



President's Message

A new year means new possibilities! There are many different types of activities at the Chapter. Think about trying out a new one. Get involved.

Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Susan Cassell

Drone Program

Beginning in January 2022, we will offer a drone training program for our members. The program is ideal for members that have never flown a drone or those that would like to have more experience with drones before flying their drone outside. There are no requirements for participating other than an eagerness to learn new skills.



We will have simulators that provide a series of lessons on the basics with progression to a timed obstacle course or two. The simulator will provide a letter grade on how well you accomplished each mission. Additionally, we will have two Tello indoor drones and a lesson plan starting with the basics and progressing to more complicated maneuvers. You can progress at your own pace and choose your preferred mode of training (hands-on vs. simulator). We will announce the starting date in January.

Announcement of Election for Treasurer

At the next GM meeting on January 7, 2022, we will hold an Election for the Treasurer's Office. Melanie Wolfe has volunteered to be nominated as Treasurer to fill the remaining term of office for our current Treasurer Rick Wilkinson. Nominations will be made from the floor and will be elected by the majority vote of the qualified members present. No quorum is required.

January Speaker Focus

Samantha (Sam) Briggs has been with the Izaak Walton League of America for half a decade in various positions, including Clean Water Fellow, Save Our Streams Coordinator, Save Our Streams Manager, and now Clean Water Program Director. She has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from Cornell University, and a master's degree in Environmental Science and Policy from Johns Hopkins University. At the Izaak Walton League, she directs all clean water programs, including Virginia Save Our Streams volunteer monitoring, National Save Our Streams, and Winter Salt Watch (to name a few), where she gets to exercise her love of macroinvertebrate monitoring, environmental education, and conservation. In her spare time, she is an avid crafter, cook, and loves hiking with her dog and paddle boarding (also with her dog) in the warmer months.



Sam will be discussing the Winter Salt Watch program, including how to participate in the project and request your free monitoring kit, a brief demonstration of the project and how to participate, what road salt pollution trends are telling us on a nationwide scale, and what we can do to fix the problem for future generations.

New Positions Filled

Thank you to all who volunteered for the new positions that hope to relieve the Treasurer from some additional work. Nick Carrone has volunteered to be the Online Shopper and Kevin Wilson has volunteered for the Government Relations role. Thank you!

2022 Range Officer Training Class Schedule

The 2022 Range Officer Training Class schedule has been finalized. Classes will be held *March 19; May 21; August 27; and October 22* to train new range officers and recertify existing RO's due for recertification in 2022.

For *new* Range Officers, class prerequisites are that you must be Range Approved for at least six months; have a Range Officer Certification Card signed by three Duty Range Officers while using the pistol range on separate occasions before the class; and successfully complete a test on the Range Rules prior to the class. Upon class completion, new Range Officer candidates must also successfully serve as the Duty Range Officer during the live fire portion of a Range Orientation Practical Training Class for new members held each month to receive their Range Officer credentials.

Existing RO's require recertification every 5 years, which consists of completing the RO Training Class and the pre-course test on the Range Rules. RO's requiring recertification in 2022 will be contacted in January after membership renewals close for their class date preference.

RO's are granted the privilege of using the rifle and pistol ranges (see the Range Rules for specific times) when a Duty Range Officer is not present on weekends. With the privilege of greater range access comes a responsibility - you must serve as a Duty Range Officer for a three or four-hour weekend shift approximately twice each year.

For more information or to register for a class, contact Duval Crist. Also, look for specific newsletter announcements in advance of the *March 19; May 21; August 27; and October 22, 2022* classes.

~ Duval Crist, Range Coordinator ~

Wood Duck Conservation in January

With January just around the corner, it's time to once again prepare the Chapter's wood duck nest boxes for the spring nesting season. This is a great opportunity to get a jump on your volunteer hours for 2022, contribute to a worthwhile conservation activity, and work alongside some great people in the process. This year's work days will include January 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th, and February 6th. Each Sunday, volunteers will go out in the field to repair and replace boxes, check the predator guards, cut away brush and, most importantly, record nesting success from last spring. And as you can imagine, it takes many hands to get the job done so please consider joining us for one or more work days.

