



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

Serving the Community Since 1935

PO Box 542, Poolesville, MD 20837

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

## President's Message

As I write this introduction, the snow has begun to melt, revealing the first signs that spring is on its way. I want to take a moment to thank the dedicated members who work behind the scenes to keep our chapter safe and accessible – whether it's plowing snow, scraping sidewalks, or spreading salt. These volunteers give their time and effort to ensure B-CC IWLA remains a welcoming place for all, and their contributions do not go unnoticed.

With the changing season comes fresh opportunities to get outdoors and enjoy everything our chapter has to offer. The next few months will bring a flurry of activity as we prepare for the warmer weather. Ranges are being readied for reopening, spring planting preparations are underway, plans are in motion for trout stocking in the pond, and committees are gearing up for upcoming events. As always, committee chairs are looking for members and volunteers to help bring these projects to life. If you're interested in getting involved, last month's newsletter included a list of committee chairs and their contact details – now is the perfect time to reach out.

One of the most significant changes on the horizon is the **start of lead reclamation at the Shotgun Range**. For those venturing out after the snow, you'll notice flags and markers back in place, signaling the upcoming work, which is scheduled to begin in March. This is an important project for the chapter, and we appreciate everyone's cooperation as it moves forward.

In addition to all the seasonal changes, we also encourage you to attend the **February Dinner Meeting**. The **Board of Governors has voted on several bylaw changes**, and we need you – our members – to **ratify them**. A list of proposed changes is included later in this newsletter, so please make time to review them, attend the dinner meeting, and **cast your vote**. Your voice matters, and this is your opportunity to help shape the future of our chapter.

As we step into this season of renewal, let's take the opportunity to reconnect, volunteer, and enjoy all that B-CC IWLA has to offer. I look forward to seeing you out and about this spring!

Andy Wight  
President

## Spring Chapter CleanUp Day & Picnic

**Saturday, April 5**  
**8:30am – 3:00pm**

Come to the Chapter, earn some volunteer hours, enjoy a picnic lunch, and join with our fellow chapter members as we clean and prepare the Chapter for the upcoming year.

- 8:30am: Members will assemble at the chapter house to sign-up for work crews
- 9:00am – 1:00pm: work crews will complete projects across the conservation farm, trails, and facilities
- 1:00pm-3:00pm: Volunteers will have lunch prepared for them to enjoy while sharing cleanup-day war-stories

Any committee chairs or crew chiefs that are planning projects for Cleanup Day, please contact 1st V.P. Jerry Murray, [jerrym5@comcast.net](mailto:jerrym5@comcast.net), to help coordinate equipment, volunteers, and other resources.

## Interpretive Walk in the Woods

Our Annual Interpretive Walk in the Woods will take place on Wednesday the 19th and Thursday the 20th of February. The walk in the woods is part of our Conservation Education program together with Poolesville High School. Students will walk from River Road back through the West Woods and back to the Chapter.

**Note – on these two days, hunting will be suspended (it's rabbit and squirrel season) across the chapter.**

## Quorum Needed at February Dinner / Membership Meeting

At the January Membership Meeting, we did not have a sufficient number of members for a quorum (45 members). Please consider attending the February meeting so that the membership can vote on several items.

## 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

**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 December 2024 Board of Governors Meeting and the January 2025 Membership Dinner Meeting

Sean-David Waterman, Recording Secretary

### Wednesday, December 18, 2024 – Board of Governors Meeting

- President Andy Wight called the meeting to order at 8:02pm.
- Andy has been working with the Committee chairs to develop the roles and responsibilities of each.
- Copy of the current rules and regulations with suggested edits will be sent to the board for review and discussion.
- 2nd VP Shannon Novak reported that meetings of the Membership Drive Committee will resume in January to develop an action plan.
- Sean-David Waterman mentioned receiving phishing scam emails. Discussion was had about other board member experiences and possible steps for mitigation.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

