



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

In the Izaak Walton pledge, we strive "to know the beauty and understanding of nature." This beauty is all around us, every month of the year. A short hike in the West Woods, like those led by past president Butch Mezick, will quickly reveal wonders both large and small. One might think that there is nothing to be seen in the middle of winter, but that is not the case. There are just different things to see; and this applies to every month of the year. Did you know that there are flowers blooming in our woods right now? On sunny south-facing slopes we're already seeing daffodils and early snowdrops. With all of the leaves down the flagging tail of the south end of a deer running north is much easier to spot. And if you are lucky, you may find a true treasure this time of the year: a shed antler. Bucks lose their antlers every year, and winter is a good time to pick them up before the mice and squirrels have chewed them up. Shed hunting is also a good way to find out if "the big one" successfully evaded hunters for the season and may be around next season to chase again.



Early Snowdrops



Dogwood blooms at the Archery Range

American novelist Alice Walker writes that "In nature, nothing is perfect and everything is perfect. Trees can be contorted, bent in weird ways, and they're still beautiful." With all their camouflaging leaves on the ground, the gnarled limbs are there for us all to appreciate. There are also lessons of the tenacity of nature written all through chapter grounds. Some of the big oaks are over 100 years old. Huge one-thousand-pound limbs have fallen from the enormous pines you will find on the walk to the big pond yet still they prevail. At the archery range pavilion there is a stunted dogwood with a half rotten trunk that we think will never last another year; yet it has fought on in this state for over 15 years. Every spring it surprises us with another year of beautiful white

cruciform blooms, like the phoenix rising from the ashes. There is probably a lesson there for those who would listen. As conservationist Rachel Carson tells us "Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts."

Walt Allensworth
President

New-Member Orientation Tour

- The next tour will take place on **Saturday, March 18** from 10:00am to approximately 12:00 noon.
- Meet Christine Peterson at the Chapter House.
- The front gate will be open until the tour begins.
- New members, prospective members, and current members are invited to take the tour.

Calendar Submissions

Meetings and events that need to be added to the website calendar and newsletter calendar should be sent to 1st Vice President Carol Hulce-Efdimis, carol2017@aol.com, and Corresponding Secretary Janet Lamkin, j.lamkin@comcast.net.

Board of Governors

Fiscal Year: September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023

OFFICERS

Walt Allensworth, President

301 221-3594 • twangermd@gmail.com

Carol Hulce-Efdimis, 1st Vice President

240 277-2494 • carol2017@aol.com

Andy Wight, 2nd Vice President

240 205-3982 • andywight1@hotmail.com

Bob Kelly, Treasurer

202 445-7097 • rnkelly1974@gmail.com

Meg O'Rourke, Membership Secretary

301 275-5907 (text)

MembershipSecretary.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com

Janet Lamkin, Corresponding Secretary

301 466-6557 • j.lamkin@comcast.net

Francis (Jerry) Murray, Recording Secretary

202 438-4202 • jerrym5@comcast.net

BOARD MEMBERS

Deborah Behrend*

301 922-1174 • drbehrend@aol.com

Marc Bouchard

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Kenny West

301 758-3978 • west372ken@yahoo.com

Lin Schmale-Tate, Past President

703 517-3675 • lin@tate-tate.us

* 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



Summary of the January 2023 Board of Governors Meeting and the February 2023 Membership Meeting

Jerry Murray, Recording Secretary, 2022-2023
202 438-4202 jerrym5@comcast.net

Wednesday, January 25, 2023 – Board of Governors Meeting

- President Walt Allensworth called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
- Michael Dobson presented a proposal to start an Adventure subcommittee to create a structured learning experience for teaching outdoor skills.
- Pat Tarquinio requested permission to sell several of the old Winchester trap machines that are being phased out of regular use on the range. The machines are old and getting repair parts is becoming difficult.
- Farm Guide Handbook Committee Chair Dan Dutton reported that they will be doing a survey of members to see how they are using the handbook.
- The culvert under Izaak Walton Way is getting clogged with branches and blocking the water flow. MDOT has not been responsive in clearing this out.
- John Lamb is looking into doing a 'Hall of Fame' wall outside the boardroom and some upgrades to the meeting room space.
- Hunter Education: All the instructor's will need to go thru an ATE (Advanced Training Education) class before the next Hunter Ed. Class.
- Membership Secretary Meg O'Rourke is looking for ideas for more fellowship activities like the New Year's Day event to get more members involved.

NEW BUSINESS (requiring a vote):

- Motion was made to approve 5 prospective members to be inducted. **Motion approved.**
- Motion was made to move the funds for a new exterior door and frame for the members kitchen from the CAPEX unfunded to the funded list. **Motion approved.**
- Motion was made to move the funds for the purchase of 5 AED's from the CAPEX unfunded to the funded list. The AED's are to be placed in the chapter house, at the 3 ranges, and in the pavilion at the large pond. **Motion approved.**
- Motion to approve the purchase/upgrade of a Cloud based Quickbooks program for the Chapter's financial information. **Motion approved.**
- Motion was made to start an ad-hoc 'Adventure Committee' with Mike Dobson as chairman. **Motion approved.**
- Motion was made to allow Art Belendiuk to pursue obtaining an invasive species management plan for the chapter from the MD Dept. of Natural Resources Forest Service. **Motion approved.**
- Motion was made to move the funds for the construction of an elevated tower at the Archery range from the CAPEX unfunded to the funded list. The tower would be placed near the existing target butts. Prior to construction the archery committee must provide a plan showing the location, height, width and length of the proposed tower and the plan must be approved by our easement grantee. **Motion approved.**
- Motion was made for the shotgun committee to pursue the sale of the old Winchester trap machines and place the proceeds in the CapEx account to be applied against the cost of a MEC Defender 300 machine that is currently on the CAPEX unfunded list. **Motion approved.**

