



SEPTEMBER 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

President's Message

September is a month of change here at the chapter. We welcome in a new Board of Governors, start a new budget cycle, begin the membership renewal process, shake off some of the summer heat in anticipation of fall, and gear up for another hunting season.

I want to thank last year's president; Andy Wight, our past president; Carol Hulce-Efdimis, and our outgoing board members: Marc Bouchard, Dan Dutton and Dave Mecklenburg for all their dedication and hard work in helping to drive the changes and improvements you are seeing around the chapter.

"To strive for the purity of water, the clarity of air, and the wise stewardship of the land and its resources."

We all recognize this phase as part of the pledge we took when we joined the IWLA and we work to honor this pledge throughout the chapter with the work we do in the fields on the farm, the management of our ponds, the trees we have planted, the wildflowers, the bee hives, and a myriad of other items. Now we are on the verge of completing another stewardship milestone. The removal of lead and other metals from our 40+ year old shooting ranges. We started down this path four years ago by updating our Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP) and then moving forward with the implementation of the best practices for the ranges as outlined in that plan. The decision to do this work was a difficult one due to the cost and the resulting departure of many members when the shotgun range was shut down. Through the efforts of many of our members and the Legacy Board's willingness to fund this project we were able to locate a contractor who removed over 14,000lb of lead and other mixed metals from the berms at the rifle & pistol range. The shotgun range was more difficult to start on since we needed to obtain a permit for the disturbance of over 12 acres of soil and this type of lead removal had never been done in Montgomery County before. After many meetings, letters and conversations with county officials, the Soil Conservation District (SCD) agreed to oversee the project. The lead removal contractor is scheduled to complete his work around the 20th of September. When complete, he will have removed over 105,000lb of lead shot from the range. We have other contractors coming in to remove the brush piles and seed and stabilize the soil. This work had several other benefits to the chapter besides the removal of the lead. We removed all the invasives from this acreage and we will be planting a meadow mix that will improve the soil and provide food and habitat for the animals that share our farm. We have identified and located the stream and wetland buffers that are listed in our easements, and we will be installing signage so we know where to 'tread lightly'.

Now we need your help. We are targeting a re-opening date of October 25th for the sporting clays portion of the range, and to make that date we need volunteers to help clean the cobwebs off, get the berm piles back up, and spruce up the range. If you can help with your time and talent, please contact our second VP; Sean-David Waterman or myself.

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

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

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

R&P Range Closures

The Rifle & Pistol Range will be closed on the following dates:

- Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, October 16 – 18 for the Opening of Muzzleloader Season. The Range will reopen on Sunday, October 19.

Summary of the July 2025 Board of Governors Meeting and the July 2025 Membership Dinner Meeting

Sean-David Waterman, Recording Secretary

Wednesday, July 23, 2025 – Board of Governors Meeting

- The meeting was called to order by President Andy Wight at 7:06pm.
- Discussed developing a consistent pricing policy for outside groups.
- Continued dialogue on "Buy a Brick" fundraiser; members shared design and placement suggestions.
- Proposal approved to establish three new annual awards: **Lifetime Achievement; Junior Member; Rookie of the Year**. Motion passed to fund from the existing awards budget and reduce the number of annual President's Awards.
- Budget planning underway for FY26; draft budget to be finalized by August 10 and voted on at the August dinner meeting.
- Encouraged committees to complete spending and report outstanding out-of-pocket expenses.
- Membership Committee met July 22. Discussions included: mailbox access and duplicate key creation; website redesign ideas; social media strategy and metadata tagging; recruiting a bookkeeper and cross-training support for treasury / membership functions.
- Lead Reclamation Update: First truckload removed (14 bags); another shipment pending. Site now 80% cleared; mulching and restoration planning in progress.
- Soil Conservation Coordination: Reviewing seed stabilization plans with contractor and agricultural agents.
- Future site needs: structure removal, equipment audit, pre-opening readiness checklist.
- Website Redesign Proposal: Motion passed to approve funding from CapEx for website refresh by Jason Levinson.
- Grants & Donations chair Valerie Carregal reported submitting 3 grant applications for Ponds & Streams, Rifle Program, and Trails & Biathlon / Orienteering. Results expected in August - September.

TALKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER:

- Volunteers needed for budget planning and event staffing.
- Consider partnerships with conservation and education groups.

Motion to adjourn passed. Meeting ended at approximately 9:15pm.

