

FEBRUARY 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

Hello Folks,

I have good news!

Since the Winter Solstice on December 23, 2020 the days have been getting longer on average of 2 minutes and 7 seconds per day. We have been getting an hour of daylight since January 18th and will continue to do so every 28 days. The Spring Equinox will occur on March 20th and we will spring the clocks ahead an hour on March 28th. The turning of the season will offer something else to look forward to, hopefully Spring will continue to bring a reduction in new virus cases as our Nation receives the vaccinations.

Over \$30,000.00 has been raised over our Annual Land Fund Campaign – THANK YOU!

If you have a child who is either a junior or senior undergraduate enrolled in a conservation or environment-related degree program, see the IWLA National Scholarship Award article in the Newsletter. Two scholarships of \$2,500.00, including a one-year Student Membership, are sponsored by the Izaak Walton League of America Endowment. This is a very generous offer. If interested, please contact Mr. Earl Hower.

I want to give a shout out to John Novak and to our Ponds and Streams Committee. They are a busy bunch of people throughout the year working on a variety of different projects focused on the flora and fauna around and in the ponds and streams. If you are interested in learning about fresh water aquatic life, contact John Novak. And one of these days, I am going to land (and release) one of our big Largemouth Bass – I just know it!

In closing, the days are getting longer so come out to the property and enjoy the winter scenery. Do not forget to check the calendar for scheduled outdoor activities.

Stay Warm and Stay Healthy!

Ron Marchessault
President

FEBRUARY 2021 MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The 1,024th monthly Membership Meeting will be held via Zoom on **Wednesday, February 17, starting at 6:45pm.**

Guest Speaker – Merikay Smith from the Seneca Creek Watershed Partners will speak on the "Lower Seneca."

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=QXdlldE5BVkp3c1JsR0ZNaEpGRmxKdz09>

Dial: **301 715 8592**

Meeting ID: **891 1987 6726**

Passcode: **953816**

DUE DATE

for the March Newsletter Articles
Friday, February 26

Submit articles to:
j.lamkin@comcast.net or
Newsletter.BCCIWLA@gmail.com

As a Reminder

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

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 December 2020 Board of Governors Meeting and the January 2021 Membership Meeting

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

Wednesday, December 16, 2020 – Board of Governors Meeting

- The meeting was called to order at 8:15pm.
- **President Ron Marchessault** recapped the proceedings of the Advanced Planning and Finance Committee (AP&FC) meeting held on December 5, 2020, which focused on modifying the Chapter's lead management program to align with recent more stringent requirements for acceptable concentrations of lead in bodies of water on the Farm. Our current goal is to proactively revisit, explore options, and modify the Chapter's overall lead management program to conform to the recent requirement of maintenance of an "Aquatic Life Standard" of "2.5 micrograms of lead per liter. The President reviewed the 4 steps for successful lead management recommended in the EPA monograph *Best Management Practices for Lead at Outdoor Shooting Ranges*:
 1. Control/containment
 2. Prevention of lead migration
 3. Lead reclamation
 4. Documentation

Means by which these steps may be implemented were briefly reviewed. The Board will consider recommendations made by Dr. Peddicord, who performed a site visit on December 8, 2020. We await Dr. Peddicord's report, expected by the end of January 2021. A site visit to the Ann Arundel Fish and Game Club to see their shot fall curtain is in the works. Lead management, like invasive plant species, is a perpetual issue for the Chapter.

- **Treasurer Bill Brockman** reviewed the balances for the four Sandy Spring Bank accounts, the account sheets, and the P&L/2021 budget. Financial records are being digitized for Cloud and transparency.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Gold Award Project:** Ms. Ashley Bass proposed self-funded fabrication of a stone bench with a compass rose constellation sky map. This would accommodate 8-12 observers, provide an educational resource, and be built under adult supervision in Spring-Summer 2021. A motion for approval of this project was passed unanimously.
- **New IT Chairman:** Christopher Lowe will begin consolidation and coordination with current IT committee on oversight of membership renewals, Zoom, Wi-Fi, website, calendar updates, domain maintenance, Dropbox, Gmail, Facebook, blog posts, etc.
- The **Legacy Foundation** provided their recent investment statements.

TALKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER

- Tax Bill 3280 proposes reduction of the tax rate on agricultural accessory buildings including those dedicated to wine making and farm markets.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

(continued on page 3)

SUMMARY

(continued from page 2)

January 20, 2021 – 1,023rd Consecutive Membership Meeting

- The meeting was called to order at 6:47pm.
- **President Ron Marchessault** noted the passing of Past President Vic Origoni (1981-82), and recognized Vic's years-long service and dedication to the Chapter.
- **Featured Speakers Bob Cissel and Jeff Seaman** brought Members up to speed regarding ongoing County Council deliberations regarding the solar Zoning Text Amendment for the AG Reserve. Working groups have provided three reports and five Zoom sessions had been held. Members were strongly encouraged to write the Council, either individually or through the Montgomery County Alliance, and to highlight their membership in a conservation organization. The ZTA was scheduled for a vote on January 26, 2021. In addition, Bob Cissel noted a recent proposal in Annapolis to ban glyphosate (Roundup®) in Maryland. If approved, no-till farming will suffer, as will cover crop, soil, and water quality.
- **Membership Secretary Joe Trotter** reported that as of this meeting B-CC IWLA had 888 Members, including 473 individuals, 37 Life Members and 286 families. For ongoing membership or 2021 renewal questions, contact Joe at MembershipSecretary.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com
- **Treasurer Bill Brockman** reported that the transfer of Land Fund monies to the Legacy Foundation transpires in January. CAPEX will fund 3 projects: cordless release for 5-stand, repair of archery area, and a new trap machine.
- **Chestnut Committee Chair Blaine Elkins** reviewed in brief the history of US chestnut blight. American Chestnut comprised 40-80% of the Appalachian canopy before importation of Chinese chestnuts/blight.
- **Farm Committee Chair Phil Taylor** reported that on seven members planted 12 fruit trees on January 7. Deer have cleaned out corn, and stalks will be flattened into the ground. Help is required for electric fence maintenance around sunflowers.
- **Ponds & Streams Co-Chair John Novak** reported electrofishing survey is planned for May-June.
- **Ranges: Archery** – use broadheads on designated targets only. Ranges open daily, dawn to dusk; **Rifle & Pistol** – Ranges closed to all but ROs; **Shotgun** – Winter hours Sundays 9-4. RO signup planned for February.
- **Hunter Ethics** – Hunters are reminded that no hunting equipment (tree stands/ground blinds) is to be left out overnight. Resident goose season open until March 10; Small game (rabbit, squirrels) open until February 27.

NEW BUSINESS

- Seventeen new Members were sworn in. First VP Lin Schmale-Tate administered the Oath.

TALKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER

- The Chapter will conduct fundraising through a firearms raffle later this year.
- Frank Parker noted that the County Forest Conservation Advisory Committee, of which he is a member, is open to new participants.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS

for B-CC IWLA and Community

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

Great Backyard Bird Count

Friday, February 12 – Monday, February 15

Go to www.birdcount.org to learn how to participate

Adopt-A-Road Clean up

Saturday, February 13

8:15am

Meet at the Chapter House parking lot

1,024th Membership Meeting

Wednesday, February 17

6:45pm

Via Zoom

Guest Speaker – Merikay Smith

February New-Member Orientation Tour

Saturday, February 20

10:00am – 1:00pm

Board of Governors Meeting

Wednesday, February 24

7:30pm

Via Zoom

2021 Gun Raffle

More information to come

Tickets will be sold electronically and in person

Christmas Trees...

Lin Schmale-Tate, First Vice President
703 517-3675 lin@tate-tate.us

Throughout the year, our volunteers care for B-CC's plot of Christmas trees, so that at Christmastime, trees are available to chapter members for cutting, with a \$30 fee payable on the honor system. It's a great family activity, and every year families proudly select and cut their own trees, creating family memories all the while. This year was no exception, as we continued the tradition with families proudly bringing their chosen tree home for the holiday. Very unfortunately, however, one family had selected and marked their chosen tree early in the fall, as also happens every year. They carefully tagged it with a note encased in plastic and clearly visible indicating that that particular tree was reserved, with contact information included.

