



APRIL 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

At the time of this newsletter, the Spring Cleanup has occurred. Thank you to our members for supporting the efforts of our committees at taking care of our Chapter. The Cleanup Days provide an excellent opportunity to earn service hours cleaning up the Chapter House and grounds from Winter and preparing for Summer.

We have such a wonderful property of 624 acres comprising of fields, hiking trails, ponds, streams, and outdoor shooting ranges for our members enjoyment. As members, we are dedicated to caring for and improving our facilities for future members.

We are prepping and scheduling for the projects on the property, tending to our trails, maintaining our facilities, and scheduling events for our members to enjoy. Keep an eye on the newsletter and the Upcoming Events Eblasts. If you find that you are not receiving them, reach out to me and we will correct it.

Spring is here with the warmer weather and the freshness of the new growth is around. It's time to just enjoy it.

Carol Hulce-Efdimis  
President

## UPCOMING EVENTS

B-CC IWLA and Community

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

### Family Campout

Saturday, April 13 – starting at 2:30pm  
thru Sunday, April 14 – ending at 10:00am

### Chapter House Cleanup

Sunday, April 14  
10:00am – 12:00 noon

### 1,062nd Membership Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, April 17  
Dinner – 6:15pm; Meeting 7:30pm  
Guest Speaker: Capt. Suzanne Brown, USCG (ret.)

### Friction Fire Workshop

Saturday, April 20  
10:00am

### New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour

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

### Board of Governors Meeting

Wednesday, April 24  
7:00pm

### Stop the Bleed Training

Saturday, May 11  
11:00am  
Signup Required

### Conservation Education and Awards Dinner (Spaghetti)

Saturday, May 25  
Speaker – Dr. Luke Macaulay  
Dinner – 6:00pm; Awards – 7:00pm; Speaker – 7:30pm

### Introduction to Hunting Seminar

Saturday, June 1  
9:00am – 4:00pm

**SAVE THE DATE**

## Black Powder Day / Muzzleloader Event

This event has been **rescheduled** for  
**Saturday, September 28.**

Updated information about the event will be posted in  
the May newsletter including a signup genius link.

Contact Mark Gochnour at  
[mgdonutman@gmail.com](mailto:mgdonutman@gmail.com) if you have questions.

## 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

### 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**

## Earth Day

Earth Day is held annually on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First held on April 22, 1970, it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by Earthday.org (formerly Earth Day Network). The official theme for 2024 is "Planet vs. Plastics."



## Summary of the February 2024 Board of Governors Meeting and the March 2024 Membership Meeting

Mark Lauver, Recording Secretary

Janet Lamkin, Corresponding Secretary

### Wednesday, February 28, 2024 – Board of Governors Meeting

- President Carol Hulce-Efdimis called the meeting to order at 7:15pm.
- Update on Shotgun Lead Plan – plan of action has been developed.
- Update to the Chapter Rules and Regs, regarding driving on the property.
- David Drazen is the new Charter Organization Representative for the Potomac troop which includes: boys (60 members), girls (20 members), and pack (unknown number).
- 8 applications for membership were reviewed by the BOG.
- 15 shooters participated in the Introduction to Shotgun Shooting class.
- Membership Survey – 81 survey respondents to date.
- Farm Chair Phil Taylor discussed a proposal to conduct prescribed burn on the property.
- Archeology Committee escorted county planning department to the NE woods on February 25. Looking for the *finca* site with human remains.
- IWLA National & State Division – July 14-16 for National Convention in Cambridge, MD.

### ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Phil Taylor attended a soil seminar hosted by the MD Department of Agriculture, and learned about a state funded cover crop cost sharing program. Phil asked whether we should pursue to reduce cover crop budget. Phil also mentioned there is a company that re-sells wild-flower seed at a substantial discount and is exploring this company as a new seed source for the farm.

