



FEBRUARY 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](http://www.bcciwla.org)

## President's Message

We've had some semblance of Winter so far and hopefully we see more than a glimpse of some more. We have now moved out of deer hunting season and with Spring Turkey season about to start, as a member, it is your position to know our Hunting Rules and Regulations.

The Board of Governors received a report stating that a member was riding an Ebike on the trails. The Facilities Use Regulations state, "Privately owned vehicles must remain on the graveled roads or parking lots at all times. Any exception to this rule must have the approval of an officer of the Board of Governors," and the Hunting Rules under #5 state, "Hunters are prohibited from driving off any road on B-CC IWLA property." There are signs posted regarding no motorized vehicles.

The Board of Governor, under advisement from the Hunting Ethics and Oversight Committee, has brought this to the table for discussion. We are working on the language that would encompass the following:

- privately owned modes of transportation that include cars, trucks, ATVs, UTVs, E-bikes, motorcycles, mountain bikes, and horses are not allowed due to the risk of soil displacement and erosion on our trails and in our fields. Game carts and in some cases, a wheelbarrow has been used, would be acceptable during hunting season.
- Committee Chairs would have the availability to grant permission to any member who is working with that committee to be able to drive on the property.

At the February Board meeting this topic will be on the agenda to finalize.

Spring is just around the corner so I am planning for the speakers at the dinner on topics such as the Chapter's Bee Apiary and the Cicada study that was done on the property with information on the double brood emerging. If you have other ideas or connections for speakers, let me know.

Carol Hulce-Efdimis  
President



# 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](mailto:blaineelkins@verizon.net).

## Izaak Walton League of America Maryland State Division Meeting

**NOTICE**  
**Saturday, March 16, 2024**

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter  
20601 Izaak Walton Way  
Poolesville, MD 20837

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.

## 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.

## CAMPGROUND NOTICE

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

## Summary of the December 2023 Board of Governors Meeting and the January 2024 Membership Meeting

Mark Lauver, Recording Secretary

### Wednesday, December 20, 2023 – Board of Governors Meeting

- President Carol Hulce-Efdimis called the meeting to order at 7:59pm.
- WSSI's latest invoice was discussed. Motion to approve was made by 2nd VP Jerry Murray to forward invoice to Legacy Foundation for payment of reclamation for calculating the locations of the last 7 points needed for the construction stake-out survey. **Motion approved.**
- Chartering request from Scouts of America for Chapter to charter two new scouting troops and one pack. Discussion about pros / cons of chartering additional groups including concerns about property usage were raised; also suggested that increasing the number of scouting troops can be used as an opportunity to increase membership. Motion was made to approve becoming charter organization for Troop 773B, Troop 773G and Pack 773. **Motion approved.**
- Treasurer's Report – account balances were discussed.
- Chapter House Report – kitchen hood and duct needs to be cleaned twice per year, despite only being used approximately 6 times per year. An exemption is possible. John Lamb is scheduling cleaning.
- 2nd VP Jerry Murray requested that the board approve joining the National Shooting Sports Foundation trade group. Joining the NSSF would provide chapter with info about range set up and construction and other valuable information. Motion made to become a non-profit member of NSSF. **Motion approved.**
- State has approved installation of AED next to the first-aid kit near the bar in the Chapter House.

### TALKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER:

- We should start the next raffle earlier, and more people should be selling tickets. Will start planning next raffle in March 2024.
- Chapter needs to apply for more grants, they are usually due within the first few months of the year, i.e. costs of seed to bring back natives on the farm is at least \$3K.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07pm.

