



President's Message

It's still cold outside, but you can notice that the days are getting longer. That makes me feel that Spring isn't too far away. That also means our Chapter activities will start gearing up as well. Keep a look out on the Chapter calendar as well as posts to the iwlar@googlegroups.com for activities.

I will also be posting the Chapter Organization Chart. There are several open positions needed to be filled. If there is an area you are interested in, but it already has a Chair, contact them to let them know you are interesting in helping. It is all our volunteers that make this Chapter operate successfully.

Be well,
Susan Cassell

New Treasurer Elected

At the January GM meeting, we elected Melanie Wolf as our new Treasurer. I can't thank Melanie enough for volunteering for this important position. The Chapter cannot run without it filled. I would also like to thank our past Treasurer Rich Wilkinson for his efforts over the past year.

Tentative Water Sports Schedule for 2022

The hearty souls who participate in the Chapter's water sports should mark their calendars. New participants are always welcome as well!

- June 4 Kayak Class at the Lake
- June 18 Monocacy, Route 550 to Devilbliss Bridge
- July 9 Antietam Creek
- July 30 Monocacy, Lily Ponds to Mouth of Monocacy
- Aug 20 Violet's Lock Circuit
- Sept 17 Harper's Ferry
- Oct 22 Fletcher's to Columbia Island

February Road Cleanup

Waring Station Road Cleanup - Earn 2 volunteer hours working on the Waring Station Road cleanup, whether it takes 2 hours or not. Meet in the Chapter House parking lot from 1-3 pm on February 6th (Sunday). Many hands make light work. Come join us!

The February 4 General Membership Meeting with be on Zoom only. At the time of the Newsletter's publication, the Febuary 18 Board of Directors Meeting is a hybrid of Zoom and in-person.

February Speaker

Rick McMullan will be our speaker for the February GMM. He will discuss Garden Plots (see p. 2).



Congratulations NRA Certified Rifle Instructors!

The Rockville Chapter conducted its first National Rifle Association (NRA) Basic Instructor Training (BIT) and Rifle Instructor Course on January 15-16, 2022, attended by Stan Peter, Kirk Lew, Jose Cabrita, and Dean Sauder, joined by other volunteer NRA Instructors of the Chapter's Firearms Training Team: Ricardo and Katie Rodrigues and Rich Clement.



To become an NRA Certified Rifle Instructor, candidates must successfully complete the NRA Basics of Rifle Shooting Course, NRA BIT and Rifle Instructor Course, and an Instructor level rifle shooting qualification. The newly certified Rifle Instructors will help teach the Chapter's NRA Basics of Rifle Shooting Course designed to provide students the basic knowledge, skills, and attitude necessary for safe rifle shooting where they learn the NRA rules for safe gun handling, rifle parts and operation, ammunition, shooting fundamentals and positions, range rules, cleaning, and continued opportunities for skill development. Information on the Chapter's 2022 Firearms Training Courses are available at <https://www.iwlar.org/firearm-training-classes/>

The Deal on Garden Plots

A limited number of garden plots (8-12) will be made available for IWLAR members on a lottery basis. These plots will be within the fenced area of the chestnut orchard and pollinator garden. Initial plots will be 10 by 12 feet. As this is a pilot program, there will be only a limited amount of rain water and tool shed space for gardeners to use.

Terms of use for the IWLAR garden plots will be similar to other community gardens in the county:

IWLAR Garden Plot Description and Signup:

Each plot is 10 feet by 12 feet, marked by a number that you will be assigned. Garden area is fenced and locked. You will be given the combination along with a plot assignment.

Lots are assigned by lottery to be announced on President's Day (February 21). A waiting list is maintained in the event a plot becomes available later in the season.

Water is limited to what the rain barrel collects, be prepared to BYO (bring your own), especially during dry spells. You must bring your own gardening tools and take them home after use.

There is a deer fence but currently no protection against burrowing animals. Deer fence must be kept free of plants and vines.

