



OCTOBER 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

October is off to a busy start at the Chapter. Despite a rainy morning, we had a great turnout for our Fall Cleanup Day on Saturday, October 3. Our 1st Vice President, Sean-David Waterman, greeted volunteers with hot coffee, donuts, and bagels in the Chapter House, and he and I worked together to get everyone signed in and assigned to projects throughout the property.

Once everyone got to work, there was plenty to be done. John Lamb led a crew through a thorough cleaning of the Chapter House and began the daunting task of reorganizing the card room so that space can be put to better use in the future. Membership Secretary Gini Staver and Alan Munter from the IT Committee spent the day working on the member area of the website and helping members with renewal questions. A huge thank you to them for helping renewals run smoothly.

John Novak and the Ponds & Streams Committee organized a large crew to remove the turtle platforms from both ponds, clear cattails along the small pond, and prepare the ponds for winter. The new boats obtained by a recent grant were a huge help.

There was also plenty of activity at the ranges. Thank you to Jerry Murray and the R&P Committee, as well as Ron Marchessault and the Shotgun Range Committee, for keeping their crews busy with a variety of projects.

David Mecklenburg, Curt Bush, and the dedicated Log Cabin volunteers continued their ongoing restoration work, while Brian King and his crew tackled trail clearing. Volunteers also collected seeds from our wildflower areas and cleaned up around the Chapter gardens. Thank you to everyone who pitched in with the Wildflowers and Gardens Committees.

Of course, no Chapter workday would be complete without a good meal. Carol Hulce-Efdimis once again prepared the perfect lunch for a rainy fall day, with beef stew, fresh-baked cornbread, and pulled pork sliders. A huge thank you to Carol for always making sure our volunteers are well fed and appreciated.

Days like this are a great reminder of how much can be accomplished when our members come together. Thank you to everyone who gave their time and effort to help prepare the Chapter for the months ahead.

There is still plenty to look forward to this month. Our next Dinner Meeting will be held on October 21, followed by the Fall Family Campout on October 24-25. I hope to see many of you there, and as always, be sure to watch the Chapter calendar and e-blasts for additional events, updates, and volunteer opportunities.

Shannon Novak
President

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 below:

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

Questions? Contact Hunting Ethics and Oversight Committee Chair Paul Spangler at spanglerpaul63@gmail.com

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

Alexander 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 August 2026 Membership Meeting and the Board of Governors Meeting

Wednesday, August 19, 2026 – 1,090th Consecutive Dinner Meeting Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by President Jerry Murray.

- The President advised that the Chapter's FY 2026–2027 budget review and vote will take place at the September dinner meeting.
- The Board of Governors formally accepted the **\$100,000 Maryland Heritage Areas Program matching grant** for repair and improvements to the historic Log Cabin and related out-buildings. The acceptance was delayed until the Log Cabin and Grants Committees established a viable plan to meet the required one-to-one match without placing an undue burden on Chapter finances.
- The matching strategy will include: monetary donations, volunteer labor, donated materials, donated professional services, and fundraising activities.
- Recognition was given to members who assisted with the Chapter House audiovisual upgrades.
- A future flat-screen smart television was identified as the remaining major AV improvement under consideration.
- National IWLA representatives presented several awards recognizing the Chapter and individual members. President Jerry Murray presented the Chapter's President's Awards and several other Awards to members.
- The newly elected Board of Governors members present were administered the oath of office.
- The front gate remains in need of repair.
- The Log Cabin Committee plans to use honey produced from Chapter apiaries as a fundraiser. A portion of honey-sale proceeds will be directed toward the Log Cabin matching fund.
- Chuck Thornton is concluding his service as Archery Committee Chair at the end of the fiscal year. The Chapter is actively seeking a new Chair.
- One trap field is now operational at the Shotgun Range.
- Members were reminded to ensure that their email addresses are correct in the membership system so that they continue receiving the Chapter newsletter.
- President Murray reported on his attendance at the National Convention in Minnesota.
- Members were encouraged to participate in Salt Watch and Nitrate Watch programs.
- Youth groups will resume use of the Chapter House on designated dates.
- Members experiencing difficulty logging into the Chapter website were encouraged to seek assistance from IT Committee members.
- Members were advised that online renewal functionality will allow direct payment without waiting for a mailed invoice.
- Members organizing Chapter events were asked to provide date, time, and short event description to both the IT Committee and Corresponding Secretary.
- Henry Repeating Arms has agreed to donate a Henry .22-caliber rifle to the Chapter. The rifle is expected to be used for a future fundraising auction or raffle.

Wednesday, August 26, 2026 – Board of Governors Meeting Minutes:

The August meeting of the Board of Governors was called to order at 7:00pm.