### NEW BUSINESS (that requires a motion):

- Hood Cleaning payment – transfer funds from Management Reserve. **Motion approved.**
- Motion made to approve new member applications – **Motion approved.**
- Motion to approve the new language for driving personal vehicles, etc., on Chapter property, other than designated areas, for personal purposes. **Motion approved.**
- Motion to investigate and potentially pursue MD Department of Agriculture grant for farm materials to help with the cost of cover crops, provided action is consistent with current plans. **Motion approved.**

### TALKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER:

- Website remains out of date. Members need to add their volunteer hours to the website.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

### Wednesday, March 20, 2024 – 1,060th Membership Dinner Meeting

- Before the monthly meeting, Members and Guests enjoyed appetizers and a wonderful dinner of corned beef and cabbage prepared by Jerry and Julie Murray. Hot dogs, chips, etc., were provided for the children. During the Membership Meeting, children in attendance joined member David Mecklenberg in the board room to learn about bees.

(continued on page 3)

## SUMMARY

(continued from page 2)

- President Carol Hulce – Efdimis called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.
- Dinner Meeting Speakers Martha Weiss, Professor of Biology, Georgetown University and John Lill, Professor of Biology, George Washington University gave a very informative talk about their Cicada study at the Chapter from 2020 – 2024. 6 researchers participated in the study: John Lill, Martha Weiss, Zoe Geman-Pickering, Sard Sahmash, Grace Soltus, Daniel Grune. Cicadas emerge every 17 years. The next emergence will be in 2038.
- President Carol Hulce-Efdimis spoke about the updated wording to the Facilities Use Regulations regarding driving on Chapter property.
- Membership Secretary Scott Harmon reported that the current membership total is 770. 17 prospective membership candidates introduced themselves. Motion was made to approve the induction of 7 prospective candidates. **Motion passed** and candidates were inducted into the chapter.
- Chapter House Security Committee reported that a new computer and software have been purchased. Software, which is on back order, will be installed as soon as it is available.
- Chapter House Chair John Lamb reported that Jack Mandel has loaned scaffolding to the chapter so that the painting in the chapter house can be completed.
- Log Cabin chair David Mecklenburg is looking at grants to help with cabin restoration.
- Farm Chair Phil Taylor reported that the control burn plans for 8 sections of the property have been approved and the burn is being scheduled. The burns will encourage the growth of native species.
- Blaine Elkins discussed the schedule for the erosion and sediment control of the Shotgun Range area.
- Christine Peterson has been appointed as the chair of the Nominating Committee.
- Help is needed with moving the wood piles on the Shotgun Range to ready the range for lead reclamation.
- A "Stop the Bleed" training course is being organized for May 11 by Adventure Committee chair Mike Dobson.
- Bob Pavlick gave an update on the IWLA National Convention that will be held in Cambridge, MD on Sunday, July 14 through Tuesday, July 16.
- Family Campout will be on Saturday, April 13 – Sunday, April 14.
- The Conservation Award Dinner will be on Saturday, May 25. The Chapter will recognize some of the senior students from Poolesville Ecology Program.
- We will participate in one day of Heritage Days this year – June 30 from 12:00 noon to 4:00pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

## Cost of Monthly Dinner

Due to the increased cost of food, the price for a dinner at our monthly meetings will increase from \$10 to \$15. The new cost will go into effect at the May Dinner Meeting.

## Welcome to the B-CC IWLA Family!

At the March 2024 Membership Meeting, the following were inducted as members to the Chapter:

**Joseph Carregal**

*Interests:* Forestry; Ponds & Streams; Star Gazing

**Valerie Carregal**

*Interests:* Archery; Farming; Photography

**Brendan Covington**

*Interests:* Ponds & Streams; Rifle & Pistol; Skeet & Trap

**Sprigg Lynn**

*Interests:* Archeology; Forestry; Skeet & Trap

**Joe McIntyre**

*Interests:* Forestry; Ponds & Streams; Rifle & Pistol

**Jeff Mironcow**

*Interests:* Farming; Photography; Rifle & Pistol

**Jeremy Smyth**

*Interests:* Conservation Education; Hunter Education; Ponds & Streams

## UPDATE TO FACILITIES USE REGULATIONS DRIVING ON CHAPTER PROPERTY

As mentioned in the February President's message, the Board of Governors was working on language for an update to the Facilities Use Regulations regarding driving on Chapter property. The Board of Governors has passed a motion updating the wording to the regulation as follows:

**"Any vehicle including but not limited to cars, trucks, bikes, UTVs or horses are not allowed off the designated roadways and parking areas due to the risk of soil displacement and erosion on our trails and fields.**

**Permission to drive on the property can be granted by the Board of Governors or the Committee Chairs in the event of participating with Committee events."**

## ENTRANCE TO THE CHAPTER SIGN

Did you notice? Spotlights have been installed at the base of the chapter sign at the intersection of Izaak Walton Way and West Willard Road.

