



Winchester IWLA Newsletter

Woods, water, wildlife - our heritage, our responsibility.

www.winchester-iwla.org

April 2023

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Please see an important note on Membership Cards from your Editor in [Other News](#).

OPENING DAY SUCCESS!

Some seventy people came to your Chapter and enjoyed Opening Day at Lake Neff. Please read more about the event in [Lake and Conservation](#).

MIKE MERCER MEMORIAL KIDS FISHING DERBY

Mark your calendars. Sunday, April 23rd. Read more in [Lake and Conservation](#).

CAMPGROUND WELL IS WORKING!

It was a job, but R&R Well Drilling did it! Read about it under [Other News](#).

PRECISION RIFLE AND PISTOL COMING SOON

It's coming soon. Read about it under [Range Report](#). See you on the line!

WINCHESTER, VA





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FROM THE EDITOR



Normally I make some pithy comment about how it's springtime and getting warmer and how's about you get on out in the out-of-doors.

Not this time. No. This April we celebrate Easter. Many deride the holiday as having been lifted from pagan celebrations, but that's only the derivation of the name 'easter.' What we celebrate is so much more than that. We celebrate our risen Lord.

You see, if Jesus simply lived a life of perfect obedience to God's will, and died a shameful, undeserved death, then we would still be dead in our sin. The whole point is in His resurrection. The totality of His propitiation. His death, His burial, and His resurrection.

That's why we call it 'Good' Friday. He needed to die for our sins. And then, three days later, to rise again to glory, defeating death and sin.

So, just as the blood of the lamb on the lintel protected the Israelites from death in Egypt during the first Passover, the blood of Christ protects we who are covered in it from death. Repent and believe the gospel of Jesus Christ now. He is risen!

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BOARD REPORTS

Your Board meets on the first Thursday of each month; Membership meets on the third Thursday of each month. Minutes can be found on the Chapter website under Documents.

Ladies' Auxiliary

We are starting a Ladies' Auxiliary at our chapter and recruiting members. If you are interested in joining, please email Peg Sattler at membership@winchester-iwla.org.

We have a lot of awesome activities we would like to host in 2023! Bingo nights, chapter dinners, movie nights, Super Bowl party, etc! So many things will be happening in 2023 and you could be part of it! Join us!



Mike Mercer Memorial Kids Fishing Derby

This year the Derby will be Sunday, April 23rd, from noon until 4:00 p.m. Please note – Lake Neff will be closed for stocking on April 13th at 2:00 p.m., and will reopen for the Derby on April 23rd.

Bait Available

The Chapter house cooler is fully stocked with bait. The Lake and Conservation committee sells bait in the chapterhouse as a convenience to our members. We are able to maintain our current prices of \$5 for red worms, night crawlers and wax worms due to tremendous support from Jake's Bait and Tackle.

New Campsite

A new campsite, built by an Eagle Scout, has been named for Chapter President Dan Arico in recognition of Dan's many contributions to the success of the chapter. More on this Eagle Scout project next month. In the meantime, congratulations President Arico!

And I always thought presidents got libraries. :/

LAKE AND CONSERVATION REPORT

Opening Day

Opening Day had 70 people fishing for the first big stocking of the year. The Special Events committee, led by **Harold Whitacre**, served 115 breakfast sandwiches, 4 gallons of coffee, and 1 gallon of hot chocolate to members and their guests. The 50/50 raffle was won by **Mike Johnson**, who graciously donated it back to the Chapter. Thanks Mike!



Thanks to member **John Whitacre** for supplying honey buns and sweet treats for the event. Special thanks to volunteers **Toby Norris**, **Charles Weiss**, **Jeff McCall**, and **Eric Raybuck** for running the event.



RANGE REPORT

Dr Green Memorial Shotgun Range

Range Availability

Thanks to a great recruiting effort by Mike Harper, we now are able to have RSO's to open the Dr. Green shotgun range every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 1pm to 3 pm. We invite our members to join us and the experience of breaking some clay targets. The range is set up so that YOU the shooter can choose which targets you want to shoot. The format is a 25 shot round shooting 5 shells from 5 different shooting stations. If you need a shotgun, we have both 12- and 20-gauge shotguns available for rent as well as 12 & 20 gauge ammunition. The price is reasonable and breaking clays is a great way to spend a couple of hours.

If you have never tried shotgun shooting, we have an instructor available that will provide instruction. The learn to shoot includes gun, ammo, hearing and eye protection and will be available by appointment. Please contact Rick Hill @ rhill1105@aol.com to set up your appointment. Oh, and by the way invite a friend, have fun and breaks some clays.

Shell Pricing

As of the first of the month we will be adjusting our ammo price to \$12.00 per box of 25 for both 12 & 20 ga shells. Unfortunately, inflation has caught up with ammunition just like every other factor in our day to day lives.

We look forward to working with many of you and seeing you at the Dr. Green Shotgun Range.

"Feel the gun, see the break, smell the powder"
Rick Hill, Shotgun Rangemaster

Precision Rifle & Bullseye Pistol Starting Soon

Get those .22LR rifles and pistols cleaned, lubed, and ready to go! The Chapter's weekly Precision Rifle and Bullseye Pistol shooting series starts on Monday, May 1, at 6:00pm at the Rifle/Pistol range. Note the time change from last year – we're trying a later start to encourage those not available earlier to join us for some fun and informal competition! Ladies and gents, experienced and beginners,

young and...young at heart! If you shoot .22LR, come out and join in the fun and camaraderie.

