



President’s Message

Can’t you just almost taste it? Spring, that is. It is coming and I am looking forward to no jacket outdoor days. (It got cold enough to wear my “big coat” only two or three times all winter, but I am still looking forward to Spring.) Our daffodils are 10-inches high and a sure sign that spring is on its way.

As it warms, the IWLAR grounds and lake have many opportunities to get out and enjoy those no-jacket days. The trails will soon be a place to spot native wildflowers. And the lake has trout for your fishing (and eating) pleasure. The ranges are open and it is time to get outside!

Speaking of the lake, we will be stocking trout on March 7 at 8:30 am. This is an event you should participate in at least once. It is great for kids too. When the stocking truck arrives, we transport the fish from the truck by bucket to the end of the dock, where they are dumped into the lake. (We have fewer problems when the fish are placed in deeper water away from shore.) If you can carry a 5-gallon bucket-full of water and fish, it is a fun morning! And as always, the lake will be closed to all fishing the day of the stocking. That lets the fish spread out and adjust to our lake.

We are also making progress on the silt reduction project to be constructed on the inflow stream. We are talking with potential contractors and have a committee formed to review their proposals. If all goes well, construction will take place later this year. This will result in some lake access restrictions and closures as construction occurs. There will be adequate notice so stay tuned for updates.

For those that would like to get out for an activity, we will be starting spring work parties soon. I already know that work on the suspension bridge to finish the re-decking will begin in April. Spring is a great time to get your volunteer hours in (before the summer heat) and get outside to support your IWLAR organization.

Noel Gollehon

Lake closure scheduled for March 7

The lake is closed to all fishing the day of stocking to give the new trout a chance to spread out and adjust to our lake's conditions. No fishing is allowed on the day of stocking.

March Speaker Focus

The March GMM speaker is Duval Crist, who will discuss American Civil War living history, battle re-enactments, and live fire events of Civil War firearms while portraying a late-war period Union infantry private soldier. An American Civil War buff, Duval began civil war re-enacting and living history in 1980 and actively served in field artillery and infantry units.



Duval in 1864

Duval recently concluded a 37-year career in the intelligence community, having served in assignments at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, National Reconnaissance Office, and Office of the Director of National Intelligence. He looks forward to visiting western theatre civil war battlefields and historic sites, stargazing in dark skies and chasing astronomical events, and of course, serving as the Rockville Chapter Range Coordinator (and using the ranges more...).

Maryland Department of Natural Resources Offers Grants for Invasive Fish Removal

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is now accepting applications for invasive fish control grants of up to \$5,000. This grant program seeks to support effective ways to remove invasive fish, particularly blue catfish and Northern snakeheads, from Maryland waters and identify sustained beneficial uses of caught fish. The application deadline is April 15, 2024, and awards will be announced in early May.



Anglers show their catch of large blue catfish at the 2022 Sharptown Catfish Tournament. Maryland DNR photo.

If any of our members would like to join a collaborative committee to develop a grant proposal on this, please contact Kent Shaw.

Trout Stocking on March 7, 8:30 am

Members are welcome to join us for the spring trout stocking at the lake on March 7, 8:30 am. The delivery truck historically has arrived early or right on time. It only takes about 30 minutes to put the trout in the lake. So if you wish to participate, do not be too late. Please check the website for any updates. (There can be a date change depending on other deliveries.)

Learn Archery This Summer!

If you or your kids have ever wanted to learn the fundamentals of archery or improve your skills, IWLAR's Summer Archery is the program for you!

You'll learn proper shooting form and fundamentals in a safe and family-friendly environment from our USAA-trained instructors. All equipment is provided. IWLAR members can register their children ages 10-18 and member adults. Sessions will take place on Sundays June 2-July 14, 2024 (no session on July 7) from 12:30-2:00pm.

IWLAR member registration opens March 1. First come, first serve basis. Member rate: \$55/person. For more information and registration, go to: <https://www.iwlar.org/archery/>.

If you have questions, please contact Martha Patterson at archery@iwlar.org.

