



JANUARY 2024 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

We've said good-bye to 2023 and welcomed in 2024 with a well-attended New Year's Brunch after resting from the excitement of the holidays and now dare I say, "Hello Winter, won't you join us for a spell?"

Yes, it is that time of year when the cold settles in and we burrow down. However, we don't always need too. The Farm is still a great place to be during the Winter season. Bundle up and enjoy the property.

The Committee Chairs are resting up and are starting to plan for this year's activities so if there is an area of interest to you, please contact that Committee Chair. The volunteering of your time is how we as a chapter accomplish all that we do. If you have a certain area of expertise that you think might be a benefit to us, feel free to contact me.

I would like to say Thank You to the members who came out to decorate for the holidays, Andy and Marie Mayr, Sharon Wine, John Lamb, and Jerry Murray, and to those that helped set it up for the Christmas Party. It is greatly appreciated and it looked wonderful with all your help.

Happy New Year everyone, and I hope to see you at the upcoming events in January and February.

Carol Hulce-Efdimis
President

January 2024 1,059th Monthly Dinner / Membership Meeting

Wednesday, January 17

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

Appetizers will be available before dinner

January 2024 Board of Governors Meeting

Wednesday, January 24
7:00pm

Help is Needed!

Environmental Stewardship Committee

On a monthly basis, our Chapter has a Maryland certified lab take scheduled samples of the surface and potable water on our property. In addition to ensuring safe drinking water, these results allow us to monitor the impact of development outside our property, the containment of lead on our ranges, and the quality of our streams and ponds for aquatic life. The Chapter member who has been escorting the lab technician to the designated sites for the past 20 years is retiring from this duty and we are looking for one or more member(s) to take over this important work. The process takes a couple of hours once a month on a weekday.

If you are willing to help, please contact Blaine Elkins at blaineelkins@verizon.net.

Friendly Reminder:

All chapter members wishing to hunt on our farm **must**:

- 1) Have a valid MD hunting license (including all necessary stamps, i.e. HIP stamp for doves)
- 2) Have a current and valid B-CC IWLA membership card as proof of permission to hunt on private land
- 3) Have a current and valid parking sticker displayed on their vehicle
- 4) Register on our website to acknowledge understanding our rules and property boundaries. This is a yearly requirement.

Questions? Contact Larry Anderson, Wildlife Committee Chair, andupton9@hotmail.com or 240 246-5302.

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.

Welcome to the B-CC IWLA Family!

At the December 2023 Membership Meeting, the following was inducted into the Chapter:

Mike Hauck

Interests: Archery; Ponds & Streams; Skeet & Trap

Board of Governors

Fiscal Year: September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024

OFFICERS

Carol Hulce-Efdimis, President

240 277-2494 • carol2017@aol.com

Andy Wight, 1st Vice President

240 205-3982 • andywight1@hotmail.com

Francis (Jerry) Murray, 2nd Vice President

202 438-4202 • jerrym5@comcast.net

Bob Kelly,* Treasurer

202 445-7097 • rnkelly1974@gmail.com

Scott Harmon, Membership Secretary

301 467-0645 • scott.w.harmon@verizon.net

Janet Lamkin, Corresponding Secretary

301 466-6557 • j.lamkin@comcast.net

Mark Lauver, Recording Secretary

571 229-7858 • birddogkep@gmail.com

BOARD MEMBERS

Deborah Behrend

Marc Bouchard

Dan Dutton

Joe Finnegan

Phil Taylor

Walt Allensworth, Past President

301 221-3594 • twangermd@gmail.com

* Indicates Officers and Board Members who were absent from the previous month's Board of Governors meeting.

The Izaak Walton League of America – a non-profit conservation organization – is recognized as a Section 501(c)(3) public charity under the Internal Revenue Code.

Address, phone and email changes should be sent to the Membership Secretary at the above address.

Submissions to the *NEWSLETTER* should be sent to:

Janet Lamkin
j.lamkin@comcast.net
301 466-6557

REMEMBER...

