



## JANUARY 2021 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

Dear Fellow Members,  
Happy New Year!

Let us shake off the Old 2020 Year and ring in the New 2021 Year. Hopefully, in 2021 we will begin to 'normalize' activities at the Chapter especially through the ongoing national distribution efforts of new vaccines. Our Board of Governors will continue to monitor news regarding Montgomery County Social Distancing Rules and report them to the membership.

Here are some of our activities in January 2021 and others that will be held later in the year:

Our Annual Land Fund Campaign is open. If you have not yet donated and plan to, there is still time.

Our Invasive Species Reduction Crew (ISRC) formed to remove dead multiflora rose along the trails in the archery woods. An excellent Conservation project to participate in. If you have been in our woods, you will have noticed that there are acres of thorny multiflora rose, dense autumn olive and ever-expanding bush honeysuckle. Our ISRC will focus on removing small sections of these invasive species from the property at a time.

MD DNR Firearms Season – Antlered Deer was held from January 8, 2021 – January 10, 2021.

Our Shotgun Range is open on Sundays from 9:00am – 4:00pm – weather permitting.

For those of us who received a Muzzleloader for Christmas. Muzzle loading enthusiasts will gather for the annual Black Powder Clinic and Shooting Match, Saturday, March 27, 2021 from 9:00am – 4:30pm.

We are in the Winter Season so, bundle up as appropriate and come and enjoy our Conservation Farm. There are still many activities available to you during the cold months that you and your Family can enjoy in our great outdoors. Please check the Calendar for any new scheduled activities.

Stay Warm and Stay Healthy!

Ron Marchessault  
President, B-CC IWLA

## JANUARY 2021 MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The 1,023rd monthly Membership Meeting will be held via Zoom on **Wednesday, January 20**, starting at 6:45pm.

Meeting contact information is listed below and can also be found on the website calendar.

All prospective members should arrive into chapter Zoom meetings early to sign the digital attendance form in order for the meeting to count. The link will be sent in the Zoom chat and available on the front page of the website until the morning after the meeting.

Please text us at 301 252-8825 if you are have any troubles connecting or entering the meeting.

### Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89119876726?pwd=QXdldE5BVkp3c1JsR0ZNaEpGRmxKdz09>

Dial: **301 715 8592**

Meeting ID: **891 1987 6726**

Passcode: **953816**

## DRIVING ON CHAPTER PROPERTY

Privately owned vehicles are to remain on the main Chapter roads at all times. They are NOT allowed to drive through the fields or park in open areas. This includes no vehicle traffic to the back pond or in the fields unless the vehicle is in use in conjunction with a project being overseen by a Chairman or Committee.

## Board of Governors

Fiscal Year: September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021

### OFFICERS

**Ron Marchessault, President**

202 320-3834 • rmarchessault12@aol.com

**Lin Schmale-Tate, 1st Vice President**

703 517-3675 • lin@tate-tate.us

**Walt Allensworth, 2nd Vice President**

301 221-3594 • twangermd@gmail.com

**Bill Brockman, Treasurer**

301 652-3978 • bill.brockman@hotmail.com

**Joe Trotter, Membership Secretary**

210 352-0055 • jtrotterccp@gmail.com

**Janet Lamkin, Corresponding Secretary**

301 466-6557 • j.lamkin@comcast.net

**John Stinson, Recording Secretary**

301 325-7454 • ringfort3@gmail.com

### BOARD MEMBERS

**David Boynton**

301 318-3622 • dboynton@mcccourt.com

**Brett Davis**

240 506-5588 • bdbrettdavis@gmail.com

**Shannon Novak**

301 785-8461 • snovak516@gmail.com

**Sean-David Waterman**

816 812-4917 • seandavid@me.com

**Pete Wirth**

301 915-6763 • peter\_wirth@verizon.net

**Jeff Seaman, Past President**

301 775-4973 • jeff\_seaman@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 or  
Newsletter.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com  
301 466-6557



## Summary of the November 2020 Board of Governors Meeting and the December 2020 Membership Meeting

John Stinson, Recording Secretary  
301 325-7454 ringfort3@gmail.com

### Wednesday, November 18, 2020 – Board of Governors Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 8:30pm.

- **President's Report** – President Ron Marchessault discussed major Chapter activities.
  - o Hunting Rule #12 changed to accommodate straight-walled cartridge rifles and handguns for MD Firearm Deer Season, only.
  - o Hunter Rule #9 changed so that all hunting equipment including ground blinds are to be removed every day after use or owners risk confiscation.
  - o 2020-2021 Bird Feeder watch Season began on November 14th.
  - o Advanced Planning & Finance Committee Meeting was held on November 14th. Two major programs discussed – controlling Invasive Species Program and review and update Lead Management Program.
- **Treasurer Bill Brockman** presented the Sandy Spring Bank account balances to the membership. Financials are being digitized. IRS filings submitted to maintain compliance.

### ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION – Not Requiring a Vote

- Funds in support of **Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry**, already committed on budget last Summer, will be sent soon.

