



NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

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

Serving the Community Since 1935

PO Box 542, Poolesville, MD 20837

www.bcciwla.org

President's Message

As autumn arrives, I believe this is one of the best times to get out to the Chapter. With cooling temperatures, misty mornings, and the vibrant colors of fall, there's no better reason to come down and experience the beauty our Chapter has to offer. Whether you're walking your dog, hiking with your kids or grandkids, or simply enjoying a moment of solitude in the fresh air, this is truly the time to come.

As we enter the final stretch of the year and Thanksgiving approaches, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Board of Governors, all our committee chairs, and our dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly to keep the Chapter running. It is their passion, effort, and enthusiasm that make everything we enjoy here possible. Thank you for all that you do!

Looking to help out or need volunteer hours? Several Committee Chairs are actively seeking members to strengthen their teams. In addition, there are many ways to pitch in—join us for chapter cleanups, help with Christmas decorating, or reach out to a committee chair to explore additional volunteer opportunities. And as we prepare for our annual Land Fund Drive later this fall, remember that your time, donations, and energy are invaluable in preserving the Chapter for future generations.

Wishing you a wonderful Thanksgiving and a joyful start to the holiday season!

Andy Wight
President

B-CC IWLA HOLIDAY SPORTSMAN RAFFLE

**\$10 Per Ticket
or
\$100 for 11 Tickets**



Harrington & Richardson
20 ga. Shotgun
rifled bbl. 3" chamber



Savage Model 220
20 ga. Shotgun
rifled bbl 3" chamber
Sporter 3-9x scope

**Winner will be chosen
during the December 18, 2024
Dinner Meeting**

**Need not be present to win.
Tickets are available at the Dinner
Meetings, at the R&P Range, or
contact Carol Hulce-Efdimis
(carol2017@aol.com).**

Board of Governors

Fiscal Year: September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025

OFFICERS

Andy Wight, President

240 205-3982 • andywight1@hotmail.com

Francis (Jerry) Murray, 1st Vice President

202 438-4202 • jerrym5@comcast.net

Position Open, 2nd Vice President

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

Sean-David Waterman, Recording Secretary

816 812-5763 • seandavid@me.com

BOARD MEMBERS

Stephen Austin

Marc Bouchard

Dan Dutton

Lloyd Iden

Shannon Novak

Carol Hulce-Efdimis, Past President

240 277-2494 • carol2017@aol.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

Calendar Submissions

Meetings and events that need to be added to the website calendar and newsletter calendar should be sent to 1st Vice President Jerry Murray, jerrym5@comcast.net, and Corresponding Secretary Janet Lamkin, j.lamkin@comcast.net.

CAMPGROUND NOTICE

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

Summary of the September 2024 Board of Governors Meeting and the October 2024 Membership Dinner Meeting