- Replacement signage (IWLA Logos, trespassing, directional signs for major facilities) has been ordered.

(continued on page 3)

SUMMARY

(continued from page 2)

- Approval of proposed container locations remains pending with the appropriate Environmental Stewardship/Agricultural review.
- Accounting funds may be used to assist with updating income and expense records as necessary.
- The grant agreement for the Log Cabin project has been signed.
- The Chapter received a **\$100,000 matching grant** for repairs and improvements to the Log Cabin complex. The Chapter must provide a corresponding \$100,000 match over the two-year grant period.
- Bill Gordon is stepping down as the Chapter's Maryland Division representative. A replacement will be needed.
- The Board discussed the need for greater committee-chair participation.
- The proposed FY 2026–2027 operating budget was reviewed in detail. Membership revenue was projected to remain relatively flat.
- The Board discussed the importance of maintaining the Chapter's Management Reserve and avoiding routine reliance on reserves to fund operating expenses.
- The Operating Account was reported to be in a healthier position than at the comparable point in the previous year.
- Required bequest paperwork had been signed by **Treasurer Bob Kelly** and returned.
- Members were reminded to provide information about upcoming events and Chapter House use so that the calendar can be maintained.
- The budget discussion recognized the significant benefit previously received from grant funding for Ponds and Streams programs, including youth activities and equipment.
- Rifle and Pistol programs, including NRA classes, continue to provide both member services and Chapter revenue.
- Chapter continues reviewing range-consultant proposals.
- A **\$7,500 IWLA endowment grant** was received to support the gardens.
- Chapter will have an outreach presence at Poolesville Day.
- Purchasing professional pull-up display banners from IWLA National for outreach and marketing were discussed.
- The NRA Women on Target event is scheduled for **October 11**. The program was described as the first current Women on Target event of its type in Montgomery County.
- The IT Committee is working to establish Google Workspace.
- Internet service is now available at the Chapter House.
- The Zeffy donation platform currently allows donors to designate contributions toward categories including: Land Fund, General donations, Log Cabin project.
- Board members and committee chairs were encouraged to identify potential projects suitable for other grants.
- The Log Cabin grant remains the Chapter's largest current grant.
- Bob Kelly continues reviewing liability-waiver requirements for use of Chapter facilities and firearms-related activities.
- David Lenard is seeking ideas for future Eagle Scout projects. The nature trail was identified as one possible project.
- A motion to authorize the purchase of **two stand-up IWLA marketing displays** was seconded and passed.
- A motion was made to approve the proposed FY 2026–2027 budget. The motion was seconded and passed.

IN MEMORIAM

EDWARD (ED) J. DUFFY

June 18, 1942 – September 14, 2026

Ed was the beloved husband of the late Maureen E. Duffy; devoted father of Jeffery J. Duffy (deceased) and Kathleen Duffy Hartman (husband, Ken); cherished grandfather of Finnoula and Declan Hartman; and loving brother of Patricia Krusienki, Michael Duffy, Arthur Duffy, and the late James Joseph Duffy, Jr.

Ed was a dedicated public servant with a decades-long career focused on community planning, economic development, and affordable housing for the City of Rockville, Maryland.

Among his personal interests, Ed was a self-taught gourmet cook and was writing a cookbook; he enjoyed target shooting; looked forward to his annual "hunting" trip with his brothers; and was a prolific reader who enjoyed American history, detective novels, alternative history, and science fiction.

October 2026 1,092nd Monthly Dinner / Membership Meeting

Wednesday, October 21

50 / 50 Raffle

(tickets are available in the Boardroom)

Price per ticket: \$1 or 6 tickets for \$5

Dinner Tickets are sold in the Boardroom

Adults – \$15; Kids – \$7

Menu

Appetizers

Pork Loin, Potatoes, Sauerkraut, Carrots

Salad & Bread

Desserts

Bring your own Libations

Dinner served starting at 6:15pm

Membership Meeting starts at 7:30pm

October 2026 Board of Governors Meeting

Wednesday, October 28

7:00pm

Membership Committee Report

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

As of the September Board Meeting, membership stands at 669 Total Members: 330 Individuals, 230 Family, 62 Retired Individuals, 34 Retired Families, 9 Associates, 3 Student, and 1 Youth.

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

My cell phone number is 240 505-7878, and I want everyone to feel free to text me with any questions or problems that arise with your membership. If I do not answer the phone, you may hear a voice message about my barber shop. Please leave a message – my cell phone is used for both my barber shop business and B-CC Membership Secretary business.