### NEW BUSINESS – Items Requiring a Vote

- **CAPEX Priority Projects** – all 3 priorities were approved by unanimous vote – remote clay pigeon controller, new trap machine, and repairs to archery target shed, bridge, and picnic tables.
- **Twenty new members** were unanimously approved.

### TALKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER

- **Butch Mezick** led a discussion regarding the annual Land Fund telethon with December 13 as the target date.
- The President thanked the Board and wished all a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18pm.

### December 16, 2020 – 1,022nd Membership Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:45pm.

- **President Ron Marchessault** gave an overview of the proceedings of the Advanced Planning and Finance Committee (AP&FC) meeting held on December 5, 2020. This meeting was focused on long-term lead management at the Chapter, incorporating EPA's 4 steps for shooting ranges: Control, Prevention of Migration, Reclamation and Documentation.
- **Membership Report:** Twenty-seven prospective members introduced themselves. Members were reminded to log in work hours electronically.
- **Past President Jeff Seaman** provided an update on the Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) proposed for designating 3 square miles of land in the Ag Reserve to solar energy. Working group meetings are accessible online, although participation for outsiders is passive only. One or two more

(continued on page 3)

## SUMMARY

(continued from page 2)

of these meetings are planned before a potential council vote in January. Interested Members can access the Planning Committee and Montgomery County Alliance websites for more information.

- **Chestnut Committee:** Hybrids planted in B2 are expected to provide mast in 7-8 years. New germ plasm stock planned for Spring planting in orchard near greenhouse. Maryland Chapter would like to put potted hybrids in greenhouse.
- **Wildlife Management** – Bow season for deer continues through January 30, 2021. Chronic Wasting Disease has been identified in Loudon Co., but Blue Tongue disease not identified locally. Notify DNR if suspicious of same in MoCo.
- **Security Committee** – Members reminded not to park in fire lane, and not to off-road vehicles. New lights, new cameras, laptop, and software planned.
- **Legislation and Public Relations** – The County Executive's broad Climate Action Plan, proposing to cut greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2027, is available for review and comment on the County Exec website. The comment period is until the end of February.

### TALKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER

- Fifteen new Members were sworn in and the Oath was administered by First VP Lin Tate.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm, with the December BOG meeting to follow at 8:15pm.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

for B-CC IWLA and Community

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

### 1,023rd Membership Meeting

Wednesday, January 20  
6:45pm  
Via Zoom

### Board of Governors Meeting

Wednesday, January 27  
7:30pm  
Via Zoom

### January New-Member Orientation Tours

Saturday, January 16  
and  
Sunday, January 24  
10:00am – 1:00pm

## Welcome to the B-CC IWLA Family

The following members were inducted in December 2020.

### Mark Lee Bull

**Interests:** Hunter Education; Rifle & Pistol; Trap, Skeet, & Sporting Clays

### Bob Burrows

**Interests:** Nature Trail; Scout Camp Area; Trap, Skeet, & Sporting Clays; Youth Activities/Scouting

### Todd R. Curtis

**Interests:** Farm; Nature Trail; Rifle & Pistol

### Ryan David Holden

**Interests:** Archery; Forestry; Ponds & Streams; Rifle & Pistol; Star Gazing; Trap, Skeet, & Sporting Clays; Wildlife Management

### BK Kelly

**Interests:** Rifle & Pistol; Trap, Skeet, & Sporting Clays; Wildlife Management

### Patrick M. Kelly

**Interests:** Rifle & Pistol; Trap, Skeet, & Sporting Clays

### Evan D. Kurtz

**Interests:** Ponds & Streams; Rifle & Pistol; Trap, Skeet, & Sporting Clays

### Rob Lowey

**Interests:** Archery; Conservation Education; Hunter Education

### Gerard Mulford

**Interests:** Rifle & Pistol; Scout Camp Area; Youth Activities/Scouting

### Chris Mundy

**Interests:** Conservation Education; Recreational Activities

### Andy Norris

**Interests:** Rifle & Pistol; Star Gazing; Trap, Skeet, & Sporting Clays

### Mike Rafferty

**Interests:** Chapterhouse; Rifle & Pistol; Trap, Skeet, & Sporting Clays

### Eric L. Schwartz

**Interests:** Family Picnic; Nature Trail; Ponds & Streams

### Frank Velez, V

**Interests:** Forestry; Rifle & Pistol; Scout Camp Area; Youth Activities/Scouting

### Terry Whitehead

**Interests:** Nature Trail; Rifle & Pistol; Trap, Skeet, & Sporting Clays

### As a reminder...

Due to Covid-19, the chapterhouse is currently closed and off limits to the general membership.

## Chapter Entrances

Members must not block chapter entrances (main gate and cattle gates) along Izaak Walton Way and West Willard Road! Emergency vehicles and farm equipment must have access at all times.

## 2021 Adopt-A-Road Clean-up Schedule

The B-CC IWLA Adopt-A-Road team will meet at the Chapter House at 8:15am for clean-up on the following dates:

- Saturday, February 13
- Saturday, April 10
- Saturday, July 10
- Saturday, September 11

Trash bags, gloves, and orange traffic vests will be made available for participants. Please direct any questions to John Robinson, 301 641-1188.