### Wednesday, January 15, 2025 – 1,071st Dinner Meeting

- President Andy Wight called the meeting to order at 7:29pm.
- We took a moment to celebrate the life of Tom Lamkin.
- The work of Carol Hulce-Efdimis and the kitchen staff was acknowledged, and the differences between shepherd's pie and cottage pie were explained.
- The 50/50 Raffle Drawing was conducted.
- Prospective new members were introduced and they provided their names and interests.
- There was no quorum, so no action could be taken regarding updated By-Laws.
- 3 new members were presented to the general membership and inducted by 1st VP Jerry Murray.
- An update was given on the Operating, Management Reserve, Land Fund, Long-Term Capital Expenditure, and Near-Term Capital Expenditure accounts.
- Membership Secretary Scott Harmon gave the following update: 773 members last year. Membership renewals currently stands at 663 voting members.
- Environmental Stewardship Committee met with two more bidders for the emergency sediment control. They are waiting for a callback from EN Range to lock in when they're going to start in March. EN range is still requesting support finding housing for their team (4-6 personnel) near Barnesville or Poolesville area, if possible, for 6-8 weeks
- Rifle and Pistol Committee Chair Jerry Murray reported there will be a meeting in March for the existing range officers to sign up for the next season, and a signup genius will be coming out for duty days.
- Annual Wild Game Dinner will be held on Saturday, February 22. Help with setup and take down is appreciated. There will be a slideshow. Members can send pictures to Shannon's email.
- The Interpretive Walk in the Woods with the Poolesville HS Global Ecology Program, which was meant to be last December, was postponed. It will be held in February. We will be suspending hunting on the property for those days.
- Legislative Outreach Bob Cissel (Mont. County) reported that the legislative session started with a budget shortfall for the next two years of \$3 billion. During those types of crises, it's the environmental programs that get cut first. He will try and come in next month to update us on it.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

**February 2025  
1,072nd Monthly Dinner /  
Membership Meeting**

Wednesday, February 19

**50 / 50 Raffle**

**Dinner served starting at 6:15pm**

**Menu**

**Appetizers**

**Roasted Chicken, Mashed Potatoes,  
Vegetable, Salad, Dessert**

**Membership Meeting starts at 7:30pm**

**February 2025  
Board of Governors Meeting**

Wednesday, February 26

**7:00pm**

## Archery Wants You!

Chuck Thornton  
clthornton@gmail.com

Our Chapter's archery program is reorganizing to shape an exciting future. We welcome and encourage all members to join us!

We're holding a discussion session to formulate leadership options and chart a vision for the future:

Saturday, March 1, 2025  
9:30am  
Chapterhouse

Thank you, Jack! Our leader, Jack Mandel, is stepping down as our Archery Committee Chair. Jack, thank you for your leadership. You brought energy, inspiration, skills, and dedication to our chapter's archery program. You gave countless time and brought good cheer. We appreciate and applaud all you've done to enhance our archery experience.

We hope to see you at the discussion session on March 1st. You're also welcome to contact us for more information and to share your ideas: clthornton@gmail.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.

## New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour

There will **not** be a tour in February. The next tour will be held on Saturday, March 15 from 10:00 – 11:30am. Contact Christine – christineakcp@comcast.net or 301 938-9773 (cell) if you have questions.

Use the signup genius link below to sign up for the March tour.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACC2A7F8C25-54255111-newmember>

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## Chapter House Cleanup

Sunday, February 15

Saturday, March 15

Saturday, April 12

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/10C0D4DACC2A7F8C25-51060445-monthly>

## Monthly Dinner/Membership Meeting

Wednesday, February 19

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

## 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.

## Spring Chapter CleanUp

Saturday, April 5

8:30am – 3:00pm

Contact 1st VP Jerry Murray for more info  
jerrym5@comcast.net

## Grants Committee Report

Lance Brannman, Chair  
lbrannma88@gmail.com

Many of our numerous and varied activities would benefit from additional funding and, to that end, the Grants Committee is creating a database of grant sources. It currently contains the following organizations (several with multiple grant opportunities): Chesapeake Bay Trust, Clif Family Foundation, Civilian Marksmanship Program, Conservation Alliance, Conservation Nation, EarthForce, the EPA, IWLA National, Maryland Dept Agriculture, Maryland DNR, Mitsubishi Corporation Foundation for the Americas, National Environmental Education Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, National Shooting Sports Foundation, The Conservation Fund, The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation, Arbor Day Foundation, and the USDA.