Thanks go to Daniel Carrero for installing them.

*Thank you!*

## Membership Committee Report

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

As of the March Board of Governors meeting, membership stands at 659 paid memberships with 786 total members: 435 Individuals, 254 Family, 6 Students, 1 Youth, 77 Retired, and 13 Associates. It's not too late to renew for 2024. By renewing you support our chapter's mission to protect wildlife, woodlands, and open spaces.

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.

### WORK HOURS REQUIREMENT

In reviewing last year's work hours requirement, we will be reaching out to members that we do not have recorded work hours for and that did not pay the \$50 in lieu of work fee required by our bylaws. We will reach out by email and then a follow up phone call if we don't hear back from you.

## Log Cabin Committee Report

David Mecklenburg, Chair  
dmecklenburg1@gmail.com

### Spring at the Log Cabin

We are seeing flowers come up at the Willard Log Cabin. The daffodils and other flowers are blooming. I always get inspired this time of year to spend more time out at the chapter especially around the cabin. It is such an ideal place to spend time at the chapter. An individual, family, or a group of friends can do so many things in just a few feet. Picnic, bird watch, look at the flowers, relax, and enjoy nature. Please come on down and spend some time.

We have several projects for the cabin this year and we will need helping hands. Please let me know if you are interested in helping. Emailing me with your contact information is the best way of letting me know you are willing and able.



Looking up to the chapter house from the log cabin.

PHOTO BY DAVID MECKLENBURG

## 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.

## 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.

## New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour

Come join us on the B-CC IWLA Orientation Tour. The next tour will take place on Saturday, April 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.

Signup for the tour using the signup genius link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACAA28A7F8C25-48977796-newmember>

Please make sure you include your email address and cell phone number so that if the tour needs to be canceled due to a change in the weather, Christine will be able to contact you.

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

## April 2024 1,062nd Monthly Dinner / Membership Meeting

Wednesday, April 17

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

### Menu

Appetizers will be available before dinner  
Ham, Taters, Green Beans, Rolls,  
Salad, and Desserts

## April 2024 Board of Governors Meeting

Wednesday, April 24

7:00pm



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

## Monthly Events

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

### APRIL

Saturday, April 13	Spring Family Campout	Starts at 2:30pm
Sunday, April 14	Spring Family Campout	Ends by 10:00am
Sunday, April 14	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
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
Saturday, April 20	Friction Fire Workshop	10:00am – 3:00pm
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
Sunday, April 28	Eagle Scout Court of Honor (Connor Shelbourne)	3:00pm – 8:00pm

### MAY

Wednesday, May 1	Apollo Archery – Archery Range	6:00pm – Dusk
Thursday, May 2	Past Presidents Dinner	6:00pm – 10:00pm
Saturday, May 4	Spring Hunter Education Class	8:00am – 4:00pm
Saturday, May 4	R&P Range Closed in the afternoon for Hunter Education Class	Starting at 12:30pm
Sunday, May 5	Montgomery Bird Club's Spring Walk	7:00am – 12:00 noon
Sunday, May 5	Spring Hunter Education Class	8:00am – 4:00pm
Tuesday, May 7	Pack 694 Crossover	6:00pm – 9:00pm
Thursday, May 9	Pack 694 Den Meet (Kyle) – in Chapter House	7:00pm – 8:00pm
Sunday, May 12	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 Meeting	6:30pm – 8:30pm
Saturday, May 18	2nd Annual Military Fun Shoot – R&P Range	9:00am – 1:00pm
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
Saturday, May 25	Conservation Education Dinner and Awards	Dinner – 6:00pm Awards – 7:00pm Speaker – 7:30pm

