ROCKVILLE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

November 2026

P.O. Box 2255
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J Copsey, Editor

The President's Message

Winter is slowly coming our way. Instead of being a couch potato, get outside for some nature. There is hiking in the snow (if we get any). Here, nature is more approachable, and adding cross-country skiing adds a good workout. One thing I did with my kids was sledding below the trap house. It was a good ride down but hard coming back up the hill.

This time of year, is good for fires at the lake fire pit, and grilling either franks or burgers on the grill. For exercise, three circuits around the lake equal a mile. Also in the colder months, astronomy at the lake can be very rewarding. There's plenty you can do outside instead of being a couch potato.

In the near future there will be a need for volunteers to work on the Emma King Nature Tail bridge repair. That needs to be sorted out first but please stay tuned.

In the meantime, there will soon be an opportunity to do some wood splitting at the lake.

Tom Vegella

Air Pistol League started October 6th

The air pistol league began Tuesday, October 6th, but you can still participate. The upstairs of the clubhouse is available for shooting from 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. All scoring and socializing are done on the lower level. **Please enter at the lower level**. The league runs for 23 weeks (with a break at Christmas and New Years). The cost for the season is $20 for members and $25 for non-members. New shooters are welcome. This is a handicap league based on how well you shoot against your average, so come on out and try it. Air pistols are available for use, but bring .177 pellets and eye protection. For additional information call Susan Cassell.

November Turkey Shoot

Join with your fellow Ikes and their guests Sunday, November 8, for the 2026 Turkey Shoot. The November date was chosen to address the complaints of competitors about cold trigger fingers and other similar excuses.

The event will be held at the shotgun range (next to the archery range) from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Cook a hot dog and roast marshmallows over a fire, sip 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! Consider bringing eye and ear protection too.

*********Attention Rockville Members *********

Your presence is needed at the General Membership Meeting on November 6th. There will be a brief presentation of the proposed 2027 Chapter budget that requires your vote for approval.



The November Meeting's Guest Speaker

November's speaker is C. J. White from the Second Chance Wildlife Rescue Center in Clarksburg, MD. C.J. is the Education & Community Engagement Manager at Second Chance Wildlife Center, Maryland's first and only licensed veterinary hospital dedicated exclusively to wildlife. With more than 15 years of experience in wildlife education, he has spent his career working at wildlife rehabilitation facilities, developing educational programs and helping connect people with the wildlife around them.

CJ has worked with more than 300 species of animals. His background includes raptor training, free-flight programming, endangered species breeding, owl banding, nest box monitoring and release initiatives. He is passionate about inspiring others to become better wildlife neighbors through education and conservation.

Volunteers needed to provide a meal on GMM Nights.

Volunteers needed to cook meals on General Membership Meeting Nights. Pick a month and get your six volunteer hours in one night. For more information contact Jeri Crist.

Emma King Nature Trail is Closed

Premature rot of the plank wood has rendered the top trail bridge too dangerous for use. The planking has already been removed and discussions about improvement of the construction and anchoring are ongoing. In the meantime, you can either drive to the Clopper Road access gate or take the scenic route by hiking up to the orchard and using the alternate trails to get down to the lake.

WSSC pipeline install may affect our lake entrance

The Chapter leadership was told months ago that a contractor was hired to install a water pipeline that will run from our property to Firstfield Road. The work was described as a replacement for an existing water pipe. The process involves digging a hole approx. 30 feet deep and from there a tunneling machine will be used to open the underground pipeline channel. They have assured us we will have lake access, but there are still many unanswered questions. Questions like where will the excavated dirt be stored and how long will the job take? The WSSC representative that was exhibiting at the Chapter on H&F Day said that he was surprised that the contractor hadn't started the job yet.

Report on Rockville's Hunting and Fishing Day Event

I just wanted to extend a huge THANK YOU to all who participated in Hunting & Fishing Day this year! Despite the rain and ending a little early, we had just over 200 visitors this year and over 90 volunteers. Everyone I talked to had a great time.

I learn a little bit more every year and, hopefully, I'm getting better at this every year! If anyone's interested in stepping up, I could use a co-chair for next year. I'm always open to suggestions and feedback, too.

