



## NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

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

Serving the Community Since 1935

PO Box 542, Poolesville, MD 20837

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

### President's Message

By now you should have gotten a membership renewal notice in the mail. If you have not received one it probably means that we have the incorrect address on file, so please contact Scott Harmon, our membership secretary, or myself and we will get one sent to you. While you are filling out your renewal please consider making a donation to our land fund. Our long-time members are well aware of how this fund has helped us significantly increase the acreage and thus expanded the outdoor opportunities on our property. All donations to our land fund are tax deductible and used solely for the acquisition of land for the chapter. There is additional information about the fund in an article by Butch Mezick in the newsletter.

With the holiday season rapidly approaching, we have several holiday related events at the chapter that are listed in the schedule. These events are a great time to meet your fellow members, make some new friends, and get in that holiday spirit. We could also use some volunteers to help with the decorating, the set up and running of these events. If you are interested in contributing as a volunteer and wish to log your hours early, please contact the organizers.

Autumn is a great time to get outside and watch nature get ready for winter. From the changing of the leaves to the animals gathering food and setting up their winter shelters it's a busy time. The fall is also when hunting season shifts into high gear and many of our members will be in the woods; so if you are walking on the trails or thru the woods please make sure to wear bright clothing (orange is best). Now is also the time to help the league's Salt Watch program by becoming a 'Salt Watch Monitor' and start taking samples from nearby streams to establish a baseline before the snow and salting starts. Free kits and more information about the program is available at: [saltwatch@iwla.org](mailto:saltwatch@iwla.org).

Jerry Murray  
President

### B-CC IWLA

## 2nd ANNUAL HOLIDAY SPORTSMAN RAFFLE

**\$10 Per Ticket**  
or  
**\$100 for 11 Tickets**



### Ruger

10/22 semi-auto  
22 cal. Rifle

### Glenfield (Marlin)

Model 60 semi-auto  
22 cal. Rifle with scope

### Ruger

10/22 semi-auto  
22 cal. Rifle

**Need not be present to win.**  
**Tickets are available at the Dinner**  
**Meetings, Christmas Party, R&P Range,**  
**and by contacting Jerry Murray**  
**([jerrym5@comcast.net](mailto:jerrym5@comcast.net) or**  
**202 438-4202)**

**Proceeds from the raffle go into the**  
**chapter's operating account.**

## Board of Governors

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

### OFFICERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Jason (Andy) Abell, Recording Secretary**  
j.andrew.abell@gmail.com

### BOARD MEMBERS

**Stephen Austin**  
**Alexander Cowan**  
**Sebastian Fainbraun**  
**Lloyd Iden**  
**Warner Parks**

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

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

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

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

Submissions to the *NEWSLETTER* should be sent to:

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

## IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA MISSION STATEMENT

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

## Summary of the September 2025 Board of Governors Meeting and the September 2025 Membership Dinner Meeting

Andy Abell, Recording Secretary

### Wednesday, September 24, 2025 – Board of Governors Meeting

- The meeting was called to order by President Jerry Murray at 7:00pm.
- New BOG members introduced themselves, including their backgrounds and length of involvement with the chapter. The chapter's longstanding members shared their history, emphasizing continuity and commitment.
- A Boy Scout shooting event from March 13–15, 2026, was approved, conditional upon proof of insurance and payment of an appropriate usage fee.
- Jerry Murray briefed that the lead reclamation work has concluded. A contractor will reduce tree and brush piles. Another company will provide soil stabilization. Range parking lot will be repaired once the work is completed. The range will be evaluated to assess how lead can be kept out of the buffer areas. Chapter will pursue a grant to offset the cost of lead screening systems.
- Treasurer Bob Kelly reported on the chapter's bank accounts and acquisition of Sandy Spring Bank by Atlantic Union.
- Stephen Austin requested bookkeeping assistance..
- The Legacy Foundation was discussed for new BOG members' knowledge.
- Membership Secretary Scott Harmon reported that work is in progress to deploy a new platform to manage membership renewals on-line.
- Pete Wirth is preparing a detailed task list for ponds and streams maintenance, including removing sunk turtle platforms from the small pond, extricating the turtle platforms from the large pond to facilitate better water flow and wildlife habitat management, sediment removal, invasive weed control, and general debris cleanup.
- 1st Vice President Shannon Novak noted the fish feeder at the small pond had been broken into and all the fish food is gone. She recommended having the hatch bolted down. As a reminder, the fish feeders are the sole property of the Ponds & Streams Committee.
- The chapter's presence at Poolesville Day on September 13 attracted significant interest, particularly from kids interested in archery and fishing.
- The chapter's updated website was in the final stages of testing.
- The Board passed a motion in favor of the chapter donating \$100 or \$150 in recognition of the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department's support for chapter activities, such as controlled burns.
- Bob Kelly is exploring accessibility improvements for members with physical challenges, aiming for a more inclusive facility.

### ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- A consolidated list of current vendors for various services the chapter requires is being developed.
- Jerry Murray has reviewed examples of liability and hold harmless waivers for members and guests using firearms.

The meeting was adjourned.

### Wednesday, September 17, 2025 – Membership Dinner Meeting

- Meeting called to order by President Jerry Murray at 7:30pm.

(continued on page 3)

## SUMMARY

(continued from page 2)

- New members introduced themselves, including their backgrounds and length of involvement with the chapter.
- President Jerry Murray presented the President's Award to Roger Johnson.
- Tickets will be on sale for the Annual December Gun Raffle at the October dinner meeting. Rifles to be offered as prizes will be on display.
- 16 potential new members introduced themselves.
- Membership Secretary Scott Harmon reported the chapter currently has 713 members.
- 5 new members were inducted into the Chapter.
- Treasurer Bob Kelly gave an overview of the 6 chapter accounts.
- Members reminded to submit volunteer hours and dues.
- President Jerry Murray gave an update on the lead reclamation project – a tremendous accomplishment for an environmental conservation organization.
- 23 Scouts helped improve the wildflower field below the Chapter House by removing invasive species and planting native plants
- Andy Wight reported that the chapter would have a booth at Poolesville Day.
- The October 15 dinner meeting will be a family-friendly event with activities for children.
- Andy Wight reported the IT Committee is working on a chapter website update to be presented to the Board of Governors in the coming weeks.
- Hunter Safety recently completed a 2-day training session and all 31 people attending passed the course. Butch Mezick was inducted into the Hunter Safety Hall of Fame for 50 years of being a hunter safety instructor.
- President Jerry Murray responded to a member's question by saying that a new member could come to Chapter Cleanup Day in lieu of a Dinner Meeting and get credit for attending a chapter meeting, except for the third dinner meeting, which remained mandatory.
- Stands to hold reactive steel targets will be installed on the rifle and pistol range.
- A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was seconded.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote.

## Electrician Wanted

Jerry Murray, President  
jerrym5@comcast.net

We have several projects at the chapter that require a licensed electrician. We have received funds to install a safety lighting system at the R&P range to replace the current flag arrangement and we want to have several new circuits installed in the chapterhouse to feed some upgraded equipment. We are looking to get pricing from electrical contractors to have this work done. So if you have any recommendations for electricians that have done good work for you in the past, please send me their contact information.

## Chapter House Holiday Decorating Saturday, December 6

Meet at the chapter house at 10:00am to decorate for the winter holiday. We need help for inside and outside the chapter house. It's a great way to get your volunteer hours in.



## Small Pond Trout Fishing Rules 2025

1. Trout fishing begins at 12:00 noon on Saturday, November 15.
2. Trout fishing is for chapter members and immediate family only.
3. 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.
4. Fish from shore only; do not use the boat.
5. Anglers may keep 3 trout – no size limit.
6. Anglers may use only one fishing rod at a time.
7. Anglers should park in the chapter house parking lot.
8. Pick up and take all trash out of the small pond area when leaving.
9. Report the number and species caught to:  
John Novak, novakgang4@comcast.net, 301/385-0943  
or Pete Wirth, Peter\_Wirth@verizon.net, 301/915-6763.

## Welcome to the B-CC IWLA Family!

At the October 2025 Membership Meeting, the following was inducted as a member to the Chapter:

**Mo Seck** – Family Membership

**Interests:** Legislative Affairs; Conservation Education; Events





## *Annual Holiday Party*

The Chapter will host its Holiday Party on Saturday, December 13 starting at 6:00pm.

Members and their families and/or guests are all invited to attend this casual event for an evening of great company, wonderful food, and holiday cheer. All attendees are asked to bring an entree to share with their fellow holiday revelers. A side dish and/or dessert are a welcome choice also. We will provide the beverages.

You may also bring your own beverage of choice.

This year's party will be festive and fun with the food being a feast for the holidays. So kick your holiday spirit in gear and come on out!

### **November 2025 1,081st Monthly Dinner / Membership Meeting**

**Wednesday, November 19**

**50 / 50 Raffle**

**Dinner Tickets are sold in the Boardroom**

**Appetizers**

**Turkey, Taters, Stuffing, Cranberries, Vegetable,  
Salad, Rolls, Various Desserts**

**Coffee, Lemon Water, Jug of Iced Tea**

**Bring your own Libations**

**Gun Raffle Ticket Sale**

**Tickets – \$10 each or 11 for \$100**

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

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

### **November 2025 Board of Governors Meeting**

**Wednesday, November 19**

**Immediately following the Membership Meeting**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS / VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**B-CC IWLA and Community**