The rest of the story, unfortunately, was that someone else not only cut and took that chosen Christmas tree, but threw the note on the ground nearby. Perhaps it was a mistake ... perhaps it was not cut by a B-CC member ... but we remind all of our members that the Christmas tree plot is for all B-CC members, and that if a tree has been selected early in the season and marked for later cutting by a member, it is to be reserved for that member.

FEBRUARY 2021 BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

The Board of Governors meeting will also be held on **Wednesday, February 24 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=OXFuaFQzMkQvSC9pZlBXMktvMERPUT09>

Dial: 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 829 9998 2929

Passcode: 343901

Vegetable Gardens

Larry Anderson
240 246-5302 andupton9@hotmail.com

Pat Tarquinio
ptarq@hotmail.com

The days are growing longer and even without warmer temperatures yet, gardeners are eagerly anticipating and planning for the next growing season. At B-CC IWLA we have an active gardening community, full of members who enjoy the opportunity to play in the soil. Generally, our gardeners find the gardens a pleasant distraction from the hustle and bustle of daily life even with our onslaught of amazing weeds. Again this year, Pat and I will be the organizers of the garden plots.

As has been our custom, current gardeners have first choice of reserving garden plots, so now is the time to contact either Pat or I with your intentions for this year. Single plots (~25x25ft) will rent for \$20 each. For members wishing to become new gardeners please contact either Pat or I, and we will compile a list and start assigning plots as they become available. We hope to have the list and assignments ready to go in early April in time for early crop planting.



Proposed Change to the Bylaws

At the Board of Governors meeting on January 20, 2021, addition of the Information Technology (IT) to Article XI, Section 1 and Section 2 was proposed. These proposed changes were accepted by the Board of Governors and will be incorporated into the bylaws upon a majority vote of the membership at the February 17, 2021 Membership Meeting. Below are the motion and the proposed amendments (highlighted in yellow).

Motion: A motion to add the Information Technology Committee as a Permanent Committee under Public Relations and Programs by amendment to Bylaws Article XI – Committees, Section 1 and Section 2.

Article XI, Section 1. The Public Relations and Education Committee shall be chaired by the Chapter Corresponding Secretary and include the following: Chairpersons of Hunter Safety, Firearms Safety, Conservation Education, Legislation, **Information Technology (IT)**, and Public Relations and Programs. (Amended October 2003, **Amended February 17, 2021**)

Article XI, Section 2. The Chapter President shall appoint chairpersons for: Constitution and By-Laws, Building Maintenance, Equipment Maintenance, Grounds & Roads Maintenance, Forestry, Wildlife Management, Ponds and Streams, Nature Trail, Rifle and Pistol Range, Trap and Skeet Range, Archery Range, Camp Ground, Hunter Safety, Firearms Safety, Legislation, **Public Relations & Conservation Education, Information Technology (IT)**, and other ad hoc committees as he shall deem necessary for chapter operations and to plan, coordinate, and implement special studies, programs, or events. Such studies, programs, or events shall be in keeping with the policies and goals of the Chapter. (Amended September 18, 1986, Amended October 2003, **Amended February 17, 2021**)

Welcome to the B-CC IWLA Family

The following members were inducted in January 2021.

