President’s Message

Spring has sprung and the chapter is starting to come alive with activity. We are starting to prepare for our Spring cleanup day in April, the gardens will be opening up, and activities are starting to be planned for the rest of the year. We will be holding an Earth Day event on April 22 and the ranges are preparing to open.

The nominating committee is being formed to provide a slate of candidates for this year’s election of Officers and Board of Governors. Any members interested in becoming involved in our chapter’s leadership and direction, please be on the lookout for an announcement. Serving on the BOG is a wonderful opportunity to further contribute to our chapter’s mission and heritage and can be personally very satisfying.

This month, we will have the pleasure of Caroline Taylor who is the Executive Director of Montgomery Countryside Alliance (MCA) as our guest speaker for this month’s dinner meeting. She will be talking about what the MCA is and what it means to conservation and the AG Reserve.

Best,
Carol Hulce-Efdimis

NOTICE

We are beginning to transition the Chapter’s monthly newsletter to an electronic version only, eliminating mailing the newsletter to members. Currently the majority of members who receive the newsletter by mail also receive an electronic version. The newsletter will be posted on the B-CC IWLA website (bcciwla.org) and members will continue to receive their newsletter by email. If you have any thoughts or concerns, contact Tom Lamkin at 301 706-3934 or tomlamkin@comcast.net.

Spring Clean-up Day

Saturday, April 1, 2017 – NO FOOLING!

Our seasonal expectations fell flat this year. The Winter that Never Happened is over. The Spring that Came Early is nearly gone. And, the Summer Which Will Be is on the horizon. But, one thing remains predictable: we clean up the Conservation Farm twice each year.

We need your help. Your reward is lunch and hours of volunteer credit. We depend on you for keeping our award-winning Conservation Farm neat and clean.

Committee chairs, officers, and Board members, are sending me their projects and person-power needs. We are assigning crew leaders by teams to turn out and get the jobs completed. Members and crew leaders need to be at the Chapter house by 8:30am on Saturday, April 1 to sign in and get their work assignments. Lunch will be served around 1:00pm.

SAFETY FIRST

All dangerous projects, including those involving chain saws and weed whackers, may require training, and proper safety equipment (gloves, safety glasses, boots, etc.). Please plan to dress accordingly. We need volunteer crew leaders available to step up and lead some activities. The success of the spring cleanup depends on you, our membership.

Jim Tate, 1st Vice President
202 841-2056 / jim@tate-tate.us
Board of Governors
Fiscal Year: September 1, 2016 – August 31, 2017

OFFICERS
Carol Hulce-Efdimis, President
301 407-0025 • glock.22@verizon.net

Jim Tate, 1st Vice President
202 841-2056 • jim@tate-tate.us

Jack Mandel, 2nd Vice President
301 229-9321 • jmandeldesign@gmail.com

Marcus Melton, Treasurer
240 277-1144 • marcus.melton@gmail.com

Lynn Adams, Membership Secretary
240 285-3763 • clays7diva@gmail.com

Tom Lamkin, Corresponding Secretary
301 330-2922 • tomlamkin@comcast.net

Tucker Mostrom, Recording Secretary
301 252-8825 • tuckermostrom@comcast.net

BOARD MEMBERS
Art Duffy
301 570-0737 • fourduffys@verizon.net

Jack MacGregor
301 972-8857 • jack16@verizon.net

Jeff Seaman
301 775-4973 • jeff_seaman@hotmail.com

Bill Thelemann
301 620-1535 • thelemann@comcast.net

Scott Harmon, Past President
301 467-0645 • scott.w.harmon@verizon.net

* 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:
Tom Lamkin
tomlamkin@comcast.net
301 330-2922

Summary of the February 2017 Dinner Meeting and Board of Governors Meeting
Tucker Mostrom, Recording Secretary
301 252-8825 • tuckermostrom@comcast.net

February 15 Membership Dinner Meeting
The 975th consecutive Monthly Dinner Meeting was called to order at 7:30pm. Attendees enjoyed a roast ham and scalloped potatoes dinner. Chapter President Carol Efdimis announced the Board’s plans to establish more formal procedures for sanctioning members who violate hunting policy in response to a trespassing incident last November. Dave Hansroth, a Regional Director for the Ruffed Grouse Society, presented those assembled with a brief overview of the mission, accomplishments, and plans of the society in our area and nationally. On several occasions, Dave stopped to thank the B-CC IWLA chapter for its financial support in furthering these efforts. BOG officers and committee chairs in attendance gave their reports. There was no chapter business before the membership, and the meeting adjourned at 7:56pm.