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

### **Trout Fishing Day**

Saturday, November 15

12:00 – 4:00pm

Small Pond

See page 3

### **Membership / Dinner Meeting**

Wednesday, November 19

Dinner – 6:15pm; Meeting – 7:30pm

See page 4

### **New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour**

Saturday, November 22

10:00am – 11:30am

See page 9

### **FeederWatch**

Weekends

Saturday, November 22 – Sunday, March 15

Observe birds from the Chapter House

See page 11

### **Chapter House Holiday Decorating**

Saturday, December 7

Meet at the chapter house at 10:00am

See page 3

### **Annual Holiday Party**

Saturday, December 13

Starting at 6:00pm

See page 4

### **Rifles Raffle Ticket Sale**

Tickets – \$10 each or 11 for \$100

Available at Dinner Meetings and R&P Range

See page 1

### **Log Cabin**

Paint and caulk the Log Cabin windows

See page 13

### **New Year's Day Brunch**

Thursday, January 1

12:00 noon – 2:00pm

See page 6

## **Calendar Submissions**

Meetings and events that need to be added to the website calendar and newsletter calendar should be sent to President Jerry Murray, [jerrym5@comcast.net](mailto:jerrym5@comcast.net), and Corresponding Secretary Janet Lamkin, [j.lamkin@comcast.net](mailto:j.lamkin@comcast.net).

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

### Monthly Events

*Mondays*

*Mondays*

*Saturdays and Sundays*

*Troop 2027G Meetings (Board Room)*

*Troop 496B Meetings (Chapter House)*

*FeederWatch – From the Chapter House*

*7:30pm – 9:00pm*

*7:30pm – 9:00pm*

*November 22 – March 15*

### NOVEMBER

|                        |   |                                     |
|------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Saturday, November 1   | Biathlon Program Practice (note earlier start time)                                 | 7:00am                              |
| Sunday, November 2     | Sight-In Day at the R&P Range   | 10:00am – 4:00pm                    |
| Saturday, November 8   | Biathlon Program Practice   | 7:30am                              |
| Wednesday, November 13 | Legacy Board Meeting in Boardroom, Chapter House                                    | 7:00pm – 9:00pm                     |
| Friday, November 14    | Troop 2027 Overnight Lock-In  | 5:00pm – 8:00am Saturday            |
| Saturday, November 15  | Troop 2027 Overnight Lock-In  | Ends at 8:00am                      |
| Saturday, November 15  | Chapter House Cleanup   | 9:00am – 12:00 noon                 |
| Saturday, November 15  | Trout Fishing Day – Small Pond  | 12:00 – 4:00pm                      |
| Wednesday, November 19 | Membership Dinner Meeting   | Dinner – 6:15pm<br>Meeting – 7:30pm |
| Wednesday, November 19 | Board of Governors Meeting  | Following Dinner Meeting            |
| Thursday, November 20  | Cub Scout Pack 694 Meeting in Chapter House   | 6:00pm – 8:00pm                     |
| Saturday, November 22  | New & Prospective Members Orientation Tour  | 10:00am – 11:30pm                   |
| Saturday, November 22  | Articles for December Newsletter are due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net    | By End of Day                       |
| Friday, November 28    | Last day that R&P Range is open open to Members until April 2026                    |                                     |
| Saturday, November 29  | R&P Range is closed to all shooters for the opening weekend of firearms deer season | Closed All Day                      |
| Sunday, November 30    | R&P Range is closed to all shooters for the opening weekend of firearms deer season | Closed All Day                      |

### DECEMBER

|                        |  |                                     |
|------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Monday, December 1     | R&P Range reopens to Range Officers  | All Day                             |
| Saturday, December 6   | Decorate the Chapter House for Christmas   | Starting at 10:00am                 |
| Saturday, December 13  | Annual Christmas Party in the Chapter House  | Starting at 6:00pm                  |
| Sunday, December 14    | Montgomery Bird Club, Christmas Bird Count   | 7:00am – 12:00 noon                 |
| Wednesday, December 17 | Membership Dinner Meeting  | Dinner – 6:15pm<br>Meeting – 7:30pm |
| Wednesday, December 17 | Board of Governors Meeting   | Following Dinner Meeting            |
| Thursday, December 18  | Cub Scout Pack 694 Meeting in the Chapter House                                      | 6:00pm – 8:00pm                     |
| Friday, December 26    | Articles for January 2026 Newsletter are due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net | By End of Day                       |

### JANUARY 2026

|                       |  |                                     |
|-----------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Thursday, January 1   | Annual New Year's Day Brunch   | 12:00pm – 2:00pm                    |
| Thursday, January 15  | Cub Scout Pack 694 Meeting in the Chapter House                                  | 6:00pm – 8:00pm                     |
| Wednesday, January 21 | Membership Dinner Meeting  | Dinner – 6:15pm<br>Meeting – 7:30pm |
| Saturday, January 24  | Articles for February Newsletter are due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net | By End of Day                       |
| Wednesday, January 28 | Board of Governors Meeting   | 7:00pm                              |

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

### Volunteers Needed

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

### CAMPGROUND NOTICE

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

### AS A REMINDER...

#### Registering to Hunt on Chapter Property

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

**Link to register:**

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

**Questions? Contact Hunting Ethics and Oversight Committee Chair Larry Anderson at andupton9@hotmail.com**



## Annual New Year's Day Brunch Thursday, January 1

**Join your fellow members on New Year's Day in the Chapter House for Brunch and Football!**

For the 4th year, a delicious brunch will be cooked up for all to enjoy. We will have College Bowl Games on the big TV and a wonderful selection of hot food and cold drinks. Enjoy the Chapter House decorations one last time before they come down for the year.