(continued on page 3)

SUMMARY

(continued from page 2)

TALKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER:

- John Lamb reminded everyone that beer cannot be left in the member's refrigerator. Some was left there after last month's meeting.
- Meg O'Rourke requested that we look into including funds for a New Year's Day Hangover Brunch in next year's budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40pm.

Wednesday, February 26, 2023 – 1,048th Membership Dinner Meeting

- President Walt Allensworth called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.
- President Allensworth stated that thanks to the hard work of our kitchen staff, chapter house chairs and volunteers we passed our health department kitchen inspection. The certificate is good until 2025. We are still in need of cooks and helpers for our dinner meetings so if you can help out please get in touch with Jack Mandel, Scott Harmon, our kitchen chairs, or Walt. The help does not have to be long-term commitment.
- The chapter has started an Adventure Committee chaired by Michael Dodson under the oversight of our 2nd VP Andy Wight. The committee will be focusing on outdoor education topics taught by chapter members. Upcoming events will be posted in the newsletter.
- Butch Mezick will be hosting a kids friendly Interpretative Walk in the Woods on March 12. Please join us.
- Janet Lamkin won the 50/50 raffle and donated her portion of the funds back to the Chapter to go towards the purchase of Adirondak chairs for the Chapter's porches.
- 10 prospective members introduced themselves and talked about their interests.
- A motion was made to induct 4 new member candidates. **The motion was seconded and passed.** The members were sworn in.
- Treasurer Bob Kelly provided an update on the chapter's accounts.
- Security Chair Carol Hulce-Efdimis asked that members make sure to replace the gates' locks after they use them. The keying on the locks is expensive and a replacement runs about \$130.
- Chapter House Chair John Lamb reminded new and probationary members that they must do one chapter house clean-up during their first year.
- Farm Committee Chair Phil Taylor said that he is gearing up for the growing season and could use some help. Interested members can contact him by e-mail and he will put you on his list and contact you when he needs help.
- Chestnut Grove Chair Blaine Elkins said he could use some help in the orchards on work day (April 1).
- Log Cabin Chair David Mecklenburg is getting together with Andy Wight to set up a committee to look into having a celebration for the 200 year anniversary of the construction of our log cabin. The cabin was built in 1825.
- Jerry Murray mentioned that the R&P Range will be open in the afternoon of April 1 after the clean-up is complete.
- John Lamb said that there are still slots available to take the Hunter Safety course on May 6 & 7.

TALKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER:

- Bob Cissel spoke briefly about several bills in Annapolis, one that would increase the cost of the state hunting license stamp.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Join Montgomery Parks Virtual Speaker Series on Birding in Maryland with Gabriel Foley, Atlas Coordinator, Maryland – DC Breeding Bird Atlas

Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Register Online: A link to join the online presentation will be sent to registrants the day before the session.

Maryland and DC are home to over 200 species of breeding birds, from brilliant goldfinches to feisty terns to secretive nightjars. The **Maryland-DC Bird Breeding Atlas** is a five-year project documenting the distribution, abundance, and timing of each of the region's breeding species. This intensive, community-science project will produce the most detailed picture yet of where and when our birds are nesting. And, since this is the third time an atlas has been conducted in Maryland and DC, the results can be compared to past efforts to show changes to bird populations. During this presentation, atlas coordinator Gabriel Foley will provide an overview of the project and discuss how you can document and support nesting birds in your own yard.

Gabriel Foley coordinates the Maryland and DC Breeding Bird Atlas, a community-science project mapping the distribution of every breeding bird species in the Maryland-DC region. Before heading to Maryland, Gabriel studied how nighthawks choose habitat in the Canadian boreal forest and how weavers in southern Africa build their nests. He also hosted a weekly nature radio show called The Prairie Naturalist, is an occasional guest on the American Birding Association podcast and is a trip leader for Quest Nature Tours.

March 2023 1,049th Monthly Dinner / Membership Meeting (Children Friendly Event)

Wednesday, March 15

Dinner served starting at 6:15pm
Membership Meeting starts at 7:30pm

Menu

Corned Beef and Cabbage, Roasted Potatoes,
Salad, Rolls, and Dessert

Children's Menu

Hot Dogs, Chips, Cookies/Ice Cream,
and Juice Boxes

Speaker
Bob Cissel

March 2023 Board of Governors Meeting

Wednesday, March 22

7:00pm (note time change)

Volunteer for the New Adventure Committee!

Michael Dobson, Committee Chair
michaelvdobson@protonmail.com

The Board of Governors of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America has voted to establish an Adventure Committee. The Committee's focus is outdoor education. At regular intervals, the Committee will host skills workshops and practice sessions around the chapter property on topics like land navigation, bushcraft, and basic wilderness medicine. Participants could then use these skills in their own adventures, as well as on annual group excursions organized by the Committee.

