



JUNE 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

As we move into the summer months, I encourage – and challenge – each of you to take full advantage of all our chapter has to offer and maybe try something new. With schools out and the days growing longer, it's the perfect time to reconnect with nature. Bring your family out for a hike, try one of our shooting sports, fish in the ponds, or spend a peaceful evening at the campground. This chapter is yours to enjoy – get out there and make the most of it.

Mark your calendars for Heritage Day, one of our biggest events of the year. It's our chance to open the gates and show the broader community who we are and what we do. From educational displays to hands-on activities, it's a day that truly reflects the heart of our mission. We rely on volunteers to make it all happen – and we need your help with setup, activity support, cleanup, and more. If you can't lend a hand, spread the word. Let's bring new faces to the Chapter and proudly showcase everything we offer.

Don't forget: our June Dinner Meeting includes elections for next year's Board of Directors. This is your opportunity to help shape the future of the Chapter. Please come out, enjoy a meal with fellow members, and cast your vote.

I look forward to seeing many of you out on the grounds, pitching in at events, and staying involved as we head into a busy and rewarding summer.

Andy Wight
President

UPCOMING EVENTS

B-CC IWLA and Community

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

1,076th Membership / Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, June 18

Dinner – 6:15pm; Meeting – 7:30pm

Board of Governors Meeting

Wednesday, June 25

7:00pm

Swap Meet and Silent Auction

Saturday, June 21

8:00am – 3:00pm

Fly Casting Class

Saturday, June 28

10:00am – 12:00 noon

Heritage Day

Sunday, June 29

12:00 noon – 4:00pm

Apollo Archery Session

Wednesday, July 2

6:00pm – dusk

Introduction to Blackpowder/Muzzleloader

Sight-In & Shooting Match

Saturday, September 27

9:00am – 4:30pm

"Bianchi" Pistol Match

October 11

Starting at 9:00am at the R&P Range



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*

Welcome to the B-CC IWLA Family!

At the May 2025 Membership Meeting, the following was inducted as a member to the Chapter:

Rick Lingle

Interests: Rifle & Pistol; Shotgun; Archery

Steve and Ernette Wagner

Interests: Farming; Building Maintenance; Forestry

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 • MembershipSecretary.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com

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

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.

Summary of the April 2025 Board of Governors Meeting and the April 2025 Membership Dinner Meeting

Sean-David Waterman, Recording Secretary

Wednesday, April 23, 2025 – Board of Governors Meeting

- President Andy Wight called the meeting to order at 7:09pm.
- Eagle Scout projects and troop involvement were discussed.
- Scout group usage guidelines finalized.
- Outreach to members with outdated contact information in ongoing.
- Discussion clarified that Apollo Archery is a chapter program, not a separate entity.
- Commercial event fee structures and expectations to be developed (Dan Dutton to draft policy).
- The Advanced Planning Committee Meeting will be scheduled to prioritize capital expenditures.
- Motion passed to submit a new bylaw change to allow a majority of attending members to approve new member votes (to address quorum challenges).
- Board approved moving forward with exploring hosting Quantico Orienteering events, pending further due diligence.
- Deposit received from Legacy Foundation to fund Lead Reclamation efforts.
- Investigation into Sandy Spring Bank fees underway.
- Farm Chair Phil Taylor reported that planting and equipment repairs are underway.
- Funds were approved for Chapter House siding repair and restaining. Volunteer labor will be used for painting.
- Archery Range – Chuck Thornton reported that reconfiguration of 3D course has been approved and is underway. Apollo Archery is expanding to include first responders.
- Rifle and Pistol Range Chair Jerry Murray noted that annual range card for \$40 and steel targets have been approved.
- Scouts – David Drazen – Updated expectations communicated to scout troops.
- IT Committee Chair Julie Wight reported that they are working on improving database management solutions.
- Donations and Grants Chair Valarie Carregal – committee is focusing on grant applications to the IWLA Endowment Foundation.