Jerry Murray, 1st Vice President

Wednesday, September 25, 2024 – Board of Governors Meeting

- Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by President Andy Wight.
- All members were present except Janet Lamkin.
- John Lamb introduced two prospective members. Both would like to join the chapter but have other commitments on the third Wednesday of the month that they cannot break for three times to make our dinner meetings. They asked if there is an alternative path to membership.
- Dan Dutton led a discussion on the information he had gathered on our water testing. The goal was to have a better understanding of our testing by reviewing the tests that are being taken, their locations and frequency, and to see if all the tests are still needed. Based on the discussion at the meeting and information from John Novak some of the tests can be eliminated and the frequency of some other tests can be extended without impacting our stewardship goals. Dan will write up a report with recommendations for a new testing plan.
- Treasurer Bob Kelly reported that the bank accounts have been converted to interest bearing accounts.
- Andy Wight noted that sometimes there seems to be a disconnect between the members, committee chairs, and the board. We need to work on this.
- President Andy Wight discussed a plan to reduce the budget shortfall to fund long and short term accounts by:
 - o Increasing membership. Shannon Novak has agreed to head a membership committee looking into ways to attract more members.
 - o Reduce Costs: Look at our existing contracts to see if we can make adjustments to lower these costs.
 - o Cost Avoidance: Look into ways to get others to cover some of our costs thru donations and grants.
- Treasurer Bob Kelly reminded everyone that we need to make a payment on our loan to Legacy. We need to finalize the amount of the transfer based on the 2023 membership numbers.
- Dave Mecklenburg talked about the expense for dating the cabin logs. He is looking into grant options.
- Jerry Murray reported that the Dove Shoot went well, 42 members signed in to shoot on opening day.
- The next chapter event is the Christmas Party. Carol Hulce-Efdimis set December 7 as decorating day and the party will be on December 14.
- Andy Wight reported that on Poolesville Day 45 people signed up for more information about the chapter.
- Andy received a request from Troop 773B that they would like to use the chapter house one weekend in the spring for training.
- John Lamb reported that the Hunter Education class that was held on September 7/8 at the chapter graduated 39 and he wants to reserve the weekends of May 3/4 and September 6/7 for next year's classes.

NEW BUSINESS REQUIRING A MOTION:

- Motion to approve Ponds and Streams request to purchase 200 trout for the small pond and to purchase fish food. **Motion passed.**
- Motion to approve 3 new member applications submitted by the membership secretary. **Motion passed.**

(continued on page 3)

SUMMARY

(continued from page 2)

- Motion to approve the purchase of 14 adirondack chairs. The funds for this purchase are from the 50:50 raffle. The proceeds from this raffle were earmarked for this purpose. **Motion passed.**
- Motion to approve the release of funds to pay the installment of the Legacy loan. **Motion passed.**

TALKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER:

- Scott Harmon recommended we look for a Parliamentarian to be on the Board.
- John Lamb reported that the exterior of the chapter house needs attention.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50pm.

Wednesday, October 18, 2024 – 1,068th Dinner Meeting

- President Andy Wight called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.
- After a vote by the members, Sean-David Waterman was sworn in as Recording Secretary and Lloyd Iden as a Board Member by Past President Ron Marchessault.
- Kids Meeting Event: Haunted Log Cabin
- Nine (9) prospective members stood and introduced themselves to the membership.
- There were four (4) prospective members attending their third meeting and they were inducted to the chapter.
- Shannon Novak has agreed to head a membership committee looking into ways to increase our membership.
- Bob Kelly provided a summary of the chapter's current account balances.
- Stephen Austin reviewed the proposed budget for the current fiscal year.
- Motion was made to accept the current budget. **Motion passed.**
- Sight-in-Day at the R&P Range on November 16. See the newsletter for more information.

TALKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER:

- Bob Cissel talked about upcoming proposed exemptions to the current legislation regarding solar fields in the agricultural reserve.
- Bill Gordon talked about the state division meeting he attended last week and asked everyone to make sure that their e-mail is listed with National.
- Discussion about what Transfer Development Rights (TDR's) are and why we sold ours.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

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.



Annual Holiday Party

The Chapter will host its Holiday Party on Saturday, December 14 starting at 6:00pm.

Members, their families and/or guests are all invited to attend this casual event for an evening of great company, wonderful food, and holiday cheer. All attendees are asked to bring an entree to share with their fellow holiday revelers. A side dish and/or dessert are a welcome choice also. We will provide the beverages.

You may also bring your own beverage of choice.

This year's party will be festive and fun with the food being a feast for the holidays. So kick your holiday spirit in gear and come on out!

