



Winchester IWLA Newsletter

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

www.winchester-iwla.org

April 2024

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

OPENING DAY

Kids of all ages enjoyed Opening Day. See a short report and pictures under [Lake and Conservation](#).

MULEY FANATICS

Reminder that the banquet is April 13th. Read more in [Other News](#) and see the [flyer](#) at the end of the newsletter.

MIKE MERCER MEMORIAL KIDS' FISHING DERBY

Save the date and mark your calendars! The Derby is scheduled for April 28th. See the [flyer](#) at the end of this newsletter and the request for help under [Lake and Conservation](#).

CONSERVATION EASEMENT

Your Chapter is under a 'conservation easement.' If you don't know what that is, it's a good thing. You'll want to read about this under [Board Reports](#).

HELP NEEDED!

We are always looking for more volunteers. But we do have two very important committees – Lake and Conservation and Archery – that currently do not have a chair. If you have a passion for either, please consider donating of your valuable time to help out. The Chapter cannot function apart from her volunteers. Read more under [Board Reports](#).





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FROM THE EDITOR



I returned from a boy scout camping trip that included a 5-mile hike along the Appalachian Trail. I say this, because I intended to send this out Friday before we left but didn't remember until we set up camp on Saturday. So, apologies for the lateness of the newsletter. I mean, it would have been late Friday, but not as late as it is now.

There are lots of exciting things happening at your Chapter. The Mike Mercer Kids' Fishing Derby is in a couple of weeks, and there's an item written by **Paul Sattler** and **Jim Sherry** about steps your Chapter has taken to preserve the grounds from future development, protecting the natural outdoors for generations to come. Read about it under [Board Reports](#).

That's enough from me. If I don't put an end to this section, this newsletter will never get out. And speaking of getting out, get outside and enjoy all God has gifted to us.

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BOARD REPORTS

If you have any interest in serving on one or more of our committees, please send an e-mail to editor@winchester-iwla.org.

Chapter Under Conservation Easement

Last year, the Board of Directors of the Winchester Chapter of The Izaak Walton League of America applied to put the Chapter's land under a conservation easement. This is a proactive measure to protect our valuable natural resources and preserve the integrity of local ecosystems. The IWLA aims to safeguard vital habitats for wildlife, maintain water quality, and promote sustainable land use practices. This decision reflects the organization's commitment to environmental stewardship and ensures that future generations can enjoy the benefits of a healthy and biodiverse environment. Through the conservation easement, the Winchester IWLA demonstrates its dedication to responsible land management and the long-term preservation of natural landscapes for the benefit of present and future communities.

Several Virginia Izaak Walton chapters have for many years been under intense pressure to sell portions of their lands to real estate developers. The conservation easement will ensure that our Chapter's land will not be sold for that or any other purpose. Our use of the land remains under the Chapter's control; the conservation easement requirements of the Commonwealth of Virginia will not change our utilization or future plans.

To further our conservation efforts, there will be a land conservation fund set up on the Chapter website to receive donations that will lead to funding further dedicated land conservation initiatives.

You can read more about what a 'conservation easement' is and what it means [here](#).

Help Needed!

The Chapter needs volunteers. We have many openings on the following committees:

- Range Safety (NRA RSOs)
- Lake and Conservation
- Facilities
- Archery

LAKE AND CONSERVATION REPORT

Opening Day

Opening Day was, as to be expected, a huge success! Mostly for the fishermen, but I think a few fish managed to shake the hook and have a decent day too. It was a bright, clear day. Perfect for fishing.



RANGE REPORT

Bullseye Pistol and Precision Rifle

Get those .22LR pistols and rifles cleaned, lubed, and ready to go! The Chapter's weekly Bullseye Pistol and Precision Rifle shooting series is starting on **Monday, May 6, at 5:00pm** at the Rifle/Pistol range! The competition is both fun *and* informal, and **all** shooters are welcome! 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 starting in May: pistol on May 6, rifle on May 13, pistol on May 20, and so forth. Fifth Mondays are off, and we start the same rotation in June, and go through October (October 28 will be our last shoot). 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 at 25 yards from behind the red firing line.

