



MARCH 2025 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

I don't know if it's official yet, but it certainly feels like spring is here! With warmer days and longer evenings ahead, it's the perfect time to get outdoors and enjoy everything our Chapter has to offer. It has also been a busy season, with our first mowing of the year, Save Our Streams events, and the Interpretive Walk in the Woods kicking off our conservation efforts. Additionally, the first phase of the lead reclamation project is underway, with soil erosion controls now in place as we prepare for the next step – lead removal.

Work is set to begin at the end of March, bringing increased traffic and construction equipment in and around the range, including the road leading to the large pond. For your safety, please stay clear of all equipment – even when it is not in operation.

A big thank you to everyone who attended the February dinner meeting. We had a quorum, allowing us to officially vote in new members and approve bylaw changes to help streamline Chapter operations. There was plenty of thoughtful discussion – some proposals were approved, some were voted against, and others were tabled for further review this month. This is exactly how our membership should function, with open debate and shared decision-making. It's also a great reminder of why attending dinner meetings is so important!

For those interested, you can find the current version of the By-Laws and updated Chapter Rules and Regulations on our website. A copy is also available on the notice board near the Chapter entrance.

Looking ahead, March's dinner meeting will be family-friendly, so bring your children and enjoy the evening with fellow members. Our guest speaker will be Phil Taylor, Farm Chair, who will share updates on farm activities and exciting plans for the year ahead. This is a great opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes look at what it takes to run and maintain our Chapter Farm.

We are also kicking off our nominating process for the Board of Governors and Chapter Officers. If you're interested in stepping into a leadership role, now is the time! Serving on the Board is a great opportunity to represent our members and help shape the future of the Chapter. Christine Peterson is leading the Nominations Committee, so please reach out to her if you'd like to get involved.

Speaking of involvement, we need volunteers! Our Chapter Clean-Up Day is coming up, and several committees are actively looking for help. Member participation is key to maintaining our facilities and keeping operating costs down. Whether you can lend a hand for a few hours or take on a larger role, every effort makes a difference.

Be sure to check the Chapter calendar and website for details on upcoming events, including: Spring Clean-Up, Spring Family Campout, Conservation Award & Dinner, and Heritage Day Events.

Enjoy the spring season – come down, get involved, and experience it for yourself!

Andy Wight
President

Nominating Committee

We are pleased to announce that Christine Peterson will be heading this year's Nominating Committee, which oversees the selection of candidates for our Board of Directors. As our chapter continues to grow and drive its mission, we rely on dedicated members to help shape its future.

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, we encourage you to step forward! Board members play a vital role in guiding our initiatives, programs, and community engagement efforts. To volunteer or learn more about these

opportunities, please reach out to Christine Peterson at christineakcp@comcast.net or 301-939-9773

Your involvement makes a difference – we look forward to working together to continue strengthening our chapter!

March Dinner Meeting Speaker

Farm Committee Chair Phil Taylor will give the membership an update on the Committee's projects for 2025. Come and enjoy a St. Patrick's Day dinner and listen to Phil's presentation.

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 January 2025 Board of Governors Meeting

Sean-David Waterman, Recording Secretary

Wednesday, January 22, 2025 – Board of Governors Meeting

- President Andy Wight called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
- Bennet Drazen presented his Eagle Scout project to replace and enhance the entrance fence with either a ranch fence or a split rail fence. Split rail was the preferred option.
- Blaine Elkins provided an update on proposals for Lead Reclamation, current and pending, for the sentiment and erosion control work. There was a discussion on: what pre-construction tasks would need to be completed. Tentative mobilization for the EN Range team is the third week of March.
- There was discussion on what the 50/50 raffle would generate funds for now that the raffle for the deck chairs has closed.
- Treasurer Bob Kelly reported on the Account Balances for the Operating, Management, Land Fund, Long – Term Capital, and Near – Term Capital were reviewed.
- Donation and Grants Committee provided a list grants. The goal is to develop grant writers to assist the committee chairs in applying for grants.
- Stephen Austin requested the opportunity to pursue the option to bring internet connectivity to the chapter house. He will report his initial findings next month.
- 2nd VP Shannon Novak discussed the possibility of the Chapter joining the Poolesville area Chamber of Commerce.