Wednesday, July 16, 2025 – 1,077th Membership Dinner Meeting

- Meeting was called to order at 7:11pm by President Andy Wight.
- Honored long-time member **Jim O'Connell** with a standing ovation and brief remarks from attendees in lieu of a moment of silence.
- 50/50 raffle raised \$194; winner received \$97.
- Several prospective members introduced themselves, sharing name, meeting number, and interests.
- Motion passed to induct 4 new members. New members were sworn in by 1st VP Shannon Novak.
- Reminder issued to all attendees to check in for meeting credit using the QR code.
- Membership Secretary's Report – as of June BOG Meeting, 694 total members.

(continued on page 3)

SUMMARY

(continued from page 2)

- Treasurer's Report was presented by Stephen Austin (in lieu of Bob Kelly).
- 1st VP Jerry Murray was attending the IWLA National Convention in Green Bay.
- Upcoming events at the Rifle & Pistol Range: Black Powder Shoot; Introduction to Shooting; Bianchi Pistol Match; Hunter Sight-In Day.
- Junior Rifle Club held session with 7-8 participants; growing interest in youth shooting programs.
- "Archery is for Everyone" Fun Shoot scheduled for Saturday, July 26 at noon. Event managed by Scott Bender.
- Shotgun Committee is forming; members interested in helping reopen the range encouraged to join.
- Members encouraged to submit photos or content to promote upcoming events for the monthly newsletter.
- Heritage Day and Fly Casting Workshop were both well attended and received positive feedback.

TALKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER:

- Volunteers needed for Montgomery County Fair booth.

Motion to adjourn passed. Meeting concluded at approximately 7:38pm.

September 2025 1,079th Monthly Dinner / Membership Meeting

Wednesday, September 17

50 / 50 Raffle

Dinner served starting at 6:15pm

Membership Meeting starts at 7:30pm

September 2025 Board of Governors Meeting

Wednesday, September 24

7:00pm

Welcome to the B-CC IWLA Family!

At the August 2025 Membership Meeting, the following were inducted as members to the Chapter:

Drew Dallas – Family Membership

Interests: Forestry; Wildlife; Building Maintenance

Kevin Klaube – Individual Membership

Interests: Shotgun; Conservation Education; Ponds and Streams

REMEMBER...

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

UPCOMING EVENTS / VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

B-CC IWLA and Community

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

Membership / Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, September 17

Dinner – 6:15pm; Meeting – 7:30pm

See page 3

Poolesville Day

Saturday, September 20

10:00am – 4:00pm

Volunteers are needed at out booth

See page 6

Introduction to Blackpowder/Muzzleloader Sight-In & Shooting Match

Saturday, September 27

9:00am – 4:30pm

See pages 8 and 13

Apollo Archery Session

(final session of the year)

Wednesday, October 1

6:00pm – dusk

See page 10

Fall Chapter Cleanup Day

Saturday, October 4

Starting at 8:30am

See page 4

"Bianchi" Pistol Match

October 11

Starting at 9:00am at the R&P Range

See page 9

From the MDDNR website:

REPORT YOUR BIRD BANDS ONLINE: 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/. 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.

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for some members who have 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.



Save the Date!!

The Annual Fall Cleanup Day has been scheduled for Saturday, October 4, starting at 8:30am with lunch being served at 1:00pm. Lunch menu will be based on the weather.

Use the link below to sign up for this event:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACAA28A7F8C25-58321842-2025>

This is a great way to acquire the volunteer hours requirement for members and probationary members.

An eblast will be going out the week before with all the tasks we will need to do to button up the chapter for the upcoming winter months.

Contact 1st Vice President Shannon Novak at snovak516@gmail.com with any questions.

ATTENTION New Members!

Chapter House cleanups will be on:

Saturday, September 13

Saturday, October 11

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/10C0D4DACAA28A7F8C25-51060445-monthly>

Questions? Contact John Lamb – jpatricklamb@aol.com

DUE DATE

**for October Newsletter Articles is
Friday, September 26.**

**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.**

2024 National Awards, Maryland Division Awards, Chapter Awards, and President's Awards

At the August Dinner / Membership Meeting, awards were presented by Earl Hower, Director of Chapter Relations at IWLA National, Curt Howard, President of the Maryland Division IWLA, and Chapter President Andy Wight to the Chapter and Chapter Members.

Maryland Division Awards

2024 Elizabeth Weih Award

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter

2024 Conservation Award

David Mecklenburg

2024 Ed Turner Award

Robert J. Pavlick, Sr.