～H&F Day Chairperson Catie Wright～

Trout Stocking is Unlikely at this Time

Due to the low water level of the Jim Berrier Lake, caused by the persistent drought we are experiencing, there will not be a Trout stocking. With no water flowing in and no water flowing over the spillway, the only thing currently maintaining any sort of acceptable water quality is the aerator. Adding more fish would add more fish defecation waste which would eventually lead to fatal toxicity of the Lake's water. Until the drought conditions break and the water level is raised high enough to flow over the spillway, stocking trout doesn't make any sense.

Yes, we are all disappointed, but as responsible conservationists we refuse to do any harm to our lake and the its inhabitants. For those members that enjoy fishing for trout, MD DNR stocked Seneca Creek with Golden and Rainbow trout on October 15.

Newsletter Policy Change

Not all information or due credit can be covered by the paper version of the Newsletter. Since October, all additional articles that do not fit the four-page format of the paper version will be made part of the monthly email newsletter in PDF format and the Website Version only. Contact info is deleted from the website version - so the PDF emailed version is your best choice.

Chapter Newsletter Via Email

The Rockville Chapter Newsletter is available in PDF format sent to your email account. Let's avoid making more birds homeless than we have to by conserving paper and save on postage too! If you wish to receive your newsletter by email ONLY and in PDF format, contact David Schwartzman, and include your name so that we can confirm your membership.

Cub Scout Pack 464 launched a Service Project

Rockville's sponsored Cub Scout Pack 464 is collecting used crayons of any color and any condition. These crayons will be recycled and transformed into new crayons that are distributed to child life programs in children's hospitals across all 50 states, helping brighten the days of young patients during their stay.

A medium-size collection box has been placed at the IWLAR Chapter House. Scouts, families, and members are invited to drop off their used crayons at any time. Ravi Ramani from Pack 464 will empty the box weekly and handle all recycling logistics. Contact information will be posted on the box in case it becomes full.

Thank you for supporting this meaningful project and helping bring a little color to kids who need it most.

～Mike Parker - Chapter Scouting Coordinator～

Removing Nuts from Burrs

On the evening of Monday October 5, a hearty and dedicated group showed up at the Chapter House, to remove American chestnuts from their burrs. These nuts were then used at an October Chestnut Festival for roasting—demonstrating one of the tasty and useful features of the American Chestnut tree. Another feature would be the beautiful and robust wood that is unique to the American chestnut tree.

Rockville member Tony Sutton is responsible for the Chestnut orchard on Rockville's property—but those trees are too young to produce nuts. Luckily, Tony is also in charge of the Chestnut Orchard at Black Hills Lake where he and others gathered up the burrs that were brought to the Chapter on Oct. 5.

Thanks to Rockville member Ron Kuipers, our Chapter long ago partnered up with The American Chestnut Foundation—otherwise known as TACF. We are now experiencing current and future generations getting involved in the effort to resurrect the King of the eastern forest—the American Chestnut tree. Thanks Tony.

November 13th is Game Night

The game night on 11/13, starts at 7:00 p.m. and runs through 10 p.m. Poker, board games, Uno, and whatever you decide you'd like to play. Game Night is a great time to relax and have fun with Rockville members and perhaps their guest(s) too. Some food is usually provided at a nominal cost and others bring food and snacks and don't charge anything.

The Seneca Greenway Trail

Adjacent to our Lake property is a gem of a hiking and biking trail— the Seneca Greenway Trail. It stretches all the way from Damascus MD to the Potomac River near the stone cutting mill next to Riley's Lock. If you have never traveled this trail, you are missing out on an experience in the beauty of nature. Not just the forest, but many creatures that crawl, walk, fly in and above as well as those than swim and live in the creek itself. Below is a picture taken in Autumn of the Railroad Viaduct that the trail crosses under—an example of the type of sights that can be seen along the trail.



Latest Outdoor America lists all the National Awards

If you did not attend the September meeting you missed the awards given to our IKES by the Rockville Awards Committee who presented Chapter, State Division, and National Awards. The just published Issue 3 of Outdoor America contains all the National awards that were given at the IWLA National Convention. Our Rockville Chapter shows very well. I'd list the awards here but you should look for yourself.