Are you aware of other funding/grant sources that could benefit our chapter? If so, please send the information to Lance Brannman at lbrannma88@gmail.com.

## CAMPGROUND NOTICE

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



## Chapter Beekeepers Let's Get Together!

David Mecklenburg  
Beekeeper  
Log Cabin Committee Chair  
BOG Chapter member

We have several beekeepers in the chapter. Wouldn't it be fun to get together and find out who we are and share information? Discuss what we feel our best practices are or just sharing tips we have learned over the years. It would be a great opportunity for new beekeepers to talk with more experienced beekeepers.

I have reserved the Chapter house on Saturday, March 22nd for a get together from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. There will be non-alcoholic drinks and light snacks provided.

The purpose of this meeting will be for chapter beekeepers to get to know each other better, to share information on what we have learned over the last few years, and discuss how we are planning on managing our hive in 2025. The final objective is to decide if we want to continue the meetings on a regular basis.

The schedule would be:

- 3:00pm to 4:00pm – setup and social time
- 4:00pm to 5:00pm – discuss our bees
- 5:00pm – how we want to proceed
- 5:30pm to 6:00pm – cleanup

Please email me at [dmecklenburg1@gmail.com](mailto:dmecklenburg1@gmail.com) if you are interested.

## FeederWatch News

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

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 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/10C0D4DACA28A7F8C25-bcc#/>

## Membership Committee Report

Scott Harmon, Membership Secretary / Committee Chair  
301 467-0645 (cell) [MembershipSecretary.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com](mailto:MembershipSecretary.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com)

As of the January 2025 dinner meeting, membership stands at 778 voting Members: 430 Individuals, 260 Family, 3 Students, 1 Youth, 72 Retired, and 12 Associates

There is still time to renew your membership before we start turning access cards off and turning off newsletter delivery. Sometime before the end of February, we will be sending out renewal reminders with a late fee added of \$37.50.

Below is a link to renew online.

<https://bcciwla.org/memberrenew>

Many have been asking what the renewal rates are. Below are the basics but it is best to call me for your renewal rates.

### Individual

\$205.00 Renewal Rate

\$ 75.00 Work Fee if you did not volunteer 6 hours at the chapter last year.

\$280.00 Total

### Family

\$307.50 Renewal Rate

\$ 75.00 Work Fee if you did not volunteer 6 hours at the chapter last year.

\$382.50 Total

For those that renewed their membership in December and January, you should have received your cards before reading this. If you have not received a card yet, please reach out to me so we can research and fix the problem.

This year we have plans to move to a more online renewal process. If you would like to help with this huge task, reach out to me to get involved.

## Welcome to the B-CC IWLA Family!

At the January 2025 Membership Meeting, the following were inducted into the Chapter:

### Kevin Bookman

*Interests:* Rifle & Pistol; Archery; Skeet & Trap

### David Gershen

*Interests:* Fishing; Rifle & Pistol; Shotgun

### James Miller

*Interests:* Wildlife; Campground; Rifle & Pistol



*Magic enjoying the snow!*

PHOTO BY ARTHUR BELENDIUK



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

## Monthly Events

*Saturdays & Sundays  
Mondays  
Mondays*

*FeederWatch – through March  
Troop 2027 Meetings (Board Room)  
Troop 496 Meetings (Chapter House)*

