interested in joining the NestWatch monitoring team. We really could use more help; nest checking with data gathering is fun and an easy skill to develop. Plus, our team enjoys the immense benefit of spending time outdoors!

March Membership Meeting Speakers

John Lill, Professor of Biology, George Washington University, and Martha Weiss, Professor of Biology, Georgetown University, will be the speakers at the Wednesday, March 20 membership meeting. The researchers conducted a study at the Chapter on the Brood X Cicada and published the results in the October 20, 2023 edition of *Science* magazine.

Come to the monthly dinner and enjoy John and Martha's presentation on their study.



*Female cicada
depositing eggs*

**WE NEED
YOUR
THOUGHTS**

A big thank you everyone who has taken the time to fill out our survey. We've received just over 100 responses to far, but we need more of your voices. Please take this opportunity to share your thoughts on how you use(d) the Chapter and what you would like to see going forward.

We last polled our members 14 years ago and a lot has changed since then. The results of the survey will be tabulated and shared at the April dinner meeting and in the May Newsletter. We will use the results of this survey to identify areas for investment and improvement, so that we can continue to be the Chapter that our members want it to be.

This is your opportunity to let us know what you like, dislike and where you would like us to focus. Please use your voice. The survey is anonymous.

Use the link below to send us your thoughts.

<https://forms.gle/PVKEUBZxbEgwZv2D7>



Ponds & Streams Committee Report

John Novak, Co-chair
novakgang4@comcast.net

2023 Big Pond Creel Census Report

The ninth voluntary creel census was conducted in 2023 at the big pond (Walton) which provides "catch and release" fishing for B-CC IWLA members and accompanied guests. The first reported catch was on February 15, 2023, and the last catch was reported on November 30, 2023. As in the past, the purpose of this census was to continue gathering information on angler interest, fishing effort and catch success, and to get an idea of the abundance and species composition of the fish resource in the big pond. Anglers were requested to enter their fishing information and catch results in the logbook in the metal box on the kiosk near the shelter. The following summarizes the data voluntarily provided by anglers for 2015-2022 and 2023.

	2015-2021	2022	2023
Total hours fished	124-265	200	311
Average no. of hours fished per angler	1.7-2.2	1.9	2.4
No. of angler trips	68-156	104	128
Average no. angler trips per month	9-14.6	10.4	13
Total no. of bluegills caught	31-274	243	208
Percent bluegills <5"	42-74	58	47
Percent bluegills >5"	26-58	42	77
Total no. of largemouth bass caught	177-522	344	300
Percent largemouth bass <10"	27-64	54	30
Percent largemouth bass >10"	36-73	46	70
Largest largemouth bass caught	5-8 lbs.	7 lbs.	>5 lbs.
Catch rate for bluegills/hr.	0.38-1.4	1.22	0.67
Catch rate for largemouth bass/hr.	1.1-2.4	1.72	0.96
Catch rate for bluegills & largemouth bass/hr.	2.0-3.8	2.94	1.63

The amount of fishing pressure or effort in the big pond was greater in 2023 compared to 2022. In 2023, there were 128 angler trips and 311 total hours fished. In 2022, there were 104 angler trips with 200 total hours fished. For the previous eight years the average number of angler trips was 106 and the average number of hours fished was 212. The average number of angler trips per month for 2023 (12.8) was greater than 2022 (10.4) and less than the average of 13.2 for the years 2015-2022. One angler made 93 of the 128 trips to the big pond reported for 2023. The highest number of angler trips per month in 2023 (17) occurred in May and August while the highest per month in 2022 (20) occurred in June. The highest number of angler trips per month (40) reported to date occurred in April 2017.

The number of largemouth bass reported caught in 2023 (300) was about 11.6 percent less than that reported in 2022 (344). This was the second lowest reported catch of largemouth bass since the 2015 beginning of the voluntary creel census. Seventy three percent of the largemouth bass reported in the logbook were caught by one angler. The catch rate for largemouth bass in 2023 was 0.96/hr. compared to a catch rate of 1.72/hr. in 2022. The reported catch of bluegills in 2023

was 208 compared to 243 caught in 2022. The 2023 catch rate for bluegills was 0.67/hr. compared to 1.22/hr. in 2022.