February 22 Board of Governors Meeting
Chapter President Carol Efdimis called the meeting to order at 8:13pm (following a closed session of the Board).
• All seven (7) Chapter officers were present, and four Board members were also present. Eight members in good standing attended as well.
• The Chapter president gave her report and opening remarks, including:
  o The County has approved charitable status for several sections of the chapter property that were being taxed incorrectly as of July 2015.
  o The Advanced Planning & Finance Committee is considering proposing a bylaws change to structure the transfer of funds to and from Legacy.
  o Mark Shanker plans to report to the Board after the upcoming Legacy meeting.
• The chapter treasurer presented his report on the chapter’s accounts and finances with the following additional comments:
  o Those in attendance were requested to review the CapEx report.
  o Security access work at shotgun range will be completed shortly.
  o Marcus will follow up with committee chairs on mid-year budget meeting.
  o Past President Ted Whitehouse suggested that the chapter confer with outside counsel about getting 501(c)(3) status of our own.
• The Membership Secretary (Lynn Adams) presented her accounting of the size and breakdown of the chapter membership and presented six (6) membership applications for the Board’s consideration.

The following officers and committee chairs presented their updates to the Board:
• Wildlife Management (Larry Anderson) – meeting on Saturday the 4th. Looking to protect martin houses better from snakes, maybe using electric.
• Forestry (Butch Mezick) – Jim O’Connell will approach MNCPPC on behalf of MET to try to get approval for FMC in West Woods. The state is resistant to granting developers credits for woods that are already prohibited from use.
• Ponds and Streams (John Novak) – A dog got tangled on

(continued on page 3)
Hunting Ethics & Oversight (Scott Harmon) – Scott thanked Board for their feedback on hunting rules and procedure. Letters are already presented to inductees include hunting rules.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
- (Scott Harmon) – Found a low-hours UTV in decent shape for $5,000. Hopes to get it funded before archery season
- (Butch Mezick) – Discussed a bylaws change for altering Article IX, Section 2, Paragraph ii, Section (d). Carol asked for questions for the Legacy Board.

NEW BUSINESS (Motions from the meeting floor)
- Art Duffy – motion to move the $5,600 concrete pad for the 5-stand to funded status in CapEx was seconded and passed
- Lynn Adams – motion to accept 10 new member applications was seconded and approved
- Jeff Seaman – motion for R&P money was not seconded, but deferred for later discussion
- Scott Harmon – President and committee of her choice be authorized to speak with the Legacy Board regarding investments was seconded and allowed to expire. It was determined in discussion that the bylaws only require the President to receive Board approval to request funds from Legacy
- Scott Harmon – a motion to move the UTV to the funded list with timing based on funding discretion was seconded and approved

TALKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHAPTER
- (Butch Mezick) – Net Zero efforts should continue despite obstacles up to this point
- (Scott Harmon) – Sickle bar mower was purchased for $1,800

Motion to Adjourn was seconded and approved by acclamation at 10:38pm.

MEMBERSHIP DINNER MEETING
The 976th dinner meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 15 at the B-CC IWLA Chapter House. Dinner will be served at 6:30pm. All members and guests are invited.

Caroline Taylor, Executive Director of Montgomery Countryside Alliance (MCA), will be the guest speaker this month. She will be talking about what the MCA is and what it means to conservation and the AG Reserve.

Appetizers will be available before dinner. Dinner this month will include Salad, Corned Beef & Cabbage, Parsley Potatoes, Vegetable, Rolls, Lemonade, and Dessert.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
The Board of Governors meeting will be held at the B-CC IWLA Chapter House on Wednesday, March 22. Board members are expected to attend.