*9:00am – 4:00pm  
7:30pm – 9:00pm  
7:30pm – 9:00pm*

### FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 1	Pack 694 Blue & Gold Dinner in Chapter House	4:30pm – 8:30pm
Sunday, February 9	Save Our Streams (SOS) Meeting	1:00pm – 3:00pm
Saturday, February 15	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Sunday, February 16	Cub Scout Pack 694 Pinewood Derby	12:00 noon – 3:00pm
Wednesday, February 19	Interpretive Walk in the Woods	All Day
Wednesday, February 19	1,072nd Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner 6:15pm Meeting 7:30pm
Thursday, February 20	Interpretive Walk in the Woods	All Day
Thursday, February 20	Cub Scout Pack 694 Meeting in the Chapter House	6:00pm – 8:00pm
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 <a href="mailto:j.lamkin@comcast.net">j.lamkin@comcast.net</a>	By End of Day

### MARCH

Saturday, March 1	Archery Meeting in the Chapter House	9:30am – 11:00am
Saturday, March 1	R&P SignUp Meeting in the Chapter House	12:00 noon – 2:00pm
Thursday, March 6	Hunters Education Maryland Instructors in the Chapter House	5:00pm – 9:00pm
Saturday, March 9	R&P SignUp Meeting in the Chapter House	9:00am – 11:00pm
Thursday, March 13	Legacy Board Meeting in the Board Room	7:30pm – 9:00pm
Saturday, March 15	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Saturday, March 15	New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour	10:00am – 11:30am
Saturday, March 15	Pinewood Derby in the Chapter House	2:00pm – 5:00pm
Wednesday, March 19	1,073rd Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner 6:15pm Meeting 7:30pm
Thursday, March 20	Cub Scout Pack 694 Meeting	6:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday, March 22	Summer Biathlon Program Practice	7:30am
Saturday, March 22	B-CC IWLA Bee Keepers Meeting in the Chapter House	3:00pm – 6:00pm
Wednesday, March 26	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Friday, March 28	Articles for April Newsletter due – send to <a href="mailto:j.lamkin@comcast.net">j.lamkin@comcast.net</a>	By End of /Day

### APRIL

Saturday, April 5	Summer Biathlon Program Practice	7:30am
Saturday, April 5	Spring Chapter Cleanup Day & Picnic	8:30am – 3:00pm
Saturday, April 12	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Wednesday, April 16	1,074th Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner 6:15pm Meeting 7:30pm
Thursday, April 17	Cub Scout Pack 694 Meeting in the Chapter House	6:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday, April 19	Summer Biathlon Program Practice	7:30am
Saturday, April 19	New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour	10:00am – 11:30am
Wednesday, April 23	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Friday, April 25	Articles for May Newsletter due – send to <a href="mailto:j.lamkin@comcast.net">j.lamkin@comcast.net</a>	By End of Day

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

### From the Farm Committee

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

### Trout at the Small Pond

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

## B-CC IWLA Summer Biathlon Program 2025 Practice Schedule

**MISSION:** To provide a venue for novice through world class summer biathletes to learn and/or refine the skills inherent to the sport.

To provide a vehicle to introduce athletes of other sports to the shooting sports and consequently an understanding of firearms and the Second Amendment (B-CC IWLA members please recruit, in particular, middle school, high school, and collegiate athletes – freedom/liberty is never more than one generation away from extinction).

**ELIGIBILITY:** Summer Biathlon is open to all B-CC IWLA members 12 years and older, as well as sponsored guests. B-CC IWLA members no range fee. **Non-member rate is \$5.00 per session.**

**EVENT:** Running distances at B-CC IWLA are set at 5 kilometers (3.1 miles) split into 5 loops or 3 – one mile loops. Currently, a single course at each length has been laid out. A short course for those working up to the other distances has been laid out as well. The regulation shooting distance is 50 meters, however, targets are also set at 25 meters for development of the shooting art. There are four shooting stops on the 5km course and two stops on the 3 mile course. Shooting stops alternate between prone (lying down) and off-hand (standing) positions. Five rounds are fired at each stop for a total of 20 shots on the 5km course and 10 shots on the 3 mile course. An equal number of shots are fired from each shooting position.

