NOVEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

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

Serving the Community Since 1935 PO Box 542, Poolesville, MD 20837 www.bcciwla.org

President's Message

November is here, which means membership renewals are underway. As you complete your renewal, I encourage you to also consider making a donation to the Land Fund and/or Log Cabin Restoration Fund. No matter the amount, every contribution helps us to continue improving and preserving the Chapter for future generations.

Earlier this month, the Ponds & Streams Committee stocked the small pond with brown trout and rainbow trout, and it is now open for fishing to Chapter members. Members may keep up to three trout per person, per day, and we ask that you report your catches to the Ponds & Streams Committee. This is a great opportunity to get outside and enjoy some fishing as we move into the colder months.

Fall is also one of the best times of year to explore the Chapter property. The cooler weather is perfect for hiking, but please remember that hunting season is now underway. If you are out enjoying the property, please stay on the established trails whenever possible and wear bright colors so that you are easily visible to hunters. Ticks are still out, so also be sure to use bug spray – permethrin is great for keeping them at bay.

Lastly, the holiday season will be here before we know it! Keep an eye on the Chapter calendar and upcoming e-blasts for details about our annual Holiday Party and New Year's Brunch. These are always great opportunities to spend time with fellow members and meet some new faces. And for our prospective members, both of these events can count towards the meeting requirements.

I hope everyone has an opportunity to get outside, enjoy the property, and take advantage of everything our Chapter has to offer.

Shannon Novak
President

B-CC IWLA

RIFLE RAFFLE

$10 per ticket or $100 for 12 tickets

The Henry Golden Boy Lever Action .22 Cal. Rifle

HENRY Made In America, Or Not Made At All



Proceeds from the raffle supports our Shotgun Lead Containment Efforts

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 or 202 438-4202.

From the Farm Committee

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

Board of Governors

Fiscal Year: September 1, 2026 – August 31, 2027

OFFICERS

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

Sean-David Waterman, *1st Vice President*
816 812-5763 • seandavid@me.com

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

Derek Woodward, *Recording Secretary*
203 524-2181 • djw212@me.com

Gini Staver, *Membership Secretary*
240 505-7878 • duststar6210@yahoo.com

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

BOARD MEMBERS

Alex Cowan
Vic Ezerski
Sebastian Fainbraun
Tom Moore
Dan Pasquale

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

* 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 2026 Membership Meeting and the Board of Governors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 18, 2026 – 1,091st Consecutive Dinner Meeting Minutes:

Meeting called to order by the President at 7:30pm.

- Members were also reminded of ongoing volunteer opportunities, including Log Cabin work days, and were directed to the Chapter website and newsletter or to David Mecklenburg for additional information.
- The Chapter continues to need volunteers in several areas, including committee\chairs, the kitchen team, accounting assistance, and shotgun range officers.
- New members of the Board that missed last month's dinner meeting were sworn in as Board members.
- Multiple state and national awards for outstanding efforts were presented to chapter members who were not present at the last meeting, including the Ponds & Streams team.
- The proposed 2026 – 2027 Chapter budget was presented and reviewed with the membership. A motion was made to approve the 2026 – 2027 budget. The motion was approved.
- Gini Staver, Membership Secretary, provided the membership report.
- Ponds & Streams Committee Chair John Novak discussed past issues, and potential remediations (fish stocking, etc.) were discussed.
- Farm Chair Phil Taylor reported that cover crops have been planted.
- 3-D Course is closed for the season.
- R&P Range – Multiple events coming up including blackpowder zero day on September 26 and Bianchi Cup match on October 10.
- Shotgun Range – An additional Shotgun Range Committee Chair is being sought, along with additional Range Officers.
- Archeology / Wildflower Meadows – Invasive species in clubhouse field and remediation plan were discussed.

Meeting adjourned.

Wednesday, September 23, 2026 – Board of Governors Meeting Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by President Shannon Novak.