We shoot pistol and rifle on alternating Mondays: rifle on the first and third Mondays, and pistol on the second and fourth Mondays (we don't have the range reserved on fifth Mondays of the month, as infrequently as they occur). All range rules and procedures apply; bring your eyes and ears, cased guns only until the range is hot, and we fire at paper targets from behind the red firing line.

Contact **Jason Adcock** at jason.adcock@outlook.com if you'd like more information. Additionally, I plan to be at the April membership meeting on April 20 to offer a brief presentation of the program, including showing the targets we use and talk about the courses of fire; come out then to hear more!

See you on the line!

OTHER NEWS

Membership Cards

The following message is from your Editor, and him alone. I can get just as confused as the next guy about, well, anything. Just ask Mrs. Editor. But I am pretty clear, thanks to a lot of help, on what our membership cards are and what they are not. I'm hoping I can convey what I have learned in a winsome way.

First, your printed membership card comes from National, not your Chapter. It can take a few months to get them sorted, printed, and mailed out. And once it's in the hands of the USPS, well, you'll get them... soon. All that to say that your Membership Director doesn't control when you get your card. At all. Not even a little bit. The Director is a volunteer and is not paid enough to deal with angry members demanding to know where their cards are. So stop. Please.

Which leads me to Point 2. The only card that matters, the card that gives you access to the Chapter, is the plain proximity card you were given when you joined. You never get a new one, unless you lose yours and need a replacement. Each year, once your dues are paid, your proximity card is reactivated and your access to the Chapter



is unhindered. You will still need, of course, your range sticker to use the ranges on the property.

Finally, anyone who accesses the Chapter property and is not a current member, or has not paid his dues, is trespassing. All members must wear their member cards displayed, and present them when asked. If it is January, February, March, etc., and you still haven't received your current year printed card, that will be understood. No one will frog march you out as long as your dues are paid. Trespassers put the entire Chapter at risk should they injure themselves or anyone else. An insurance claim from a non-member could close the Chapter for good. I'm not asking you to police the gate or grounds. If someone tries to tailgate you through the gate, do not confront them. Simply note the car make and license plate if possible and let someone on the Board, or me your Editor, know, and we'll take care of it.

In short - Membership is doing a fantastic, thankless job. They cannot and do not control when you get your printed membership card. If your dues are current, your proximity card will get you on the property.

Honeybees

The first stage of the introduction of honeybees at our chapter is complete. Volunteers on chapter workday were able to create a bee enclosure including a leveled surface, ground cover, and protective fence. Volunteers removed dead standing trees that had to the potential to impact the enclosure, cleared the overgrown access road, and bush hogged the area around the enclosure. The protected enclosure is large enough for 12 hives, though we will begin with 8 hives. The bees and hives are expected to arrive sometime in April. Special thanks to Bee Team chapter volunteers **John Lewis, Steve Nurkowski, Eric Raybuck, Dean Gilson, Braydon Gilson, and Jeff McCall.**

Campground Well is Operational!

After 2 years, the hand pump well in the campground is fully operational!!! The well was installed in 1965 and some of the original parts wore out. R&R Well Drilling did an

amazing repair including working late into the night.



They guaranteed it would last another fifty years. I put a post-it on my laptop to check its functionality in 2073. Someone remind me if I forget.

Raffles

Your Chapter continues to raffle off fun, outdoor equipment, such as rifles, shotguns, handguns, and compound bows, among other items. The next raffle starts soon. Go to the Chapter website under [Chapter House > Raffle](https://www.winchester-iwla.org/Raffles) (<https://www.winchester-iwla.org/Raffles>) to buy a raffle ticket... or many tickets. Your chances of winning get better the more you buy. Each ticket is only \$20 and all proceeds benefit your Chapter.

Visit the website to see the current raffle. Drawings are held at the following month's Membership Meeting. Winners need not be present.

Friends of the Winchester Izaak Walton Chapter

Several businesses help support your Chapter through services and gifts. This list will continue to grow, and I encourage you to support them in kind as you can.

Winchester Aquarium and Pet Center

The fine folk at the Winchester Pet and Aquarium Center are responsible for testing the water sampled from Lake Neff.

They provide this service freely, willingly, and cheerfully.

If you have a pet, or are interested in

one, please consider doing your business with them. They



"Your Pet Professionals"

190 Costello Drive Winchester, VA 22602 Phone: 540-667-8198 wapcinfo@comcast.net	<table border="0"> <tr><td>Mon—Fri</td><td>10am to 8pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Saturday</td><td>10am to 7pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Sunday</td><td>11am to 5pm</td></tr> </table>	Mon—Fri	10am to 8pm	Saturday	10am to 7pm	Sunday	11am to 5pm
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www.petcenteronline.com



give to your Chapter; we should give back at least a little. They are located at 190 Costello Drive, just down from Costco.

Mule Fanatics Foundation

The Mule Fanatic Foundation supports Mule Deer habitat projects for this declining iconic animal as well as provides youth hunts for kids with life threatening illnesses across the country. The Blue Ridge Chapter was founded by two Winchester IWLA members and is the only chapter on the East Coast. This foundation also supports keeping youth involved in the outdoors by donating a percentage of their annual banquet dinner to local youth programs.



Jake's Bait & Tackle

If you, like me, enjoy the convenience of having bait ready to go at the Chapter House rather than jumping back in your car because you forgot worms again, be sure to thank Jake's Bait and Tackle. Jake's continues to supply the bait concession in the Chapter house with fresh red, wax, and earth worms. Be sure to support a business that supports your Chapter by getting your worms at the chapter house rather than the gas station. Also, drop in and say 'Hi' next time you're in their neighborhood and treat yourself to some new gear! You can find them at 234 Ezra Lane in Winchester.

