



## The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter of The Izaak Walton League of America

Serving the Community Since 1935

PO Box 542, Poolesville, MD 20837

[www.bcciwla.org](http://www.bcciwla.org)

### President's Message

#### B-CC IWLA Chapter Lead Reclamation

I have written the following summary to help everyone understand the multiyear process we recently completed on two of our ranges. The Chapter purchased its first farm property near Poolesville, MD, in 1949 (the "Farm"). Currently there are two outdoor shooting ranges – a rifle and pistol range and a shotgun range – located on the farm.

The Chapter maintains an Environmental Stewardship Plan ("ESP") pursuant to the US-Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) manual on "Best Management Practices for Lead at Outdoor Shooting Ranges." The ESP serves as the Chapter's guiding document for managing lead contained in spent ammunition at the ranges.

The ESP includes Best Management Practices ("BMP") designed to prevent adverse environmental impacts from the range operations. A key BMP is the periodic reclamation of lead from the target and shotfall zones of each range. Another important BMP requires maintaining a neutral soil pH throughout the shotfall zones and on the berms.

Lead reclamation is performed by removing soil that is combined with spent ammunition containing lead and separating the spent ammunition from the soil. Because the lead is significantly heavier than materials naturally occurring in soil, mechanized equipment is able to screen and separate out the lead. The reclaimed lead is containerized and shipped to a scrap metal recycler. The soil is returned to its original location and stabilized to prevent erosion.

The Chapter's rifle and pistol range has been in use in its current location since the 1950's and is backstopped by two earthen berms. Removal of spent ammunition from these berms is a relatively straight forward process. After determining the depth of projectiles present on the front of each berm, the soil is removed to that depth and processed to separate the spent projectiles. The Chapter's contractor completed the lead reclamation at the rifle and pistol range in 2021, removing and recycling 7 tons of spent projectiles. The remaining soil was used to reestablish the backstop berms and limestone filled ditches were installed at the base of the berms to help with maintaining a neutral Ph in the run-off water.

Lead reclamation on the shotgun range is more complicated. Unlike the rifle and pistol range where the spent ammunition was located in discrete, easily identified areas, the spent lead shot at the shotgun range is more widely distributed. Therefore, the initial step is to determine the area of the shotfall zones. The spent lead shot lies within the root mat and top 2 to 4 inches of soil in the shotfall zones. This material is removed and processed through the mechanized equipment, first to separate organic material from the soil and shot and then further processed to separate the lead shot from the soil. The reclaimed lead is containerized and shipped to a scrap metal recycler. The soil is returned to its original location, graded and stabilized to prevent erosion.

Over the years, a portion of the shotgun range shotfall zone had become overgrown and, unfortunately, included invasive species in a dense understory. This further complicated reclamation because of the presence of trees, root systems, brush and the forest understory. These conditions made it difficult to even access the shotfall zones and significantly increased the difficulty of removing the top 2 to 4 inches of soil. This also increased the volume of organic matter to be managed and complicates future maintenance of soil pH.

The Chapter's contractor completed the lead reclamation at the shotgun range in September 2025, removing over 105,000 lbs. of shot across a 12-acre area.

The Chapter must keep the shotfall zones free of trees and understory for future lead management purposes. This meant that the best course of action was to return the overgrown areas of the shotgun range to cropped fields and to cull some parts of the forested areas of the shotgun range to expand the cropping area (where topography permits). The Chapter has planted grasses/grain crops in these areas, to be mown once or twice each year. This is a permissible agricultural use under our

## 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**

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**Scott Harmon, Membership Secretary**

301 467-0645 • MembershipSecretary.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com

**Janet Lamkin, Corresponding Secretary**

301 466-6557 • j.lamkin@comcast.net

**Jason (Andy) Abell,\* Recording Secretary**

j.andrew.abell@gmail.com

### 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.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(continued from page 1)

Agricultural Easement, both because of the grasses and grains that will be grown as well as the inherent soil improvement for the Farm. Doing so will simplify future lead reclamation as well as the regular testing and management of the soil pH as needed. In the end, this simplified approach is less disruptive of the environment and in keeping with the intent of our Agricultural Easement.

