

FEBRUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

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

Serving the Community Since 1935

www.bcciwla.org

President's Message

January brought us a winter wonderland with a record setting snowstorm and colder temperatures. We still managed to get in our 962nd consecutive dinner meeting and hold our Conservation Dinner. The board of governors meeting had to be postponed a week though. Our new tractor cleared the snow from the parking area and road to the chapter house. Many thanks to the folks that made this happen.

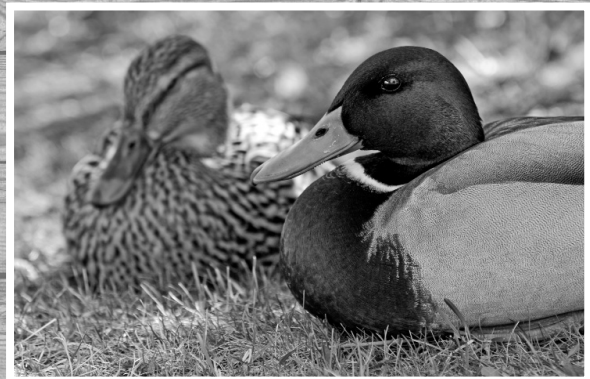
February brings us a time to celebrate with our wild game dinner. If you have never been to one, you have got to come. There is also a field trip to the Philip Merrill Environmental center in Annapolis being planned. Please check on the articles later in the newsletter for more information on both.

I have answered many questions about membership cards and car stickers. You should be getting them soon. Mailings have been going out. Your key card will still open the gate and the chapter house. Be patient, they are on the way.

Your Chapter needs you! We are looking for a Conservation Education chair. More people are needed in our Net Zero committee. Your talents and energy are needed. Just reach out to me if you can get involved.

And lastly, don't forget to take your kids out to enjoy fishing, hunting, or a good hike outdoors. Be safe out there.

Best Regards,
Scott Harmon
B-CC IWLA President
301 467-0645 (Cell)



B-CC IWLA Wild Game Dinner Pot Luck Dinner, Appetizers & Door Prizes

**Saturday, February 27
6:00pm**

**Come join your fellow Ike's for our annual
celebration of the hunt**

**Bring a game dish, your favorite entree,
side dish, dessert, or salad to share**

**Appetizers start at 6:00pm
with dinner to follow**

DINNER MEETING

The 963rd regular dinner meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 17** at the B-CC IWLA Chapter House. Dinner will be served at 6:30pm. All members and guests are invited.

Appetizers will be available before dinner. Dinner this month will include **Salad, Ham, Au Gratin Potatoes, Vegetables, Rolls, Ice Tea, and Dessert.**

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

The February Board of Governors meeting will be held at the B-CC IWLA Chapter House on **Wednesday, February 24** at 7:30pm. **Board members are expected to attend.**

Board of Governors

Fiscal Year: September 1, 2015 – August 31, 2016

OFFICERS

Scott Harmon, *President*

301 467-0645 • scott.w.harmon@verizon.net

Carol Efdimis, *1st Vice President*

301 407-0025 • glock.22@verizon.net

Jim Tate,* *2nd Vice President*

202 841-2056 • jim@tate-tate.us

Ron Marchessault, *Treasurer*

202 320-3834 • rmarche12@comcast.net

Lynn Adams,* *Membership Secretary*

240 285-3763 • clays7diva@gmail.com

Tom Lamkin, *Corresponding Secretary*

301 330-2922 • tomlamkin@comcast.net

Jack Mandel, *Recording Secretary*

301 229-9321 • jmandeldesign@gmail.com

BOARD MEMBERS

Art Duffy

301 570-0737 • fourduffys@verizon.net

Warner Parks*

301 540-1947 • wparks29@gmail.com

Jeff Seaman

301 775-4973 • jeff_seaman@hotmail.com

Tom Shiner*

202 309-9528 • tss@mandlf.com

Aaron Smith

304 638-4190 • asmith@disasterdemonsemg.com

Joe Snider,* *Past President*

240 876-4917 • joesnider2006@gmail.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:

Tom Lamkin
tomlamkin@comcast.net
301 330-2922



Summary of the January 2016 Dinner Meeting and Board of Governors Meeting

Jack Mandel, Recording Secretary

202 487-8440 jmandeldesign@gmail.com

January 20, 2016 Dinner Meeting

- The 962nd consecutive dinner meeting was called to order by President Scott Harmon at 7:30pm.
- Tom Shiner was the winner of the 50/50 raffle, netting \$84 for the Land Fund.
- Two rifles were auctioned off with the proceeds going to the Land Fund.
- Jim Tate read proposed Bylaw change regarding newsletter responsibilities associated with the Corresponding Secretary's duties; those present voted, and the change passed.
- After inducting new members to the Chapter, Lynn Adams gave the Membership Report.
- Our guest speaker was Mike Bailey of Friends of Fletcher's Cove.
- Scott Harmon let us know that the Small Pond is to be cleaned of unwanted flora in the spring when free of water. Rob Parker is now the Co-Chairman of the Ponds and Streams committee.
- Ron Marchessault gave his Treasurer's report.
- Carol asked that members not touch the Chapter House thermostats.
- Mark Gochnour will be holding the 5th Annual Muzzleloader event including instruction, range practice, and a fun competition using nonstandard targets.
- March 11 is the the date for the Hunter Safety instructor meeting.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

February 3, 2016 Board of Governors Meeting

- President Scott Harmon called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.
- Other chapter officers present were Carol Efdimis (1st VP), Ron Marchessault (Treasurer), Tom Lamkin (Corresponding Secretary), and Jack Mandel (Recording Secretary).
- Other Board members present included Aaron Smith, Jeff Seaman, and Art Duffy.
- Other members present included Pat Tarquinio, Tucker Mostrom, Marcus Melton, Rob Parker, and Bob Pavlick.
- Guests were Mark Shanker and John Novak.
- Scott Harmon thanked all members for helping raise the funds to enable the Chapter to send a check for \$35,000 to the Legacy Foundation. Membership cards will be sent out very soon.
- Scott Cameron spoke at the Conservation Dinner about invasive species. Mark Gochnour and the kitchen staff cooked a delicious spaghetti dinner, and Tucker Mostrom and Frank Parker did a wonderful job coordinating the event.
- Ron Marchessault's Treasurer's Report: Operating Account – \$146,111.83, Management Reserve Account – \$30,000.00, Land Fund Account- \$35,073.72, Capital Fund – \$24,288.21.
- Pat Tarquinio said soil tests indicate that the fields need lime. He is looking for non-GMO soybean seed for spring planting.
- Aaron Smith mentioned that NAVHDA has asked for use of the Chapter House for their annual event.
- John Novak and Rob Parker report that 300 Largemouth Bass were caught and released last year in the Big Pond; they are putting together a report on the general status of the water.

(continued on page 3)

SUMMARY

(continued from page 2)

- The Archery 3-D course is to be set up towards the end of February.
- The Wild Game Dinner is set for the February 27 and is already staffed with volunteers.
- Tom Lamkin reported that the Hunter Safety instructor meeting is scheduled for March 11; the course will take place April 30 through May 1.
- Members are invited to join a group for a trip to Annapolis to learn about Net-Zero strategies for future use at the Chapter; there is a \$5 fee.
- Bob Pavlick said the Maryland Division meeting will be on March 12 at the Chapter House; the National Meeting will be in Gulfport, Mississippi this year.

NEW BUSINESS

- A motion to contribute same amount as last year to the Ruffed Grouse Society passed.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:00pm.

2016 Membership Renewals

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

Membership cards have been coming in slowly from National. Cards for which we submitted payment and renewal slips just before Thanksgiving and in the middle of December arrived in the middle of January in a chunk of about 300 at once. I have been preparing them and adding your auto decal(s) and universal gate keys, where ordered, to these membership cards and sending them out to you. Please remember that National has many chapters for which to process renewal cards all at once at this time of year.