As shown in the above table, the total hours fished (311) and angler trips (128) were up in 2023 compared to 2022 when the total hours fished was 200 and angler trips was 104. Further, the 2023 numbers for hours fished, and angler trips are above the averages of 212 and 104, respectively, for the years 2015-2021. Despite this, the reported total catch and catch rate for both bluegill and largemouth bass for 2023 was less than 2022 numbers. Fewer anglers fishing for bluegills, especially kids, may account for the lower bluegill total catch and catch rate numbers; however, trapping during the summer of 2023 indicated an abundance of bluegill fry/fingerlings. This is good news for the fishery as a healthy bluegill population will provide dependable forage for largemouth bass which will in turn support a sustainable fishery for anglers young and old. The lower total catch and catch rate for largemouth bass could be a signal of a declining population since it falls below the ranges for previous creel censuses as shown in the above table. Therefore, continued monitoring through the creel census is important. Reduced catch rates could be due to many factors such as environmental conditions (water temperature and dissolved oxygen), choice of lures, and angler experience.

The Ponds & Streams Committee thanks those anglers who took the time to enter their catch data in the logbook. Looking forward to more fishing in 2024!

ATTENTION New Members!

**The next Chapter House cleanup will be on:
Sunday, March 17
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.

Questions? Contact John Lamb –
jpatricklamb@aol.com

UPDATE TO FACILITIES USE REGULATIONS DRIVING ON CHAPTER PROPERTY

As mentioned in the February President's message, the Board of Governors was working on language for an update to the Facilities Use Regulations regarding driving on Chapter property. The Board of Governors has passed a motion updating the wording to the regulation as follows:

"Any vehicle including but not limited to cars, 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."

CHAPTER SPRING CLEANUP

Saturday, April 6 – 8:30am

Chapter members and their families are invited to take part in our **SPRING CLEANUP** to help prepare the farm for spring and summer activities. This is a great opportunity for new members to become acquainted with the Chapter, meet other members, and for new and current members to work off their required volunteer hours.

Volunteers should arrive at the chapter house by 8:30am.

There are always plenty of things needing to be done: planting, raking, tree trimming, and trail clearing, to washing and sweeping the outside of the Chapter House to meet anyone's interest and physical ability level. Please bring your work gloves, shovels, rakes, loppers, and leaf blowers. If you bring a chain saw or weed-whacker please be sure you also bring the necessary safety equipment.

PLEASE BE SURE to sign-in at the table on the front porch of the chapter house. Families, please enter the name of each family member participating. You will be organized by other chapter members (Committee Chairs or Crew Chiefs) who will provide details of the tasks for the day. Some of the work may take place on different parts of the farm and may require driving to the location.

Lunch will be provided to all who attend after the bulk of the cleanup work is completed, around 1:00pm.

Certain projects may require more time, and some less time to accomplish. This is normal. Please come out whether you can commit to just a couple of hours or the entire day. Your contribution is greatly needed and appreciated.

Any committee charts or crew chiefs that are planning projects for Cleanup Day, please contact 1st VP Andy Wight at the email below to help coordinate equipment, volunteers, and other resources.

Andy Wight

B-CC IWLA 1st Vice President
ConservationEd.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com



One of the many projects is the cleanup of the culverts on Izaak Walton Way. If you are able to help the Ponds & Streams Committee with this, contact Committee Chair John Novak at novakgang4@comcast.net.

Annual Spring Family Campout



Saturday, April 13 starting at 2:30 pm
until Sunday, April 14 at 9:00am

It's time for our annual Spring Family Campout. Designed to be an easy camping experience, you bring the tents and sleeping bags and we provide the rest. This is a great time to spend time with your immediate family and to meet some of the chapter family of B-CC IWLA members, spouses, and kids. Events will start Saturday afternoon and continue overnight for those camping into Sunday morning.

SATURDAY

- The electronic front gate will be kept open from 2:15pm until 6:00pm
- Family tent setup around the chapter house begins at 2:30pm
- Fishing 4:00pm – 5:30pm
- Burgers & 'dogs served between 5:30pm & 6:30pm
- "Mystery Activities" 7:30pm – 8:00pm
- S'mores & hot chocolate by firelight 8:00pm – 8:45pm

SUNDAY

- Breakfast served to campers 7:30am – 8:30am
- Breakdown & cleanup should be completed by 10:00am
- Schedule some more family time at the farm on your own for the day!

There is NO fee for the family campout

Please register on the link below (before Wednesday, April 10)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACA28A7F8C25-48377804-2024>

Shotgun Range Committee Report

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

The last day for the Shotgun Range to be open before the lead reclamation project commences will be Sunday, March 31.

RANGE OFFICER SCHEDULE:

Sunday, March 17	Batteh, K.
Sunday, March 24	Boynton, D.
Sunday, March 31	Noble, M.

See article on page 1 for further info.