## Legislative Committee Report

Bob Cissel, Co-Chair  
301 775-8978 bobcissel50@gmail.com

Jeff Seaman, Co-Chair  
301 775-4973 jeff\_seaman@hotmail.com

There are two important pieces of legislation – one recently enacted and one pending – that will have significant effects on the Agricultural Reserve.

- ZTA 20-01, the proposed zoning text amendment which would permit up to 1,800 acres of solar panel arrays in the Agricultural Reserve. We, along with other conservation groups (like Montgomery Countryside Alliance, Audubon Society and the Montgomery Agricultural Producers), opposed the text amendment as written because of the threat its implementation would pose to agriculture in the Reserve. In a nutshell, there was concern that solar arrays would end up on otherwise productive agricultural land; farmers who lease land would likely be unable to compete with much more lucrative offers from out-of-town solar energy companies and traders with no stake in the integrity of the Reserve. In addition, the ZTA overlooks the importance of the Reserve to the region's food production independence and security. The opponents recognize the need to move to solar power (many farmers are already using solar) but think the ZTA ignores the competing value of the land that would be removed from agricultural use if the ZTA passes as written, and contravenes the original intent of the creation of the Reserve. Solar should be limited to an accessory use to agriculture.

There has over the last year been much discussion between the Council, the solar industry (joined by the Sierra Club) and the agricultural community, and some members of the Council have been particularly sensitive to the concerns of the agricultural community. The Council has appointed a working group of agricultural and industry representatives to try to work out a compromise. The working group's recommendations will go to the Planning, Housing and Economic Development and Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committees (PHED – Riemer, Friedson and Jawando; GO – Navarro, Friedson and Katz). The PHED and GO Committees will then work together to make a recom-

mendation to the Council. Bob Cissel, who has been involved with the ZTA from the beginning, and who is involved with the working group, has attended all the meetings.

- Bill 32-80. County Executive Elrich vetoed the bill on November 30, but on December 8 the Council overrode the veto on this bill which, among other things, defines "agricultural facility" so as to reduce the tax rates on uses such as farm markets, accessory breweries, wine-making facilities.

The County Executive has recently released his Draft Climate Action Plan. It is very broad in its focus, encompassing approaches to energy, building and development, transportation, carbon sequestration, governance, public engagement and education, demographics and environmental justice. The ambitious aim of the Plan is to reduce the County's greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2027 and 100% by 2035. The Plan is built upon recommendations by the Climate Workgroup. The Workgroup recommended, among many other things, protection of forests and agricultural lands – good news. But there is much more to the Plan, and we encourage you to set aside some time to look at the Plan. Within the Workgroup's web page is a wealth of information and wide variety of resources for further study for those inclined. Planners have solicited public comment on the plan. Comments are due by February 28. The Draft Plan is available through the County's website.

## Photos from the Farm

Come out and enjoy the Conservation Farm. Take a few photos of our great outdoors – wildlife, birds, trees, walk on the trails, plants, interesting bugs, etc. Send your photos to Brett Davis, bdbrettdavis@gmail.com, and Janet Lamkin, j.lamkin@comcast.net.

## JANUARY 2021 BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

The Board of Governors meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 27 via Zoom at 7:30pm.**

Meeting contact information is listed below and can also be found on the website calendar.

All prospective members should arrive into chapter Zoom meetings early to sign the digital attendance form in order for the meeting to count. The link will be sent in the Zoom chat and available on the front page of the website until the morning after the meeting.

Please text us at 301 252-8825 if you have any troubles connecting or entering the meeting.

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82999982929?pwd=OXFuaFQzZmVSc9pZlBXMktvMERPUT09>