NEW BUSINESS (that requires a motion)

- Motion to allow Lonnie Coates, Sr. to use the chapter house on Saturday, May 31, from 11:00am – 10:00pm with the ability to decorate Friday, May 30. **Motion passed.**
- Motion to have the chapter join the Poolesville area Chamber of Commerce for 1 year. **Motion passed.**
- Motion to give preliminary approval to Bennett Drazen's Eagle Scout Project Application to replace the existing fence at the chapter entrance gate. **Motion was approved.**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45pm.

ATTENTION New Members!

Chapter House cleanups will be on:

Saturday, March 15

Saturday, April 12

Saturday, May 17

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/10C0D4DACA28A7F8C25-51060445-monthly>

Questions? Contact John Lamb –
jpatricklamb@aol.com

**March 2025
1,073rd Monthly Dinner /
Membership Meeting**

Wednesday, March 19

Don't forget to wear your green!

50 / 50 Raffle

Kid Friendly Dinner

Dinner served starting at 6:15pm

Menu

Appetizers

Corned Beef, Cabbage, Potatoes,
Carrots, Dessert

Kids' Menu

Hot Dogs, Chips, Cookies/Ice Cream, Juice Box

Membership Meeting starts at 7:30pm

Speaker – Phil Taylor – Farm Committee Chair

**March 2025
Board of Governors Meeting**

Wednesday, March 26

7:00pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

B-CC IWLA and Community

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

Chapter House Cleanup

Saturday, March 15
9:00am – 12:00 noon

New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour

Saturday, March 15
10:00am – 11:30am

1,073rd Membership Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, March 19
Dinner – 6:15pm; Meeting – 7:30pm
Chapter House

Board of Governors Meeting

Wednesday, March 26
7:00pm
Board Room

Spring Chapter Cleanup Day & Picnic

Saturday, April 5
8:30am – 3:00pm

Chapter House Cleanup

Saturday, April 12
9:00am – 12:00 noon

Spring Hunter Education Course

Saturday and Sunday, May 3 and 4
8:00am – 4:00pm each day

Spring Family Campout

Saturday – Sunday, May 17 – 18
Starting at 3:00pm on Saturday
Ending by 9:00am on Sunday

Conservation Dinner

Thursday, May 22
6:00pm – 9:00pm
Chapter House

Stop the Bleed Course

Saturday, June 7
10:00am – 2:00pm
Chapter House

Heritage Day

Sunday, June 29
12:00 noon – 4:00pm

2025 Archery Program

Announcement: Chuck Thornton is now serving as Chair of the Archery Committee! As you know, Chuck is one of the founders of the national award-winning Apollo Archery program here at the Chapter.

Stay tuned as we form the new Archery Committee and plan our activities for the year. We encourage all members to participate in the Archery program, join the breadth of activities we'll offer this year, and come out to the range often.

Email bcc-iwla-archery+subscribe@googlegroups.com to subscribe to the Archery Committee message list.

If you want to join the Archery Committee or have suggestions, please email us at Archery.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com.

A few of the activities we have planned for 2025 will include Apollo Archery (expanded to include first responders!), 3D shoots, and Instruction for adults and kids. Schedules and new activity announcements coming soon!

On a related note, last month we thanked Jack Mandel for his service to the Chapter as our Archery Chair. This month let's thank Marc Bouchard for serving as our Vice Chair. Marc selflessly gave his time and talents to enhance our archery programs by engaging with the Board and Chapter leadership, tending to the grounds and Archery Woods, ensuring the 3D trails were maintained, and a myriad of other routine and unseen activities. We relied on Marc to keep archery on the Chapter's agenda. Marc, we appreciate you and look forward to seeing you actually shooting your bow again!

We'll see you on the range.

