



DECEMBER 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 the holiday season arrives, December is a time to appreciate the beauty of our Chapter. The crisp air and peaceful trails offer the perfect opportunity to recharge, reflect on the year, and enjoy the natural splendor around us. I hope you've had a chance to visit the Chapter House, beautifully decorated for the holidays.

This month is a time for holiday gatherings, celebrating accomplishments, and setting goals for the future. At B-CC, we're focused on several important initiatives, including completing the lead reclamation project, securing grants and donations to support our efforts, developing strategies to grow our membership, and improving our web presence to better connect with both current and potential members.

As we prepare for the year ahead, I encourage everyone to renew their commitment to the Chapter – whether by volunteering, joining a committee, or simply spending more time with fellow members. Together, we can continue to build a vibrant and welcoming community for all!

However you spend this Christmas season, I hope you and your families have a joyful and wonderful holiday!

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

Winning tickets will be drawn
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 • jerry5@comcast.net

Shannon Novak, 2nd Vice President

snovak516@gmail.com

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

David Mecklenburg

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

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.

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

Sean-David Waterman, Recording Secretary

Wednesday, October 23, 2024 – Board of Governors Meeting

- Meeting called to order at 7:02pm by President Andy Wight.
- Two new board members, Lloyd Iden and Sean-David Waterman were introduced.
- Dan Dutton briefed the BOG on the new water testing plan to get approval to proceed with said new plan.
- Andy Wight placed authorized personnel signs at the kitchen and the ranges (Archery, R&P, and Shotgun). Signs indicate to members that the Committee chair is the point person to authorize use.
- Andy Wight discussed Bob Kelly and Steven Austin's work with the membership team on the transfer amounts for the near and long-term capital funds.
- Carol Hulce Efdimis briefed the Board on the main kitchen usage policy.
- Brief update on the Alarm.com Proposal.
- New board members will be updated on the full history behind the shotgun range.
- Andy sent copies of the current By-laws and the proposed changes to the BOG for review.
- 2 firearm donations were made to the chapter. Raffle tickets will be ordered.
- It was decided to have a Land Fund presentation and telethon this year.
- Treasurer Bob Kelly provided a report on the five account balances (Operating, Management Reserve, Land Fund, Near Term Reserve Account, Long Term Reserve Account).
- Discussed the Sandy Spring Bank acquisition and the potential effect on CD rates we could be privy to.
- There was a request for funds for targets, National Shooting Foundation membership, keys, and decals for 2025.
- Discussion was held on donating to the endowment, youth endowment, family campout, and stamps.
- 1st VP Jerry Murray ensured chapter house doors are monitored when open to prevent wildlife from entering.
- A Scout troop in Gaithersburg (1760) is looking to be chartered. It was recommended that they be directed to Dave Draven, the Chapter's scout liaison.
- There was a question about members' interest in the IT committee. This will be put back in the newsletter.
- Shannon Novak is still looking for a few volunteers for the Membership Drive Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Motion to approve the use of 50 chairs by Troop 496 for their offsite Eagle Court of Honor. **Motion seconded and passed.**
- Motion to accept James Keil as a probationary chapter member. **Motion seconded and passed.**
- Motion to order keys for new members. **Motion seconded and passed.**
- Motion to order decals for the 2025 renewals. **Motion seconded and passed.**
- Motion to approve a small target order from National Target and for a nonprofit membership with the National Shooting Sports Foundation for the R&P range. **Motion seconded and passed.**

(continued on page 3)

SUMMARY

(continued from page 2)

- Motion to donate funds to the IWLA National Endowment Fund. **Motion seconded and passed.**
- Motion to approve funds for conservation education for the Family Camp Out. **Motion seconded and passed.**
- Motion to raffle off two shotguns donated by Walt Allensworth for \$10 per ticket. **Motion seconded and passed.** This motion was amended to include that there would be two winners, and the first winner would get to choose. Motion seconded and passed.
- Motion to approve the purchase of 250 raffle tickets to be printed by Print1. **Motion seconded and passed.**
- Motion to reduce the water quality sampling as proposed by the Environmental Stewardship committee and authorize Dan Dutton to make changes with Fredericktowne Labs. **Motion seconded and passed.**
- Motion for Scott Harmon to be reimbursed for funds used for renewals. **Motion seconded and passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:01pm.