When your payment for your renewal comes into the chapter, you are recorded as current on your dues in the chapter's database. ***Just because your new membership card is slow in coming to you does not mean you will have any problem with access to the chapter. As long as your payment is recorded in our database, your access card will be valid.*** We, at the chapter, not National, control access through your security card. Ironically, my work in processing these cards after they come in from National, is slowed down by the fact that many of you are emailing and calling about your late cards, requiring me to stop processing and respond to your queries. I recently have been advised by those more experienced with this to just continue processing the cards and



respond to queries after the cards are processed. So, please be patient with me.

If you haven't paid your dues yet, please do so now. Late fees apply to payments submitted after the first of the year. Please add them to the amount of your bill. Late fees are as follows: Individual/Regular: \$33, Family: \$49, Student: \$17, Youth: \$7, Retired: \$8, and Associate: \$6.

Friends of Fletcher's Cove

Jim Tate, Second Vice President
202 841-2056 jim@tate-tate.us

I expect you know how it is: You mention to your fishing buddy that you caught a couple of good fish and the first question is- Where? That is what happened to me at the B-CC IWLA Dinner Meeting in January.

Scott Harmon invited a representative from **Friends of Fletcher's Cove** (<http://www.friendsoffletcherscove.org/>) to speak that night. To my pleasure and delight, an old friend **Mike Bailey**, known to everyone as "**Animal**" showed up to tell those present what a great place Fletcher's Cove is for Stripers (known as Rockfish locally) and Blue Catfish in two digit weight classes. I guess his giving away the directions to this World Class Fishery is OK, because Fletcher's Cove access needs some help.

Take a look at these photos of Mike Bailey and Jim Range with some strippers. Now you know why I am so unhappy about broadcasting the location of this fishing hole.



Briefly, **Fletcher's Boathouse** is a National Park Service concession, located on the Potomac River in the C & O Canal National Historical Park, between Chain and Key Bridges. It has been at this location since the 1850s. Fletcher's was shut down last October by the NPS, whose resource managers are uncertain how to provide a long-term solution to the siltation problem. At that time, NPS declared the dock unsafe for public use.

In response to concerns expressed in a petition by the *Friends of Fletcher's Cove*, a coalition of more than 400 organizations and individuals, NPS sponsored a public meeting in December, and agreed to re-open Fletcher's in the spring.

"The Park Service made clear its commitment to fund and implement a plan that addresses the immediate need for safe access to the Fletcher's dock," coalition leadership told its supporters. The more complex long-term solution to the siltation at Fletcher's Cove will require persistence and outside support. The Park Service anticipates a comprehensive study is needed and will develop a scope-of-work as a first step.

Animal has agreed to provide B-CC IWLA with a guided tour of Fletcher's Cove sometime in the spring. Contact B-CC IWLA President Scott Harmon at scott.w.harmon@verizon.net if you would like to be included in the tour.

