



JULY 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

Proposed Changes to the By-Laws

(Edits in red – to be voted on at the
July Membership Meeting)

Article VIII – Initiation Fees, Dues, Charges

Section 3.b. Members who are not exempt and who do not complete the required minimum of six hours of volunteer chapter work must pay an additional yearly fee of ~~\$50.00~~ **\$75.00** to maintain their chapter membership. This fee will be added to the membership dues renewal notice and will become applicable for the following membership year. Members who do not complete their required volunteer work time or do not pay the additional yearly fee will be dropped from the Chapter membership roll. (Adopted September 2006; **Amended on 17 July 2024**).

Article IX – Gifts, Donations, or Contributions

Section 3. Establishment of a Capital Fund (Adopted 15 May 2013, **Amended on 17 July 2024**).

- (i) A Capital fund separately accounted for as the Near-Term Capital Fund and Long-Term Capital Fund shall be established for the purchase, repair, and replacement of capital assets in the near-term and long-term. ~~This~~ **These** funds shall be maintained as a segregated accrual accounts and shall be used exclusively for the purchase, replacement, and repair of capital assets, such as equipment; tangible property used in the operations of the Chapter including devices, machines, tools, and vehicles; as well as buildings, roads, structures, and outdoor shooting ranges' lead reclamation; including costs associated with but not limited to, appraisal fees and installation fees as necessary. **Each item or project funded by either the Near-Term and Long-Term Capital Funds will have a minimum cost of \$2,500 and be added to the balance sheet and depreciated according to standard accounting principles.**
- (ii) The moneys for the Near-Term Capital Fund will be derived directly from and in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the ~~Chapter's Annual Revenues collected.~~ **Membership Revenue (renewal, new, and volunteer hours).** The moneys for the Long-Term Capital Fund will be derived from a \$20.00 dues increase for the Individual Membership Type together with pro-rata adjusted dues increase of all other Membership Types, beginning in the Chapter Fiscal Year 2021-2022.
- (iii) The Capital Fund shall be administered by the Advance Planning and Finance Committee (AP&FC).
 - a. The accounts shall be reviewed monthly by the Chapter President and the Advance Planning and Finance Committee. The Chapter Treasurer shall publish detailed and complete reports listing the assets and present value of both the Near-Term Fund and Long-Term Fund at all scheduled meetings.
 - b. A Capital Fund Unfunded Requirements List (UFRL) will be established to prioritize capital expenditures.
 - i. A Point of Contact (POC) will be identified to receive all submissions for consideration under the Capital Fund UFRL. Submissions must be made in writing by either a Committee Chairman or Board Member to the AP&FC justifying the proposed expenditure.
 - ii. The Capital Fund UFRL will be presented by a representative of the AP&FC to the Board of Governors (BOG) for final prioritization/ approval at any board meeting or sooner based on urgency of need.
 - iii. The Capital Fund UFRL will be reprioritized as new capital requirements are approved by the BOG.
- (iv) This By-Law establishing the Capital Fund can be modified or terminated in keeping with Article XIV of the current By-Laws. (Adopted 15 May 2013, Amended on 18 August 2021, **Amended on 17 July 2024**)

Quorum Needed at July Dinner / Membership Meeting

At the June Membership Meeting, we did not have a sufficient number of members for a quorum (45 members) to induct new members to the Chapter nor to vote on the proposed slate for next year's Board of Governors and Legacy Foundation. This month, there are several By-Laws changes (see above) that need to be voted on at the meeting.

Please consider attending the July meeting so that there will be a quorum and the membership can vote on several items.

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

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 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, andywight1@hotmail.com, and Corresponding Secretary Janet Lamkin, j.lamkin@comcast.net.