Welcome to the B-CC IWLA Family!

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

Denis He

Interests: Archery; Conservation Education; Rifle & Pistol

Gerald Yao

Interests: Archery; Conservation Education; Ponds & Streams



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 if you are interested.

Membership Committee Report

Scott Harmon, Membership Secretary & Committee Chair
301 467-0645 (cell) MembershipSecretary.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com

As of the February 2025 Board of Governors meeting, membership stands at 633 total voting Members: 322 Individuals, 194 Family, 66 Retired Individuals, 36 Retired Families, 11 Associates, 3 Students, and 1 Youth.

Renewal reminders have gone into the mail with an added \$37.50 late fee. We will be reaching out by phone to remind and help members with renewing as well.

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.

\$ 37.50 Late Fee

\$317.50 Total

Family

\$307.50 Renewal Rate

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

\$ 37.50 Late Fee

\$420.00 Total

Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Hunter Safety / Education Course

John Lamb, Committee Chairman
jpatricklamb@aol.com

On May 3rd and 4th, the chapter will host one of its bi-annual Hunter Safety/Education courses. This class is free of charge and open to anyone wishing to get certified through the State of Maryland. All new potential hunters must enroll-in and satisfy a certification program. Our class is a 2 – day course from 8:00am to 4:00pm on each day. I do encourage those hunters, whom were/are exempt from completing this program due to grandfather clauses, to enroll as well. Typically, the class age range runs from 6 – 75 years of age. The certification is recognized throughout the U.S and all over the world.

All participants must enroll online with the State of Maryland. Pull up www.register-ed.com, click on Maryland, click on Hunter Education Classroom Course, find the date with Poolesville IWLA location. The site will ask a few questions pertaining to the student from there on. Once enrolled, mark the date on your calendar and then wait for further announcements. You can cancel your enrollment at any time if needed but please try to do so at least a week ahead of time so that another student may occupy that spot.

Students should bring a lunch and an enthusiastic learning attitude. The state will provide all other materials required. Members wishing to work off volunteer hours are welcome to assist. If you have any questions, please contact me at jpatricklamb@aol.com.

50/50 Raffle
Help Support the Chapter!

Raffle tickets will be available at the monthly dinner meeting

\$1 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5

50% goes to the ticket holder

50% goes to the Chapter to improve the A/V system: update sound/projector system, with ability to host and record zoom meetings

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

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*

MARCH

Saturday, March 1	Archery Meeting – Chapter House	9:30am – 11:00am
Saturday, March 1	R&P SignUp Meeting – Chapter House	12:00 noon – 2:00PM
Thursday, March 6	Hunters Education Maryland Instructors – Chapter House	5:00pm – 9:00pm
Saturday, March 9	R&P SignUp Meeting – Chapter House	9:00am – 11:00pm
Thursday, March 13	Legacy Board Meeting – Board Room	7:30pm – 9:00pm
Saturday, March 15	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Saturday, March 15	Rifle & Pistol Closed for Boy Scout Merit Badge Shoot	9:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, March 15	Boy Scout Merit Badge Shoot at Rifle & Pistol Range	9:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, March 15	New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour	10:00am – 11:30am
Saturday, March 15	Pinewood Derby – Chapter House	2:00pm – 5:00pm
Wednesday, March 19	1,073rd Membership Dinner Meeting Speaker – Phil Taylor – Farm Committee Chair	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	3:00pm – 6:00pm
Wednesday, March 26	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Friday, March 28	Articles for April Newsletter due – send to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day

APRIL

Wednesday, April 2	Apollo Archery at the Archery Range	6:00pm to dusk
Saturday, April 5	Summer Biathlon Program Practice	7:30am
Saturday, April 5	Spring Chapter Cleanup Day & Picnic	8:30am – 3:00pm
Thursday, April 10	Cub Scout Pack 694 Meeting – Chapter House	6:00pm – 8:00pm
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
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 j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Saturday, April 26	Celebration of Life for Tom Lamkin – Chapter House	1:00pm – 4:00pm