November 2024 1,069th Monthly Dinner / Membership Meeting

Wednesday, November 20

Dinner served starting at 6:15pm

Menu

Turkey, Mashed Taters with Gravy,
Stuffing, Green Beans, Salad, Desserts
Lemonade, Water, and Coffee

Membership Meeting starts at 7:30pm

Gun Raffle

Tickets - \$10 each or 11 for \$100

November 2024 Board of Governors Meeting

Wednesday, November 20

Immediately following the Membership Meeting

R&P Range Open

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Chapter House Cleanup

Saturday, November 16

Starting at 9:00am

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

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACAA28A7F8C25-51060445-monthly>

Monthly Dinner/Membership Meeting

Wednesday, November 20

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

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,

<https://bcciwla.org/log-your-hours/>

Chapter House Holiday Decorating

Saturday, December 7

Meet at the chapter house at 10:00am to decorate for the winter holiday. We need help for inside and outside the chapter house.

Membership Committee Report

Scott Harmon, Membership Secretary

301 467-0645 (cell) scott.w.harmon@verizon.net

As of the October Board Meeting, membership stands at 776 voting Members: 427 Individuals, 262 Family, 2 Students, 1 Youth, 72 Retired, and 12 Associates.

In late September, all renewal notices were put in the mail. You should have received yours by now. If you did not, we need to talk. Please reach out to me by email or phone so we can discuss your renewal.

You can renew online, in person, or by mail. Please find the link for online renewal below.

<https://bcciwla.org/memberrenew>

Per the chapter By-Laws, members are required to volunteer for 6 hours during the year. If we did not have a record of your volunteer hours, a \$75 volunteer fee was added to your renewal. To make sure your volunteer hours are recorded, you can record them online using the link below.

<https://bcciwla.org/log-your-hours/>

Lastly, it's important to get your renewal in as soon as you can. In doing this, you help the chapter fund our programs and reduce the costs associated with renewal reminders.

Chapter House Holiday Decorating

Saturday, December 7

Meet at the chapter house at 10:00am to decorate for the winter holiday. We need help for inside and outside the chapter house. It's a great way to get your volunteer hours in.

Grants and Donations Committee Report

Lance Brannman, Chair

lbrannma88@gmail.com

Join our new Grants and Donations Committee! Our goal is to create and find valuable programs linked to grants and donations that help defray chapter expenses. We will research and educate members on potential grants, create and build relationships with donors, and develop strategies to increase financial support for chapter initiatives. Whether you have experience in fundraising or simply want to make a difference, your contribution will help strengthen our chapter's future. Let's work together to support the mission we all care about!

Board Positions

The Board of Governors is pleased to propose two changes for positions on the Board.