2024 Best Chapter Newsletter Award

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter

Editor – Janet Lamkin

* * *

IWLA National Awards

2024 Defenders Chapter Achievement Award

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter

2024 Judge John W. Tobin

Chapter Volunteer Appreciation Award

Walter Allensworth

2024 Conservation Award

Don Perino

2024 Save Our Streams Award

Ponds & Streams Committee

* * *

Chapter Awards

New Member Service Award

Valerie Carragel

Lifetime Appreciation Award

John Lamb

Youth Service Award

Olivia Wight

* * *

President's Awards

Roger Johnson

Janet Lamkin

Christine Peterson

B-CC Mowers

Phil Taylor

Frank Adams

Deborah Behrend

Joel Graham

Janet Lamkin

David Mecklenburg

Mike Noble

Tommy Osborne

Bill Thelemann

Mark Whelan

Pete Wirth

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Monthly Events

Mondays
Mondays

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

7:30pm – 9:00pm
7:30pm – 9:00pm

SEPTEMBER

Monday, September 1	Opening Day Dove Shoot	12:00 noon – 5:00pm
Monday, September 1	Opening Day Cook Out	Starting at 5:30pm
Wednesday, September 3	Apollo Archery at the Archery Range	6:00pm – Dark
Saturday, September 6	Summer Biathlon Program Practice	7:30am
Saturday, September 6	Fall Hunter Safety / Education Course in the Chapter House	8:00am – 4:00pm
Sunday, September 7	Fall Hunter Safety / Education Course in the Chapter House – R&P Range closes at 12:30pm	8:00am – 4:00pm
Sunday, September 7	R&P Range Closed at 12:30pm for Hunter Safety/Education Course	Closes at 12:30 noon
Wednesday, September 10	Legacy Board Meeting in Boardroom, Chapter House	7:00pm – 9:00pm
Saturday, September 13	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Sunday, September 14	Scout Court of Honor Troop 2027G	4:00pm – 8:00pm
Wednesday, September 17	Monthly Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:30pm
Thursday, September 18	Private Event: Montgomery Soil Conservation Dinner	5:00pm – 9:00pm
Saturday, September 20	Summer Biathlon Program Practice	7:30am
Saturday, September 20	New and Prospective Members Orientation	10:00am – 11:30am
Saturday, September 20	Poolesville Day (Chapter will be sponsoring a booth)	10:00am – 4:00pm
Wednesday, September 24	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Friday, September 26	Articles for October Newsletter due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Saturday, September 27	National Hunting & Fishing Day	All Day
Saturday, September 27	Black Powder Day – Clinic / Sight-In / Shooting Match	9:00am – 4:30pm
Sunday, September 28	Scout Court of Honor Troop 496	2:00pm – 8:00pm

OCTOBER

Wednesday, October 1	Apollo Archery	6:00pm – Dark
Saturday, October 4	Summer Biathlon Program Practice (note earlier start time)	7:00am
Saturday, October 4	Fall Chapter Cleanup and Picnic	8:30am – 3:00pm
Monday, October 6	BSA Troop 2027G Meet in Boardroom, Chapter House	7:00pm – 9:00pm
Saturday, October 11	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Saturday, October 11	"Bianchi" Pistol Match at R&P Range	Starting at 9:00am
Wednesday, October 15	Monthly Membership Dinner Meeting – Kids' Friendly Dinner	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:30pm
Thursday, October 16	Cub Scout Pack 694 Meeting in Chapter House	6:00pm – 8:00pm
Thursday, October 16	R&P Range Closed All Day – Opening of Muzzleloader Season	Closed All Day
Friday, October 17	R&P Range Closed All Day – Opening of Muzzleloader Season	Closed All Day
Saturday, October 18	R&P Range Closed All Day – Opening of Muzzleloader Season	Closed All Day
Saturday, October 18	Rural Republican Women's Club Dinner	12:00 noon – 8:00pm
Sunday, October 19	Archeology Dig at the Log Cabin	12:00 noon – 3:00pm
Wednesday, October 22	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Saturday, October 25	Articles for October Newsletter due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Saturday, October 25	Fall Family Campout	Gates open at 3:00pm
Sunday, October 26	Fall Family Campout	Breakfast and Cleanup

NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 1	Biathlon Program Practice (note earlier start time)	7:00am
Saturday, November 8	Biathlon Program Practice	7:30am
Wednesday, November 13	Legacy Board Meeting in Boardroom, Chapter House	7:00pm – 9:00pm
Saturday, November 15	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Wednesday, November 19	Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner – 6:15pm 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 – 11:30am
Saturday, November 29	Articles for November 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.

Wildlife Committee Report

Larry Anderson, Chair

The farm committee has been busy tending the fields to improve habitat and attract a wide variety of wildlife to our farm. Once again, Phil Taylor and all the volunteers working with him have worked hard to prepare our farm for hunting seasons. Thanks all!

The sunflowers in field B3 have been manipulated in accordance with MD DNR guidelines.