Dan Ahmed

Interests: Farm; Chapter Public Affairs; Recreational Activities

Andrew Michael Baxter

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

Dawson Russell Hobbs

Interests: Legislation; Ponds & Streams; Trap, Skeet, & Sporting Clays

Suhail Hani Naber

Interests: Hunter Education; Programs; Trap, Skeet, & Sporting Clays

Dave Oristian

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

Dave Rubino

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

Stacy N. Stonich

Interests: Archery; Nature Trail; Wildlife Management

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date(s)	Activity	Time
FEBRUARY		
All dates are tentative and subject to change. Check the website for updates.		
Sunday, February 7	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 4:00pm
Sunday, February 7	Shotgun Range Officer (Current ROs) Signup – three signup times per day	9:00am – 1:30pm
Friday, February 12 through Monday, February 15	Great Backyard Bird Count – go to www.birdcount.org to learn how to participate	
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 – use Signup Genius on B-CC IWLA website	10:00am – 1:00pm
Sunday, February 21	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 4:00pm
Sunday, February 21	Shotgun Range Officer (Current ROs) Signup – 3 signup times per day – signup Genius on website	9:00am – 1:30pm
Wednesday, February 24	Board of Governors Meeting – via Zoom	7:30pm
Friday, February 26	March Newsletter Articles due – send to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Sunday, February 28	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 4:00pm
MARCH		
All dates are tentative and subject to change. Check the website for updates.		
Saturday, March 6	R&P Range Officer (Current ROs) Signup – use Sign up Genius	TBD
Sunday, March 7	R&P Range Officer (Current ROs) Signup – use Sign up Genius	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
Saturday, March 20	Maryland Division Meeting	
Sunday, March 21	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 4:00pm
Sunday, March 21	Shotgun Range Officer (Current ROs) Signup – 3 signup times per day – signup Genius on website	9:00am – 1:30pm
Wednesday, March 24	Board of Governors Meeting – via Zoom	7:30pm
Friday, March 26	April Newsletter Articles due – send to j.lamkin@comcast.net	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
APRIL		
All dates are tentative and subject to change. Check the website for updates.		
Saturday, April 3	Summer Biathlon at the R&P Range	7:30am
Sunday, April 4	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 4:00pm
Saturday, April 10	Adopt-A-Road Clean-up – meet at the Chapterhouse parking lot	8:15am
Sunday, April 11	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 4:00pm
Saturday, April 17	Summer Biathlon at the R&P Range	7:30am
Saturday, April 17	New-Member Orientation Tour – meet at Chapterhouse	10:00am – 1:00pm
Sunday, April 18	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 4:00pm
Wednesday, April 21	1,026th Monthly Membership Meeting – via Zoom	6:45pm
Friday, April 23	May Newsletter Articles due – send to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Sunday, April 25	Shotgun Range – Trap, Skeet, and Five Stand	9:00am – 4:00pm
Wednesday, April 28	Board of Governors Meeting – via Zoom	7:30pm
THE CAMPGROUND IS CLOSED DURING ALL BLACK POWDER AND FIREARMS DEER SEASON.		
Check the online www.bcciwla.org electronic calendar for current and updated scheduled times of events.		

NEW-MEMBER ORIENTATION TOUR

The tour will be held on Saturday, February 20 from 10:00am until approximately 1:00pm.
A signup Genius for the tour has been published on the Chapter's website calendar.

Shotgun Range Report

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

There will be two **sign-up meetings for current Range Officers** – Sunday, February 21 and Sunday, March 21. Meetings will be held in the chapter house. Due to the COVID restrictions, we need to limit the number of people in the chapter house. Sign up times are for 9:00am, 11:00am and 1:00pm. Please use the signup Genius that Carol Hulce-Efdis provided in her email.

Effective immediately the **Winter Range Hours** will be 9:00am until 4:00pm.

Range Officers:

- Please do not unplug any of the skeet machines and do not turn off any circuit breakers.
- 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.

Range Officers and Shooters:

- 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.

RANGE OFFICER SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 7	Need Range Officers
Sunday, February 14	Need Range Officers
Sunday, February 21	Need Range Officers
Sunday, February 28	Need Range Officers

MARCH

Sunday, March 7	Need Range Officers
Sunday, March 14	Need Range Officers
Sunday, March 21	Need Range Officers
Sunday, March 28	Need Range Officers

WINTER HOURS OF OPERATION

Sundays 9:00am to 4:00pm Trap, Skeet, 5 Stand

B-CC IWLA 2021 Summer Biathlon Program

Steve Eschholz
240 472-6512 (Text) fitnesscrafters@earthlink.net

While 2020 posed challenges in many areas of life and for a period did keep the Summer Biathlon Crew off the range, we saw an overall increase in attendance. Several times shooting positions on the big end had to be utilized. On July 25, 2020, there were 11 on deck for that day's biathlon evolution. That was the largest attendance in over 25 years. We had new people join us and Rachael, one of Rex Gori's top shooters, reappeared after about a ten-year absence. She had lost nothing in her ability to put one round on top of the other in both prone and off-hand. Rob rolls in from Dale City and Sonny comes in from Baltimore. Eva does the drive from College Park and I had a query after the season from Autumn in Frederick. Consequently, 2021 looks like another year of biathlon expansion.