OLD BUSINESS

- Discussion of better tracking of restricted donations and set-asides.

NEW BUSINESS

- New Member Applications are pending receipt of applications for final vote.
- Funds approved for Chapter House Septic Pumping.
- Portable Toilets – investigating purchase versus rental for events.

TALKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER

- Bear sighted on chapter property; beehives damaged.
- The long-term solution for membership tracking is needed.
- Reminder – volunteerism is critical to the Chapter's success.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:45pm.

(continued on page 3)

SUMMARY

(continued from page 2)

Wednesday, April 23, 2025 – 1,074th Dinner Meeting

- Meeting was called to order by President Andy Wight at 7:05pm.
- Jerry Murray presented an overview of the Rifle & Pistol Range, including range history, safety requirements, and upcoming events including: Military Fun Shoot, Sight-In Day, Beginner Shooters Course, Heritage Day activities and outreach, Junior rifle and Biathlon programs.
- Clarified use of the Chapter House must be approved by BOG.
- The impact of ByLaws change on Apollo Archery Budget was discussed.
- Scouts and outside group usage was addressed with emphasis on aligning expectations.
- Membership Secretary Scott Harmon reported on the total number of members – 664.
- John Massey was sworn in as a probationary member.
- Membership Secretary Scott Harmon reported that the national database is going to be scrubbed and they're going to a new system.
- Farm Committee Chair Phil Taylor reported that equipment has been serviced and planting is underway.
- Blaine Elkins, Environmental Stewardship Chair reported that Shotgun Range lead reclamation is underway; demonstration is planned for the May meeting.
- Ponds & Streams Committee held their opening day trout fishing derby on Saturday, March 8.
- Archery Committee Chair Chuck Thornton reported that new archery committee has been formed, revitalization of 3D course and instructional programs underway.
- Military Fun Shoot (Larry Hesse): May 17. \$20 entry fee. Prizes included. Targets include themed poker cards.
- Ponds and Streams (John Novak): Trout stocked; approximately 150 remain. Limit 3 per person. Report catches to John.
- Contact Janet Lamkin if you are not receiving the newsletter.
- If you have any requests for service project ideas for the scouts, contact David Drazen..
- Conservation Education Chair Andy Wight reminded the membership that the Conservation Dinner is on May 22. Awards for Poolesville Global Ecology Program will be presented and the Guest speaker will be from Montgomery Soil Conservation District.
- Family Campout is scheduled for May 17-18.

NEW BUSINESS

- Call for volunteers for Conservation Dinner (May 22).
- Legislative update: No further action on proposed state firearms legislation.
- June 14 Archaeology event postponed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Fly Casting Class

A fly-casting class will be held on Saturday, June 28, 2025, from 10:00am – 12:00 noon down at the small pond. This is an excellent opportunity for beginners to learn how to cast and fish with a fly rod, or for those more experienced to improve their fly-fishing skills. Some fly rods will be available; however, if you prefer to bring your own fly rod, that is fine too.

If you are interested in participating in the class, please contact Vic Ezerski at 301-275-3223, vicez175@yahoo.com or John Novak at 301-385-0943, novakgang4@comcast.net.

Ad Hoc Committee Formed to Study Accessibility Concerns

President Andy Wight created a new ad hoc committee to study the physical accessibility of all Chapter facilities with a view towards improving the ability of members and guests with physical limitations to use and enjoy all that the Chapter property offers. As a general overview of the committee's objectives, it will begin by identifying problem areas – areas where the present physical configuration poses difficulties that limit or completely eliminate access by those with a physical limitation. The committee will then make recommendations as to corrective improvements, then rank them in terms of priority for correction.

The committee will be chaired by Bob Kelly, who also serves as the present Treasurer of the Chapter. Please contact him if you are interested in participating in the committee's work. He can be reached at rnkelly1974@gmail.com. Time spent participating in the committee's work can be recorded as volunteer hours.

