



President's Message

It is October and fall is fast approaching. We held our annual Hunting and Fishing Day Open House on September 27, I hope you made it out to volunteer or just attend. New officers and directors were sworn in at the September meeting. I am honored to serve as the Chapter President for another year. Thank you for your vote of confidence.

Membership renewal forms have been mailed. This is your one and only postal mail notice. Please complete the necessary components and get your renewal in early!

Please watch the google group for announcements on the trout stocking at the lake. We do not have a date yet, but it will be in October, most likely between the 10th and 20th of the month. We are watching the lake temperature and when it drops into a "safe range" for trout we will be placing our order. Hopefully we will get some rain too as the lake is down and could use some fresh water. (Remember the lake is closed to fishing for 24 hours after the stocking to give the trout time to adjust to their new home.)

Since it is fall, we are shifting into our winter mode, but there are still things to do at your Chapter. Summer shooting leagues are ending, but the indoor air pistol is just getting started. Come out on Tuesdays and confirm your air pistol proficiency. Trout are going into the lake and will be available for fishing soon. The trails are waiting for your hiking shoes. We have a new covered bench at a fantastic overlook for you to take in the fall colors. Come out and enjoy the Chapter and the grounds.

It is getting late in the year to do your volunteer hours and as announced, the fee for not completing your volunteer 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 always invasives to work on and a road clean up on October 5. It is not too late to get this done, but now is the time.

Our October General Membership Meeting will be on the first Friday, October 3. Please join us in person or via Zoom.

Get out and enjoy IWLAR!

Tight Lines
Noel Gollehon

IWLAR Firearms Trainings Underway!

The first of the recently revived IWLAR Firearms Training classes was held on Saturday, September 20th. Our IWLAR team of NRA Training Counselors and Instructors, as well as Sanctioned Event Range Officers, led a group of 8 trainees through the NRA Basic Pistol Shooting course over the course of the day. Almost all the trainees were fellow Rockville Ikes!

Some students were in pursuit of their Maryland Handgun Qualification License (HQL), while others were there as first steps into, or refreshers on, the joys and responsibilities of handgun operation and ownership.

NRA Training Counselor Stan Peter led the classroom instruction portion, assisted there and on the Pistol Range by NRA Instructors Keith Angerman and Joe Ober. Acting as Sanctioned Event Range Officers for the live fire portion of the event were David Schwartzman and Rick Ducey. Logistical assistance was provided by Joshua Stewart.

In the run up to the class, several recent work parties at the Pistol Range ensured the class had everything it needed. New Benchrest extensions allowed trainees to start at the very beginning, firing their first shots from well-stabilized sandbags, and working on the fundamentals. And freshly painted signs, clean roofs, and all the rest made for a welcoming environment.



It was great to see the Pistol Range not only full, but full of people learning and enjoying it. One trainee started the day "very scared," but was all smiles after successfully qualifying in the live fire portion – and was already looking forward to more practicing!

October 18th will see the next iteration of our training schedule, with IWLAR's own Yien Tsai, NRA Training Counselor, leading a class on Maryland Wear and Carry Permit – Renewals Only. As of the time of writing, there are still a few seats left in this class. If you need to renew, please see posts on the email group for more information.

Update from Recording Secretary Cindy Stevens

The garden plots at the Orchard will end, except as a perk for volunteers who help with weeding the pollinator pockets at the lake, orchard or bridge. Member Dan Reggia wisely put in some blueberry bushes. Native bees adore blueberry and basil flowers.

New member Gary Neubaum and Ted Stevens helped move a bench into the orchard pollinator pocket. This area is great for winter birding.

The footprint of the pollinator garden at the orchard is slowly being reduced by about half - lots of landscaping cloth and trees to remove still before grass seed can be planted and the area returned to mowing. The vines are causing significant damage to trees between the orchard and the railroad. Cut them at the base!

The Johnsongrass in the foodplot strip next to the orchard is still there - we legally can not allow it to go to seed, and we really don't want it to either.

- the forest weeding between the 2 feeder creeks to the lake is close to done for this year. A garbage bag of wavyleaf basketgrass just coming into bloom was collected, and young barberry, vines, wineberry, etc pulled.