MAY

Saturday, May 3	Summer Biathlon Program Practice (note earlier time)	*7:00am
Saturday, May 3	Spring Hunter Education Course	7:00am – 6:00pm
Sunday, May 4	Spring Hunter Education Course	7:00am – 6:00pm
Sunday, May 4	Montgomery Bird Club's Spring Walk	7:00am – 12:00 noon
Wednesday, May 7	Apollo Archery at the Archery Range	6:00pm to dusk
Saturday, May 10	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Thursday, May 15	Cub Scout Pack 694 Meeting – Chapter House	6:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday, May 17	Summer Biathlon Program Practice	7:30am
Saturday, May 17	New and Prospective Members Orientation	10:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, May 17	Spring Family Campout	Begins at 3:00pm
Sunday, May 18	Spring Family Campout – Breakfast and Cleanup	Completed by 9:00am
Wednesday, 21	1,075th Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner 6:15pm Meeting 7:30pm
Thursday, May 22	Conservation Dinner	6:00pm – 9:00pm
Friday, May 23	Articles for June Newsletter due – send to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Wednesday, May 28	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm
Saturday, May 31	Summer Biathlon Program Practice	7:30am
Saturday, May 31	Private Event – Chapter House	11:00am – 10:30pm

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

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 rate is \$2.00 per session. 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
Saturday, May 3	7:00am*
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

2nd Annual Summer Competition*

Saturday, August 9	7:30am
Saturday, August 23	7:30am
Saturday, September 6	7:30am
Saturday, September 20	7:30am
Saturday, October 4	7:00am*

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

New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour

Come join us on the B-CC IWLA Orientation Tour. The next tour will take place on **Saturday, March 15** 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.

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

Signup for the tour using the signup genius link below:


<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DCAA28A7F8C25-54255111-newmember>

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

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

Calendar Submissions

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



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
andywright1@hotmail.com.

Shotgun Range Lead Reclamation Update

The Sediment and Erosion Control work has been completed and is scheduled for acceptance by the Soil Conservation District on March 6. Do not disturb the stakes and white flagging that define the limits of disturbance, the silt fence, filter logs, diversion fence or tree protection signage.

The log barriers that protect the traps from being struck by shot need to be removed from the area inside the limits of disturbance. Please assist Warner Parks in this task.

Mobilization of the EN Range equipment is scheduled for the week of March 24 – March 28. This equipment will be parked in the shotgun range parking lot. Do not park by shotgun after March 23. If there is overflow, it may appear in part of the chapter house parking near the drive to the shotgun range. When it arrives on site, please leave it alone and do not block access to it.

Reclamation work will begin March 31, weather permitting. The drive to shotgun and the farm road to the back fields and big pond are the contractor's access to the work areas. Stay off the shotgun drive. Do not block either. If you wish to go to the big pond or back fields, remember the farm road will be an access drive for construction vehicles. Be alert and ready to step off the road if you meet a construction vehicle. Be sure the operator sees you and if you have dog with you, have it on a lead. Remember that only vehicles authorized by a committee chair for chapter activities may use the farm road.

The work area inside the LOD is a construction site and a hazardous area. Do not enter these areas during the work or after hours. If you have questions about the contractor's activities, do not bother the EN Range workers; they are there to do their jobs and the quicker they do it the less it will cost the chapter. You can contact Blaine Elkins, Jerry Murray, or Andy Wight if you have questions.

If you want to get a bucket or two of lead for reloading, look elsewhere. First, the sale of the scrap lead helps reduce the costs of reclamation for the chapter. Second, the scrap lead is a material that has a chain of custody documentation trail from the time it is dropped from the separating sieve into the collection bag until it is delivered to the licensed lead recycling facility that buys it. Breaking that chain would endanger EN Range's business. They are not going to go along with such a request.

Once EN Range settles into their work, we will try to arrange an opportunity for members to enter the site and observe their operations up close. Until then, let them work in peace.