- Matt Smith and Mark Whalen provided the Board with an overview of the NAVHDA organization and its activities.
- Discussed reaching out to members who did not renew for 2026, similar to the outreach effort conducted for non-renewing members in 2025.
- Discussed committee chair positions and committees with limited activity. Jerry Murray will reach out to committee chairs to discuss.
- The Board discussed the quotes received for replacement of the log cabin roof and material options.
- The chapter's Fall Cleanup, scheduled for October 3, was discussed.
- The recent trapping class was well attended, with 32 participants. A request was made to reconsider allowing trapping on the grounds.
- Treasurer Bob Kelly presented the Treasurer's Report, including a review of chapter account balances, cash flow, and the budget.
- Gini Staver provided an update on current membership and the status of 2026 renewals.
- The logistics for firearm raffles to raise funds for the Log Cabin were discussed. Two firearms were kindly donated by Sean-David Waterman.

(continued on page 3)

SUMMARY
(continued from page 2)

- Discussed on the proposals/quotes received for a consultant to assist with redesign of the shotgun range.
- Chuck Thornton has stepped down as committee chair, and a replacement chair is needed.
- The shotgun range remains without a permanent committee chair. Discussion regarding the range and consultant proposals.
- The Board confirmed the current campground responsibilities:
  - o **Jack Kang** remains Campground Committee Chair.
  - o **Gerard Mulford** handles campground reservations.
  - o **Mac McDaniel** handles campground maintenance.
- The Board discussed several website and technology matters.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:
- The Board discussed Pack 773's October 3 campout.
- The chapter's accessibility review was discussed and/or updated.
- The Board discussed a question raised by Dave Lenard concerning a donation letter and related tax IDs associated with the Scouts.
- The need to assemble/maintain vendor information and a contact list was discussed.
- The Board discussed updates to existing liability waivers,
- The Board discussed working with Poolesville Plumbing and Line Locators for quotes to identify and remedy the broken water line running down to the log cabin.
- Dave Lenard requested possible ideas for future Eagle Scout projects.
- Improvements to the hunter registration survey was discussed including a proposed form.

MOTIONS:
- Request by a member to camp on the Chapter grounds from October 2–3 for the half-day fee, including access to the Chapter House, for a birthday gathering involving three other families. **The motion passed.**
- Request by Pack 773 to fish the small pond on the afternoon of October 18. **The Board decided that no vote was needed.**
- Request by Troop 227G to use the Chapter House for an overnight lock-in from January 9–10, 2027. **The motion passed.**
- Request for Scouts use of the Rifle & Pistol Range for merit-badge activities on weekends in March 2027. **The motion passed.**
- Request to approve the proposed contracts with funds coming from log cabin grant for replacement/repair of the Log Cabin roof with the metal option, and for replacement/repair of the Log Cabin porch and shed roof with the metal option. **The motion passed.**
- The Board considered approval of a consultant contract related to redesign of the shotgun range, with funding to come from near-term capital expenditures. **The motion passed.**
- The Board considered four new-member applications presented by the Membership Secretary. **The motion passed.**
- The Board considered approval of dates for hunter education courses in 2027. The proposed dates were April 10-11 and September 11-12. **The motion passed.**

TALKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER:
- Discussion of chapter activities at Poolesville Day.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:00pm. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

November 2026 1,093rd Monthly Dinner / Membership Meeting

Wednesday, November 18

50 / 50 Raffle
Tickets are available in the Boardroom
$1 per ticket / 6 tickets for $5

Henry Rifle Raffle
Henry Rifle Golden Boy Lever Action .22 Raffle
$10 per ticket / 12 tickets for $100

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

Menu
Appetizers
Turkey, Mashed Taters with Gravy, Stuffing, Green Beans, Cranberry Sauce
Desserts
Lemonade & Coffee
Bring your own Libations

Dinner served starting at 6:15pm

Membership Meeting starts at 7:30pm

November 2026 Board of Governors Meeting

Wednesday, November 18
(After the Dinner Meeting)

Welcome to the B-CC IWLA Family!

At the October 2026 Membership Meeting, the following were inducted as members to the Chapter:

Bikram Bakshi – *Family Membership*
Interests: Archery; Nature Trail; Rifle & Pistol

Michael Crist – *Individual Membership*
Interests: Rifle & Pistol; Trap & Skeet; Wildlife

Christopher Mohl – *Family Membership*
Interests: Cabins; Food & Kitchen; Trails

John Bienko – *Individual Membership*
Interests: Gardening; Ponds; Trails

Chapter House Holiday Decorating

Saturday, December 5

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.





Donations & Grants

HENRY RIFLE RAFFLE

$10 per ticket / 12 tickets for $100



Tickets on sale NOW!