### JUNE

Saturday, June 1	Introduction to Hunting Seminar	8:30am – 4:00pm
Saturday, June 1	NAVHDA Spring Test – Chapter House, front fields, and ponds	8:00am – 5:00pm
Saturday, June 1	License Free Fishing Day in Maryland ( <a href="http://dnr.maryland.gov">dnr.maryland.gov</a> )	6:00am – 9:00pm
Sunday, June 2	NAVHDA Spring Test – Chapter House	8:00am – 5:00pm
Wednesday, June 5	Apollo Archery – Archery Range	6:00pm – Dusk
Thursday, June 6	Cub Scout Pack 694 Crossover	6:30pm – 8:30pm
Saturday, June 8	Swap Meet and Silent Auction	TBD
Saturday, June 15	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Wednesday, June 19	1,064th Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner starts 6:15pm Meeting starts 7:30pm
Saturday, June 22	New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour	10:00am – 11:30am
Monday, June 24	BSA Seneca District – Week Long Summer Day Camp	8:00am – 4:00pm
Tuesday, June 25	BSA Seneca District – Week Long Summer Day Camp	8:00am – 4:00pm
Wednesday, June 26	BSA Seneca District – Week Long Summer Day Camp	8:00am – 4:00pm
Wednesday, June 26	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Thursday, June 27	BSA Seneca District – Week Long Summer Day Camp	8:00am – 4:00pm
Friday, June 28	BSA Seneca District – Week Long Summer Day Camp	8:00am – 4:00pm
Friday, June 28	Articles for July Newsletter due – send articles to <a href="mailto:j.lamkin@comcast.net">j.lamkin@comcast.net</a>	By End of Day
Sunday, June 30	25th Annual Heritage Day	12:00 noon – 4:00pm

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

## 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 time for early crop planting.

## Calendar Submissions

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

## The Adventure Committee

Mike Dobson, Chair  
michaelvdobson@protonmail.com

### Stop the Bleed Training

A bleeding injury can happen anywhere. In worst-case scenarios, an injured person can bleed to death in one to five minutes – often much faster than first responders can arrive and render aid. Bystanders trained to control bleeding can make all the difference. Become one by participating in STOP THE BLEED training.

On **Saturday, May 11**, the Adventure Committee will host instructors from **STOP THE BLEED** to train chapter members on how to recognize life-threatening bleeding and act quickly and effectively to control it. The training session will happen at the chapter house, starting at 11:00am and lasting approximately one hour. Range officers and hunters are strongly encouraged to attend.

**THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR THIS TRAINING IS MAY 6, 2024. CLASS SPACE IS LIMITED TO 30 SLOTS, SO SIGN UP TODAY USING THE LINK BELOW.**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACA28A7F8C25-48729013-stop>



## Apollo Archery 2024 Program

Chuck Thornton  
apolloarchery.bcciwla@gmail.com

### APOLLO ARCHERY IS BACK FOR OUR FOURTH 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. Check out program details here: <https://bcciwla.org/apollo-archery/>.

As in prior years, we will host Apollo Archery sessions on the first Wednesday of each month through October. We will start at 6:00pm and finish at dusk.

**2024 dates:**  
**April 3; May 1; June 5; July 3;**  
**August 7; September 4; October 2**

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.

We're always in search of modern equipment donations. We store the Apollo equipment in a dedicated shed with access limited to use by our participants. Please contact us if you'd like to make a contribution.

For additional details, contact Chuck Thornton at [apolloarchery.bcciwla@gmail.com](mailto:apolloarchery.bcciwla@gmail.com)!

## LEAD RECLAMATION WORK

Prep work for the Lead Reclamation project has begun. The Shotgun Range is now closed for a time period spanning possibly through the summer.

The road to the Shotgun Range is lined with white surveyor tape and stakes and the range has been marked with the same items. These are not to be removed and if you notice that any have fallen down, please contact Carol at 240-277-2494 or [carol2017@aol.com](mailto:carol2017@aol.com)

There will be increased traffic on our roads and construction equipment at and in the woods around the shotgun range. Please be mindful of this when you are on the chapter grounds this summer. The equipment can be very dangerous even when it is not operating so please stay away from the work areas and keep an eye on your children and pets.

## Hunter Education Course

John Lamb  
jpatricklamb@aol.com

On May 4th & 5th the chapter will host one of its bi-annual Hunter 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. Use the link below to register for the class.