Blaine Elkins
blaineelkins@verizon.net

Jerry Murray
jerrym5@comcast.net

Andy Wight
andywight1@hotmail.com

Farm Committee – Summer Mowing

The Farm committee is looking for someone to join the committee and coordinate the summer mowing at the chapter. We also need volunteers to help with the mowing. The volunteers would be shown the proper care and operation of the mowers and the areas of the chapter that require regular mowing during the growing season. This is a great way to get your volunteer hours and help the chapter. If you are interested or want more information, please email Jerry Murray at jerrym5@comcast.net.

Rifle & Pistol Range Committee Report

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

If you missed the 2025 sign-ups earlier this month, you have another opportunity on Saturday, April 5. After work activities have concluded, will have a sign-up at the range starting at 2:00pm. If you cannot make this date, you need to contact me to arrange to pay your range fee and get your card. The Sign-up Genius for signing up for duty days should be out around April 15. If you have not received it, we may not have your correct e-mail, and you need to contact me.

The range will be closed for a Boy Scout Merit Badge Shoot on Saturday, March 15 (rain date Sunday, March 16) from 9:00am until 1:00pm.



UNTIL HELP ARRIVES – STOP THE BLEED CLASS

Saturday, June 7

10:00am – 2:00pm in the Chapter House

Class space is limited to 30 slots
Email Jack Kang – jackhkang@gmail.com –
to sign up

Minutes Count! A person can bleed to death in as little as 5 minutes. Become an active bystander. Learn the skills needed to save a life from the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department.

The *Until Help Arrives – Stop the Bleed* training includes:

- Learn about active violence attacks
- Learn how to apply a tourniquet
- Learn other life-saving techniques
- Learn mental strategies to help during a crisis



*Excitement. Challenge. Community service.
Self-satisfaction. Camaraderie.
Experience it all.*

Join the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department
as a volunteer firefighter or EMS provider.
It's an experience you will never forget.



The Annual Spring Family Campout is scheduled for Saturday, May 17 (weather permitting). This event is open for members and their guests. As usual, the events will start Saturday afternoon and continue into Sunday morning (dinner and breakfast provided). The Chapter House will remain open throughout the event. This is a great opportunity for first-time campers.

SATURDAY

- Tent setup around the chapter house begins at 3:00pm
- Fishing and Crafts 4:00pm – 6:00pm
- Evening cookout will be provided from 6:00pm – 7:00pm
- S'mores around the campfire at the chapter house firepit

SUNDAY

- Breakfast will be served Sunday morning to campers starting at 7:00am
- Breakdown and cleanup will be completed by 9:00am

This is a great time to spend time with your immediate family and to meet other B-CC IWLA members, families, and guests. The event is free to members, but we ask for donations from guests to help offset our costs.

Please register before the May 14 so we can plan for food and provide updates due to weather.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COD4DACA28A7F8C25-55546043-2025>

Spring at the Log Cabin

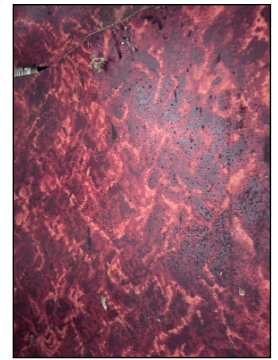
David Mecklenburg
 Log Cabin Committee Chair
 dmecklenburg1@gmail.com

This year we are celebrating the cabin's 200th birthday.

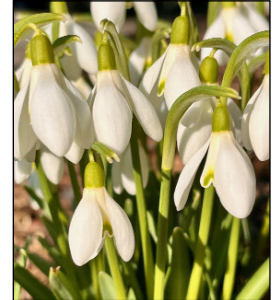
We have several projects planned for the cabin this year and would enjoy your help at the Chapter Spring Cleanup on April 5th. The cabin complex is just like any home, it constantly needs repairs.

Spring is a beautiful time of year to enjoy the Log Cabin complex and the chapter. When I was out to the Chapter yesterday, I enjoyed looking at all the plants that are starting to show themselves. The Snowdrops are blooming with more spring flowers starting to show themselves. I like walking the Nature Trail this time of year looking for flowers.

