

Beginning Hunter Seminar

For the past five years, the public, members, and their families have attended this more advanced hunting training, which emphasizes practical ethics, treestand safety, improved outdoor knowledge, skills, and hunting preparation.



Ponds and Streams

There are two ponds on the property - the Big and Small Pond. Both are stocked with largemouth bass and sunfish. Catch and release fishing is available for members and their guests.

Interested in Membership?

In order to become a member, fill out the membership application, available on our website bcciwla.org, and attend three dinner meetings held on the third Wednesday of

the month. While there, ask three member sponsors to sign off on your application and submit it to the membership chairman. The application will be reviewed and voted on and if approved, you become a probationary member. You will be required to perform volunteer hours over a year, pay a membership fee, and then you are officially a full-fledged member.

IWLA Mission Statement

"To conserve, maintain, protect and restore the soils, forest, water, and other natural resources of the United States and other lands;

To promote means and opportunities for the education of the public with respect to such resources and their enjoyment and wholesome utilization."



Contact Information

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Bethesda – Chevy Chase Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America: A Volunteer Organization Committed To Conservation



Our Purpose

To develop and maintain our Conservation Farm as the best example of living resource management and habitat conservation in Montgomery County, Maryland, in the United States of America, and in the World. Our all-volunteer membership strives to demonstrate the application of responsible, science-based conservation of the soil, water in ponds and streams, woodlands, fields and wildlife.

Our farm is a reflection of the healthy ecological attitude of our membership. We see our farm as a nearly one-mile square classroom in which to plant the seeds of ecological awareness, responsibility, and respect for the environment.

Chapter History

The parent organization was founded in 1922 with this chapter starting out in Bethesda, MD in October of 1935. In 1948, the chapter bought the current property. At that time, the size was 365 acres. Since then, chapter members have donated additional funds to purchase over 250 acres to its present size of over 620 acres. When the original chapter house, built in the 1950's, was destroyed by a fire, members constructed the current building to replace it.

Membership

Members are from all walks of life and all ages surrounding DC. Their skills come in handy whether to build buildings, repair roofs, mowing large tracks of grass, planting crops, firemaking classes, training people, fixing meals for large and small groups, and so much more.

Outreach to the Local Community

- Annually, in January, the Chapter hosts a **Conservation Dinner**. Not only do Chapter members and members of the community enjoy a free spaghetti dinner, they also have the opportunity to listen to a guest speaker talk about a major aspect of conservation.
- The **Montgomery Bird Club** surveys bird migration population and have identified nearly 100 species on the property, making the property a "hotspot".
- Over many years, multiple **Boy Scouts** have completed their Eagle Projects on the farm by building bridges and helping to maintain the campgrounds and associated trails. The Chapter also sponsors Cub and Venture Scout Troops.
- The Chapter works with and sponsors many youth and school groups, not

just the Scouts. B-CC IWLA has sponsored the **Poolesville High School Global Ecology Studies Program** magnet students for the past 20 years. Members of the Conservation Education Committee review, evaluate, and judge the senior projects and award scholarships to the outstanding presentations.

- Over 1,000 Poolesville High School freshmen have taken our **Walk in the Woods** tour. Chapter members teach about habitat, turkey and deer biology, tree identification, and more.
- The Chapter participates with **Montgomery County Heritage Days**. Non-members are invited to visit the Chapter and see what we are doing, learn about the history of the farm, the wildlife, and the mission of the Izaak Walton League.



The Conservation Farm

Our experts seek to improve animal habitat with crops and trees and chapter members are eliminating or reducing invasive species on the property. Reforestation efforts have included the planting of over 4,000 trees. Members annually have an opportunity to have a garden to grow vegetables. A milkweed plot supports Monarch Butterflies

and there are beehives on the property to contribute to plant fertilization and to make honey. Research on preserving and recreating the American Chestnut Tree is being done on the property in partnership with the American Chestnut Foundation.



Shooting Activities

The Chapter has three ranges - Archery, Rifle and Pistol, and Shotgun. Members are trained to be Range Officers so those using the ranges, both members and guests, safely exercise their shooting skills and train for shooting events, for teaching others, and for hunting activities. Boy Scouts groups may earn Merit Badges in these areas. The Summer Biathlon program supports US Biathlon allowing novices to learn the sport and gives national and international competitors a place to maintain their skills while in the Washington, DC area.

Hunter Education

Since the 1960s, new hunters have been trained twice a year as part of the State of Maryland's Department of Natural Resources. Trained and certified instructors work with children, teens, and adults to insure those in the woods hunt safely and ethically.