On September 15th when the new system that our IT team put together was rolled out, quite a few people received their annual renewals with incorrect amounts. I have been slowly correcting those, so as you get your renewals if you find it is too much please get a hold of me so I can fix it for you. Additionally a few other glitches in the new system is making it difficult for me to enter members into our system. These things are getting fixed but it's taking time to do so. The important thing is not to worry about it. I'm aware of it, the IT team is aware of it, it's getting fixed, and everyone will be the better for it when the new system is 100%. **I prefer text messages**, but you can always call my phone number and leave a message if I can't answer the phone. Or you can write me at membershipsecretary.bcc.iwla@gmail.com with your concerns.

All of the members that have older unanswered emails please be a little more patient with me as I have been jammed with this situation the past 10 days. I promise I will get back to you and get your membership fixed.

As a reminder, if you have paid for your 2027 Membership, the membership cards will not be mailed until mid December 2026 through February 2027.

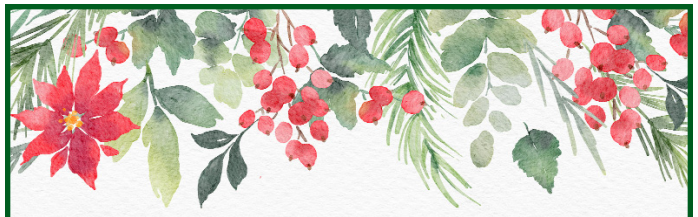
Again, my cell # is 240 505-7878.

New Bill (County Council)

Bob Cissel
bobcissel50@gmail.com

A new bill, number 35-26, is working its way through the County Council. This bill allows farmers to push back brush, vegetation, and invasive weeds around their fields without notifying Park and Planning. In the past, this practice was treated the same way a developer would have to ask for approval. Although farmers are exempt, it didn't make sense for them to go through the same process as a developer. Farmers are exempt from getting a permit or paying a fee but still had to alert the agency that they were doing so. This practice has been around as long as farming has existed. But alerting an agency is time-consuming and can take weeks to get the exemption. This bill would allow farmers to manage this practice themselves.

The bill may be amended as it moves through the committee process. One concern is what happens when there's a bad actor who goes too far in removing this vegetation. This is not the norm because this practice costs time and money. The Ag Community is hoping this bill passes so they can move on to keeping their fields productive and safe.



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!

Farm Markets in Agricultural Reserve

Bob Cissel

I would be remiss not to mention that this is a great time of year to visit our farm markets around the Agricultural Reserve and support these farming operations. Fall vegetables, pumpkins, and gourds are now available at these markets. Visiting a farm that offers pick-your-own can make for a great day outdoors. You'll find many of these places right in your backyard.

B-CC IWLA Summer Biathlon Program 2026 Practice Schedule

ELIGIBILITY: 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.**

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.**

Questions, contact Steve Eschholz, Chairman, c: 240-472-6512 (text is best) / fitnesscrafters@proton.me. 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.

LAST 2 PRACTICES FOR 2026

Saturday, November 7	7:30am
Saturday, November 14	7:30am

DONATIONS AND GRANTS

2026



COMING SOON

Henry Rifle Raffle



"The Henry Golden Boy is a masterpiece of fine crafted gunsmithing. Any shooting enthusiast who closely examines one is immediately impressed with the excellent fit, finish and overall visually elegant design.

The Golden Boy rifle's awesome 20-inch blued octagonal barrel, American walnut stock, brass buttplate and gleaming Brasslite receiver will transport you back to the wild and wooley days of America's Old West, when Benjamin Tyler Henry designed the original Henry lever action rifle. Small game hunters and plinkers will appreciate its substantial 6¾ pound heft. It balances well and makes for highly accurate offhand shooting. The smooth action associated with

We are absolutely thrilled with this fantastic donation from Dan Clayton-Luce Vice President of Communications at Henry Repeating Arms in support of our lead containment fundraising efforts

Henry rifles opens and shuts with the effortless slickness lever-lovers long for. Get one in your hands and take aim. See what a natural pointer it really is. Adding to the historic authenticity is the adjustable buckhorn-type rear sight. The .22 S/L/LR version holds 16 rounds of Long or Long Rifle, or 21 rounds of Short."

The Rifle That Brings Out The West In You

ZEFFY Donations Update

The ZEFFY Donations website has received \$460 to date of which \$110 is directed toward General Funds and \$350 toward Log House Funds for renovation and long term maintenance.

MHAA Grant tracker

Our Log House Renovation MHAA Grant tracker has recorded 339 volunteer hours to date, \$1496 in kind contributions, \$150 honey sale contribution for a Grand Total of \$15,312 match toward our \$100K match commitment.

Agricultural Reserve Donation Display Secures \$2,164

Funding for Log House \$100K Match and the Chapter



Thank you to Christina Nanof for offering Donations and Grants a complimentary table on Poolesville Day to raise awareness of the Historic Willard Log House's connection to 1800 agricultural life.