**SCORING:** Scoring is based on a time to complete basis. A penalty of either one (1) minute or a 50-100 meter penalty lap will be assessed for each shot missed.

**EQUIPMENT:** .22 caliber biathlon rifles are the standard; however, any magazine fed, .22 caliber rifle with either bolt or lever action is permitted. **Only standard velocity .22 caliber target ammunition is allowed.**

If you have questions or wish to be on the B-CC IWLA mailing list, contact **Steve Eschholz c:240-472-6512** (text is best)/fitnesscrafters@proton.me, Chairman B-CC IWLA Biathlon Committee.

### 2025 Practices

Saturday, March 22	7:30am
Saturday, April 5	7:30am
Saturday, April 19	7:30am
<b>Saturday, May 3</b>	<b>7:00am*</b>
Saturday, May 17	7:30am
Saturday, May 31	7:30am
Saturday, June 14	7:30am
Saturday, June 28	7:30am
Saturday, July 12	7:30am
Saturday, July 26	7:30am
Saturday, August 9	7:30am
Saturday, August 23	7:30am
Saturday, September 6	7:30am
Saturday, September 20	7:30am
<b>Saturday, October 4</b>	<b>7:00am*</b>

### 2025 Muzzleloader Hunting Season

Saturday, November 1	7:30am
Saturday, November 8	7:30am

### 2026 Firearms Hunting Season

Saturday, March 21	7:30am
Saturday, April 4	7:30am
Saturday, April 18	7:30am

## Adventure Committee Seeks Workshop Leaders


Mike Dobson, Chair  
adventure.bcciwla@gmail.com

Do you have outdoor skills fellow Ikes might like to learn? Can you render first aid? Tie knots? Navigate by map and compass? If so, or if you have other survival skills, then share them through the Adventure Committee!

The Adventure Committee is the chapter's outdoor education arm. We use the chapter land to learn skills for use on adventures father afield. To that end, the committee hosts workshops led by knowledgeable chapter members. Workshop leaders are not responsible for coordinating logistics or satisfying administrative requirements. They simply show up on the Saturday or Sunday of the workshop and teach for however long their chosen subject requires. There is no ongoing commitment.

If interested in leading a spring or summer workshop, email Committee Chair Mike Dobson at [adventure.bcciwla@gmail.com](mailto:adventure.bcciwla@gmail.com).





## Kid Friendly Dinner

Our next Kid Friendly Chapter Dinner will be held at the March Dinner Meeting on Wednesday, March 19. As usual, we will have kids' activities while adults enjoy the regular chapter meeting. Hot dogs, chips, cookies/ice cream, and juice boxes will be provided. Keep the date clear and use this opportunity to bring your kids to the chapter.

Questions?

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

## Winter at the Log Cabin

David Mecklenburg  
Log Cabin Committee Chair  
dmecklenburg1@gmail.com

This year we are celebrating the cabin's 200th birthday. The cabin is a great educational asset for the chapter. It is a glimpse back to an earlier time as an example of a home site of the early 1800's. We have used it for archeological digs and open houses, as we do for Heritage Days. I am looking forward to this year when we will be doing some more maintenance on the cabin complex. We have several projects planned for the cabin this year and would enjoy your help. Please keep an eye out for future notices. The cabin complex is just like any home, it constantly needs repairs. That is why I call my home the "To Do List".



PHOTO BY DAVID MECKLENBURG

*The Log Cabin Complex after the January 2025 Snow Storm*

Winter is a beautiful place to enjoy the Log Cabin complex. It is great just looking at the snow-covered log cabin complex on a cold winter day while driving onto the property.

Spring is almost here. I look forward to seeing you out at the chapter.

### Izaak Walton League of America

Maryland State Division Meeting

**Saturday, March 8, 2025**

Wildlife Achievement Chapter  
26430 Mullinix Mill Road  
Mt. Airy, MD 21771

Coffee and refreshments will be served at 9:15 a.m.  
The meeting will convene at 10:00 a.m.

Members in good standing are invited to attend.  
Only Members of the Board can vote.



