



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

Serving the Community Since 1935

www.bcciwla.org

President's Message

At press time the chapter was frozen! I repeat, frozen! But, there was hope that spring was coming, right? The weatherman's computer model (the Global Forecast System) showed temperatures slowly but surely moderating through mid-March. It projected, just maybe, some more sustained 50-degree temperatures would arrive by March's second week.

Throughout February we battled with the chapter house's frozen water system. Some insulation work to the well house was done in February. Heaters were added, but if the temperature drops below 10° then they just freeze anyways so be prepared. At the Board of Governor's meeting we decided the system will be getting an upgrade in the near future.

In other news our chapter has had a slight shift in assets. This is not a negative, in fact, it is a positive. The Endowment Fund has been in operation since its creation in the late 80's and has done many things within the conservation community especially early on. Because of constraints of the funds operating policy it has not been able to provide its mission's services as desired for quite some time. Understanding this, and with a steadfast dedication to the tenants of the Endowment's mission, this chapter has been funding these types of activities out of its own operating account. The BCC chapter provides \$6,000 annually to the Poolesville Global Ecology Award program, \$4,000 annually in aggregate to 4 scout troops that we support, sponsorship and funding of multiple Eagle Scout Projects and funding for a habitat program in conjunction with The Ruffed Grouse Society at McKee-Beshers WMA for 2 years running.

The Endowment Fund has been essentially dormant for some time- except for offering a small sum in recent years to publish our Conservation Guide Book with the express purpose of giving those books away to outside entities. It was decided during this year's Endowment Board's review of its operations that the Fund needed a new direction which would be of benefit to the chapter and our mission. The Board voted to return the funds to the chapter with a stipulation that the chapter then transfers these funds to the Legacy Foundation's "Land Fund" applying the total amount to the reduction of the remaining balance of the chapter's current loan debt to Legacy. This process insures that these monies stay within this chapter and allow them to function as a beneficial asset for the chapter's future conservation work. The Endowment Board has since disbanded.

While the Endowment Fund no longer exists the spirit and implementation of its mission is larger than ever and expanding. As stated, and out of the chapter's own operating account, we are performing a lot of out-reach and providing community support honoring the Endowment Board's aspirations. We can be very proud of who we are, what we stand for and our commitment to the highest goals in the conservation community.

Respectfully,
Joe Snider

Board of Governors

Fiscal Year: September 1, 2014 – August 31, 2015

OFFICERS

Joe Snider, President

240-876-4917 • joesnider2006@gmail.com

Scott Harmon, 1st Vice President

301-897-4893 • scott.w.harmon@verizon.net

Carol Efdimis, 2nd Vice President

301-407-0025 • glock.22@verizon.net

Byron Ricketts, Membership Secretary

301-703-8069 • byrickey@gmail.com

Ron Marchessault, Treasurer

202-320-3834 • RMarche12@comcast.net

Jim Tate, Corresponding Secretary

202-841-2056 • jim@tate-tate.us

Jack Mandel, Recording Secretary

301-229-9321 • jmandeldesign@gmail.com

BOARD MEMBERS

Kevin King

240-876-0777 • kevin@rcsconstruction.us

Warner Parks

301-540-1947 • wparks@rockvillemd.gov

Hope Rutley

301-340-0005 • ehr72Impala@verizon.net

Jeff Seaman

301-775-4973 • jeff_seaman@hotmail.com

Aaron Smith

304-638-4190 • asmith@disasterdemonsemg.com

Frank Parker,* Past President

301-668-8698 • vats3@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:

Jim Tate
jim@tate-tate.us
202-841-2056



Summary of the February 2015 Dinner Meeting and Board of Governors Meeting

Jack Mandel, Recording Secretary

202-487-8440 email: jmandeldesign@gmail.com

February 18, 2015 Dinner Meeting

- The 951st consecutive dinner meeting was called to order by President, Joe Snider at 7:30 p.m.
- A motion to accept four new members was accepted.
- No guest speaker attended.
- Joe gave us a brief history of the Chapter property purchases and the genesis and purposes of the Endowment and Legacy Funds. Joe went on to explain how the dormant Endowment Fund assets had been moved to the Chapter and in turn placed entirely in the Legacy Fund. Joe reports that operations and scholarships will proceed as before but utilizing just one fund, not two.
- The finances of the Chapter are strong, and we are putting money away for anticipated future Capital Expenses such as re-roofing.
- Ron Marchessault gave the Treasurer's Report.
- Scott Harmon, in his VP report, told us that the Archery Range will need volunteers soon to help set up the 3-D course.
- Warner Parks says the Shotgun Range officer sign-up will be on 21 February.
- Jim Hubbard says that the B-CC Conservation Farm Book has been given to the Montgomery County Council. Also, a letter has been issued by Jim opposing the Ten Mile Creek sewage line.
- Tom Sigman held a live auction for a 10 gauge Ithaca semi-automatic shotgun that fetched the Chapter \$650; Michael Luzier was the winner. The Chapter is grateful to Paul Lea for his generous donation.
- Jim Hubbard urged that any potential threats to the Agricultural Reserve be brought to his attention, so we can respond as a group.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

February 25, 2015 Board of Governors Meeting

- President, Joe Snider called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
- Other chapter officers present were Scott Harmon (1st VP), Carol Efdimis (2nd VP), Byron Ricketts (Membership Secretary), Ron Marchessault (Treasurer), Jim Tate (Corresponding Secretary) and Jack Mandel (Recording Secretary).
- Other Board members present included Warner Parks, Hope Rutley, Aaron Smith, Kevin King and Jeff Seaman.
- Members present included Lin Tate, Bill Gordon, John Lamb, Riley Elerick, Gregory Elerick, Larry Anderson, Bob Pavlick, Pat Tarquinio, Don Perino, Bob Benson, Butch Mezick and George Coakley.
- Riley Elerick proposed adding informative signage to scout campground areas and the northeast woods as his Eagle Scout project.
- Joe mentioned the possibility of having beekeeping and black bears as topics for upcoming dinner presentations.
- Larry Anderson spoke to us about the introduction of Maryland Senate Bill 748 which would allow commercial sale of venison harvested by holders of Crop Damage Permits. The board plans to take a position on this issue and asked Jim Tate to prepare a proposed position on this issue on behalf of the Chapter, and the Maryland Division.

(continued on page 3)

SUMMARY

(continued from page 2)

- Treasurer's Report: Operating Fund- \$72,479.67, Management Reserve Account- \$25,131.61, Land Fund Account- \$125, Capital Fund- \$22,085.52.
- Membership Report: 989 members; 541 Individual, 328 Family, 16 Associate, 2 Youth, 25 Student, 78 Retired.
- Butch Mesick reports that he is making progress on revision of easements on West Woods recognizing that only the area South of the power line has the unique plant community growing on the exposed Triassic Red Shale Barrens.
- Larry Anderson reported that members periodically request permission to trap on the Chapter grounds. As Wildlife Committee Chairman he has denied permission to trap based on danger to hunting dogs and for other reasons. He requested that the Board of Governors formalize a prohibition on trapping on Chapter property.
- Pat Tarquinio says that he is ready to plant the farm in the spring, and he is actively seeking a cultivator for purchase; Archery Range driveway has been graded.
- John Lamb says that March 7th will be the date for removal of downed trees that have fallen across trails, and cleanup of debris left in the Cathedral of the Pines after the last cleanup.
- Kevin King says he has found a fellow that will remove the Black Oak using a two-man saw. Joe Snider requested that a full cross section be retrieved for display.
- Kevin proposed moving the water pressure tank to the Chapter House, and installation of an instant hot water heater thereby eliminating the need for the well house entirely. He stated that this would prevent frozen pipes like we have experienced this year.
- Scott Harmon says that he will hear from the county soon about culvert repair start date.
- Scott reported that we will need a replacement utility vehicle for the Archery Range as well as a vehicle shed.
- Warner Parks says that the security system work will be complete by the end of March on the Shotgun Range.
- Aaron Smith spoke of the need for upgrades for the kitchen fire suppression system.
- Bill Gordon reported that national membership to Izaak Walton is down by about 1.6%.
- Bill reported that our Chapter has a long-standing policy that allows deployed military members to have their B-CC annual fees waived.
- A motion to accept 8 new membership applications passed.
- A motion to pay \$730 from Management reserve for frozen plumbing pipe repairs passed.
- A motion to allocate no more than \$3,000.00 for improvements to kitchen fire suppression system passed.
- A motion to approve Riley Elerick's Eagle Scout signage project for the campgrounds area passed.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Calling All Musicians!!!!