Reach out to Jerry Murray at the Wednesday Dinner Meeting
or contact him at jerrym5@comcast.net

"The Henry Golden Boy Lever Action .22"

Supports our Shotgun Lead
Containment Efforts

HENRY Made In America, Or Not Made At All

MHAA GRANT TRACKER

582 VOLUNTEER HOURS TO DATE: THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!
$2,807 IN KIND CONTRIBUTIONS
$176 HONEY SALES
$2,000 CHECK THANK YOU ROBERT MECKLENBURG
$450 ZEFFY THANK YOU RICH CLEMENT, PAUL GAGNIER, EDGAR KOZAK
FOR A GRAND TOTAL OF $29,136.00 MATCH TOWARD OUR $100K MATCH COMMITMENT FOR THE WILLARD LOG HOUSE RENOVATION.

CLICK HERE TO DONATE to the LOG HOUSE Fund

HERITAGE MONTGOMERY

MARYLAND HERITAGE AREA
Maryland Heritage Areas Authority

EPA

B-CC IWLA SELECTED BY MARYLAND STATE: §319(H) GRANT FOR FFY2027 $400,000.00

Horsepen Branch Structural Sediment Control, Permeable Barriers, and Riparian Habitat Connectivity Project (B-CC IWLA) has been selected to be funded in full by Maryland's §319(h) Grant for FFY2027, pending approval and funding of $400,000.00 from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

PROJECT SYNOPSIS

US EPA Pillar 1: "Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American"

- *Goal 1: Implementation of Maryland's Nonpoint Source Best Management Practices (BMPs) to Reduce Nutrient and Sediment Pollution.*
- *Goal 2: Achieve Localized TMDL Reductions for Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and Structural Runoff Controls.*
- *Goal 3: Restore and Protect Riparian Forest Buffers and Streamside Ecosystems.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Weekly Events

Mondays	*Troop 2027G Meetings (Board Room)*	*7:30pm – 9:00pm*
Mondays	*Troop 496B Meetings (Chapter House)*	*7:30pm – 9:00pm*
3rd Thursdays of Month	*Pack 694 Meetings (Chapter House)*	*7:00pm – 8:30pm*
aturday and Sunday	*Feederwatch – from the Chapter House*	*Weekends through March 21*

NOVEMBER

Thursday, November 5	Workday at the Log Cabin	10:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, November 7	Trout Fishing Resumes at the Small Pond	All Day
Saturday, November 7	Workday at the Log Cabin	9:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, November 7	Centerfire Sight-In Day	10:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday November 7	Biathlon Practice Program	7:30am – 9:30am
Saturday, November 7	Ecological Experiment – Plant Community Recovery Project	10:00am – 4:00pm
Sunday, November 8	NRA Basic Pistol Shooting Course w/MD Handgun Qualification License *Note: R&P Range (Pistol Side) is closed from 1:00pm – 3:00pm*	8:30am – 6:00pm
Thursday, November 12	Workday at the Log Cabin	10:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, November 14	Chapter House Clean Up	9:00am – Noon
Saturday, November 14	Biathlon Practice Program	4:30am – 9:30am
Sunday, November 15	Jr. Rifle Team Practice at R&P Range	4:00pm
Wednesday, November 18	Monthly Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:30pm
Wednesday, November 18	Board of Governors Meeting – following Dinner Meeting	BOG Meeting 8:30pm
Thursday, November 19	Workday at the Log Cabin	10:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, November 21	Workday at the Log Cabin	9:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, November 21	New and Prespective Members Orientation Tour	10:00am – 11:30pm
Sunday, November 22	NRA Basic CCW Course *Note: R&P Range (Pistol Side) is closed from 1:00pm – 3:00pm*	8:30am – 6:30pm
Thursday, November 26	HAPPY THANKSGIVING!	
Friday, November 27	Articles for December Newsletter due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Saturday, November 28	Opening Day of MD Firearms Hunting Season Rifle & Pistol Range and Shotgun Range Closed All Day	All Day