*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

## Rifle & Pistol Range Committee Report

Jerry Murray  
1st Vice President  
R&P Range Chair

The range is currently closed to the general membership and will re-open after the spring clean-up in early April. Range Officers and their guests can use the range unless closed to all.

The sign-ups for current range officers and new range officers that have completed the training will be on March 1 (12:00 noon – 2:00pm in the Chapter House) and March 9 (9:00am – 11:00am in the Chapter House). Bring your 2025 membership card and current RO card to the meeting. Scheduling of duty days will be on-line by SignUp Genius after the in-person meetings.

If anyone is looking to get their volunteer hours in early, I have several projects at the range that I would like to get done before work day. Each requires 1-3 people and can be done anytime (weather permitting). Please contact me if you are interested.

## Shotgun Range Committee Report

Jerry Murray  
1st Vice President  
202 438-4202 jerrym5@comcast.net

The shotgun range is currently closed to all shooting activities while we re-install the survey stakes and flagging in preparation for the start of the reclamation work. Please do not disturb the stakes or remove the colored flagging tape since the contractors need these to locate and install the erosion and sediment control measures in the work areas.

We are still looking for members to become a Maryland Dept of the Environment (MDE) 'Responsible Person' for the purpose of inspecting the sediment and erosion controls on the project weekly and after rain events. The course for getting the certification is on-line and available at the MDE website. By taking the course and performing some inspections you will fulfill your volunteer hours and help the chapter save money on this project by us not having to pay our consultant to perform these required inspections. If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Murray at jerrym5@comcast.net or 202-438-4202.

### IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA MISSION STATEMENT

*To conserve, restore and promote the sustainable use and enjoyment of our natural resources, including soil, air, woods, waters and wildlife.*

## Seneca Christmas Bird Count, December 15, 2024

### Birds Counted on B-CC Chapter Izaak Walton League Conservation Farm

Jim Nelson  
Montgomery Bird Club

These are the total birds counted on the Conservation Farm by two field parties on the Farm and two feeder watchers at the Chapter House feeders. Species total – 38 (down slightly from 42 last year and 41 in 2022). Total birds counted – 576 (way down from 1,997 from last year but ahead of the 453 in 2022). Species not found in 2023 are marked with an \*. Parenthetical comments compare some totals to last year's count on the Farm or to this year's count in the rest of Seneca CBC Sector 7, of which the Farm is a part.

Canada Goose	40 (well above last year's 6)
Wood Duck	4* (only ones found in Sector 7)
Mallard	8*
Mourning Dove	7
Great Blue Heron	1* (only 4 found in Sector 7)
Black Vulture	1
Turkey Vulture	25
Bald Eagle	1* (only 3 found in Sector 7)
Red-shouldered Hawk	1
Hawk species	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	8
Red-bellied Woodpecker	10
Downy Woodpecker	9
Hairy Woodpecker	1
Northern Flicker	12
Blue Jay	31
American Crow	154 (well below last year's 881)
Fish Crow	1 (a near shutout compared to last year's 146)
crow species	7
Common Raven	1
Carolina Chickadee	18 (well below last year's 42)
Tufted Titmouse	27 (one third of the 75 found in Sector 7)
White-breasted Nuthatch	5
Carolina Wren	2 (well below last year's 20)
European Starling	1 (well below last year's 33)
Northern Mockingbird	3*
Eastern Bluebird	24
Hermit Thrush	1 (only 6 found in Sector 7)
American Robin	3 (well below last year's 380)
Cedar Waxwing	9 (well below last year's 71)
House Finch	5 (well below last year's 23)
American Goldfinch	1
Dark-eyed Junco	9
White-throated Sparrow	40
Song Sparrow	2
Swamp Sparrow	1* (only 5 found in Sector 7)
Eastern Towhee	1 (only 8 found in Sector 7)
sparrow species	14
Red-winged Blackbird	56 (the only ones found in Sector 7)
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1 (well below last year's 15)
Northern Cardinal	28

## Calendar Submissions

Meetings and events that need to be added to the website calendar and newsletter calendar should be sent to Andy Wight, andywight1@hotmail.com, and Corresponding Secretary Janet Lamkin, j.lamkin@comcast.net.