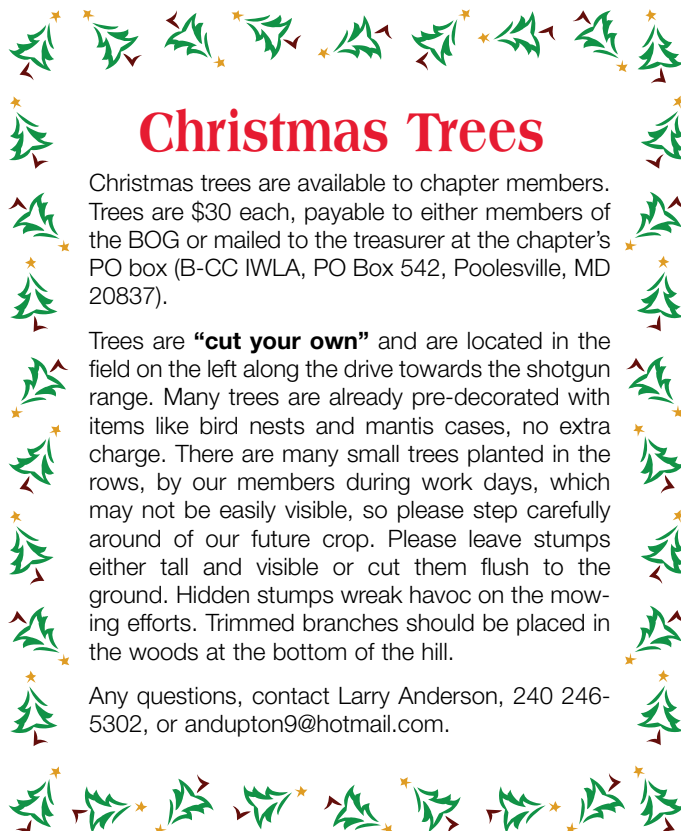
Shannon Novak: 2nd Vice President

Shannon, currently a Board Member, has offered to step into this role for the remainder of the year (August 2025) to help us fill all the officer positions. She has previously been in the role of 2nd VP and is an active member of the Chapter. She enjoys hiking with her dogs, fishing, hunting, shotgun and pistol shooting, and helping out with Chapter Events.

David Mecklenburg: Board Member

David has been coming to the chapter since 1973 with his father and became a member in 1981. He is the current Log Cabin Committee Chair and Apiarist. He enjoys most aspects of the Chapter including beekeeping, environmental stewardship and education, the log cabin, archeology, the farm, shooting, fishing, and hunting.

We plan to ask the members to ratify these positions at the November Dinner Meeting.



Christmas Trees

Christmas trees are available to chapter members. Trees are \$30 each, payable to either members of the BOG or mailed to the treasurer at the chapter's PO box (B-CC IWLA, PO Box 542, Poolesville, MD 20837).

Trees are "cut your own" and are located in the field on the left along the drive towards the shotgun range. Many trees are already pre-decorated with items like bird nests and mantis cases, no extra charge. There are many small trees planted in the rows, by our members during work days, which may not be easily visible, so please step carefully around of our future crop. Please leave stumps either tall and visible or cut them flush to the ground. Hidden stumps wreak havoc on the mowing efforts. Trimmed branches should be placed in the woods at the bottom of the hill.

Any questions, contact Larry Anderson, 240 246-5302, or andupton9@hotmail.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Monthly Events

<i>Saturdays & Sundays</i>	<i>FeederWatch - through March</i>	<i>9:00am – 4:00pm</i>
<i>Saturdays & Sundays</i>	<i>R&P Range Open – through November 29</i>	<i>9:00am – 5:00pm</i>
<i>Sundays</i>	<i>Shotgun Range – Sporting Clays</i>	<i>9:00am – 4:00pm</i>
<i>Mondays</i>	<i>Troop 2027 Meetings (Board Room)</i>	<i>7:30pm – 9:00pm</i>
<i>Mondays</i>	<i>Troop 496 Meetings (Chapter House)</i>	<i>7:30pm – 9:00pm</i>

NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 16	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00noon
Wednesday, November 20	1,069th Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:30pm
Wednesday, November 20	Board of Governors Meeting	Following Dinner Meeting
Thursday, November 21	Cub Scout Pack 694 in Chapter House	6:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday, November 23	New & Prospective Members Orientation Tour	10:00am – 11:30pm
Friday, November 29	Articles for November Newsletter due – send articles to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day

DECEMBER

Saturday, December 7	Decorating the Chapter House for the Holidays	10:00am – 5:00pm
Saturday, December 14	Chapter House Christmas Party	6:00pm – 10:00pm
Sunday, December 15	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00noon
Wednesday, December 18	1,070th Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:30pm
Wednesday, December 18	Board of Governors Meeting	Following Dinner Meeting
Thursday, December 19	Cub Scout Pack 694 in Chapter House	6:00pm – 8:00pm
Friday, December 27	Articles for January Newsletter due – send to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day

JANUARY

Wednesday, January 1	New Year's Day Brunch	More info in December Newsletter
Saturday, January 11	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Wednesday, January 15	1,071st Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner – 6:15pm
Thursday, January 16	Cub Scout Pack 694 in Chapter House	6:00pm – 8:00pm
Wednesday, January 22	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Friday, January 24	Articles for February Newsletter due – send to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day

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

Committee Members Needed

We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join the Chapter's newly-formed Membership Drive Committee. This committee will play a critical role in developing innovative strategies to grow our Chapter's membership and ensure the retention of our valued members.