Montgomery County Ag Fair Booth

Steve Poss
bandsposs@gmail.com



We are looking for volunteers to help work the booth at this year's Montgomery County Agricultural Fair. The fair starts on August 8, 2025 and runs through August 16, 2025. We are looking for volunteers to work the 6 hour shifts.

The early shift runs 10:00am to 4:00pm and the late shift 4:00pm to 10:00pm. Volunteers get free admission and a parking pass. It's a great way to earn your volunteer hours, as well as an opportunity to promote our organization and educate the community about our mission.

I'm also looking for any promotional material about the chapter and our activities that can be displayed or handed out at the booth.

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



July 4, 2025

No recreational fishing license required on this date.

All other state fishing regulations apply.

Go to dnr.maryland.gov for more information.

**June 2025
1,076th Monthly Dinner /
Membership Meeting**

Wednesday, June 18

50 / 50 Raffle

Dinner served starting at 6:15pm

Menu

Appetizers

**Pulled BBQ Beef, Tater Salad, Baked Beans,
Coleslaw, Cornbread, Desserts**

Membership Meeting starts at 7:30pm

**Election of 2025 – 2026 Board of Governors
& Legacy Foundation Board**

**June 2025
Board of Governors Meeting**

Wednesday, June 25

7:00pm

Junior Rifle Program

Andy Wight

240 205-3982 andywight1@hotmail.com

We're excited to kick off our Junior Rifle Program this summer with a series of introductory sessions held on the second Wednesday of each month in June, July, and August. Sessions will run at the R&P Range from 5:30 – 6:30pm for air rifles (ages 8 and up) and 6:30 – 7:30pm for .22 rifles (ages 12 and up). These opening events will focus on safety, basic marksmanship, and equipment handling.

A full, structured program will launch in September, offering regular practices, skills development, and opportunities to participate in local competitions. Opening sessions are free for members, with a suggested \$5 donation for guests to help offset program costs.

Please sign up below for the Air Rifle Program:

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/
10C0D4DACAA28A7F8C25-56870894-junior](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACAA28A7F8C25-56870894-junior)

Please sign up below for the .22 Rifle Program:

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/
10C0D4DACAA28A7F8C25-56871646-2025](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACAA28A7F8C25-56871646-2025)



**Heritage Days Celebration
at the Chapter**

Sunday, June 29

12:00 noon – 4:00pm

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

Have time to volunteer? We always need
volunteers. Please sign up using the link below:

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/
10C0D4DACAA28A7F8C25-56828917-2025](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACAA28A7F8C25-56828917-2025)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Monthly Events

*Mondays
Mondays*

*Troop 2027 Meetings (Board Room)
Troop 496 Meetings (Chapter House)*

*7:30pm – 9:00pm
7:30pm – 9:00pm*

JUNE

Sunday, June 1	3-D Archery Course Open	9:00am – Dark
Wednesday, June 4	Apollo Archery at the Archery Range	6:00pm to dusk
Thursday, June 5	Past Presidents' Dinner	6:00pm – 9:00pm
Saturday, June 7	No Maryland DNR Fishing License Required	6:00am – 10:00pm
Saturday, June 7	Stop the Bleed Class – Chapter House	
Wednesday, June 11	Junior Air Rifle Introductory Sessions	5:30pm – 6:30pm
Wednesday, June 12	Junior .22 Rifle Introductory Sessions	6:30pm – 7:30pm
Thursday, June 12	Cub Scout Pack 694 – Chapter House	6:00pm – 9:00pm
Thursday, June 12	Legacy Board Meeting – Board Room	7:00pm – 9:30pm
Saturday, June 14	No Maryland DNR Fishing License Required	6:00am – 10:00pm
Saturday, June 14	Summer Biathlon Program Practice	7:30am
Saturday, June 14	Introduction to Hunting Seminar	9:00am – 4:00pm
Monday, June 16	Rural Republican Women's BBQ	4:00pm – 9:00pm
Wednesday, June 18	1,076th Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner 6:15pm Meeting 7:30pm
Saturday, June 21	Swap Meet & Silent Auction	9:00am – 3:00pm
Saturday, June 21	New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour	10:00am – 1:00pm
Wednesday, June 25	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm – 10:00pm
Thursday, June 26	3-D Archery Course Open	6:00pm – Dark
Friday, June 27	Articles for July Newsletter due – send to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Saturday, June 28	Summer Biathlon Program Practice	7:30am
Saturday, June 28	3-D Archery Course Open	9:00am – 1:00pm
Saturday, June 28	Fly-Casting Class	10:00am – 12:00 Noon
Sunday, June 29	Montgomery Heritage Day at the Chapter	11:30am – 5:00pm