**Dial: 301 715 8592**

**Meeting ID: 829 9998 2929**

**Passcode: 343901**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date(s)	Activity	Time
<b>JANUARY 2021</b>		
<b>All dates are tentative and subject to change. Check the website for updates.</b>		
Sunday, January 3	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 4:00pm
Sunday, January 10	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 4:00pm
Saturday, January 16	New-Member Orientation Tour – meet at Chapterhouse	10:00am – 1:00pm
Sunday, January 17	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 4:00pm
Wednesday, January 20	1,023rd Monthly Membership Meeting – via Zoom	6:45pm
Saturday, January 23	Invasive Species Reduction Crew – remove Multiflora Rose – signup required	8:15am
Sunday, January 24	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 4:00pm
Sunday, January 24	New-Member Orientation Tour – meet at Chapterhouse	10:00am – 1:00pm
Wednesday, January 27	Board of Governors Meeting – via Zoom	7:30pm
Friday, January 29	February Newsletter Articles due – send to <a href="mailto:j.lamkin@comcast.net">j.lamkin@comcast.net</a>	By End of Day
Sunday, January 31	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 4:00pm
<b>FEBRUARY</b>		
<b>All dates are tentative and subject to change. Check the website for updates.</b>		
Sunday, February 7	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 4:00pm
Saturday, February 13	Adopt-A-Road Clean-up – meet at the Chapterhouse parking lot	8:15am
Sunday, February 14	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 4:00pm
Wednesday, February 17	1,024th Monthly Membership Meeting – via Zoom	6:45pm
Saturday, February 20	New-Member Orientation Tour – meet at Chapterhouse	10:00am – 1:00pm
Sunday, February 21	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 4:00pm
Wednesday, February 24	Board of Governors Meeting – via Zoom	7:30pm
Friday, February 26	March Newsletter Articles due – send to <a href="mailto:j.lamkin@comcast.net">j.lamkin@comcast.net</a>	By End of Day
Sunday, February 28	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 4:00pm
<b>MARCH</b>		
<b>All dates are tentative and subject to change. Check the website for updates.</b>		
Saturday, March 6	R&P Range Officer (Current ROs) Signup	TBD
Sunday, March 7	R&P Range Officer (Current ROs) Signup	TBD
Sunday, March 7	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 4:00pm
Sunday, March 14	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 4:00pm
Wednesday, March 17	1,025th Monthly Membership Meeting – via Zoom	6:45pm
Saturday, March 20	Summer Biathlon at the R&P Range	7:30am
Saturday, March 20	New-Member Orientation Tour – meet at Chapterhouse	10:00am – 1:00pm
Sunday, March 21	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 4:00pm
Wednesday, March 24	Board of Governors Meeting – via Zoom	7:30pm
Friday, March 26	April Newsletter Articles due – send to <a href="mailto:j.lamkin@comcast.net">j.lamkin@comcast.net</a>	By End of Day
Saturday, March 27	Black Powder Day at the R&P Range	9:00am – 4:30pm
Sunday, March 28	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 4:00pm
<b>THE CAMPGROUND IS CLOSED DURING ALL BLACK POWDER AND FIREARMS DEER SEASON.</b>		
Check the online <a href="http://www.bcciwa.org">www.bcciwa.org</a> electronic calendar for current and updated scheduled times of events.		



## IN MEMORIAM

### VICTOR E. ORIGONI



Victor E. Origoni died peacefully in his home on December 2, 2020. Vic was a longstanding Chapter member and Past President (1981 – 1982).

He was the loving husband to the late Regina Brennan Origoni, a Navy Veteran (Pharmacists Mate First Class), and a chemist by trade.

Vic was very involved with Chapter activities and instrumental in the rebuilding of the Chapterhouse after the fire in 1988. He was also an ardent fisher and hunter and loved woodworking. Together with Past Presidents Pat Dady and Roger Sears, he made the beautiful table in the Board of Governors room. The tabletop is solid walnut and was milled from a tree on Vic's property. Vic also made the two end tables and the fireplace mantle in the Board room and the shadow boxes throughout the Chapterhouse.

Many family members, whom he welcomed on his farm to share his love of the outdoors, and his fellow Ikes will miss him.

Services were private. Victor's family asks that donations be made in his memory to Bethesda-Chevy Chase IWLA or Montgomery Hospice.



## Shotgun Range Report

Warner Parks, Committee Chair  
240 620-6942 wparks29@gmail.com

**Range Officers** – please do not unplug any of the skeet machines and do not turn off any circuit breakers. The trap field will be wireless by the end of the month.

Range Officer signup will be sometime in January and February. I will send out an email once I have decided on the dates.

Effective immediately the **winter range hours** will be 9:00am until 4:00pm.

**Range Officers** – please double check and make sure all release cords and extension cords are returned to the range house.

**Shooters** – please pick up your empty shotgun shells and trash when finished shooting.

Keep the range clean and restocked for the next range officer and shooters.

All Shotgun Range Equipment is to be used by pre-qualified Shotgun Range Officers ONLY. If any equipment is malfunctioning, please let Joel or me know ASAP.

### WINTER HOURS OF OPERATION

Sundays 9:00am to 4:00pm Trap, Skeet, Five Stand

### NEW-MEMBER ORIENTATION TOURS

The tours will be held on  
Saturday, January 16 and Sunday, January 24  
from 10:00am until approximately 1:00pm.

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please submit all articles for the February 2021 newsletter to Janet Lamkin, [j.lamkin@comcast.net](mailto:j.lamkin@comcast.net),  
*no later than FRIDAY, JANUARY 29.*



# Membership Operations Report

Joe Trotter, Membership Secretary  
 210 352-0055 MembershipSecretary.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com

The 2021 IWLA membership renewal season is officially in overtime, but circumstances dictate that we extend late fee deadlines!!!

So, please make sure that you get your 2021 membership renewal in as soon as possible if you haven't sent it back yet.