2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date(s)	Activity	Time
FEBRUARY		
Monday, February 1	Boy Scout Troop 496 Meeting	7:30pm
Monday, February 8	Boy Scout Troop 496 Meeting	7:30pm
Saturday, February 13	Chapter House Clean-up	9:00am
Monday, February 15	Boy Scout Troop 496 Meeting	7:30pm
Wednesday, February 17	Monthly Dinner Meeting	6:30pm
Thursday, February 18	Cub Scout Troop 694 Meeting	7:00pm
Monday, February 22	Boy Scout Troop 496 Meeting	7:30pm
Wednesday, February 24	Board of Governors Meeting	7:30pm
Saturday, February 27	Wild Game Dinner	6:00pm
Sunday, February 28	Shotgun Range Officers Meeting at Chapter House	3:00pm
Monday, February 29	Boy Scout Troop 496 Meeting	7:30pm
MARCH		
Saturday, March 5	Rifle & Pistol Range Officer Sign Up for CURRENT Range Officers	See R & P Report
Monday, March 7	Boy Scout Troop 496 Meeting	7:30pm
Friday, March 11	DNR Instructor Workshop	5:00pm
Saturday, March 12	IWLA Division Meeting	9:00am
Saturday, March 12	Rifle & Pistol Range Officer Sign Up for CURRENT Range Officers	See R & P Report
Sunday, March 13	Chapter House Clean-up	9:00am
Monday, March 14	Boy Scout Troop 496 Meeting	7:30pm
Wednesday, March 16	Monthly Dinner Meeting	6:30pm
Saturday, March 19	Rifle & Pistol Range Officer Sign Up for CURRENT Range Officers	See R & P Report
Monday, March 21	Boy Scout Troop 496 Meeting	7:30pm
Wednesday, March 23	Board of Governors Meeting	7:30pm
Thursday, March 24	Cub Scout Troop 694 Meeting	7:00pm
Monday, March 28	Boy Scout Troop 496 Meeting	7:30pm
APRIL		
Saturday, April 2	Spring Clean-Up	8:30am
Monday, April 4	Boy Scout Troop 496 Meeting	7:30pm
Saturday, April 9	Tree Planting	9:00am
Monday, April 11	Boy Scout Troop 496 Meeting	7:30pm
Monday, April 18	Boy Scout Troop 496 Meeting	7:30pm
Wednesday, April 20	Monthly Dinner Meeting	6:30pm
Thursday, April 21	Cub Scout Troop 694 Meeting	7:00pm
Monday, April 25	Boy Scout Troop 496 Meeting	7:30pm
Wednesday, April 27	Board of Governors Meeting	7:30pm
Saturday, April 30	Hunter Safety Class	8:00am
MAY		
Sunday, May 1	Hunter Safety Class	8:00am
<p>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.</p>		

Vegetable Gardens

Larry Anderson
240 246-5302 andupton9@hotmail.com

Pat Tarquinio
ptarq@hotmail.com

Even with the recent snows and the prospect of several more weeks of winter, the seed catalogs are arriving and gardeners are eagerly anticipating and planning 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 has 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. Sadly for us, Ray has decided to move south this spring, so in the void, 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. 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 by the first week in March, in time for early crop planting.

Welcome to the B-CC IWLA Family

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

Joel Gleason 301 523-9335
Interests: Nature Trail, Photography, Rifle & Pistol, Star Gazing

R. Stephen Greer 240 277-2611
Interests: Forestry, Rifle & Pistol, Shooting Sports

Brian Hagen 240 422-6678
Family: Kelley, Ainsley, Addison
Interests: Archery, Farm, Rifle & Pistol, Shooting Sports

Evan Kurtz 301 320-0634
Family: Lacey, Harrison, Henry
Interests: Archery, Scout Camp, Shooting Sports

Brian O'Berry 301 785-7082
Interests: Forestry, Photography, Rifle & Pistol

Megan O'Rourke 240 447-3020
Interests: Archery, Farm, Photography, Star Gazing

Jeffrey Pelton 301 913-2845
Family: Elissa
Interests: Nature Trail, Rifle & Pistol, Shooting Sports

Michael Sams 202 294-3550
Family: Jennifer
Interests: Building & Facility, Conservation Education, Farm, Forestry, Nature Trail, Ponds & Streams, Wildlife Management

Mark White 301 461-4381
Family: Pauline, Eliza, Verity
Interests: Farm, Nature Trail, Rifle & Pistol

For the Birds: FeederWatch and Winter Storm Juno

Jim Tate, Second Vice President
202 841-2056 jim@tate-tate.us

On the night of our January Dinner Meeting, an unanticipated snowsquall wreaked havoc with the roads. Lin and I got to our DC home from the Conservation Farm over three hours after we left B-CC IWLA. But, thanks to Larry Anderson and Ernie Smith the bird feeders had been filled and more feed was stored in the shed.