Contributions for the day: \$321.00 cash, \$565 in kind, \$1,278 volunteer hours for a Grand Total of \$2,164 toward the Match!

Poolesville town Commissioner President James E Brown visited & pledged assistance with fundraising for the Match.



Prosperity in Conservation

David Mecklenburg donated \$90 from the honey sales



Wildflower seed packs "Feed the Bees" were distributed for the promotion



CLICK HERE TO DONATE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Weekly Events

Mondays

Mondays

3rd Thursdays of Month

Troop 2027G Meetings (Board Room)

Troop 496B Meetings (Chapter House)

Pack 694 Meetings (Chapter House)

7:30pm – 9:00pm

7:30pm – 9:00pm

7:00pm – 8:30pm

OCTOBER

Thursday, October 1	Weekly Workday at the Log Cabin	10:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, October 3	Summer Biathlon Program Practice (note earlier start time)	7:00am – 9:00am
Saturday, October 3	Fall Chapter Cleanup and Picnic	8:30am – 3:00pm
Saturday, October 3	Pack 773 Campout at Chapter House and Grounds	4:00pm until
Sunday, October 4	Pack 773 Campout at Chapter House and Grounds	12:00 noon
Wednesday, October 7	Apollo Archery – Veterans & First Responders	6:00pm - dusk
Thursday, October 8	Workday at the Log Cabin	10:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, October 10	Bianchi Pistol Match at the R&P Range	Starting at 9:00am
Saturday, October 10	Workday at the Log Cabin	10:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, October 10	Rural Republican Women's Club Dinner	12:00 – 8:00pm
Sunday, October 11	Women on Target	8:30am – 4:00pm
Thursday, October 15	Workday at the Log Cabin	10:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, October 17	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – Noon
Wednesday, October 21	Monthly Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:30pm
Thursday, October 22	Workday at the Log Cabin	10:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, October 24	New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour	10:00am – 11:30am
Saturday, October 24	Fall Family Campout	Gates open at 3:00pm
Saturday, October 25	Fall Family Campout	Breakfast and Cleanup
Wednesday, October 28	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Wednesday, October 28	Articles for November Newsletter due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Thursday, October 29	Workday at the Log Cabin	10:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, October 31	Workday at the Log Cabin	10:00am – 1:00pm

NOVEMBER

Tuesday, November 5	Workday at the Log Cabin	10:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, November 7	Workday at the Log Cabin	10:00am – 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 Training Class	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
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	10:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, November 21	New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour	10:00am – 11:30am
Sunday, November 22	NRA Basic CCW Course	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

DECEMBER

Thursday, December 3	Workday at the Log Cabin	10:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, December 5	Decorating Chapter House for the Holidays	10:00am
Saturday, December 5	Workday at the Log Cabin	10:00am – 1:00pm
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 Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:30pm
Wednesday, December 16	Board of Governors Meeting – following Dinner Meeting	BOG Meeting 8:30pm
Saturday, December 19	Workday at the Log Cabin	10:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, December 26	Articles for January Newsletter due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day

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

American Chestnut Orchard Update

Blaine Elkins
blaineelkins@verizon.net

The original orchard had a good year so far as burr production goes. On Thursday, September 24, Bruce Levine with the Maryland Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation visited the old orchard by the campgrounds and collected burrs from the trees that had flowered. Tree 16 continued to be the most productive contributing dozens of burrs from its one remaining stem. Tree 47 was productive again. We were fortunate to get some burrs from tree 1 and tree 35. This was the first year we collected burrs from them.

Maryland TACF has located a mature Chinese chestnut with a very American phenotype in its growth. It rises as a single trunk to about 70 feet before branching in to its canopy. This tree is not a hybrid and shows no signs of blight infection. Maryland TACF has collected pollen from this tree and some of the seedlings from our burrs will be crossed with that tree to start new 'lines' in the TACF back cross breeding program.

Given the density of blight in the old orchard we will not be planting new 'pure' American Chestnuts there. Maryland TACF is interested in planting selected hybrid seedlings there to see how well they cope with the blight that surrounds the old orchard. We may begin transitioning the old orchard from a germplasm conservation orchard to a progeny orchard in 2027.

ATTENTION New Members!