JULY

Wednesday, July 2	Apollo Archery at the Archery Range	6:00pm – 8:00pm
Friday, July 4	No MD DNR Fishing License Required	6:00am – 10:00pm
Wednesday, July 9	Junior Air Rifle Introductory Sessions	5:30pm – 6:30pm
Wednesday, July 10	Junior .22 Rifle Introductory Session	6:30pm – 7:30pm
Saturday, July 12	Summer Biathlon Program Practice	7:30am
Saturday, July 12	Chapter House Cleanup	9:00am – 12:00 noon
Wednesday, July 16	1,077th Membership Dinner Meeting	Dinner 6:15pm Meeting 7:30pm
Saturday, July 19	New and Prospective Members Orientation	10:00am – 11:30am
Wednesday, July 23	Board of Governors Meeting	7:00pm – 10:00pm
Thursday, July 24	3-D Archery Course Open	6:00pm – Dark
Friday, July 25	Articles for August Newsletter due – send to j.lamkin@comcast.net	By End of Day
Saturday, July 26	Summer Biathlon Program Practice	7:30am
Saturday, July 26	3-D Archery Course Open	9:00am – 1:00pm
Sunday, July 27	3-D Archery Course Open	9:00am – 1:00pm

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

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.

Archery Update - Summer Schedule is Underway!

Chuck Thornton, Archery Committee Chair
Archery.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com

The Archery Range continues to ramp up activities for the summer season. Our 3D schedule kicked off during the week-end of May 29, May 31, and June 1. The new course is getting positive reviews.

The field range is in great shape. The lawn has been nicely maintained and we're starting to replace the well used target bags. It's been fun to welcome members and guests to the range during the wonderful weather we've shared over the past few weeks.

In June and July we will welcome two groups of wounded warriors to the range with the Apollo Archery program.

Stay tuned for announcements of upcoming instructional programs and other special events.

We would love to see more members out on the range! Bring the kids and the dogs and enjoy a day with your bows.

Have You Lost a Ring?

Last month, a ring was found on the Chapter House parking lot. If you have recently lost a ring, contact Janet Lamkin at 301-466-6557 or j.lamkin@comcast.net.

Small Pond Trout Fishing 2025

1. Trout fishing is for chapter members and immediate family only.
2. 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.
3. Fish from shore only; do not use the boat.
4. Anglers may keep 3 trout per day - no size limit.
5. Anglers may use only one fishing rod at a time.
6. Anglers should park in the chapter house parking lot.
7. Pick up and take all trash out of the small pond area when leaving.
8. 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.



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, 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

R&P Range Open

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

Conservation Education and Award Dinner

Olivia Wight, Co-chair Conservation Education

On Thursday, May 22, we held our annual Conservation Education and Award dinner. Following our traditional spaghetti dinner, a big thank you to Mark Gochnour and his team, we recognized four outstanding projects completed by the seniors in the Global Ecology program at Poolesville High School. These projects aligned with our mission of conservation education were presented to Andrew Wells, Kyra McGlinchey, Krit Socrates, and Neema Adolwa.