Frank Parker, Chairman, Conservation Education Committee
240-405-7395 e-mail: vats3@verizon.net

Are you a "picker" or a "strummer?" Do you enjoy playing music with others for an audience? At some past Earth Day celebrations, we had a small group of members and non-members playing "bluegrass" on the porch of the log cabin. The Log Cabin will have exhibits and handouts with members "manning the fort" for the "Earth Day" visitors. If you like playing music, here is a great way of working off your volunteer hours.

Attention All Reservists and Military Members of B-CC IWLA

Carol Efdimis, 2nd Vice President
301-407-0025 e-mail: glock.22@verizon.net

If you are deployed or will deploy in the future, the Board of Governors has decided that any current member of the B-CC IWLA will have their yearly membership continue at no cost to you for the term of your deployment. Please contact me if your deployment status changes.

BOYS AND GIRLS — WANT TO LEARN RIFLE MARKSMANSHIP FROM THE EXPERTS?

HERE'S HOW . . .

JOIN THE B-CC IWLA EAGLES JUNIOR RIFLE CLUB . . .

We shoot .22 rifles at the Landon School Range in Bethesda every Monday night between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. from October to May.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be at least 11 years old
- Must be enthusiastic about learning to shoot
- No prior experience required
- No special equipment needed



All rifles, ammo and equipment plus awards and expert instruction provided at nominal cost

Want more information?

Contact Rex Gori, NRA Certified Instructor at
301-946-6530 or Aurelius.gori1@verizon.net

If you are a new member, please contact Rex Gori before attending a session at Landon School.

25 Years of Excellence in Marksmanship Training
Affiliated with the Director of Civilian Marksmanship

Nominating Committee Formed

Larry Anderson
240-246-5302 email: anduption9@hotmail.com

The nominating committee has been named by President Joe Snider 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 contact me. Serving on the BOG is a wonderful opportunity to further contribute to our chapter's mission and heritage and can be personally very satisfying.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please submit all articles for the April 2015 newsletter to jim@tate-tate.us and janet@spectrumprinting.com no later than Friday, March 27.

2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date(s)	Activity	Time
MARCH		
Monday, March 2	Boy Scout Troop 496 Meeting	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 7	R&P Range – RO Sign Up for current Range Officers	9:00 a.m.
Monday, March 9	Boy Scout Troop 496 Meeting	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 12	Hunter Safety Instructor's Work Shop	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 14	R&P Range – RO Sign Up for current Range Officers	9:00 a.m.
Saturday, March 14	Adopt-A-Road Clean-up	8:00 a.m.
Sunday, March 15	Chapter House Clean-up	9:00 a.m.
Monday, March 16	Boy Scout Troop 496 Meeting	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 18	Monthly Dinner Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 19	Cub Scout Den 694 Meeting	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 21	Black Powder Muzzleloader Event	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 21	R & P Range – RO Sign Up for current Range Officers	3:00 p.m.
Monday, March 23	Boy Scout Troop 496 Meeting	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 25	Board of Governors Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 28	Boy Scouts Shooting Merit Badge	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 28	Shotgun Range Officers Meeting	9:00 a.m.
Monday, March 30	Boy Scout Troop 496 Meeting	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
APRIL		
Saturday, April 4	R & P Range reopens to General Membership	
Monday, April 6	Boy Scout Troop 496 Meeting	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 7	Sporting Clays	3:00 p.m. – dark
Saturday, April 11	Forestry Tree Planting	8:30 a.m.
Sunday, April 12	Chapter House Clean-up	9:00 a.m.
Monday, April 13	Boy Scout Troop 496 Meeting	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 14	Sporting Clays	3:00 p.m. – dark
Wednesday, April 15	Monthly Dinner Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 16	Cub Scout Den 694 Meeting	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 18	Spring Farm Clean Up Day	beginning at 8:30 a.m.
Monday, April 20	Boy Scout Troop 496 Meeting	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 21	Sporting Clays	3:00 p.m. – dark
Wednesday, April 22	Board of Governors Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 25	Earth Day Celebration	beginning at 8:00 a.m.
Monday, April 27	Boy Scout Troop 496 Meeting	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 28	Sporting Clays	3:00 p.m. – dark
MAY		
Saturday, May 2	Hunter Safety Course	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 3	Hunter Safety Course	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Monday, May 4	Boy Scout Troop 496 Meeting	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 5	Sporting Clays	3:00 p.m. – dark
Saturday, May 9	Bird Field Day	8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Monday, May 11	Boy Scout Troop 496 Meeting	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 12	Sporting Clays	3:00 p.m. – dark
Saturday, May 16	Chapter House Clean-up	9:00 a.m.
Saturday, May 16	R & P Range – Range Officers Training Session	9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Monday, May 18	Global Ecology Awards	5:00 p.m.
Monday, May 18	Boy Scout Troop 496 Meeting	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 19	Sporting Clays	3:00 p.m. – dark
Wednesday, May 20	Monthly Dinner Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 21	Cub Scout Den 694 Meeting	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Monday, May 25	Boy Scout Troop 496 Meeting	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 26	Sporting Clays	3:00 p.m. – dark
Wednesday, May 27	Board of Governors Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Friday, May 29	Boy Scouts First Aid Class	5:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 30	Boy Scouts First Aid Class	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 31	Boy Scouts First Aid Class	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