Chapter House cleanups will be held on:

Saturday, October 17

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 November Newsletter Articles is

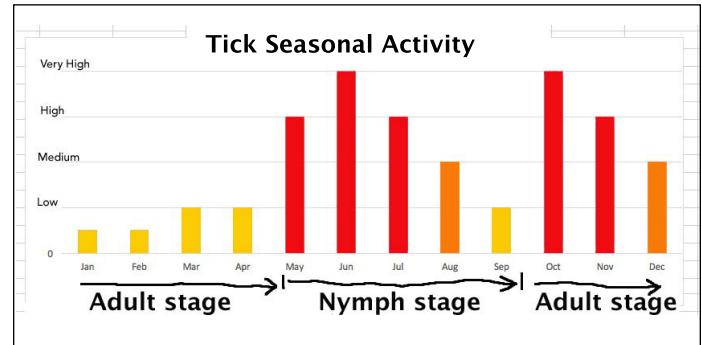
Wednesday, October 28.

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.

Ticks - What You Need To Know

Ticks carry disease so we need to protect ourselves when we enjoy the outdoors. Lyme disease comes to mind first. But now we know there are many other illnesses caused by ticks. One of the newest tick-borne illnesses is Alpha-gal syndrome (AGS). The infected person becomes allergic to eating red meat and dairy products. There is no cure for AGS. It's believed that the cause of AGS is transferred in the tick's saliva. So you can be infected as soon as it bites you. In contrast, the risk of Lyme disease is reduced if the tick is removed within 24 hours.



Permethrin, an insecticide, is the best defense against ticks. It must be applied to clothing hours in advance, so plan accordingly. If you can't use Permethrin then use the most concentrated formula of DEET you can find. And wearing light colored clothes makes it easier to spot a tick that's on you. It's always a good idea to perform a thorough tick check after returning home. Ticks tend to climb up and bite in hard to see places. By the way, taking a shower does not wash them off. In fact ticks like water.

One sneaky habit of ticks is to ride home on your clothing. Spouses tend to react negatively when bitten by a tick you brought home. Consider tossing your clothes in the dryer on high for 6 minutes. Dry heat is their enemy. Washing your clothes is not effective. According to a study most ticks survive a trip through the washing machine. In the test study the ticks that went through washer were harder to kill in the dryer.

Ticks will be found in various sizes. They go through a 3-stage life cycle that spans 2 1/2 years. The first stage Larvae are so small you can hardly see them. They don't yet carry disease. It's the Nymphs and Adult stages that carry disease. During the year tick activity varies greatly (see chart). And we don't get a break in winter. Ticks can be active when the temperatures is above 45 degrees F.

If you do find a tick on you here's how to deal with it. First, if it's not embedded in your skin, adhesive tape is a handy way to capture it and seal it up. If it is embedded then use small tweezers, grip the tick as close to the skin as possible and pull until it comes out. Avoid squeezing the body because that forces infected fluids out.

For additional info on Alpha Gal Syndrome
(red meat allergy):

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/alpha-gal-syndrome/symptoms-causes/syc-20428608>

Summary of tick-bore diseases:

https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OIDEOR/CZVBD/Pages/tickborne_dz.aspx

Rifle & Pistol Range Committee Report

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

FIREARMS TRAINING COURSES:

We will be hosting a variety of firearms training courses at the chapter this year thanks to member Rich Clement who is certified in a wide variety of firearms training courses.

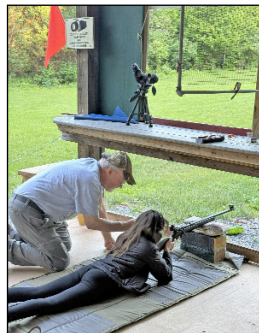
Women on Target® was held on **October 11** and was a **huge success in spite of the rain**. This was a full day event with introduction to Rifle, Pistol, and Shotgun shooting as well as safety, choosing a firearm, and much more! Lunch and snacks were included.



We will also have another **Basic Pistol Training on Sunday, November 8** followed by another **Pistol CCW Training on Sunday, November 22**. Please refer to the separate section on these training events for details.

JUNIOR RIFLE PROGRAM:

We are continuing the Junior Rifle Program on Sundays 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.



BIANCHI PISTOL MATCH

This match was held on **October 10** beginning at **9:00am**. Only one of the competitors used all four different classes of pistol, **Semi-auto Centerfire, Semi-auto Rimfire, Centerfire Revolver, and Rimfire Revolver** with 40 rounds each. Unfortunately the aggregate score did not meet the 1500 point minimum for inclusion on the B-CC IWLA Bianchi

Plaque. The course of fire involved one-hand and two-hand hold, slow-fire and timed-fire, left and right hands manipulating the trigger, testing skill and versatility. The course of fire is very loosely modeled after elements of the Bianchi Cup match designed by a police officer to mimic various combat situations (e.g. shooting with the non-dominant hand.)

Upcoming Events:

CENTERFIRE RIFLE/SHOTGUN SLUG SIGHT-IN DAY: Check your zero before deer season.