Second Annual American Chestnut Festival

The Maryland chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation held its second annual American chestnut festival at the Milkhouse Brewery in Mount Airy. Participants were treated to the taste of roasted chestnuts.

Attendees could also purchase American chestnut saplings and circular sections of tree trunks called "cookies". Some Rockville IWLA members are "double dippers" in that they are members of TACF too. Rockville members that attended the festival were Ron Kuipers, Gary Neubaum, Brian and Lori Parr, Cindy Stevens and Tony Sutton. The photo to the right shows Gary Neubaum roasting chestnuts on a grill while Cindy Stevens provides moral support. Many of the Roasted Chestnuts are from the American chestnut orchard at Black Hills Park that Rockville member Tony Sutton manages. The article on page two refers to the many volunteers that shucked the chestnuts from their burrs one night in October to provide nuts for roasting at the festival.

Potential Danger – You need to know!

From now till the end of January 2027 there will be qualified Bowhunters on Chapter Property. If you intend to hike our trails, you'd be better off doing so in the late morning. It would also be good to wear bright colors with hunter orange being the best choice. If walking your dog, you should obtain a sweater of hunter orange for your dog's safety.

MC Range Safety Committee Inspected Rockville's Ranges

On Saturday October 18, the Chapter's firearm ranges were inspected by the Montgomery County Range Safety Committee. Afterwards, discussions with our President, Pistol Range Chairman, and Rifle Range Chairman, resulted in two guidelines that needed to be incorporated into our Range Rules. Afterwards the Certificate for our Firearm Ranges was renewed.

Ikes Want Ads

- **Smith & Wesson**, 45ACP, 1911, 5", Engraved, cased, new—$1400
- **Smith & Wesson**, .44 Magnum, 6.5", target, 50th Anniv. Cased, new—$1300
- **Smith & Wesson**, .44 Magnum, 4" Elmer Keith Commem; Cased, new—$1700
- **Smith & Wesson**, .38 S&W, 5" (rare), Break-top hammerless, 1909, LNIB—$850
- **Mauser Broomhandle**, 30 Mauser BOLO, Like New, all matching & Stock—$3500

⬇ Especially for IWLA Rifle Matches ⬇

- Ruger, 10/22, Volquartsen Trigger, Shilen Barrel, thumbhole stock with special open adjustable target sights for 25 yd. rifle match—$700
- Ruger, 10/22, Volquartsen Trigger, Carbon Fiber Barrel, Turner Stock with Leupold 3-9 x50 Scope focused for 50 yd rifle match— $1000

Many more Colts, S&Ws, Glocks, etc. Call Terry Popkin for information & photos.



Cub Scout Pack #464 is on a roll!

In July, our Scouts spent an afternoon playing games with residents at an assisted living facility in Rockville, bringing joy and laughter into their day. We also undertook a history tour of Monocacy Battlefield, learning about a pivotal event of the Civil War and recognizing the sacrifices that helped preserve our democracy. To close out the summer, Scouts laced up their boots for a hike at Cunningham Falls, soldiering on through pouring rain and gaining a well-earned appreciation for the outdoors. And our 2026 season kicked off with a new IWLAR supported service activity (The Crayon Initiative). From service to history to nature adventures, our Scouts are growing in ways no classroom can teach. ~ Ravi S. Ramani ~









IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE

NATIONAL HUNTING & FISHING DAY

HUNT · SHOOT · FISH

ROCKVILLE CHAPTER























Pistol League Awards Banquet



Rimfire Champions Team Lexington Shown: Marion Wardrick, Ken Kee, and Jim Deigan - Not shown: Chris Hawthorn, Paul Kim, Doris Lee, Jim McGonigle, and Chris Wright.



Rimfire Most Improved Shooter - Taylor Wardrick



Centerfire Champions Team Von Steuben - Shown: Tim Kee, Don Burrows, Steve Brady. - Not shown: Steve Adah and Doug Smith

Pistol League Awards Banquet



Centerfire Most Improved Shooter - Tim Kee



Centerfire Team Washington Most Valuable Shooter - Ken O'Regan with daughter

SOS Monitoring









SOS Monitoring







