



President’s Message

This month’s message is the second in the series where I ask leaders of different activities to share information about their area. (See the February Newsletter for information about the Ranges.) For April, I asked Cindy Stevens, our Recording Secretary, Leader of the Conservation Program, and Forest Stewardship Team Coordinator to provide input on the IWLAR landscape.

Enjoy her contribution on page 4 and thank you Cindy for serving as leader of the Forest Stewardship Team.

Noel Gollehon, President

IWLA Rockville Outdoor Shooting Leagues

April starts the beginning of the outdoor shooting activities at the IWLA Rockville Chapter and are open to the public.

The Pistol League starts Tuesday, April 9th, and runs weekly through the end of Sept. Come as often or as little as you like. It is a 30 shot match at 25yds (10 slow fire, 10 timed fire, 10 rapid fire). The fee is \$30 for Rimfire or Centerfire and \$40 for both, for the whole season. Chapter .22 pistols are available for use, just bring .22 LR standard velocity ammo. Ear and eye protection is required. It is a handicap league, so personal improvement is rewarded.

The Muzzleloader League starts on Wednesday, April 3rd, and runs monthly on the first Wednesday of each month through October. The match is 10 rounds in 40 minutes. The fee is \$2 per relay.

The Rifle League starts on Wednesday, April 10th, and runs monthly on the second Wednesday of each month through October. It is a 30 shot match, distance is 25 or 50 yds. Only rifles which shoot a pistol cartridge are allowed (.22, 9mm, M1 Carbine, etc./no bottleneck cartridges). The fee is \$2 per relay. A Chapter .22 bolt action rifle is available for use, just bring .22 LR standard velocity ammo.

If you are interested or have any questions, contact Susan Cassell.

Road Cleanup on April 7

Meet in the Parking Lot at 1pm. Chapter will provide all the equipment and it’s a good chance to earn volunteer hours. *Donuts have been known to appear at the end!*

April Speaker Focus

The April GMM Speaker is TBD at the time of this edition’s publication.

March Trout Stocking at the Chapter’s Lake

The first trout stocking of 2024 occurred on March 7, but not without some drama. Two fallen trees had blocked the lake road. Bill Leaman came to the rescue showing up with his chainsaw only 10 – 15 minutes after receiving a phone call from the lake chairman. A bunch of members, new and old, then went to work removing the cut wood off the lake road. All was accomplished before the man from the hatchery showed up with the 200 trout. The fish traveled from a hatchery in New Jersey the morning of the stocking in a truck with an oxygenated water tank. They were scooped out and placed in buckets that volunteers carried to the end of the dock pouring them into the deep part of the lake. (We have tried stocking in shallow water before, but the deep water dumping of the fish seems to work better.)



Our vendor generously donated a 24-inch rainbow trout that hopefully some member will catch. You could tell it was a good turn out – two dozen doughnuts were consumed along with two gallons of coffee.

There was a brief closing of all fishing at the lake for 24 hour after the stocking. Also, the first week after fishing began on sun-up on March 8, was for members only. After that a member could bring guests, but any trout caught by the guest(s) counts as part of the member’s 3-a-day trout limit. Get down to the lake and catch your limit and fill your freezer with healthy food!

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.

The American Chestnut Foundation's new orchard

A new chestnut research orchard is being established at the Western Maryland Research and Education Center near Kearneysville, MD. Several Rockville Chapter members helped on March 14th to get it ready for planting this spring. 900 planting positions were marked in 11 long rows and then a PVC stake was pounded into the ground at each position.



The next step will be to hang a numbered tag on each stake and auger holes to prepare for the planting mix and the nuts to be added on the planting day. This will be a special site with best seeds going in. If you are interested in learning more about American chestnuts, start at the TACF website [<https://tacf.org/>]. To get involved in the MD Chapter of TCAF, check out their website [<https://tacf.org/md/about-us/>] or reach out to Ron Kuipers. Except for 2 resprouting trees and a chinquapin, our own orchard is currently unplanted so the amount of blight fungus around can decrease.