Adopt-A-Road Cleanup Schedule
John Robinson
301 641-1188

The B-CC IWLA Adopt-A-Road team will meet at the Chapter House at 8:00am for cleanup on the following Saturdays: April 1, July 8, September 9, December 9. Litter bags, gloves and orange traffic vests will be made available for participants. Questions concerning the upcoming road cleanups can be directed to John Robinson, 301 641-1188.
# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MARCH</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday – Monday, March 3 – 6</td>
<td>FeederWatch (two consecutive days of those listed)</td>
<td>Daytime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 4</td>
<td>R&amp;P CURRENT Range Officer Sign Up at the Chapter House</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 4</td>
<td>Shotgun Range Officer Sign Up at the Chapter House</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, March 6</td>
<td>Boy Scout Troop 496</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday – Monday, March 10–13</td>
<td>FeederWatch (two consecutive days of those listed)</td>
<td>Daytime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, March 10</td>
<td>Woodcock Survey at McKee Beshers – contact Jim Tate for details</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 10</td>
<td>Scout Wilderness Training</td>
<td>8:00am – 5:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 12</td>
<td>Chapter House Cleanup</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, March 13</td>
<td>Boy Scout Troop 496</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 15</td>
<td>Monthly Dinner Meeting – Dinner Speaker, Caroline Taylor (MCA)</td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 16</td>
<td>Cub Scout Troop 694</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday – Monday, March 17–20</td>
<td>FeederWatch (two consecutive days of those listed)</td>
<td>Daytime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 18</td>
<td>Black Powder Clinic at the R&amp;P Range</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 18</td>
<td>Ponds and Streams Committee meeting at the Chapter House</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 18</td>
<td>R&amp;P CURRENT Range Officer Sign Up at the Chapter House</td>
<td>3:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 19</td>
<td>R&amp;P CURRENT Range Officer Sign Up at the Chapter House</td>
<td>1:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, March 20</td>
<td>Boy Scout Troop 496</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 22</td>
<td>Board of Governors Meeting</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday – Monday, March 24–27</td>
<td>FeederWatch (two consecutive days of those listed)</td>
<td>Daytime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 25</td>
<td>Boy Scout Merit Badge - R&amp;P, Shotgun and Archery Ranges</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 26</td>
<td>Fun Shoot at the Shotgun Range</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, March 27</td>
<td>Boy Scout Troop 496</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. – Mon., March 31 – April 3</td>
<td>FeederWatch (two consecutive days of those listed)</td>
<td>Daytime</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>APRIL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 1</td>
<td>Chapter Spring Cleanup Day</td>
<td>8:30am – 1:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 1</td>
<td>Adopt-A-Road Cleanup</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, April 3</td>
<td>Boy Scout Troop 496</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, April 4</td>
<td>Tuesday Sporting Clays</td>
<td>3:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday – Friday, April 6–7</td>
<td>FeederWatch (end of FeederWatch 2016 – 2017 season)</td>
<td>Daytime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 8</td>
<td>Unload Targets at Shotgun Range</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, April 8</td>
<td>Shotgun Range Officer Training Class – after unloading targets</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, April 10</td>
<td>Boy Scout Troop 496</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, April 11</td>
<td>Tuesday Sporting Clays</td>
<td>3:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, April 13</td>
<td>Cub Scout Troop 694</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Woodcock Survey at McKee Beshers – contact Jim Tate for details</td>
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<td>Fun Shoot at the Shotgun Range</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

Check the online www.bcciwla.org electronic calendar for current and updated scheduled times of events.
Vegetable Gardens
Larry Anderson
240 246-5302 andupton9@hotmail.com

Pat Tarquinio
ptarq@hotmail.com

With our recent warm weather and seed catalogs are arriving, gardeners are eagerly 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. For many years Ray Parker led and organized the garden community offering directions and advice to all, and generally made the gardens a pleasant distraction from the hustle and bustle of daily life. Again this year, Pat and I will be trying to fill Ray’s shoes as organizers of the garden plots.

There appears to be several garden plots opening up this year and we had a couple plots unused last year. 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 and get the reservation payment to us; again as last year, plots 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 March, in time for early crop planting.