The planting of crops are also benefiting other wildlife, including our deer population and a wide variety of birds. We do ask that our members do **not** place salt blocks in our fields; they wreak havoc with our crops and equipment. As a reminder, **we do not allow baiting on our 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.

Link to register is below:

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

Besides registering on our website, all hunters must have with them:

- current hunting license with all applicable stamps
- photo ID
- current B-CC chapter membership card
- current vehicle decal displayed on their vehicle

B-CC IWLA Summer Biathlon Program 2025 Practice Schedule

MISSION: To provide a venue for novice through world class summer biathletes to learn and/or refine the skills inherent to the sport.

To provide a vehicle to introduce athletes of other sports to the shooting sports and consequently an understanding of firearms and the Second Amendment (B-CC IWLA members please recruit, in particular, middle school, high school, and collegiate athletes – freedom/liberty is never more than one generation away from extinction).

ELIGIBILITY: Summer Biathlon is open to all B-CC IWLA members 12 years and older, as well as sponsored guests. **B-CC IWLA members rate is \$2.00 per session. Non-member rate is \$5.00 per session.**

EVENT: Running distances at B-CC IWLA are set at 5 kilometers (3.1 miles) split into 5 loops or 3 – one mile loops. Currently, a single course at each length has been laid out. A short course for those working up to the other distances has been laid out as well. The regulation shooting distance is 50 meters, however, targets are also set at 25 meters for development of the shooting art. There are four shooting stops on the 5km course and two stops on the 3 mile course. Shooting stops alternate between prone (lying down) and off-hand (standing) positions. Five rounds are fired at each stop for a total of 20 shots on the 5km course and 10 shots on the 3 mile course. An equal number of shots are fired from each shooting position.

SCORING: Scoring is based on a time to complete basis. A penalty of either one (1) minute or a 50-100 meter penalty lap will be assessed for each shot missed.

EQUIPMENT: .22 caliber biathlon rifles are the standard; however, any magazine fed, .22 caliber rifle with either bolt or lever action is permitted. **Only standard velocity .22 caliber target ammunition is allowed.**

If you have questions or wish to be on the B-CC IWLA mailing list, contact **Steve Eschholz c:240-472-6512** (text is best)/fitnesscrafters@proton.me, Chairman B-CC IWLA Biathlon Committee.

2025 Practices

Saturday, September 20	7:30am
Saturday, October 4	7:00am*

2025 Muzzleloader Hunting Season

Saturday, November 1	7:30am
Saturday, November 8	7:30am



B-CC IWLA to Participate in Poolesville Day 2025 Festival

We are attending and hosting a booth to showcase our Chapter at "Poolesville Day" which occurs on **Saturday, September 20 from 10:00am – 4:00pm**. This family - oriented event attracts over 12,000 visitors to the town and includes food, drink, entertainment, multiple kids' activities, art & craft vendors, and other exhibitors. It provides a great opportunity for us to connect with local residents and visitors and highlight what we do in our Chapter. This is a great day out for the family.

Anyone looking for some volunteer hours, we need your help in staffing the booth. Please use the link below to sign up.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACAA28A7F8C25-57476665-2025>



★★ 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.

Archaeology Dig at the Log Cabin

Archaeology Committee
bcc_archaeology@yahoo.com

There will be an archaeology dig at the Log Cabin on Sunday, October 19 (weather permitting).

To start things off, there will be a pot-luck lunch at noon. We will have a grill going with hot dogs. After that, from 1:00pm - 3:00pm we will be excavating and exploring the root cellar and entrance to it.

Kid's love to dig! This is an opportunity for them to learn how an archaeological dig is performed. No experience necessary. If possible, please bring gloves and a small trowel or putty knife.

This is intended to be family-friendly, educational event that will also add to our understanding of the cabin. We have not conclusively determined the depth of the original floor (the root cellar has been filled-in). Also, there might be buried stone steps leading down.

Hope to see you there!



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.

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**

Family Friendly Chapter Dinner

Our next Family Friendly Chapter Dinner will be held October 15. As usual, we will have kid's activities while adults enjoy the regular chapter meeting. Hot dogs, chips, cookies/ice cream, and juice boxes will be provided. Vegetarian options are available. Keep the date clear and use this opportunity to bring your kids to the chapter.

HONEY

Pure, Raw,
from the bees at the Chapter

\$18 for a 1lb. jar

**\$5 from each jar sold will go
to the Chapter.**

*Support the Chapter and enjoy a
sweet product of the club.*

*It will be sold in the boardroom
before the October dinner meeting.*



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.

Membership Committee Report

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

As of the August 27 Board Meeting, membership stands at 713 total Members: 364 Individuals, 228 Family, 67 Retired Individuals, 38 Retired Family, 12 Associates, 3 Student, and 1 Youth.