Wednesday, November 20, 2024 – 1,069th Dinner Meeting

- Meeting called to order at 7:23pm.
- The passing of long time member Tom Sigman was announced. Tom was a strong champion for the Land Fund and heavily involved in the Chapter.
- 8 guests introduced themselves.
- A vote was held to bring Dave Mecklenburg on as a Board Member and ascend Shannon Novak to 2nd Vice President. **Votes passed**, and they were sworn into their new positions.
- Membership Scott Harmon introduced three Prospective New Members. The probationary membership was voted on. **Motion passed**, and they were accepted and sworn in.
- Butch Mezick provided an impassioned informatory speech regarding the Land Fund.
- Treasury Secretary Bob Kelly provided updates on the Chapter's five accounts.
- Membership Secretary Scott Harmon reported on the current status of the membership.
- Environmental Stewardship – Blaine Elkins reported on the lead reclamation project and provided a start date of March 2025.
- The Rifle and Pistol Range will be closed the Friday after Thanksgiving to the membership until April.
- Ad hoc IT Committee – Julie Wight has stepped up to support the IT committee and is seeking members to assist in the project.
- Ad hoc Membership Committee – Shannon Novak has a handful of members seeking additional support.
- Ad hoc Donations and Grants Committee – Lance Brannman discussed the committee's responsibilities and is seeking additional members to support them.

TALKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER:

- The Interpretive Walk in the Woods will be held on December 12th and 13th. Hunters are asked to avoid the West Woods for those 2 days to accommodate the walks.
- Restocking Trout at the small pond was delayed due to low water levels. Stocking will occur in March.
- There was a question about Range Officer training. Jerry Murray addressed the procedure on what that entails.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.



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!

December 2024 1,070th Monthly Dinner / Membership Meeting

Wednesday, December 18

Dinner served starting at 6:15pm

Menu

**Holiday Ham Dinner
Lemonade, Water, and Coffee**

Membership Meeting starts at 7:30pm

**Gun Raffle Ticket Sale and Drawing
Tickets - \$10 each or 11 for \$100**

December 2024 Board of Governors Meeting

Wednesday, December 18

Immediately following the Membership Meeting

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Chapter House Cleanup

Sunday, December 15

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/10C0D4DACA28A7F8C25-51060445-monthly>

Monthly Dinner/Membership Meeting

Wednesday, December 18

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/>

New Year's Day Brunch

Wednesday, January 1

Contact Meg O'Rourke if you are able to help with the event.

Take Down Chapter House Holiday Decorations

Saturday, January 4

Starting at 9:00am

Meet at the chapter house to take down the holiday decorations. We need help both inside and outside the chapter house.

Wild Game Dinner

Saturday, February 22

Contact Shannon Novak, snovak516@gmail.com, if you have photos for the slideshow or can help with the event.

County Council Update

Bob Cissel

Director Montgomery Agricultural Producers

bobcissel50@gmail.com

There's a new bill being discussed at the county council. It would eliminate all plastic bags and replace them with paper bags. There will be a discussion about exempting certain businesses. They are pushing folks to bring reusable bags. The nickel charge in place for plastic would move over to using paper from the store. More details to follow as the council sorts this out.

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.

IT Committee Volunteers

Julie Wight, Committee Chair

jwight00@gmail.com

We are looking for volunteers to help and manage our IT committee. Whether it's keeping an eye on our Web or Facebook pages, working with Committee Chairs, sending out blasts, working on content, or helping upgrade and manage our website, we need your help. Please reach out to me if interested.

Membership Committee Report

Scott Harmon, Membership Secretary

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

As of the November Board Meeting, Membership stands at 773 Voting Members: 426 Individuals, 260 Family, 2 Students, 1 Youth, 72 Retired, and 12 Associates.