<https://register-ed.com/events/view/209719>

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 at jpatricklamb@aol.com.

## Archery Committee Report

Jack Mandel, Chair  
jmandel@design@gmail.com

### MAILING LIST:

To receive regular updates, email Marc or Jack to get on our mailing list – **Jack Mandel** (jmandel@design@gmail.com) and **Marc Bouchard** (combat750@gmail.com)

### TARGET STANDS

The target range is open 365 days a year, from sunrise to sunset. Guests must sign “hold-harmless” agreement form and deposit in field box by shooting stations. No ROs need be present, but if you wish to get instruction, please contact us, and we’ll get you started!

### 3-D COURSE

This year, because the shotgun range lead cleanup encompasses a large portion of the Blue section of the 3-D course where contractors will be potentially working in the woods, we will be reconfiguring the course to avoid reclamation work and skirt identified wetlands and stream buffers. We have a solid plan of action that should make the entire course as fun and challenging as ever.

3-D course is available for use only on scheduled days for members and guests; open to all ROs at all daylight hours.

Schedule will be posted soon on member calendar and on Archery Range page of website.

### APOLLO ARCHERY

Chuck Thornton and John Gorney have launched the Apollo Archery program this season with a great start. The Apollo schedule is on the Archery page and club calendar, and we encourage anyone interested in helping with this military active duty and veteran program to come participate.

## SCOUT ACTIVITIES

Deborah Behrend and Dave Drazen are continuing the tradition of helping scouting groups earn merit badges and learning the archery discipline.

Camping is available at the range as well. Contact us for scheduling.

## BEGINNING ARCHERY SEMINARS

This season we will be conducting at least one beginner archery seminar in mid-May on a Thursday evening; exact date TBD.

Open to all members and guests. Advance sign-up necessary. Light refreshments will be served.

## COMPETITION SHOOT

A Thursday evening in June, we will hold a competition with prizes and food from the grill; date TBD.



## Heritage Days

The B-CC IWLA Chapter is pleased to open its doors once again for Heritage Days and will offer access to our site to promote our conservation message as well as share our local history. This year marks the 25th annual Heritage Days weekend – a countywide festival offering programs, activities, and tours appealing to visitors of all ages and interests. This year we will be opening our doors on Sunday, June 30th. We encourage you to come to the site, visit others and enjoy our displays, activities and discover things about the chapter you may not know. Family activities such as fishing, archeology, colonial living, archery, bird watching, wildlife and insect displays, in addition to a picnic lunch and soft drinks. This is a great chance to visit the chapter with your family and/or bring guests to show what the IWLA is all about. Gates will be open from 12:00 noon to 4:00pm on Sunday, June 30th (Rain or Shine).

Have time to volunteer? We always need volunteers. Please sign up using the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACA28A7F8C25-48781299-2024>

## Rifle & Pistol Range Committee Report

Jerry Murray, Chair  
202 438-4202 jerrym5@comcast.net

### NEW OPERATING HOURS

The Rifle & Pistol Range is now open to the general membership and their guests for the 2024 season. The range is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 9:00am – 4:00pm thru November 23.

The R&P Range is allowing only 2 guests per member.

### NEW FEES

**Chapter Members are \$8 and Guests are \$10.**

If you are bringing a guest, please print out the Hold Harmless Agreement that is listed on the website and have them fill it out when you come to the range. The agreement is needed every time a guest comes to the range. If you have any questions, please contact me.

ECI (Empty Chamber Indicators) are required at all times. You may bring your own and there will be some extras located in the range house. They will be placed at each shooting position.

Before coming to the range please review the range's Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) that are posted on the website. The SOP's provide information on how the range is operated and our safety procedures.

### RANGE CLOSURES

The range may be closed on some days for special events or due to other activities at the chapter. Closures will be posted on the website and at the range. Given sufficient notice we will try and list closures in the newsletter and in e-blasts.

On **Saturday, May 5 starting at 12:30pm**, the range will be closed to all shooters for the **Maryland Hunter Education course** to use the range. Sunday will be regular operating hours.

The R&P range will be closed to regular shooting on **Saturday, May 18 from 9:00am – 1:00pm** for the **2nd Annual Military Fun Shoot**.