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

Summary of the November 2023 Board of Governors Meeting and the December 2023 Membership Meeting

Mark Lauver, Recording Secretary

Wednesday, November 15, 2023 – Board of Governors Meeting

- President Carol Hulce-Efdimis called the meeting to order at 8:37pm.
- 1st VP Andy Wight gave an update on the gun raffle tickets sales.
- 2nd VP Jerry Murray reported that he had received the AED unit for the chapter house and has sent the Serial No. and other info to Montgomery County Fire Services for approval and acceptance into program.
- Our insurance agent has retired. Treasurer Bob Kelly was asked to contact our new agent to meet and review our policies for proper coverage.
- Richard Latimer is stepping down from his position on the Legacy Board. He was a nominating committee appointee, and since the next nominating committee won't be set up until March, President Carol Hulce-Efdimis recommended appointing Lawrence Kotchek to finish Richard's term which ends August 31.
- Treasurer Bob Kelly reviewed the balances for the Chapter's five accounts. There was a discussion about Capital Funds vs. Capital Expenditures. That will be discussed further at the next budget meeting.
- 1st VP Andy Wight reviewed the upcoming calendar and encouraged everyone to sell more gun raffle tickets.
- Chapter has been approached by Troop 773 to see if we will be their sponsor.
- Reminder about the National Convention in Cambridge, MD this summer. Donations are needed from the Chapter for the silent auction.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

Wednesday, December 20, 2023 – Membership Meeting

- President Carol Hulce-Efdimis called the meeting to order at 7:23pm.
- Lawrence Kotchek was nominated to fill partial term on the Legacy Board.
- New Year's Brunch to be held in Chapter House; Meg O'Rourke will cook; there is no cost to attend; ranges will be open.
- Wildlife Committee Chair Larry Anderson reported that 15 deer have been taken so far this season.
- Montgomery Bird Club walk was held on the property. 35 different species were counted and over 1,000 birds were seen.
- Ponds & Streams Committee Co-chair John Novak reported that 80 trout have been caught and kept; approximately 100 left to be caught by next Spring.
- Log Cabin Chair David Mecklenburg reported that a cemetery was not located, but that GPR ground penetrating radar will be used to look at other areas on the property.

NEW BUSINESS (requires a vote):

- Motion was made to accept the nomination of Lawrence Kotchek to fill the partial term of a Legacy Board member. Motion passed by membership.

TALKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER:

- Request was made for reflectors on Izaak Walton Way and at the entrance gate.
- Will check with the County about adding a street light at Izaak Walton Way and Willard Road.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Gun Raffle Update

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the Gun Raffle that was held over the Christmas period. We sold a huge 465 tickets and 4 out of the 5 tickets were drawn.

Congratulations to the winners!

December 26: MD Evening Pick3 number was 483
Won by D Underwood

December 27: MD Evening Pick3 number was 400
Won by M Origoni

December 28: MD Evening Pick3 number was 421
Won by A Cook

December 29: MD Evening Pick3 number was 005
Won by P Morningstar

December 30: MD Evening Pick3 number was 110
Raffle ticket not sold

The drawing for the final gun, Henry Big Boy "Brass" 38-55 Win. Walnut/Blue, or \$600 cash option, will take place at the January Dinner Meeting.

FeederWatch News

Diane Seward
Citizen Science Projects Coordinator
trina65@verizon.net

FeederWatch season has begun. Chapter members fill the feeders behind the chapter house then count the birds that arrive to sample the sunflower seeds and suet for an hour or so on weekend mornings from the comfort of the chapter house. Each count is reported to Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology. If you would like to participate, please email me. Newcomers are most welcome! Counting birds is educational, interesting, and helpful to the Cornell Lab scientists who analyze population trends. We are happy to partner newcomers with old hands.

ATTENTION New Members!

**Chapter House cleanup this month will be on:
Saturday, January 13
Starting at 9:00am**

**** Holiday decorations will also be taken down in and around the Chapter House on January 13. Please consider helping with this task. ****

Join us and earn volunteer hours.

As a reminder – probationary (new) members need to help out in one chapter house cleanup as part of their sixteen volunteer hours.

Questions? Contact John Lamb –
jpatricklamb@aol.com

Calendar Submissions

Meetings and events that need to be added to the website calendar and newsletter calendar should be sent to both 1st Vice President Andy Wight, andywright1@hotmail.com, and Corresponding Secretary Janet Lamkin, j.lamkin@comcast.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS

B-CC IWLA and Community

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

Sporting Clays at the Shotgun Range

Sundays
9:00am – 4:00pm

Chapter House Cleanup

Saturday, January 13
9:00am – 12:00 noon

Chapter House – Take Down Holiday Decorations

Saturday, January 13
Starting at 9:00am

1,059th Membership Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, January 17
Dinner – 6:15pm; Meeting – 7:30pm

New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour

Saturday, January 20
10:00am – 11:30am

Orienteering Event (B-CC's Adventure Committee) at Little Bennett Regional Park

Saturday, January 20
Starting at 10:00am

Board of Governors Meeting

Wednesday, January 24
7:00pm

Wild Game Dinner

Saturday, February 10
6:00pm – 10:00pm



An Eastern Bluebird inspected one of Walt Allensworth's trail cams last month.