Despite the necessity of the lead reclamation activity and the Chapter's adherence to the USEPA manual for managing lead at outdoor range operations by implementing its ESP, the reclamation project has presented challenges for the Chapter and the governing authorities. The consultants and contractors needed to prepare the plans and perform the work were costly and lead reclamation is an activity that does not fit neatly into the standardized boxes the regulatory authorities use. The Chapter needed the cooperation of each of the governing authorities; the Montgomery County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board, the Soil Conservation District, the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services and Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. These agencies worked together and with our team to ensure that our unique project proceeded and that it was done in compliance with applicable requirements but without inflicting an onerous or unnecessary burden on the Chapter.

Jerry Murray

## Kid Friendly Dinner

Our next Kid Friendly Chapter Dinner will be held at the March Dinner Meeting on Wednesday, March 18. 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 Co-Chair, at  
andywight1@hotmail.com.

## Summary of the January 28, 2026 Board of Governors Meeting

Jerry Murray, President

- Meeting was held via Zoom and was called to order by President Jerry Murray at 7:03pm.
- Advance Planning Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 22 at 2:00pm.
- Grant applications were reviewed.
- The meeting covered several administrative and financial updates.
- 1st VP Shannon Novak is handling calendar coordination. She will receive the requests, have them added to the website calendar, and send them to Janet for the newsletter.
- An outstanding Pepco bill was discussed.
- The Christmas tree project has become part of the Forestry Committee.
- Requested permission for a muzzleloader event on March 28. Motion was approved.
- Pack 694 requested to use the Chapter House on March 21 from 3:00pm to 6:00pm for their Pinewood Derby. Motion was approved.
- Coyote Hunting Regulations were discussed. It was clarified that coyote hunting is allowed, but at this time trapping is prohibited. The goal of the hunting initiative is to control the coyote population. Hunting on Sundays is not allowed. Hunters must pre-register for coyote hunting. Motion to approve nighttime hunting of coyotes from dusk to dawn from February 5 – 28 was approved.
- Motion made for forgiveness of late payment fees for members who did not receive their renewal notices. Motion was approved.
- Janet Lamkin mentioned that articles for the Maryland Waltonian newsletter are due on February 16.
- A zoom meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 29 to discuss the shotgun range manager situation.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm.

## 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](mailto:snovak516@gmail.com); Andy Wight, [andywight1@hotmail.com](mailto:andywight1@hotmail.com); and Corresponding Secretary Janet Lamkin, [j.lamkin@comcast.net](mailto:j.lamkin@comcast.net).

### **ATTENTION New Members!**

**Chapter House cleanup will be held on:**

**Saturday, March 14**

**Saturday, April 11**

**Saturday, May 16**

**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](mailto:jpatricklamb@aol.com)



## Spring Chapter CleanUp Day & Picnic

**Saturday, April 18 • 8:30am – 3:00pm**

Come to the Chapter, earn some volunteer hours, enjoy a picnic lunch, and join with our fellow chapter members as we clean and prepare the Chapter for the upcoming year.

- 8:30am: Members will assemble at the chapter house to sign-up for work crews
- 9:00am – 1:00pm: work crews will complete projects across the conservation farm, trails, and facilities
- 1:00pm-3:00pm: Volunteers will have lunch prepared for them to enjoy while sharing cleanup-day war-stories

Any committee chairs or crew chiefs that are planning projects for Cleanup Day, please contact 1st V.P. Shannon Novak, [snovak516@gmail.com](mailto:snovak516@gmail.com) or 301-785-8461, to help coordinate equipment, volunteers, and other resources.

Please use the link below to sign up for the CleanUp Day.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACAA28A7F8C25-62715509-chapter>

## Environmental Stewardship Projects

Blaine Elkins  
[blaineelkins@verizon.net](mailto:blaineelkins@verizon.net)

The Environmental Stewardship Committee needs some volunteers to complete a couple of projects this late winter/early spring.