B-CC IWLA Celebrates EARTH DAY with an Open House at our CONSERVATION FARM

Frank Parker, Chairman, Conservation Education Committee
240-405-7395 e-mail: vats3@verizon.net

Earth Day is an annual event, celebrated in April, during which events are held worldwide to demonstrate support for environmental causes like conservation and protection (Think about the difference!). It was first celebrated in 1970, and is now celebrated in more than 192 countries each year. It has become a tradition for the Chapter to hold a celebration each year that features outdoor and conservation activities. Food will also be provided without charge. In the coming month, expect to see draft trial agendas for the Earth Day events in future "email blasts." Your input on them is welcome. The Conservation & Education Committee's intention is to provide enlightenment and experiences related to the earth and the environment in which we live. Our goal is to accomplish this in a way entertaining to both the general public and Chapter IKEs. The celebration is important to the Chapter since this outreach to the general public is one of our major justifications for the IWLA 501(c)(3) status with the IRS. Earth Day at the farm will be advertised in many ways. If you have an idea to promote the open house, please let one of the Board of Governors know as soon as possible. Phone numbers are on the second page of this newsletter. To make Earth Day successful, chapter member volunteers are needed in many capacities on Saturday, April 25th. To participate, email Frank Parker at vats3@verizon.net.

For the Birds...

Jim Tate, Corresponding Secretary
202-841-2056 email: jim@tate-tate.us

February's bitter cold, snowy weather in much of the northeastern United States and much of Canada left us with two new species for the B-CC IWLA Wildlife Counts program. And, it resulted in record participation in the Great Backyard Bird Count.



Snowy Owls are one of the most charismatic and emblematic birds of winter. They breed in Arctic regions worldwide and drop south in some winters ("irrupt"), depending on food supplies and their breeding success in the previous summer. The winter of 2013-14 was a huge year for these owls which appeared in amazing numbers across the Great Lakes states, Northeastern U.S.,

Atlantic Coast, and southern Canada. There was also a surge in Snowy Owl sightings this winter. This is a well-known phenomenon with Snowy Owls, with the year after a very large invasion often being referred to as an "echo flight."

A Snowy Owl was seen on Izaak Walton Way by three members on Wednesday, 25 February. A large white owl flew out of the Dog Training field near the corner of IWW and West Willard into the milo field of our neighbor to the south. It stopped briefly and was seen through binoculars before it continued south toward the Potomac River.

A look at eBird records shows Snowy Owls start showing up about November 1st during flight years and then reach peak numbers within a month. For several weeks they are only seen occasionally, but then peak again in February of flight years. Usually they are sighted near larger protein packages such as waterfowl during the winter. Perhaps that is why this bird skedaddled south toward the river when it was seen. Why was it in our Dog Training field? I suspect it felt at home in the short grassy field which this winter looks a lot like its summer home on the tundra.



The second new bird for our Wildlife Counts program appeared at the bird feeders in February. An American Tree Sparrow, another visitor from the far north appeared among the feeder visitors one snowy afternoon. This small rusty-capped and clear-breasted sparrow looks a lot like the Chipping Sparrow we have every summer at B-CC IWLA. Perhaps it has already begun its long migration back to its breeding ground in the tundra of the far North.

Which brings us to the Great Backyard Bird Count: thank you to all who submitted lists to eBird during the count days February 13-16, the 18th year for the event. Participants from more than 100 countries submitted a record 147,265 bird checklists for the annual GBBC and broke the previous count record for the number of species identified. The 5,090 species reported represents nearly half the possible bird species in the world.