The Adventure Committee is looking for volunteers to support these efforts. If you have outdoor skills you are willing and able to teach to other chapter members, or would like to help execute workshops and plan annual excursions, email Committee Chairman Michael Dobson at michaelvdobson@protonmail.com.

This is an exciting opportunity, but we need your help to bring it to life. Volunteer today!



Vegetable Gardens

Larry Anderson
240 246-5301 andupton9@hotmail.com

Pat Tarquinio
ptarq@hotmail.com

The days are growing longer and warmer temperatures becoming more common which means gardeners are getting restless, 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 me 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 me, 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.

Adopt-A-Road Cleanup Schedule

The B-CC IWLA Adopt-A-Road team will tentatively meet at the Chapter House on Saturdays at 8:15am for cleanup on the following 2023 dates:

- April 8
- July 8
- September 9
- December 9

Point of contact for Adopt-A-Road is John Robinson, 301 641-1188.

Children Friendly Dinner

This month's (March) Chapter Dinner will be Children Friendly.

As we get closer to St. Patrick's Day, rumors of Leprechauns and gold treasure have been plentiful within the Chapter. We will begin our Leprechaun hunt around the Chapter House once the dinner meeting starts. This allows the adults to enjoy the regular chapter meeting while the kids have fun exploring.



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 children to the chapter.

Questions?

Contact Andy Wight
ConservationEd.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com

**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 help
purchase new Adirondack chairs
for the Chapter House porches**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Monthly Events

Saturdays & Sundays *FeederWatch Season – Inside Chapter House – 8:00am – 4:00pm*
thru the end of March

Mondays *BSA Meetings in the Chapter House 7:30pm – 9:00pm*

MARCH

Thursday, March 2	R&P VIRTUAL Range Officer Course	VIRTUAL 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Saturday, March 4	New R&P RO Training	10:00am – 12:00 noon
Saturday, March 4	Current R&P RO Signup in the Chapter House	9:00am – 11:00am
Wednesday, March 8	Pack 694 Den Meeting – Chapter House	6:00pm – 7:00pm
Saturday, March 11	New R&P RP Range Training	10:00am – 12:00 noon
Saturday, March 11	Current R&P RO Signup in the Chapter House	9:00am – 11:00am
Sunday, March 12	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Sunday, March 12	Kid Friendly Spring Interpretive Walk in the Woods – Chapter Members and Guests	1:00pm – 3:30pm
Tuesday, March 14	Pack 694 Den Meeting – Chapter House	7:00pm – 8:00pm
Wednesday, March 15	1,049th Membership Dinner Meeting “Children Friendly ”	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:30pm
Saturday, March 18	New-Member Orientation Tour	10:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, March 18	R&P Range OPEN to General Membership	12:00 noon – 4:00pm
Saturday, March 18	Pack 694 Pinewood Derby – Chapter House	12:00 noon – 5:00pm
Wednesday, March 22	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Friday, March 24	Articles for April Newsletter due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Saturday, March 25	Archery Range Cleanup Day	8:30am – 3:00pm
Saturday, March 25	Black Powder Day / Muzzleloader Event	9:00am – 4:30pm
Tuesday, March 28	Pack 694 Den Meeting – Chapter House	8:00pm – 8:00pm

APRIL

Saturday, April 1	Spring Chapter Cleanup Day	8:30am – 3:00pm
Saturday, April 1	R&P Range reopens after Spring Cleanup	1:00pm – 4:00pm
Wednesday, April 5	Apollo Archery – Archery Range	6:00pm – 7:30pm
Saturday, April 8	Adopt-A-Road Cleanup – meet at the Chapter House	8:15am
Tuesday, April 11	Pack 694 Den Meeting	7:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday, April 15	NAVHDA Field Tests – front fields and ponds	8:00am – 5:00pm
Saturday, April 15	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Saturday, April 15	Spring Family Campout begins	3:00pm
Sunday, April 16	Spring Family Campout – Breakfast and Cleanup	By 9:00am
Sunday, April 16	NAVHDA Field Tests – front fields and ponds	8:00am – 5:00pm
Wednesday, April 19	1,050th Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:30pm
Thursday, April 20	Archery Seminar – Beginning Adult and / or Child	6:00pm – 7:15 pm
Saturday, April 22	New-Member Orientation Tour	10:00am – 1:00pm
Tuesday, April 25	Pack 694 Den Meeting – Chapter House	7:00pm – 8:00pm
Wednesday, April 26	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Thursday, April 27	Archery Seminar – Beginning Adult and / or Child	6:00pm – 7:15 pm
Friday, April 24	Articles for May Newsletter due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day

MAY

Wednesday, May 3	Apollo Archery – Archery Range	6:00pm – 7:30pm
Saturday, May 6	Spring Hunter Education Course	8:00am – 4:00pm
Sunday, May 7	Montgomery Bird Club’s Walk on the Conservation Farm	7:00am – 12:00 noon
Sunday, May 7	Spring Hunter Education Course	8:00am – 4:00pm
Saturday, May 13	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Wednesday, May 17	1,051st Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:30pm
Saturday, May 20	Conservation Dinner (spaghetti) with speaker	Dinner – 6:00pm Speaker – 7:00pm
Saturday, May 20	New-Member Orientation Tour	10:00am – 1:00pm
Wednesday, May 24	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Friday, May 26	Articles for June 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.