Brunch will be served from 12:00 noon – 2:00pm but feel free to hang out and watch college football all afternoon. Information about the ranges will be in the December newsletter. Be mindful that it is Archery Season so hikers need to be wearing bright colors (orange or pink).

## IT Committee Report

Julie Wight, Chair  
jwight00@gmail.com

Over the past few months, the IT committee has dedicated its efforts to updating our website and transitioning the chapter membership data online. By the time you read this newsletter, the new website should be live. Initially, we planned just to refresh the website and repurpose existing content. However, this endeavor evolved into significant rewrites, updates, and the development of new content. Approximately 60 pages have been created or updated, and we hope you find the new website more accessible and informative.

There are still a few tasks left to complete, including activating the member portal. This feature will allow you to check and update your records, view your payment history, log volunteer hours, subscribe to distribution lists, and see which activities you have signed up for. Additionally, we are working on a couple of pages still under development, such as our Hunter Education programs and conservation activities like the American Chestnut program. We will also continue to maintain the pages regularly.

A huge thanks to Don Perino, Jeremy Hayes, Andy Wight, and Jason Levinson for driving this activity.

### From the Farm Committee

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

## Membership Committee Report

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

As of the October Board Meeting, membership stands at 723 total Members: 370 Individuals, 232 Family, 67 Retired Individuals, 38 Retired Family, 12 Associates, 3 Student, and 1 Youth.

You should have received a renewal notice by now. If you have not, please reach out to me so we can send you one.

You will notice something different about the renewal notice this year. We have just migrated our membership database to the cloud and all renewals are being sent directly from this. (Previously they were sent from National IWLA and then checked and edited manually before being forwarded to our members.)

### Payment methods:

1. **By mail** – If you pay by check, just mark the invoice and send it with your check.
2. **Online** – You will need to go the web address listed on the invoice. Simply type in the invoice number and you will be taken to a PayPal page (you can use a credit card, a debit card, or your PayPal account to pay).
3. **In person at a dinner meeting** – see me at a dinner meeting and hand me a check or cash. This is a more preferred way to renew and will require a copy of your renewal notice.

Please note that if you didn't meet your volunteer hours last year, a \$75 dollar fee has automatically been added to your invoice. Also, this year a late fee of \$37.50 will be added to returning members that have not paid by January 2, 2026. Please renew as soon as you are able. As usual, any questions about your invoice should be directed to the Membership Secretary.

It's important to increase our membership this year. Share our beautiful farm by inviting friends and family

Lastly, we would like to apologize for the delay in getting the invoices out to you all. We know you expected to see it by the start of October. The changes we have made by moving the database online will allow for greater visibility and choices for our members as we move forward. You will hear more about this in the New Year.

## From the MDDNR Website:

### REPORT YOUR BIRD BANDS ONLINE: [WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV](http://WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV)

Each year state and federal biologists mark tens of thousands of migratory birds with numbered leg bands. Hunters who report bands recovered from harvested birds receive specific information on when and where the bird was banded while providing important information for migratory bird management. The 1-800 telephone number for reporting bird bands has been discontinued. Hunters who recover a banded migratory bird should now use [pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/bblretrv/](http://pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/bblretrv/). Anyone reporting a band will need the following information: the band number, hunters name and address, and the date and location (nearest town) of the harvest.

### FINDING ARTIFACTS ON CHAPTER LAND

Any artifacts, such as arrowheads or spearheads, found on Chapter land are to be considered Chapter property.

Our Chapter's land has attracted hunters for thousands of years. Stone projectile points are occasionally found. If you do find one, please collect it and turn it in to a Board member at a dinner meeting.

### R&P Range Open & Closure Dates

The Rifle & Pistol Range will be open to members on Friday, November 28. This is the last day the range will be open to members until April 2026.

- The range is closed to all shooters on Saturday, November 29 and Sunday, November 30 for the opening weekend of firearms deer season.
- The range will re-open to Range Officers on Monday, December 1.

## DUE DATE

for December Newsletter Articles is  
**Saturday, November 22.**

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.

*Land Fund Chairman Byron "Butch" Mezick*

## B-CC IWLA LAND FUND

### Please Contribute to the 2025 B-CC IWLA Land Fund

The B-CC IWLA Land Fund began in 1994 to raise the required funds to purchase 127 acres of woodland on our western border known as the West Woods. Since its inception, the Land Fund has raised over 1,000,000 dollars from past and current members' contributions for the sole purpose of purchasing properties adjacent to our conservation farm. So, yes, our chapter has increased the size of the 366-acre farm it bought in 1949 to its present 624 acres.