This year was a banner year for Pine Siskins which are reported on 10.5% of GBBC checklists and has been a regular visitor at the B-CC IWLA feeders this year. Compare that to 1.2% of checklists in 2014 when most siskins stayed far north in Canada. Siskins will likely be hanging around through April and May, especially if the feeders are stocked with their favorite nyjer (thistle) seed like ours are.

So, for the rest of the FeederWatch year, until early April, come on out to the Chapter House, spend a few hours watching the birds, and earn volunteer time toward your quota for the year.

Welcome to the B-CC IWLA Family

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

- Peter Gallo** 301-972-4317
Interests: Photography, Rifle & Pistol, Shooting Sports
- Roderick Bowes** 301-806-3628
Interests: Archery, Conservation Education, Wildlife Management
- Craig Dickerson** 301-407-0060
Family: Valaree
Interests: Rifle & Pistol, Shooting Sports
- John Stopher** 301-340-6142
Family: Maria, John, Daniel, Michael
Interests: Building & Facility, Recreational Activities, Scout Camp

Adopt-A-Road Program

Interested members are invited to participate in the Adopt-A-Road program on any of the scheduled dates. The Chapter is planning to do at least six cleanups in 2015. Bags, gloves and vests will be made available for those who attend.

2015 ADOPT-A-ROAD CLEAN-UP SCHEDULE

Date	Start time	Location
March 14	8:00 a.m.	Chapter House
May 16	8:00 a.m.	Chapter House
July 18	8:00 a.m.	Chapter House
September 19	8:00 a.m.	Chapter House

Questions concerning the upcoming road cleanups can be directed to John Robinson, 301-641-1188.

Hunter Safety

John Lamb
email: jpatricklamb@aol.com

The B-CC IWLA's Maryland Hunter Safety courses for 2015 are now posted on the Maryland DNR web site. All participating students in the Hunter Safety Education program must enroll online. Our class is a 2-day (16 hour) course that we offer twice a year, spring and fall. Classes are scheduled for May 2 - 3 and September 12 - 13 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the chapter house. These classes are free of charge and are open for everyone wishing to obtain a Hunter Safety Training certification. Participants are encouraged to be early and to bring only a lunch with them on both days. All other supplies will be provided by the state. Parents/guardians are required to remain on the premises for the duration of the class. If you have any questions regarding enrollment or the class itself, please feel free to contact me at jpatricklamb@aol.com.

BLACK POWDER / MUZZLELOADER EVENT

Mark Gochnour
email: mgdonutman@gmail.com



An eclectic cast of muzzle-loading enthusiasts will host the annual spring Blackpowder Clinic, Saturday, March 21 (8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m). Blackpowder instruction and practice will be held in the morning. A complementary lunch will be served before Blackpowder competition begins at the R&P range at 1:00 p.m. Don't miss this rare opportunity for knowledgeable instruction and an opportunity to shoot at non-standard targets. There will be prizes! For the match, up to five targets are to be shot at 25, 50, 75, and 100 yards with prizes awarded for the best shots.

In the afternoon, in order for the match to go smoothly, the owners of the guns should shoot in the match, anyone extra would be an observer. Costs are \$10 for the event plus any applicable R&P range fees. Either bring the muzzleloader that you want to shoot or let us know in your email that you need a loaner. If you have a preference as to the style of muzzleloader you wish to borrow, let Mark know that too in the email. Contact Mark Gochnour at mgdonutman@gmail.com or Daniel Hess at big_d_hess@hotmail.com for further details or to pre-register for the event.

Wildlife Committee Report

Larry Anderson
240-246-5302 email: andupton9@hotmail.com

This year's hunting season has drawn to a close, and by most accounts, we had a good year. This year 26 deer were reported taken on our farm with several very nice sized reported in the log book. Thanks to all that reported their deer. This compares to last year's 41 deer reported, and continues to speak to a healthy deer population. We may have also set a new record with our first 1,000 lb. deer, but the results are unofficial. Of the deer reported, only one deer was noted to have ticks on its ears, and is the first entry into our tick watch project.

The recent snows have provided an opportunity to observe wildlife activity through their signs and tracks, and it appears that there are healthy populations of deer, turkeys and small game active on our farm. In the next few weeks, bucks will be shedding their antlers. If members find sheds that they don't have a use for them, please consider donating them for the global ecology program where they will be used for visual aids in their demonstrations.