Then two days later the mid-Atlantic area was overwhelmed with a blizzard that buried us in tons of snow. Everyone, everywhere, was engaged in snow removal activities. And many of us were feeding the birds at home. For example, **Scott Harmon** reported "...lots of customers! I have filled [my feeders] twice since the storm." Nearly everyone reported lots of Cardinals in their back yards – here is the photo to prove it!



A newspaper article by E. Vernon Laux told the story: "The birds could sense the oncoming storm.... [They] frantically tried to eat as much food as possible... so as not to deplete whatever fat reserves they had stored. [D]awn ... found appalling conditions and all food on the ground buried in thick snow and even the fruits and berries on trees were covered with snow."

<http://www.capecodtimes.com/article/20150131/NEWS/150139912>

But what about the birds at B-CC IWLA? I am pleased to report that the feeders will continue to be filled regularly, and Project FeederWatch will continue this year until the April cutoff date. A dedicated group of feeder watchers under the direction and scheduling efforts of **Diane Seward** (<trina65@verizon.net>) will persist until the Citizen Science project is done for the year in April. Please contact Diane if you want to help out with FeederWatch. You can expect volunteer credit for your time.

And, spend a few moments with the FeederWatch website (<http://feederwatch.org/>) for articles like these:

- Chilly air & warm hearts: Chickadee winter romance
- Ruby-throated Hummingbirds: Wintering northward at a nectar feeder near you?
- What are they doing with all those seeds? –November 17, 2015
- New research links House Finch behavior at feeders to the acquisition and spread of eye disease.

Shotgun Range Report

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

ALL RANGE OFFICERS - THERE WILL BE A MANDATORY MEETING ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2016 AT 3:00PM IN THE CHAPTER HOUSE. ALL RANGE OFFICERS THAT DID NOT ATTEND THE JANUARY 9 MEETING ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND.

Now that the cold weather is upon us the # 4 trap over the mower shed is not to be used at any time house.

The card reader to access the range house should be installed soon. Only range officers that have served their duty days will have access. All new range officers will be given access once you sign up and serve your duty day.

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.

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, 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.

Sign-Up Sheet for 2016 has been posted in the range house.

RANGE OFFICER SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 7	Lawrence Kotchek
Sunday, February 14	Need a Range Officer
Sunday, February 21	Joel Graham / Jack Shaw
Sunday, February 28	Need a Range Officer

MARCH

Sunday, March 6	Ed Stewart / Bob Manning
Sunday, March 13	Need a Range Officer
Sunday, March 20	Need a Range Officer
Sunday, March 27	Need a Range Officer

HOURS OF OPERATION

Sunday's 9:00am to 5:00pm Trap, Skeet, Sporting Clays

Interpretive Walk in the Woods with Children

Izaak Walton National FAN Club Event (Family Adventures in Nature)

On Sunday, December 6, the B-CC IWLA Chapter hosted a "Family Adventures in Nature" event on behalf of the National Headquarters for the IWLA. Frank Parker liaised with National to set up the event, I prepared a little wreath-making project for the kids who attended & some snacks for everyone, and Byron "Butch" Mezick developed & led an interpretive tour for the young children and their families, who are the target audience of the FAN Club program. The day was an unqualified success. The parents loved the walk, the wreaths turned out well, and who doesn't love hot chocolate & s'mores? The tour was the crown jewel, complete with a number of bones, skins, and wild artifacts that Butch had collected for the kids to touch while they learned about the

woods and woodland creatures around them. I asked Butch to summarize the experience in his own unique style to help convey the value of getting our youth out into the wild outdoors at the earliest possible age – *Tucker Mostrom, Event Chairman*.

"Well, we all know that children are not getting enough and, in some cases any, exposure to nature. Providing a short interpretive walking tour on the Conservation Farm with young children was a great opportunity. I have plenty of experience providing interpretive walks in the woods, and I felt quite confident I could provide a hike on short notice. Then the children showed up. They were mostly three, four, and five years of age. No presentations about photosynthesis, carbon cycle, water cycle, or soil composition would gain any traction with these kids.