The primary mission of the B-CC IWLA Summer Biathlon is a safely run program. Range safety is paramount. A rolled ankle on the run course is acceptable. A glitch on the range is not. Within the bounds of safety, the secondary mission is to provide a venue for fun and comradery. Our goal is to expand the number of participants so we that we fill both the small and big ends. To that end, members please advertise to all the athletes you know – runners, LAX, soccer, triathletes, etc.

The event as conducted at B-CC IWLA consists of 5-1 kilometer loops and 4 shooting stops at the range. Shooting stops 1&3 are from the prone position; stops 2&4 are off-hand. 22-bolt action, iron sight rifles firing 22LR standard velocity are the standard for summer biathlon. For our practices, any rifle chambered in 22LR is acceptable. Standard velocity ammo is mandated for target preservation.

We will kick off the 2021 season on March 20 at 8:00am. Questions or a desire to be on the B-CC IWLA Summer Biathlon Program mailing list, contact Steve Eschholz (fitnesscrafters@earthlink.net or text 240 472-6512). This year's schedule is below:

Saturday, March 20	8:00am
Saturday, April 3	7:30am
Saturday, April 17	7:30am
Saturday, May 1	7:30am
Saturday, May 15	7:30am
Saturday, May 29	7:30am
Saturday, June 12	7:30am
Saturday, June 26	7:30am
Saturday, July 10	7:30am
Saturday, July 24	7:30am
Saturday, August 7	7:30am
Saturday, August 21	7:30am
Saturday, September 11	7:30am
Saturday, September 25	7:30am
Saturday, October 9	7:30am
Saturday, November 6	7:30am
Saturday, November 13	7:30am

B-CC QUIZ

Question: The IWLA has a neat macroinvertebrates quiz on its website. Here is your chance to take the quiz and find out if you're a Macro Master.

1. A little clump of gravel, twigs, sand, or leaf pieces is likely to be hiding a _____.
 Caddisfly Mayfly Scud
2. When you see something shaped like a _____, you know you've found a black fly.
 Comma Horseshoe Bowling pin
3. How do scuds move?
 They swim on their back. They swim on their side.
 They crawl on the bottom.
4. Why do you need to watch crane fly larvae carefully?
 They tend to crawl away. They can sting you.
 You might see them perform a rare and fascinating behavior.
5. Where are a mayfly's gills?
 On its face On the sides of its abdomen
 On its tails

Answer can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

Membership Operations Report

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

A few 2021 IWLA membership renewals sent before the new year are still trickling in due to the US Postal Service's difficulties, so please take the opportunity to renew immediately if you haven't yet done so.

2020 members who have not renewed should have received final email renewal invoices by the final week of January.

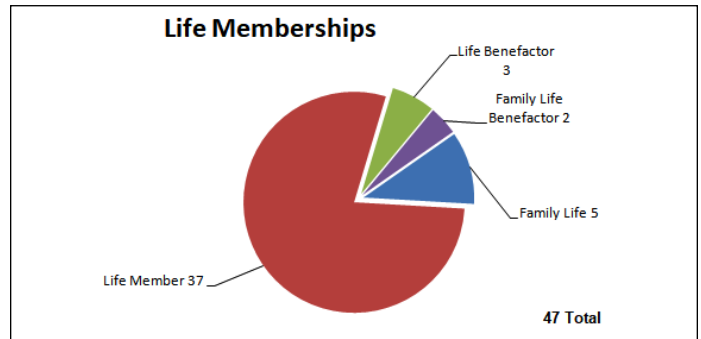
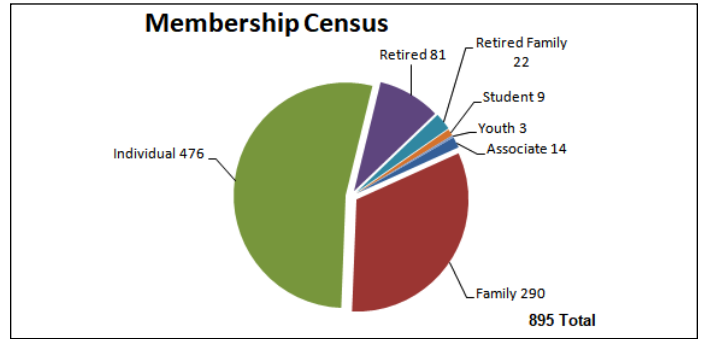
The processing of 2021 IWLA membership cards is chugging along. The B-CC IWLA is extremely lucky that IWLA National is so close by. We have switched to picking up printed 2021 membership cards in person to cut out a big chunk of postal uncertainty.