Membership Committee Report

Scott Harmon, Membership Secretary
scott.w.harmon@verizon.net 301 467-0645 (Cell)

As of the November Board Meeting, membership stands at 805 total Members: 435 Individuals, 273 Family, 6 Students, 1 Youth, 76 Retired, and 14 Associates.

Seventy percent of our membership has renewed for 2024. There is still time to get in your renewal without having to pay a late fee. There are three ways to renew:

1. By mail
2. In person at a dinner meeting
3. Online

Please choose the method that works best for you but also helps the chapter the most. To renew online copy and paste the following link into your web browser. <https://bcciwla.org/memberrenew>. You can also go to our website home page and in the upper right corner of the page hover over the drop down menu called "Member Area". At the bottom of this menu, you will see Renew Your Membership. Click on it to renew your membership.

As of December 21st, all renewal cards received from National IWLA have been mailed with car decals to members. We currently have three batches of renewals submitted to national and expect to receive cards the first week of January. As soon as we get them, we will mail them out.

Lastly, it is important to increase our membership during the coming year and the best way to do this is by inviting someone to a dinner meeting. Hope to see you and lots of fresh faces at the January dinner meeting.

CULVERT CROSSING



PHOTO BY JOHN NOVAK

Stream at the first culvert crossing on Izaak Walton Way showing debris accumulating since the cleanup on fall cleanup day.

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS . . .
will be taken down in and around the Chapter House on Saturday, January 13.
Please consider helping with this task. No need to signup, just show up starting at 9:00am.

Wildlife Committee Report

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

UPCOMING CHALLENGES IN CWD MANAGEMENT

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is present in Maryland in the deer population and seems likely to keep spreading. Currently there are 4 counties in MD that have at least 1 deer that has tested positive for CWD and there are now 37 states in the U.S. that have deer that have tested positive. The Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP), based at the University of Minn., is addressing the challenges in controlling CWD spread across the U.S. and has put out a podcast of a panel of experts that discuss these challenges from a wildlife management perspective. The podcast can be found here: <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/chronic-wasting-disease/cwd-pod>. The podcast provides background on what CWD is, about the prions that cause CWD, how far and fast CWD is spreading, and what wildlife management practices might be feasible in controlling CWD spread. One of the biggest challenges appears to be what to do with the estimated 7.3 million deer carcasses from deer harvests (and roadkill) when landfills are no longer willing to accept them. If you would like to learn more about CWD and what might be able to be done to control the spread, have a listen to the podcast.

HELP NEEDED IN THE KITCHEN - Membership Dinner Meetings

We are still in need of additional cooks for our dinner meetings. If you can help out in any way, either short or long term, please get in touch with Carol Hulce-Efdimis. The help does not have to be a long-term commitment, even cooking or helping for one dinner would be appreciated.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Monthly Events

Saturdays & Sundays (through late March)
Sundays
Mondays

FeederWatch Program
Sporting Clays at Shotgun Range
BSA Scout Meetings in the Chapter House

9:00am – 4:00pm
7:30pm – 9:00pm

JANUARY 2024

Monday, January 1	New Year's Day Brunch	12:00noon – 2:00pm
Saturday, January 6	ARSA Search & Rescue – Intro to Mantrailing – Chapter House and grounds	8:00am – 4:00pm
Sunday, January 7	ARSA Search & Rescue – Intro to Mantrailing – Chapter House and grounds	8:00am – 4:00pm
Thursday, January 11	Pack 694 Den Meet (Kyle) in Chapter House	7:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday, January 13	Chapter House Cleanup and take down Holiday Decorations	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Wednesday, January 17	1,059th Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner starts 6:15pm Meeting starts 7:30pm
Saturday, January 20	New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour	10:00am – 11:30am
Saturday, January 20	Orienteering Event at Little Bennett Regional Park	Starting at 10:00am
Wednesday, January 24	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Thursday, January 25	Pack 694 Den Meet (Kyle) in Chapter House	7:00pm – 8:00pm
Friday, January 26	Articles for February Newsletter due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Sunday, January 28	Pack 694 Den Meet (Michelle) in Chapter House	3:30pm – 5:00pm

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 3	NAVHDA Mid-Winter Meeting	8:00am – 5:00pm
Saturday, February 10	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Saturday, February 10	Wild Game Dinner	6:00pm – 10:00pm
Thursday, February 15	Pack 694 Den Meet (Kyle) in Chapter House	7:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday, February 17	New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour	10:00am – 11:30am
Wednesday, February 21	1,060th Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner starts 6:15 Meeting starts 7:30pm
Friday, February 23	Articles for March Newsletter due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Saturday, February 24	Pack 694 Blue and Gold Dinner	5:00pm – 9:00pm
Wednesday, February 28	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Thursday, February 29	Pack 964 Den Meet (Kyle) in Chapter House	7:00pm – 8:00pm