### Wednesday, January 17, 2024 – Membership Meeting

- President Carol Hulce-Efdimis called the 1,059th Consecutive Dinner Meeting to order at 7:28pm.
- 50/50 Raffle was held. \$68 went to the winner; \$68 went to the Chapter to help fund the purchase of Adirondack chairs for the porches.
- In lieu of a guest speaker, the final ticket was drawn for the Chapter's Holiday Gun Raffle. Member Jason Griffin was the lucky winner. The raffle generated funds to help fill a gap in the Chapter's annual budget.
- A summary of the Treasurer's Report was read by Carol. Treasurer Bob Kelly is inquiring with the bank to investigate new bank charges and interest rates on accounts. He will try to improve terms on our accounts.
- Membership Secretary Scott Harmon gave a breakdown of the Chapter membership and how to renew.
- Motion made to approve 3 new members. **Motion approved.**
- Dave Mecklenburg reported that the log cabin is having its 200 year anniversary in 2024 and intends to have a party to celebrate.
- There will be a mandatory refresher Range Officer (RO) course for existing R&P Range ROs in February. The February course is also available for members interested in becoming a RO. Contact 2nd VP Jerry Murray to sign up.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.

**February 2024  
1,060th Monthly Dinner /  
Membership Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 21**

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

**Menu**

***Appetizers will be available before dinner***  
**Roasted Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Dressing,  
Vegetable, Salad, Dessert**

**February 2024  
Board of Governors Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 28  
7:00pm**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**B-CC IWLA and Community**

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

**Chapter House Cleanup**

Saturday, February 17  
9:00am – 12:00 noon

**New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour**

Saturday, February 24  
10:00am – 11:30am

**1,060th Membership Dinner Meeting**

Wednesday, February 21  
Dinner – 6:15pm; Meeting – 7:30pm

**Introduction to Shotgun Shooting**

Saturday, February 24  
10:00am

Signup required

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/  
10C0D4DACA28A7F8C25-47811996-2024](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACA28A7F8C25-47811996-2024)

**Board of Governors Meeting**

Wednesday, February 28  
7:00pm

**1,061st Membership Dinner Meeting**

**Kid Friendly Dinner During Monthly Membership Dinner**

Wednesday, March 20  
Dinner – 6:15pm; Meeting 7:30pm

**Black Powder Day / Muzzleloader Event**

Saturday, March 23  
9:00am – 4:00pm

**Spring Chapter Cleanup Day and Picnic**

Saturday, April 6  
Starting at 8:30am

**Membership Committee Report**

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

If you did not receive a renewal notice or have misplaced it, contact me to get your renewal amount.

To renew online for 2024, 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 January 29th, all renewals received have been submitted to national for processing and we hope to have your membership cards back to you by the middle of February.

You can help increase our membership by introducing our farm to others. Go to our ranges, take a hike, go fishing and bring a guest with you. The membership committee is looking for members to join our team. Reach out to me if you are interested. It's a great way to volunteer.

**Coming soon!**

**Our Spring**

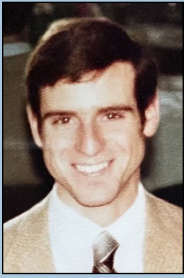
**FAMILY CAMPOUT**

Details in the March Newsletter.



## IN MEMORIAM

### JIM REILLY 1958 – 2024



Chapter member James Edward Reilly, best known as Jim, passed away peacefully on the evening of January 9, 2024. He is survived by his wife Connee and their two sons.

Jim joined the B-CC Chapter in 1998. He loved the outdoors and was an avid hunter. He was a Range Officer for the Rifle & Pistol Range and was always there to fix plumbing problems at the Chapter.

Jim was a proud police officer. He joined the Baltimore City Police Department in 1979. He later joined the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Park Police, Montgomery County division in 1987, protecting and serving the Bethesda, Kensington, and Cabin John neighborhoods until he retired in October 2003.

In retirement, Jim remained busy by owning and operating his plumbing company, J.E. Reilly Service Company, Inc. He was also a lifetime member of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad.

Family and friends describe Jim as the most kind man they've met.