49% of our membership have renewed for 2025. By renewing your membership, you are confirming a commitment to conservation, education, and land preservation.

Renewing your membership is easy. You can renew three ways.

1. Online – <https://bcciwla.org/memberrenew> – Preferred
2. In person at a dinner meeting – Better
3. Mail in – OK

If you did not receive a renewal notice this year, we need to talk. Reach out to me on my cell number or email above.

As of November 11th, all renewals have been submitted to National for processing, and we hope to have your membership cards back to you before the first of the year.

Lastly, it's important to increase our membership during the coming year and you can help. Invite someone to a dinner meeting, go for a hike, or shoot at our ranges. I often think that if everyone just brought in one new member this year, we would double in size.



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 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>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>

DECEMBER

Saturday, December 7	Decorating the Chapter House for the Holidays	10:00am – 5:00pm
Thursday, December 12	Interpretive Walk in the Woods – PHS Program	8:00am – 5:00pm
Friday, December 13	Interpretive Walk in the Woods – PHS Program	8:00am – 5:00pm
Saturday, December 14	Chapter House Christmas Party	6:00pm – 10:00pm
Sunday, December 15	Montgomery Bird Club's Christmas Bird Count	7:00am – 12:00pm
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 2025

Wednesday, January 1	New Year's Day Brunch	More info in December Newsletter
Thursday, January 9	Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS) Annual Meeting	5:00pm – 10:30pm
Saturday, January 11	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Wednesday, January 15	1,071st Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner – 6:15pm Meeting – 7:30pm
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

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 8	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00pm
Saturday, February 15	New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour	10:00am – 11:30am
Sunday, February 16	Cub Scout Pack 694 Pinewood Derby	12:00 noon – 3:00pm
Wednesday, February 19	1,072nd Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner 6:15pm Meeting 7:30pm
Saturday, February 22	Wild Game Dinner	5:30pm – 10:00pm
Sunday, February 23	NAVHDA Annual Meeting	12:00 noon – 5:00pm
Wednesday, February 26	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Friday, February 28	Articles for March Newsletter due – send to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day

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

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.

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.

3rd Annual New Year's Day Brunch Wednesday, January 1



Join your fellow members on New Year's Day in the Chapter House for Brunch and Football!

For the 3rd year, Meg O'Rourke will be cooking up a delicious brunch for all to enjoy. We will have College Bowl Games on the big TV, a waffle bar, and a wonderful selection of hot food and cold drinks. Enjoy the Chapter House decorations one last time before they come down for the year.

Brunch will be served from 12:00 noon – 2:00pm but feel free to hang out and watch college football all afternoon. We will have RO's on duty for both R&P and Shotgun Ranges (be mindful that it is Archery Season so hikers need to be wearing bright colors) so get in some range time, then head on up for Mimosas, Bloody Marys, and some brunch!

Rifle & Pistol Range Committee Report

Jerry Murray, Chair

202 438-4202 jerrym5@comcast.net

The range is currently closed to the general membership and will re-open after the spring clean-up in early April. The R&P range officers and their guests may use the range and must continue to follow the SOP's. There will be some range closures during the off-season while we perform upgrades to the range access and safety systems. We will post notices on the website as we schedule them, so please check before you come out. We have a RO training session underway and will have another in February.

Trout at the Small Pond

The Ponds & Streams Committee was not able to stock the small pond with rainbow and brown trout this fall due to the drought conditions. The pond will be stocked in March 2025. Questions – contact John Novak, novakgang4@comcast.net.

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

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

FeederWatch News and Seneca Christmas Bird Count

Diane Seward

Citizen Science Projects Coordinator

trina65@verizon.net

SENECA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

On Sunday, December 15, we will host the Montgomery Bird Club (MBC) for a portion of the sixty-fourth Sector 7, Seneca Christmas Bird Count (CBC). The CBC, organized by The Audubon Society, is an annual nationwide event first conducted in 1958. Several MBC birders plus Larry Anderson and Pat McNeilly acting as escorts will meet at 7:00a.m. at the chapter house and set out in two groups for the morning count, which typically lasts until noon. If you would like to join the count, please contact the MBC count compiler, Jim Nelson, at kingfishers2@verizon.net .