Kayak Class

An introductory kayak class is scheduled, rain or shine, for June 1 from 9 AM to 3 PM at our Chapter House and lake. All kayak equipment will be provided. This class consists of a classroom portion followed by kayaking on our lake. It is for those who have never kayaked and those with limited experience. The session will cover safety, parts of a kayak, entry and exit, and more.

Participation is for those age 8 through adult. For more information see the Water Sports tab under Recreation at our website - iwlar.org. To register, send an email to iwlarwatersports@gmail.com with the number of adults and number of children and their ages. Chapter members are needed that day to assist with transporting equipment to and from the lake and to assist participants while on the water. This is a great way to earn your volunteer hours. Volunteers please send an email to the same address with your name and the hours you are available to help.

Also, the Chapter is planning kayaking excursions on the following dates:

Jun 15 Monocacy: MD Rte 77 to Creagerstown Park

July 20 Antietam: Devil's Backbone to MD Rte 34

Aug 17 Harper's Ferry

Sept 21 Violette's Lock

Oct 26 Potomac: Fletcher's or Monocacy Aqueduct

Fly Tying Hosted by Chesapeake Women Anglers

Recurring Fly-Tying sessions at Chapter House upper level on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 11 AM - 2 PM. Sessions begin March 21 and re-occur each month throughout the year. Classes are led by 2 members of CWA and will include an occasional guest tyer.

Although there are several fly-tying opportunities throughout the area, including at the Chapter House, all occur in person and either on the weekends or in the evening hours. The Chesapeake Women Anglers fly tying team saw a need among its members to provide an additional time slot to accommodate those people who want to join in but for whatever reason, cannot attend in person during those hours. These mid-day, mid-week, "in-person" sessions along with the "Zoom" option create an opportunity for those who live too far away, who don't want to drive at night, who work from home and can flex their hours, or who are retired and have a few spare hours mid-day.

These sessions are free. Tyers are encouraged to bring their own vices and tools; however, a few vices and tools will be available for the "In-Person" sessions. Materials for tying the fly of the day will also be available. Although some sessions will require advanced tying skills, all levels of tyers are welcome. Observers are also welcome.

Participants will be asked to sign a liability release form at the door. Contact Norma Kawecki to receive the Zoom link to and to find out what material will be needed for next session.

Jr. Air Rifle Student participates in finals of the Robert Inness Memorial Match

Five of our Jr. Air Rifle students participated in the 11th Annual Robert Inness Memorial Air Rifle Match. The first stage is a 3x10 postal match with our 5 students mailing in targets shot at our Chapter. The top 8 junior shooters, which included our own Emma Lee (shown on the far left in the picture below), participated in a 3x20 shoulder-to-shoulder match on Feb. 10th at IWLA WAC in Damascus. Emma moved from 8th place to 5th place in the finals, only beaten by the 4 members of the Navy Jr. ROTC team. Congratulations Emma!



New Members Recently Inducted

Kevin & Lisa Blanc Gaithersburg
Junior Manogaran & Cecilia Blanc Clarksburg
Lester Rodriguez Germantown

A warm welcome to all!

Highlights from the February 16 WLAR BOD

We transferred cash above current needs, from the checking and savings accounts to invest in a Certificate of Deposit (3 months at 5.25% yield).

Gutter guards have been installed on the main shed and the Caretaker's Cottage.

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.

IWLAR will contribute to the Friends of Seneca and Patuxent River State Parks in 2024. The Park is our neighbor, and the "Friends" organization provides support to the park.

The Board approved taking a request to the full membership to revise the budget to add an additional \$2,000 to the Forestry budget to support the spraying of lesser celandine—a very invasive plant.

Our internal audit is now being scheduled for March.

Ike's Want Ads

1. S&W 1911, 100th year Commemorative .45; engraved & cased \$1,300
 2. S&W, Model 38 Hammerless; 5" Nickel; Mint; manuf.1909 \$975
 3. Colt 1911 Custom Shop Commemorative .45, 2011, New in Box \$1,300
 4. Walther PPKs; 22lr, Blue; LNIB \$650
- Call for information and photos contact Terry Popkin at tjpopkin@mac.com or 301-742-3131.