All renewal notices will be mailed in September. Our new 2025/2026 fiscal year started September 1. By renewing early, you help the chapter continue operating the farm and ranges during the fall months.

There are three ways to renew:

1. **By mail** – The mail method is easy but takes extra time for delivery and pickup. You increase your exposure to identity theft by writing a check and mailing it. This is now the most common way to have your banking information stolen.
2. **In person at a dinner meeting** – The second way is to 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.
3. **Online** – The third way, and most preferred way, is to renew online. To renew online, use the link below:

<https://bcciwla.org/memberrenew/>

If you did not volunteer 6 work hours at the chapter this past year, a \$75 in lieu of Volunteer Fee has been added to your renewal invoice notice.

Please choose the method that works best for you but also helps the chapter the most.

If you have not recorded your work hours, you may use this link to record them.

<https://bcciwla.org/log-your-hours/>

Lastly, it's important to increase our membership this year. Share our beautiful farm by inviting friends and family to join you for a hike around the farm or bring someone to a dinner meeting.

Black Powder Day - Clinic / Sight-In / Shooting Match

Muzzleloading enthusiasts and newcomers alike are invited to the **Annual Black Powder Clinic, Sight-In, and Shooting Match on Saturday, September 27, 9:00am – 4:30pm** (check-in beginning 8:45am) at the Rifle & Pistol Range. Whether you've inherited a blackpowder firearm and want to learn to use it, or you're ready to test your skills in friendly competition, this event offers expert instruction, practice time, and an afternoon match. Inline, percussion, and flintlock shooters are all welcome; bring your own muzzleloader or arrange for a loaner when registering. Lunch is included, and the cost is **\$15 plus any applicable range fees**.

Contact Mark Gochmour at mgdonutman@gmail.com if you have questions or to arrange equipment needs.

Advanced registration is required; please sign up using the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACAA28A7F8C25-56853413-2025>



B-CC IWLA Summer Biathlon Meet

Steve Eschholz
fitnesscrafters@proton.me

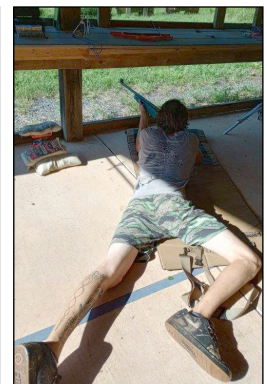
On Sunday, August 9 we held the 2nd annual B-CC summer biathlon meet. The hot and humid conditions proved challenging, as did the hilly course, but the participants were up to the challenge. A hearty lunch followed to help replenish their energy.



Jim Atkinson (Nita's Granddad always gets her to the range), Sang Kim, John Downey, Nita Atkins, Steve Eschholz, Sonney Lacey, (regulars unable to show- Sean Stevens, Scott Conlon)



Sang Kim



John Downey

New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour

Come join us on the B-CC IWLA Orientation Tour. The next tour will take place on Saturday, September 20 from 10:00am to approximately 11:30am **if weather permits**.

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

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

Signup for the tour using the signup genius link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACAA28A7F8C25-54255111-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.

Annual Dove Shoot and Cookout

The weather on September 1 was cool and sunny and even though the first rounds couldn't be fired until noon, hunters started arriving at the B3 field before 9 o'clock to pick their spots and get set up. We had 38 members come out to participate in the opening day dove shoot this year. There were several families that came to hunt and the hunters ranged in age from 12 to 80.



Phil Taylor (our farm chair) did a great job cutting the field. He cut the field in a big "O", leaving the center uncut and a border for hunters to set up in.



PHOTOS BY ANDY WIGHT

The birds were a little late in taking flight with most of the action in the late afternoon. All the hunters I talked to got at least one bird, and several had 4 or 5. A big thank you to those that brought their dogs and used them to help find downed birds for the other hunters.

Afterward a large group gathered at the picnic area next to the chapter house for hot dogs and hamburgers.

Shotgun Range Report

We are dropping the lead reclamation portion of the title from these updates because the lead recovery is almost complete. EN Range should wrap up their operation around September 20 and we are scheduling a contractor to come in to chip up and remove the brush piles. Our E&S contractor (Patriot) will be coming in to seed and stabilize the disturbed soil. When complete, EN Range will have removed over 105,000lb of lead from the range. Once the seeding and stabilization is complete we will schedule a site inspection by our permit holders, the Soil Conservation District (SCD) and request permission to re-open the sporting clays portion of the range while we await sufficient seed growth from the seed mix. Once adequately stabilized, SCD will allow the removal of the sediment and erosion control devices.