FEEDERWATCH NEWS

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/10C0D4DACC28A7F8C25-bcc#/>

Happy Feeder Watching!

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

2024 B-CC IWLA Telethon

Byron "Butch" Mezick

The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter of the Izaak Walton League held its annual Land Fund Telethon on Sunday evening, December 8th. The telethon team called over 700 members in three hours, speaking directly with individual members or leaving detailed messages. Our volunteers requested donations for the chapter's land fund, explaining how we protect our outdoor activities by purchasing additional acreage to buffer our conservation farm from development. The callers shared with our members that all donations to our land fund are tax deductible, and the fund is 100% efficient without overhead expenses. The team, comprised primarily of our chapter's board of governors, past presidents, and dedicated members, created an atmosphere of positive energy and friendship.

Every successful telethon stands on the foundation of a database comprising all the names and phone numbers of those to be called. Many thanks to Scott Harmon, who provided our telethon team with a highly accurate list of over seven hundred names and phone numbers. Many thanks to Janet Lamkin, who will provide tax receipts to everyone who contributed and a letter from the current president to thank those members who made large donations. Many thanks to Carol Hulce-Efdimis, who will process the telethon sheets. The following individuals participated in the 2014 telethon, many of whom have donated their time and talent to the chapter's telethon year after year. When you see them around the farm, please thank them for their time and talent. Many Thanks to George Coakley, Frank Parker, Walt Allensworth, Scott Harmon, John Lamb, David Mecklenburg, Shannon Novak, and Steven Austin. A special thank you to our members, who continually support one another in our efforts to protect the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Conservation Farm. When like-minded members stand shoulder to shoulder, supporting one another, their voices are heard, and their dreams are realized.

ATTENTION New Members!

**Chapter House cleanup will be on:
Sunday, December 15
Starting at 9:00am**

Join us and earn volunteer hours

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

Signup for the cleanups using the signup genius link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACC28A7F8C25-51060445-monthly>

Questions? Contact John Lamb –
jpatricklamb@aol.com



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***





Share the Tradition!

Bring your family & friends
to the annual B-CC IWLA

Wild Game Dinner

Saturday, February 22, 2025

6:00pm – 10:00pm

Share your harvest! Join your fellow chapter members, their families and friends for a great evening of food, stories and fun. This is a potluck – so bring your favorite wild game (or other) dish – main course, appetizer, salad or dessert. We'll start with appetizers at 6:00pm and dinner shortly thereafter.

Share your photos! We will be putting together a slideshow to run throughout the event and want your hunting and great outdoors photos from this year to share!

Share your stories! After dinner, we'll have a storytelling session where members and their guests can share their best hunting stories.

For more information or to provide
slideshow photos, please contact
Shannon Novak, 2nd Vice President
snovak516@gmail.com

Thanksgiving at the Cabin

David Mecklenburg
dmecklenburg1@gmail.com

The beginning of the holiday season is here with it being November and Thanksgiving is a couple weeks away. This is the time for celebrating the holiday, being with family, reflecting on the year and looking forward to next year. I think a great place to reflect is relaxing at the log cabin. Sometimes this is with fishing rod, hammer, or a good book. I would like to thank everyone who came out and helped with the cabin this year. It needs our help, and all the work that has been done shows. I hope to see you at the cabin sometime soon and that you have a wonderful Thanksgiving.



We installed a rope swing down by the log cabin during the fall workday.

Welcome to the B-CC IWLA Family!

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

Ralph Fairbanks

Interests: Farming; Scouting; Skeet & Trap

James Kell

Interests: Conservation Education; Nature Trail; Youth Programs

Gary Monroe

Interests: Hunter Education; Public Relations; Rifle & Pistol

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!