Black Powder Clinic
Mark Gochnour
mgdonutman@gmail.com

Muzzleloading enthusiasts will gather for the annual spring Black Powder Clinic, Saturday, March 18 from 9:00am – 4:00pm. Different from the past, we will meet at the Rifle & Pistol Range at 9:00am for practice sight-ins. A complementary lunch will be served before the shooting competition begins at the R&P Range at 1:00pm. Don’t miss this marvelous opportunity for knowledgeable instruction and a chance to shoot at nonstandard targets. There will be prizes! For the match, up to five targets are to be shot at a variety of ranges with prizes awarded for the best shooting. An overall Grand Prize may be a frozen turkey or ham. Cost is only $10 for the afternoon shooting match plus any applicable R&P range fees.

Bring the muzzleloader that you want to shoot or let Mark know in your email that you would like to try one out so he can arrange for a loaner. If you have never fired a black powder gun, this a great time to learn directly from individuals with experience and knowledge. Due to safety issues, during the afternoon match, only participants will be allowed to shoot at the Range. In the morning, shooting by Range Officers and their Guests with non-black powder firearms will be at the discretion of the ERO and Mark Gochnour since the availability of shooting lanes may be limited.

Contact Mark Gochnour at mgdonutman@gmail.com for further details or to pre-register for the event.

Archery Report
Scott Harmon
301 467-0645 (Cell) scott.w.harmon@verizon.net

CALLING ALL ARCHERS
The archery committee held its organizational meeting on Sunday, February 26. It was great seeing everyone! You can still get plugged in by just showing up. Some important dates are listed below.

- March 18 3D Course set up begins on the weekend, both Saturday and Sunday, 9:00am start.
- March 25 Archery Merit Badge day, 9:00am start. All help welcome and needed.
- April 1 3D Course set up finishing touches with an ARO shoot on Sunday, April 2.
- April 23 First Public Shoot.

Many hands make for light work. If you are new to the chapter, these workdays are a great way to get your probationary work hours in. I am looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

Chapter Master Plan
George Coakley
301 972-8865 coakleygandc@aol.com

We are beginning the creation of a Master Plan for the Chapter. This will take a minimum of a year and require input from the officers, board members, committee chairs and members, and general membership. The effort will enable the Chapter to better direct desirable change for the next 6 – 10 years. We look forward to your involvement in the coming months.

Lost and Found
A pair of men’s eyeglasses were found in the grass by the Chapter House parking lot. Contact Tom Lamkin – 301 706-3934 or tomlamkin@comcast.net for more information.

Great Backyard Bird Count
Jim Tate
202 841-2056 jim@tate-tate.us

The Great Backyard Bird Count for 2017 has ended with 128,632 checklists submitted, and over 19 million individual birds counted. This world-wide citizen science effort helped to create an unprecedented snapshot of over 5,000 bird populations around the world. For those of you who submitted checklists to the Great Backyard Bird Count, Thank you! As a GBBC contributor, you will receive the GBBC eNewsletter with results and announcements about the count. Even if you didn’t get a chance to submit a checklist this year, you can request newsletters from eBird to learn about birds and conservation. Select your subscriptions by clicking the link below:

http://allaboutbirds.org/AAB_Webservice/Subscribe_To_GBBC.aspx?ea=amltQHRhdGUtdGF0ZS51cw%3D%3D&language=en.
Winter schedule is in effect until April 1. The range is CLOSED to the general membership except when opened by a Range Officer.

CURRENT RANGE OFFICER SIGN UP
This year’s RO sign up will be held in the Chapter House on the following days:
• Saturday, March 4 at 9:00am
• Saturday, March 18 at 3:00pm
• Sunday, March 19 at 1:00pm

On March 4, the sign-up list will be in the Chapter House at 7:00am and registration forms will be passed out at 8:30am with the meeting to start immediately at 9:00am. On March 18 and 19, the sign-up sheet will be out at 9:00am but you must be back by the time the meeting starts. If you are not present at this time, your spot is gone and you will go to the end of the line. Selection of duty days will start immediately following the meetings.

REMINDERS
• Put paper in the trash. If the cans are full, please empty them.
• Keep watch on Guests you bring. It is your place to brief them on the SOP’s.
• Be safe and enjoy the range respectfully.