MARCH

Saturday, March 9	Cub Scout Pack 694 Pinewood Derby	11:00am – 5:00pm
Sunday, March 10	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Wednesday, March 13	Cub Scout Pack 694 AoL Crossover	6:00pm – 8:30pm
Thursday, March 14	Pack 694 Den Meet (Kyle) in Chapter House	7:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday, March 16	MD State Division Meeting in Chapter House	8:00am – 3:00pm
Saturday, March 16	New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour	10:00am – 11:30am
Wednesday, March 20	1,061st Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner starts 6:15pm Meeting starts 7:30pm
Wednesday, March 27	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Thursday, March 28	Pack 694 Den Meet (Kyle) in Chapter House	7:00pm – 8:00pm
Friday, March 29	Articles for April Newsletter due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Saturday, March 30	Archery Cleanup Day	8:30am – 3:00pm
Saturday, March 30	Muzzleloader Day	9:00am – 4:00pm

The Campground is closed during all black powder and firearms deer season.



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

DUE DATE

for February Newsletter Articles is
Friday, January 26

Submit articles to: j.lamkin@comcast.net
If the article contains photos, please submit
them as separate jpg files and
include a caption and photo credit.

Orienteering Event at Little Bennett

The B-CC IWLA Adventure Committee is organizing teams to participate in an orienteering event on Saturday, January 20, 2024.

Orienteering is the sport of using a map and compass to navigate from one point to another. Skills developed through orienteering can be used in hiking, trail running, and simply exploring any mapped area.



The event is being organized by the Quantico Orienteering Club (QOC) and will take place at Little Bennett Regional Park. While this event is open to QOC's members and the public, participants from B-CC IWLA will start the day at 10:00am and be given a brief introduction to orienteering and training session before being sent on the course. Participants can run the course solo or as part of a group (max 4 per team) and orienteer at their own pace for up to two hours. (The Adventure Committee would like to field as many B-CC IWLA teams / entrants as possible, as orienteering skills will be useful in future activities).

If you are interested in joining us, please click on the Signup Genius link below. We will use this to keep interested B-CC IWLA members informed of QOC registration dates, answer any questions, and coordinate any individuals looking to join teams:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACAA28A7F8C25-46635246-ilwa>

Note: Actual Registration at the QOC website for the event will begin on January 15th. The cost to participate is \$20 per adult and \$5 for juniors (under 21) up to a maximum of \$30 per 3-4-person group.

Contact Mike Dobson at michaeldobson@protonmail.com for any questions.

NEW YEAR'S DAY BRUNCH



PHOTO BY JERRY MURRAY

Good time was had by all – good food, good company, great event!

The Maryland State Division is hosting the 2024 National Convention

Sunday, July 14 – Thursday, July 17

Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Resort in Cambridge, Maryland

A Great Place for a convention and a vacation!

Bring the Family and enjoy the Eastern Shore Experience.

Planning your 2024 summer vacation? You should consider attending the IWLA National Convention being held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Cambridge, MD. The Hyatt Regency is a five star hotel located on the banks of the Choptank River, near where it empties into the Chesapeake Bay. There will be lots of opportunities for all kinds of water sports. A great opportunity for a Family Vacation.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Sunday, July 14 – A travel day. There will be an *Early Bird Social* held in the evening featuring door prizes, raffles and an auction. Finger food provided. Cash Bar.

Monday, July 15 – Convention opens. A *Parade of States* social in the evening. Always fun. Each attending state has an open room at which they provide food and drink. You will not go away hungry or thirsty.

Tuesday, July 16 – Convention work terminates at close of business day. *Convention Banquet* in the evening. (Ladies you can dress up for this one.)

Wednesday, July 17 – A totally fun day. Tentatively scheduled are deep sea fishing out of Ocean City, Chesapeake Bay fishing, sailing, dining on a paddle boat featuring all-you-can-eat buffet or crabs, sight seeing, etc.

YOUTH CONVENTION

A program for kids from 8-18 years featuring chaperoned ecology oriented fun activities. The youth may be divided into two or more age groups. Always a great hit with the kids. Details concerning registration and activities will follow.

ROOM RATES

The convention rate is \$175 per night + taxes. There will be no Resort Fee (which would have been an additional \$40 per day). This convention rate is half the regular rate, and applies to three days before and three days after the convention dates.

You can also stay at one of the other neighboring hotels, and still participate in the convention activities.