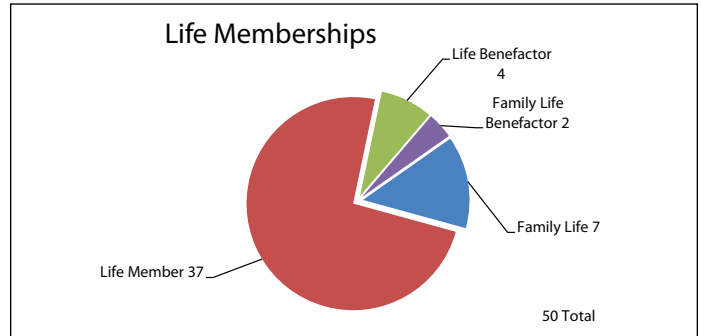
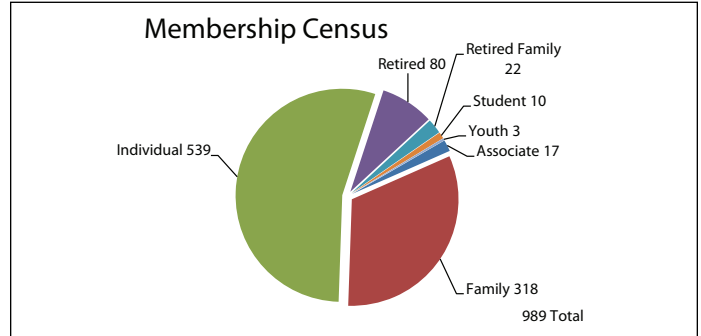
Along those same lines, please be patient waiting for your 2021 IWLA membership cards. Almost every step in the renewal process involves mailing something to someone.

As of the end of 2020, the membership team has processed 645 membership renewals for 2021, of the 780 sent out in September. The B-CC chapter starts off 2021 with 817 memberships including new members who joined since renewal season started, and we have a dozen prospective members who have been sworn-in but have yet to finish the membership process.

For ongoing membership or 2021 renewal questions, any members who have not yet received an invoice by the December membership meeting, or if members have any questions about the invoice that they received, please email Joe Trotter, the Membership Secretary, at [MembershipSecretary.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com](mailto:MembershipSecretary.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com).

For January, 2021, there will be TWO New-Member Orientation Tours scheduled for Saturday, January 16th & Sunday January 24th, each at 10:00am.

The end-of-year membership breakdown for 2020 was:



Membership Tour- Saturday, December 19, 2020



Membership Tour - Sunday, December 20, 2020

## Black Powder / Muzzleloader Event

Muzzleloading enthusiasts will gather for the annual Black Powder Clinic and Shooting Match, Saturday, March 27, 2021 from 9:00am – 4:30pm.

Did you receive a blackpowder firearm as a present and don't know what to do with it? Are you ready to test your skills against others in the afternoon shooting match and compete for prizes? Don't miss out on this marvelous opportunity for knowledgeable instruction, loads of fun, and the unique smell of blackpowder smoke!

Participants will meet at the Rifle & Pistol Range at 9:00am. Inlines, percussion or flintlock shooters are all welcome. There will be instruction time for new shooters or those with new muzzleloaders while "veterans" and more experienced shooters will sight-in their guns.



Bring the muzzleloader that you want to shoot or let Mark Gochnour know in your email that you would like to try one out so he can arrange for a loaner. Learn directly from individuals having experience and knowledge. (Mark is a certified NRA/NMLRA Blackpowder

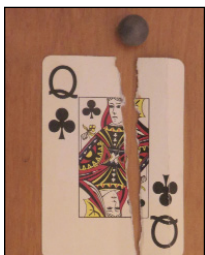
Instructor.) If you have never fired a black powder gun or you have one you have never used before or are having issues with one you have forgotten about in the gun safe, come during the morning but stay for the shoot! Last year, one shooter used a loaner gun to compete in the shooting match and turned out to be excellent marksman!

Lunch will be served in the Chapter House around 12:00 noon with the shooting competition beginning at 1:00pm.

Match Participants will be provided opportunities to shoot at some unusual novelty targets again this year, including last year's favorite – The Flopping Plate. Targets will be shot at a variety of ranges from up close and out to 100 yards with prizes awarded to individual shooters. An overall Grand Prize could be a frozen turkey or ham.



Due to safety issues, only muzzleloader shooting participants will be allowed to use the Range since the availability of shooting lanes may be limited. (After the afternoon shooting match, Range Officers and their guests may shoot.)



Contact Mark Gochnour at [mgdonutman@gmail.com](mailto:mgdonutman@gmail.com) for further details, questions, or to pre-register for the event. It is important to contact him; especially, if

you are bringing a new gun because you may need extra equipment or gear that you were unaware of and its lack could sabotage your experience.

Cost is only \$20 for the entire event, which includes lunch and the shooting match. Any applicable R&P range fees are extra.

## Rifle & Pistol Range Report

Thoran Menser, Committee Chair  
301 972-8353 [bcciwla.rp@gmail.com](mailto:bcciwla.rp@gmail.com)

Chris Efdimis, Chief Range Officer  
240 372-2258 [bcciwla.rp@gmail.com](mailto:bcciwla.rp@gmail.com)

The R&P Range is closed to the general membership until the first weekend of April 3 unless otherwise scheduled by the R&P committee.

The Range is now on the Winter Operating Hours of 9:00am -4:00pm. Operating times will be adjusted accordingly as daylight time lengthens.