First we need to post signage defining the perennial stream buffer from the shotgun area and archery woods down to Izaak Walton Way. We also need to post signage defining the Non-Tidal Wetlands buffers in both areas. We have the latitude/longitude coordinates for each signpost location. Any member with a satellite navigation device that is accurate to within a couple of feet would be a great help in this endeavour.

A second task is limbing and clearing some of the trees in the shot fall area that have blown over since lead reclamation has been completed. We need to clear them so the land can transition to an open meadow that the farm committee can manage.

We also need a working group to review the existing conservation easements on the farm and develop a concise guide for use by the Board of Governors, officers, committee chairs and members so that we all understand the commitments the chapter has made under these easements.

If you are interested in helping with any or all of these projects, please contact me at [blaineelkins@verizon.net](mailto:blaineelkins@verizon.net) and put EnviroStew in the subject line.

## UPCOMING EVENTS / VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

B-CC IWLA and Community

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

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Flintlock Rifle Raffle Ticket Sales**

See page 10

**Membership / Dinner Meeting**

See page 4

**New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour**

See page 4

**Fly Tying Class**

See page 8

**Blackpowder / Muzzleloader Event**

See page 11

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Log Cabin**

See page 13

**Chapter House Cleanup**

See page 3

**Chapter Spring Cleanup Day & Picnic**

See page 3

**Assist Chapter Treasurer**

See page 8

**Environmental Stewardship Committee**

See page 10

## New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour

Come join us on the B-CC IWLA Orientation Tour. Tours will take place on **Saturday, March 21**; **Saturday, April 18**; **Saturday, May 23** 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.

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.

Signup for the tour using the signup genius link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACA28A7F8C25-62715355-bcc>

Please make sure you include your email address and cell phone number so that if the tour needs to be canceled due to a change in the weather, Christine will be able to contact you.

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 Wildlife Committee Chair Paul Spangler (spanglerpaul63@gmail.com). 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.

## Junior Rifle Program

We are getting ready for a new season of the junior rifle program. We will start 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.

## March 2026 1,085th Monthly Dinner / Membership Meeting

**(Kid Friendly Event)**

**Wednesday, March 18**

**50 / 50 Raffle**

**Dinner and 50 / 50 Tickets are sold in the  
Boardroom**

**Adults – \$15; Kids – \$7**

**Menu**

**Appetizers, Corned Beef with Cabbage,  
Potatoes, Carrots, Rolls, Desserts  
Hot Dog, Chips, Cookies available for the kids  
Bring your own Libations**

**Flintlock Rifle Raffle Ticket Sale**

**Tickets - \$20 each**

**Dinner served starting at 6:15pm**

**Membership Meeting starts at 7:30pm**

**Meeting Speaker**

**Joshua Tabora**

**Furbearer Biologist**

**Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources**

**Discussion about trapping in Maryland – what is  
required and its role in conservation.**

## March 2026 Board of Governors Meeting

**Wednesday, March 25**

**7:00pm**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

## Monthly Events

*Mondays  
Mondays*

*Troop 2027G Meetings (Board Room)  
Troop 496B Meetings (Chapter House)*

*7:30pm – 9:00pm  
7:30pm – 9:00pm*

### MARCH

Thursday, March 5	Interpretative Walk in the Woods	7:30am – 3:30pm
Friday, March 6	NO HUNTING ON CHAPTER PROPERTY ON BOTH DATES	7:30am – 3:30pm
Sunday, March 8	NRA Basic RSO Training Course	8:00am – 5:00pm
Saturday, March 14	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Saturday, March 14	R&P Range closed to all members (including ROs) and guests	Closed All Day
Saturday, March 14	Boy Scout Shooting Event at the R&P Range	
Wednesday, March 18	Membership Dinner Meeting – Kid Friendly Dinner and Activities Speaker Joshua Tabora	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	Pack 694 Pinewood Derby (Chapter House)	3:00pm – 6:00pm
Saturday, March 21	New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour	10:00am – 11:30am
Sunday, March 22	Fly Tying Class – in the Chapter House	1:00pm – 3:00pm
Wednesday, March 25	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Sunday, March 27	Articles for April 2026 Newsletter are due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Saturday, March 28	Archery Range Cleanup Day	8:30am – 3:00pm
Saturday, March 28	Blackpowder / Muzzleloader Event	9:00am – 4:30pm
Sunday, March 29	NRA Basics of Rifle Shooting Course	8:00am – 12:00 noon