If you are not familiar with the program, the Chapter's Wood Duck Conservation effort has helped maintain nesting boxes and monitor wood duck populations since the 1950's. IWLAR maintains about 75 wood duck nesting boxes in Montgomery County, mostly in McKee Beshers Wildlife Management Area west of Poolesville. Winter is the best time to prepare them for the birds' arrival in late February/early March.

Wood Duck Conservation (continued)

A few days before each wood duck work day, details about the next work day's meeting location, etc., will be announced via the IWLAR Google Group. Assignment of specific tasks will happen that Sunday morning, on-site. In general, we meet at the designated location at 10:00 a.m. and work is usually done by 1:00 p.m. The boxes are in wooded swamps and that requires wading in shallow water so chest waders or hip boots are ideal. For those who do not have their own, the Chapter has a few loaner pairs available. All tools and repair materials are supplied; you just bring the warm, willing body.

Keep an eye out for the weekly announcements in January on the IWLAR Google Group and sign up when you can. To sign up for any of the work days contact Joe Walther. Hope to see you out there!

You are looking at the front row of two stacked rows!

On December 12th there was a work party held at the lake to split and stack wood. Just a few days prior, member Pete Vlantis and President Susan Cassell filled up and delivered a trailer full of good split wood that needed to be stacked along with our on-site split wood from downed trees.



The work party turn-out was great and not due to needing volunteer hours – the folks that showed up love the outdoors and don't mind some hard work. They were; Jay Copsey, Bill Jackson, Jeff Lininger, Melanie Wolf and David Mast, Ken Northup, Dietrich Ruehlmann, Fred Snead, Pete Vlantis, Tom Vegella, and Kent Shaw. Pete brought his nephew and some friends that did good work too. There are now two parallel stacks of wood for member on site usage. Thanks everyone!

New Program – Garden Plots

Rick and Juanita McMullan have been tending to the Pollinator Garden at the Chestnut Orchard for many years. Rick proposed a new program, that was approved by the Board, to break up some of the Pollinator Garden into Garden Plots for members. Details will follow in the February newsletter. If you are interested, email Rick McMullan.

New Members Recently Inducted

Isaac Booth	Gaithersburg
Lynn Fantle	Clarksburg
Don Klein	Montgomery Village
Jacob Song	Rockville
Melanie Wolf & David Mast	Germantown
Chris & Alison Weatherly	New Market

A warm welcome to all!

Power at the Lake

We now have a power inverter installed at the Lake Pavilion. Many thanks to Pete Vlantis and his friend for their help with the installation. The inverter converts the 12v battery power to 115v AC current for users of our solar system. Members should evaluate the type of appliances that they wish to use with the inverter to make sure that it does not overload the system. Also, extended use of the inverter can create a high drain on the batteries and may result in system shutdown during nightfall. It is best to use higher load appliances during daylight hours so that the power from the solar panels can partially offset power used and the solar system can fully recharge the batteries before nightfall. To use an appliance on the inverter, plug it into the AC outlet first and then turn the inverter on. When finished, unplug the appliance and turn the inverter off. This is important because leaving the inverter on with no appliance being used can still consume about 0.8 amps of battery power. The inverter can sustain a maximum of 700 watts of continuous power draw total with a 1400 watts surge. Here is a list of appliances that may and may not be used on the inverter.

Power at the Lake (Continued)

Appliance Guide for Our Power Inverter

Examples of Appliances That May be Used	Examples of Appliances to Avoid
Laptop Computer	Toasters and Toaster Ovens
Small Blenders (short duration)	Electric Blankets
Overhead Projector	Hair Dryers
Television	Microwaves
Keurig Coffee Makers (maybe)	Hot Plates
Small ice chests and refrigerators	High-amperage Tools
CPAP machine	Popcorn Makers
Radios	Hair Curlers
Battery Chargers that Require AC	
Air Mattress Pumps	
Ham Radio Equipment	
Small Fan	

Ike's Want Ads

To Place a non-commercial ad, write to the Chapter's PO Box, or contact Todd Anderson. Ads must be submitted by third Friday of the month.