As of the end of January 2021, the membership team has processed just a handful short of 700 out of the original 780 membership renewal invoices sent out last September.

For ongoing membership or 2021 renewal questions, for any members who had not yet received an invoice by the end of January, or for members who have any questions about the invoice that they received, please email Joe Trotter, the Membership Secretary, at MembershipSecretary.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com.

The February **New-Member Orientation Tour** is scheduled for **Saturday, February 20th** at 10:00am. A signup Genius for the tour has been published in the chapter's website calendar. A second tour can be scheduled if need so dictates.

As of the January 2021 Board meeting, the membership breakdown was:



Membership Tour - Saturday, January 16, 2021



Membership Tour - Sunday, January 24, 2021

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

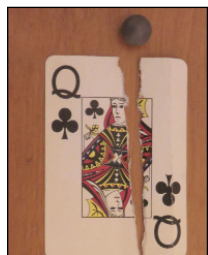
Instructor.) If you have never fired a black powder gun or you have one you have never used before or are having issues with one you have forgotten about in the gun safe, come during the morning but stay for the shoot! Last year, one shooter used a loaner gun to compete in the shooting match and turned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



For further details, questions, or to pre-register for the event **contact Mark Gochnour at mgdonutman@gmail.com**. 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

Chris Efdimis, Chief Range Officer
240 372-2258 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 to 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 a R&P Range Officer, please contact **Carol at 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.

Chestnut Committee Report

Blaine Elkins, Committee Chair
blaineelkins@verizon.net

This spring may be very busy for the Chestnut committee. There will be the usual maintenance of the orchard by the campgrounds. TACF (The American Chestnut Foundation) is planning to pot a few hundred-hybrid seeds in the squirrel proof enclosures; there may be some work to be done there. The second orchard funding is in review, but I think we should plan to be ready to do the work. A new fence and gate will need to be built east of the greenhouse. The planned orchard will have 113 planting points, almost twice the size of original orchard. If you are interested in helping, please contact me at blaineelkins@verizon.net.

February Membership Meeting Speaker

This month we are fortunate to have Merikay Smith as our guest speaker. She will talk to us about the "Lower Seneca." With avid gardeners for parents and grandparents, Merikay has been surrounded by blooming plants and eating home-grown foods all her life. Merikay has a 2-acre garden in Darnestown where, with the help of her husband and son, she is converting a vast expanse of lawn into a healthier habitat of trees, shrubs, and perennials. A Master Gardener since 2007, Merikay is the former chair of the MG Speakers Bureau. Merikay serves on the Board of the Muddy Branch Alliance and the Seneca Creek Watershed Partners where she organizes their native tree initiative, distributing more than 2,500 trees. She has been project leader for multiple conservation landscaping projects funded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust including a meadow and rain garden at the Izaak Walton League headquarters and at historic Pleasant View.

Merikay will also be speaking on Thursday, February 25 at 7:00pm to Poolesville Green on "Less Lawn, More Life with Native Plants." The public is invited but must register in advance.

Archery Range Report

Jack Mandel, Committee Chair
jmandeldesign@gmail.com

We had a productive Archery ZOOM Committee Meeting the last week of January.

The next Committee Meeting is scheduled for March 2nd at 7:30pm. All members are welcome. Email a request to me, and I will get you an invite.

The coming season plans include: tree-stand practice platform install, bowhunting / butchering seminar, fletching / stringing seminar, Level 2 Archery Instructor Training (likely to be in March), Youth Archery Course (4 sessions), Military Veteran Archery Program, and many infrastructure improvements.

The Target Range has two rectangular broadhead targets. Broadheads damage all other 3-D and bag targets. Please be considerate.

All stone and construction materials on site are earmarked for a Girl Scout Gold Award project; please do not remove. If you have flagstone or building stone you would like to donate, please contact us.