Range Usage COVID Procedures are still in place and can be found in the range house.

### PLEASE REMEMBER

- Put paper in the trash. If the cans are full, please empty them.
- Keep watch on guests you bring. It is your place to brief them on the SOP's.
- Be safe and enjoy the range respectfully.
- All must PICK UP THEIR BRASS!

Range Officer sign up for the **CURRENT ROs** is scheduled for March 6 and 7. An email will be sent to the ROs in February with all the sign-up details.

### RANGE OFFICER COURSE

At this time, we are formulating a plan on how to safely hold a Range Officer course and having confirmation of the number of people interested will help us proceed.

To be eligible to take this course you must:

- be current members of the B-CC IWLA Chapter in good standing who have completed their probationary membership year.
- be 21 years of age.
- be eligible to legally possess a firearm.
- be current in all B-CC IWLA Chapter dues.

If you are interested in becoming an R&P Range Officer, please contact **Carol** at [carol2017@aol.com](mailto:carol2017@aol.com). A list is being created and once we figure out the safest and best way to proceed, you will be contacted with significant notice of a date.

If you have not completed your probationary year, please contact Carol anyway. We will be able to create a list for future classes.



**Check out our Facebook page!**  
**Izaak Walton League of America**  
**Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter**



## Christmas Bird Count

Diane Seward  
 Citizen Science Projects Coordinator  
 trina65@verizon.net

On December 20, we once again hosted the Montgomery Bird Club (MBC) for a portion of the Sector 7, Seneca Christmas Bird Count (CBC), an annual nationwide event since 1958, organized by The Audubon Society. Ten Bird Club birders, plus six chapter members, gathered on the Conservation Farm at 7:00am, then set out in two groups for the morning's count. Montgomery Bird Club member Jim Nelson was the Seneca CBC compiler and organizer. Larry Anderson and Scott Harmon escorted the two parties through the west woods and the fields. Separately, Jim and Lin Tate and Tucker Mostrom, counted birds frequenting the feeders behind the chapter house. The feeder count was submitted to the Lab of Ornithology at Cornell University in connection with our FeederWatch project as well as included in Sector 7's total.

The two MBC groups walked the chapter grounds until noon in chilly weather, overcast with temperatures mainly in the low 30s. Combined, the field counters and the FeederWatchers tallied 38 species and approximately 500 individual birds. A major highlight this year was the American Woodcock, a rare bird for the entire Seneca Count Circle and one seen only every few years. An astounding forty-four Eastern Meadowlarks were spotted in one of the fields, the largest number of meadowlarks counted in the Seneca Count Circle going back as far as 1987! The American Woodcock and Eastern Meadowlark were not found anywhere else in the

Seneca Count Circle. Other species not often seen in winter at the farm were an American Kestrel, a Brown Thrasher, and a Chipping Sparrow. The highest number of birds observed this year in a species were the following: American Robin, 86, European Starling, 55, White-throated Sparrow, 51, Eastern Meadowlark, 44, and Canada Goose, 43. Preliminary data for the entire count circle show 104 species, the largest number of species recorded since 2001, and about 6,950 total birds. The chapter made a significant contribution to the total species counted.

A sampling of species and individual birds counted this year and in the previous three years on the Conservation Farm appears below.

Species	2017	2018	2019	2020
American Robin	88	2	5	86
European Starling	148	40	25	55
White-throated Sparrow	9	24	19	51
Canada Goose	17	50	70	43
Song Sparrow		10	1	24
Cedar Waxwing	32	0	28	14
Eastern Bluebird	23	4	17	18
Crows, American and Fish	96	18	710	18
Blue Jay	14	29	11	17
Dark-eyed Junco	12	20	13	14
House Finch	16	0	17	9
American Goldfinch	9	3	5	7
Carolina Wren	15	7	8	6
Northern Flicker	6	10	6	4



American Kestrel



American Robin



Canada Geese



Meadowlarks



Carolina Chickadee



Northern Mockingbird



Red Shouldered Hawk

PHOTOS BY BRETT DAVIS

## 2020 Ponds & Streams Activities Report

John Novak, Co-chair Ponds & Streams Committee  
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The year 2020 was unusual for the Ponds & Streams Committee due Covid-19. However, when the chapter reopened for mostly outdoor activities with social distancing, a number of projects were completed by Ponds & Streams' volunteers. The following summarizes those projects and activities completed during 2020.

**February and March.** During February and March, three contractors inspected the big pond's overflow basin to determine repair needs because, over the years, the basin has experienced erosion to the point where it was no longer effectively containing flows during high runoff events. M.S. O'Neil & Sons, selected as the contractor to do the work, planned to begin work once the ground dried.

**April and May.** Covid-19 prevented the Chapter from conducting the April spring cleanup; however, Ponds & Streams volunteers were still able to conduct some work. Woody saplings were cut along the big pond dam. Twenty-one buttonbushes were planted around the small pond and twenty-nine were planted around the big pond. Tall grass was cut along the shorelines of both ponds. About 30 bluegill fry, flushed from the big pond during high flow events in May, were rescued from the overflow basin and returned to the big pond. Weekly fish feeding was started at both ponds. On May 17th, bluegills were observed spawning on one of the 10 X 10 foot spawning beds placed in the big pond in 2018. At least 20 beds were counted.

