



President's Message

Summer is here and your Rockville IWLA Chapter is in full summer mode. Summer archery is ongoing as are the shooting leagues. Our 3-D archery course is attracting participants from all over the region. Watersports are doing monthly outings to kayak local rivers. The grills at the lake are waiting. What are you doing? If sitting on the couch watching golf is your answer, then now is the time to get out and enjoy all that IWLAR can offer!

My thanks to Ilene and those helping her around the Chapter House. The landscaping looks great! If you have been to the Chapter House, in addition to the great landscaping, you will notice a new addition. An information kiosk has been added. We are in the process of working up the content that will go in the display. It will be done soon.

This summer is a great time to get in your volunteer hours. As announced, the fee for not completing your service hours to the Chapter will be increasing in 2026. IWLAR is a volunteer-based organization, if we all put in a little time (six hours) the work of maintaining the Chapter is distributed to all the members. Whatever your level of activity we can find a productive way to use your talent, and you can earn your six hours of volunteer time.

There are many opportunities to earn your six hours. Some upcoming major events like working the booth at the Montgomery County Fair or assisting with our Open House can get you the hours needed. There are always invasives to work on and road clean ups every other month. In addition, we need members to assist Boy Scouts with eagle projects. We have several scouts requesting an opportunity to complete their eagle projects at our facility, and we are struggling to find members to guide their efforts. This is not a heavy physical lift, but it is an important opportunity for the scouts to demonstrate their initiative and complete a project.

Our July General Membership Meeting will be delayed a week and will be on the second Friday, July 11. Please join us in person or via Zoom.

Get out and enjoy IWLAR!

Tight Lines
Noel Gollehon

July Speaker Focus

Robbie Deibert will be speaking about the Blohm Park Stormwater Pond Improvements, located in the City of Gaithersburg. Robbie, PMP, ENV SP, is a Senior Project Engineer with a strong background in stormwater management. He brings expertise in sustainable infrastructure implementation, flood mitigation, and regulatory compliance, with a strong emphasis on resilient water resource solutions. As a certified Project Management Professional and Envision Sustainability Professional, he combines technical knowledge with a strategic approach to project delivery, ensuring environmentally responsible and cost-effective outcomes.



Robbie has lived in Montgomery County for 10 years. He has been a member of the Chesapeake Water Environment Association (CWEA) serving on the Phase II MS4 stormwater committee and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) Water Resources Technical Committee for 5 years. Robbie enjoys spending free time hunting and fishing while making frequent trips to his cabin near the Pennsylvania Gorge.

The Blohm Park Stormwater Pond Improvement project proposes to remove approximately 1500 CY of sediment from the basin, restore the vegetative shoreline, and stabilize dam embankment. The primary purpose is to restore pond capacity, improve function, and support water quality. Preventative maintenance of this nature will maintain long-term effectiveness of stormwater infrastructure. Discussion topics will include information on a completed feasibility study, current project status, and proposed design and construction activities.

Volunteers needed to staff the League's booth at the Montgomery County Fair, August 8-16. Contact Bill Leaman for questions or to volunteer.

Make Your Voice Heard!

The national Izaak Walton Convention is coming in mid-July. At this annual event, there is an opportunity for members to offer changes to the policies of the organization. This year there is a new resolution offered that would urge federal authorities to establish national standards for data centers and similarly high energy consuming and producing facilities to ensure that future facilities approvals include more local control and a greater recognition of the water and energy used by these facilities.

A data center is a physical structure that contains many computer servers which process an extremely large volume of highly sensitive data. They consume an enormous amount of power, land, water, and emit CO₂, noise from Electromagnetic Fields, Low Frequency Noise, and contribute to electronic waste. The data center industry is sprawling across small towns specifically because of expected growth in Artificial Intelligence. There are very few, if any, regulations on the Data Center Industry.

You as members of the Rockville Izaak Walton League have an opportunity to express your views on this issue. The Rockville Chapter has 7 votes, and it is up to you—the members to decide how those votes are cast. To determine where you stand, we have established a poll that was sent via google group about the June 21 or 22-time frame. If you registered your opinion then, thank you. If you have not offered your opinion, then please take a few minutes, go to <https://iwlar.org/>, look up the pending National Resolution and complete the poll by July 14.