The family has asked that donations be made to the Casey House Hospice, <https://montgomeryhospice.org/donate-now/> and/or B-CC IWLA, <https://bcciwla.org/>

## Grants Committee

Jerry Murray  
202 438-4202 [jerrym5@comcast.net](mailto:jerrym5@comcast.net)

We are forming a committee to solicit grants from organizations to help support and expand our chapter activities. The areas we are currently looking at include: invasives removal, farm operations, tree planting, wetlands reforestation, log cabin renovation, student ecology programs, and the shooting sports. We need help in matching the organizations with the programs and writing and presenting the proposals. If you would like to help out, please contact me.

## New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour

Come join us on the B-CC IWLA Orientation Tour. The next tour will take place on **Saturday, February 24, 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 – [christineakp@comcast.net](mailto:christineakp@comcast.net) if you have questions.



## Kid Friendly Dinner

Our next Kid Friendly Chapter Dinner will be held on Wednesday, March 20. As usual, we will have kids' activities while adults enjoy the regular chapter meeting. Hot dogs, chips, cookies/ice cream, and juice boxes will be provided. Keep the date clear and use this opportunity to bring your kids to the chapter.

### Questions?

Contact Andy Wight,  
Conservation Education Chair, at  
[andywight1@hotmail.com](mailto:andywight1@hotmail.com).

## 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.

## Chapter Entrances

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

# 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*

### FEBRUARY

Saturday, Feb. 3	NAVHDA Mid-Winter Meeting	8:00am – 5:00pm
Saturday, Feb. 10	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Saturday, Feb. 10	Wild Game Dinner	6:00pm – 10:00pm
Thursday, Feb. 15	Pack 694 Den Meet (Kyle) in Chapter House	7:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday, Feb. 17	New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour	10:00am – 11:30am
Wednesday, Feb. 21	1,060th Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner starts 6:15 Meeting starts 7:30pm
Friday, Feb. 23	Articles for March Newsletter due – send articles to <a href="mailto:j.lamkin@comcast.net">j.lamkin@comcast.net</a>	By End of Day
Saturday, Feb. 24	Pack 694 Blue and Gold Dinner	5:00pm – 9:00pm
Wednesday, Feb. 28	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Thursday, Feb. 29	Pack 694 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 – 11:30 am
Wednesday, March 20	1,061st Membership Dinner Meeting Kid Friendly Dinner	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 <a href="mailto:j.lamkin@comcast.net">j.lamkin@comcast.net</a>	By End of Day
Saturday, March 30	Archery Cleanup Day – date to be confirmed	8:30am – 3:00pm
Saturday, March 30	Muzzleloader Day	9:00am – 4:00pm

### APRIL

Saturday, April 6	Spring Chapter Cleanup Day & Picnic	Starting at 8:30am
Thursday, April 11	Pack 694 Den Meet (Kyle) – in Chapter House	7:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday, April 13	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00noon
Wednesday, April 17	1,062nd Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner starts 6:15pm Meeting starts 7:30pm
Thursday, April 18	Cub Scout Pack 694 Meeting – in Chapter House	6:30pm – 8:30pm
Saturday, April 20	New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour	10:00am – 11:30am
Wednesday, April 24	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Thursday, April 25	Pack 694 Den Meet (Kyle) – in Chapter House	7:00pm – 8:00pm
Friday, April 26	Articles for May Newsletter due – send articles to <a href="mailto:j.lamkin@comcast.net">j.lamkin@comcast.net</a>	By End of Day

### MAY

Saturday, May 4	Spring Hunter Safety Class	8:00am – 4:00pm
Sunday, May 5	Spring Hunter Safety Class	8:00am – 4:00pm
Sunday, May 5	Montgomery Bird Club's Spring Walk	7:00am – 12:00 noon
Thursday, May 9	Pack 694 Den Meet (Kyle) – in Chapter House	7:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday, May 11	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Wednesday, May 15	1,063rd Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner starts 6:15pm Meeting starts 7:30pm
Thursday, May 16	Cub Scout 694 Meet	7:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday, May 18	New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour	10:00am – 11:30am
Wednesday, May 22	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Friday, May 24	Articles for June Newsletter due – send articles to <a href="mailto:j.lamkin@comcast.net">j.lamkin@comcast.net</a>	By End of /day

