



ROCKVILLE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 2255
Germantown, MD 20875

April 2021

T. Anderson, Editor

President's Message

Every April 22nd since 1970 Earth Day has been celebrated to bring awareness of conservation issues. This year, our Chapter will celebrate on Saturday, April 24th with a Chapter Cleanup. Come get in your volunteer hours taking care of our small piece of the Earth.

Susan Cassell

Muzzleloader and Rifle Leagues start in April

The Muzzleloader and Rifles league meet once a month on the 1st (Muzzleloader) and 2nd (Rifle) Wednesday of each month from April until Oct. The first relay of both leagues begins at 4:00 pm. The Rifle league will use a sign-up genius to schedule the shooting positions and will be posted on iwlar@googlegroup.com. No experience necessary. Just bring ear and eye protection. If you're interested or have questions, contact Susan Cassell.

Kayak Class

An introductory kayak class is scheduled, rain or shine, for June 5 from 8:45 AM to 3 PM at our Chapter House and lake. All kayak equipment will be provided. This class consists of a classroom portion and then kayaking on our lake and 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, strokes and more. Participation is for those 8 and up and will be limited to the first 15 who register. For more information see 2020 Water Sports Information at our website under Recreation and then Water Sports. To register, send an email to watersports@iwlar.org with the number of adults, and number of children and their ages. Chapter members are needed the day of 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. In addition, check the Chapter website under Watersports for more details about the class and the kayak schedule of trips for 2021.

Save the dates: The Chapter needs volunteers to help staff our tent at Montgomery County Fair, August 13-21. Contact Bill Leaman for details.

April GMM Speaker Focus

Mark Granger began working for Montgomery County Public Schools as a sixth-grade teacher at Cedar Grove Elementary school in 1994. As sixth grade transitioned to middle schools, so did Mark, and he spent six years teaching at Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School in Germantown.



Mark was always involved with bringing students through their sixth grade "Outdoor Education" experiences, and that became the highlight of each year. For the past 19 years, Mark has been an MCPS teacher with the Outdoor Environmental Education Program, getting students and professionals more acquainted with the outdoors.

For those who like to fish

Check out DNR's Fishing reports. Click [Maryland Fishing Report – Natural Resources News](#) to see the report or sign up to receive the weekly report in your email. Here's a teaser from this week's report. "The brook trout is Maryland's only native trout and because it demands cool, clear water its range has been greatly impacted by environmental changes, natural and manmade. It is now mostly found in the most pristine waters of western Maryland. For more see <https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2021/03/17/maryland-fishing-report-march-17/>

Nominations for MD Division level

Elections for leadership positions for the Maryland Division will be held on June 12th. This year's openings are for President, Vice President, Treasurer and four National Director positions. If you know of someone that might be a good candidate, please send their name to our Susan Cassell.

Volunteer Corner

Thank you Tony Sutton for agreeing to coordinate news between the Chapter and the Stormwater Partners Network.

Be sure to thank Matt McMillen, Jeff Leaman and sons Adam and Joel, Leonard Keifer, Cathy Keifer, Paul Schimke, Ted Stevens, Eric Lee and children, Yuriy Yakusha, Vira Yakusha, Byron Holston, Ron Kuipers and Cindy Stevens for their work to protect our forest and water on the first weed day of 2021. Details and photos were posted in the Chapter Google Group. The fence wire needs to be restrung along Waring Station Road near the orchard beginning near the railroad. Could this be a project for you? Let Kent Shaw, Susan Cassell, and Cindy Stevens know!

Report from the EMS Committee

The Board of Directors approved the following objectives for 2021 as recommended by the Environmental Management System committee.

1. Review the 2014 plan and existing paperwork. (priority 2021)
2. Review electrical usage records, bearing in mind that Covid has changed our general usage of our facilities during 2020.
3. At the pistol, rifle, shotgun ranges
 - a. Continue the spring and fall pH testing and liming of the ranges.
 - b. Address the drainage issues on the pistol range – standing water, silt cloths, hay bale.
 - c. Address the erosion issues at the edge of the rifle range
4. Address the erosion issues from the Entrance and main facilities area that are affecting the ravine and the EK Nature Trails.
5. Develop a team to install, monitor and maintain bird nesting boxes on the Chapter grounds.

Ongoing practices to prevent migration of lead from the ranges were considered satisfactory. How to improve the pick-up of our recycling wastes was discussed. Accomplishments with using wood chips generated from tree work as mulch, for our use of solar power and LED lights where feasible, getting the electrical box in the Chapter House labeled, and the bluebird boxes at the lake were also noted.