If you are passionate about conservation, enjoy connecting with people, and want to help shape the future of our Chapter, we need your input!

This is a great opportunity to contribute your ideas, build community connections, and support the mission of our Chapter.

Interested members can contact Board Member, Shannon Novak (snovak516@gmail.com / 301-785-8461) to join.

New Year's Day Brunch

The annual New Year's Day brunch will be held on Wednesday, January 1, 2025! More details will be in December's newsletter and future Eblasts.



Heron at Pond

PHOTO BY ARTHUR BELENDIUK

Rifle & Pistol Range Committee Report

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

We are wrapping up another year at the range. The last day the range will be open to members and guests is November 29. The range will re-open on April 5.

We are having a range officer training course this month and will have another one in February for members who have completed their probationary year and would like to be range officers at the rifle and pistol range. Send me an e-mail if you want to be on the list.

We will be sponsoring several firearms related classes this coming year including: Introduction to Firearms and Learn to Shoot classes. Keep an eye on the newsletter and the e-blasts for more information.

If you have suggestions for classes or events that you would like to see us sponsor, please e-mail me.

The Range will be open on the evening of the monthly dinner meeting from 4:00pm to 6:00pm for members and guests through November.

SIGHT-IN-DAY (see flyer on page _ of this newsletter)

We will be having a sight-in day at the range on November 16 and could use some additional range officers to help out. This is an opportunity to get a duty day in if you missed a day or had to cancel. Even helping for a half day would be appreciated. If you can help please send me an e-mail.

Sight in your legal deer hunting firearms

- Shotgun with slugs
- Straight wall and other center fire rifles, pistols or muzzle-loading firearms
- 15yard – 100yard target distances available with a 45 minute time limit per shooter
- Trained and experienced shooters will be there to assist with bore sighting equipment and to troubleshoot.
- \$10 per shooter.

Use the link below to signup for a shooting lane.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACAA28A7F8C25-52005618-sightinday>

PLEASE REMEMBER

- Fee's: Chapter Members are \$8 and Guests \$10.
- Use of Empty Chamber Indicators (ECI) 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!**

RANGE OFFICER SCHEDULE: NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 2	Dowlut, R.; Pedersen, P.
Sunday, November 3	Ossi, G.; Flinchum, D.; Mense, M.; Drummond, R.
Saturday, November 9	Drummond, R.; Widenhofer, S.; Yau, T., Richards, M.
Sunday, November 10	Mense, M.; Roth, A.; Johnson, G.; Manan, F.
Saturday, November 16	Sypes, E.; Epstein, G.
Sunday, November 17	Bowman, M.; Johnson, G.; Chung, K.; Bryan, K.

Saturday, November 23	Schweikert, B.; Kim, D.; Kawamoto, D.; Bowman, M.
Sunday, November 24	Schweikert, B.; Kim, D.; Bixler, D.; Manan, F.
Friday, November 29	Bixler, D.; Shi, TC

2024-2025 FeederWatch Season

Diane Seward
trina65@verizon.net

The overwintering birds are here, and our 14th FeederWatch season is underway! Counting birds is both enjoyable and educational. Please consider joining other chapter members who count species and numbers of birds observed within species on weekends from early November through late March.

Our data is reported to Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology, along with data submitted from thousands of other participants across the country. Our data helps Cornell scientists analyze shifts in bird species and numbers within species in the United States and Canada. Next Spring the Cornell Lab will publish results by geographic area. Maryland falls in the Lab's southeast region.

We welcome and seek new participants. Please email me if you can help. I will send you our tally sheet and instructions. Count birds for at least an hour on two successive days, or on one day if you are pressed for time, from the comfort of the chapter house. Reserve a weekend, or a single weekend day, using our Signup Genius. Here is the link:

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

Happy Feeder Watching!