I look forward to seeing you out at the chapter.



Linoleum from the log cabin.



Snowdrops in bloom.

PHOTO BY DAVID MECKLENBURG

Heritage Days

The B-CC IWLA Chapter is pleased to open its doors once again for Heritage Days and will offer access to our site to promote our conservation message as well as share our local history. This year marks the 26th annual Heritage Days weekend – a countywide festival offering programs, activities, and tours appealing to visitors of all ages and interests.



We will be opening our doors on Sunday, June 29th. We encourage you to come to the Chapter, enjoy our displays, activities, and discover things about the chapter you may not know. Family activities such as fishing, archeology, colonial living, archery, air pistols, bird watching, wildlife and insect displays, in addition to a picnic lunch and soft drinks. This is a great chance to visit the chapter with your family and/or bring guests to show what the IWLA is all about. Gates will be open from 12:00 noon to 4:00pm on Sunday, June 29th (Rain or Shine). Questions – contact Andy Wight – ConservationEducation.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com.

Junior Rifle Program

We are looking to restart our Junior Rifle Program and are looking for dedicated volunteers to help make it a success! This program is intended to provide young shooters with a safe and structured environment to learn firearm safety, marksmanship, and sportsmanship under the guidance of experienced mentors. If you are interested in either a) helping run the program or b) have family members interested in the program please reach out to andywright1@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.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE Tom Lamkin

Saturday, April 26
 1:00pm - 4:00pm in the Chapter House

Members and Guests Welcome
 Light Refreshments Provided

Questions - contact
 j.lamkin@comcast.net

Ponds & Streams Committee Report

John Novak, Co-chair
novakgang4@comcast.net

2024 Big Pond Creel Census Report

The tenth voluntary creel census was conducted in 2024 at the big pond (Walton) which provides “catch and release” fishing for B-CC IWLA members and accompanied guests. The first reported catch was on February 28, 2024, and the last catch was reported on November 21, 2024. As in the past, the purpose of this census was to continue gathering information on angler interest, fishing effort, and catch success, and to get an idea of the abundance and species composition of the fish resource in the big pond. Anglers were requested to enter their fishing information and catch results in the logbook in the metal box on the kiosk near the shelter. The following table summarizes the data voluntarily provided by anglers for 2015-2023 and 2024.

	2015-2022	2023	2024
Total hours fished	124-265	311	194
Average no. of hours fished per angler	1.7-2.2	2.4	2.7
No. of angler trips	68-156	128	72
Average no. angler trips per month	9-14.6	13	7
Total no. of bluegills caught	31-274	228	151
Percent bluegills <5”	42-74	21	25
Percent bluegills >5”	26-58	79	75
Total no. largemouth bass caught	177-522	300	196
Percent largemouth bass <10”	27-64	30	54
Percent largemouth bass >10”	36-73	70	46
Largest largemouth bass caught	5-8 lbs.	>5 lbs.	ND
Catch rate for bluegills/hr.	0.38-1.4	0.67	0.78
Catch rate for largemouth bass/hr.	1.1-2.4	0.96	1.0
Catch rate for bluegills & largemouth bass/hr.	2.0-3.8	1.63	1.8

The amount of fishing pressure or effort in the big pond was less in 2024 compared to 2023. In 2024, there were 72 angler trips, and 194 total hours fished. In 2023, there were 128 angler trips with 311 total hours fished. For the previous nine years the average number of angler trips was 108 and the average number of hours fished was 223. The average number of angler trips per month for 2024 (7) was less than 2023 (13) and less than the average of 11.7 for the years 2015-2022. One angler made 52 of the 72 trips to the big pond reported for 2024. The highest number of angler trips per month in 2024 (15) occurred in July while the highest per month in 2023 (17) occurred in May. The highest number of angler trips per month (40) reported to date occurred in April 2017.