Trellises and fencing under 4 feet are allowed.

Conditions of Use:

Gardens must be tended weekly. Abandoned plots will be reassigned.

Garden closed December, January and February. Gardens should be set for overwintering by Thanksgiving. Trellises may stay up over winter.

County Community Garden Guidelines:

By April 1, gardeners must begin working in plots including weeding, soil amendment, and cultivation.

By June 1, most of the plot space must be planted. During the gardening season, dead plants and those that have stopped producing should be removed in a timely manner.

By Thanksgiving, gardeners must remove weeds, dead plants and summer garden debris from plots.

Insect, disease, and weed control products must be OMRI-listed (Organic Materials Review Institute.) Herbicides labeled as OMRI-listed or organic can be used in the community garden.

Chapter Newsletter Distribution

Going forward, electronic distribution of the IWLAR-Rockville Chapter Newsletter will be the default. Chapter members may still receive a hard copy but will be required to "opt in" to do so. To receive a hard copy only, contact Judy Danish.

If you do not receive the Newsletter in your email and wish to do so, contact David Schwartzman.

Environmental Objectives for 2022.

- 1) Share the EMS Manual (2021 version) with Chapter activities leaders and the general membership.
- 2) Ranges:
 - a. Continue current usage of pistol, rifle, shotgun ranges.
 - b. Continue routine pH monitoring of designated areas each spring and fall with application of lime as needed to maintain a pH range between 6.5 and 8.5 in the shot fall zones that are exposed to water to avoid the risk of lead migration.
 - c. Maintain healthy vegetation on the ranges in areas where lead may be present from current or historic use in order to prevent ingestion of lead by wildlife, soil erosion or lead migration.
 - d. Maintain physical barriers to reduce the potential of runoff causing erosion or migration of lead.
- 3) Soil. Continue to monitor for erosion problems on the Chapter property, and develop and implement solutions, such as a new trailhead for the Emma King Nature Trail.
- 4) Energy & Wastes.
 - a. Continue to mow grass on the tractor roads as needed to reduce exposure to ticks of members hiking the Chapter's trails. Care should be taken not to drive on saturated soils to prevent soil compaction, rutting and erosion.
 - b. Continue to evaluate the benefits of the reduced mowing around the lake edges.
 - c. Evaluate options for the light located by the archery shed and to monitor electrical usage.
 - d. Recruit a team that will educate Chapter members on best practices for recycling, and coordinate Chapter efforts.
- 5) Wildlife.
 - a. Evaluate possible solutions for the silting in the mill race to ensure a continued habitat for wood frogs and spotted salamander breeding site.
 - b. Continue efforts to recruit a leader for maintaining bird nesting boxes on the Chapter grounds.

The Rockville Email Group

The Rockville Chapter operates a members-only email list for announcements and discussions among members. The newsletter comes out once a month, so the email group is the only way to stay informed about important things that occur in between newsletters. You will be added to iwlar@googlegroups.com automatically when you become a member unless you request not to be added. You can remove your address from the list anytime but we are hopeful that you will not do this because the list is the most effective way to receive short notice activity announcements and cancellations.

IWLA Winter Salt Watch

At the January GMM, Sam Biggs from the IWLA National Office gave a presentation on the “Winter Salt Watch.” The amount of road salt that gets into our water supply is surprisingly high, even into our ostensibly clean drinking water.

The League is joining with a number of other Conservation organizations to monitor salt content in our local waterways.

Members are encourage to take the Salt Watch Pledge, and the League will send a free kit with everything they need to find out whether road salt pollution is a problem in their local stream. More information, including kit contents and how to acquire a kit, is available at <https://www.iwla.org/water/stream-monitoring/winter-salt-watch>.

New Members Recently Inducted

Brian & Lori Parr	Silver Spring
Carlos & Marilyn Pena	Germantown
Isaac Paez	N. Potomac
SteveWilliams	Gaithersburg

A warm welcome to all!

Ike'sWant 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.