



President's Message

It's hard to believe that we are near the end of 2022. The Chapter has accomplished much this year thanks to all our volunteers. I hope everyone had a chance to enjoy at least one of the activities. Getting involved is very rewarding. If you haven't done it this year, think about it for the next.

On a sad note, we say goodbye to Chapter member Byron Holston. He contributed significantly to the Chapter as a Director, updating the access locks, and bringing back the 3D archery after a several year hiatus. He was an all around great guy and will certainly be missed.

Warmest thoughts and best wishes for a wonderful holiday season!

Susan Cassell

It's Renewal Time!

You should have received your annual membership information in the mail by now. You have until 12/31/2022 to complete your six hours of Chapter volunteer time. Your volunteer hours and dues must be postmarked by 12/31/2022 to avoid the late fee. So watch the Newsletter and the iwlar Google group emails now for volunteer opportunities.

If you haven't received your renewal information or have other questions, contact Judy at judydanish@verizon.net

2023 Range Cards Sticker Notice

Archery Approved, Range Approved, and Range Officer qualified members who complete the on-line attestation form and renew their membership by December 31, 2022 will receive their range card stickers the second week of January, following the January 8 range cards work party.

As a reminder, Range Cards with 2022 stickers remain valid until January 31, 2023, only with a 2023 Chapter membership card, renewed by December 31.

2023 year stickers must be displayed on Range Cards starting February 1, 2023. All other persons will lose their range privileges February 1; Range Officer access cards will be deactivated for the pistol range. Attestations and renewals received after the January deadline listed on the calendar will be processed only every few months.

~ The Chapter Range Safety Committee ~

December Speaker Focus

Andrew A. Kling is a University of Maryland Extension faculty extension assistant with more than twenty years of writing and editing experience for educational, government, and non-profit organizations. He is one of the co-authors of the Woodland Stewardship Education program's *The Woods in Your Backyard: Learning to Create and Enhance Natural Areas Around Your Home* (2nd edition, 2015) and *Woodland Health Practices Handbook: A Practitioner's Guide for Creating, Enhancing, and Maintaining Natural Areas* (2020).



Andrew coordinates two online non-credit Extension courses for the program: The "General Forestry Course," which provides an overview of forestry, forest health, and forest economics, and "The Woods in Your Backyard," based on the guide of the same name, which helps owners of small-acreage properties learn how to create or better manage their natural areas. He is the editor of "Branching Out," the program's free quarterly newsletter as well as the webmaster for the program's website at go.extension.edu/woodland. He is also the author of more than a dozen non-fiction books for young adults.

Andrew's talk will describe features of the Woodland Stewardship Education program.

2023 Range Officer Training Class Schedule

The 2023 Range Officer Training Class schedule has been finalized. Classes will be held March 25; June 10; and September 30 to train new range officers and recertify existing RO's due for recertification in 2023.

For *new* Range Officers, class prerequisites are that you must be Range Approved for at least six months; have a Range Officer Certification Card signed by three Duty Range Officers while using the pistol range on separate occasions before the class; and successfully complete a test on the Range Rules prior to the class. Upon class completion, new Range Officer candidates must also successfully serve as the Duty Range Officer during the live fire portion of a Range Orientation Practical Training Class for new members held each month to receive their Range Officer credentials (Range Officer Range Card and Pistol Range Coded Chapter Access Card).

Existing RO's require recertification every 5 years, which consists of completing the RO Training Class and the pre-course test on the Range Rules. RO's requiring recertification in 2023 will be contacted in January after membership renewals close for their class date preference.

Range Officer qualified members are granted the privilege of using the rifle and pistol ranges (see the Range Rules for specific times) when a Duty Range Officer is not present on weekends. With the privilege of greater range access comes a responsibility - you must serve as a Duty Range Officer for a three or four-hour weekend shift approximately twice each year.

For more information or to register for a class, contact Duval Crist. Also, look for specific newsletter announcements in advance of the March 25; June 10; and September 30, 2023 classes.

~ Duval Crist, Range Coordinator ~

Save Our Streams

For several years, the Rockville chapter's [Save our Streams](#) program has been working with kids in the Great Seneca Creek to teach them about aquatic bugs and how those bugs inform on stream health. Recently, some volunteers and I, using a seine net, collected about twelve hellgrammites from the creek during a quick three-foot by three-foot sample of the creek bottom. I can't recall finding so many hellgrammites so quickly.



SOS(continued)

Hellgrammites indicate decent water quality, because they tend to live in relatively clean and well-oxygenated water, a good sign for Great Seneca Creek. Of all the bugs we pull from the water, nothing gets kids more excited than the hellgrammites' size, intimidating pinchers, and alien-like appearance. Hellgrammites, which are larval bugs, live in streambeds for one to three years before turning into dobsonflies, an end stage of their lives that concludes in a blink—once they turn into dobsonflies, they die within three to ten days.



As any angler knows, hellgrammites get largemouth and smallmouth bass excited too. If you'd like to meet some of these leggy critters, check the [IWLA Rockville calendar](#) for more stream sampling events in May, July, and September 2023. Or contact Phillip Mariscal, Rockville SOS Program.

Thanks,
Phillip

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.

Individuals will be added to iwlar@googlegroups.com automatically when they become a member unless they request not to be added. Members can remove their address from the list anytime but we are hopeful that they will not do this because the list is the most effective way to receive short notice activity announcements and cancellations.

New Members Recently Inducted

Ricardo Carmona	Kensington
Curtis Cline	Silver Spring
Brian Goode	Potomac
Henry Wei	Gaithersburg
Michael & Catie Wright	Germantown

A warm welcome to all!

Wood Duck Conservation in January

With January just around the corner, it's time to once again prepare the Chapter's wood duck nest boxes for the spring nesting season. This is a great opportunity to get a jump on your volunteer hours for 2023, contribute to a worthwhile conservation activity, and work alongside some great people in the process. This year's work days will include January 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th, and February 4th. Each Sunday, volunteers will go out in the field to repair and replace boxes, check the predator guards, cut away brush and, most importantly, record nesting success from last spring. And as you can imagine, it takes many hands to get the job done so please consider joining us for one or more work days.

If you are not familiar with the program, the Chapter's Wood Duck Conservation effort has helped maintain nesting boxes and monitor wood duck populations since the 1950's. IWLAR maintains about 75 wood duck nesting boxes in Montgomery County, mostly in McKee Beshers Wildlife Management Area west of Poolesville. Winter is the best time to prepare them for the birds' arrival in late February/early March.

Wood Ducks (continued)

A few days before each wood duck work day, details about the next work day's meeting location, etc., will be announced via the IWLAR Google Group. Assignment of specific tasks will happen that Sunday morning, on-site. In general, we meet at the designated location at 10:00 a.m. and work is usually done by 1:00 p.m. The boxes are in wooded swamps and that requires wading in shallow water so chest waders or hip boots are ideal. For those who do not have their own, the Chapter has a few loaner pairs available. All tools and repair materials are supplied; you just bring the warm, willing body.

Keep an eye out for the weekly announcements in January on the IWLAR Google Group and sign up when you can. To sign up for any of the work days contact Joe Walther. Hope to see you out there!

Chapter Newsletter Distribution

Going forward, electronic distribution of the IWLA-Rockville Chapter Newsletter will be the default. Chapter members may still receive a hard copy but will be required to "opt in" to do so. To receive a hard copy only, contact Judy Danish.

If you do not receive the Newsletter in your email and wish to do so, contact David Schwartzman.