The number of largemouth bass reported caught in 2024 (196) was about 34.7 percent less than that reported in 2023 (300). This was the second lowest reported catch of largemouth bass since the beginning of the voluntary creel census. Eighty-nine percent of the largemouth bass reported in the logbook was caught by one angler. The catch rate for largemouth bass in 2024 was 1.0/hr. compared to a catch rate of 0.96/hr. in 2023. For the years 2015-2022, the catch rate for largemouth bass averaged 1.6/ hr. The largest largemouth bass reported during the ten years of voluntary creel surveys was eight pounds caught in 2017. The reported catch of bluegills in 2024 was 151 compared to 208 caught in 2023. The 2024 catch rate for bluegills was 0.78/hr. compared to 0.67/hr. in 2023. For the years 2015-2022 the catch rate for

bluegills averaged 0.90/hr. Five brown bullhead catfish were reported caught and returned to the big pond.

As shown in the above table, the total hours fished (194) and the number of angler trips (72) were down in 2024 compared to 2023 when the total hours fished were 311 and angler trips were 128. Further, the 2024 numbers for hours fished, and angler trips, are below the averages of 212 and 106, respectively, for the years 2015-2022. The reported total catch for both bluegills and largemouth bass for 2024 (347) was less than 2023 (508) while the catch rate (1.8/hr.) for both species was higher than 2023 (1.63/hr.) but lower for the years 2015-2022 (2.5). The lower catch numbers for bluegills and largemouth bass for 2024 are likely due in part to the low number of angler trips (72) compared to previous years. Also, the high air temperatures (in the 90’s) at times may have been a deterrent to anglers walking down to the big pond, and the persistent duck weed which covered 80-90 percent of the big pond’s surface likely affected fishing success. Also, surface water temperatures at times reached nearly 90 degrees Fahrenheit which may have caused fish to move to cooler waters in the deeper areas of the big pond and therefore not be accessible to shoreline anglers.

Overall, 2024 as shown by the above data was one of the poorest for fishing at the big pond since the beginning of the voluntary creel census in 2015. Catch data was down in nearly all categories. However, 2024 should not be considered a decline in the big pond fish population because taken with the previous nine years of data, a declining trend is not seen. Continuing the voluntary creel census will provide further data on the status of the big pond fish population.

The Ponds & Streams Committee thanks those anglers who took the time to enter their catch data in the logbook. Looking forward to better fishing in 2025 at the big pond.

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, to help coordinate equipment, volunteers, and other resources.

Interpretive Walk in the Woods

Olivia Wight, Conservation Education Committee Co-Chair

On February 19th and 20th, five B-CC IWLA members, Mark Gochmour, Gregg Gochmour, Olivia Wight, Michael Dawson, and Andy Wight, led 81 freshmen from Poolesville High School's Global Ecology Program on our annual Interpretive Walk in the Woods.



We started the walk by learning about soil, the different types of soil, the difference between soil and dirt, and the role of soil in creating and maintaining life. We finished the walk discussing the importance and scarcity of drinking water. As we walked, becoming see-ers, (learning to pause and be aware of what was around us), we stopped at an old dump site and discussed how long it takes for different materials to decompose. During the walk, the freshman learned how to identify chestnut oak, white oak, and red oak trees by looking at their bark and or leaves. We learned about the American Chestnut tree, how the chestnut blight (fungal disease) killed them, and the efforts that are being made to create blight resistant trees. We talked about other invasive species and the impact they have on local environments.

As part of the discussion on animals in the forest, we had a demonstration of imitated turkey calls, and various deer and turkey exhibits were shared. As we climbed a hill, we paused to take in the view – seeing all the way into Virginia, with its tall buildings in the distance. This led to a discussion about the importance of space in a habitat, how animals rely on their environment for survival, and the impact of the AG Reserve in preserving space here.



PHOTOS BY OLIVIA WIGHT AND ANDY WIGHT

Towards the end of the walk, there is an old abandoned well in the woods. We took a brief pause there to talk about the snakes that hibernate in the well. Keeping quiet, we dropped rocks down the well, listening so the students could hear the splash as the rocks eventually reached the bottom.