All funds donated to the B-CC IWLA Land Fund are used solely for land purchase as articulated by the chapter's bylaws. Further, land fund contributions are tax-deductible and 100% efficient, meaning every dollar goes for its intended purpose.

Nation-wide the overwhelming reason IWLA chapters lose their shooting ranges and hunting opportunities is the encroachment of residential and commercial development. Individually we can't stop the advancement of development towards our present boundaries, but collectively we can, and we have. So yes, by coming together as a membership, we will preserve the opportunity for present and future generations to enjoy our lifestyle and chosen value system.

From shooting ranges to bird identification to understanding wildlife, woodlands, and open spaces, to hiking, gardening, fishing, and conservation education, we will inspire and motivate one another, our families, and friends.

Please contribute by using our website, [BCCIWLA.org](http://BCCIWLA.org), donate with your membership renewal, or mail a check to B-CC IWLA, PO Box 542, Poolesville, MD 20837. In the memo section of your check, write B-CC IWLA Land Fund.

### 2025 Land Fund

As a member of the B-CC IWLA, I want to do my part and contribute the following amount to the B-CC IWLA Land Fund Campaign.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50    \_\_\_\_\_ \$100    \_\_\_\_\_ \$200    \_\_\_\_\_ \$500    \_\_\_\_\_ \$1000    \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER

*Your contribution is tax deductible.*

Please mail contribution form and check (made payable to B-CC IWLA) to B-CC IWLA, PO Box 542, Poolesville, MD 20837, donate via paypal on the Chapter's website, or give your donation to a Board Member at a monthly dinner meeting.



## Rifle & Pistol Range Committee Report

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

### Bianchi Pistol Match Update

The Bianchi Pistol Match was held on October 11, 2025 after a hiatus of thirteen years. The very generous target placed at a distance of 50 ft. was designed to challenge the participant with a devilish mix of one-hand, two-hand, strong-hand, weak-hand, slow and timed course of fire with an option of four types of pistols. Only one of the participants completed the entire course of fire falling short of the minimum score of 1500 required for recognition on the chapter plaque. All agreed that this was a fun and challenging event with hopes of continuing on an annual basis.



*Bianchi Pistol Match participants from left to right: Hughes Meima, Bill Miller, Larry Hess, and Steve Meima.*

The range will be open to members on Friday, November 28. This is the last day the range will be open to members until April 2026.

**The range is closed to all shooters on Saturday, November 29 and Sunday, November 30 for the opening weekend of firearms deer season.**

The range will re-open to Range Officers on Monday, December 1.

## Archery Range Committee Report

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

The Archery Committee has wrapped up major operations for the year.

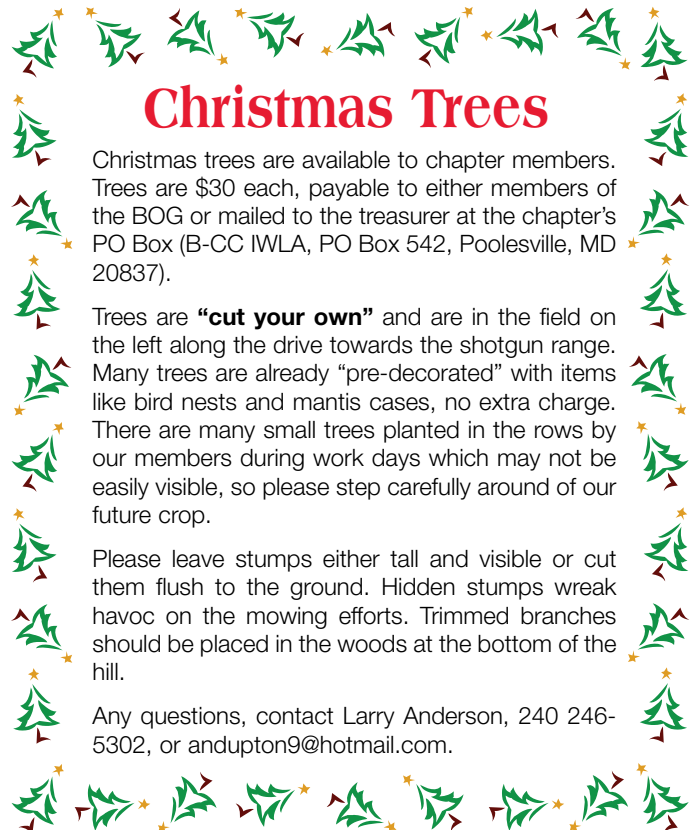
The Archery Range, however, will remain open to members and their guests throughout the Fall. We have acquired new target bags and additional equipment, and the range is in great shape. Come out and shoot during the cooler autumn months to keep your skills sharp!