Summary of the May 2024 Board of Governors Meeting and the June 2024 Membership Dinner Meeting

Jerry Murray, 2nd Vice President

Wednesday, May 22, 2024 – Board of Governors Meeting

- Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by President Carol Hulce-Efdimis.
- Jerry Murray provided a shotgun range lead reclamation update. We are awaiting a proposal from MT2 for using a chemical bonding agent on the lead at the range instead of mining the material.
- Treasurer Bob Kelly provided a summary of the current balances in our bank accounts. Deborah Behrend provided an update on the current and projected financial status of the operating, short term capital, and long term capital accounts.
- Membership Secretary Scott Harmon reported he has sent out approximately 280 e-mails to the members that didn't record work hours last year and did not pay the work fee. So far he has gotten 50 responses that include 30 payments. 2 new member applications were presented for approval.
- Farm Committee Chair Phil Taylor talked about the Controlled Burn that was done by DNR on the farm and the benefits we should see. Phil is looking into the vegetable garden, has been in touch with WUMCO.
- Chapter House Chair John Lamb reported that the interior painting is complete. Next project is the exterior and there will be some woodwork needed to replace/repair some of the siding before we paint/stain.
- Conservation Education Chair Andy Wight reported that we will be giving out 4 awards to the best student projects at the Conservation Dinner.

NEW BUSINESS REQUIRING A MOTION:

- Motion to approve the expense for the security file formatting. **Motion passed.**
- Motion to pay the security expenses for the hard drive, alarm service, and new computer program. **Motion passed.**
- Motion: The members of the finance committee request permission for member Steve Austin to assist in budget preparation and year-end analysis for the chapter. He would be bound by Board confidentially. **Motion passed.**
- Motion to approve 2 member applications submitted by the Membership Secretary for induction into the chapter. **Motion passed.**

TALKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER:

- Jerry Murray suggested we look into setting up an ad-hoc Safety Committee that would co-ordinate the chapter's safety equipment and training. Jerry will write up a scope and get to Carol.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30pm.

Wednesday, June 19, 2024 – 1,064th Membership Dinner Meeting

- Meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by President Carol Hulce-Efdimis.
- Cub Scout Pack 694 Bear Den presented 2 owl nesting boxes to the chapter that they had built.
- The membership was scheduled to vote on the slate for next year's Board of Governors and on several proposed by-laws changes but we did not have a sufficient number

(continued on page 3)

SUMMARY

(continued from page 2)

of members for a quorum so the voting will be postponed until next month's meeting.

- Deborah Behrend provided an update on the chapter's finances with charts showing how the chapter's overhead expenses (electric, propane, insurance, etc.) that are needed to keep the chapter operating have greatly increased over the past 4 years, this results in less money available for our activities. She also discussed the proposed by-laws changes that would increase the work fee (for members who choose not to put in work hours) from \$50 to \$75 and for how the 10% set aside from the chapter's income that funds the short term capital account is calculated.
- Treasurer Bob Kelly provided an update on the chapter's bank accounts.
- 9 prospective members introduced themselves to the membership.
- There were 3 prospective new members there for their 3rd meeting but could not be inducted because we did not have a quorum.
- Wildflower Committee Chair talked about how the committee works with the Farm Committee to co-ordinate the planting of native plants in locations around the farm.
- Janet Lamkin submitted 5 award proposals for our chapter to the State Division and they awarded us all 5.

TALKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER:

- Phil Taylor is working with WUMCO on the food plot (need some rain).

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

2024 – 2025 Proposed Slate for Board of Governors and Legacy Foundation

It is time to vote on the proposed slate for next year's Board of Governors and Legacy Foundation appointments. A quorum of forty-five members is required to ratify the slate. There will be time set aside at the beginning of the July Dinner / Membership meeting to accomplish this task.

Below are the Nominating Committee's proposed 2024 – 2025 Board of Governors and Legacy Foundation appointment for ratification.