### APRIL

Saturday, April 4	Rifle & Pistol Range Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Saturday, April 4	Rifle & Pistol Range reopens to members & guests after Range Cleanup	
Saturday, April 11	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Wednesday, April 15	Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:30pm
Thursday, April 16	Cub Scout Pack 694 Meeting in the Chapter House	6:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday, April 18	New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour	10:00am – 11:30 am
Saturday, April 18	Spring Chapter Cleanup Day & Picnic	Starting at 8:00am
Wednesday, April 22	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Friday, April 24	Articles for May 2026 Newsletter are due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Saturday, April 25	Archery 3D Shoot	9:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, April 25	Spring Hunter Education Course	7:00am – 6:00pm
Sunday, April 26	Archery 3D Shoot	9:00am – 1:00pm
Sunday, April 26	Spring Hunter Education Course	7:00am – 6:00pm

### MAY

Sunday, May 3	Montgomery Bird Club's Spring Walk	7:00am – 12:00 noon Saturday
Saturday, May 16	Chapterhouse Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon Saturday
Saturday, May 16	4th Annual Military Fun Shoot at R&P Range	Time to be determined
Wednesday, May 20	Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:30pm
Thursday, May 21	Cub Scout Pack 694 Meeting in Chapter House	6:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday, May 23	New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour	10:00am – 11:30am
Wednesday, May 27	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Friday, May 29	NAVHDA Spring Testing	8:00am – 5:00pm
Friday, May 29	Articles for June 2026 Newsletter are due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Saturday, May 30	NAVHDA Spring Testing – tentative date	8:00am – 5:00pm
Saturday, May 30	Archery 3D Shoot	9:00am – 1:00pm
Sunday, May 31	NAVHDA Spring Testing – tentative date	8:00am – 5:00pm
Sunday, May 31	Archery 3D Shoot	9:00am – 1:00pm

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

### From the Farm Committee

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

## Garden Plots

Andy Wight, Acting Garden Chair  
andywight1@hotmail.com

At B-CC IWLA, we have an active gardening community, members who enjoy the opportunity to play in the soil, and some of you may have benefited from their harvest at the dinner meetings, when surplus produce has been shared. Generally, our gardeners find the gardens a pleasant distraction from the hustle and bustle of daily life even with our onslaught of amazing weeds.

As has been our custom, current gardeners have the first choice of reserving garden plots, so now is the time to contact me with your intentions for this year. Single plots (~25x25ft) will rent for \$20 each, and you can rent multiple plots (subject to availability).

For members wishing to become new gardeners, please contact 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.

We plan to do a clean up of empty plots and the garden area during the Spring Cleanup.



## Small Pond Trout Fishing

*There are still plenty of trout in the small pond!*

### 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.

## 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

Additional Practice Dates will be listed in the April 2026 Newsletter.

## DUE DATE

for April Newsletter Articles is  
**Friday, March 27.**

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

## 2026 Archery 3D Schedule

Chuck Thornton  
Archery.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com

The Archery Committee has surveyed the Archery Woods and arranged another exciting 3D plan for 2026. We will provide two 15-target courses (total of 30 targets) that include interesting, fun, and challenging shots. We have acquired new targets and the trails will be in good condition.

We will offer the 3D shoots from 9:00am-1:00pm on the last weekend of each month. **Dates: April 25-26, May 30-31, June 27-28, July 25-26, and August 29-30.** The fees this year will be \$15 for guests, \$10 for members, and free to kids and archery volunteers.

