



President's Message

The new year always gets off to a good start in January with the Wood Duck work parties. If you haven't tried it yet, the last outing is Sunday, February 5th. There's also a Road Cleanup that day, so you can start getting some volunteer hours in early. It's relatively quiet around the Chapter now, but as things warm up there will be more work parties to build the upper bridge on the trail, weed the Chapter gardens, clear out invasives on the property, and many more tasks. Keep an eye on the iwlar@googlegroups.com for announcements. I can't thank all of our volunteers enough for all they do to maintain our Chapter.

Susan Cassell

Environmental Video competition for teens

National Geographic is offering 13-18 year olds the opportunity to submit a one-minute video with their solution to current environmental problems as part of their "SlingShot Challenge." Videos must be submitted by February 24 for a chance at one of five \$10,000 top prizes. For more information, go to <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/society/projects/slingshot/>

MD Waltonion Now Publishing Announcements

The Maryland Division's publication is going all Digital and will now include announcements of future events in addition to recaps of previous events. These are for events 1-3 months after the publication month. If authors of submissions to the Rockville Chapter's newsletter would also like their announcement to be forwarded to the State, please contact Todd Anderson.

Road Cleanup Chair Needed

Our Road Cleanup Chair John Lawrence has been organizing Waring Station Road cleanups every other month, on the Sunday following the Friday GM meeting, from 1 - 3 pm. He has been Chair for the last couple of years and is ready to step down. He'll stay on for another couple of cleanups hoping to train a new chairperson.

It is an easy way to get your volunteer hours in. You also get to see what the beverage of preference of those that travel the road like to toss out of the car.

Those interested should contact Susan Cassell.

February Speaker Focus

Ryan Colliton has served as the Principal Natural Resources Specialist for Montgomery Parks since 2019. Prior to this he spent 17 years as a natural resources manager in Michigan. He is currently overseeing efforts to prioritize conservation areas for management and restoration considering such factors as habitat rarity, conservation of protected species, and coverage of invasive species.



Ryan will discuss the impacts of non-native invasive species on native habitats, factors to consider when implementing a control program, and prioritization of efforts.

Ike's Time Capsule: The Emma Strider Story

Emma T. Strider (1881-1971) was a wealthy and socially prominent resident of Washington D.C., whose gift of land helped found both Seneca Creek State Park and Strider Wildlife Management Area. She also gave a permanent home to the Rockville Chapter of the Izaak Walton League.

"Miss Emma Strider," as she was known, was the only child of the Honorable Luke C. Strider, a Judge of the Municipal Court of Washington D.C. As a judge's daughter, Emma held a high place in Washington society. Never marrying, she devoted herself to good works and charities appropriate to a woman of her high social standing. She was especially proud that she was directly descended from patriots of 1776, and she held several national offices in the Daughters of the American Revolution. She also served as secretary for the Junior division (under 18 years of age) of the Washington DC chapter of the Audubon society, which suggests a commitment to both conservation and youth education.

In February 1949, after the death of her father and mother, Emma sold a portion of her father's former farming and hunting lands, located along Clopper Road in Germantown, Maryland, to the Rockville Chapter of the Izaak Walton League for the ceremonial sum of \$10. The Izaak Walton League is one of America's oldest and most successful conservation organizations, and the Rockville Chapter has made its home on the lands Miss Emma sold to them since 1949. The deed of sale required that the land be forever used "for the purposes of the conservation of the soil, waters, woods and wild life."

Almost simultaneous with the sale of part of her father's farm to the Rockville Chapter of the Izaak Walton League, Miss Emma offered to donate the other 275 acres of the farm to the State of Maryland to be a wildlife refuge. Accepting this generous gift, the State Board of Natural Resources noted that "the property was ... ideally situated for a recreation area, and forest and game preserve."

Emma's gift became a towering legacy. Following her donation, the Board of Natural Resources began purchasing other nearby land. In this way, Emma's wonderful donation became the inspiration for creating Seneca Creek State Park. However, the exact 275 acres Emma gave to the people of Maryland in 1949 are not part of the Park. Instead, they are now Strider Wildlife Management Area, named in Miss Emma's honor and set aside for supporting birds, fish and wildlife.

NRA Certified Pistol Instructors!

On January 14-15, 2023, the Rockville Chapter conducted its first National Rifle Association (NRA) Basic Instructor Training (BIT) and Pistol Instructor Course offered in a decade. To become an NRA Certified Pistol Instructor, candidates must successfully complete the NRA Basics of Pistol Shooting Course, NRA BIT and Pistol Instructor Course, and an Instructor level pistol shooting qualification.

Pistol Instructors (Continued)

The course was attended by Nick Carone, Shankar Dhanaraj, Brian Gruber, Pete Lee, Joe Ober, Jacob Song, Adam Sutherland, Travis Vaught, Hengzhi Wei, and Jim Williams, joined by other volunteer NRA Instructors of the Chapter's Firearms Training Team: Yien Tsai and Rich Clement.



The newly certified Pistol Instructors will help teach the Chapter's NRA Basics of Pistol Shooting Course designed to provide students the basic knowledge, skills, and attitude necessary for safe pistol shooting where they learn the NRA rules for safe gun handling, pistol components and operation, ammunition, shooting fundamentals, range rules, cleaning, and continued opportunities for skill development. The Chapter's 2023 NRA Training Courses are available from <https://www.iwlar.org>.

Do you have an interest in archery?

We invite you to expand your knowledge and skills! Earn your Level-1 USA Archery certification.

This certification allows you to help coach IWLAR's summer archery program or other beginner archery programs.

Certification is open to ages 15-1/2-adult. The certification program consists of two parts:

- 1) Self-paced online course and test (approx 3 hours). Must be completed by April 16, 2023
- 2) Practical course: In-person at IWLAR's archery range-Sunday, April 23, 2023 | 1:00-5:00 pm

Fees:

- 1) Online course: \$40 + tax paid directly to USA Archery
- 2) IWLAR registration and practical: \$45

Registration instructions: Complete the online registration form using the link below. You will then be sent a PayPal invoice for the IWLAR registration. After payment is received you will receive a link and information on how to register to take the online course.

For more details and to register go to: <https://form.jotform.com/230076216868056>

Questions: Contact Martha Patterson.

New Members Recently Inducted

Dominic Cheng Derwood

Marlon Derecho Germantown

Geoff Wilson & Angela Rini Potomac

A warm welcome to all!

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.

Individuals will be added to iwlar@googlegroups.com automatically when they become a member unless they request not to be added. Members can remove their address from the list anytime but we are hopeful that they will not do this because the list is the most effective way to receive short notice activity announcements and cancellations.

Chapter Newsletter Distribution

Going forward, electronic distribution of the IWLA-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.

Meeting Night Meals

Volunteers are needed to cook throughout the year. Pick a month and get your six volunteer hours in one night. For more information contact Jeri Crist.

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.