Old Halloween Decorations or Gardening Equipment

If anyone has Halloween Decorations or Gardening Equipment that you are looking to get rid of, please consider donating them to the Chapter. We are looking to expand the Chapter's seasonal decorations and be able to provide gardening tools for members at the vegetable garden. Thanks in advance for any donations. Please leave in Board Room with a note.



Shotgun Range Committee Report

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

The Shotgun Range is open on Sundays for Sporting Clays only at this time. Hours of operation are 9:00am – 4:00pm.

Range Officers may open the range during the week and on Saturdays.

RANGE OFFICER SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 3	Kirstein, S.; Fungler, K.
Sunday, November 10	NEED ROs
Sunday, November 17	Stewart, E. – NEED A RO
Sunday, November 24	Reid, J. – NEED A RO

DECEMBER

Sunday, December 1	Gleicher, B.; Quattlebaum, R.
Sunday, December 8	Steffes, D.; Chung, J.
Sunday, December 15	NEED ROs
Sunday, December 22	Bowman, M. – NEED A RO
Sunday, December 29	NEED ROs

New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour

Come join us on the B-CC IWLA Orientation Tour. The next tour will take place on **Saturday, November 23** 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.

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 Peterson will be able to contact you.

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

Contact Christine – christineakcp@comcast.net or 301 938-9773 (cell) if you have questions.



Northern Lights with Dipper

PHOTO BY CAROL HULCE- EFDIMIS

HUNTING ON CHAPTER PROPERTY

If you intend on hunting on the Chapter property, you 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.

Questions?

Contact Hunting Ethics and Oversight Committee Chair Larry Anderson at andupton9@hotmail.com

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.



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

Adventure Committee Hosts Survival Shelter Workshop

Mike Dobson, Committee Chair
emailmiked@protonmail.com

On Saturday, October 26, the Adventure Committee hosted the last of its fall outdoor education workshops. This one



covered how to quickly construct a simple shelter in the woods to stay warm and dry (enough) in inclement weather. The chapter's own Joe Snider led the workshop, from which each participant walked away with a tarp, cordage, and knowledge of how to combine them (and other easy-to-find items) to make a basic structure in under two minutes. Joe also taught principles of safe knife-handling, and showed what he carries in his pack on a typical excursion. Big thanks to Joe for being so

knowledgeable and generous with his wilderness wisdom, and to the attendees for their enthusiastic participation!

If you have an idea for an Adventure Committee workshop and would like to lead it, or know someone who would, email adventure.bcciwla@gmail.com.



Welcome to the B-CC IWLA Family!

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

Teresa Adams

Interests: Archeology; Farming; Programs & Events

Sandra Bonifant

Interests: Outside Events; Rifle & Pistol; Youth Programs

Chad Stradley

Interests: Campground; Ponds & Streams: Rifle & Pistol

Ben Tuan

Interests: Recreational Activities; Rifle & Pistol; Shotgun

From the Farm Committee

As a friendly reminder – if you are in the fields hunting, always pick up your empty shells.

Ponds & Streams Committee – Culvert Cleanup

At the Fall Cleanup Day, members of the Ponds & Streams Committee worked on cleaning up one of the culverts on Izaak Walton Way.



CleanUp Crew



Before



After

ATTENTION New Members!