We will not hold a monthly Archery Committee meeting in November. Check in with us during the December meeting to plan Winter activities and the 2026 schedule of events.

## Ad Hoc Committee Formed to Study Accessibility Concerns

An *ad hoc* committee has been created to study the physical accessibility of all Chapter facilities with a view towards improving the ability of members and guests with physical limitations to use and enjoy all that the Chapter property offers. As a general overview of the committee's objectives, it will begin by identifying problem areas – areas where the present physical configuration poses difficulties that limit or completely eliminate access by those with a physical limitation. The committee will then make recommendations as to corrective improvements, then rank them in terms of priority for correction.

The committee is chaired by Bob Kelly, who also serves as the current Treasurer of the Chapter. Please contact him if you are interested in participating in the committee's work. He can be reached at [rnkelly1974@gmail.com](mailto:rnkelly1974@gmail.com). Time spent participating in the committee's work can be recorded as volunteer hours.



### Christmas Trees

Christmas trees are available to chapter members. Trees are \$30 each, payable to either members of the BOG or mailed to the treasurer at the chapter's PO Box (B-CC IWLA, PO Box 542, Poolesville, MD 20837).

Trees are **"cut your own"** and are in the field on the left along the drive towards the shotgun range. Many trees are already "pre-decorated" with items like bird nests and mantis cases, no extra charge. There are many small trees planted in the rows by our members during work days which may not be easily visible, so please step carefully around of our future crop.

Please leave stumps either tall and visible or cut them flush to the ground. Hidden stumps wreak havoc on the mowing efforts. Trimmed branches should be placed in the woods at the bottom of the hill.

Any questions, contact Larry Anderson, 240 246-5302, or [andupton9@hotmail.com](mailto:andupton9@hotmail.com).

### 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.



## Wildlife Committee Report

Larry Anderson, Chair  
andupton9@hotmail.com 240 246-5302

Deer firearms season starts on November 29th and runs through December 13th, including Sunday, November 28th and Sunday, December 7th (only until 10:30am). We ask that all hunters be safe and courteous, read and follow our rules and respect all property lines. B-CC IWLA chapter website has our updated rules and a variety of methods to distinguish our property lines. The Chapter's Trail Guide on the website is a good way to familiarize yourself with the trails and the boundaries of our Conservation Farm. All members intending to hunt on our farm must acknowledge that they have read our rules and understand where our property lines are by registering on our website. This is a yearly requirement. It is recommended that during the deer firearms, all members and guests while out on the farm wear some highly visible clothing, hunter orange or pink is preferred.

We do not have permission to hunt or go on any of our neighbor's properties. If you need to track and recover a deer that makes it off our farm, members need to get permission before entering our neighbor's property. The property located to the north and west of our farm (near the big pond) on several different boundaries is owned by **Joe Morin** (301 674-5397), the property located north of the NE Woods is owned by **Vikki Van Winkle** (301 379-3560), and the property across Willard Road from the NE woods is owned/managed by **Bob Cissel** (301 775-8978). Members may enter their property only after calling them and receiving permission. You must not enter their properties with a weapon of any kind.

Our farm is considered private property (MD-DNR land code 430 for harvest check in), so your current valid membership card is used as the written permission to hunt as required by MD DNR and must be carried along with your valid hunting license. Also, a current B-CC IWLA chapter vehicle decal must be visible in all vehicles on the farm.

We ask that deer and turkeys taken on our farm be recorded either in our game logbook, located outside the chapter house's main door; or by sending an email to andupton9@hotmail.com. When reporting your deer (or turkeys), we ask for the following information; your name, doe or buck (antler count), date and weapon used. Other details may also be included such as estimated weight or unusual features.

Our hunting rules, as posted on our website, have been instituted to accommodate the large number of hunters we potentially have in our chapter. The intent and spirit of these rules is to ensure access to all hunters. It has come to our attention that several ground blinds have been erected and left overnight (some much longer) contrary the intent of our rules. Leaving blinds, stands, game cameras, and any other hunting equipment in the woods and fields overnight with the intent to hunt multiple days constitutes a sense of ownership to a spot and limits access to fellow hunters. As such, this constitutes a violation to the spirit of our rules. The wording of our rules against leaving hunting equipment overnight has been modified to reflect the growing use of ground blinds and now includes a prohibition of leaving ground blinds out overnight. Ground blinds left overnight will be subject to removal and surrendered to the BOG.

Baiting for hunting purposes is prohibited on our farm.

An amendment has been made to our chapter rule that will also allow the use of straight-walled cartridge firearms to hunt deer during deer firearm season on our farm. Only those cartridges that meet the minimum standards set by MD DNR will be allowed and only for use during deer firearm season and for deer hunting only.

Again this year, 2 bucks may be taken statewide throughout the entire hunting year, only one of which can have less than 3 points on an antler. Only one buck may be taken in a weapon year. A bonus buck may be taken in region B (our region) after purchasing a bonus buck stamp and can be used for any weapon season, still maintaining the antler point restrictions. The requirement to harvest 2 does prior to using the bonus buck stamp has been removed.