Please sign up to help staff the course. You don't need to be an expert 3D archer to collect fees and point shooters in the right direction to start the courses. Range volunteers gain access to the archery shed and can shoot the course for free at any time all season.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B49ABA62BA3FF2-62824799-bcc>

Contact Dan Dutton to volunteer or ask your questions.

Come out to the range on April 18 to help us set up the course. Then bring your friends out all season to shoot the courses!

## Shotgun Range Update

A group of members have been working on getting the shotgun range out of winter hibernation. We have been testing equipment, taking inventory, and working thru 'to do' lists. We will be starting with sporting clays while we evaluate the other venues to see what else we can bring on line while we work on the changes needed to get everything back up and running again. But we still need help. To start a schedule, we need help with setting up the course and range officers to run the range on the days we are open. We have reached out to the existing range officers but will need more if we are to be open on a regular basis.

We are shooting for a soft opening in April. If you are interested in becoming an RO for the shotgun range or have the time to help out with the range, please contact Roy Bowman at: [roy@roybowman.com](mailto:roy@roybowman.com) or Jerry Murray at: [jerrym5@comcast.net](mailto:jerrym5@comcast.net).

## Rifle & Pistol Range Committee Report

Larry Hess, Chair  
[larry.a.hess@gmail.com](mailto:larry.a.hess@gmail.com)

The range will be closed to all members (including ROs) and guests on March 14 for a Boy Scout shooting event.

The Rifle and Pistol Range will open for the season to all members and guests the afternoon of April 4, 2026 following the R&P Range Spring Clean-Up

The sign-ups for current range officers and new range officers that have completed the training will be on Saturday, March 7 and Sunday, March 15 starting at 9:00am (other days and times by appointment if necessary). Bring your membership card and current RO card to the meeting.

Scheduling of duty days will be on-line by Sign-up Genius after the in-person meetings. Any member wishing to become a range officer should contact Larry Hess ([larry.a.hess@gmail.com](mailto:larry.a.hess@gmail.com)).

The Blackpowder / Muzzleloader Clinic and Match will occur on March 28th beginning in the Chapter House at 8:30am.

Mark your calendar for the 4th Annual Military Fun Shoot on May 16th.

## Firearms Training Courses

We will be hosting a variety of firearms training courses at the chapter this year. The first courses are listed below. Sign-up is thru the NRA website using the link below. B-CC members will get a \$50.00 discount on the cost of the course.

*March 8: NRA Basic Range Safety Officer Course*  
(\$150 Non-Member, \$100 Member)

<https://www.nrainstructors.org/CourseDetails.aspx?Courseid=893707>

*March 29: NRA Basics of Rifle Shooting Course*  
(\$225 Non-Member, \$175 Member)

<https://www.nrainstructors.org/CourseDetails.aspx?Courseid=866217>

*NRA Basic Pistol*

Training will be rescheduled due to a conflict.

## Range Clean-Up Day

We will have a range clean-up day on Saturday, April 4 from 9:00am – 12:00 noon for members that want to get work hours in.

## Junior Rifle Program

We are getting ready for a new season of the junior rifle program. We will start 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](mailto:larry.a.hess@gmail.com) or Daniel Koehn: [dkoehn13@gmail.com](mailto:dkoehn13@gmail.com).

## Legislative Affairs Committee

Bob Cissell  
[bobcissel50@gmail.com](mailto:bobcissel50@gmail.com)

### Bills from DNR – Sunday Hunting

There are two bills from the DNR in the House and Senate about Sunday hunting:

First bill would make Sundays all-day hunting across all counties for deer hunting with a bow.

Second bill would allow waterfowl hunting on Sundays in all counties except two south eastern counties.

### June Primary Election

On the election front, there are four at-large county council seat positions open for a June primary. There are 17 democrats running in the primary for these four seats.

**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 is:**

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

**Questions? Contact Hunting Ethics and Oversight Committee Chair Paul Spangler at [spanglerpaul63@gmail.com](mailto:spanglerpaul63@gmail.com)**

## Introduction to Hunting Seminar 2026

The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter will sponsor its annual "Introduction to Hunting Seminar" on Saturday, June 6. Women, men, and teens are all welcome.

