



### President's Message

This month's message is taking a different format, which I hope you'll find very informative and dynamic. The format will feature different aspects of our Chapter in a more detailed way than I can do writing each message – by having members from our activities share what's happening first-hand in their activity area. For February, I asked Duval Crist, the Range Coordinator, to showcase our ranges, shooting sports activities, training, and education programs.

Enjoy his contribution and thank you Duval for serving as Range Coordinator.

Noel Gollehon, President

### View from the Range Coordinator

2024 is already shaping up to be a fun and busy year with the ranges. First, I'd like to introduce our chapter range safety committee - Paolo Amedeo (pistol range chair); Bill Leaman (rifle range chair); John Shea (shotgun range chair); David Schwartzman (range officer scheduler); Rich Clement (NRA training coordinator); Jay Copsy (second vice president); Noel Gollehon (president); and myself (range coordinator). We meet every month to discuss, plan, and act on range maintenance issues, improvements, training, and running our ranges. If you have ideas or suggestions on how our ranges should be constructed or operated, please reach out to us.

We're currently shopping for a Dutch Shed to be placed at the right side of the pistol range to store training equipment needed for all the shooting activities we have! John Shea is planning rabbit runs at the shotgun range, so stay tuned for more details. And speaking of activities! A Range Officer training class is right around the corner (March 16) and the NRA training is very active.

Periodically check the Chapter website and pay attention to the Google Group email as "unannounced" to the public trainings will likely be added to the schedule. We've shared details of our Range Orientation and Officer trainings with Bethesda-Chevy Chase as they are looking to revamp their programs.

In a couple of short months, the weather will be getting warmer, and the days will be noticeably longer, which means the outdoor pistol, muzzleloader, and rifle leagues will be off again for another season, followed by the summer archery program (and Sunday morning pellet shoots)! Participating in our chapter shooting sports and

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activities along with using our ranges for safe, enjoyable recreational shooting is a great way to get outdoors and relax!

Sincerely,  
Duval Crist  
Range Coordinator

### February GMM Speaker Focus

Mark W. Pennak is President, Maryland Shall Issue (MSI). MSI is a Section 501(c)(4), all-volunteer, non-partisan organization dedicated to the preservation and advancement of gun owners' rights in Maryland. It seeks to educate the community about the right of self-protection, the safe handling of firearms, and the responsibility that goes with carrying a firearm in public. MSI was instrumental in the defeat of the HQL license requirements and defeat of Montgomery County's rules on possession of firearms near a place of assembly.



Mark is an attorney and an active member of the Bar of the District of Columbia and the Bar of Maryland. He recently retired from the United States Department of Justice, where he practiced law for 33 years in the Court of Appeals of the United States and in the Supreme Court of the United States. He is an expert in Maryland Firearms Law, federal firearms law and the law of self-defense. Mark is also a Maryland State Police certified handgun instructor for the Maryland Wear and Carry Permit and the Maryland Handgun Qualification License and a certified NRA instructor in rifle, pistol, personal protection in the home, personal protection outside the home, muzzle loading, as well as a range safety officer.

## **BOD Updates**

Some highlights from the January 19 WLAR Board of Directors meeting. (The BoD meetings are open to all members.)

- A recently matured Certificate of Deposit will be reinvested for 6 months
- Funds were approved to purchase a new Chapter computer for the Range cards team.
- Phillip Mariscal will lead an evaluation of the Montgomery County Stormwater Partners Network and provide guidance for Chapter membership in the organization.
- Gutter guards will be added to the main shed and the Caretaker's Cottage paid by 2024 budgeted funds.
- The Chapter will be ordering blue water bottles with the Chapter logo soon for the "Bring your own Canteen" campaign to reduce single use plastics at Chapter activities and events.

Committee changes and needs:

- The 3D Archery program needs a new team leader.
- A team is needed to inventory the Chapter's computer and printers.
- A team will be appointed by President Gollehon soon to advertise and evaluate bids for the lake project.
- Someone is needed to coordinate ordering Chapter merchandise like water bottles and clothing with the IWLA logo.