**June.** Discarded fishing line with a hook attached was found along the big pond shoreline. Because this line could have been hazardous to wildlife, pets, and kids, a note was placed in the July newsletter advising anglers to pick up any discarded line. A receptacle was placed at both ponds for disposing of used fishing line. On June 14th, Larry Anderson noticed a heavy accumulation of algae and scum on the big pond. An inspection of the big pond on Monday by John Novak on June 15th confirmed Larry's observations. Floating mats of algae on the surface appeared to be blue green. On June 16th, Chris Lockett, an algae specialist with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MD DE), was notified and, on June 19th, he came out to the big pond and took an algae sample. Later in the day he provided a preliminary report on the results of his analysis, which confirmed the presence of blue green algae with at least two toxic species. Results of an analysis of the blue green algae for the toxin microcystin revealed a microcystin concentration of 115 parts per billion (ppb) which is well above MD DE's standard of 8 ppb for a contact advisory. Chapter members were advised to avoid contact with big pond water and to keep dogs out of the water until re-testing for toxins was completed and the water deemed safe. Observations of the big pond on June 28th, showed no blue green algae and, after discussion with Chris Lockett, the okay was given for the free fishing day on July 4th. The chapter advised members that the big pond was open for fishing but contact with the water should be avoided by humans and dogs and hand washing or use of hand sanitizer was recommended. During June, about 30 bluegill fry were rescued from the overflow basin and returned to the big pond.

**July.** Bluegills were observed spawning on July 5th on two beds near the big pond shelter; this was the second spawning event for 2020. On July 14th, construction to repair the overflow basin began. On July 15th, Chris Lockett took a water sample from the big pond for an algae analysis which did not

reveal any substantial concentration of blue green algae. A toxicity analysis on the sample showed a toxin concentration of 0.15 ppb which is insignificant. Based on these results, an all-clear notice for the resumption of normal activities and dog training was sent to the chapter membership. After replacing a pump and the timer and further trouble shooting, Kevin King was able to get all three aerators working at the big pond. The small pond aerator experienced no apparent problems. The contractor finished work on the big pond overflow basin on July 25th.

**August.** On August 1st, projects completed included removing a tree that had fallen over the trail upstream of the big pond solar panel, anchoring a turtle platform in the big pond, cutting some of the multiflora rose on the big pond dam, and placing stakes at the buttonbushes along the small pond shoreline. Phil Taylor filled in the large hole/depression near the big pond shelter with dirt. On August 15th, the debris partially blocking the entrance of the culverts at the first crossing on Izaak Walton Way was removed and the aged wood on one of the picnic tables under the shelter was replaced. Two minnow traps were set in the big pond and 70 bluegill fingerlings were caught, indicating successful spawning. On three different occasions, minnow traps were set in the small pond; less than a total of 10 bluegill fry/fingerlings were caught, indicating possible predation. Also, the low number of bluegill fry/fingerlings may have been due to poor spawning success.

**October and November.** On fall cleanup day, October 3rd, the following projects were completed: grass seed was planted around the big pond shelter and in the dirt that filled the hole/depression near the shelter, some branches on an overhanging tree near the shelter were trimmed, a weighted brush pile was placed in the big pond, six rose mallows from the big pond were transplanted around the small pond, 40 bluegill and redear fingerlings were caught below the overflow basin and released into the big pond, the turtle platform was removed from the big pond, a dead tree that had fallen into the big pond near the solar panel was removed, and tall grass along the shorelines of both ponds was trimmed.

**Save Our Streams.** A report on the 2020 stream monitoring program prepared by Dominic D' Ambrosi appeared in the December newsletter.

The following P & S members participated in the above activities and projects: Pete Wirth, Frank Parker, Vic Ezerski, Brett Davis, John Estep, Mike Spencer, Dominic D'Ambrosi, Bryan Kurtz, Suzanne Novak, Shannon Novak, Charlie Lund, Stephen Austin, Dan Dutton, and Bruce Freund. Many thanks to you all for making 2020 Ponds & Streams projects happen under the unusual circumstances. Again we thank Kevin King for his work in maintaining the aerators in both ponds and to Phil Taylor for his work at the big pond shelter.

**To report nuisance, injured or sick wildlife  
(Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 4:30pm)  
Call Toll-free in Maryland:  
1-877-463-6497**

## 2020 B-CC IWLA Land Fund Telethon

Byron "Butch" Mezick, Land Fund Chairman

The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter of the Izaak Walton League held its annual "Land Fund Telethon" Sunday evening, December 13th. The telethon team called just under 700 members in three hours, speaking directly with individual members or leaving a detailed message. Our volunteers requested donations for the Chapter's land fund, explaining how we protect our outdoor activities by purchasing additional acreage to buffer our conservation farm from development. The callers shared with our members that all donations to our land fund are tax-deductible, and the fund is 100% efficient without overhead expenses. To abide by the Covid-19 occupancy mandate, eight members made calls from the Chapter House, and six callers phoned from home. What a pleasure it was to hear, "Yes, I will definitely donate to the Land Fund."