New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour

There will not be a tour in December nor January. Check the January newsletter for the February date. Contact Christine – christineakcp@comcast.net or 301 938-9773 (cell) if you have questions.

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

Land Fund Chairman Byron "Butch" Mezick

B-CC IWLA LAND FUND

Please Contribute to the 2024 B-CC IWLA Land Fund

The B-CC IWLA Land Fund began in 1994 to raise the required funds to purchase 127 acres of woodland on our western border known as the West Woods. Since its inception, the Land Fund has raised over 1,000,000 dollars from past and current members' contributions for the sole purpose of purchasing properties adjacent to our conservation farm. So, yes, our chapter has increased the size of the 366-acre farm it bought in 1949 to its present 624 acres.

All funds donated to the B-CC IWLA Land Fund are used solely for land purchase as articulated by the chapter's bylaws. Further, land fund contributions are tax-deductible and 100% efficient, meaning every dollar goes for its intended purpose.

Nation-wide the overwhelming reason IWLA chapters lose their shooting ranges and hunting opportunities is the encroachment of residential and commercial development. Individually we can't stop the advancement of development towards our present boundaries, but collectively we can, and we have. So yes, by coming together as a membership, we will preserve the opportunity for present and future generations to enjoy our lifestyle and chosen value system.

From shooting ranges to bird identification to understanding wildlife, woodlands, and open spaces, to hiking, gardening, fishing, and conservation education, we will inspire and motivate one another, our families, and friends.

Please contribute by using our website, BCCIWLA.org, donate with your membership renewal, or mail a check to B-CC IWLA, PO Box 542, Poolesville, MD 20837. In the memo section of your check, write B-CC IWLA Land Fund.

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.

They Are Here...

David Mecklenburg
dmecklenburg1@gmail.com

Today is October 12th and I was out at the chapter taking care of the bees. It was time to take the Formic Pro treatment out of the hives, test the hives for varroa mites, start preparing the bees for the winter by putting on the mouse guards, and feeding the bees if necessary.

I was pleasantly surprised by all honey that was on the hives. This is the time of year that I feel I need to put extra sugar syrup on the hives so that they have enough resources to get through the winter. Where did all this honey come from? The answer was not a fall plant blooming, but I found the answer crawling up a tree in the middle of the apiary. It was the invasive Spotted Lanternfly. Hundreds of them. The lanternfly does not produce nectar, but they do produce honeydew when they feed on plants, like aphids. The bees collect the honeydew and use it to produce honey.

The honey produced from the Lanternfly's honeydew tastes smokey to me. Some people like it. Some say it makes great barbecue sauce. I am not a fan of its flavor. I will leave it on the hives as winter resources for the bees and it saves me money in sugar purchases I do not have to make. Is it healthier for the bees? We shall see. I haven't seen any studies to that effect yet.

The Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) are an invasive insect that is believed to have come over to North America in the 1990's from China and Vietnam. They are a plant hopper. It feeds on a variety of plants including soybean, grapes, stone fruits, and the family Malus, which includes apples. From Wikipedia.



PHOTO BY DAVID MECKLENBURG

Spotted Lanternfly

IMAGE OF THE BEAR BY BARRY DANIEL



Kids Fishing – Fall Campout 2024

John Novak, novakgang4@comcast.net

The sunny skies and warm weather on Saturday, October 26th, enticed families and kids to come out and go fishing at the small pond. About 10 kids of all ages, as well as some adults, cast their lines into the pond. Only a few, however were able to land a fish because, although the fish were biting, they were not easily caught. This was a first-time fishing experience for many of the kids but they seemed to take to the sport, learning quickly how to bait a hook and cast a line into the water. After an afternoon of fishing, everyone enjoyed grilled hamburgers and hot dogs and a nighttime hike along a “haunted” trail to the big pond and then another excursion to the cabin where many ghouls and goblins were encountered. Many thanks to Pete Wirth, Vic Ezerski, Jack Caulfield, and Suzanne Novak for their help.