### FUN SHOOT

Please join us for the **2nd Annual Military Fun Shoot** on Saturday, May 18, 2024, from 9:00am – 1:00pm to honor our Military past and present. Prizes will be awarded and lunch will be served. Bring your 20th Century or later US Military rifle, carbine or handgun, (AR-15, M1A, .22 caliber training rifles and any pistol firing 9mm .45ACP or .38 Special will also be allowed. Don't have any of those options? Bring your favorite .22 caliber rifle or borrow one at the event. Iron sights, scopes, and red-dot sights will all be allowed, but in separate categories. Bi-pods, rests and slings will also be allowed. Please bring your own ammo. We will be using non-standard targets at 100yds, 50yds and 50ft, designed to allow everyone an equal chance to win a prize. If we have enough willing participants, we will have an optional skill competition to determine the best shot in each category.

Cost will be \$20 for the event with range fees waived. Intrigued? Use the link below to sign up if you are interested in participating.

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

More information to follow in next month's newsletter. The R&P range will be closed to regular shooting during the event.

Contact event coordinators, Jerry Murray or Larry Hess, if you have any questions: jerrym5@comcast.net or larry.a.hess@gmail.com.

### PLEASE REMEMBER

- Put paper in the trash. If the cans are full, please empty them.
- Keep watch on guests you bring. It is your place to brief them on the SOP's.
- Be safe and enjoy the range respectfully.
- All must **PICK UP THEIR BRASS!**

### RANGE OFFICER SCHEDULE

#### April

Saturday, April 6	<b>Murray, J.</b> ; Williams, B.; Bruno, F.; Saiz, J.
Sunday, April 7	<b>Williams, B.</b> ; Winkel, B.; Coates Sr, L.; Taylor, P.
Saturday, April 13	<b>Coates Sr, L.</b> ; Evans, R.; Greenberg, R.; Taylor, P.
Sunday, April 14	<b>Hess, L.</b> ; Quattlebaum, R.; Miller, B.; Mecklenberg, R.
Saturday, April 20	<b>Saiz, J.</b> ; Belendiuk, A.; Zic, T.; Hunt, J.
Sunday, April 21	<b>Hunt, J.</b> ; Jones, R.; Hoover, J.; Coakely, G.
Saturday, April 27	<b>Zic, T.</b> ; Gorney, J.; Waterman, S.; Koehn, D.
Sunday, April 28	<b>Hoover, J.</b> ; Roth, A.; Watt, D.; Gorney, J.



**Check out our Facebook page!**

**Izaak Walton League of America  
Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter**

***If you would like an event to be posted  
on Facebook, contact Andy Wight at  
ConservationEd.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com***



## Introduction to Hunting Seminar

The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America will sponsor its annual "Introduction to Hunting Seminar" on June 1st. Women, men, and teens are all welcome.

This nationally recognized and award winning training will include instruction and discussions about conservation and ethical behavior, the five W's and How of hunting, what is hunting success, preparing to go hunting, techniques and skills for being in the woods, trailing game, animal habitats and habits, choosing a treestand location, safety and first aid, hunting apps, being skunked, what can you learn when you miss, advantages and disadvantages of hunting companions, choosing an appropriate bow, long gun or muzzleloader and more. There will be plenty of time for questions.

This seminar does not replace the required Hunter Education course but is to supplement that course and to expand one's hunting knowledge. The instructors have had nearly 100 years of hunting experience and what they will share is intended to help participants have a more enjoyable time while hunting.

The seminar will be held at the B-CC IWLA Chapter House in Poolesville, MD. Check in begins at 8:30am and we will start at 9:00am and will continue until around 4:00pm. The cost is \$15 to cover materials. We will be walking in the woods and fields for at least a mile or more so participants should be prepared for that level of activity. Bring your own lunch, drinks, and wear clothes for outdoor walking and going through briars. Participants should make sure that their clothes and exposed body parts are treated with bug spray to resist ticks and other critters.

All non-B-CC IWLA members must bring their printed and signed off Hold Harmless Agreements which are available from [B-CC IWLA Hold Harmless Document-190712.docx](#).