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

## IN MEMORIAM

PETER ZINSSER

1941 – 2023



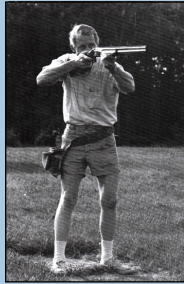
August Peter Zinsser III, best known as Peter, passed away on December 1, 2023. He is survived by his wife Ann and son Chapter member Gus Zinsser.

Peter joined the B-CC Chapter in 1978, was a Past President, and was particularly interested in shotgun sports, especially skeet. He was a Shotgun range officer for many years.

He also enjoyed the social events at the chapter. When he was able, he participated in the monthly meetings, the Past Presidents' dinners, the game day dinners and the family picnics (where he ran the silent auction and participated in the informal sales tables).

His most stalwart friends came from the B-CC community. He appreciated the organization for its conservation efforts and was a strong supporter of the land purchases that were accomplished.

The family has asked that donations be made to the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 222, Kensington, MD 20895.



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.

## The Adopt-A-Road Committee has a Leadership Opportunity!

The Adopt-A-Road Committee is looking for a leadership rotation. Chapter member John Robinson has been the chair of the Adopt-A-Road Committee since 2014 and is looking for someone that would be interested in taking over leadership of the committee. The committee typically meets 6 times each year to conduct litter cleanup of a portion of West Willard Road in the section neighboring IWLA property. You have probably seen the signs posted on Willard Road as you drive to the Chapter.

Many of you have worked with John in the past, and this is an environmentally friendly way of helping the Chapter, Community, and also a chance to get active in the out-of-doors.

Please consider volunteering on this committee to help the Chapter with our conservation mission. John will be happy to train his successor and transfer equipment. If you are interested, please reach out to Janet Lamkin, j.lamkin@comcast.net, to help.

Many thanks to John for heading up the committee and providing such a valuable service to the Chapter and to the Poolesville area.



## Team Navy Trains with Apollo Archery for International Competition

By John Gorney and Chuck Thornton



In our second year of operations, Apollo Archery was proud to host numerous guests at the B-CC IWLA Chapter including Navy athletes preparing for national and international archery competitions.

One athlete, CAPT Suzanne Brown, USCG (ret.), will be our guest speaker at a chapter dinner meeting in 2024. Suzanne trained with us for both the Department of Defense Warrior Games held at NAS North Island in San Diego, CA from June 2-12, 2023 and the Invictus Games held in Düsseldorf Germany from September 9-16, 2023.

The **Warrior Games** are an annual adaptive-sports competition organized by the Department of Defense and hosted by U.S. Army Training & Doctrine Command (TRADOC). This year is the 13th anniversary highlighting the exceptional physical skills and mental toughness of seriously wounded, ill and injured active-duty and veteran service members.

Team Navy was comprised of 34 active duty and veteran athletes, 31 Sailors and 3 Coast Guardsmen. It is part of the **Navy Wounded Warrior's** adaptive athletics program, which is open to service members and veterans in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard with non-combat or combat-related injuries and physical or psychological illnesses. Recovering service members rebuild their strength and endurance, while also drawing inspiration from their teammates.

Initiated in 2014 by Prince Harry, The Invictus Games was created with the goal of giving soldiers who are wounded, injured or ill in body and soul a greater awareness and recognition in society and to support their path in rehabilitation. For 2023, the 6th annual games took place for the first time in Germany. The host city of Düsseldorf and the German Federal Armed Forces (*Bundeswehr*) were proud to jointly host this unique international sports festival.

Under the motto "A HOME FOR RESPECT" the city, together with the German Federal Armed Forces, welcomed around 500 competitors from 21 nations as well as around 1,000 family members and friends to compete in ten disciplines.