We are targeting a re-opening date of October 25 but will need lots of help to achieve this. While we need help with the physical work we also need help in creating the work lists, scheduling, supervising and gathering the necessary materi-

als. Then we need to get the word out, decide on a schedule, and start coordinating range officers for coverage. If you are willing to help with any of this, either short or long term, please contact our 2nd VP Sean-David Waterman or myself.

Next Steps:

Once EN Range demobilizes a range consultant will come in to perform an evaluation of the range and provide us with options on what can be done to re-open the other parts of the range and ensure that shotfall stays out of the wetlands, streams and associated buffer areas.

The chapter will need to continue analyzing the soils at the range as well as in the stream and wetland buffers within the range limits to ensure the Ph is kept within the appropriate range to control deterioration and leaching of the lead shot pursuant to the Chapter's Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP). Treatment to maintain the soil within that range will be required, also per the ESP. We will need volunteers to oversee and implement these practices. This includes planning, scheduling and conducting soils analysis and treatments as well as other Best Management Practices as outlined in the ESP.

Rifle & Pistol Range Committee Report

Larry Hess, Chair

larry.a.hess@gmail.com

As a Reminder:

The Rifle & Pistol Range will be closed on the following dates:

- Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, October 16 – 18 for the Opening of Muzzleloader Season. The Range will reopen on Sunday, October 19.

We are in the process of making changes to the range officer training process, by eliminating the one-year probationary period and instead require prospective range officers to complete three visits to the range, participate in shooting events, take a class, and pass an exam.

Please remember to put away target frames when you are done shooting and police your brass.

Calling all Pistol Enthusiasts...

The R&P range will hold a "Bianchi" Pistol Match on October 11, 2025. The full course of fire (posted in the Chapter House and Range House) includes four types of pistols (rim-fire revolver, rim-fire semi-auto, center-fire revolver, center-fire semi-auto) with 40 rounds for each type with the targets placed at the 50' line. The NRA Bianchi Cup D-1 target will be used (scoring values are not printed in the target) with the smallest circle being "X" counting as 10, the next larger circle counting as 10, the largest circle counts as 8, and anything inside the outer perimeter counts as 5.

You need not shoot all four segments to participate. Each segment of the course of fire includes trigger manipulation by strong and weak hand, one and two hand hold and slow and timed rate of fire, testing the participant's skill, endurance and versatility. Anyone achieving a score of 1500 out of a possible 1600 will get their name on the chapter plaque. Prizes will be awarded to the winner in each segment.

The match will start at 9:00am with a break for lunch and continue into the afternoon depending on the number of participants. Targets are available in the Range House for practice.

Use the Sign-up Genius link below for advance registration of the match.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACAA28A7F8C25-58322286-bianchi>



Apollo Archery Committee Report

John Gorney, Chair
apolloarchery.bcciwl@gmail.com

Our Apollo Archery Program provides archery instruction and experiences to current and former military members and the first responder community.

The final session of Apollo Archery in 2025 is on Wednesday, October 1. Please come out and visit us for an evening of target practice.

Check out program details here:
<https://bcciwla.org/apollo-archery/>

There is no fee for participation, and we have equipment for use for folks of all ages and abilities.

2025 NestWatch Wrap-Up

Linda Green, Citizen Science Project Co-coordinator
lindakpgreen@gmail.com

This year was another productive season at this chapter for the three avian species we track: Purple Martins, Eastern Bluebirds, and Tree Swallows. We monitored 69 nest sites and followed 81 nesting attempts overall, producing 403 eggs, 284 nestlings, and 255 fledglings.

In the towers, the Purple Martins had a slightly better breeding season this year, with 46 nesting attempts producing 241 eggs and 164 young, but still only 139 chicks fledged (compared to 132 last year). Their number of unhatched eggs was still high at 32%, which might be attributed to another very hot period in June during their incubation. We had an unexpected late chick hatch from a second attempt at egg-laying in one of the Gourds this year, but were disappointed to find that this chick appeared to be abandoned by its parents in the second week. This was not surprising, since we had noted that all of the other adults seemed to have moved on to other areas already with their chicks.

Regarding the other nest boxes on the property, the Eastern Bluebirds had many fewer nests this year, with only 18 attempts compared to 25 last year. They also started later this year, with the first egg on April 10th vs March 27th last year. Accordingly, they laid a total of only 73 eggs, resulting in 56 fledglings. The Tree Swallows did much better this year, with 17 nesting attempts- their highest number of nests since the start of our monitoring! This resulted in a record number of 89 eggs, but with 28% of eggs not hatching, they finished the season with 64 chicks and 60 fledglings (lower than in 2021 & 2022). Again, the combination of intense heat and less rainfall this season may have been a factor. 14 of the 23 nest boxes had second broods this year and it was noted that none of the paired nest boxes had simultaneous nests that were successful. This may indicate that despite the theory that different species can occupy the boxes at the same time, the birds at this chapter may not appreciate the competition! We did not note any significant issues with invasive bird species this year, but had a Carolina Wren family occupy a field box, with 6 of their chicks successfully fledging as well. Finally, the Screech Owl boxes did not show signs of occupancy this season, but it is typical for owl boxes to take a couple of years to get established.