– The Nominating Committee

Officers

<i>President</i>	Andy Wight
<i>First Vice President</i>	Jerry Murray
<i>Second Vice President</i>	Position Open
<i>Treasurer</i>	Bob Kelly
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	Janet Lamkin
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Position Open
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Scott Harmon
<i>Past President</i>	Carol Hulce-Efdimis

Board Members

Marc Bouchard
 Dan Dutton
 Shannon Novak
Position Open
Position Open

Legacy Board

Lawrence Kotchek

July 2024
1,065th Monthly Dinner /
Membership Meeting
 Wednesday, July 17
 Dinner served starting at 6:15pm
 Membership Meeting starts at 7:30pm

July 2024
Board of Governors Meeting
 Wednesday, July 24
 7:00pm

R&P Range Open

The Rifle & Pistol Range will be open on the evening of the monthly dinner meetings from 4:00pm to 6:00pm for members and guests.



DRIVING ON CHAPTER PROPERTY

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.

Cape Buffalo Hunt

The Cape Buffalo, *Syncerus caffer*, is one of the "big five" dangerous game animals in Africa, the other four being the Elephant, Rhino, Lion, and Leopard. According to the Kruger National Park Service, Cape Buffalo "... are considered one of



the most dangerous mammals in Africa. Old and grumpy bulls tend to charge unrepentantly and for no apparent reason..." Cape buffalo kill an average of 200 people a year, and more hunters than any of other big five animals. In 2023 Bill Shaw, a friend of Past President Walt Allensworth, invited him to hunt in the Limpopo province of South Africa during June 2024. Walt agreed on the condition that he and their professional hunting guide (PH) Andries Van Wijk, from Van Wijk Safaris, would allow him to hunt a Cape buffalo from the ground with a dangerous game rifle. They quickly agreed. The hunt was exciting, and included an unprovoked charge by five buffalo. Walt was fortunate to harvest this 41.5" SCI* Silver Cape Medal Cape Buffalo on June 13th, the only Cape Buffalo harvested on a Van Wijk Safari this season. Later that week Bill harvested a spectacular SCI Gold Medal red hartebeest. A short slide show about this hunt may be given at an upcoming dinner meeting. For more information about South African hunting opportunities, please see vanwijksafaris.com.

*Safari Club International

Montgomery County Ag Fair Booth

Steve Poss
bandsposs@gmail.com



We are looking for volunteers to help work the booth at this year's Montgomery County Agricultural Fair. The fair starts on August 9, 2024 and runs through August 17, 2024. We are looking for volunteers to work the 6 hour shifts.

The early shift runs 10:00am to 4:00pm and the late shift 4:00pm to 10:00pm. Volunteers get free admission and a parking pass. It's a great way to earn your volunteer hours, as well as an opportunity to promote our organization and educate the community about our mission. I'm also looking for any promotional material about the chapter and our activities that can be displayed or handed out at the booth.

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Poss (301 332-5259) bandsposs@gmail.com, or Bill Leaman with the Rockville Chapter to schedule a time slot (240 888-7600).

★ Opening Day Dove Hunt & Cookout

It's time to start planning for Dove Season. Opening day is **Monday, September 2nd (Labor Day)**, which will be here before we know it. As usual, we will be holding our annual members dove hunt with a cookout to follow. With acres of sunflowers planted this season, we are hoping for a lot of doves, so please clear this day on your calendar. Please come and join us at the Shotgun range shortly after the shooting hours end for food and drink.

Leveraging from previous event, we have a few reminders for those both new and seasoned to ensure everyone's experience is safe and enjoyable:

- Please check in at the table on Izaak Walton Way when you head into the property.
- Please be sure to register to hunt through our website by the night before on September 1: <https://bcciwla.org/b-cc-iwla-chapter-hunting-rules/>
- Bring your hunting license & current membership card with you. (If you don't have a card, please email the membership secretary to get a confirmation email of current membership)
- Ensure your car has a current year B-CC IWLA sticker on it.
- Shotguns cannot hold more than 3 shells at a time, per state regulations.
- Keep your barrel pointed in a safe direction at all times.
- Doves only may be hunted between 12:00pm and 5:00pm.
- Know what a dove looks like to ensure the correct species is harvested.
- Opening day is typically very warm, so please dress for the weather and bring lots of water to stay hydrated.