On Saturday, November 7 we will have equipment and additional range officers available to help you get sighted in before the season starts.



Bring your rifle or slug gun to the R&P range to check the zero. Help will be available for mounting and bore-sighting a scope as well as spotting scopes for sighting in.

New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour

Come join us on the B-CC IWLA Orientation Tour. The next tours will take place on:

Saturday, October 24
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/10C0D4DACA28A7F8C25-65661635-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.

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.

Archery Is For Everyone: A Bullseye Of A Day!

On Sunday, September 27, the B-CC Izaak Walton League Archery Range was alive with the sound of arrows hitting their mark as we hosted **Archery Is for Everyone**. Even with the skies wavering from sun to rain, more than 20 participants turned out for the event, including kids and adults, first-time archers, and a few returning shooters.

Our USA Archery certified instructors started everyone off with the basics of range safety and proper shooting form. Then they worked one-on-one with participants to get everyone shooting safely and accurately. The results spoke for themselves: arrows flew straight, every participant hit the target, and there were smiles all around the range. The event was a great success and sparked a lot of new interest in archery, and we can't wait to see many of these new archers back on the range.

A big thank you to Dan Dutton, John Gorney, and Ryan Binder for volunteering their time and expertise to make the afternoon possible. Their help kept the range running smoothly and made sure every participant had a safe, fun, and memorable experience.

Keep an eye on the newsletter for future archery events, and if you'd like to get involved, contact Scott Binder at TenSpotArchery@gmail.com.

SUPPORT OUR MISSION

This is a **call to action** for volunteers to contribute their time and skills to a meaningful cause. The Willard Log House renovation project is seeking laborers & skilled tradespeople- including carpenters, electricians, masons, painters, and handymen to assist over the next 2 years. Make a difference by committing to tasks that match your skills and experience.

Only with *your help* can we succeed!

Projected Project Tasks and Timeline:

FALL/Winter 2026: now

- **Repair** porch roof
- Shed Shoring
- **Procure Logs** shed
- *Chinking*

SPRING/Summer 2027

- Build Root cellar Door
- Remove/ Replace wood floor
- Replace Porch Deck/Column
- Prep logs shed
- Replace logs shed
- Repair shed foundation
- Repair/replace gables
- ADA door widening
- **Rework logs**
- *Chinking*

FALL 2027 through 2028

- Electric lights/recept
- **Build** Interior Door & Stairs
- Repair **plaster** walls
- **Build** ADA Wood Ramp/landing
- **Build** ADA Drop off area/walkway
- *Chinking*

Please Contact

Curt Bush

904 434-1898 •

cbushst@yahoo.com

or

David Mecklenburg

202 359-3563 •

dmecklenburg1@gmail.com

**WE NEED YOU!
VOLUNTEER TODAY**

Archery Range Committee Report

Archery.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com

The Archery Committee has wrapped up major operations for the year. We've taken down the 3D courses and Apollo Archery held its final 2026 session in October.

The Archery Range, however, 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!

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.

2ND ANNUAL

Mid Maryland 5 Stand SLAM

3 WEEKS - 3 CLUBS

PRESENTED BY:

MT. AIRY IWLA, 11/07/26
DAMASCUS IWLA, 11/21/26
LOCH RAVEN SKEET AND TRAP, 11/28/26

SHOOTERS OF ALL SKILL LEVELS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE.

EACH CLUB WILL HOST 2 ROUNDS OF 5 STAND, AND EACH PARTICIPANT'S COMBINED SCORE FOR THE THREE SHOTS WILL DETERMINE THE LEAGUE WINNERS.

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR WEEKLY AND LEAGUE PAYOUTS.

**\$50 PER 50 TARGETS,
WITH \$25 BACK TO CLASS - \$10 TO WEEKLY, \$15 TO LEAGUE
PAID ON 3 LEWIS CLASSES 50/30/20%**

Lewis Class is a scoring system that divides shooters into roughly equal groups based on their final scores, allowing shooters of different skill levels to compete fairly for prizes, with the top scorer in each group winning. After all shots are tallied, scores are ranked from highest to lowest, then split into a set number of classes (e.g., 3 classes), with the top third forming Class 1, the middle third Class 2, and the bottom third Class 3, ensuring that everyone has a chance to win within their performance.

THIS IS NOT AN NSCA REGISTERED EVENT.