Shotgun Range Report
Warner Parks, Shotgun Range Chair
301 540-1947 (Home) 240 620-6942 (Cell)
wpark29@gmail.com

There will be a target delivery on Saturday, April 8 at 9:00am. Anyone needing work hours please be there by 9:00am. There will also be a range officer training class for any member who wants to be a range officer after the targets are unloaded. This will be the only R.O. training class this year.

There will be a fun shoot on Sunday, March 26 and Sunday, April 30 at 9:00am. Please remember that there will be no Trap or Skeet shooting until the last squad has shot.

The card reader is now working. If for any reason your card does not work please check with me. Range officers - please remember to make sure the safe is closed and locked and the range house door is locked.

Now that the cold weather is here the four house on the five stand will be shut down. If you are out during the week please do not use it.

Please remember to stand to the side when cocking all arms. THE TRAP MACHINE needs a few minutes to warm up before you cock the throwing arm. Please refill and restock the skeet houses and uncock all machines when done. Additional targets are stored in the container next to the parking lot, the trailer under the tower, and the low skeet house on the left field. Please pick up your empty shotgun shells and trash when finished shooting. Please keep the range clean and restocked for the next range officer and shooters.

All Shotgun Range Equipment is to be used by pre-qualified Shotgun Range Officers ONLY. If any equipment is malfunctioning, please let Joel or me know ASAP.

RANGE OFFICER SCHEDULE
MARCH
Sunday, March 5 Need ROs
Sunday, March 12 Jose Saiz
Sunday, March 19 Need ROs
Sunday, March 26 Ben Kohler, Mark Mense

APRIL
Sunday, April 2 Jeff Schilling, Jim Caw
Sunday, April 9 Tim Jorgensen, John Novak
Sunday, April 16 Lawrence Kotchek
Sunday, April 23 Joseph Contrera
Sunday, April 30 Mort Taubman, Randy Benson

MAY
Sunday, May 7 David Boynton
Sunday, May 14 Need ROs
Sunday, May 21 John Frick, Rick Tomlin
Sunday, May 28 George King

UPCOMING FUN SHOOTS
Sunday, March 26
Sunday, April 30

HOURS OF OPERATION
Sundays 9:00am to 5:00pm Trap, Skeet, Sporting Clays
Tuesdays 3:00pm until Dusk Sporting Clays Only
Starting April 4

Tuesday Sporting Clays
begins on April 4
3:00pm until dusk
Come join the fun!

For more information contact:
Warner Parks
301 540-1947
wpark29@gmail.com
2017 IWLA National Convention
“Water: Our Nation’s Future”

This year’s convention will be held at Kalahari Resort and Conventions in Sandusky, Ohio from Tuesday, July 25 to Friday, July 28. The resort includes the largest indoor water park in the country. The site is near Cedar Point amusement park that boasts the best roller coasters in the country.

Twelve to thirteen Chapter delegates can attend the convention. Any chapter member in good standing can be a delegate with president approval. The chapter has funds in the budget to help defray expenses. The amount depends on the number of delegates attending.

The convention room rate is $149 per night. Each room gets four passes to the water park per day.

For more details, contact:
Bob Pavlick
301 349-5892
roberpav1@verizon.net

Izaak Walton League of America
Maryland State Division

NOTICE
Spring Meeting of the Maryland State Division
Saturday, March 25, 2017
Harford County Chapter
3518 Woodsdale Road, Abingdon, Maryland 21009
Coffee and Donuts – 9:15am
Business Meeting – 10:00am

Membership Report
Lynn Adams, Membership Secretary
240 285-3763 clays7diva@gmail.com

Currently, chapter membership stands at 948 members, 519 individual, 318 family, 14 associate, 2 youth, 14 student, and 81 retired.

It is not too late to renew your membership, but there is now a late fee due.