As mentioned above, there will be a cookout at the Shotgun range starting around 5:30pm, where we will have burgers, hotdogs, cold drinks & snacks. A suggested \$5 donation per person to cover our costs is greatly appreciated. We hope to see you on September 2nd.

Adopt-A-Road Program

As was mentioned months ago, the Chapter is looking for someone to head up the Adopt-A-Road program.

Chapter Member John Robinson, who chaired this committee for many years, decided it was time to step down and for someone else to take over. The Chapter appreciates all the work that John has done to keep the Chapter's portion of West Willard Road free of litter, old tires, etc.

Now it is time for a member or two or three to chair or co-chair this program. Supplies (trash bags, gloves, and orange traffic vests) are provided by the County. The Adopt-A-Road program is an important part of our community outreach and 501(c)3 designation.

Please help us continue this program. Contact Janet Lamkin, 301 466-6557 or j.lamkin@comcast.net to volunteer.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

JULY

Thursday, July 4	License Free Fishing Day in Maryland (dnr.maryland.gov)	6:00am – 9:00pm
Wednesday, July 10	Apollo Archery – Archery Range	6:00pm – Dusk
Saturday, July 13	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Wednesday, July 17	1,065th Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner starts 6:15pm Meeting starts 7:30pm
Saturday, July 20	New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour	10:00am – 11:30am
Wednesday, July 24	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Friday, July 26	Articles for August Newsletter due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day

AUGUST

Thursday, August 1	MD Hunting License Year Begins	5:00am
Wednesday, August 7	Apollo Archery – Archery Range	6:00pm – Dusk
Saturday, August 17	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Saturday, August 17	New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour	10:00am – 11:30am
Wednesday, August 21	1,066th Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner starts 6:15pm Meeting starts 7:30pm
Saturday, August 24	BSA Potomac District – Summer Cub Scout Day	8:00am – 4:00pm
Wednesday, August 28	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Friday, August 30	Articles or Septembers Newsletter due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Saturday, August 31	Woodman's Private Event	10:00am – 6:00pm

SEPTEMBER

Monday, September 2	Opening Day Dove Shoot	12:00 noon – 5:00pm
Monday, September 2	Opening Day Cook Out	5:00pm
Wednesday, September 4	Apollo Archery at the Archery Range	6:00pm – Dark
Saturday, September 7	Fall Hunter Education Course in the Chapter House – R&P Range closes at 12:30pm	8:00am – 5:00pm
Sunday, September 8	Fall Hunter Education Course in the Chapter House – R&P Range closes at 12:30pm	8:00am – 5:00pm
Saturday, September 14	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 11:00am
Wednesday, September 18	1,067th Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:30pm
Saturday, September 21	New and Prospective Members Orientation	10:00am – 11:30am
Saturday, September 21	Poolesville Day (Chapter will be sponsoring a booth)	10:00am – 4:00pm
Wednesday, September 25	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Friday, September 27	Articles for October Newsletter due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Saturday, September 28	Black Powder Day / Muzzleloader Event	9:00am – 4:30pm

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

**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

ATTENTION New Members!

The next Chapter House cleanup will be on:
Saturday, July 13
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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Chapter House Cleanup

Saturday, July 13

Starting at 9:00am

Probationary (new) members need to help out in one chapter house cleanup as part of their sixteen volunteer hours

Monthly Dinner/Membership Meeting

Wednesday, July 17

Contact Carol Hulse-Efdimis, carol2017@aol.com, if you can help with food preparation, setup, and/or cleanup.

Montgomery County Agricultural Fair

Friday, August 12 through Saturday, August 22

Volunteers for IWLA booth needed

Contact Steve Poss 301 332-5259 or Bill Leaman 240 888-7600

Cleanup and Trim the Parking Lots

Chapter House, R&P Range, Shotgun Range, Archery Range, Outside the Garden Areas (near Archery Range)
Report your hours to Janet Lamkin (j.lamkin@comcast.net) and log your hours on the chapter website, Member Activities (*Volunteering*)

Pick up Debris on the Chapter House Grounds

Dispose of debris in a wooded area.