Team Navy attended Apollo Archery's regular sessions – held on the first Wednesday of each month – plus additional sessions organized and hosted by B-CC IWLA Chapter members. All Apollo leaders are USA Archery certified instructors, and Apollo provides all of the equipment participants need to practice archery. The Navy Wounded Warrior's adaptive athletics program acquired equipment for their competitive athletes, which they used while training at our range. We were thrilled to hear their stories and learn of their successes upon their return from the competitions.

Thank you to the entire Chapter for maintaining our open spaces and for welcoming our recovering heroes.

### Welcome to the B-CC IWLA Family!

At the January 2024 Membership Meeting, the following were inducted into the Chapter:

**Morris Liss**

**Interests:** Archery; Legislative Affairs; Rifle & Pistol

**Patrick McGrail**

**Interests:** Building Maintenance; Rifle & Pistol; Skeet & Trap

## SAVE THE DATE

### Spring Chapter Cleanup Day & Picnic Saturday, April 6, 2024

Any committee chairs or crew chiefs that are planning projects for Cleanup Day, please contact 1st V.P. Andy Wight, [andywight1@hotmail.com](mailto:andywight1@hotmail.com), to help coordinate equipment, volunteers, and other resources.

### Log Cabin Committee Report

David Mecklenburg, Chair  
[dmecklenburg1@gmail.com](mailto:dmecklenburg1@gmail.com)



PHOTO BY DAVID MECKLENBURG

Happy New Year! As of this moment the cabin and chapter grounds are covered in snow. It is a beautiful time to be out and enjoying the chapter grounds. Next year the log cabin will be celebrating its 200th birthday. If you have any ideas on what we should do to celebrate this occasion, I would like to hear your ideas! I am at most dinner meetings, or you can drop me an email [dmecklenburg1@gmail.com](mailto:dmecklenburg1@gmail.com). I look forward to discussing it with you.

### ATTENTION New Members!

**The next Chapter House cleanup will be on:  
Saturday, February 17  
Starting at 9:00am**

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](mailto:jpatricklamb@aol.com)

## Introduction to Shotgun Shooting

The Adventure Committee together with the Shotgun Range are offering an Introduction to Shotgun Shooting on Saturday, February 24, 2024 at 10:00am.

This introduction will cover gun safety, holding and carrying, pointing and shooting, and provide overview of the general types of clay target shooting. Participants will have the opportunity to shoot at clay targets on the range. Please note that this is not intended to be a training course, rather an opportunity to give our members a chance to shoot and better understand the sport of clay targets.

There will be a minimal charge of \$10 per shooter to cover the cost of targets and ammunition.

We are limiting attendees to 20 to ensure that everyone gets a chance to shoot. Members must sign up in advance via the sign up genius. This will also allow us to reschedule if weather conditions require. The event should last approximately 2 hours.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DCAA28A7F8C25-47811996-2024>

## 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.

**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**

## All Chapter Members Wishing to Hunt on Our Farm Must –

- Have a valid MD hunting license (including all necessary stamps, i.e. HIP stamp for doves)
- Have a current and valid B-CC IWLA membership card as proof of permission to hunt on private land
- Have a current and valid parking sticker displayed on their vehicle
- 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.

## 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](http://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





## 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, February 4	Wight, A.; McDonald, T.; Belke, P.; Donnelly, P.
Sunday, February 11	<b>Need ROs</b>
Sunday, February 18	Weixel, P.; Batteh, K.
Sunday, February 25	<b>Need ROs</b>
Sunday, March 3	<b>Need ROs</b>
Sunday, March 10	Craig, D.; <b>Need ROs</b>
Sunday, March 17	<b>Need ROs</b>
Sunday, March 24	Boynton, D.; <b>Need ROs</b>
Sunday, March 31	Noble, M.; <b>Need ROs</b>

### INTRODUCTION TO SHOTGUN SHOOTING:

The Adventure Committee together with the Shotgun Range are offering an Introduction to Shotgun Shooting on February 24, 2024 at 10:00am.