At the end of the hike, there is usually an exam to review what the participants have learned. However, with the cold, windy, and sometimes snowy weather, we opted to hold the discussion indoors at the chapter house, asking the students to share key takeaways from the hike instead.

Vegetable Gardens

Larry Anderson
240 246-5301 andupton9@hotmail.com

Pat Tarquinio
ptarq@hotmail.com

The days are growing longer and warmer temperatures becoming more common which means gardeners are getting restless, anticipating and planning for the next growing season. At B-CC IWLA we have an active gardening community, full of members who enjoy the opportunity to play in the soil. Generally, our gardeners find the gardens a pleasant distraction from the hustle and bustle of daily life even with our onslaught of amazing weeds. Again this year, Pat and I will be the organizers of the garden plots.

As has been our custom, current gardeners have first choice of reserving garden plots, so now is the time to contact either Pat or me with your intentions for this year. Single plots (~25x25ft) will rent for \$20 each. For members wishing to become new gardeners, please contact either Pat or me, and we will compile a list and start assigning plots as they become available. We hope to have the list and assignments ready to go in time for early crop planting.



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/>

Small Pond Trout Fishing 2025

1. Trout fishing began on Saturday, March 8, 2025.
2. Trout fishing is for chapter members and immediate family only.
3. Anglers 16 and older must have a Maryland fishing license and \$5.00 trout stamp. Those aged 65 and older qualify for a senior consolidated fishing license; no trout stamp required.
4. Fish from shore only; do not use the boat.
5. Anglers may keep 3 trout per day - no size limit.
6. Anglers may use only one fishing rod at a time.
7. Anglers should park in the chapter house parking lot.
8. Pick up and take all trash out of the small pond area when leaving.
9. Report the number and species caught to:
John Novak, novakgang4@comcast.net, 301-385-0943 or
Peter Wirth, Peter_Wirth@verizon.net, 301-915-6763.

Apollo Archery—Back For Our Fifth Season!



The Apollo Archery program was established in 2021 to provide archery instruction and experiences for current and former members of the United States Armed Services and their families. Check out program details here:

<https://bcciwla.org/apollo-archery/>

This year we're proud to announce program expansion to first responders and their families. If you know of anyone who qualifies (chapter member or not) and would be interested in joining us, please spread the word.

Schedule:

Apollo Archery sessions start at 6:00pm and finish at dusk on the first Wednesday of each month from April through October. We're also planning some special weekend sessions this year with wounded warriors; if interested in volunteering in any capacity, please reach out.

2025 Dates:

April 2nd; May 7th; June 4th; July 2nd; August 6th; September 3rd; October 1st

As always, there is no fee for participation and we have equipment for use for folks of all ages and abilities. Looking for something to do with that backup bow, now that you've upgraded? We're always in search of modern equipment donations. We store the Apollo equipment in a dedicated shed with access limited to use by our participants. Please contact us if you'd like to make a contribution.

For additional details, contact John Gorney at apolloarchery.bcciwla@gmail.com!

Trout Derby

John Novak, Ponds & Streams Committee Co-chair
novakgang4@comcast.net

The Ponds and Streams Committee kicked off its first-ever Trout Derby on March 8th, bringing together anglers of all skill levels and ages for a day of fishing, camaraderie, and outdoor enjoyment. Despite the warm but windy weather, about 30 participants turned out to test their luck at the chapter's recently stocked pond which included 150 rainbow trout and 50 Brown trout. After a couple of hours of casting lines and reeling in trout, every-



one gathered back at the Chapter House to get out of the wind, celebrate the day's catches, and share stories over a spread of hot dogs, soft drinks, and beer. The relaxed post-derby gathering was the perfect way to unwind, enjoy good company, and reflect on a successful first event. A big thanks to everyone who came out to make this an enjoyable day and to the Pond and Streams Committee for another successful event.



PHOTOS BY SUZANNE NOVAK