Kids Friendly Interpretative Walk In The Woods

Sunday, March 12th

Meet in the Chapter Parking Lot at 1:00pm
Return to the Chapter Parking Lot at 3:30pm



Please use the signup genius listed below to register for the kids-friendly interpretative walk in the woods.

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

We will meet in the chapter parking lot before being transported to our River Road starting point. Don't forget to bring bug spray to apply to both boots and trousers. The hike will begin by slowly walking up a steep grade that may not be acceptable to those with limited mobility. Our first presentation will explain how topsoil is a foundational natural resource of our food chain. Then, continuing to hike the hill, we enter an area surrounded by invasive plant species that block sunlight by being the first to leaf out in the spring and the last to drop their leaves in the fall. Next, we will enter a small chestnut planting area where we will observe several experimental blight-resistant trees genetically engineered by cross-breeding Chinese chestnut trees with American chestnut trees to produce a blight-resistant species. Finally, reaching the top of the high ground, we will encounter an assortment of discarded trash and discuss the time required for natural processes to eliminate them. A short distance from the trash pile, everyone will learn how to identify a white, red, and chestnut oak tree by its leaf and bark. As we continue to walk the woodland trail, deer antlers will be discovered, allowing everyone to hold them as we explore the life cycle of bucks, does, and fawns. Entering the intersection of two paths, we will observe intense development across the Potomac River and contrast it to our beautiful woodlands. From this location, we will explore how long we can survive without food or water as we define the five components of habitat. Walking along the West Woods trail, turkey decoys will be observed, followed by a box, slate, and mouth turkey call demonstration. Next, we proceed down a hill to reach a seasonal creek and discuss our absolute dependence on the magic of our planet's most important natural process, photosynthesis. Yes, we will explain at a level intended for children how photosynthesis is powered by sunlight, as oxygen and water chemically combine to produce carbon dioxide and sugar. Following the trail uphill, we will reach an area surrounded by items of interest. The walkers will then use several minutes to individually hunt for the items previously

distributed by the presenters before sharing information about their findings. Our last stop as we walk back to the chapter house will be at a unique stone-lined well-like hole in the ground. After cautioning about the danger of falling into it, we will carefully approach and observe it.

Archery Seminars

Beginner Adult and/or Child
Equipment Provided

6:00pm – 7:15pm

Thursdays

April 20 • April 27 • July 20 • July 27

Questions?

Contact: Jack Mandel, Committee Chair
jmandel@design@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

B-CC IWLA and Community

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

Chapter House CleanUp

Sunday, March 12
9:00am – 12:00 noon

1,049th Membership Dinner Meeting including Children Friendly Dinner with activities

Wednesday, March 15
Dinner – 6:15pm; Meeting – 7:30pm

New-Member Orientation Tour

Saturday, March 18
10:00am – 1:00pm
Meet Christine Peterson at the Chapter House

Board of Governors Meeting

Wednesday, March 22
7:00pm

Black Powder / Muzzloader Event

Saturday, March 25
9:00am – 4:30pm
See page 10 of the newsletter

Spring Chapter Cleanup

Saturday, April 1
Starting at 8:30am
See page 7 of the newsletter

Spring Family Campout

Saturday, April 15 starting at 3:00pm
until 9:00am, Sunday, April 16
See page 11 of the newsletter

Conservation Dinner (spagetti) with Speaker

Saturday, May 20
Dinner – 6:00pm; Speaker – 7:00pm
More information will be posted in the April Newsletter

CHAPTER SPRING CLEANUP

Saturday, April 1 – 8:30am

Chapter members and their families are invited to take part in our **SPRING CLEANUP** to help prepare the farm for spring and summer activities. This is a great opportunity for new members to become acquainted with the Chapter, meet other members, and for new and current members to work off their required volunteer hours.

Volunteers should arrive at the chapter house by 8:30am

There are always plenty of things needing to be done: planting, raking, tree trimming, and trail clearing, to washing and sweeping the outside of the Chapter House to meet anyone's interest and physical ability level. Please bring your work gloves, shovels, rakes, loppers, and leaf blowers. If you bring a chain saw or weed-whacker please be sure you also bring the necessary safety equipment.

PLEASE BE SURE to sign-in at the table on the front porch of the chapter house. Families, please enter the name of each family member participating. You will be organized by other chapter members (Committee Chairs or Crew Chiefs) who will provide details of the tasks for the day. Some of the work may take place on different parts of the farm and may require driving to the location.

Lunch will be provided to all who attend after the bulk of the cleanup work is completed, around 1:00pm.

Certain projects may require more time, and some less time to accomplish. This is normal. Please come out whether you can commit to just a couple of hours or the entire day. Your contribution is greatly needed and appreciated.

Any committee chairs or crew chiefs that are planning projects for Cleanup Day, please contact 1st VP Carol Hulce-Efdimis at the email below to help her coordinate equipment, volunteers, and other resources.

We look forward to seeing YOU on Saturday, April 1st!

Carol Hulce-Efdimis
B-CC IWLA 1st Vice President
carol2017@aol.com

Conservation Education Dinner (Spaghetti)

Saturday, May 20
Dinner – 6:00pm; Speaker – 7:00pm

We are planning to hold our annual **Conservation Education Dinner**, a free Spaghetti dinner with a speaker who addresses a topical aspect of Conservation, on Saturday, May 20th. We have moved the date of the dinner from our traditional month of January to allow for better weather.