Report your hours to Janet Lamkin (j.lamkin@comcast.net) and log your hours on the chapter website, Member Activities (*Volunteering*)

Dove Shoot and Cookout

Monday, September 2 (Labor Day)

Need help at the cookout starting at 3:00pm

Poolesville Day

Saturday, September 21

10:00 – 4:00pm

Volunteers are needed at our booth

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DCAA28A7F8C25-50244039-2024)

10C0D4DCAA28A7F8C25-50244039-2024

AS A REMINDER...

All chapter members wishing to hunt on our farm must register on the Chapter website

<https://bcciwla.org/b-cc-iwla-chapter-hunting-rules/>
to acknowledge understanding our rules and property boundaries. This is a yearly requirement.

Apollo Archery Program



The Apollo Archery program provides 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 host Apollo Archery sessions on the first Wednesday of each month through October. We will start at 6:00pm and finish at dark.

August 7; September 4; October 2

- ◆ There is no fee for participation.
- ◆ Beginners and experts are welcome.
- ◆ All equipment provided for adult and child participants: bows, arrows, release aids, etc.
- ◆ We invite experienced archers to bring their own equipment.
- ◆ The course and facilities are wheelchair accessible.
- ◆ Check out Apollo Archery on the chapter **website** [CLICK HERE](#) and on **facebook** [PAGE HERE](#)
- ◆ For additional details contact Chuck Thornton (apolloarchery.bcciwla@gmail.com)!

Please share this opportunity with veterans and current Service members near the Montgomery County, Maryland area.



B-CC IWLA to Participate in Poolesville Day 2024 Festival

We are planning on attending and hosting a booth to showcase our Chapter at "Poolesville Day" which occurs on Saturday, September 21st 10:00am – 4:00pm. This family – oriented event, now in its 30th year, attracts over 12,000 visitors to the town and includes food, drink, entertainment, multiple kids' activities, art & craft vendors, and other exhibitors. It provides a great opportunity for us to connect with local residents and visitors and highlight what the IWLA is about, and more importantly what we do in our Chapter. This is a great day out for the family.

Anyone looking for some volunteer hours, we need your help in staffing the booth. Please use the link below to sign up.

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DCAA28A7F8C25-50244039-2024)
10C0D4DCAA28A7F8C25-50244039-2024

ARCHERY RANGE

TARGET RANGE

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 RO’s need be present, but if you wish to get instruction, please contact us, and we’ll get you started!

3-D COURSE SCHEDULE

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

9:00am – 1:00pm each day

Sunday, July 14

Saturday & Sunday, July 27 & 28

Saturday, August 10

APOLLO ARCHERY

Held on the first Wednesday of the month from 6:00pm to dark. The remaining scheduled dates for the season are:

August 7; September 4; October 2

CAMPING

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

Jack Mandel, jmandel@design@gmail.com

Marc Bouchard, combat750@gmail.com

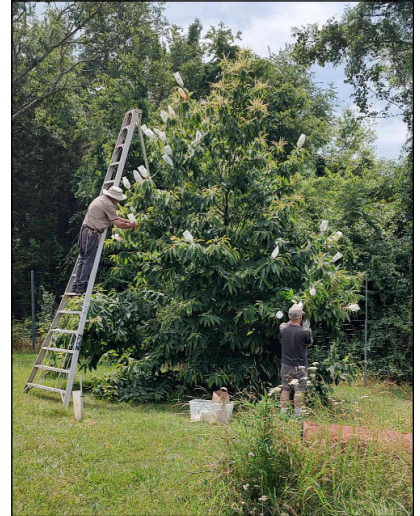
To receive regular updates, email Jack or Marc to get on the mailing list.