DECEMBER

Thursday, December 3	Workday at the Log Cabin	10:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, December 5	NRA Basic Rifle Shooting Course *Note: R&P Range (Rifle Side) is closed from 1:00pm – 3:00pm*	8:30am – 6:00pm
Saturday, December 5	Decorating Chapter House for the Holidays	10:00am
Saturday, December 5	Workday at the Log Cabin	9:00am – 1:00pm
Sunday, December 6	Decorating the Board Room for the Holidays	10:00am
Thursday, December 10	Workday at the Log Cabin	10:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, December 12	Chapter House Clean Up	9:00am – Noon
Saturday, December 12	Annual Holiday Party	6:00pm
Wednesday, December 16	Monthly Memberhip Dinner Meeting	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:30pm
Wednesday, December 16	Board of Governors Meeting – following Dinner Meeting	BOG Meeting 8:30pm
Thursday, December 17	Workday at the Log Cabin	10:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, December 19	Workday at the Log Cabin	9:00am – 1:00pm
Sunday, December 20	Montgomery Bird Club, Christmas Bird Count	7:00am – 12:00 noon
Friday, December 25	MERRY CHRISTMAS	
Saturday, December 26	Articles for January Newsletter due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day

JANUARY

Friday, January 1	Happy New Year	
Friday, January 1	Annual New Year's Day Brunch – College Bowl Games	12:00 noon – 2:00pm
Saturday, January 9	Troop 227G use Chapter House overnight lock-in	Afternoon & Night
Sunday, January 10	Troop 227G use Chapter House for lock-in	Morning
Saturday, January 16	Holiday decorations to be taken down – Chapter House	9:00am
Saturday, January 16	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Wednesday, January 21	Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:15
Wednesday January 28	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Monday, January 30	Articles for February 2027 Newsletter are due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day

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

Membership Committee Report

Gini Staver, Membership Secretary & Committee Chair
240 505-7878 (cell – text prefered contact)
membershipsecretary.bcc.iwla@gmail.com

In my third month as your membership secretary, I have found many situations dating back several years in both our membership data and National membership data that needs correcting. Jeremy Hayes, in my membership committee, will be working with National's data files to fix and finish 2026 and 2027 renewals.

Additionally, our new IT designed page to help prospective members join our organization is going through its new system glitches which is adding to my difficulty in bringing new members into our Izaak Walton League chapter.

We are getting things fixed. Slowly.

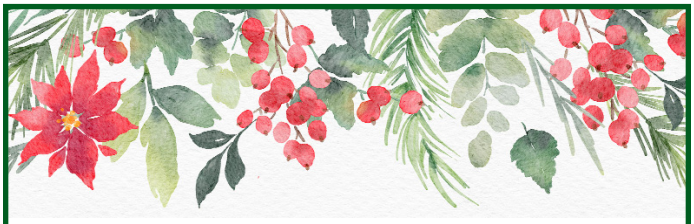
So, if you have reached out to me, but haven't heard back from me yet, please text me again. (240 505-7878)

Right now I'm operating on the principal that the squeaky wheel gets the grease.

Everyone should have their new membership cards by the end of January 2027. So please be patient.

Keep in mind that my cell phone is also my business phone, and therefore if you hear a message for my barber shop just ignore it and leave a message about your B-CC business. You will get responded to more quickly if you text me at 240 505 7878.

As of the October 2026 Board of Governors meeting, our membership numbers are running at 670 Total Members (325 Individual, 231 Family, 70 Retired, 34 Retired Families, 9 Associates, and 1 Youth).



Annual Holiday Party

The Chapter will host its Holiday Party on Saturday, December 12 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!

UPCOMING EVENTS / VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

B-CC IWLA and Community

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

Fishing at the Small Pond
Brown and Rainbow Trout
Keep 3 per day

Membership / Dinner Meeting
Wednesday, November 18
Dinner – 6:15pm; Meeting – 7:30pm
50/50 Tickets and Rifle Raffle Tickets

New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour
Saturday, November 22
10:00am – 11:30am

FeederWatch
Weekends
Saturday, November 21 – Sunday, March 21
Observe birds from the Chapter House

Chapter House Holiday Decorating
Saturday, December 7
Meet at the chapter house at 10:00am

Annual Holiday Party
Saturday, December 13
Starting at 6:00pm

Rifles Rafle Ticket Sale
Tickets – $10 each or 12 for $100
Available at Dinner Meetings

Log Cabin
Repair outside and inside of the cabin
See article in November Newsletter for Dates

New Year's Day Brunch
Thursday, January 1
12:00 noon – 2:00pm

HONEY

Pure, Raw,
from the bees at the Chapter

$18 for a 1lb. jar

$5 from each jar sold will go towards the Log Cabin project.