3-D Archery course will be set up for the season on April 10th starting at 8:00am. Formal 3-D Shoot Calendar will be determined on March 2nd.

Come out and use the Target Range sunrise to sunset any day. If you'd like some instruction, contact us via the email addresses below, and we will schedule a lesson or two.

Contacts: Jack Mandel jmandeldesign@gmail.com and Marc Bouchard combat750@gmail.com.

B-CC Quiz Answer:

To see how you did, go to 'more information' below...

For more information:

<https://www.iwla.org/water/stream-monitoring/meet-a-macro-quiz>



Participate in the 24th Great Backyard Bird Count organized by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the National Audubon Society, and Birds Canada. Spend at least 15 minutes a day, on at least one of the four count days, observing and counting the birds in your backyard or on your street or neighborhood. Go to www.birdcount.org to learn how to participate using your smart phone and the Merlin app. or your computer.

Have you noticed robins, chickadees, starlings, woodpeckers or cardinals in your yard or neighborhood? Here is an opportunity to count them all for science. Last year over the four-day count approximately 270,000 participants from 194 countries counted about 27 million birds in almost 7,000 species (out of 10,000 known species).

Join the fun! Mark your calendar!
Friday, February 12 through Monday, February 15.

Diane Seward, Citizen Science Projects Coordinator

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.



Wildlife Report

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

The 2020-2021 deer season has drawn to a close. By all accounts, we had a pretty good year on our farm. 24 deer were reported taken on our farm, about a normal number (16-25) that get reported each year. Thank you all that reported their deer and from the reports, some large mature deer were harvested. We had one reported deer taken by a straight-walled cartridge, a new feature this year and so far no adverse reports have been noted. Across the state, MD DNR reports that 31,571 deer were harvested during gun season, which is 16% higher than last year. The prevailing reason for this increase was the favorable weather conditions, with more hunters in the woods. In Montgomery County, the reported firearm deer harvest was 21% higher than last year. The overall numbers for all deer seasons have not come out at this writing. From casual observation, we did seem to have an increased number of members out on the farm in pursuit of deer, and we seem to have fared well.

Even with the wet weather and muddy conditions, now is a good time to wander around the farm and explore, the leaves on the trees and bushes have not blossomed yet making it easy to see through the woods. During the upcoming weeks, bucks will have finished shedding their antlers leaving them as prizes in the woods. If members find sheds that they don't have a use for, please consider contacting our group that puts on the global ecology programs, they have uses for visual aids in their demonstrations.

Member Teamwork

Tucker Mostrom
IWLA.Tuck@gmail.com

During the January 16 New-Member Orientation Tour, a downed 5" to 6" diameter pine branch (size of a small tree) was spotted between the pavilion at the big pond and the Cathedral of the Pines.

Thank you to Brian King, Trails Chair, for getting the downed branch up, processed, and over to the chapterhouse fire ring. Also thanks to Conner Stonich, a new family member, for doing the heavy lifting and stacking the logs.



Communications for LEAGUE LEADERS



Dear Members:

Established to promote conservation leadership among future natural resource managers and professionals, the **IWLA National Conservation Scholarship** annually supports rising junior and senior college undergraduates from recognized conservation or environment-related degree programs.

Two scholarships, made possible by the **Izaak Walton League of America Endowment**, are currently available for the 2021-2022 school year. Applications are now being accepted, with a submission deadline of May 15 (postmarked).

Each scholarship category includes a **\$2,500 scholarship** and a one-year IWLA Student membership. Applicants can be either:

- A previous recipient of an IWLA chapter/division scholarship, or
- A son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter of a current IWLA member, or a current IWLA Student or Individual member (at the time of application submission)

Winners will be officially announced at this year's IWLA National Convention. They will also be featured in the July edition of the Conservation Currents e-newsletter and in a future issue of *Outdoor America* magazine.

We encourage you to reach out to those previous eligible chapter scholarship recipients as well as to members with children or grandchildren currently enrolled in conservation or environment-related undergraduate degree programs.

Get all the information about our scholarships and how to apply.

Earl Hower
Director of Chapter Relations
ehower@iwla.org

© 2021 Izaak Walton League of America
All rights reserved.

Visit us online at www.iwla.org.