American Chestnut Committee Report

Blaine Elkins, Chair

blaineelkins@verizon.net

Some of the American Chestnuts in the old orchard near the campgrounds flowered this year. One of them, #49, set a fair number of female flowers. Ron Kuipers from the Maryland Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation bagged many of the flowers on #49 to prevent random pollination. #49 is from a nut that came from SE833, the hardiest survivor in a grove of 1,200 American Chestnut trees that were planted from irradiated nuts in 1970 in the ACF orchard at Sugarloaf. The nut from SE833 developed from a flower that was pollinated with pollen from the Rag Mountain tree in the Sugarloaf orchard. The father was grown from a cloned graft from a tree on Ragg Mountain Virginia.



When the flowers were mature, Ron and Bruce Levin from the American Chestnut Foundation pollinated the bagged flowers on June 14. They used pollen from 2 different Chestnut trees. The green tagged flowers were pollinated with pollen from a Chinese tree in Urbana. These nuts will be used as controls in resistance assays next year. The red tagged trees are from a very straight, tall Chinese tree near Rock Creek in Chevy Chase. This tree is unusual for a Chinese, since a tall, straight single stem specimen is more like an American phenotype than a Chinese. These will be used to start new hybrid lines in the hopes that they will be more similar to the growth habit of pure Americans.

Owl Boxes

Cub Scout Pack 694 Bear Den presented 2 owl nesting boxes to the chapter that they had built. The boxes were presented to Avifauna Committee Chair Diane Seward and Wildlife Committee Chair Larry Anderson. The project required them to drill, saw, hammer, and paint. During the project they learned that ‘safety comes first’ when performing these tasks. The chapter will install the boxes before January when Owls typically start nesting. Thank you Pack 694!



PHOTO BY MARK GOCHNOUR



Early Morning at the Large Pond

New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour

Come join us on the B-CC IWLA Orientation Tour. The next tour will take place on **Saturday, July 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/10C0D4DCAA28A7F8C25-48977796-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 or 301 938-9773 (cell) if you have questions.



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

Rifle & Pistol Range Committee Report

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

On June 30th, as part of our Heritage Day open house, we had a fun shoot at the range using air rifles and pistols. The event drew a lot of interest, especially from the children, several of whom had never used a firearm. Hopefully events like this will encourage new shooters to come back again. We have not advertised it in the past but air rifles and pistols (pellet or bb) are always welcome at the range. The 7yd and 50ft lines on the pistol side are ideal for newer shooters, and we have some PVC stands that can be used for these shorter distances at the rifle side. The RO's on duty can help you with the set up. Eye and ear protection is still required. So dust off that old 'Red Ryder' and introduce someone new to the fun of shooting.



PLEASE REMEMBER

- New Fee's: Chapter Members are \$8 and Guests \$10.
- Use of Empty Chamber Indicators (ECI)'s is required.
- Put paper in the trash. If the cans are full, please empty them.
- Keep watch on the 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!**

Prescribed Burn of Tall Fescue Grass

Back in the first week of April the Farm Committee did a controlled burn in cooperation with the DNR. The purpose was to kill-off tall fescue grass that has taken over areas adjacent to the planted fields. Tall fescue is a non-native grass that provides almost no benefit to wildlife. In fact game won't run through tall fescue grass because it slows them down too much.

Controlled burns (also called prescribed burns) are carefully managed fires

that suppress invasive plants. It restores desired plants that create improved wildlife habitat. As you can see in the attached photos, the burned areas have turned into meadows with native plants such as Black Eyed Susan, Milkweed, and Yarrow. All of these plants are beneficial to pollinators. And they are drought tolerant as well as self-seeding.

For information contact either: bccfarmchairman@gmail.com or bcc_wildflowers@yahoo.com.



Black Powder Day / Muzzleloader Event 2024

Muzzleloading enthusiasts and the newly interested are invited to come for the annual Black Powder Clinic and Shooting Match on Saturday, September 28 from 9:00am – 4:30pm.

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.

Members and their guests may register using the following link:

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACC28A7F8C25-black#/#](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACC28A7F8C25-black#/)

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

Summer at the Log Cabin

David Mecklenburg, Log Cabin Committee Chair
dmecklenburg1@gmail.com

It is now summer with long days. I hope you had a chance to join us at Heritage Days. It was a lot of fun down at the cabin with reenactors, archeology projects, displays in the cabin and tours of the cabin, smoke house, and spring house.