NRCC Applications Now Being Accepted

Each year, our Chapter funds one Montgomery County high school student to attend the Natural Resources Career Camp (NRCC) in Garrett County to explore careers and college studies in natural resources. This year's camp will be held Sunday, July 21 to Saturday, July 27, 2024. Students who have reached the age of 16 by the first day of NRCC week may choose to earn two college credits from Allegany College of Maryland by attending the entire week and completing an exam.

NRCC Applications (continued)

The credits will transfer to most community colleges in Maryland and several four-year colleges and universities. Natural resource professionals have developed the extensive and relevant curriculum. Traditional Forestry is the main focus of this educational experience with the inclusion of GIS and GPS technology, Urban Forestry, Wildlife Habitat, Fisheries, and Watershed ecology are emphasized. This co-educational camp provides an opportunity for high school students interested in a career in Natural Resources to learn from industry professionals and develop contacts for future employment and a career in natural resources. Use the link below to learn more about the camp and how to apply.

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/NRCC.aspx>

Highlights from the March 15 WLAR BOD

- We received a presentation on the addition of 4 new NRA Training Courses. (Watch for programs and dates.)
- We continue to have doors left open and lights left on after groups use the Chapter House. This is not acceptable! If gentle reminders do not resolve this issue we may revoke use privileges.
- Brett Johnson is taking the lead on 3-D archery. Thanks Brett!
- 3 new members accepted.
- The contractor for the silt reduction project at the lake was awarded to Resource Restoration Group, headquartered in Hancock MD. The award is provisional on satisfactory answers to additional questions from the Bid Evaluation Committee and approval of additional funding by the General membership. (The need to increase the budget for the project was expected, but until the bids were in, the amount was not known.)
- We have a new cleaning service for the Chapter House starting in April. A big welcome to Anago Cleaning Systems.
- Next BOD meeting will be led by Tom Vegella as Noel will be fishing!

Cabin Fever Game Night (February 23)



Photography Class - The Art of Seeing

Meet on porch of the Chapter House on Saturday, April 27 from 9am – 12pm. Photography is the application of art and science. This class examines all things effecting composition and exposure control. Whether laying on the grass to get the best results or shooting from 300 feet above ground, knowing how and why to best use the camera will serve you well. Bring a camera to class and paper to take notes. There will be handouts. Taught by member Robert Blanken Drone Inspections & Photography

IWLA at the Montgomery County Fair

August 11 through 19 are the dates for the Fair this year. The Rockville Chapter provides the tent, and coordinates with local Chapters and others to "make it happen". Volunteers are needed (approx. 40+) for set up, "duty" and tear down. Each shift is 6 hours (one shift can satisfy your voluntary work requirement!), 10am-4pm or 4pm-10pm. Tickets plus parking are provided by the Chapter, no experience necessary. Contact Bill Leaman for questions or to volunteer.

New Members Recently Inducted

Rich & Ellen Bedell N. Potomac
Reggie & Jessica Clyburn Montgomery Village
Nick Heras Rockville
Bill Hunt Rockville
George Loope Mount Airy
Austin Quintero Germantown
Derrick Tabor Montgomery Village
Mark Yang Germantown
A warm welcome to all!

A Forest View

Our Chapter is blessed with a wonderful property that has 39 acres classified as "forest" providing a diverse terrain that supports a variety of wildlife and plant populations. The spicebush is now in bloom and look low to the ground for signs of the ephemeral spring wildflowers coming into bloom – trout lily, spring beauty, cutleaf toothwort, and many others, and don't forget the mushrooms! Be sure to share photos and news of wildlife sightings in the Chapter Google group as we continue our annual "Name that __ (animal, plant, fungi...)" challenge. The Rockville Chapter wetlands and adjacent dry uplands are host to spotted salamander, wood frogs, red fox, barred owls, and more. We have a "slideset" started that members can use to learn about some of the plants we can find in our area.

The wonderful weather March 13 made it possible for us to have a contractor treat the pretty, invasive, and highly aggressive lesser celandine and some of the adjacent invasive woodies like multiflora rose. You should see the weeds dying on the banks of the pistol range, down in the wetlands and along the trail down from the orchard area. We need to be vigilant to prevent new colonies, so please report this plant when you see it. Contact Cindy Stevens.

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.