This nationally recognized and award winning training will include instruction and discussions about conservation and ethical behavior, the five W's and How of hunting, what is hunting success, preparing to go hunting, techniques and skills for being in the woods, trailing game, animal habitats and habits, choosing a tree stand location, safety and first aid, hunting apps, being skunked, what can you learn when you miss, advantages and disadvantages of hunting companions, choosing an appropriate bow, long gun or muzzleloader and more. There will be plenty of time for questions. There should be an opportunity to work with an experienced tree stand user and determine if climbing one is for you.

This seminar does not replace the required HunterEducation course but is to supplement that course and to expand one's hunting knowledge. The instructors have 100 years of hunting experience and what they will share is intended to help participants have a more enjoyable time while hunting.

The seminar will be held at the B-CC IWLA Chapter House. Check in begins at 8:30 am, we will start at 9:00 am and will continue until around 3:00 pm. The cost is \$15 to cover materials. We will be walking in the woods and fields for at least a mile or more so participants should be prepared for that level of activity. Bring your own lunch, drinks, and wear clothes for outdoor walking and going through briars. Participants should make sure that their clothes are treated with bug spray to resist ticks and other critters.

All non-B-CC IWLA members must bring their printed and signed off Hold Harmless Agreement – link below.

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

Individuals should contact the instructors at [hunting.seminar.bcciwla@gmail.com](mailto:hunting.seminar.bcciwla@gmail.com).

Any questions about the seminar should be sent to this same email address. Participants will be sent a preliminary questionnaire so the instructors are more informed about those who are attending.

Use the SignUp Genius below to register –

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACA28A7F8C25-62715996-intro>

Class size is limited to 15, so registering early is recommended. Registration deadline is usually around the end of May/beginning of June.

**REACH OUT VIA EMAIL or WATCH FOR THE OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION IN MID APRIL AND MAY TO REGISTER**

## Volunteers Needed to Assist Chapter Treasurer

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](mailto:jerrym5@comcast.net) or 202 438-4202.

## Fly Tying Class

John Novak  
Ponds & Streams Committee Chair

We now have a date and time for the fly tying class mentioned in the February newsletter – Sunday, March 22, 2026, from 1:00pm – 3:00pm in the chapter house. The class will be open to members and guests. Kids of all ages are welcome.

Ponds & Streams members proficient in tying flies will be on hand to assist in the fun. If you have fly tying equipment, please bring it with you. This is a great opportunity to learn first hand some basics in the art of fly tying that has been around for centuries and was greatly utilized by Izaak Walton.

If you have any questions, please contact John Novak at (301) 385-0943 or [novakgang4@comcast.net](mailto:novakgang4@comcast.net).



## Forestry Committee – Redux, Rebuild, Resurrection, Return

Blaine Elkins, Forestry Committee Chair pro tem  
[blaineelkins@verizon.net](mailto:blaineelkins@verizon.net)

The chapter has lost the services of our long-term Forestry Chair when he relocated to the west. Most of the acreage of the chapter is forested. It provides habitat for deer, turkeys, squirrels, and bunnies for those that hunt. The understory and canopy provide habitat for song birds and raptors for the bird watchers. There are miles of trails the chapter maintains through the forests that provide access to enjoy these woodlands.

The stewardship of these woodlands is not a passive situation. There is a Forest Management and Stewardship plan for the chapter that requires monitoring and action as necessary. The chapter also has an Invasive Species Survey and Management Plan prepared by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources that identifies and locates areas with invasive issues and recommends corrective actions. There is much to be done.

We need members interested in forestry, wild life habitat, invasive species management, reforestation and just plain trees to come together as a group, review the issues at hand, and develop plans to deal with them.

If you are interested in participating in this venture, please send me an email at [blaineelkins@verizon.net](mailto:blaineelkins@verizon.net) with B-CC IWLA Forestry in the subject line, and I will send you a link to a drop box with the above referenced documents and some others. Once we have a quorum, we can get together at the chapter in person or by zoom to plan the first steps.