When the families arrived and the children began to interact with one another, it soon became apparent that energy for running and jumping far exceeded their ability to listen and concentrate. Just how do you connect a three, four and five year old with nature on their level and not lose their parents and older siblings? We began the hike with a brisk walk on the chapter's nature trail to dampen the unbridled bursts of preschool energy. Following the trail through the trees that now surrounded all of us had a wonderful calming effect as we arrived at our first discovery: a deer skull complete with antlers. We soon discovered another deer skull so now we all could **touch one** while we counted the number of points on the antlers. The children were amazing as their little faces exploded with wonder as they passed their new-found treasures to one another. While the smallest children examined the skull and counted the antler points the older children and adults were given a bit more information about the antlers: how they grow, when they fall off, and can you tell the age of a deer by their size? We continued our hike after selecting two volunteers to proudly carry the deer skulls.

Next, we passed a pile of trash that looked like an ugly scar in this beautiful woodland. We all repeated the words, "**Bad Trash**", and everyone promised never to discard their trash in the woods. While the children touched the discarded bottles, and other assorted trash the older folks were presented with just how long it takes for different types of trash to decay, Styrofoam bait container – at least one million years and a glass bottle – millions of years, if ever.

A life size turkey decoy of a strutting Tom Turkey was our next discovery. Yes, all the children were allowed to **touch** the decoy and he was soon named him Mr. Tom. A turkey box call was used to make turkey talk followed by a mouth call demonstrating several more lifelike turkey calls. No problem with attention now! The turkey mouth call was pure magic to our young hikers. We made another discovery of a pile of turkey feathers on the ground just behind Mr. Tom. Every young hiker now had the opportunity to select and keep forever their own real turkey feather. While the children petted Mr. Tom and selected their turkey feathers the older hikers were presented with additional turkey facts about a turkey's incredible eyesight, hearing and mating displays.

The next stop was the hands on activity of finding a recently placed natural treasure by using your newly developed sense of "**seeing in the woods**". Within a twenty-yard circle lots of easily found feathers, bones, antlers, and discarded trash were available for the children to find. After several minutes of searching we reassembled and each child was given a turn to loudly report to the others what they had found.

When you look into the eyes of a four-year-old child that you have just connected with the natural world you know that this is a day spent well." – *Butch Mezick, Forestry Chairman*

Conservation Dinner Presentation on Invasive Species

Frank Parker, Conservation Education Chairman
240 405-7395 (Cell)

On Saturday night, January 30, over 30 people attended Scott Cameron's informative and entertaining presentation on invasive species. Scott started off with a definition of invasive species, namely, that they are *alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health*.

Scott provided historical examples of the effects of invasive species that included the loss of chestnut and elm forests. He also discussed future risks that may result from the continuing introduction or uncontrolled existence of invasives, that is, the possible loss of ash and northern hardwood forests, the decimation of Hawaiian bird populations, and possibly a major disruption of the Great Lakes salmon fishery.

The discussion, in addition to listing numerous invasive plants, animals, insects, etc., noted the observations that

- Invasiveness is a behavior, not an identity
- Not all exotics demonstrate invasive tendencies
- By definition, all invasives are exotic
- One person's varmint is another's pet – like the Snake Head fish or Burmese Python snake
- Some native species are also pests (white tailed deer)
- Our native cute and cuddly critters can be invasive species on other continents (gray squirrel in Europe)

Mr. Cameron listed various statistics about the cost of invading species. In particular, he pointed out a Cornell University study that estimates that they cost the US economy about \$125 billion per year. Another study by the California Academy of Sciences estimated that the total effect of invasive species cost the global economy \$1.4 trillion yearly.

A somewhat controversial point raised was that invasive species are a more pressing, and possibly a more important issue than climate change.

Reasons provided to justify this assertion included:

- Invasive species impacts are readily apparent to everyone
- Impact from invasive species is now, not in the future
- Invasives are transforming ecosystems in real time
- Invasives species impacts move faster and further than climate change
- Invasive diseases clearly are killers

While the discussion began to lead some to believe that the fight against invasives was hopeless, Mr. Cameron suggested, "there is a path forward."