The chapter is allotted a certain number of voting delegates. The Chapter provides financial support for the voting delegates, and you should inform the chapter president if you wish to attend as a voting delegate.

The deadline for making hotel reservations is June 17.

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

Our goal is to purchase 15 chairs



**Saturday, February 10
6:00pm – 10:00pm**

Join us for a fun filled evening to celebrate the bounty of our harvests. The dinner is pot luck where participants bring their favorite wild game to share with others. No worries if you do not have wild game to share, you can bring a salad or dessert.

We need your pictures of wildlife to make a slide show presentation for the dinner. Just email your pictures in PDF or JPEG format to scott.w.harmon@verizon.net.

We also need volunteers to help set up and clean up after the event. These hours will count toward your work hours for the year.

If you would like to help with this event, just contact me directly at 301 467-0645 Cell.

We are thinking of putting together a Cookbook of recipes for the dishes served at the event. Let me know what you think of the idea.

Scott Harmon
301 467-0645 Cell
scott.w.harmon@verizon.net

Archery Range Report

Marc Bouchard

TARGET RANGE

The Range is open during sunlight hours every day, all year long.

Guests must sign a Hold Harmless Form and deposit it in the range box along with optional contribution.

Broadhead use on designated gel medium targets only, please.

YOUTH ARCHERY

We will likely have spring and summer sessions this year. Please ping us if you'd like to help organize.

3-D ARCHERY

The course is closed until next spring when we will have the entire network of 30-year old trails open for business, better than ever.

Interested in becoming a member?

- 1** Start by going to our BECOME A MEMBER page. 
Here you can download the application and get some basic questions answered.
- 2** Once your application is completed, email it to: Applications.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com
- 3** Attend 2 dinner meetings AND make sure to sign in so we know you are here! 
- 4** Once you have attended 2 dinner meetings, your application will be presented at the next board meeting.
- 5** Go to the NEW MEMBER FEES page and decide which type of membership suits you and your family! 
- 6** Attend your 3rd meeting and get sworn in!
You must attend in person to be sworn in.
New member tours happen monthly! Check the newsletter for the date. You may attend a tour before you are sworn in!
Questions?
MembershipSecretary.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com

CAMPGROUND NOTICE

The Campground is closed during all black powder and firearms deer seasons.

Holiday Season in the Chapter House!

Happy New Year! Our Chapter House looked very festive during the holidays. Many thanks to the chapter members who took the time to set up the holiday decorations inside and outside the Chapter House. The holiday party was enjoyed by all!



Rifle & Pistol Committee Report

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

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

The R&P Range is now closed to the general membership. It will reopen in March 2024 (dates TBD). Range Officers and their guests can use the range unless otherwise closed to all.

The Range moved to Winter Hours. It is now open 9:00am to 4:00pm until mid March.

REMINDER:

The Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) for the range have changed. Please review the SOP's before coming to the range to re-familiarize yourself and guests with the firearms transporting and safety procedures for our range. This will help you and our range officers to maintain a safe environment.

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!**

PRELIMINARY R&P RANGE TRAINING & EVENTS SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to all those who completed the annual R&P Range Training & Events Survey. At the time of this writing, 37 respondents completed the survey. Thirty-five (94.6 percent) of the respondents are R&P RO and 13 (36.1 percent) are certified NRA RSO. Thirty-six (97.3 percent) of the respondents checked the R&P range facilities were either very good or excellent. Twenty (54.1 percent) of the respondents used the R&P range five or more times in 2023. Ten respondents checked the R&P training was excellent, 11 checked very good, 11 checked good, and three were either fair or poor. Twenty-three (71.9 percent) of the respondents were interested in formal or informal training. Eight (23.5 percent) of the respondents were completely satisfied with R&P events, seven (20.6 percent) were somewhat satisfied, and 18 were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. Only 1 respondent (2.9 percent) is completely dissatisfied. The most popular events were all pistols and the top 3 were ranked as follows: twenty respondents (71.4 percent) checked NRA Pistol Qualification shoots, 16 (57.1 percent) checked CMP Pistol / Rimfire pistol, followed by pistol fun shoots with 13 (46.4 percent). The most popular informal training was all marksmanship-related; the top 3 were ranked as follows: twenty-two (78.6 percent) checked precision rifle, twenty-one checked pistol marksmanship, followed by rifle marksmanship with twenty (71.4 percent). Additionally, seventeen (89.5 percent) of the respondents were interested in NRA RSO training, followed by 9 (47.4 percent) interested in NRA Basic Pistol. Twenty-two (66.7 percent) have no medical certification. However, twenty-four (77.4 percent) were interested in attending medical training. The R&P committee will consider all the feedback and the survey results as we plan training and events for this year.

