



President's Message

Is it spring? After what seems like a forever cold winter for us (like Wisconsin), spring may be just around the corner. With spring comes increased opportunities to get outdoors and enjoy IWLA-Rockville (IWLA-R). Whether it is a spring walk in the woods, or a day at the ranges it is time to get outside. You may want to oil up your firearm because the shooting leagues (pistol, rifle and muzzleloader) all start in April. Watch the website and look for the google group announcement for enrollment details. You do not have to be a crack shot to come out and have fun. (Trust me I know based on my performance in the air pistol league.)

Lake water levels have improved but are still low, and we have not yet stocked trout. Three weeks after the snowcrete ice storm you still need a 4-wheel drive to get out of the lake area. You can get in, but 4-wheel drive is needed to get up the hill to get out. The forecast is for more rain and snow in late February, and we will see what that does to lake levels. We may be able to stock trout yet this spring. If you do go down to the lake, please be safe and STAY OFF the ICE. Emergency response is a long way off if you fall through.

There are some activities ongoing now. Adult air pistol shoots indoors every Tuesday. Junior BB gun and air rifle shoot weekly. A partner organization, Seneca Valley Trout Unlimited, is conducting fly tying classes starting in March and continuing bi-weekly until April. It is a great cold-weather activity and a lot of fun to create your own flies (info on website).

I hope you found the time to get out and be a part of our wood duck team this year. Thanks to Joe Walther for organizing this award-winning conservation program. Despite some weather delays the activity for 2026 wrapped up in February. We look forward to the summary report in a few months.

Finally, IWLAR needs some help with two items that are both volunteer opportunities. First, the Board has approved the purchase of automatic door closer devices to be placed on outside doors to prevent doors being left open by mistake. We need a volunteer or two to look at the options and install the devices on four doors (contact president@iwlar.org for more information).

Second, the Board thinks an evaluation of whether IWLAR should become our own tax-free organization is appropriate at this time. We currently have tax free status under the umbrella of IWLA National. But there may be

President's Message (continued)

advantages to becoming our own 501c3 organization. This volunteer activity is not pulling invasives, but it is important too. (It will have fewer stickers and sore muscles too.) See the note in this newsletter for more information.

Our March General Membership Meeting will be on our normal first Friday, March 6.

Tight Lines
Noel Gollehon

April GMM Speaker Focus

The Speaker for the March General Membership Meeting will be *Suzanne Shoemaker, Executive Director and Founder of Owl Moon Raptor Center.*

Founded in 2002, Owl Moon is a state and federally licensed wildlife rehabilitation center specializing in birds of prey. Its mission is to rescue and rehabilitate injured, sick, and orphaned birds of prey and return them to the wild in sound, athletic condition; and to educate the public about raptors in the process. The center admits over 500 raptors each year for rehabilitation. Owl Moon is located in Boyds, and serves the entire state of Maryland.



Image courtesy of the Christian Science Monitor

Suzanne is a licensed Master Wildlife Rehabilitator (MD and USFWS) and licensed Master Falconer (MD and USFWS). She trained first as an Animal Scientist, and then as a Wildlife Biologist and more recently as a Wildlife Rehabilitator. Suzanne and her husband, Jan Lewandrowski, share their home with two dogs, Luna and Puck, and whatever birds of prey are currently under her care.

2026 IWLAR Firearms Training Course Offerings

The following firearms training courses will be offered in 2026 at IWLAR:

* NRA Basic Pistol Shooting + Maryland Handgun Qualification License: April 21 – 26, Tuition: \$250 (\$50 discount for IWLA-R members)

Course Description: NRA Basic Pistol Shooting Course - Instructor Led Only | Course Description | NRA Training Course Description: Firearms Safety Training Course

* NRA Basic Pistol Shooting + Maryland Handgun Qualification License:
June 9 – 14, Tuition: \$250 (\$50 discount for IWLA-R members)

Course Description: NRA Basic Pistol Shooting Course - Instructor Led Only | Course Description | NRA Training Course Description: Firearms Safety Training Course

** Maryland Wear & Carry Permit + Handgun Qualification License:
July 17 – 19, Tuition: \$300 (\$50 discount for IWLA-R members)

Course Description: NRA Basic CCW | Course Description | NRA Training Course Description: Firearms Safety Training Course

* NRA Basic Rifle Shooting:
September 8 – 13, Tuition: \$250 (\$50 discount for IWLA-R members)
Course Description: NRA Basic Rifle Shooting Course | Course Description | NRA Training

**NRA First Steps Basic Pistol Shooting:
October 9 – 11, Tuition: \$200 (\$50 discount for IWLA-R members)
Course Description: NRA FIRST Steps Pistol Orientation | Course Description | NRA Training

*Course is a mixed virtual and in person mode of instruction, where most of the academics are online over several days during the weekday in the evenings, with the practical portions accomplished in-person at our IWLA-R Chapter House and Pistol Range on the weekend. You must have the capability to join in the virtual sessions (i.e., have a camera so the instructor can see you, headset for hearing and speaking, and a laptop or desktop computer).