DINNER MEETING

The 952nd regular dinner meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 18** at the Chapter house. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. **Board members are expected to attend.** All members and guests are invited.

Appetizers will be available before dinner. Dinner this month will include **Salad, Corned Beef, Boiled Cabbage, Boiled Potatoes with Parsley, Green Beans, Rolls, and Dessert.**

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

The March Board of Governors meeting will be held at the Chapter house on **Wednesday, March 25.** **Board Members are expected to attend.**

2015 Land Fund

As a member of the B-CC IWLA, I want to do my part and contribute the following amount to the B-CC IWLA Land Fund Campaign. Your contribution is tax deductible.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

_____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$200 _____ \$500 _____ \$1000 _____ OTHER

Please mail contribution form and check (written out to B-CC IWLA) to Carol Efdimis, B-CC IWLA, PO Box 542, Poolesville, MD 20837

Rifle & Pistol Range Committee Report

Thoran Menser, Chairman
301-972-8353 email: thoran.menser2@verizon.net

Chris Efdimis, Chief Range Officer
301-407-0025 email: glock.22@verizon.net

RANGE CLOSURES

The range will be closed in March to all members except Range Officers and their guests. It will reopen back up to the general membership on Saturday, April 4, 2015.

RANGE OFFICER SIGN-UP

For current Range Officers: RO sign up for current Range Officers and their 2015 duty days will be held on Saturday, March 14 at 9:00 a.m. The next RO sign-up will be held on Saturday, March 21 at 3:00 p.m. The sign-up list will be in the Chapter house at 7:00 a.m. and registration forms will be passed out at 8:30 a.m. with the meeting to start immediately at 9:00 a.m. 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 meeting. The RO fees are \$50 for Family memberships and \$35 for Individual memberships. Remember this is based on your chapter membership type.

RANGE OFFICER CLASS

If you want to become a Range Officer you will need to attend the RO training session scheduled for Saturday, May 16, starting at 9:00 a.m. and lasting until about 2:00 p.m. At this time you will be briefed on range rules and procedures and at the conclusion take a test, on which you must score at least 80 in order to become a Range Officer. **If you plan on attending this session, please bring the following: your current 2015 Chapter membership card, exact cash or check for the fee, a pen and paper to take notes.**

Your RO dues are based on your Chapter membership type. If you have an Individual membership to the Chapter, you are eligible for Individual RO dues at \$35/year. If you have a Family membership, you are eligible for Family at \$50/year or an Individual.

PARKING AT THE RIFLE & PISTOL RANGE

The handicap parking at the Rifle & Pistol range is ONLY for those who have a handicap placard, license plate or a sticker on their vehicle. No other parking is allowed in this area on either side of the road leading down to the range. You may pull your car up to the yellow gate to unload or load but then it must be immediately moved.

There is NO parking allowed on the range at any time except on work day and when deliveries are being made to the range house.

Shotgun Range Report

Warner Parks, Shotgun Range Chair
301-540-1947 (Home) 240-620-6942 (Cell)
email: wparks29@gmail.com

Attention Shotgun Range Officers – there will be a R.O. meeting Saturday, March 28, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Chapter House. All Range Officers that did not attend the December 6, 2014 and February 21, 2015 meeting are required to attend. This is not a RANGE OFFICER TRAINING CLASS.

A sign-up sheet for the upcoming year is in the range house. Please sign up. I would like two Range Officers on duty at all times. Also, Range Officers will now need an additional key to access the range house. ONLY CURRENT RANGE OFFICERS THAT HAVE SIGNED UP FOR DUTY WILL BE ISSUED A

KEY. As of March 1st the right skeet field is to be left open for those members that do not want to shoot sporting clays on Sunday mornings. This will not apply on special shooting events (Winter Sporting Clays League).

Please remember to stand to the side when cocking all machines. 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 shooting; this is currently not being done. Additional targets are stored in the container next to the parking lot, in the trailer under the tower, and in the low skeet house on the left field.

Please pick up your empty shotgun shells and trash when finished shooting; this is currently not being done. 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 me or Joel know ASAP.