NEW R&P RANGE OFFICER ORIENTATION

At the time of this writing, only 5 members have reached out to me to attend the new Range Officer orientation for late February/early March.

To be eligible to participate you must:

- be a current member of the B-CC IWLA Chapter in good standing who has completed their probationary membership year
- be 21 years of age

- eligible to legally possess a firearm
- current in all B-CC IWLA Chapter dues

Please reach out ASAP to Chief Range Officer Matthew Chambers at 202 854-8671 or matthewschambers@gmail.com if you're interested.

EXISTING R&P RANGE OFFICER REFRESHER

We will be holding existing R&P Range Officer refreshers in mid-January/February. The first date is tentatively set for **Thursday, January 25**. We will send an email to existing ROs with a sign-up and exact dates/times. This refresher will be virtual and help us streamline the annual in-person signup day. If your email address has changed, please get in touch with the Chief Range Officer Matthew Chambers at 202 854-8671 or matthewschambers@gmail.com.

Shotgun Range Committee Report

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

The Shotgun Range is open to our members along with their guests.

As was announced, we are running a field of Sporting Clays with 8 shooting positions and changing menus.

REMINDERS:

** Before coming out to use the range, check the website calendar. There will be ROs on duty unless the weather is not conducive to have it opened.

** We are honoring the Sporting Clays tickets that were bought previous to the suspension of activities. If you bought Trap & Skeet tickets before the suspension, we will honor a round of Sporting Clays using those tickets. It will be two of T&S tickets plus \$2 for the round of Sporting Clays.

RANGE OFFICER SCHEDULE:

Sunday, January 14	Stewart, E.; Need ROs
Sunday, January 21	Chung, J.; Steffes, D.; Weixel, P.
Sunday, January 28	Need ROs
Sunday, February 4	Wight, A.; McDonald, T.; Belke, P.; Donnelly, P.
Sunday, February 11	Need ROs
Sunday, February 18	Weixel, P.; Batteh, K.
Sunday, February 25	Need ROs
Sunday, March 3	Need ROs
Sunday, March 10	Craig, D.; Need ROs
Sunday, March 17	Need ROs
Sunday, March 24	Boynton, D.; Need ROs
Sunday, March 31	Noble, M.; Need ROs

New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour

Come join us on the B-CC IWLA Orientation Tour. The next tour will take place on **Saturday, January 20, 2024** from 10:00am to approximately 11:30am **if weather permits**.

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

The guided tour of our property will include an overview of our history and mission, our facilities, the partnerships with local schools and organizations, and a chance to meet and ask questions to current members.

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

Contact Christine – christineakcp@comcast.net if you have questions.

In December, the Chapter received a letter from Erin Binns thanking Butch Mezick, Frank Parker, Mark Gochmour, Gregg Gochmour, Blaine Elkins, and Andy Wight for taking the 9th grade Global Ecology students on the "Interpretive Walk in the Woods." A thank you card from the students was also sent. Some of the participants' comments are listed below!

Thank you for your time and unique point of view of hunting and sustainability.

Thank you for teaching us about the environment! I learned much!

Thanks for teaching us about identifying trees – it inspired me to do research about them and look into the subject more!

Thank you for teaching me about turkey sex.

Thank you for teaching us – from chemistry to turkey hunting...

Thank you taking me out of my comfort zone!

Thank you for teaching me about deer eating their child's poop!

Thank you for taking time out of your day to teach us about the environment. I did not know a turkey can see a human blink from a football field away.

Thank you for teaching us more about tree ID and native species!

I loved the turkey calls and learning all about them. Thanks!

Thank you so much for teaching us about the soil and keeping us from becoming soil (death by falling down hole).

Thank You!

Dear Frank, Mark, Gregg, Blaine, Andy, and Butch -

On behalf of the Poolesville High School Global Ecology Program, I want to thank you for the two wonderful days you spent with the 9th graders in our program. On November 16th and 17th, students were introduced to the Izaak Walton League and its mission of conservation through the annual "Walk in the Woods." This guided hike through the B-CC Chapter's property was a welcome change from the classroom and a great introduction to many of the topics we discuss throughout the students' time in the Global Ecology Program.

You couldn't have ordered more perfect weather and the students had an amazing time learning about land management, tree identification, and always a favorite, turkey calls. The students and global ecology staff appreciate the time you dedicated to our students, from setting up the hike and planning the day before, the interactions with the students, and collecting the prompts after the hike.

We are so fortunate to have such wonderful, supportive community partners. While the Global Ecology Program aims to instill the importance of conservation in our students, it is great for them to see adults outside of the program who actively engage in the behaviors.

We appreciate everything your members do to support our program.