**Chapter House cleanup will be on:
Saturday, November 16
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.**

Signup for the cleanups using the
signup genius link below:

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/
10C0D4DACAA28A7F8C25-51060445-monthly](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACAA28A7F8C25-51060445-monthly)

Questions? Contact John Lamb –
jpatricklamb@aol.com



PHOTO BY ARTHUR BELENDIUK

Deer in Field

**I was asked why I have contributed to the
B-CC IWLA Land Fund for over 20 years?**

Tom Sigman

I contribute to ensure my grandchildren will have a place to shoot and hunt. I contribute to the B-CC IWLA Land Fund to protect our conservation farm from the total detrimental effects of development on our boundaries. When I look at my grandchildren and think about how much more development will take place during their lifetime, I am concerned about their future opportunities to experience a natural environment of woodlands, ponds and streams, and open fields. I contribute to help protect my chosen life style and system of values. I contribute for my family, your family, and most particularly for the families of the B-CC IWLA that will benefit from my contributions as my family has benefited from the contributions of those that went before me. I have witnessed the tremendous power of our chapter's Land Fund to accomplish what others only dream of, the purchase of surrounding property.

2024 Land Fund

As a member of the B-CC IWLA, I want to do my part and contribute the following amount to the B-CC IWLA Land Fund Campaign.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

_____ **\$50** _____ **\$100** _____ **\$200** _____ **\$500** _____ **\$1000** _____ **OTHER**

Your contribution is tax deductible.

Please mail contribution form and check (made payable to B-CC IWLA) to B-CC IWLA, PO Box 542, Poolesville, MD 20837
or donate via paypal on the Chapter's website, www.bcciwla.org.

Fall Family Campout Update

We held our annual Fall Family Campout on the October 26 and 27 with about 35 people camping overnight, and several coming for the afternoon/early evening. The weekend started off with windy weather, but things had calmed down, leaving us with clear sunny skies and a warm afternoon, perfect to enjoy fishing in the Small Pond organized by the Ponds and Streams Committee. In addition to fishing, we had Halloween inspired arts and crafts workshop led by Emma Cowan. After spending an enjoyable afternoon, we settled down for our traditional dinner of hotdogs, burgers, cookies, and unlimited juice boxes.

As it got dark, and the stars came out, we walked down to the Big Pond, led by Olivia, Riley, and Maren. Similarly to last year the Cathedral of Pines were colorfully lit as we made our way to the Big Pond to find bags of goodies scattered around, watched by floating eyes and a gaggle of witches. Alexandra led the trip to the Log Cabin, where skeletons, spiders, and things in the cabin cellar waited. Smore's and stories around the campfire rounded things off for the evening, which turned into a cold night for most. We awoke to a breakfast of eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, tater tots, and coffee, and as tents were pulled down, a final trip to the Big Pond brought the 2024 Fall Family Camp Out to its close.

PHOTOS BY VICTORIA SALAZAR AND ANDY WIGHT



Wildlife Committee Report

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

Deer firearms (shotgun) season start on November 30th and runs through December 14th, including Sunday, November 29th and Sunday, December 8th (only until 10:30am). We ask that all hunters be safe and courteous, read and follow our rules and respect all property lines. B-CC IWLA chapter website has our updated rules and a variety of methods to distinguish our property lines. The Chapter's Trail Guide on the website is a good way to familiarize yourself with the trails and the boundaries of our Conservation Farm. All members intending to hunt on our farm must acknowledge that they have read our rules and understand where our property lines are by registering on our website. This is a yearly requirement. It is recommended that during the deer firearms, all members and guests while out on the farm wear some highly visible clothing, hunter orange or pink is preferred.

We do not have permission to hunt or go on any of our neighbor's properties. In the event that you need to track and recover a deer that makes it off our farm, members need to get permission before entering our neighbor's property. The property located to the north and west of our farm (near the big pond) on several different boundaries is owned by **Joe Morin** (301 674-5397), the property located north of the NE Woods is owned by **Vikki Van Winkle** (301 379-3560), and the property across Willard Road from the NE woods is owned/managed by **Bob Cissel** (301 775-8978). Members may enter their property only after calling them and receiving permission. You must not enter their properties with a weapon of any kind.

Our farm is considered private property (MD-DNR land code 430 for harvest check in), so your current valid membership card is used as the written permission to hunt as required by MD DNR and must be carried along with your valid hunting license. Also, a current B-CC IWLA chapter vehicle decal must be visible in all vehicles on the farm.