Chapter Gardening

Cindy Stevens is acting lead for the orchard pollinator pocket and garden plots for now, and looking for volunteers. There is a garden plot available. We've had a problem in the area with Johnsongrass, one of the top 4 invasive weeds in the world! It was sprayed today, so once the heat breaks, we'll be asking for a lot of help - moving a bench to the area, moving the storage cabinet, putting new wheels and tires on the dumping wagon, clearing out more weeds and landscaping cloth so we can return some of the area to grass and mowing for ease of maintenance, and taking care of the garden itself. Many thanks to Jenn Siegman, David Whiteis and Tom (whose last name I don't know) who helped with the first round of clearing out excess landscaping cloth, and Ron Kuipers who helped with the weed issue. Ron is our longtime, award-winning American chestnut guy.

Tony Sutton is now the Orchard Manager for our American chestnut orchard. Tasks this year will include weeding the seedlings and watering during drought conditions. Regular volunteers include Gary Neubaum and Cindy Stevens, and of course Ron Kuipers and Tom Vegella. If you want to join the team, Contact Tony Sutton.

Watersports Kicks Off a new season

Chapter Water Sports kicked off 2025 on June 14 under new Chair April ("Mayril") Marrone. Eleven Ikes, including two first-timers, took part in the trip on the Antietam Creek.



Lester Rodriguez navigates a tricky spot

Of the waterways that Watersports Will travel this season, Antietam is of moderate difficulty. There were several rapids and thanks to recent rains the water level was normal which yielded a decent current.



Rich Drury goes over a mini dam

The weather was overcast and muggy but the group was able to avoid the rain that occurred before and after the trip, which took just over 3 hours. As always there were a few flips, but everyone was able to make a quick recovery and carry on.

The next Watersports event will be on Saturday, July 12. The location will be announced the week before.

Director Candidates Wanted

As I mentioned in the last General Membership meeting, the Nomination Committee is looking for volunteers willing to be nominated for a Director position.

Directors are elected for a 3-year term at the September General Membership meeting and are part of the Chapter's governing body. The primary responsibility of the directors is to attend the monthly Board of Directors meeting generally held on the third Friday of each month. The meeting is a Hybrid meeting with in-person and call in options and starts at 7:30 PM.

If you have an interest or would like to discuss further, please reply to me.

~Jim Seach~

Highlights of the June 20 Board of Directors Meeting

A motion was passed to recommend to the membership that the Chapter join the Montgomery County Stormwaters Partners Network. This is free, and will increase our visibility in local water quality efforts.

Kevin Kasprzak is stepping down as our scout coordinator. We thank him for all he has done to facilitate scouting activities at IWLAR.

Nathaniel Clemmons completed his Eagle Scout project, the information kiosk near the Chapter House.

The Board of Directors heard a presentation on the plans to begin firearms courses at our facility this fall. Stay tuned for more information.

The next General Membership Meeting will be July 11 and the next Board of Directors Meeting will be July 25.

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 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.

Road Cleanup Roundup

Six Ikes braved 90+ degree weather to conduct road clean up on Waring Station Road on June 22. Seven bags of trash were collected.

H&F Day Info

Please save the date for this year's Open House at our Chapter. This year's event will take place on Saturday, September 27 from 1-5pm.

We are now actively recruiting exhibitors. If you know anyone who might be interested, please have them send me an email at iwlaropenhouse@gmail.com. This is a great opportunity for local companion organizations to showcase their missions and activities with the community!

I will begin recruiting volunteers and team/activity leaders in August via a SignUp Genius form, so keep an eye out for that in a couple of months. We will need lots of volunteers throughout the day; this is a great way to get your hours in and represent our Chapter!

Stay tuned for more info, and please use this email address (iwlarhopenhouse@gmail.com) for any communication regarding Hunting & Fishing Day.

~Catie Wright~

New Members Recently Inducted

The following folks were inducted as members at the July GMM.

Tommy & Marcela Bednar	Germantown
Cristin Cash & George Hughes	Rockville
Bruce & Jaci Chapman	Germantown
Chris Hays	Olney
Alex Kulik	Germantown
Frank Mason	Boys
Jon Musser	Gaithersburg
Kellen Ober	Silver Spring
Adam Rarey	Gaithersburg

A warm welcome to all!