The chapter's NestWatch data, reported to Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology for 2017 through this season, is shown below.

I. Total nesting attempts, all species:

Year	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young	Fledglings
2025	81	403	284	255
2024	82	394	285	274
2023	91	406	342	310
2022	98	459	334	299
2021	84	436	354	341
2020	79	402	310	284
2019	52	226	182	162
2018	34	142	123	104
2017	24	109	102	92

II. Species summaries:

Purple Martins

Year	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young	Fledglings
2025	46	241	164	139
2024	46	224	141	132
2023	46	240	218	203
2022	52	252	175	154
2021	43	234	185	176
2020	36	221	170	153
2019	19	78	51	38
2018	5	unknown	19	15

Eastern Bluebirds

Year	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young	Fledglings
2025	18	73	56	56
2024	25	103	94	83
2023	30	104	73	60
2022	28	116	89	79
2021	28	131	102	101
2020	25	110	94	85
2019	22	95	82	81
2018	17	unknown	72	64
2017	18	86	79	74

Tree Swallows

Year	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young	Fledglings
2025	17	89	64	60
2024	12	61	50	49
2023	15	62	51	47
2022	14	76	68	66
2021	13	71	67	63
2020	14	71	46	46
2019	11	47	44	43
2018	7	unknown	32	25
2017	5	18	18	13

First egg and first fledge dates for the three species appear below.

	First Egg Date	First Fledge Date
Eastern Bluebird	April 10	May 9
Tree Swallow	April 29	June 5
Purple Martin	May 6	June 26

Many thanks to our dedicated NestWatch team who monitored weekly to collect and enter data for nesting activity. Pat McNeilly, Gini Staver, and guest Annie Mealey also cleaned out nests for second broods and replaced the pine nesting material mid-way through each Purple Martin's nest cycle. Thank you to Andy Wight and Diane Seward for assisting with our program outreach to educate the IWLA membership about this important project. We are especially grateful to Phil Taylor, Dave Mecklenburg, Janet Lamkin, Tommy Osborne, Bill Thelemann, Deborah Behrend, Mike Noble, Frank Adams, Mark Whelan, Joel Graham, and Pete Wirth for keeping the grass around the boxes trimmed for easy access to the nesting sites.



SAVE THE DATE! 2025 Fall Family Campout

This year's Fall Family Campout will be held from Saturday, October 25 – Sunday, October 26. 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. Please register in advance and look for details in September's newsletter.

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/10C0D4DACA28A7F8C25-57867474-2025>

Archery Range Committee Report

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

We wrapped up another successful 3D season on August 24. The new course we set up to divert around the lead reclamation in the archery woods received great reviews from the many new shooters who tried the course. Over the fall and winter we will be acquiring new 3D targets to prepare for an even better 2026 season.

Our fantastic volunteers have been maintaining the field range, cutting the grass, whacking the brush, and keeping the targets in great shape. The field range will continue to be open throughout the fall and winter, so come out and keep your skills sharp.

This fall and winter we will be drafting new archery range standard operating procedures, re-establishing a range officer program, and exploring options to generate revenue to support the club. Please contact us at Archery.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com to become a regular member of the Archery Committee, to share your ideas, and to participate in shaping the future of archery for the Chapter.

Eagle Scout Project – Enhancing the Entrance to the Chapter

Bennett and Dave Drazen

You might have noticed a recent improvement to the chapter entrance that occurred this past May. IWLA BCC serves as the chartering organization for six scouting units – four scout



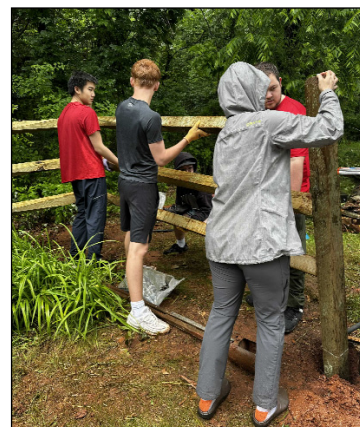
troops and two cub packs. As part of their ongoing commitment, these units actively work to give back to the chapter community. One way they do this is through the completion of Eagle Scout projects at the chapter.