We ask that deer and turkeys taken on our farm be recorded either in our game logbook, located outside the chapter-house's main door; or by sending an email to andupton9@hotmail.com. When reporting your deer (or turkeys), we ask for the following information; your name, doe or buck (antler count), date and weapon used. Other details may also be included such as estimated weight or unusual features.

Our hunting rules, as posted on our website, have been instituted to accommodate the large number of hunters we potentially have in our chapter. The intent and spirit of these rules is to ensure access to all hunters. It has come to our attention that several ground blinds have been erected and left overnight (some much longer) contrary the intent of our rules. Leaving blinds, stands, and any other hunting equipment in the woods and fields overnight with the intent to hunt multiple days constitutes a sense of ownership to a spot and limits access to fellow hunters. As such, this constitutes a violation to the spirit of our rules. The wording of our rules against leaving hunting equipment overnight has been modified to reflect the growing use of groundblinds and now includes a prohibition of leaving groundblinds out overnight. Groundblinds left overnight will be subject to removal and surrendered to the BOG.

Baiting for hunting purposes is prohibited on our farm.

Maryland DNR has made a change a couple years ago to the deer firearm season, allowing weapons that use straight-walled cartridges to be used to hunt deer in regions previously restricted to shotguns only. An amendment has been

made to our chapter rule that will also allow the use of straight-walled cartridge firearms to hunt deer during deer firearm season on our farm. Only those cartridges that meet the minimum standards set by MD DNR will be allowed and only for use during deer firearm season and for deer hunting only.

Again this year, 2 bucks may be taken statewide throughout the entire hunting year, only one of which can have less than 3 points on an antler. Only one buck may be taken in a weapon year. A bonus buck may be taken in region B (our region) after purchasing a bonus buck stamp and can be used for any weapon season, still maintaining the antler point restrictions. The requirement to harvest 2 does prior to using the bonus buck stamp has been removed.

Bears are protected in Montgomery County and we adhere to the policies set up by MD DNR. We ask that all of our members be aware of the possibility of encountering a bear does existing while on our farm.

Catch a Poacher 24 Hour Hotline? 1- 800-635-6124

Citizens who supply Maryland Natural Resources Police with information leading to the arrest and conviction of a poaching violator are eligible to receive cash rewards. Give names, addresses, vehicle descriptions, and as much information as possible. The anonymity of the caller is guaranteed.

To report nuisance, injured or sick wildlife?
(Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm)?
Call Toll-free in Maryland: 1-877-463-6497

Shotgun Range Update

Originally, we aimed to complete lead management activities at the shotgun range by now. However, based on the overall cost of the lead reclamation to remove lead shot, we felt an obligation to explore the application of lead binding agents as an alternative. This lead management method (encapsulation) involves chemical treatments, which were expected to be faster, less intrusive and potentially less expensive. However, after reaching out to vendors, we were not able to obtain a binding agent that met our environmental standards, so we're moving forward with the original lead reclamation plan.

Our contractors are scheduled to begin reclamation work in March. This gives us time to coordinate with sediment and erosion control contractors and prepare the area. A March start also means the vegetative stabilization will be thoroughly established in the reclamation area before winter. The goal is to close out the permit in 2025.

Alongside lead remediation, we're considering infrastructure improvements to bring back and improve upon our shotgun offerings – skeet, trap, wobble trap, 5 stand, and sporting clays – creating a welcoming environment for both experienced and novice shooters. The shotgun range is a vital part of our Chapter, bringing in revenue and attracting new members and guests. These upgrades will allow it to continue and thrive.

Of course, achieving these goals requires the support of dedicated volunteers. The Shotgun Committee is looking for new members and volunteers to help us plan, develop, and operate the range as we work to create an improved shooting experience. If you're interested in getting involved, we'd love to have you join us. Please contact us at Shotgun.bcc.iwla@gmail.com.