This conservation-focused dinner is open to the general public as part of our 501(c)(3) commitment. Although our speaker is to be confirmed, please remember to block this date on your calendar.

We will provide further updates in our April newsletter and web page.

Looking for volunteer hours? Help will be needed with the setup, preparation of the spaghetti dinner, serving, and cleanup.

Questions? Contact:

Andy Wight, Conservation Education Committee Chair
ConservationEd.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com

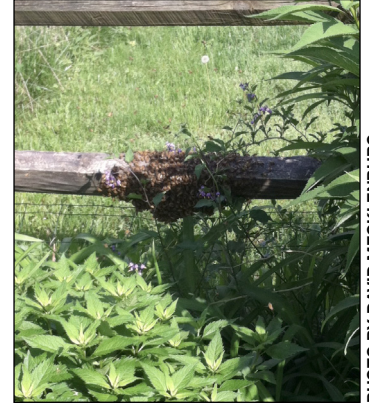
Apiary Report

David Mecklenburg, Committee Chair
dmecklenburg1@gmail.com

An early spring is here! Everywhere you look different plants are in bloom. From the maple trees, witch hazel, and many more. What does this mean for the bees? The bees are already bringing in maple nectar and growing their colonies. When I looked in on the bees when it was close to 80 yesterday I found lots of new brood. This is good as the colony will need them to build to have enough worker bees to collect and make the honey, we all love. In its lifetime a worker honey bee makes about 1/12th a teaspoon of honey.

We are also entering swarm season for the bees.

This is a natural occurrence and how bees reproduce. When a colony swarms about half the bees leave the colony with the old queen just as the new queens are about to hatch. If you see a swarm of bees gathered on a branch or on some other object, please do not kill them but let me know. I will be happy to collect them or help finding another beekeeper willing to take them.



A swarm of bees on a split rail fence

PHOTO BY DAVID MECKLENBURG

Summer Biathlon Program

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

Biathlon is open to all B-CC IWLA members 12 years and older, as well as sponsored guests. Contact me if you have any questions or a desire to be on the B-CC IWLA Summer Biathlon Program mailing list – fitnesscrafters@earthlink.net or text 240 472-6512. This year's schedule is below:

Saturday, March 25	8:00am
Saturday, April 8	7:30am
Saturday, April 15	7:30am
Saturday, April 29	7:00am
Saturday, May 13	7:30am
Saturday, May 27	7:30am
Saturday, June 10	7:30am
Saturday, June 24	7:30am
Saturday, July 8	7:30am
Saturday, July 22	7:30am
Saturday, August 5	7:30am
Saturday, August 19	7:30am
Saturday, September 9	7:00am
Saturday, September 23	7:30am
Saturday, October 7	7:00am
Saturday, November 4	7:30am
Saturday, November 11	7:30am

Shotgun Range Report

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

The activities on the Shotgun Range are **SUSPENDED** until further notice.

Range Officers who signed up for duty during this time will be contacted to reschedule once activities commence.

Rifle & Pistol Report

Gus Zinsser, Committee Chair
240 750-0979 guszinsser4@gmail.com

Matthew Chambers, Chief Range Officer
202 854-8671 matthewschambers@gmail.com

The range will be open to the general membership on March 11 from 1:00pm – 4:00pm. It will reopen to the general membership on April 1, 2023 after Spring Clean-Up.

Current R&P Range Officers can use the range. The range is open to no more than 3 guests outside of your immediate family household.

MARCH 25 BLACK POWDER DAY

See article in this newsletter on page 10.

FUN SHOOT

Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls -

Please join us for the 1st annual Military Fun Shoot. Bring your rifle, handgun, or replica cartridge firearm (e.g. AR15, M1a, etc.) used by the U.S. military and see if your aim is the best. This event will be held in May.

Use the link below to sign up if you are interested in participating.

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

More information to follow in next month's newsletter. Contact Event coordinator, Gus Zinsser if you have any questions: guszinsser4@gmail.com

RANGE OFFICER SCHEDULE

APRIL

Saturday, April 1	Waterman, S. , Panashchenko, O., Taylor, P., Chung, W.
Sunday, April 2	Hunt, J. , Waterman, S., West, K., Williams, B.
Saturday, April 8	Summers, D. , Stemp, K., Taylor, P., Shi, T.
Sunday, April 9	West, K. , Summers, D., Stemp, K., Harmon, S.
Saturday, April 15	Panashchenko, O. , Griffin, J., Twomey, P., Williams, B.
Sunday, April 16	Lowe, C. , Twomey, P., Watt, D., Wight, A.
Saturday, April 22	Chung, W. , Behrend, D., Thornton, C., Carroll, P.
Sunday, April 23	Saiz, J. , Riccio, R., Ives, S., Kipfer, J.
Saturday, April 29	Urigo, C. , Calderwood, J., Shi, T., Shi, P.
Sunday, April 30	Griffin, J. , Kelly, P., Calderwood, J., Crowe, C.

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!**

We want your input!