With these long days it is the perfect time to come out to the chapter after work and enjoy a picnic dinner, do some bird or nature watching, or a little fishing. It is also fun to stay out after dark falls to look at the stars and whatever the night will bring. Remember to wear insect repellent when you come down to the cabin to avoid the ticks, chiggers, and mosquitoes. I hope to see you soon.



PHOTOS BY DAVID MECKLENBURG

NestWatch Committee Report

Linda Green, Citizen Science Project Co-coordinator
lindakpgreen@gmail.com

The NestWatch Team at our chapter has continued to monitor the Purple Martin and Bluebird/Tree Swallow boxes on the property weekly this season. The Eastern Bluebirds in the Field, Archery, and Pond boxes are turning around second broods in most cases and many of the Tree Swallow chicks are now fledging. In fact, this year, the team has had the fortune to observe several of these fledglings being taught to fly out in the field just next to the Chapter House!

The Purple Martin towers and Gourd nests produced their first chicks of the season in early June. The team has been very busy with replenishing pine nesting material for each of the nests at the midway point of the chicks' 28 day brooding period. These extra efforts improve the success of the chicks survival, by decreasing parasite growth in the nest cavities. Even after fledging, young Purple Martins stay close to their nests, since they return to their nests each evening. So, if you are at the Chapter House this month, don't forget to take a moment to watch these acrobatic birds chasing insects to eat "on the wing" and broadcasting their lively chortling song.

Many thanks to Diane Seward, Pat McNeilly, Ela Green, and guest Annie Mealey for their dedicated service to this year's project mission.



Eastern Bluebird Nestlings - 1 day old



Eastern Bluebird Chick Nearly Ready to Fledge



Female Tree Swallow Watching Nest Monitors



Tree Swallow Hatchlings in Feather-Lined Nest



Protective Adult Purple Martin



Purple Martin Hatchlings



Purple Martin Chicks - 11 days old



Purple Martin Chicks - 17 days old



PHOTO BY ARTHUR BELENDIUK

SUNFLOWERS SHOULD BE IN FULL BLOOM UNTIL JULY 12

Farm Chair Phil Taylor planted sunflowers in the front field (A2).

Come out to the field and enjoy their beauty!

Thank you Phil!

Search for Possible Lost Cemetery – Update

BCC_Archaeology@yahoo.com

– Summary –

Many things pointed to a strong possibility that there was a lost slave cemetery in our NE Woods. Recent regulations require the Planning Department to locate such cemeteries. We were contacted by the County Archaeologist who wanted to search our property. After much investigation we can conclude that the area we searched in the NE Woods does not contain graves.

– Background –

Hundreds of years ago Montgomery County was dotted with farms. Prior to the Civil War these farms were operated by enslaved people. Often, each farm had a slave cemetery. As centuries passed these cemeteries became lost and abandoned.

Currently our County is experiencing urban growth. During a recent project the construction crew unexpectedly discovered graves. This prompted the County to enact a requirement that the Planning Department research and document the location of all lost slave cemeteries throughout the County.

Maps from the 1800's show two different farms that were, in part, located on our property. As luck would have it, we



And because wildlife doesn't eat Vinca it survives for centuries. Initially we did not find any sign of a building at the Vinca patch. So a cemetery seemed likely. It was the correct distance from the homestead. Also close to the main farm road (the old Wagon trail, not Willard Road).

The first part of the official search was on February 25, 2024. The County brought cadaver search dogs to the Vinca site. That search came up negative. The dog handler said "I never saw so much Vinca and no bodies!"

But, the dogs did not detect any graves. The second part of the search happened on March 13, 2024. At that time the County Archaeologist used a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) to look for possible graves. However, we had to first clear the ground of weeds and debris. Seven members of the Archaeology Committee showed up to help do this big job. Chapter member Kathie Rogers (a professional archaeologist) assisted with the GPR measuring and data collection. Next we had to wait a while for the radar data to be analyzed. Recently we heard that the radar did not detect any anomalies that might be graves. Again, no indication of a lost cemetery.