The IWLAR Chapter's Environmental Management System (EMS) committee oversees the impacts of Chapter activities on our 50+ acre property. The EMS committee consists of the Chapter President and the chairs of the Standing Committees that are specified in the Chapter's By-Laws. Other members provide their input and feedback as well, particularly the recycling committee and the range managers.

EMS Committee (continued)

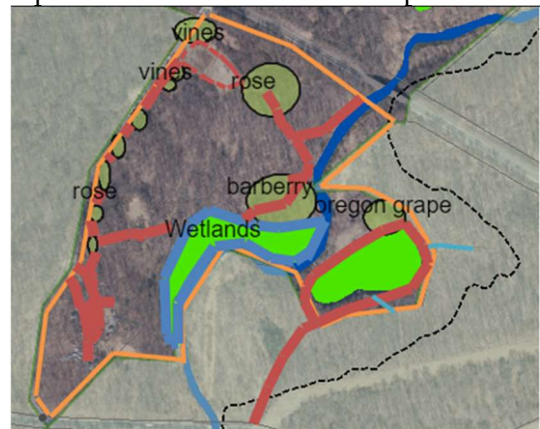
All Officers and Directors of the Board have responsibility within their individual areas of responsibility for ensuring that the Chapter's EMS is implemented, and to provide resources to committees to implement the Chapter's goals. The EMS committee acts to ensure the wise expenditure of Chapter funds as the Chapter works to meet our goals of implementing best practices. The Chapter is committed to achieving environmental excellence and being recognized as an environmental leader within the State of Maryland and among the other Izaak Walton League of America Chapters nationally.

Clean Water Challenge Corner

What do the Chapter's weeds and clean water have in common? EPA states "invasive species in the watershed can have significant effects on water quality and aquatic ecosystem health due to the ways they affect bank stability and the volume and pollution levels in runoff." Barberry bushes spread quickly and result in fewer young trees and more ticks. Invasive vines are making our trees unmarketable for harvest and pulling some of them down. Invasive plants in wetlands reduce habitat for wildlife.

The Forest Stewardship Team's priorities for 2021 are to:

- Eliminate barberry on the hillside between the mill race and the bluff.
- Go after the oriental bittersweet and porcelain berry vines, especially along Waring Station Road.
- Keep our wetlands free of invasive plants.



Scheduled group work days are May 23 and October 17 from 1-4pm. Members can battle the weeds with tools anytime. Contact **Cindy Stevens** to coordinate a training time to learn about how to identify the weeds or to check out some hand clippers, loppers or a folding saw.

More on Earth Day

The Conservation Activities Committee will be cleaning out the SOS supplies and doing a stream sampling. Contact Cindy Stevens and watch the Google group for details.

Learn Archery This Summer!

If you or your kids (ages 10 and up) 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.

This is a very popular summer program. With additional COVID restrictions, there is a very limited number of openings. Please pre-register early.

Dates and Times are as follows:

Sundays June 6-July 18, 2021 (no session on July 4)

- Regular Schedule Session 1: 12:30-1:30pm—Beginner archers only; 15-person limit
- Regular Schedule Session 2: 2:00-3:00pm—Returning/Experienced archers only; 20-person limit

IWLAR Member pre-registration has already begun. Once you pre-register, you will be contacted regarding availability. First come, first serve basis.

Member rate: \$50/person

For more information and pre-registration, go to: <https://www.iwlar.org/archery/> or contact Martha Patterson.

New Members Recently Inducted

Rob BenEzra	Silver Spring
John Ferguson	Potomac
Brian & Olesya Gruber	Rockvile
Kevin & Bridget Kasprzak	Montgomery Village
Kirk Lew	Germantown
Dean & Laura Scaletti	Germantown
Christian Smith	N. Potomac
Jack Toomey	Poolesville
Kevin Wilson	Silver Spring

A warm welcome to all!

Ike's Want Ads

For Sale by Ron Komara



Crossman Quest air rifle, .22 cal. with Tasco scope
Velocity up to 1100 fps, \$100 cash

Also: Thule 3 bike rack model 9010XT.

Call Thule to see if it fits your car.

Manual included.

Originally \$295 will sell for \$50 cash

Contact Ron Komara

Giveaway

I have a old muzzle loader, originally Swiss army. Someone took apart the mechanism of the caplock before it was given to me. At one time I intended to reconstruct it, but ran out of steam. I have most parts to rebuild it, but could not do it anymore. Is there anyone you know of that would be interested in such a project. I could send some pictures to an interested party.

Rolf Tschudin

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.