## Owl Box Update

Linda Green  
Citizen Science Project Co-coordinator for NestWatch Committee  
lindakpgreen@gmail.com

Last July, Cub Scout Pack 694 Bear Den presented our Chapter with 2 hand-made owl nesting boxes. In January, members of the NestWatch Team added Aluminum flashing for predator control and wood shavings for bedding, then



installed these new boxes in the woods of the property. Members Pat McNeilly and Linda Green, along with guest Annie Mealey, selected prime locations on the Nature Trail near the West Woods and behind the Big Lake, with the

intention of attracting Eastern Screech-Owls over the next couple of months. The team will be visually monitoring these nests throughout the Spring and will provide further updates with any luck!



**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***

**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*

At the upcoming dinner meeting, we will be looking to identify what we will fund next with our monthly 50/50 draw. We had great success with our last drive, raising over \$1,500 to cover the costs of the new Adirondack Chairs by the Chapter House. The Board would like to suggest the following options:

- **Improve the A/V system:** Update sound/projector system, with ability to host and record zoom meetings
- **Updated signage at the Chapter:** Improve signage across the property, including logos with clearer explanations at entrances and locations
- **Speaker/Reenactor:** Bring in an 'historic' guest figure to speak at a dinner meeting

Members at the February Dinner meeting will be asked to vote on one of the three choices.

## Stay Alert: Protect Yourself from Phishing Scams

Scammers are increasingly targeting individuals and organizations, including non-profits like ours. Phishing emails often mimic trusted sources, requesting donations, gift card purchases, favors, personal information, or account access. Be cautious with emails asking you to click links or share sensitive details. Always verify the sender's identity – scammers frequently impersonate familiar names. Avoid clicking unexpected links, and report suspicious emails to your provider. Stay vigilant and safeguard your information to help protect yourself and our community from scam.



## ATTENTION New Members!

Chapter House cleanup will be held on:  
Saturday, February 15  
Saturday, March 15  
Saturday, April 12  
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/10C0D4DACAA28A7F8C25-51060445-monthly>

Questions? Contact John Lamb –  
jpatricklamb@aol.com

## 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

## JANUARY SNOW AT THE CHAPTER



PHOTOS BY ARTHUR BELENDIUK

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## Proposed Changes to the By-Laws

(Edits in red – to be voted on at the February 2025 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 lieu 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, **February 19, 2025**)

### 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, **February 19, 2025**)

**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, **February 19, 2025**)

### Article IX – Gifts, Donations, or Contributions

**Section 1.** Any gifts, donations, or contributions given to the Chapter, in any form whatsoever, either by a member, or non-member, upon declaration that same is a gift, donation, or contribution, and upon acceptance by an officer, or member, or action by the membership or Board of Governors, shall become the sole property of the Chapter and shall not be removed or transferred or retracted or destroyed, by any officer, committee chairman, member or employee of the Chapter, without specific consent of a majority of the Board of Governors, except such properties in the form of equipment or machinery that may be removed for a reasonable length of time for repair or adjustment, but only upon consent of the committee chairman involved or upon necessary approval by a majority of the Board of Governors. Furthermore, any gift, donation, or contribution given to, or accepted by, the Chapter prior to the acceptance of this Resolution by the Membership for inclusion in the By-Laws, shall remain the sole property of the Chapter. (Adopted April 15, 1959)

**Section 1b.** Any monetary donations submitted to the chapter for a specific task or activity that is not used within a year of the donation being made, will be transferred into the Operating fund at the end of that year, unless a request is made by the committee chair, and approved by the Board of Governors, to extend the time. The change in usage must also be approved by the person/organization making the donation. (Adopted February 19, 2025)

### 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, **February 19, 2025**)

**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 February 19, 2025)

### 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 **February 19, 2025**)