Bears are protected in Montgomery County and we adhere to the policies setup by MD DNR. We ask that all of our members be aware of the possibility of encountering a bear does exist while on our farm.

### Catch a Poacher 24 Hour Hotline: 1-800-635-6124

Citizens who supply Maryland Natural Resources Police with information leading to the arrest and conviction of a poaching violator are eligible to receive cash rewards. Give names, addresses, vehicle descriptions, and as much information as possible. The anonymity of the caller is guaranteed.

### To report nuisance, injured or sick wildlife:

(Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 4:30pm) Call Toll-free in Maryland: 1-877-463-6497

## New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour

Come join us on the B-CC IWLA Orientation Tour. The next tour will take place on Saturday, November 22 from 10:00am to approximately 11:30am *if weather permits*.

**Tours will not be held in December, January, nor February.**

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/10COD4DACAA28A7F8C25-54255111-newmember>

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.

**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**

## Archaeology Dig in the Log Cabin Root Cellar

Don Perino, Archaeology Committee Chair  
bcc\_archaeology@yahoo.com

On October 19th, the Log Cabin root cellar was explored by several members and their guests. But first we fueled-up on hotdogs and chocolate chip cookies! This was the third excavation of the root cellar, and the more we examine the cabin the more we realize how little is left of the original



structure. An expert who once came to take a look said: "The good news is that major repairs have taken place. The bad news is that so much has been replaced it will be hard to conclusively date the cabin."

Our attention recently turned to the root cellar for two reasons. First, we believed that we might find the oldest artifacts down there. We'd like to determine when the old section of Log Cabin was built. Second, the depth of the floor didn't make sense. The headroom clearance is only about 3 feet. That's too tight to make it useful for food storage. In addition, other historic buildings have deeper root cellars with reasonable headroom.

### *Finally we have some answers:*

During a previous root cellar excavation we discovered large quantities of relatively modern debris. And some debris clearly did not relate to the Log Cabin, such as ceramic tile. This indicated that someone had added fill dirt, and a lot of it! The October 19th excavation conclusively determined that there is approximately 16 inches of fill dirt in the root cellar. Analyzing artifacts suggests that the fill dirt may have been added between 1964 to 1974. BTW, the cabin was once



"modernized" with electricity for a caretaker to live there. That may have been during that timeframe. So the fill dirt might tie-in with that.

As to why fill dirt was added to the root cellar, one suggestion is that it may have been done to prevent flooding during periods when the water table was higher. Currently the water table is unusually low as evidenced by the lack of water in the springhouse. But we are not really sure as to why someone went to the great effort to move all that dirt under the cabin.

Unfortunately any artifacts from the earliest time period of the root cellar are now hidden beneath 16 inches of fill dirt. So we are still far from being able to determine the cabin's age. BTW, a 1769 tax survey describes a one-room log cabin on the property. But where was it located exactly? Is the existing Log Cabin built on the same foundation? We still don't know for sure.

Another related development is that we recently came to understand that the wooden floor on the 1st floor was higher at some time in the past. For one thing, the cellar window/vent partially opens into the first floor. That's not how they built things. Furthermore, on October 19th we noticed that the floor joists have signs that they came from another building. That means the entire wooden floor was rebuilt at some point. Several facts point to the original floor being about a foot higher than it is today.

In conclusion, today, we see a head clearance of 3 feet in the root cellar. But there is almost 1 1/2 feet of fill dirt raising the ground level. And the wooden floor above has been lowered by a foot. That means the original root cellar would have had 5 1/2 feet of headroom. That space would have been typical and quite useable.

In addition, on October 19th, we verified that the stonework at the entrance to the root cellar is not original. It definitely does not extend below the current dirt level. The original entrance was significantly deeper with different side-walls. The new stonework was likely built by our Chapter, probably around 1964-1974 timeframe.

For more information contact: bcc\_archaeology@yahoo.com

## Ponds & Streams Committee

The fish feeders at both ponds were recently broken into and all the fish food is gone. As a reminder, the feeders are the sole property of the Ponds & Streams Committee.

### **ATTENTION New Members!**

**Chapter House cleanups will be held on:**  
**Saturday, November 15**  
**Saturday, December 13**  
**Starting at 9:00am**

Join us and earn volunteer hours

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

Signup for the cleanups using the  
signup genius link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACA28A7F8C25-51060445-monthly>

Questions? Contact John Lamb –  
jpatricklamb@aol.com



## FeederWatch News and Seneca Christmas Bird Count

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

### FeederWatch News

The overwintering birds are here, and our 14th FeederWatch season is getting underway! Counting birds is both enjoyable and educational. Please consider joining other chapter members who count species and numbers of birds observed within species on weekends from November 22 through March 15.

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

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

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

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

Happy Feeder Watching!