Sincerely,

Erin Binns
Global Ecology Program
Head of House
Poolesville High School

Thank you for letting us learn about animals and have fun with the scavenger hunt.

We appreciate the time you took out of your day to teach us. I learned a lot about how long it takes for materials to break down!

Thank you for teaching us about buck rubs and how antlers are important with deer!

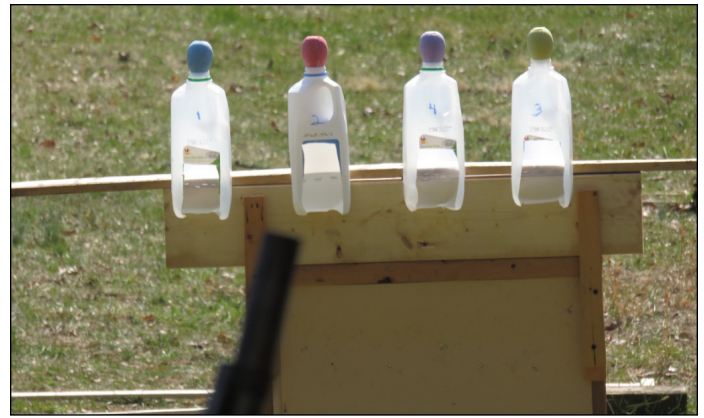
Black Powder Day / Muzzleloader Event

Muzzleloading enthusiasts and the newly interested are invited to come for the annual Black Powder Clinic and Shooting Match, Saturday, March 23rd from 9:00am – 4:30pm. This was moved back a week because of an early Easter and schools being closed on the last weekend of March.

Did you receive a blackpowder firearm as a gift or inherited one 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. Inline, percussion, or flintlock shooters are all welcome. There will be instruction time for new muzzleloader shooters to develop a workable shooting load, for "veterans" and more experienced shooters to sight-in their guns, and for all to practice shooting.

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. If you are new to shooting a muzzleloader, a veteran shooter will be assigned to work with you. (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 or are having issues with one



you have forgotten about in the gun safe, come for the morning but stay for the afternoon shooting match!

Match participants will be provided opportunities to shoot at some unusual novelty targets again this year, including – 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. A donation from a generous member who moved will enable some unique prizes to be awarded.

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

Only muzzleloader shooting participants will be allowed to use the Range during the event. Upon its conclusion, Range Officers and their guests may shoot until shooting time expires.

Contact Mark Gochnour at mgdonutman@gmail.com for further details or questions. 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 their lack could sabotage your experience.

Register using the following link:

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

A small fee will be charged to cover lunch and the event. Any applicable R&P range fees are extra.

Great Backyard Bird Count - February 16 - 19, 2024

Celebrating 27 years of coming together to watch, learn about, count, and celebrate birds.

Sponsored
in part by:



Participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count. Spend at least 15 minutes a day, on at least one of the four count days, observing and counting the birds in your back yard, local park, or wherever you spot a bird, and submit your observations online. Go to www.birdcount.org to learn how to participate using your smart phone and the Merlin or Audubon 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 participants from 253 countries and subregions counted 7,727 species. The annual count helps scientists assess species populations.

Join the fun! Mark your calendar!
Friday, February 16 through Monday, February 19

Diane Seward, Citizen Science Projects Coordinator



Search for Lost Cemeteries

BACKGROUND

Located on our Chapter are two homestead sites that date back to the early 1800's.

Homestead #1) Our log cabin was originally a one-room home where the overseer of Piney Hill Farm lived. The farm covered 898 acres. Census data shows there were 23 to 33 people enslaved at Piney Hill Farm.