## 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.

## 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	Forestry Committee	blaineelkins@verizon.net
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	Paul Spangler	spanglerpaul63@gmail.com
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 Lamkiin	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 *	jerrym5@comcast.net
State Division	Bill Gordon	wgordon14@verizon.net
Summer Biathlon	Steve Eschholz	fitnesscrafters@proton.me
Trails	Brian King	plsvllking@msn.com
Vegetable Gardens	Andy Wight	andywight1@hotmail.com
Wildflowers	Don Perino	bcc_wildflowers@yahoo.com
Wildlife Management	Paul Spangler	spanglerpaul63@gmail.com
Membership Drive: Ad Hoc Committee	Shannon Novak	snovak516@gmail.com
Donations and Grants: Ad Hoc Committee	Valerie Carregal	carregalv@gmail.com

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

## Responsible Persons for the Environmental Stewardship Committee

Blaine Elkins, Committee Chair  
blaineelkins@verizon.net

Although the lead reclamation work is complete at the shotgun range, the chapter needs to continue the weekly inspections of the Sediment and Erosion Control Features that are shown in the drawings for our Sediment and Erosion Control permit drawings. We need additional volunteers to do these inspections.

To qualify to do the inspections, you need to go to MDOT certifications program web page:

<https://www.roads.maryland.gov/mdotsha/pages/Index.aspx?PageId=129>

Click on Erosion and Sediment Control Certification. You can register and take the free online course and exam which takes 5 hours. Once you pass you will be issued a Responsible Person Yellow card. Send a copy of your card to the committee chair at blaineelkins@verizon.net and I will send you a copy of the link for the Sign Up Genius so you can pick your weekend(s).

Inspecting the silt fence takes about 2 hours which can be credited to your volunteer hours for the year. Once you have received your card and done 1 inspection the 5-hour training time can also be credited to your volunteer hours.

If you have any questions, please contact Blaine Elkins, blaineelkins@verizon.net.

## 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.

### March Dinner Meeting Speaker:

**Joshua Tabora**

Furbearer Biologist

Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources

Discussion about trapping in Maryland – what is required and its role in conservation.

### 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).

## Spring Hunter Education Course

John Lamb, Committee Chair  
jpatricklamb@aol.com

On Saturday and Sunday, April 25th & 26th, 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. 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](http://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.

### 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  
and Muzzleloader Day on March 28

or

Contact Jerry Murray – jerrym5@comcast.net

Drawing will be at a Spring Dinner Meeting

Need not be present to win

## Wild Game Dinner

Sean-David Waterman

The B-CC IWLA Wild Game Dinner is far more than a meal. It is a treasured chapter tradition, rooted in fellowship, stewardship, and the shared bounty of the field. Each year, members and guests gather for an evening that brings together remarkable food, captivating hunting stories, photo slideshows, and the kind of easy camaraderie that gives the occasion both warmth and distinction. This year's dinner, held on Saturday, February 28, 2026, welcomed nearly 50 members, family, and guests, all of whom contributed to an abundant table of dishes, libations, and desserts. From venison ham to more distinctive offerings such as pheasant and wild boar, the menu reflected both variety and tradition, creating a memorable celebration of wild game cuisine.



The evening was enriched by stories from seasoned hunters and promising young sportsmen, each adding their own voice to a gathering that honored both heritage and community. A well-received selection of door prizes provided a fitting close to an occasion defined by generosity, good company, and shared experience. For those who were unable to attend this year, we warmly encourage you to join us next time and take part in one of the chapter's most enjoyable and enduring traditions.

### CAMPGROUND NOTICE

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

**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

## 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 Gochnour 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 Gochnour at [mgdonutman@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### REMEMBER...

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

## Trails Committee Report

Brian King, Chair  
plsvllking@msn.com

On February 21, we had a small team out making sure the trails were in good shape and safe for the Interpretive Walk In The Woods for the Poolesville High School Global Ecology Program that was held on Thursday, March 5 and Friday, March 6.