Support the project and enjoy a sweet product of the Chapter.

Honey will be sold at the **November** dinner meeting.



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 Ernie Koutras, 240 606-9668 or eiljap@aol.com.

FeederWatch News

Diane Seward
Citizen Science Projects Coordinator
trina65@verizon.net

The overwintering birds are here, and our 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 21 through March 21.

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/10C0D4DACAA28A7F8C25-bcc

Happy Feeder Watching!

A Letter from Long-Time Member Randolph T. Royen

To: Bethesda-Chevy Chase Izaak Walton League of America
Date: September 29, 2026

It is with profound sadness that I write this letter of resignation from the Chapter. I truly enjoyed my years of membership, from the early 1970's. The Chapter intrigued me, its members taught me a great deal and allowed me to grow in both knowledge and skill, more than I ever imagined I could.

I am now 80 years old, retired and looking to head further south into a Florida retirement community, with my wife.

It was wonderful getting to know the members, take the Maryland Hunter Safety student course and become over the years a full-fledged Maryland Hunter Safety Instructor in 1978 and teach many others, some of whom now run the program.

I was proud to be a member at B-CC, with its land, facilities, programs and members who loved the place and joined in the programs to help and teach others to love and respect the outdoors.

It is with a sad heart that I must say goodbye, with best wishes for safe and wonderful times for all members. I'm thankful for my Canvasback Award on April 19, 2017, from the Maryland Natural Resources Police, Hunter Education Program.

I hope my work was a model for other B-CC IWLA members and an inspiration for some of them to continue on.

Sincerely,
Randolph T. Royen

Rifle & Pistol Range Committee Report

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

FIREARMS TRAINING COURSES:

NRA Basic CCW Course
November 22 8:30am – 6:30pm

This course is designed to complete the second day of required training to apply for an initial MD Handgun Permit (HGP) and to renew a HGP. Students learn defensive pistol skills, drawing from concealment, loading and stoppage remediation, mindset, carry modes and pistol concealment, and more. Students shoot the required MD State Police HGP qualification. Prerequisite is completion of the NRA Basic Pistol Shooting Course or possession of a valid HGP. Loaner centerfire pistol, target, and completion certificate are provided. Tuition is $250 ($50 discount for B-CC IWLA members). Register online at: **https://www.nrainstructors.org/CourseDetails.aspx?Courseid=937242**.

NRA Basic Rifle Shooting Course
December 5 8:30am – 6:30pm

This course is designed to provide students with the basic knowledge, skills, and attitude necessary for safe rifle shooting. Student materials, loaner rifles, ammunition, targets, and completion certificate are provided. This course satisfies the prerequisites to participate in next level NRA rifle courses (Basic Instructor Training, Rifle Instructor). Tuition is $250 ($50 discount for B-CC IWLA members). Register online at: **https://www.nrainstructors.org/CourseDetails.aspx?Courseid=941480**.

JUNIOR RIFLE PROGRAM:

We are continuing the Junior Rifle Program every other Sunday at 4:00pm. We have started with some introductory sessions followed by a structured marksmanship program with regular practices that include safety briefings and skill development with the opportunity to compete in local competitions. For added fun we include steel targets and non-standard rifles. Newcomers welcome! All equipment will be provided. If interested, please contact Larry Hess: larry.a.hess@gmail.com.

Firearm and Safety Training Classes

In 2026 after a 20+ year hiatus we brought back NRA firearm and safety classes to the chapter. Thanks to Rich Clement and his dedicated team of instructors we started hosting NRA firearm and safety classes and Maryland HQL/CCW classes again. The classes this past year were mostly NRA basic classes with a special WOT (Women On Target) class that was the first one to ever be held in Montgomery County. The classes are open to the public, and B-CC members receive a discount on the tuition. No matter what your level of experience I can promise you that by taking these classes you will learn something that will improve your shooting experience and enable you to be a better teacher to others. These classes not only help you but they help the chapter by bringing in potential new members who share our vision for outdoor activities and the majority of the fees charged for these classes gets donated back to the chapter.

We have a full slate of classes planned for 2027 that includes more advanced classes and even some for putting you on the path to be an instructor. The schedule will be in the December newsletter and posted on the website. Please spread the word, sign up for some classes, and bring you family and friends.