On top of this, we also had guest speaker John Zawitoski, District Manager for the Montgomery Soil Conservation District. John talked about soil conservation, the role of districts in supporting communities and best practices, many which we employ at our farm. He highlighted different approaches and explained the broader importance of soil health or our community and ecosystem. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped setup, cook, and clean at the end of the night.



Award recipients Krit Socrates (Smallmouth Bass Patterns in the Potomac), Neema Adolwa (Understanding the Drivers of Movement in Small Freshwater Fish), Kyra McGlinchey (From Awareness to Action: How Environmental Consciousness Impacts Menstrual Product Choices), and Andrew Wells (Invasive and Native Birds at Bird Feeders).



President Andy Wight with guest speaker John Zawitoski, District Manager for the Montgomery Soil Conservation District

**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**

New and Prospective Members Orientation Tour

Come join us on the B-CC IWLA Orientation Tour. The next tour will take place on **Saturday, June 21** 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/10C0D4DACAA28A7F8C25-54255111-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.

ATTENTION New Members!

**Chapter House cleanups will be on:
June is canceled due to a Chapter House event
Saturday, July 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

OPEN TO PUBLIC!!

Archery.BCC.IWLA@gmail.com



3-D ARCHERY

WARM UP ON TARGET BAG RANGE!
SHOOT OVER 30 LIFE-SIZE ANIMALS
ON OUR TRAIL COURSE IN WOODS

2025 SEASON

Thursday, 06/26/2025 – 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Saturday, 06/28/2025 – 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Thursday, 07/24/2025 – 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Saturday, 07/26/2025 – 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Sunday, 07/27/2025 – 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Thursday, 08/21/2025 – 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Saturday, 08/23/2025 – 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Sunday, 08/24/2025 – 9:00 am – 1:00 pm



Astronomy at the Chapter

Ever look up at the night sky and wish you could see more? Whether you're a professional astronomer, an amateur enthusiast, a beginner, or just curious, we're looking to connect with others who share an interest in astronomy. Our goal is to explore ways to promote the hobby at the B-CC IWLA.

If you're interested, please reach out to Andy at andywight1@hotmail.com.



Sky Observatory (created by Ashley Bass)

Chapter Elections and Election Committee

Below is the list of the proposed election slate for the 2025 – 2026 Chapter Officers and Board Members. The election will be held at the June dinner Meeting; the incoming board is sworn in at the August meeting. Our Chapter is entirely volunteer run, and our officers and board of governors all serve one-year terms beginning on September 1st of each year and conclude at the end of August.

The Election Committee is responsible for assembling a slate of board members and officers for the June election. The Committee also makes selections for the Legacy Foundation board.

The Legacy Foundation is a supporting 501(c)3 non-profit charged with the stewardship of the majority of our liquid assets. Their board has three-year terms that are staggered by design, and they are installed entirely by our chapter. Some members (Category A) are proposed by our president for the election slate and approved by the BOG, some by our nominating committee (Category B) and voted on by the membership.

Thanks goes to Elections Committee Chair, Christine Peterson (301-938-9773 or christineakcp@comcast.net), and Committee Members Jason Griffin, Lloyd Iben, John Novak, and Shannon Novak.

Proposed Slate for Board of Governors 2025 – 2026

Officers

President	Jerry Murray
1st Vice President	Shannon Novak
2nd Vice President	Sean-David Waterman
Treasurer	Bob Kelly
Corresponding Secretary	Janet Lamkin
Recording Secretary	Jason (Andy) Abell
Membership Secretary	Scott Harmon
Past President	Andy Wight

Board Members

Stephen Austin	Lloyd Iden
Alexander Cowan	Warner Parks
Sebastian Fainbraun	

Legacy Board – B

Jeff Seaman	John Lamb
-------------	-----------

Legacy Board – A

Walt Allensworth (to cover the remainder of Joe Snyder's term who has left the area)

Membership Committee Report

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

As of the May 2025 Board of Governors meeting, membership stands at 684 total Members: 353 Individuals, 212 Family, 67 Retired Individuals, 38 Retired Families, 11 Associates, 3 Student, and 1 Youth.