This introduction will cover gun safety, holding and carrying, pointing and shooting, and provide overview of the general types of clay target shooting. Participants will have the opportunity to shoot at clay targets on the range. Please note that this is not intended to be a training course, rather an opportunity to give our members a chance to shoot and better understand the sport of clay targets.

There will be a minimal charge of \$10 per shooter to cover the cost of targets and ammunition.

We are limiting attendees to 20 to ensure that everyone gets a chance to shoot. Members must sign up in advance via the signup genius listed below. This will also allow us to reschedule if weather conditions require. The event should last approximately 2 hours.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACAA28A7F8C25-47811996-2024>

## Rifle & Pistol Committee Report

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.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following R&P range officers who successfully completed the NRA RSO certification course:

- MARC A. BOUCHARD
- SEBASTIAN FAINBRAUN
- DAVID J. KING, JR.
- PATRICK TWOMEY

And a BIG thanks to Rich Clement at the Rockville IWLA chapter, which hosted the course and offered a discount to our members. I hope to share more training opportunities for our R&P range officers at neighboring IWLA chapters in the near future.

### THANK YOU

Thank you to Sebastian Fainbraun. He generously donated a few hundred empty chamber indicators to the chapter. ECIs are an increasingly common sight at gun clubs and ranges. They allow range officers to quickly see and confidently know a firearm is in a safe condition and the range can be "COLD." An ECI physically blocks the chamber and helps keep the action open. Thanks again to Sebastian.



Empty Chamber Indicators (ECI)

### NEW R&P RANGE OFFICER ORIENTATION SCHEDULED

The Orientation Course consists of two parts:

1. The first part is **virtual** via free conference call. It is scheduled for **7:30 pm until it finishes on Thursday, February 29.**
2. The second part is **in-person** at the R&P range. It is scheduled for **Saturday, March 2.** Start time will be sent to those participating in the course.

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

If you're interested please reach out ASAP to Jerry Murray at [jerrym5@comcast.net](mailto:jerrym5@comcast.net).

### R&P RANGE OFFICER ORIENTATION, REFRESHER & RENEWAL

I have been in contact with all the newbies who have reached out to me and all our existing range officers. If you haven't heard from me, then we most likely don't have your current contact information, and you won't be able to renew this year. Please get in touch with Jerry Murray at [jerrym5@comcast.net](mailto:jerrym5@comcast.net) before it is too late.

## 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.

## Stream Monitoring

Dan Dutton, Save Our Streams (SOS) Program  
mr.dutton.cbgs@gmail.com

### Winter sampling shows some changes to stream ecosystems on the farm.

While I was putting extra water on my tomatoes, saving water by not washing my car, and trying to not run my boat aground on newly exposed rocks in the Potomac, there were some interesting opportunities provided by this summer's drought. If you got a chance to explore the farm this summer, you found dry streams that acted as cleared trails through the property. When the woods are full of thorn choked trails, the sand and rock bottom streams provide an easy path to travel. The streams were great for us to walk through, but for the organisms that require water to live in they weren't so great. One reason we conduct water quality sampling is to see how seasonal changes and major events, like this past years' drought, affect the potential for streams to support life.

On December 30, five members took chemical and biological samples to measure the stream health of one of the tributaries of Horsepen Branch on the conservation farm behind the archery pavilion. The chemical tests suggested the stream was in good to excellent condition, based on the immediate quality and the chemicals that were present the day we sampled. The biological sampling showed it only as fair. While this is a lower rating than we've measured in the past, it is still surprising based on the drought of the summer. Even more interesting was which animals we found.