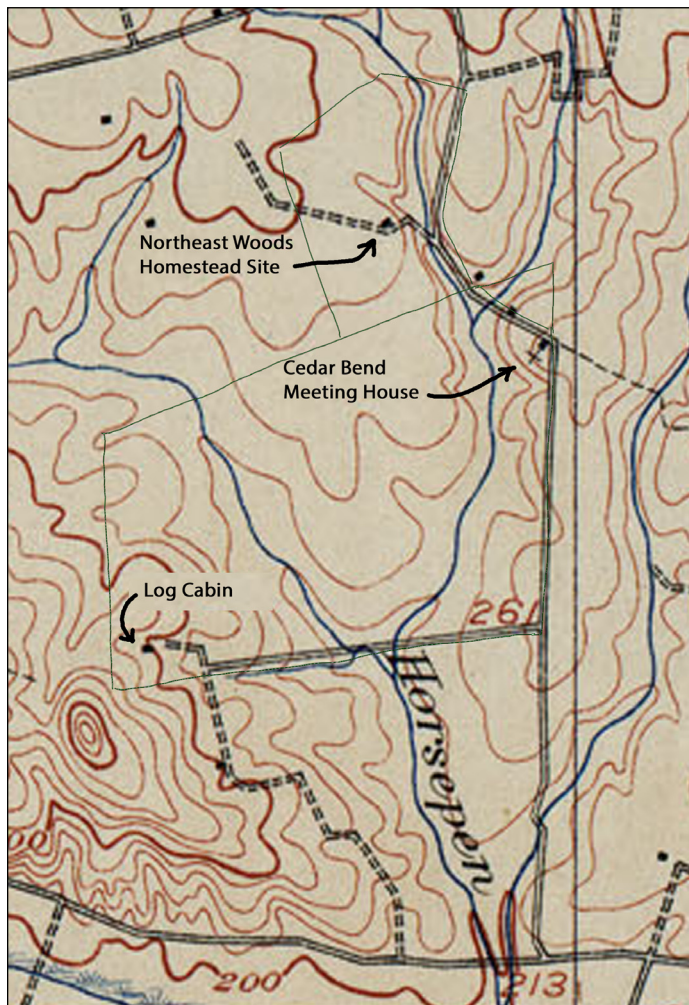
Homestead #2) A stone foundation in the Northeast Woods is all that remains of a burned-down farmhouse. This 273 acre farm was home to the Astlin family from 1875 to 1908. Prior to that, the land was farmed by the Connelly family. Records from the early 1800's are incomplete. However, it's likely that there were enslaved people at the Connelly farm.

When an enslaved person perished it was common practice for them to be buried on the farm where they had worked. Therefore, almost certainly, there are graves on our land. This is the consensus among archaeologists familiar with our property. Recently the Montgomery County Planning Department was given a mandate to locate lost cemeteries in the County.

In January of 2023 the Archaeologist from the Planning Department contacted the Chapter requesting to search for possible lost cemeteries.

POSSIBLE LOST CEMETERY IN THE NORTHEAST WOODS

Soon after our Chapter purchased the Northeast Woods we discovered a patch of Vinca about 400 feet NW of the foundation site. Finding non-native flowers is a clue to



archaeologists. Often flowers such as Vinca or Daffodils get planted next to a house or in a cemetery. Sometimes these flowers survive hundreds of years after a site has been abandoned. Also, these plants tend not to spread far from the spot they were originally planted.

Several experienced archaeologists have examined the Vinca location, including the Archaeologist for the Planning Department. The consensus is "more likely than not" there is an abandoned cemetery there.

POSSIBLE LOST CEMETERY ON PINEY HILL FARM

During the 1800's all of the housing on a farm was usually built in one spot. In our case that means near the log cabin. In addition, the cemetery for the enslaved people was typically a short distance away. Therefore one must consider the possibility of a lost cemetery near the log cabin. In October 2013 this area was searched by the Archaeology Committee. A team of nine people combed the woods between the bee hives and the log cabin. We found very little except for some non-native flowers near the bee hives. Could that indicate a lost cemetery?

In December 2023 the County Archaeologist returned to search for an abandoned cemetery associated with Piney Hill Farm. Highly trained dogs that can detect human graves were used to perform the search. These remarkable dogs have a track record finding graves - even graves that are hundreds of years old. Two search dogs were used. They worked one at a time. That way their results could be compared. Each dog spent an hour searching between the bee hives and the Log Cabin. Neither dog gave any indication of finding a grave.

DID PINEY HILL FARM HAVE A CHURCH

It was not uncommon for a large slave-holding plantation to have a church. And a cemetery might be next to it. If Piney Hill did have a church it may have been located near the Northeast corner of the farm. And a map from 1907 shows either a church or school near the bend in West Willard Road. Here there's a curious 1/2 acre parcel of land. The property records show it named as "Cedar Bend Meeting House." Meeting houses often served a dual-purpose. The building may have functioned both as a school and a church.

In August 2015 the Archaeology Committee investigated the Cedar Bend site (with permission). See August 2015 Newsletter. We found records showing that Cedar Bend was a Montgomery County Public School between 1884 and 1907. Also, we found evidence that the building was destroyed by fire. Vinca and Daffodils cover much of the area. This property is not owned by the Chapter. If there is a lost cemetery there it might relate to the history of Piney Hill Farm.

WHAT HAPPENS IF WE LOCATE A LOST CEMETERY

The presence of an abandoned cemetery would not affect the Chapter in any significant way. The site would not be able to be built upon.

For more information, or if you'd like to be part of the Archaeology Committee, send email to:
BCC_Archaeology@yahoo.com

Happy New Year!