On Tuesday, June 24th, the Membership committee will be holding a meeting at the chapter house at 7:00pm. During this meeting, we will cover the upcoming renewal season, website redesign, and renewal invoicing. We are looking for members to join the committee to reduce the workload and to standardize our procedures. RSVP to me by email or phone so we know how many will be attending.

If you have not renewed your membership, your access card will be turned off unless you contact me directly by email or phone.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Kids Fishing – Spring Campout 2025

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

The sunny skies and warm weather on Saturday, May 17th, enticed families and kids to go fishing at the small pond. We set a record for participation with about 20 kids of all ages, as well as some adults, casting their lines into the pond. Most of the kids caught bluegills with some catching more than five and many were larger than 5 inches. This was a first-time fishing experience for some of the kids but they seemed to take to the sport, learning quickly how to bait a hook with worms and cast a line into the water. After an afternoon of fishing, everyone enjoyed grilled hamburgers, hot dogs and s'mores and a nighttime hike to the big pond for fireworks before settling down in their tents for the night.



PHOTOS BY PETE WIRTH

Summer at the Log Cabin

David Mecklenburg, Committee Chair
dmecklenburg1@gmail.com

Summer is an excellent time to visit the Willard Log Cabin. It offers an opportunity to relax on the porch while observing the activity around the cabin. Various bird species can be seen, including Purple Martins swooping over the pond to catch insects, Indigo Buntings, and Goldfinches feeding on plant seed heads. Guests may also enjoy picking the numerous blackberries that grow around the cabin.

The front stairway on the cabin, which had deteriorated, has been replaced as well as other maintenance. We extend our gratitude to Curt Bush and others who contributed to making the cabin safer and more secure.



PHOTOS BY DAVID MECKLENBURG



Rifle & Pistol Range Committee Report

Larry Hess, Chair
larry.a.hess@gmail.com

- The range will be closed to the membership on Saturday, July 5th due to a lack of range officers available for duty that day. The range will be open on Sunday, July 6th.
- Starting in July we will have some steel targets available for use. There will be one target set up at the 100yd line at one of the rifle positions and one target at the 50yd line at one of the pistol positions. The range Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) will include information regarding their use and the caliber restrictions. The range officer's will verify that you are using acceptable ammunition.
- We will have another range officer training class in October. Additional information and the links will be in the September newsletter and e-blast.
- Range officers make sure to thank Walt Allensworth when you see him for cutting the grass at the range. He has been by several times with his mower to take care of this chore.
- Please remember to put away target frames when you are done shooting and police your brass.

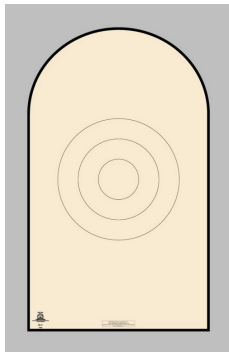


Junior Rifle Program

We're excited to kick off our Junior Rifle Program this summer with a series of introductory sessions held on the second Wednesday of each month in June, July, and August. Sessions will run at the R&P Range from 5:30 – 6:30pm for air rifles (ages 8 and up) and 6:30pm – 7:30pm for .22 rifles (ages 12 and up). More info on page 4 in the newsletter.

Calling all Pistol Enthusiasts...