Proposed Changes to the By-Laws

(Edits in red – to be voted on at the December 2024 Membership Meeting)

Article III – Membership

Section 2.a Any person may become a Probationary Member upon completion of the following steps. First, the applicant shall attend two regular monthly meetings of the Chapter. **For extenuating circumstances, and on a case-by-case basis, the Board of Governors may elect to offer two other meetings that prospective members can attend, in leu of the dinner meeting.** Second, the applicant shall file with the Membership Secretary a properly completed application for membership which shall be signed by three (3) Chapter Members in good standing, each of whom shall have been a member for more than one (1) year, one of whom shall be on the Board of Governors, and another of whom shall be over twenty-one (21) years of age. Third, the Membership Secretary shall submit the completed application to the Board of Governors at its next regular monthly meeting. Fourth, the Board of Governors shall review the application and make its recommendation to the Chapter Membership at the following regular monthly meeting of the Chapter. Fifth, the applicant may be accepted for Probationary Membership by affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and constituting a quorum. Sixth, after being properly sworn in, an accepted applicant shall become a Probationary Member upon payment of the appropriate amounts of monies as prescribed in Article VIII of these By-Laws. (Adopted August 16, 1972; amended February 16, 1977, January 19, 1983, February 21, 1991, and July 1992, September 2006, **December 18, 2024**)

Article VI – Nominations and Elections

Section 1. The President shall appoint an election committee **in** by March of each year to develop a slate of candidate chapter officers and perform other duties as prescribed herein related to the election of chapter officers and members of the Board of Governors.

Article VIII – Initiation Fees, Dues, Charges

Section 2. Dues. The yearly dues for membership in this Chapter shall be as set by a majority vote at any regular monthly meeting of the Chapter members, a quorum being present, provided a written statement of the dues to be proposed shall be contained in the notice of the meeting. The yearly dues shall be payable on or before January 1 of each year and shall include the annual National Membership dues and the annual Maryland State Division dues. **Under special circumstances and at the Board of Governors discretion, a member's chapter dues may be waived in return for services to the Chapter. National and State dues obligations would still need to be met by the member. This would be reviewed on an annual basis.**– (Adopted February 17, 1971; amended October 1972 and February 16, 1977, September 2006, **December 18, 2024**)

Section 3 Membership requirement – All chapter members are required to provide no less than six (6) hours of volunteer chapter work **per year per fiscal year (September – August)** to maintain their chapter membership. Youth, Student, Associate and Probationary Members are exempt from this requirement. Family Members are required to provide **one** **two** six-hour work requirement. (Adopted September 2006, **amended**)

Article XI – Committees

Section 1. *The Operations and Conservation Committee* shall be chaired by the Chapter First Vice President and include the following: Chairpersons of Building Maintenance, Security, Equipment Maintenance, Grounds & Roads Maintenance, Farm, Ponds and Streams, Save Our Streams, **and** Nature Trail, **and Environmental Stewardship.** (Amended October 2003, **December 18, 2024**)

Section 3. *Committee Chairs* are responsible for overseeing the operations, activities, and objectives of their respective committees. Their role includes organizing events, managing the maintenance and safety of facilities and assets, and ensuring that committee goals align with the chapter's mission of conservation, education, and community involvement. They also coordinate volunteer efforts, ensure easement compliance, promote safety and best practices, foster member engagement, and drive initiatives to recruit new members, ensuring the continued growth and success of the chapter. (Adopted December 18, 2024)

Article XII – Quorum

The presence of **forty-five (45) members** 5% of the voting members at any regular monthly meeting, **or an electronic response by a minimum of 25% of the voting members** shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, except as otherwise provided in these By-Laws. **In addition, at the Board of Governors discretion some votes may be carried out electronically in conjunction with, or apart from the Dinner Meeting. In this case, notice and link will be included in newsletter preceding any vote.** (Adopted July 15, 1970, amended December 18, 2024)



Sunset