Shotgun Range Update

On September 20 we had a NRA shotgun safety class / shotgun range officer orientation for members wanting to become range officers at the shotgun range. Nineteen members attended and are now pulling duty at the range.

We will continue to keep the range open on Sundays (weather and manpower permitting) thru the end of the year. We still need more members to step up and become range officers if we want to continue to keep the range open every Sunday and try and have a return of Tuesday evening sporting clays.

Another range officer training class will be held in early 2027 so keep an eye out for the training schedule that will be out next month.

A consultant is being hired to help us develop plans for re-opening the other shotgun venues.

Also, all the revenue from the Henry Rifle Raffle goes toward improvements at the shotgun range, so please buy lots of tickets.

The Shotgun Range will be **CLOSED TO ALL SHOOTERS** on Saturday, November 28 for opening day of firearms deer season.

Questions? Contact Jerry Murray (jerrym5@comcast.net) or Ron Marchessault (rmarche12@comcast.net).

Archery Range Committee Report

Archery.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com

The Archery Range will remain open to members and their guests throughout the Fall. The range is in great shape. Come out and shoot during the cooler autumn months to keep your skills sharp!

IMPORTANT NOTICE – RANGE CLOSURES!

The Rifle & Pistol Range and the Shotgun Range will be CLOSED TO ALL SHOOTERS on Saturday, November 28 for opening day of firearms deer season.

Calendar Submissions

Meetings and events that need to be added to the website calendar and newsletter calendar should be sent to **IT Committee,** IT@bcciwla.org; **1st Vice President Sean-David Waterman,** seandavid@me.com; and **Corresponding Secretary Janet Lamkin,** j.lamkin@comcast.net.

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

Trapping on Chapter Property Update

At the Board of Governor's Meeting on October 28, a motion was voted to approve trapping on the property. Pursuant to the Bylaws, the Wildlife Chair approved the decision. The main goal of this initiative is to manage the predators and by trapping them, the chapter will be using the results to evaluate what is going on with impacted wildlife.

Though trapping season started November 1st, there are a few details which are necessary to be resolved. The intent of this newsletter article is to inform the chapter members that trapping will be occurring in the future on the property and that guidelines are being set up to make sure trappers work together on achieving wise stewardship.

Members will be notified with more particulars via electronic methods and at the Dinner Meetings.

Current Guidelines:

- Only those who have completed a Maryland certified trapper education course will be allowed to trap on chapter property.
- Anyone trapping has to have a Maryland Trapping Certificate, the Maryland Hunting License, a Fur Bearer's Permit and have registered via the Chapter website – **https:// bcciwla.org/b-cc-iwla-test-hunting-rules/**
- Trappers must abide by all Maryland rules, regulations, and Chapter bylaws.
- By state regulations, each trap has to have an owner's tag on it
- Traps are only allowed on chapter property where hunting is already permitted. No traps shall be set near the ponds, ranges, in the open fields and edges, and the chapter house area.
- Additional registration via the website will be required in the future. For now, anyone eligible and interested or having questions must reach out to **Paul Spangler** – ***spanglerpaul63@gmail.com***, **John Lamb** – ***jpatricklamb@aol.com***, and **Mark Gochnour** – ***mgdonutman@gmail.com*** for more information so all trapping activity can be monitored and trappers can be kept informed as this wildlife management program is implemented.



Annual New Year's Day Brunch
Friday, January 1

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

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 (are they going to be open) will be in the December newsletter.

Be mindful that it is Archery Season so hikers need to wear bright colors (orange or pink).

Volunteers are needed to help prep cook and clean up! If you would like to volunteer to help, be at the chapter house around 8:00am to prep cook; cleanup starts at 2:00pm.

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.

CAMPGROUND NOTICE

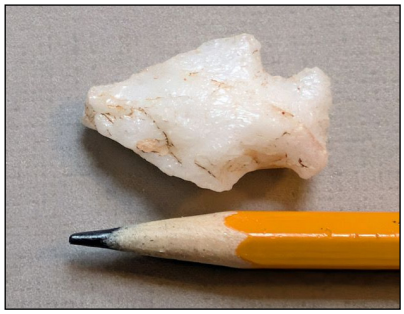
The Campground is closed during all black powder and firearms deer seasons.

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.