MARCH RANGE OFFICER SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 1	Ben Moses & Aram Roston
Sunday, March 8	Jim Wilber & Doug Marks
Sunday, March 15	Jim Hubbard & Paul Shields & Jack Shaw
Sunday, March 22	Douglas Craig & John Kipfer
Sunday, March 29	Joel Graham & Mike Noble & Jose' Saiz

APRIL RANGE OFFICER SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 5	Need two Range Officers
Sunday, April 12	Joe Contrera & Greg Ossi
Sunday, April 19	John Novack & Tim Jorgensen
Sunday, April 26	Gary Melvin & Dave Myers

HOURS OF OPERATION

Sundays 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Trap, Skeet, Sporting Clays
Tuesdays 3:00 p.m. until dark Sporting Clays
(Starting April 7, 2015)

8th Annual BCC Boy Scout Merit Badge Program

Bob Benson
301-365-6886 e-mail: bobbensn1942@gmail.com



On Saturday, March 28, 2015 the chapter will offer 44 Boy Scouts an opportunity to earn rifle, shotgun or archery merit badges. The many instructors are all highly qualified chapter volunteers. Rifle merit badge head instructor is Chris Efdimis. Shotgun head merit badge instructors are Bill Thelemann and Jack MacGregor. Archery head instructor is Scott Harmon. Each of these head instructors recruits many assistants to work on the ranges with the scouts. The scouts come from Montgomery County and DC. A measure of the growing popularity of our chapter's merit badge program is that the current registration for 44 positions filled up within two weeks – over a month before the March 28 range instruction date. Every chapter member should be proud of the high quality instruction we offer in this B-CC Chapter sponsored boy scout merit badge program.



The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter of
The Izaak Walton League of America
PO Box 542
Poolesville, MD 20837-0542

FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #3878
Suburban, MD

William Stearman
Grosvenor Park
10416 Rockville Pike Apt 301
North Bethesda MD 20852-3322

Pennsylvania Fracking Tours

Bill Gordon
301-460-4462 email: wgordon14@verizon.net

Would you like to learn firsthand what a fracking operation looks like, sounds like, and smells like? The Harry Enstrom Chapter, is giving tours of fracking near their location. This chapter has given tours to visitors from all over the world. The chapter and its work has been shown on Italian and Russian TV, and they will be featured in an upcoming HBO documentary. The Harry Enstrom Chapter is located in southwestern Pennsylvania, close to Morgantown, WV. A tour will be arranged at some time after the spring dry-off. (May perhaps). If you are interested in taking the tour, please contact me.

Fishing on National Wildlife Refuges

Most fishermen have been thinking "fishing" for the last month or more. So, we found two nearby places to consider...

Quality fishing opportunities are available on more than 270 national wildlife refuges. The fishing opportunities, described in a newly published Fish and Wildlife Service guide, represent virtually every type of sport fishing on the continent. From inconnu and grayling in remote Alaska to snook hovering by mangroves in Florida's Ten Thousand Islands, national wildlife refuges offer anglers adventure and diversity. Here is the FWS information for Maryland's two refuges.

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge

2145 Key Wallace Dr., Cambridge, MD 21613; (410) 228-2677
<http://refuges.fws.gov/profiles/index.cfm?id=51531>

Office hours, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday – Friday; 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Saturday. Refuge is closed Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Fair access roads. Nearest main highway is Hwy. 50. Nearest communities are Church Creek and Cambridge. Refuge waters include Blackwater and Little Blackwater Rivers (9,000 acres). Expansive marsh area has many shallow water areas and winding guts. Available species include largemouth bass, striped bass, black crappie, bluegill, white and yellow perch and catfish. Refuge is closed to boating and canoeing October 1-March 31 to prevent impact on migrating waterfowl and eagles and is sometimes closed in areas to prevent impact on eagle nesting after April 1st. Access is restricted to fishing from roadway or boat (*Canoe and kayak only*).

Patuxent Research Refuge

12100 Beech Forest Rd., Laurel, MD 20708-4039; (301) 497-5580
<http://refuges.fws.gov/profiles/index.cfm?id=51640>

Office hours, 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. at the National Wildlife Visitor Center; 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (or later seasonally) at the Patuxent North Tract entrance. Refuge is generally open 8:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Good access roads. Nearest highways are Baltimore/Washington Parkway and MD Route 197. Nearest community is Laurel. Fishing opportunities include freshwater, non-tidal pond and river fishing. Available species include bluegill, black crappie, bass, pickerel and catfish. Fishing is seasonal at Cash Lake (mid-June to mid-October); hours are sunrise to sunset. Small boats are allowed for fishing in Cash Lake only.

From: <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/fishingguide>