Individuals should contact the instructors at [hunting.seminar.bcciwla@gmail.com](mailto:hunting.seminar.bcciwla@gmail.com). Any questions about the seminar should be sent to this same email address. Class size is limited to 25, so registering early is recommended. Registration deadline is May 20th. Please use the Signup Genius link below to register for the event.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACA28A7F8C25-intro3>

**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**

## CHAPTER SURVEY

A big thank you to everyone who has already answered the Chapter Survey. We have received over 177 responses, but we would like to hear from more of you. If you haven't completed the survey, please do so now. It takes about 5 minutes and it is important that we understand what you do at the Chapter, what you like, and where you think things could be improved.

Your responses will help the current Board, and future Boards, prioritize activities and investments so we can ensure the Chapter is delivering to its mandate and its members. **The survey will close on Saturday, April 20th.**

<https://forms.gle/Q8wfaNafWtf6iWiz9>

## Friction Fire Workshop

Michael Dobson, Adventure Committee Chair  
[michaeldobson@protonmail.com](mailto:michaeldobson@protonmail.com)

Join us for the Adventure Committee's latest workshop, Friction Fire. The event is scheduled for Saturday, April 20, at 10:00am.

The chapter's own Jack Kang will lead participants in making and using a bow drill fire set. Participants will also receive a Mora knife, Ferro rod, and food grilled on the fires we make. (Those unsuccessful at building fires will be allowed to graze nearby.)

This event is free to chapter members and \$50 for non-members. Individuals must be 16 or older to attend.

The workshop will take place on the chapter property, with details to follow by email to those who register. Sign up at the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACA28A7F8C25-48325153-fire>

## ATTENTION New Members!

**The next Chapter House cleanup will be on:  
Sunday, April 14  
Starting at 9:00am**

Join us and earn 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.**

Questions? Contact John Lamb –  
[jpatricklamb@aol.com](mailto:jpatricklamb@aol.com)



## CONSERVATION IS OUR MISSION

### Conservation Education and Awards Dinner (Spaghetti)

Saturday, May 25

Dinner – 6:00pm; Awards – 7:00pm; Speaker – 7:30pm

The annual Conservation Education and Awards Dinner will be held on Saturday, May 25th. This conservation-focused dinner is open to the general public as part of our 501(c)(3) commitment and for the second year running, in addition to our guest speaker, we will be presenting awards and recognizing senior students of the Global Ecology Program at Poolesville High School.

Our guest speaker this year will be Dr. Luke Macaulay from the College of Agricultural and Natural Resources at the University of Maryland. Dr. Macaulay conducts applied research and extension (outreach and education) in wildlife management and conservation, with a focus on practical approaches to enhance wildlife habitat and mitigate wildlife problems in agricultural, forested and grassland/shrubland systems. There is sure to be something for everyone, so please remember to mark this date on your calendar.

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 at ConservationEd.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com.

In order to make sure we have enough food, please remember to sign up below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACA28A7F8C25-48765867-2024>

### FeederWatch/NestWatch News

Diane Seward  
Citizen Science Projects Coordinator  
trina65@verizon.net

Our FeederWatch project closed at the end of March. We observed both Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows scouting the farm in search of a suitable nest box for their broods. By mid-April, the two species will have built nests and begun to lay eggs. Normally, Eastern Bluebirds precede Tree Swallows in nesting activity. We shall see if the pattern continues this spring. Purple Martins will claim slots in our two martin houses and gourds in May.

The NestWatch team urgently needs additional members to monitor nesting progress and record nesting data. The task takes a couple hours once a week. Please consider signing up. Besides contributing to species population studies at Cornell University, team members enjoy spending time outdoors, walking our beautiful farm. Please email me if you would like to join us.

The Montgomery Bird Club will hold its annual spring walk at the farm on Sunday, May 5, 7:00am to noon. Larry Anderson will escort the group of ten Bird Club participants, led by Jim Nelson.

## SWAP MEET & SILENT AUCTION

*It's not on Father's Day this year* but the B-CC IWLA Swap Meet and Silent Auction will be on **Saturday, June 8.**

We all have too much stuff! And you've had a couple of years to see just how much...