We are updating the Conservation Farm Guide. Please fill out a short survey about how you use the current guide. Scan the QR code or go to <https://tinyurl.com/IWLAGuide>. If you have any suggestions or ideas about updates, please contact Dan Dutton mr.dutton.cbgs@gmail.com



SCAN ME

Hunter Education Report

John Lamb, Committee Chair
jpatricklamb@aol.com

On May 6th & 7th, the chapter will host one of its bi-annual Hunter Safety/Education courses. This class is free of charge and open to anyone wishing to get certified through the State of Maryland. All new potential hunters must enroll-in and satisfy a certification program. Our class is a 2-day course from 8:00am to 4:00pm on each day. I do encourage those hunters, whom were / are exempt from completing this program due to grandfather clauses, to enroll as well. Typically, the class age range runs from 6 - 75 years of age. The certification is recognized throughout the U.S and all over the world.

All participants must enroll online with the State of Maryland:

- pull up **register-ed.com** on your browser,
- click on Maryland,
- click on Hunter Education Classroom Course,
- find the date with Poolesville IWLA location.
- the site will ask a few questions pertaining to the student from there on,
- once enrolled, mark the date on your calendar and then wait for further announcements.

You can cancel your enrollment at any time if needed but please try to do so at least a week ahead of time so that another student may occupy that spot. Students should bring a lunch and an enthusiastic learning attitude. The state will provide all other materials required. Members wishing to work off volunteer hours are welcome to assist. If you have any questions, please contact me (John Lamb) at jpatricklamb@aol.com

Welcome to the B-CC IWLA Family!!

The following members were inducted in February 2023:

Mathew Agrafiotis

Interests: Archery; Hunter / Education; Skeet & Trap

Jessica Banthin

Interests: Conservation Education; Farming; Star Gazing

Beth and Justin Clark

Interests: Hunter Education; Rifle & Pistol; Skeet & Trap

Gabriel Ngunjiri

Interests: Archery; Campground / Nature Trails; Shooting Sports

DUE DATE

for
April 2023 Newsletter Articles
is
Friday, March 24

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 credit.

Apollo Archery 2023 Program

Chuck Thornton
 apolloarchery.bcciwla@gmail.com

APOLLO ARCHERY IS BACK FOR ANOTHER EXCITING SEASON!



We inaugurated the Apollo Archery program in 2021 to provide archery instruction and experiences for current and former members of the United States Armed Services and their families.

We're excited to kick off Apollo Archery's third season! For 2023, we will host Apollo Archery sessions on the first Wednesday of each month from April through October. We will start at 6:00pm and finish when it gets dark.

2023 dates:

**April 5; May 3; June 7; July 5;
 August 2; September 6; October 4**

If you know of veterans and current Service members in the Montgomery County, Maryland area, please share this opportunity with them. There is no fee for participation.

For additional details, contact Chuck Thornton at apolloarchery.bcciwla@gmail.com!

ATTENTION New Members!

Chapter House cleanup this month will be on:

Sunday, March 12

Starting at 9:00am

Join us and get 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.

March Membership Meeting Speaker



Bob Cissel, Chapter member and Director of Montgomery Agricultural Producers (M.A.P.), will be the speaker at the Wednesday, March 15 membership meeting. M.A.P is a non-profit organization representing the agricultural producers of Montgomery County.

Come enjoy the monthly dinner and listen to Bob's talk on current and upcoming County and local legislative issues.

Greenfest in the Gardens!

B-CC IWLA will be participating in Montgomery County Greenfest in the Gardens! We are partnering with National's "Salt Watch" program to share a booth and promote all things IWLA - and hopefully recruit some new members!!

Greenfest will be held at Brookside Gardens, April 22, 2023, 11:00am – 4:00pm. Greenfest is part of Montgomery County's Earth Day celebration and focuses on things such as land use, conservation and preservation, as well as ways to be more green in your daily life. Last year they had over 50 info tables and vendors as well as food trucks and activities for both kids and adults. This is a great event for the whole family!

We will be looking for a few chapter members to staff our table and tell people about the B-CC IWLA. If you enjoy the chapter and would like to help show it off to potential members, this is the volunteer opportunity for you! And yes, anyone who helps out will earn some volunteer hours.

This will be WAY more fun than writing that check!

If you are interested in helping out at the table, please text Meg O'Rourke at 301 275-5907. And even if you aren't able to help, come on by and say "Hi!"



2023 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 or donate via paypal on the Chapter's website, www.bcciwla.org.

Black Powder Day / Muzzleloader Event

Muzzleloading enthusiasts will gather for the annual Black Powder Clinic and Shooting Match, Saturday, March 25th from 9:00am – 4:30pm. The Rifle & Pistol Range will be closed to any other shooters until after the event is over.

Please RSVP as soon as possible using the following SignUpGenius to help Mark Gochnour supply necessary materials and to right-size lunch plans !!!

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

Participants should meet at the Rifle & Pistol Range before 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. Don’t miss out on this marvelous opportunity for know-

edgeable instruction, loads of fun, and the unique smell of black powder smoke!

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

Shooting Match participants will be provided opportunities to shoot at novelty targets including – the Flopping Plate, playing cards, and a buffalo off of cross sticks. 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.

Bring your muzzleloader or let Mark Gochnour know in your email that you would like a loaner. Contact him at mgonutman@gmail.com for further details or questions, 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. (Mark is a certified NRA/NMLRA Blackpowder Instructor.)