**Course is in-person only at our IWLA-R Chapter House and Pistol Range during the weekday in the evenings and weekend during the day.

If you are interested and would like to register for any of the above courses, send an email to iwlar.firearms.training@gmail.com indicating the course and date you are interested in attending. Contact Stan

Firearms Training Course Offerings (continued)

Peter at the provided email if you have any questions.

Anyone needing Maryland Wear & Carry Permit renewal training can contact Stan Peter to investigate the possibility of adding a course during the year. If enough demand justifies it, the course will need to be approved by the IWLA-R Board of Directors.

Anyone interested in providing administrative help with any of the classes is welcome to volunteer their time. You will receive credit for your annual work hours. Also, if there is anyone that is interested in joining the IWLA-R Firearms Training Team, let us know. Minimally, you must be a DRO as a starting point. Contact Stan Peter if any of these items interest you for more information.

IWLA-R members will have registration priority for these courses until February 15, 2026. Thereafter, they will be opened to the public for registration.

Volunteers needed to evaluate becoming a 501c3

Your IWLAR Board of Directors has been discussing the potential advantages and disadvantages of becoming our own 501c3 organization. We currently have tax free status under the National Izak Walton umbrella. We need members for an ad-hoc committee to evaluate and follow through with the 501c3 issue. This is a great opportunity to get your volunteer hours in over the next few months doing an important task for the Chapter. If you have a law, accounting, or analysis background you could really fit in with his effort. We will meet a few times in the evening virtually and members will need to do some work between meetings. This is not a long-term commitment. If you have interest contact president@iwlar.org.

February BOD Meeting Highlights

- The internal audit is scheduled for February 23.
- A plan to replace the Comcast service for the TV and phone service is in process. We will keep Comcast for our internet service.
- Next member social/game night is on March 13.
- Rechartering the Scouting America troop and pack IWLA-R sponsors is underway.
- After a presentation by Catherine Savage, 4-H Extension Educator, IWLA-R agreed to partner with the 4-H program on selected activities, starting with archery.
- After a presentation by Stan Peter, IWLA-R Firearms Training Team Leader, the Board voted to authorize an indoor, classroom holster-draw training course. No live ammunition will be used.
- -The board expressed thanks to Thomas Bednar who organized a group to clean the tables at the Chapter House.
- -We are looking for a member who can lead the door closure device task.

Stop the Bleed Class

When: Saturday March 7, 2026

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Class Length: 90-120 minutes

Where: IWLA-R Chapter House Upper Level

Fee: The price for the class is \$20 per person, which has to be paid before you take the class.

To take the class you will have to sign up on the *Stop The Bleed Coalition Training Management* site at <https://training.stopthebleedcoalition.org/dashboard>

Follow the steps below to register for the class:

- You will first have to set up a profile which will then give you access to the registration
- The sign-up link is on the left side of the site
- After you have created a profile choose Find a class
- -Make sure the ending date is March 8 2026
- -Use the Zip code 20874
- -Click on the information about the Chapter Class
- -Before you click on Enroll you will need to enter the Access code: IWLARSTB197564
- -Then click on ENROLL

You will be contacted about payment instructions by David Schwartzman

Learn Archery This Summer!

If you or your kids want to learn archery or improve your skills, register for IWLA-R's Summer Archery program! You'll learn proper shooting form in a safe, family-friendly environment from our USA Archery trained instructors. All equipment is provided.

Members can register themselves and their children ages 10-18. Sessions are Sundays May 31 - July 12 (no session on July 5) from 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Member registration opens March 1 on a first-come, first-served basis. \$55 per person.

For more information and to register, go to <https://www.iwlar.org/archery/>. If you have questions, please contact Kevin Blanc at archery@iwlar.org.

Ike's Want Ads

To place a non-commercial ad, write to the Chapter's PO Box 2255, Germantown, MD, 20875, or contact Todd Anderson. Ads must be submitted by the third Friday of the month.