For youth who join Scouting, achieving the Eagle Scout award represents the highest honor and the culmination of their journey. Only about 7-8% of scouts reach this distinguished level. Earning the Eagle Scout award involves planning and leading a project that benefits the community, providing scouts with valuable leadership experience and the opportunity to make a lasting impact to those that support them and their troop.

On May 30th, Troop 773 completed an Eagle Scout project focused on enhancing the entrance to the chapter house. Planning for this effort began in

January, with discussions involving the board to determine the desired outcome and vision for the project. Over a 5 – hour period, 12 scouts replaced the old fence at the entrance, which included dismantling and removing the previous structure, clearing away overgrown vegetation, installing new fencing, and planting native flowers to beautify the area.

They hope that the chapter enjoys the improved entrance that it will serve the chapter for many years to come.



PHOTOS BY DAVE DRAZEN

Log Cabin Committee Report

David Mecklenburg, Chair
dmecklenburg1@gmail.com

Fall is almost here.

As I write this it is the middle of August, but the signs of fall are rapidly approaching. The temperature outside is cooling, the oak trees are starting to drop their acorns, the pumpkins are ripening in the garden. It is also time to prepare for our fall workday in October. This is the time to get the chapter ready for the fall and winter season. I will be at the log cabin getting it ready for winter. There are plenty of jobs to do so please come on down and help on Saturday, October 4.

If there are other times you would like to help, I am usually at the cabin at least one day during the week. Drop me a line at dmecklenburg1@gmail.com and let me know your availability.



The cabin area being used by a summer camp.



Redoing the windows on the cabin.



Monarch butterflies on Joe Pye Weed, a native plant that likes wet soil and is a great pollinator friendly plant.

Grants and Donations Committee Report

Valerie Carregal, Chair
carregalv@gmail.com 202 421-4964

Congratulations to our Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter for procuring 2 IWLA National Endowment Grants!

Rifle and Pistol – Receives \$7500 for establishing the Youth Rifle Program

Ponds and Steams – Receives \$10,000 for establishing the Youth Fishing & Pond Stewardship Program

These grants were coordinated with the efforts of Andy Wight, Jerry Murray, Steve Eschholz, and John Novak.

This year the IWLA Endowment was able to approve 31 grants for a total of \$172,222.00.

We await a decision from Maryland Department of Natural Resources Outdoor Equity Mini-Grant in support of a new Orienteering navigational sport offering on the property in the amount of \$7,455 submitted by Michael Dobson, Adventure Committee Chair.

David Mecklenburg is hard at work obtaining estimates and researching grants for capital improvements to our Willard Log Cabin. We may qualify for the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority FY27 Project Grant for up to \$100,000 for non-profits. The Maryland Heritage Areas Authority grants require a 1:1 match of non-state support. Montgomery County provides a cost sharing capital grant to non-profits who have secured an appropriated form of Maryland State capital funding. We will apply to both of these for funding.

The **Keep Maryland Beautiful Grants** would be our September application. We qualify for all 3 categories.

Track 1: Community Stewardship (up to \$5,000)

Track 2: Capacity Building for Land Trusts – Hollmann Grant (up to \$10,000)

Track 3: Tree Planting on Agricultural Lands (up to \$50,000)

Applications open in September and close in November for the 2026 awards.

<https://cbtrust.org/grants/keep-maryland-beautiful/>

There is also available the **Veterans Engagement Mini Grant** which has a rolling submission.

<https://cbtrust.org/grants/veterans-engagement/>

<https://cbtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/Veterans-Mini-Grants-FY26-RFP.pdf>

Any Committee who needs assistance with procuring funding through grant opportunities, please reach out.



ATTENTION HUNTERS

Due to unforeseen events, KS Kuts Deer Processing will **ONLY** be accepting donation deer for Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH) for the 2025/2026 season.

If you have any questions you can reach out to Kris directly at (301) 606-5203.

Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. We would like to thank you all for understanding and we wish all of our KS Kuts loyal customers who have become family and all hunters lots of success this harvest season.

Blackpowder Day At the B-CC IWLA Chapter

September 27, 2025

**Flintlock, Percussion and Inline Shooters of all levels
are welcome**

Open to the Public

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| • Registration | 8:45am - 9:00am |
| • Instruction and Sight In | 9:00am - 12:00pm |
| • Lunch (included) | 12:00pm - 1:00pm |
| • Shooting Match & Awards | 1:00pm - 4:30pm |

Advanced Registration required

Click link below or use QR code for more information

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACAA28A7F8C25-56853413-2025>



**Join Us to Shoot at the BCC-IWLA
Chapter**

20601 Izaak Walton Way, Poolesville, MD 20837

\$15 plus any applicable range fees