Cost is only \$20 for the entire day and that cost includes lunch and the shooting match. Any applicable R&P range fees are extra. Members and guests are welcome.



Izaak Walton League of America Maryland State Division Meeting

NOTICE
Saturday, March 18, 2023

Frederick #1 Chapter
4719 Reels Mill Road
Frederick, MD 21704

Coffee and refreshments will be served at 9:15 a.m.
The meeting will convene at 10:00 a.m.

Members in good standing are invited to attend.
Only Members of the Board can vote.

Call for Bows and Archery Gear to Support Our Veterans

Chuck Thornton
apolloarchery.bcciwla@gmail.com



Do you have a bow hanging in your garage that you no longer use? Do you have a pile of release aids or other archery gear that you won't need this season? Why not donate those bows and gear to the Apollo Archery program?!

Apollo Archery provides archery instruction and experiences for current and former members of the United States Armed Services and their families. We have acquired several bows, but can always use more. Donated equipment must be serviceable and in decent condition. If needed, Apollo Archery will take your donated bow to be professionally tuned or re-strung and will cover those expenses. Of course, donations of new equipment would be appreciated.

We prefer donations of compound bows, but we're happy to accept other styles. Both adult- and child-sized bows and equipment, please. Along with the bow, we need arrow rests, sights, and stabilizers. Other equipment you might donate include arrows, release aids, quivers, forearm guards, and training aids.

To arrange your donation contact Chuck Thornton at apolloarchery.bcciwla@gmail.com!

Ticks, the Heartland Virus, and Permethrin

Wildflower Committee Chair
bcc_wildflowers@yahoo.com

Health officials are not 100% sure, but it appears likely that the Heartland virus may have reached Virginia, and possibly even Maryland. The Heartland virus is a disease carried by ticks and it is potentially fatal. So far, none of the ticks sampled by researchers have been found to carry the virus. But recently a local man died from the Heartland virus. Doctors believe he contracted it from a tick bite. The tick bite probably happened in Virginia but possibly it occurred in Maryland.

The best defense against a tick bite is to spray your clothing with Permethrin. You need to do this at least two hours before wearing the clothes. So you do need to plan ahead. Permethrin lasts for a while. If you sprayed some clothing recently you don't need to spray again. It will even last through the washing machine. The Permethrin bottle describes this in detail.

More information about the Heartland virus can be found by following these links:

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/u-mans-death-suggests-deadly-205500119.html>

https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/29/5/22-1488_article

Editor's Note:

Members are finding ticks on their skin and clothing after working on the grass areas and in the woods at the Chapter. Permethrin should help with this. Give it a try.

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.



**Saturday, April 15 starting at 3:00pm
until Sunday, April 16 at 9:00am**

The Annual Spring Family Campout is scheduled for Saturday, April 15th (weather permitting). This event is open for members and their guests. Events will start Saturday afternoon and continue into Sunday morning (dinner and breakfast provided). The Chapter house will remain open throughout the event. This is a great opportunity for first-time campers.

SATURDAY

- Tent setup around the chapter house begins at 3:00pm
- Fishing for the kids at the big pond/small pond from 4:00pm to 6:00pm
- Evening cookout will be provided from 6:00pm to 7:00pm
- S'mores around the campfire at the chapter house firepit

SUNDAY

- Breakfast will be served Sunday morning to campers starting at 7:00am
- Breakdown & cleanup will be completed by 9:00am

This is a great time to spend time with your immediate family and to meet some of the chapter family of B-CC IWLA members, spouses, and kids.

Below is the **SignUpGenius** link for this event. Please signup with your name and the number of people in your party attending in parentheses to help us with food planning. Indicate any dietary restrictions. **Register before April 8** so we can plan for food and provide updates due to weather.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACA28A7F8C25-spring1>

Andy Wight
Conservation Education Committee Chair
ConservationEd.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com

Wildlife Report

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

The 2022-2023 deer season has drawn to a close. We had a fair year on our farm. 17 deer were reported taken on our farm, on the lower end of the scale (16-25) that get reported each year. Thank you all that reported their deer and from the reports, and again, some nice mature deer were harvested. Across the state, MD DNR reports that 76,687 deer were harvested during deer season (all weapons), which is 8% higher than last year. The increased harvest is credited to increased

participation by hunters and "favorable" weather. In Montgomery County, the reported deer harvest was 4% higher than last year. From casual reports from our hunters, we did seem to have a below average number of deer sightings on the farm. Also, we had a large increase in the number of game cameras spotted on the farm.

In a recent report, an increased, low impact human presence in the woods can cause changes in wildlife behavior:

Even without hunting rifles, humans appear to have a strong negative influence on the movement of wildlife. A study of Glacier National Park hiking trails during and after a COVID-19 closure adds evidence to the theory that humans can create a 'landscape of fear' like other apex predators, changing how species use an area simply with their presence. Researchers found that when human hikers were present, 16 out of 22 mammal species, including predators and prey alike, changed where and when they accessed areas. Some completely abandoned places they previously used, others used them less frequently, and some shifted to more nocturnal activities to avoid humans.

The use of game cameras require some level of human presence in the woods. While these observations by no means suggest causation on deer harvest from our farm, it merely suggests that human presence can have unanticipated impact on wildlife behavior.