If you have anything outdoors related and would like a table for the Father's Day swap meet or to donate an item for the silent auction, contact –

**Lawrence Kotchek at 240 793-5316**  
or [lawrence@print1.com](mailto:lawrence@print1.com)

Tables are limited and will be reserved in the order requested.

Open to both members and prospective members. Tables cost \$10.00 with money going to the Land Fund. Silent auction benefits the Land Fund.







## Annual Spring Family Campout

**Saturday, April 13 starting at 2:30 pm  
until Sunday, April 14 at 9:00am**

It's time for our annual Spring Family Campout. Designed to be an easy camping experience, you bring the tents and sleeping bags and we provide the rest. 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. Events will start Saturday afternoon and continue overnight for those camping into Sunday morning.

### SATURDAY

- The electronic front gate will be kept open from 2:15pm until 6:00pm
- Family tent setup around the chapter house begins at 2:30pm
- Fishing 4:00pm – 5:30pm
- Burgers & 'dogs served between 5:30pm & 6:30pm
- "Mystery Activities" 7:30pm – 8:00pm
- S'mores & hot chocolate by firelight 8:00pm – 8:45pm

### SUNDAY

- Breakfast served to campers 7:30am – 8:30am
- Breakdown & cleanup should be completed by 10:00am
- Schedule some more family time at the farm on your own for the day!

There is NO fee for the family campout.

Please register on the link below (before Wednesday, April 10)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACA28A7F8C25-48377804-2024>

## Shotgun Range Update

The Shotgun Range is now **closed** and **Sporting Clays are suspended** until after the lead reclamation project is completed.

Please be aware that the shotgun area will be a construction zone with heavy equipment that can be dangerous. Members and guests must stay out of the work area even when the equipment is not operating. The work will bring increased traffic to the chapter roads and areas around the shotgun range and the operators are not as familiar with the chapter as we are.

## Wildlife Committee Report

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

The 2023-2024 deer season has drawn to a close. We had a fair year on our farm. 16 deer were reported taken on our farm, on the low end of the scale (16-25) that usually 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 72,642 deer were harvested during deer season (all weapons), which is 5% lower than last year. The decreased harvest is attributed to the heavy mast crop experienced this year, limiting the movement of deer. In Montgomery County, the reported deer harvest was 2% lower than last year.

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

Spring turkey season starts this month. Youth hunt days are April 13th and 14th, and opening day is April 18th. As a reminder, all hunters are required to have a current hunting license, a current membership card (used for permission to hunt on private land), to be registered on our website (to acknowledge our hunting rules), and have a current parking decal on their vehicle. Turkey season runs from April 18th through May 9th with shooting hours from half an hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon. Additionally, from May 10th through May 23rd, turkey hunting hours are half an hour before sunrise to sunset. All members on the farm should be aware of the potential of having hunters afield during these times.

## Prescribed Burn of Chapter Fields



Farm Chair Phil Taylor participated in a prescribed burn at the Chapter led and organized by the MD Department of Natural Resources.

Four fields were included in the burn. Several more fields will be scheduled at a later date.

The burns will encourage the growth of native species.



PHOTOS BY PHIL TAYLOR

2024 CONVENTION KIT

# IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE NATIONAL CONVENTION

CAMBRIDGE, MD ★ JULY 14-16, 2024

AT THE HYATT REGENCY CHESAPEAKE BAY GOLF RESORT, SPA AND MARINA



## RESTORING OUR GREAT WATERS: *Taking Action Today to Secure a Better Future*

Please join us at the League's 2024 national convention! We will highlight America's great waterways, including the Chesapeake Bay, and discuss how we can take action today to secure clean water for the future.

Everyone is invited. Learn about conservation priorities and how to participate in League activities. The scenic Choptank River, Chesapeake Bay and Maryland's Eastern Shore offer many places to explore and opportunities for recreation.

The convention will also feature a special event to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the League's first major conservation victory – establishing the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. That successful effort during the League's first two years not only created a refuge of unprecedented size, it also created the template for the modern conservation movement and a century of progress.

The early bird reception is Sunday evening, July 14. Wednesday July 17 is an optional day for field trips and group activities. See updates and register at [iwla.org/convention2024](http://iwla.org/convention2024).