**EACH WEEK WILL BE SQUADED
SIGN UP @ SCORECHASER.COM
OR CONTACT YOUR CLUB REP FROM THE LIST BELOW**

MT Airy IWLA - 6642 Woodville Rd, Mount Airy, MD 21771 Will - 443-277-1574
Loch Raven - 12301 Dulaney Valley Road Phoenix, MD 21131 Mark - 410-336-4400
Damascus - 26430 Mullinix Mill Rd, Mt Airy MD 21771 Bob - 240-432-0444





Troop 773G Completes Philmont Trek and Conservation Service

Annalise Mulholland

This summer, Troop 773G Scouts participated in a nine-day trek through Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. Together, the five Scouts and four adult advisors backpacked more than 68 miles, climbed to 13,000 ft., and scaled up the Tooth of Time. They managed their own navigation, meals, dry camps with no water, camp setups, and food storage as a team.

At North Fork Urraca, the crew completed 3 hours of conservation service per person in building and improving trails. The Scouts also embraced Philmont's Wilderness Pledge and its responsibility to protect and preserve the land, leaving it better than they found it.

Heavy packs, steep climbs, high elevations, hail, and thunderstorms tested the crew's leadership and resilience. They stayed together, cared for one another, and returned with greater confidence in what they could accomplish as a team.

Troop 773G is proud to be chartered by the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America. We are grateful for its support of a Scouting program that helps develop young leaders committed to service, conservation, and responsible outdoor stewardship.



Muzzleloader Sight-In-Day

Muzzleloader Sight-In Day, held on September 26, was a fun day. Mark Gochnour and Larry Hess were there to assist others in determining the best loads for their rifles. This year for a change, they got to get their own rifles hitting the right spots on the targets, since the shooters who came were able to shoot independently without their direct intervention.

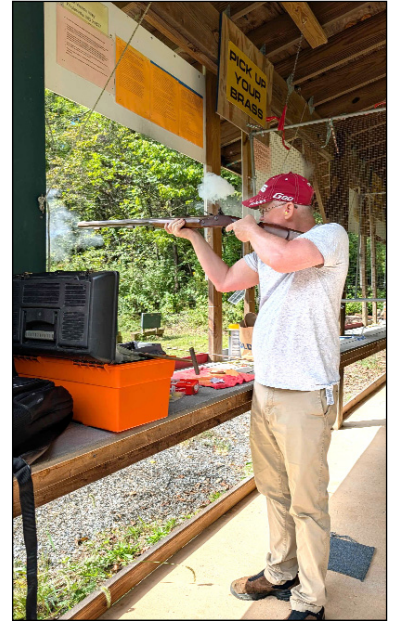
Jason, whose lottery ticket was drawn in May for the Austin and Halleck Mountain Rifle, arrived later with the tackle box which held the other donated equipment including patches and .490 balls. The previous owner had not written down the load which was the most accurate so Jason had to figure it out. He chose 65 grains of 2Fg powder as a starting load. Usually with the first attempt the grain amount is the caliber but Jason loaded and fired offhand at the target and hit close to the point of aim at 7 yards. The next two were close to the first shot. In order to tighten the group, the shooter either adds 5 grains or subtracts five grains. Jason chose 70 grains of powder and the three holes of the group were further apart. He reduced the powder to 60 grains and two shots of the shots were nearly in the same hole with all three very close to the targeted spot. He finished off the day, deciding to shoot another time at a further distance but was pleased with the results.

Two other individuals, a father and son shot their modern in-line style muzzle-loaders on the rifle side at 50 and 100 yards and were also satisfied with their shots and left around lunch time.

A group decision was made by the ROs on duty, (with concurrence from Larry and Mark who are on the Rifle and Pistol Committee) to bring out the silhouette target for a trial run. It was set up at 50 yards. It was not a busy day so the range officers shot the modern rifles at the target and Larry and Mark fired their flintlocks. All hit the target at least once with the modern guns with magazines hitting multiple times. The sound of the lead balls from the flintlocks could be heard over the sound of the rifle firing the firearms with suppressors could be easily heard. Larry was concerned about where the lead was going, which was confirmed during the cease fire. Tiny pieces of lead dropped onto the ground in front of the target with some landing about a yard back on the other side of the 50 yard target stand. Unfortunately, the round balls were not located. Monitoring/collecting that material may be discussed at the next R&P Committee Meeting.

Thank you to James, Derrick, and Andy, for being the Range Officers on September 26th.

Reminder – Centerfire Sight-In Day is November 7th, 10-4.



Ecological Experiment to Assess Factors That Influence Plant Community Recovery

Dr. Betsy von Holle

Research Associate at George Washington University

Five years ago, in October of 2022, an ecological experiment was established on our Conservation Farm. The aim of this global study is to assess the factors that influence plant community recovery and assembly after disturbance in herbaceous-dominated ecosystems. The site is near the Boy Scout camp and is located in the field across and down from the chestnut tree enclosure. T-posts mark the site, with flagging on the posts and individual plots. Details of the global study can be accessed at <https://nutnet.org/dragnet>. Dr. Betsy von Holle, a research associate at George Washington University, is conducting this 10-year study in coordination with approximately 90 other sites located in 32 countries. She is in year 5 of this experiment and wants to thank all of the members who have helped with this important experiment thus far!