## **Lake Sediment Control Project**

After years of trying to get the needed permits, we have been told that we are almost ready to move to the construction stage of the Lake Sediment Control project. If you have earthmoving, survey, or soil engineering experience and would like to help us screen and review potential contractors, we need your help! If you have interest or questions, please contact Noel at [President@IWLAR.org](mailto:President@IWLAR.org) soon, as the committee is forming now. We will have a committee organized by February 7 to begin working on identifying and screening potential contractors.

## **Chapter Newsletter Distribution**

The Chapter has recently changed the Newsletter distribution options. Electronic distribution of the IWLA-Rockville Chapter Newsletter is now 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.

## **Need a Volunteer to Run 3D Archery**

It is never too early to think about the Rockville Chapter's summer activities. The Chapter needs a volunteer to run 3D Archery. Anyone interested please contact Jay Copsey.

## **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](mailto: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.

## **Great Wintertime photo of the Lake**



Many thanks to Rocky Rakshit for sharing

## **Save our Streams (SOS) events for 2024**

Sunday, May 26, 2024, 1 - 4pm ET

Sunday, July 14, 2024, 1 - 4pm ET

Sunday, September 15, 2024, 1 - 4pm ET

SOS stream quality testing falls under our Jr. Youth Conservation activities. We hold these events at two sites in Great Seneca Creek at the Rockville Chapter. During SOS testing, we take students, age 10 and over, into the creek to collect benthic macroinvertebrates to classify according to pollution tolerance. This classification process, using an IWLA protocol, helps our volunteers obtain a reading of stream health based on the number and type of bugs they find. These events allow kids to practice one of several stream sampling methods used by scientists around the world. They also allow immersion (below the knee) in the natural world, as our volunteers venture into the creek to collect samples before analyzing them at the Lake Pavillion.

Parents must accompany their children to the event but need not enter the water.

If you have questions about these events or SOS in general, please contact Phillip Mariscal.

## **Salt Pollution in Our Fresh Water**

(Excerpt for the National League's publication *Outdoor America*)

We may be on our way to a crisis in our supply of fresh water on Earth due to increased levels of salt. Deicers like road salt serve as one of the main sources of excess salt that pollutes fresh water in the United States.

While we often think water is abundant on Earth, the vast majority is salt water in our oceans. Only three percent is fresh water.

Chloride occurs naturally in the environment—in underground aquifers and coastal saltwater spray, for example. However, increased chloride concentrations nationwide are caused by humans, coming from road salt, water softener discharge, sewage effluent, processing plants and fertilizers. In some regions, irrigation of crops increases the salinization of the soil, which can contribute to higher concentrations in waterways.

These higher concentrations of chloride in our water deliver a host of problems. The combination of physical, chemical and environmental harms from these salt sources is called “freshwater salinization syndrome.”

## **Salt Pollution (continued)**

In a study published in October, 2023 in *Nature Reviews Earth & Environment*, the authors describe the “cascading direct and indirect human health impacts associated with salinization,” ranging from hypertension to cancers. And the corrosive role of salt triggers the release of lead and other harmful chemicals in pipes that carry drinking water to American homes, schools and businesses. That was a factor in the toxic levels of lead in the drinking water in Flint, Michigan, which triggered a public health emergency.

Data revealed by the U.S. Geological Survey also in October show sharp spikes in chloride pollution also in the groundwater in regions where a lot of road salt is applied, such as New England, the Midwest and the mid-Atlantic. In the Southwest, decades of irrigation and evaporation have increased the salinization of the soil, which has leached salt into the groundwater.

To continue go to

<https://www.iwla.org/publications/outdoor-america/articles/outdoor-america-2023-issue-4/salt-pollution-in-our-fresh-water-a-costly-crisis-for-human-health-infrastructure-and-aquatic-life>