The R&P range will hold a "BIANCHI" Pistol Match on October 11, 2025. The full course of fire (posted in the Chapter House and Range House) includes four types of pistols (rim-fire revolver, rim-fire semi-auto, center-fire revolver, center-fire semi-auto) with 40 rounds for each type with the targets placed at the 50' line. The NRA Bianchi Cup D-1 target will be used (scoring values are not printed in the target) with the smallest circle being "X" counting as 10, the next larger circle counting as 10, the largest circle counts as 8, and anything inside the outer perimeter counts as 5. You need not shoot all four segments to participate. Each segment of the course of fire includes trigger manipulation by strong and weak hand, one and two hand hold and slow and timed rate of fire, testing the participant's skill, endurance and versatility. Anyone achieving a score of 1500 out of a possible 1600 will get their name on the chapter plaque. Prizes will be awarded. The match will start at 9:00am with a break for lunch and continue into the afternoon depending on the number of participants. Targets are available in the Range House for practice.



Summer Biathlon Programs

2025 PRACTICE SCHEDULE
(see more details on page 6 of the newsletter)

NestWatch Committee Report

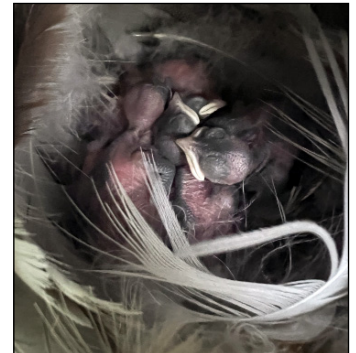
Linda Green
Citizen Science Projects
lindakpgreen@gmail.com

During the last monthly dinner meeting, the NestWatch Team provided an overview of the NestWatch and FeederWatch Citizen Science Programs that are ongoing at this chapter. By the end of May, the Eastern Bluebirds were finishing their first broods in the nest boxes, with most of their chicks already gone or nearly ready to fledge. The Tree Swallow nest boxes were filled with eggs or with chicks just beginning to hatch. The Purple Martin nests in the towers and gourds near the Chapter House were mostly filled with eggs. Their chicks hatch in early June and the boxes will require nest material changes from mid-June through early July.

The team could use additional help, especially during this busy time! If you are interested in getting involved with this project, please email Linda Green at lindakpgreen@gmail.com.



Tree Swallow Eggs



Tree Swallow Chicks



Tree Swallow Adult



Protective Tree Swallow Parent



Eastern Bluebird Chicks

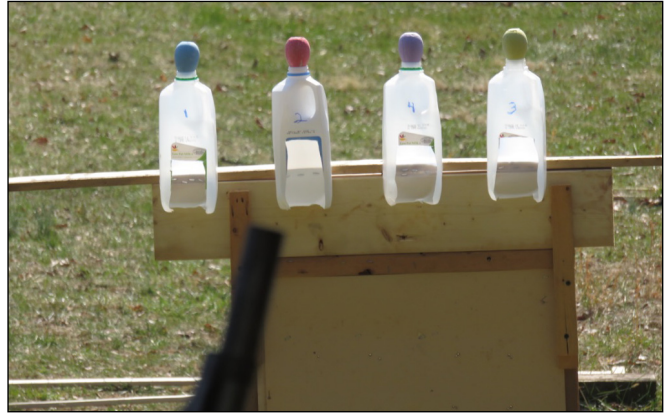
Introduction to Blackpowder/Muzzleloader Sight-In & Shooting Match – 2025

Muzzleloading enthusiasts and the newly interested are invited to come for the annual Black Powder Clinic and Shooting Match, Saturday, September 27 from 9:00am – 4:30pm at the Bethesda – Chevy Chase Chapter in Poolesville, MD.

Did you receive a blackpowder firearm as a gift or inherited one and don't know what to do with it? Are you ready to test your skills against others in the afternoon shooting match and compete for prizes? Don't miss out on this marvelous opportunity for knowledgeable instruction, loads of fun, and the unique smell of blackpowder smoke!

Participants will meet at the Rifle & Pistol Range at 9:00am (check-in beginning 8:45am). Inline, percussion, or flintlock shooters are all welcome. There will be instruction time for new muzzleloader shooters to develop a workable shooting load, for "veterans" and more experienced shooters to sight-in their guns for the upcoming hunting season, and for all to practice shooting.