– A New Discovery –

During the above searches, our primary responsibility was to assist the County Archaeologist. But during the February search, we did discover an unusual collection of stones on the surface. Surface stones are very uncommon in that area. It's an indication that something was there. When we returned in March we examined the area near those surface stones and discovered a square nail. Further evidence there was probably some sort of structure there. And that might explain why the Vinca was planted. The Archaeology Committee will return to that area in the future for further investigation. (For the record, the surface stones are 37 feet north of the 0,0 reference marker.)

– The Conelley Farm –

One possibility is that the Conelley farm (presumably a slave-holding farm) had its homestead and cemetery beyond our property bounds. Our Chapter purchased 100 acres of land that once belonged to the Astlin farm. However, the Astlin farm was 273 acres. So we only own a portion of the Astlin farm. Furthermore, the Conelley farm might have been even larger than 273 acres. Old maps show that Astlin homestead was close indeed to Willard Road – indeed, right where we found the foundation of a burned house. But older maps seem to show the earlier Conelley farm homestead being further west.



didn't just buy any old part of those farms. We happened to buy the part where the farmhouse was located. Usually the housing for the enslaved people was very near the main farmhouse. All housing was clustered in one spot. And usually the slave cemetery was nearby. Specifically, it was often located on level ground, close to the main farm road, and about 400 to 500 feet from the housing.

While it is true that we have no plans to sink a foundation anytime soon, it seemed quite possible we might have two lost slave cemeteries on our land. Therefore, the County Planning Department contacted the Chapter in order to search for them. The Archaeology Committee has been working with the County to perform the searches.

– Searching the NE Woods –

Soon after we purchased the NE Woods we discovered the foundation of a burned farmhouse. About 400 feet northwest of the foundation we found a large patch of Vinca. Back in the 1800's people decorated their houses and graveyards with a non-native flower named Vinca (also called Periwinkle). It doesn't spread well by seed. So when you find it "in the middle of nowhere" it's a clue that something used to be there.

Heritage Day 2024

On Sunday, June 30th, the Chapter participated in Heritage Day, a free festival that highlights historic, cultural, and outdoor recreation sites offering special programs including exhibits & demonstrations, live music, and activities for children. It was our fourth year of participating in this event which aligns perfectly with our mission of conservation education. Although the weather was hot, we had a great turnout, ~70 people attending over the course of the day, mostly non-members.

We have expanded our exhibitions over previous years to include butterflies, farm, Save our Streams, turkey, bear, deer and furry animal exhibitions, activity table, as well as a station demonstrating how to make flies for fishing. Our outside activities included the ever-popular log cabin tour, fishing, archery, air pistol/air rifle, mock archeological and an actual dig under the log cabin, and bird watching. This year at the log cabin, Daniel and Larry Hess in period costume, demonstrated black powder shooting and period fishing. Also at the cabin, Don Perino led the archeologic sessions, and Dave Mecklenburg talked about the history of the cabin and provided an overview of bee keeping. Pete Wirth and members from the Ponds and Stream Committee led the fishing and Scott Binder and archery crew hosted "Archery for Everyone" just outside the Chapter House. Jerry Murray ran the air rifle / air pistol shooting, the first time we have opened up the range for this event.



Unfortunately, the weather was too hot for Butch to do his planned hunting dog demonstration. David Drazen organized local scout groups, Troop 773G and 773B, to help out. With hot dogs, burgers, chips, and sodas, and lots of water we survived the day. A big thanks to John Shols who manned our welcome booth and sold t-shirts, hats, and drinking bottles, and also to the farm committee who ensured that the grass had been mowed.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who came out to help including Archery, Archeology, R&P, Ponds and Streams, Log Cabin and Farm committees. This weekend would not have been possible without all the individual volunteers dedicated help and enthusiasm. Thank you for making this a great day.

Andy Wight, Conservation Education Committee Chair