If you plan on renewing for the 2017 membership year, the late fees that are to be added to your 2017 dues are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>$49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>$7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>$8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associates</td>
<td>$6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you have completed the 6 volunteer hours, please send in a listing of the hours you worked on what project(s) to my email address, clays7diva@gmail.com, or the chapter’s post office address below:

B-CC IWLA
P.O. Box 542
Poolesville, MD 20837-0542

Clean Water Challenge Objective
2017 IWLA Midwinter National Directors Meeting
Orlando, Florida

JOIN THE CLEAN WATER CHALLENGE

Every American has the right to know whether the streams running through our backyards and neighborhood parks are safe for our kids to play in or dogs to splash through. Unfortunately, there is an alarming lack of up-to-date information about water quality in this country. Is your neighborhood stream clean – or is it filled with bacteria, cancer-causing chemicals, and other toxins? The truth is, often no one knows.

You can help! The League has all the information you need to start monitoring the streams in your neighborhood.

Together, our challenge is to monitor 100,000 more streams nationwide by 2022. We’re inviting every League member to join the Clean Water Challenge and help expand volunteer stream monitoring. Your support could range from talking about clean water with neighbors to starting a stream monitoring group. It all starts by joining our growing list of League members and supporters who want to protect our streams and waterways. By joining the Clean Water Challenge, you will be the first to receive information on next steps in this campaign, how you can help, and tips for taking action in your community to reach our goal.

For more information:

Or contact:
Robert Pavlick
301 349-5892 Home
301 526-4303 Cell
roberpav1@verizon.net

Welcome to the B-CC IWLA Family

The following members were inducted at the February 15 Dinner Meeting.

James F. and Julia Cummings 301 654-3922
Interests: Conservation & Education; Photography; Trap, Skeet, & Sporting Clays

Donald W. Funkhouser 301 279-2946
Interests: Archery/3D Archery; Building & Facility; Hunter Safety; Rifle & Pistol; Trap, Skeet, & Sporting Clays; Wildlife Management

The woodcock surveys will take place March 10 and April 14.
Times to be determined.
Please Contact Jim Tate at jim@tate-tate.us or 202 841-2056 to participate!

Volunteers Needed!

All ages are encouraged to participate!
We will have walking and driving survey routes.

For:
Woodcock Survey at McKee-Beshers WMA in Poolesville, MD.

The woodcock surveys will take place March 10 and April 14.
Times to be determined.
Please Contact Jim Tate at jim@tate-tate.us or 202 841-2056 to participate!
Wildlife Report

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This year’s hunting season has drawn to a close, and by most accounts we again had a good year with many hunters in the fields and woods. This year 16 deer were reported taken on our farm down from 26 reported last year. Thanks to all that reported their deer. Across the state, DNR is reporting that 85,193 deer where harvested this year, up slightly from last year. Region A (western MD) reported a decline of ~10% in harvest numbers, while Region B (including Montgomery Co.) reported ~3% increase in harvested deer. In Region A, specifically in Allegany Co., there were 6 deer that tested positive for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), bringing the total positive tests since 2011 to 17. All cases have been confined to Allegany Co., and more than 8,800 deer have been tested. For more information on CWD, please check out the MD DNR website page at: http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/hunt_trap/CWD.

Despite the lack of snow this winter, sightings of wildlife activity through their tracks and sign, it appears that there are still many deer, turkeys and small game active on our farm. During the next few weeks, bucks will have finished shedding their antlers leaving them as prizes in the woods. If members find sheds that they don’t have an use for, please consider contacting our group that puts on the global ecology programs, they have uses for visual aids in their demonstrations. Also in the woods, the warm February has prompted an early display of spring wildflowers. We have many areas throughout the farm that are awash in color from these flowers. In short, now is a nice time for a walk in the woods.

The Wildlife Committee met at the Chapter House in late February. FeederWatch will end for the year in early April, and Diane Seward will submit the last reports soon after. NestWatch is starting early this year with Purple Martins (PUMA) pushing north, and Eastern Bluebirds (EABL) starting to nest by early February. Brett Davis set up the PUMA boxes the week after the wildlife committee meeting, and John Novak and Diane Seward began planning for nest observations this spring and summer. Nests of a dozen high priority species will not be monitored on the Conservation Farm this year unless we get more trained volunteer NestWatchers. If you are interested in helping, please contact Jim Tate.

Please submit all articles for the April 2017 newsletter NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, MARCH 24.