For further reading and the journal citation, please see:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-023-27670-9>

NATIONAL IWLA CONVENTIONS

2023 National Convention

"Conservation at a Crossroads: Putting Solutions Into Action"

Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln, NE
July 27-29, 2023

*Note the Thursday-Saturday dates
(a shift from the usual Wednesday-Friday schedule)*

Convention is the one time every year that Ikes – every member, not just chapter and division leaders – come together to network, share ideas, and enjoy popular social events like the Parade of States.

Convention is also the forum for important League business, including choosing our leaders and setting organizational policy through a unique bottom-up process.

Convention is also the forum for important League business, including choosing our leaders and setting organizational policy through a unique bottom-up process.

More information is available at iwla.org

2024 National Convention

Hyatt Regency, Cambridge, MD
July 14-16, 2024

Note the Sunday-Tuesday dates, a shift from our usual Wednesday-Friday Schedule

Located on the scenic Choptank River, resort fee waived.

Log Cabin Report

David Mecklenburg, Committee Chair
dmecklenburg1@gmail.com

The picturesque log cabin or Willard Log Cabin that greets everyone as they come to the Chapter is approaching its 200th birthday. Our records show that it was built in 1825. This is something that we should celebrate but a cabin that is



The back of log cabin looking over the small pond.

200 years old also needs maintenance. It needs regular ongoing maintenance as well as periodic restoration. An example of yearly maintenance is that any loose chinking should be repaired on an ongoing basis. An example of long-term maintenance is the cabin restoration that was done from 2006 to 2011. The cabin and its outbuildings

need our help both with repair, maintenance, and a celebration.

Of the three buildings that make up the log cabin complex the old smoke house needs total restoration. The smoke house is leaning, logs are rotten and need to be replaced, the chinking need to be redone, and more.

If you would like to help us plan for a 200-year birthday party for the cabin, we are putting together a committee or if you would like to help with the maintenance and repair of the log cabin building, please contact me by email. We appreciate any way you can help. If you would like to learn more about the cabin, there is a well written history about it on our website.



Missing chinking in the smoke house.

PHOTOS BY DAVID MECKLENBURG

'Ruby Falls' Weeping Redbud Tree

Many thanks to Josh Maisel, his sons Jacob and James, and Scott Magum for planting the 'Ruby Falls' Weeping Redbud tree in front of the Chapter House chimney. It will be gorgeous and is a great addition to the Chapter House grounds.



PHOTO BY JANET LAMKIN

FeederWatch/NestWatch News

Diane Seward
Citizen-Science Projects Coordinator
trina65@verizon.net

We had a fair counting season this winter despite the damage to our feeders caused by one or two bears in December. We found that if we hung our suet feeders only on counting days, which were weekend days, the sow or sows did not disturb our feeder station behind the chapter house. But the absence of available suet during the week dampened woodpecker interest in our feeders and resulted in lower woodpecker sightings on the weekends. Three of our sunflower seed feeders were hung on a cable about eight feet high, strung between two trees behind the feeding station, well out of a bear's reach.

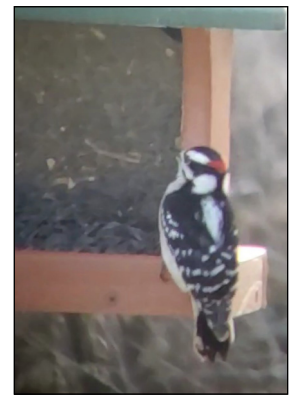
The highest number of individual species counted at our feeders since early November was 20, four more species than were observed last year. The highest number of individual birds reported on a single weekend was 82, down from 171 in the 2021-2022 season. The highest count for a single species at the feeders was 24 Red-winged Blackbirds in December, far below the 120 counted in January 2022.

We observed 23 Mourning Doves (15 last season) 20 Dark-eyed Juncos (8 last year), and 10 White-throated Sparrows (5 in 2021-2022). Other species typically counted at our feeders included American Goldfinches, Northern Cardinals, Downey and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Tufted Titmice, and Carolina Chickadees. Purple Finches and Eastern Bluebirds were counted on most weekends, unlike last year when they were infrequent visitors to the feeders.

The chapter once again participated in the Great Backyard Bird Count, an annual world-wide event sponsored by the Audubon Society, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Birds Canada. Jim Stables and Tim Ames joined more than 300,000 other counters in approximately 200 countries who submitted their observations over a four-day period in mid-February. The counters identified more than 6,000 species (of 10,000 known species). The event helps scientists assess various species' populations.

FeederWatch wraps up at the end of March. Many thanks to our faithful team: Bob Plumb, Pat McNeilly, Tim Ames, Jim Stables, Chuck Thornton, and Suzanne Novak. The team is indebted to Larry Anderson, Wildlife Chair, who kept our sunflower seed and suet well stocked. Larry also strung the bear-defeating cable and kept those higher feeders filled with seed.

In early April we will raise the Purple Martin houses and gourds. In March we should begin to see Purple Martin scouts in the skies. A few Eastern Bluebirds will begin nest building and egg laying in March as well. Please let me know if you are interested in joining the NestWatch monitoring team. We really could use more help; nest checking with data gathering is fun and an easy skill to develop. Plus, our team enjoys the immense benefit of spending time outdoors!



PHOTOS BY TIM AMES