Bob Cissell plowed the experimental plots for the disturbance treatment with his tractor, in the fall seasons of 2022, 2023, and 2024. Many of our members have helped clear the plots and maintain the experiments, and Arthur Belendiuk is the IWLA liaison (and photographer) for this project. At the IWLA site, we have seen some interesting patterns in the field, with a number of native and nonnative species appearing in the disturbed plots, and unsurprisingly, a large response to the fertilization treatments, with plants responding robustly to yearly applications of nutrients. The results are being analyzed across the globe, so please keep posted!

There are opportunities to participate in the project: For those of you with chainsaws, or brush cutters, there's an upcoming volunteer opportunity to remove the invasive Autumn Olive from the plots on November 7th from 10:30am to 4:00pm (alternative rain date – November 14th), and so please contact Betsy directly with your interest in participating in this project: betsy.vonholle@gwu.edu.



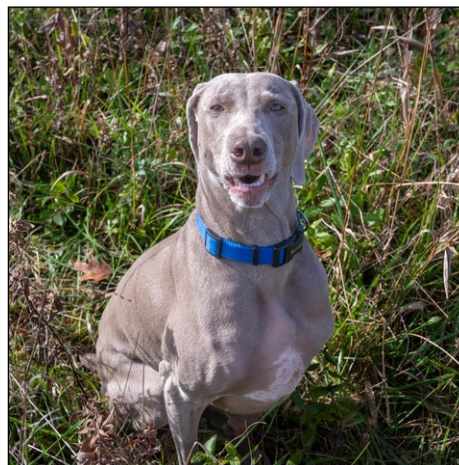
Students working in the field, 2023



Bob Cissell plowed the experimental plots for the disturbance treatment



Dennis Everett did the heavy brush cutting two years in a row!



"Magic" the official mascot of our site.

ALL PHOTOS ARE TAKEN BY ARTHUR BELENDIUK



SAVE THE DATE!

Come out to the Chapter and enjoy the **2026 Fall Family Campout**

This year's Fall Family Campout will be held from Saturday, October 24 – Sunday, October 25. Chapter members, prospective members, their families, and their escorted guests are all welcome. Events will start Saturday afternoon and end after breakfast on Sunday morning. The Chapter House will remain open throughout the event. This is a great event for first-time campers. Please register in advance.

Use the link below to sign up for the campout with your name and the number of people in your party attending in parenthesis to let us know for food planning. Please indicate any dietary restrictions.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACA28A7F8C25-65727971-2026>



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*

Welcome to the B-CC IWLA Family!

The following were inducted as a member to the Chapter at the September Dinner Meeting:

Patrick Keeley

Darrin Phillips – *Individual Membership*
Interests: Farming; Ponds & Streams; Rifle & Pistol

Sean Spencer

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.

Submitting Dues Online

The IT Committee has been able to make a change to the website so that members are no longer required to create a PayPal account when they pay their dues online.

**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.**



ASTORIC WILLARD LOG HOUSE RENOVATION

The BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE CHAPTER IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA, INC. has been awarded a Full Funding grant of \$100,000.00 for the project entitled: "The Willard Log House: Izaak Walton League property MIHP No M: 17-45: Development for Heritage Tourism Purposes."

HIGHLIGHTS

- a preserved example of 1800s agricultural life
- serves as a key educational resource for conservation and environmental stewardship
- emphasizes the intersection of human history and natural resource management—core to IWLA's mission since 1922



MAKE A SECURE TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION
BCC-IWLA EIN: 52-6042947

[CLICK HERE TO
DONATE](#)

THE \$100,000.00 GRANT THE \$100,000.00 MATCH

The project is estimated at \$200,000.00 with BCC-IWLA providing a dollar-for-dollar match through in-kind labor, materials and fundraising

Scheduled improvements: structural stabilization of the log walls, replacement of deteriorated roofing, chimney repair, rehabilitation of outbuildings and accessibility enhancements to ensure continued public use



WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Spread the Word: ask your personal and professional partners to join us in bringing this heritage tourism landmark to life
- Track In-Kind Support: Remember that volunteer hours and professional services count toward our match- Donate time, skills or materials
- Donate Directly: Make a secure, tax-deductible contribution toward the match which helps us unlock the matching state funds



PRESERVE THE WILLARD LOG HOUSE



This project has been financed in part with State funds from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority but does not necessarily reflect its views or policies.