Namely:

- Invasive species can be cost-effectively prevented from entering the US
- Early detection and rapid response to new invasive species footholds is cost-effective
- Technology breakthroughs offer the possibility of large scale effective and cost-efficient control efforts, especially bio-control
- Good organization and adequate funding can work miracles
- Non-regulatory cooperative solutions work

Scott Cameron, who is the president of a 501(c)3 foundation called the Reduce Risks from Invasive Species Coalition pointed out that the RRISC is doing things to aid in the fight to control or mitigate invasives' damage. These include:

- Working closely with Congressional Invasive Species Caucus to raise awareness by hosting events

- Educating Congressional delegations
- Supporting federal agencies
- Recognizing and promoting best practices
- Focusing on 2019 Farm Bill
- Lobbying

If you are interested in learning more about invasives or participating in the work Mr. Cameron has taken on, the RRISC web site is www.rrisc.org.

By the way, some of you may not be aware that the Chapter is engaged in a fight against invasive plants on our Conservation Farm. In particular Butch Mezick our Forestry Committee Chairman is leading the effort in destroying the Autumn Olive plant near our A4 field. About \$8,000 dollars has been spent in this effort so far.

(For more about the Autumn Olive plant, see <http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/indiana/journeywithnature/autumn-olive.xml>)

Black Powder / Muzzleloader Event

Muzzleloading enthusiasts will gather for the annual spring Black Powder Clinic, Saturday, March 19 from 8:30am – 4:00pm. Black powder instruction will be given at the Chapter House until 9:30am and then down to the range 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 an chance to shoot at nonstandard targets. There will be prizes! For the match, up to five targets are to be shot at 25, 50, and 100 yards with prizes awarded for the best shooting.

Costs are \$10 for the afternoon shooting match plus any applicable R&P range fees. Bring your 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.



19th Annual Potomac Valley Chapter

Conservation & Sportsmen's Banquet
Saturday, March 5, 2016

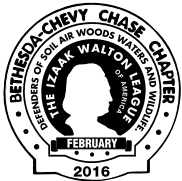
SOCIAL HOUR – 5:30pm ★ DINNER – 7:30pm

Only 175 Tickets Sold – First Come, First Served

For more information and tickets, please contact:

Dave Reichenbaugh
301-788-7327 or davidreichenbaugh@yahoo.com

URBANA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
3602 Urbana Pike, Urbana, MD 21704



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

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Suburban, MD

Rifle & Pistol Range Report

Thoran Menser, Chair
301 972-8353 thoran.menser2@verizon.net

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

RANGE OFFICER SIGN UP

This year's RO sign up will be held on Saturday, March 5 at 9:00am and on Saturday, March 12 and Saturday, March 19 at 3:30pm.

On March 5, 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 12 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.

The RO fees are \$50 for Family memberships and \$35 for Individual memberships. Remember this is based on your chapter membership type.

Wildlife Report

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Most hunting seasons have now closed. From the activity around the farm, it appears that many of our members enjoyed getting into our woods and fields. At this writing, we have had 18 deer reported taken from our farm which is down from the 26 last year and the 41 reported in the 2013. Thanks to all that reported their deer. There is still time to report harvested deer either by recording in the harvest log or emailing me directly.

While hunting seasons are over, wintertime provides an opportunity to get out into the woods to observe wildlife before springtime foliage fills in, and it appears that there are still many deer, turkeys and small game active on our farm. In the next few weeks, bucks will be shedding their antlers. If any of our members find sheds that they don't wish to keep, please consider donating them to our conservation education committee that puts on the global ecology programs. They have uses for sheds and other wildlife curios as visual aids in their demonstrations.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please submit all articles for the March 2016 newsletter
NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26
to Tom Lamkin at tomlamkin@comcast.net and Janet Lamkin at j.lamkin@comcast.net.