- Tony Sutton will be the lead person for the chestnut station at NHF day. New member Gary Neubaum will be helping and the MD Chapter of TCAF Jeff White is planning to be there too.

- Rockville Chapter members are also doing a great service for TACF helping with maintenance of over 800 young trees at the chestnut orchard at the Western Maryland Research Center (WMREC), especially Ron Kuipers (far right), Cindy Stevens (taking photo) and Gary Neubaum (2nd from the left).



- A few TACF events coming up

1) Frostburg Saturday Sept 20 at 4pm Jeff White will speak on "The Fall and Rise of the American Chestnut" as part of the Appalachian Festival 2025 at Frostburg State Univ. <https://www.frostburg.edu/annual-events/afestival/explorations-jam-tent.php>

2) 1st MD Chestnut Festival will be held in Mount Airy at Millhouse Brewery and includes a new Chesnut Lager developed just for this event "well balanced, surprisingly thick and delicious, loads of chestnut flavor."

It's Membership Renewal Time!

Renewals were mailed on September 19. Your mailed dues and reported volunteer hours (or \$150 in lieu of those hours) must be postmarked by 12/31/2025 to avoid the late fee. If you didn't receive your renewal envelope or have any questions, contact Susan Cassell.

Note: To receive your 2026 Range Sticker, you must also complete the Range Rules Certification Form at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/18tSwuVdcVG_kn1lv1D0rhzsQXDK7cNrXwYwK5abSow4/viewform?edit_requested=true

Range Officers must submit their membership renewal and complete the range rules certification form above by Oct. 31st to receive their 2026 range stickers. Otherwise, as of 01/01/2026, your range status will revert to Range Approved.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Maryland American Chestnut Festival
MILKHOUSE BREWERY, 8253 DOLLYHYDE RD
MT. AIRY, MD 21771– SUNDAY OCT. 19, 2025 • 1 – 6 PM

Join us for the 1st Maryland American Chestnut Festival! Discover the remarkable work being done by the Maryland Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation to restore the iconic American chestnut tree! Learn: Meet members, explore displays & get answers to your chestnut questions.

Taste: Enjoy roasted chestnuts and a seasonal chestnut beer from Milkhouse!

Shop: Buy fresh chestnuts, seedlings, and Chapter gear – stickers, shirts, & caps.

Eat: Savor creative, chef-crafted dishes from Kevin's Bistro Bowls by Cordon Bleu trained Chef Kevin.

Enjoy: Live music, sketching by Frederick artist Goodloe Byron, face painting, and other local environmental & conservation organizations.

Save Our Streams attendees examine their collections



A summary of the event will appear next month

Archery Is for Everyone

The IWLA-BCC archery range was buzzing with excitement during our recent “Archery Is for Everyone” event held on August 10th. Under clear blue skies and bright sunshine, over 30 participants—from eager 6-year-old beginners to enthusiastic adult first-timers—joined us for an afternoon of learning, laughter, and discovery.



Thanks to the dedication of our certified archery instructors, every participant had the chance to safely experience the joy of sending arrows downrange. The smiles said it all—whether it was a youngster hitting the target for the first time or an adult finding a new passion in the sport.

Families and individuals alike were able to learn proper stance, form, and safety techniques while enjoying hitting the targets and popping balloons.

Archery (Continued)

No event is complete without good food! Hamburgers hot off the grill, chips, and cold drinks gave everyone a chance to fuel up before hitting the range, connect with fellow participants, and chat with members about the many benefits of joining the IWLA.

The feedback from attendees was overwhelming: Many expressed a desire to learn more about the Chapter and asked how to become members, and wanted to know about upcoming events to continue practicing and improving their skills. Our archery crew was thrilled to see such strong interest and can't wait to welcome these new faces back to the range.

This event would not have been possible without the dedication and help from our archery instructors and volunteers. Their professionalism, patience, and enthusiasm helped make the day not only safe but truly memorable for everyone who attended.

~Scott Binder~

New Members Recently Inducted

John & Sharon Hanna	Bethesda
Kien Lee & Moose Hamid	Gaithersburg

A warm welcome to all!

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.