Bring the muzzleloader that you want to shoot or let Mark Gochmour know in your email that you would like to try one out so he can arrange for a loaner. If you are new to shooting a muzzleloader, a veteran shooter will be assigned to work with you. (Mark is a certified NRA/NMLRA Blackpowder Instructor.) If you have never fired a black powder gun or you have one you have never used or are having issues with one you have forgotten about in the



gun safe, come for the morning but stay for the afternoon shooting match!

Afternoon Match participants will be provided opportunities to shoot at some unusual novelty targets again this year. Targets will be shot at a variety of ranges from up close and out to 100 yards with prizes awarded to some individual shooters. An overall Grand Prize could be a frozen turkey or ham.

Lunch will be served in the Chapter House around noon with the shooting competition beginning at 1:00pm.

Only muzzleloader shooting participants will be allowed to use the Range during the event. Upon its conclusion, Range Officers and their guests may shoot until shooting time expires.

Contact Mark Gochmour at mgdonutman@gmail.com for further details or questions. It is important to contact him; especially, if you are bringing a new gun because you may need extra equipment or gear that you were unaware of and their lack could sabotage your experience. Non-members – use this link and bring this filled out Hold Harmless Form. <https://bcciwla.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/B-CC-IWLA-Hold-Harmless-Document-1907124.pdf>.

Members and their guests may register using the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DACA28A7F8C25-56853413-2025>

A small fee will be charged to cover lunch and the event – \$15. Any applicable Rifle & Pistol range fees are extra.

IT Committee Report

Julie Wight, Chair
jwight00@gmail.com

The IT Committee is actively working on several initiatives to better serve our members. These include expanding payment options, improving email communications, enhancing members-only website functionality, and developing a tool to help both members and prospective members find information more easily.

We welcome your input! Let us know what features or improvements you'd like to see on the website by clicking the link below to share your thoughts.

<https://forms.gle/vEd6iMPfAmVv7vVu8>

DUE DATE

for July Newsletter Articles is
Saturday, June 28.
(note early date)

Submit articles to: j.lamkin@comcast.net
If the article contains photos, please submit
them as separate jpg files and
include a caption and photo credits.

Spring Family Campout

Andy Wight and Olivia Wight
Conservation Education Committee Co-chairs

Last month, nestled between rainstorms of the previous week, we had our Spring Family Campout. The clear skies and warm weather provided the perfect start for the 65+ campers who took the opportunity to join us in our annual event. As usual, we offered fishing in the small pond under the watchful eye of the Ponds and Stream Committee. At the chapter house, one of our members, Emma Cowan, had prepared a crafts table where participants had the chance to make nature journals. Outside, the kids explored the chapter, climbed trees, and enjoyed the rope swing by the log cabin while our traditional dinner of hotdogs, burgers, cookies and juice boxes was prepared.

As it got dark, we walked down to the big pond, through a Cathedral of Pines illuminated with glow sticks, to enjoy a firework display. As the evening progressed, we enjoyed s'mores around the campfire. We closed the campout with our usual breakfast of eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, tater tots, and coffee. A huge thank you to everyone who attended and volunteered over the two days including the **Ponds & Stream Committee**, Emma Cowan for the arts and crafts, and **Olivia Wight, Lorenzon Salazar, and Riley Sutton** for setting up the Cathedral of Pines and preparing the food.



It's not on Father's Day this year... but the **SWAP MEET AND SILENT AUCTION** will be on **SATURDAY, JUNE 21**

Set up - 8:00am

Event - 9:00am to 3:00pm



**We all have too much stuff!
And you've had a year
to see just how much...**

If you have anything **outdoors** related and would like a **table** for the **swap meet** or to **donate** an item for the **silent auction**, contact -

Lawrence Kotchek 240 793- 5316
lawrence@print1.com

Tables are limited and will be reserved in the order requested.

Open to both members and prospective members.
Tables cost **\$10.00** with money going to the Land Fund.
Silent auction benefits the Land Fund.