### Seneca Christmas Bird Count

On Sunday, December 15, we will host the Montgomery Bird Club (MBC) for a portion of the sixty-fourth Sector 7, Seneca Christmas Bird Count (CBC). The CBC, organized by The Audubon Society, is an annual nationwide event first conducted in 1958. Several MBC birders plus chapter members acting as escorts will meet at 7:00am at the chapter house and set out for the morning count, which typically lasts until noon. If you would like to join the count, please contact the MBC count compiler, Jim Nelson, at kingfishers2@verizon.net.

## Goose and Duck Decoys

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

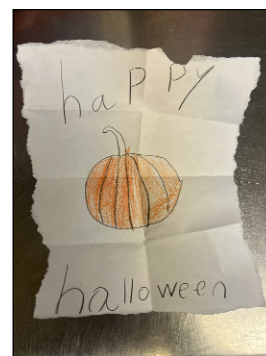


*R&P Range in 1955 — the gentleman in the red shirt is Col. Frank Chamberlin, who built the original range; the gentleman on the left is Anthony Pisciotta, who was Chapter President in that time frame. Yours truly is the shooter at the bench.*  
— Larry Cole

## Fall Family Campout

Andy Wight, Co-Chair  
Conservation Education Committee

On the 25th and 26th of October, we held our annual Fall Family Campout. Although the night was forecast to be cold, it was warm during the day, and everyone took turns fishing in the small pond under the watchful eye of the Ponds and Streams Committee. As usual, the fish were very eager to be caught, and for some members it was their first experience at catching fish. At the chapter house, Emma Cowan had prepared a crafts table, where participants had



the chance to paint pumpkins. Outside, the kids swung on the rope swing by the log cabin, helped set up tents, explored the chapter and climbed trees, while waiting for the now traditional dinner of hotdogs, burgers, cookies, and juice boxes was prepared.

As it got dark, we walked down to the big pond, via a haunted Nature Trail, complete with ghost, skeletons, and things that go bump in the night. In addition to the nature trail, Alex Cowan also led the group on an owl hunt. After a scavenger hunt at the pond, we enjoyed smore's at the



campfire before people retired for the night.

We closed the campout with our usual breakfast of eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, tater tots, and coffee. A huge thank you to everyone who attend-



ed and volunteered over the two days including the Ponds & Streams Committee, Emma Cowan for the arts and crafts, and Alex Cowan and team for setting up and cleaning up the Haunted Trail. With over 55 campers, this was another successful campout, and we look forward to seeing everyone in 2026.

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



## Kid's Fishing - Fall Campout 2025

John Novak, Ponds & Streams Committee Chair

The sunny skies and pleasant fall weather on Saturday, October 25, enticed a good number of families with kids to fish in the small pond. A variety of sunfish, including bluegills, redears, and large mouth bass, were reeled in. Most of the kids caught bluegills, some of which were quite large (greater than 5 inches). For many of the kids, this was their first time fishing, but they were eager to learn how to put a worm on the hook and cast their lines into the water. A good time was had by all, including a few dogs who took a dip in the pond.

After a full afternoon of fishing, many of the families stayed for burgers, hot dogs and s'mores; and later enjoyed an evening Halloween walk down to the big pond before retiring to their tents for the family camp out. A special thanks to Pete Wirth, John Estep, Jack Caulfield, Vic Ezerski, and Suzanne Novak for helping out with the fishing event.

PHOTOS BY SUZANNE NOVAK



### 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.



## The Willard Log Cabin News in November

David Mecklenburg, Log Cabin Committee Chair  
dmecklenburg1@gmail.com

It is November and hopefully you have had a chance to enjoy the beautiful fall weather we are having. This is the third year of a drought on the farm, and I have only seen the spring house run freely for a couple of weeks this spring, so I am glad I am not relying on it for my water and keeping my food from spoiling.

We had an archeological dig in October that has shed more information about the history of the cabin and brought up more questions as well. We had a great time with a potluck lunch and digging in the dirt. Thank you, Don!

The cabin is a valuable asset for the chapter and should be used more often. Do you have an idea on how the cabin could be used? I am making a list of possible activities so please email me with any suggestions. All suggestions will be appreciated.

We finished redoing all the windows, so they all are working as well as secure. The re-casing the windows involved taking each window completely apart and rebuilding it, about 20 manhours for each window. Thank you, Curt Bush, for all of your work and guidance. We still need to paint and caulk all the windows. If you would like to help, please email me. We may have to wait until the weather warms in the spring for the outside, but we may be able to work inside. So please email me at dmecklenburg1@gmail.com if you are willing to help. I will create an email list and contact you only when we have a painting date scheduled.



*The front of the cabin with the updated windows.*



*The back of the cabin with updated windows.*



*Looking at the chapter house over the spring house from the cabin.*



PHOTOS BY DAVE MECKLENBURG

*Tracy crawling out of the root cellar.*

