



President's Message

I hope you had a ghastly Halloween, but now it is November and that means the full holiday season is upon us. Be safe during the upcoming holiday season and remember to get outside and away from the food and family from time to time. Have I got a place for you! Your Izaak Walton League has trails that are ready to be walked and a lake waiting for your fishing lure. This is the time for some great walks in the crisp air! Membership renewal forms have been mailed, and we have received several hundred back. This is your one and only postal mail notice. Please complete the necessary elements and get your renewal in as soon as you can. If you have questions or if there is a change in status, let us know now rather than on January 1.

Consistent with the region-wide drought, our lake is down more than a foot. Therefore, we have not yet stocked trout this fall. When we get some rain and an improvement in the lake level, it will be stocked. Please watch the google group for announcements on the trout stocking at the lake. We hope it will be in early November. The trout stocking is a great chance for adults and kids to see the trout up close as you carry your bucket to the end of the pier. (Remember the lake is closed to fishing for 24 hours to give the trout time to adjust to their new home.) We have a new covered bench at a fantastic overlook for the fall colors.

The indoor air pistol is underway. Come out on Tuesdays and confirm your air pistol proficiency. (or in my case, lack thereof). Come out and enjoy the Chapter and the grounds.

I want to thank Finance Committee Chair, Rob McClelland, for organizing the budget process. He brought a completed budget to the Board of Directors meeting in October. The Board made some adjustments and moved it on to the general membership for your approval. That makes our November General Membership Meeting, on the first Friday, November 7, a very important meeting. The draft budget for 2026 will be presented, discussed, and hopefully approved. Please join us in person or via Zoom.

Get out and enjoy IWLAR!

Tight Lines
Noel Gollehon

Reminder: dues and reported volunteer hours (or \$150 in lieu of those hours) must be postmarked by 12/31/2025 to avoid the late fee

November Meeting Speaker Focus

Hi! My name is Grace Chi, and I am a current Sophomore at Poolesville High School in the Global Ecology Studies Program!



I am so incredibly honored and excited to be the guest speaker of the month, and I will be talking about my experience at the Natural Resources Career Camp this past summer, and the various eye opening experiences I had, such as visiting a sawmill, going to Garrett County for the first time, going electro fishing, and much more! I look forward to seeing you all very soon!

December Turkey Shoot

Join with your fellow Ikes and guests on Sunday December 7 for the 2025 Turkey Shoot. It will be held at the shotgun range (next to the archery range) from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Cook a hot dog and roast marshmallows over a fire, sip a hot chocolate, and enjoy good times while competing for prizes! Ammunition will be provided for all participants, bring your own lucky shotgun. The grand prize winner will be a turkey (frozen of course). The lucky winner must be present to claim the top prize. Members and their guests are all welcome! No actual turkeys will be harmed, but the prizes are good!

A Season of Setbacks, a Day of Discovery

This year was one of the most challenging I've experienced since taking over the Rockville Chapter's Save Our Streams (SOS) program in June 2021—just before my daughter, Flora, was born. Now four, she's developed a strong interest (and a bit of jealousy) in my SOS work, often annoyed that I'm off teaching other kids about fish and bugs without her. I'd looked forward all year to bringing her to her first SOS event—but weather had other plans. Heavy rains triggered cancellations of our May and July stream samplings.

Thankfully, on Sunday, September 21, 2025, we finally held our first (and only) stream sampling of 2025. A modest group of nine adults and five kids gathered at the Jim Berrier Memorial Lake Pavilion, and the small turnout made for a hands-on, memorable day at Great Seneca Creek.



Wading into the water, the kids explored the world of benthic macroinvertebrates—small aquatic creatures that tell us a lot about stream health. Over the past five years, this section of our creek has consistently rated between fair and good in water quality. It's a beautiful stretch, with riffles, moderate current, and a healthy riparian buffer, though some erosion exists.



Phillip and Flora

A Season (continued)

While our triannual samples usually yield a variety of positive indicators—like mayflies, stoneflies, and riffle beetles—this year we collected just fifty-seven aquatic insects from two eighty-second samples. It was our lowest count in years. Conservation Director Cindy Stevens noted the likely reason: many bugs had already hatched earlier in the season.

We did find a few pollution-sensitive species like mayflies, along with more pollution-tolerant aquatic worms, suggesting a mixed picture of stream health—acceptable, but possibly declining.

Still, the kids had a blast discovering dragonfly larvae, a rare damselfly, and giant hellgrammites—alien-like predators that were a hit as they crawled across tiny arms. Even with a low bug count, the learning and laughter were abundant.

We'll be back next season, nets in hand—and hopefully, Flora by my side.

~ Phillip Mariscal ~

Keeping Up on Salt Monitoring

The Izaak Walton League of America Rockville (IWLAR) Chapter is actively monitoring water quality at two important sites: Seneca Creek Stream and the Lake. As part of the Salt Watch program, volunteers regularly collect water samples to measure chloride levels, which reflect road salt pollution. This year we also initiated Nitrate Watch to track nitrate concentrations, addressing concerns about fertilizer and stormwater runoff impacts.

Monitoring results at the Lake have been consistently favorable for both chloride and nitrate, indicating minimal negative influence from surrounding land use. In contrast, Salt and Nitrate levels in the Seneca Creek Stream fluctuate throughout the year, influenced by seasonal changes and human activities such as road salting and agricultural runoff. All Salt Watch and Nitrate Watch results are recorded at <https://iwla.org/salt-watch/>.

~Rocky Rakshit~

Fishing Gear Sale and Swap

The Chapter is partnering with Seneca Valley Trout Unlimited to hold a Fishing Gear Sale and Swap on Saturday, November 22 from 12-3 at the IWLA Lake. We will have both fly fishing and traditional fishing gear available for sale. What a great time to pick up an early Christmas present for yourself or a fishing friend. Seneca Valley TU has a collection of new and gently used rods, lures and gear for sale. Members of SVTU and IWLAR are welcome to bring good, used (or new) gear that they would like to sell. This is a great chance to try a different fly rod or cast a lure with a spinning rod before you decide to purchase. It is also a chance for new members of the sport to acquire gear at a reduced cost and for those of us who have extra gear to move it to a good home. Come out and join us!

Summary of the October 17 BOD Meeting

The Board of Directors voted to refer the updated 2026 budget to the general membership for approval.

Other business and announcements:

- Jack Hill completed his Eagle Scout project; a covered bench on the bluff overlooking our lake, in honor of Jack's grandfather, Jim Hill.
- The TV behind the bar needs to be replaced.
- Work is being planned on the Woodland Trail Bridge. So, if you would like to get out and earn some volunteer hours stay tuned and watch the Google group.
- Our annual Turkey Shoot is planned for December 7.
- The sediment & erosion control element of the lake project has been approved by the County and passed inspection.
- Trout stocking at the lake is on hold because the lake water level is very low.
- Insulation was installed under the Caretaker Cottage back porch. Additional energy conserving projects are in the planning stages.

Maryland Charity Campaign List

If you're a Maryland state employee and participate in the Maryland Charity Campaign, the "Rockville Chapter Izaak Walton League of America" is on the list of charities for the 2026 campaign, which opened in October. For more information about how to contribute, see the Maryland Charity Campaign Giving Guide (<https://mcc.maryland.gov/giving-guide/>).

New Members Recently Inducted

Alex Diaz	Potomac
Alan Cohen	Bethesda
Kevin Majane and Dianne Babski	Germantown
Ragnar Pietroszek	Germantown
Jeff Schmidt	Silver Spring

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.