Finding Archaeological Artifacts on Chapter Property

Our Chapter's land has been popular with hunters for over 5,000 years. Prehistoric people lived along the banks of the Potomac River. And, since we're within walking distance, an unusually high density of lost spearheads can be found on our property. If you happen to find one of these ancient artifacts please pick it up and turn it in to a Board Member. **Archaeological artifacts discovered on our land remain Chapter Property.**



This quartz spearhead was found by a Chapter Member while hunting. It's between 4,000 to 5,000 years old.

Manmade objects over 70 years old are considered to be artifacts. Except for spearheads or arrowheads, other things like broken pottery, should not be moved. Instead the location should be reported to the Archaeology Committee at the following email address: BCC_Archaeology@Yahoo.com.

CHAPTER HOUSE CLEANUP

Attention New Members!

Chapter House cleanups are scheduled for:
Saturday, November 14 • Saturday, December 12

Starting at 9:00am

Join us and earn volunteer hours

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

Signup for the cleanups using the signup genius link below:

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

Questions? Contact John Lamb – jpatricklamb@aol.com

DUE DATE

for December Newsletter Articles is

Friday, November 27.

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

New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour

Come join us on the B-CC IWLA Orientation Tour. The next tour and last tour for 2026 will take place on:

Saturday, November 21

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 tours using the signup genius below:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACAA28A7F8C25-65661635-newand#/

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 about the tour.



Goldenrod and Native Indian Grass

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 and Wi-Fi network connection.

Small Pond Trout Fishing

Trout fishing resumed at the small pond on Saturday, November 7.

Rules



1. Trout fishing is for chapter members and immediate family only.
2. Anglers 16 and older must have a Maryland fishing license and trout stamp.
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.



PHOTO BY BEN ROSE

Thanksgiving Hearth

Meadows and Milkweed

Our chapter has 90 acres of open space with 30 acres being meadows. Most of our meadows are in great shape. They are filled with native grass with a few native wildflowers sprinkled in. That's what we are striving for. A good example is the C2 field which you can see on your way to the Big Pond. Near the Chapter House is a 2-acre field that we look at all the time. That meadow is our designated Monarch Meadow. We try to grow a lot of milkweed there. Milkweed is required for Monarch Butterflies to reproduce, so it's an important part of our conservation program.

Milkweed once covered about half of our Monarch Meadow. But over the years foreign invasive plants began to choke-out the milkweed. The invasive plants include foxtail grass, common vetch and sedge. The photo here shows a milkweed plant covered by Chinese porcelain berry vine and Chinese sweet potato vine. Those vines wrap around the milkweed and block sunlight. Milkweed is a tough plant but it does need a lot of sunlight. In the background is a young locust tree. Saplings represent another form of competition for the native plants we're trying to grow.

The bad news is that this year the foreign invasives have taken over. There is very little milkweed or any native plant left. The good news is that we now have nothing to lose by applying herbicide. So the plan is to terminate this meadow and start again. We will be planting native seeds in the fall of 2027. But before we begin the restart, we wanted to gather seeds from the last one hundred milkweed plants. During Fall Cleanup Day a group of scouts collected milkweed pods and processed the seeds. The fuzzy parachutes has to be removed from the seeds so that next fall we can use them in our seed drill. We were able to collect and clean an estimated 14,000 milkweed seeds. They are in storage for 2027.



PHOTO BY WILDFLOWER COMMITTEE

Milkweed with invasives

Log Cabin News

David Mecklenburg



Thank you everyone who came out to the Chapter for the Fall Chapter Workday. I would especially like to thank the leadership who put everything together, the kitchen crew who make a great lunch, and the log cabin crew who helped with the cabin.

We have added several additional workdays on the log cabin to schedule. They are November 21st and December 5th and 19th between 9:00am and 1:00pm. We will continue our weekly workday on Thursdays from 10:00am to 1:00pm. We can use any skill level. This is also a great way to get your volunteer hours, and you can double dip for the benefit of the chapter. The hours you work can be charged as in-kind service to help us cover the matching part of our grant as well as fulfilling your chapter volunteer hours.

If you have any questions, please call Curt Bush at 434-1989 or David Mecklenburg 202 359-3563.



PHOTO BY STEVE WAGNER

Exploration on the soffits.











PHOTOS BY WILDFLOWER COMMITTEE

The cactus have grown so much they are almost each other. When that happens it should help keep the weeds down.