Biological monitoring relies on the fact that which organisms are present is based on how the water conditions have been for the past while, not the immediate measure as the chemical test does. We found nine different types of organisms that have been living in the stream for a while. Five of these types of organisms, but the vast majority of the individuals captured, were aquatic organisms that spend their entire lives in the water, such as scuds, aquatic worms, leeches, and clams. These species have to have a way to survive drought conditions as they must have access to water all year. Other types or organisms we found, which represent very few of the individuals in our sample, are the juveniles of insects that hatch and fly around as adults. Fly anglers will recognize the mayflies and stoneflies, while everyone knows the midges (gnats). It appeared that the number of aquatic insects was much lower following the drought, while the number of organisms that live in water all year had not changed as much.

Aquatic organisms have many adaptations to survive drought conditions. Organisms that are more mobile may abandon a drying stream. Some larger organisms, like many fish, just move downstream to larger bodies of water when small streams are getting smaller. Insects may metamorphose and leave the water as adults, relying on future generations to lay eggs in a stream later or for eggs or young to drift downstream from tributaries. Some of the lifelong inhabitants move down into sediments. As you dig down in a streambed, you reach the hyporheic zone. This is a wet layer of sediments and blurs the boundary between surface water and groundwater. During dry periods when the surface water levels drop, the hyporheic zone may still be wet enough to sustain life as cool water comes up from groundwater. Many of the scuds and other organisms we found had probably been living through the summer in the hyporheic zones until recent rains filled the streams again and they could return to the surface waters. We hope to see more insects return in the spring as adults move from downstream areas to lay their eggs in the streams that flow through the farm. We also hope

that you can join us for future sampling sessions. Contact John Novak or Dan Dutton if you are interested in seeing what is in our creeks this spring.



PHOTOS BY BRETT DAVIS AND DAN DUTTON

## 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](mailto: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.

## FeederWatch News

Diane Seward  
Citizen Science Projects Coordinator  
[trina65@verizon.net](mailto: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.



PHOTO BY ARTHUR BELENDIUK



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

## Seneca Christmas Bird Count Birds Counted on the Conservation Farm

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

On December 17, 2023, members of the Montgomery Bird Club under the leadership of Jim Nelson met well before sunrise at the chapter house to participate in the annual Christmas Bird Count. The count has been conducted nationwide since 1953 under the auspices of the National Audubon Society. We have hosted a portion of the Seneca Sector 7 count for several years.

Participants at the farm were organized into two groups, escorted by Larry Anderson. The groups walked the west woods and fields for three-to-four hours, noting the species they observed. Separately, Pat McNeilly counted birds at the feeding station located behind the chapter house. Pat's count was submitted to Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology as part of our FeederWatch project as well as included in the CBC totals. Counters returned to the chapter house as the morning ended to tally their observations.

**Jim Nelson's report of birds observed at the chapter appears below.**

These are the total birds counted on the Conservation Farm by two field parties on the Farm, one feeder watcher at the Chapter House feeders, and one observer who listened for owls before dawn from the road. Species total – 42 (up from 41 last year). Total birds counted – 1,997 (way up from 453 last year). Species not found in 2022 are marked with an \*. Parenthetical comments compare some totals to last year's count on the Farm or to this year's count in the rest of Seneca CBC Sector 7, of which the Farm is a part.

Canada Goose	6
Bufflehead	1* (only one found in Sector 7)
Mourning Dove	10
Northern Harrier	1* (one of only two found in Sector 7)
Red-shouldered Hawk	2
Red-tailed Hawk	1
Great Horned Owl	2*
Barred Owl	1*
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	7
Red-bellied Woodpecker	12
Downy Woodpecker	9
Hairy Woodpecker	1*
Pileated Woodpecker	2
Northern Flicker	8
Blue Jay	44
American Crow	881 (way above last year's 119)
Fish Crow	146 (way above last year's 25)
crow species	23
Common Raven	1*
Carolina Chickadee	42 (well above last year's 10)

## DUE DATE

for March Newsletter Articles is  
**Friday, February 23**  
(note early date)

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

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:MembershipSecretary.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com)



Magic

PHOTO BY ARTHUR BELENDIUK