Thanks to all that came out for the clean up!



Kevin Klaube, Drew Dallas, and John Pentecost



### 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.

## NRA Range Safety Officer Course

On Sunday, March 8 we held a NRA Range Safety Officer course at the chapter house. The course was put on by chapter member Rich Clement as chief instructor and his team of NRA certified instructors. The course is designed to provide the participants with the knowledge, skills, and attitude essential to organizing, conducting, and supervising safe shooting activities and range operation. The course included instruction on the safe operation of various types of firearms including how to deal with malfunctions and stoppages and the importance of the standard operating procedures (SOP's) at a range.

There were fourteen students in the class and everyone passed the final exam which makes them eligible to apply for NRA Range Safety Officer credentials.

We will be holding more of these classes in the future.



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](mailto:ConservationEd.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com)*

## Interpretive Walk in the Woods

Olivia Wight, Conservation Education Committee Co-Chair



On March 5th and 6th, approximately 80 freshmen from Poolesville High School's Global Ecology Program took part in our annual Interpretive Walk in the Woods. B-CC IWLA members Mark Gochnour, Olivia Wight, Alan Munter, and Andy Wight led the students through four 2.5 hour sessions, beginning at River Road, walking through the West Woods, and ending at the Chapter House, with stops along the way for discussion and hands on activities. Every

step taken supported our mission of conservation, education, and community.

We began the walk by learning about soil, its composition, how it varies by location, its importance in supporting food production and life, and the challenges we face in accessing and maintaining healthy soil. As we continued, students practiced becoming "seers," pausing to observe their surroundings and learning to identify chestnut oak, white oak, and red oak trees by examining their bark and leaves.



At an old dump site, we paused for a "trash talk," discussing how long different man made materials take to decompose and the importance of recycling and reusing items. We also explored the topic of non native and invasive species; plants, animals, and fungi/microbes: including tree of heaven, multiflora

rose, spotted lanternfly, stinkbugs, carp, snakehead fish, and chestnut blight, and the impacts these species have on local ecosystems.

Our conversation then shifted to forest animals, particularly deer and wild turkey. Students enjoyed demonstrations of turkey calls, examined various deer and turkey exhibits, and learned just how attentive a doe can be when caring for her young (think deer poop). We discussed habitat, how animals rely on their environment for survival, the influence of human activity, and the contrast between the Agricultural Reserve and the more developed areas across the river in Virginia.



Students also learned and shouted about photosynthesis (the most important chemical reaction and biological process). We concluded our lessons with a discussion about the importance and scarcity of drinking water, and what we

can do as individuals and as advocates to help protect and conserve this essential resource.

After completing a short quiz to review what they had learned, we visited the well in the woods. There, we talked about the snakes that hibernate inside it, how the well was constructed, and what it may have been used for. As always, the highlight was dropping rocks into the well and listening for the splash to estimate its depth.

## Log Cabin Spring Projects and Activities

David Mecklenburg, Committee Chair  
dmecklenburg1@gmail.com



We have several projects scheduled for the cabin this year, and we would greatly appreciate your assistance during the Chapter Spring Cleanup in April. When you arrive and check in, please make sure to request placement with the Log Cabin group. The cabin complex, much like any home, continually requires maintenance and repairs.

While talking with a few members and guests over the last couple of years I was surprised to learn that many members have not been in the cabin or any of the buildings. This year we are planning on having a few open houses at the log cabin. Please wait for when the openings will be and plan on coming down to take a look. If you are going to be out at the chapter and would like to have a look around, please get in touch with me and I will see what we can arrange.

Spring is a wonderful season to experience the beauty of the Log Cabin complex and the chapter. On a recent visit, I enjoyed observing the emerging plants throughout the grounds. The Snowdrops are in bloom, and more spring flowers are beginning to appear. Additionally, I've heard there are hungry trout in the pond, so feel free to bring your fishing pole and enjoy some time fishing.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the chapter this spring.



*Snowdrops*



*Crocus*

PHOTOS BY DAVID MECKLENBURG