Many thanks to Tucker Mostrom, who provided our telethon team with an extremely accurate list of over seven hundred names and phone numbers. To Carol Hulce-Efdimis, who is coordinating the pledges and donations from the membership. To Janet Lamkin, who will provide tax receipts to everyone who contributed and a letter from the current president to personally thank those who made large donations. A warm fire, cold drinks, and an assortment of pizzas helped warm the hearts of those of us calling from the Chapter House. Many thanks to the six members that called from home without the support of the Telethon Team.

The following individuals participated in the 2020 B-CC IWLA Telethon, many of whom have donated their time and talent to this endeavor year after year. When you see them around the farm, please thank them for their dedication. Many thanks to our Telethon Callers, Ron Marchessault, Jeff Seaman, Ernie Smith, Byron Ricketts, Frank Parker, Jim Tate, Scott Harmon, Lin Tate, Walt Allensworth, Shannon Novak, Pete Wirth, Stephen Austin, and Tucker Mostrom.

A special thank you to our members who continually support one another in our efforts to protect the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Conservation Farm. **Our Chapter accomplishes in conservation what so many speak of but so few achieve.**

*Editor's Note: Many thanks to Butch Mezick for heading up the Land Fund Campaign and putting the telethon together year after year.*

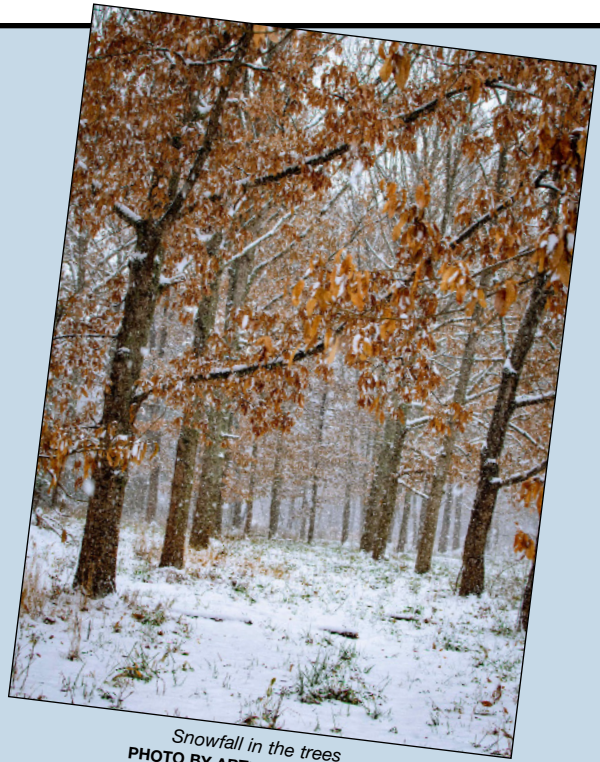
			
Butch Mezick	Ernie Smith	Frank Parker	Byron Ricketts
			
Walt Allensworth	Ron Marchessault	Scott Harmon	Jeff Seaman
			
Lin Tate	Stephen Austin and Shannon Novak		Jim Tate
			
Tucker Mostrom	Not pictured: Carol Hulce-Efdimis and Janet Lamkin		Pete Wirth

## Land Fund Telethon 2020

# First Snow Storm of 2020



*Icicle*  
PHOTO BY BRETT DAVIS



*Snowfall in the trees*  
PHOTO BY ARTHUR BELENDIUK



*Fitzwater Trail*  
PHOTO BY ARTHUR BELENDIUK



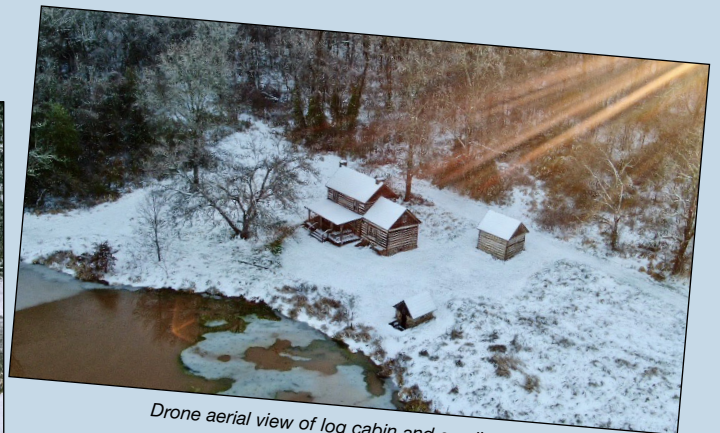
*Parking lot trees*  
PHOTO BY ARTHUR BELENDIUK



*Chapter wagon*  
PHOTO BY ARTHUR BELENDIUK



*Large pond pavilion*  
PHOTO BY ARTHUR BELENDIUK



*Drone aerial view of log cabin and small pond*  
PHOTO BY JOE TROTTER