Bullseye Pistol

A pistol match consists of three courses of fire: *Slow Fire*, *Timed Fire*, and *Rapid Fire*. *Slow Fire* uses the NRA Target B-16. *Slow Fire* is 20 rounds in 10 minutes. You have 10 minutes to put 20 of your best shots on paper. Most people everyone is done, but you do have 10 minutes. Then we pull targets and post an NRA Target B-8 for *Timed Fire*. This is four strings of five shots, 20 seconds per string. Then we pull targets and post a fresh B-8 for *Rapid Fire*. This is four strings of five shots, but only 10 seconds per string.

That's 20 rounds fired in each of the three courses of fire, for a total count of 60 rounds and a total possible score of 600. Those with a practiced hand usually shoot in the mid-to-upper 500s. Traditionally, Bullseye is shot with a one-hand hold, but you can use either a one-hand or a two-hand hold.

Precision Rifle

A rifle match consists of two courses of fire: *Slow Fire* and *Timed Fire*, both using an NRA Target B-19...though we usually use the smaller and less expensive B-19C, which is just the center rings of the full-sized B-19 target. *Slow Fire* is 20 rounds in 10 minutes. As with pistol, most complete in four or five. Then we take that target down and put up a fresh one



Everyone had a great time, and kids of all ages had nice stringers to show at the end of the day.

Fishing Dock

The Board approved repairs to the fishing dock. Until the repairs are completed, the fishing dock is closed.

Mike Mercer Memorial Kids' Fishing Derby

The Derby is scheduled for April 28, 2024. Volunteers are needed. Please contact **Patty Nunn** if you can help. She can be reached by email at pan_iwla@aol.com, or at (202) 246-1115. Watch for details in your email as we get closer to the 28th.



for Timed Fire. This is four strings of five shots, 20 seconds per string. Those shooting a manual action, such as a bolt- or pump-action rifle, start each string early and get 25 seconds per string. No bench rests, slings, or other shooting aids...it's just you and the rifle!

A rifle match is a total of 40 rounds fired, and a total possible score of 400. Our highest scores are in the mid-390s. I don't think we've had a perfect 400...yet...maybe that's **you** this season!

Contact **Jason** at jason.adcock@outlook.com if you'd like more information. Additionally, I plan to be at the April membership meeting on April 18 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 at 5:00pm on the first four Mondays of each month!

Armed Women of America



Mission

Armed Women of America exists to enable women to be their own self-protectors, creating freedom, peace of mind, and confidence in themselves.

Vision

For women to have the mindset, skills, and training to defend themselves and those in their care.

At our March meeting, we welcomed self-defense and martial arts instructor **Phillip Kennedy** for our Women's Self-Defense Course. We had such a fabulous time! We learned many new ways to protect ourselves. **Philip** had us partner with another member and we took turns practicing on each other. It was amazing how quickly time went by.

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday for classroom work at the WIWL Chapter House and the 4th Tuesday for live fire at the WIWL Range. We cover a wide variety of topics such as fundamentals of shooting, malfunctions, field stripping to grow our shooters' confidence, as well as guest speakers that expand our training knowledge. For more information and to attend a meeting, please contact **Vicki** or **Christina** at

AWA.ShenandoahValleyVA@gmail.com.

OTHER NEWS

Muley Fanatics Fundraising Banquet

Our local chapter – and the only one east of the Mississippi River – is holding their annual fundraising banquet in April. See their [flyer](#) at the end of this newsletter. MFF donates a portion of the proceeds back to your Chapter to fund youth outdoor programs.

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>) 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.

Ike's Miscellany

- Did you know that the chapter has cherry smoking wood available? We also have wood for backyard fire pits and solo stoves. If you would like to pick some up, please contact Brian (brian_callahan@winchester-iwla.org).
- Did you know that the chapter has a Lost and Found? If you lose something, let us know! We find items at the ranges, by the lake and in the campgrounds on a regular basis.
- The chapter needs used tarps for our firewood storage. These can be in any condition and any size. Please drop them in the chapter parking lot at the wood pile.
- The chapter bait station will be starting again in early March. We will be stocking red worms, night crawlers and mealworms in the chapter house as a convenience to our members. Please use the envelopes and drop payment in the treasurer's box when purchasing bait.
- Please remember to check the chapter event calendar for all area closures and special events.



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.



A.P.C.
WINCHESTER
"Your Pet Professionals"

190 Costello Drive Winchester, VA 22602 Phone: 540-667-8198 wapcinfo@comcast.net	Mon—Fri 10am to 8pm Saturday 10am to 7pm Sunday 11am to 5pm www.petcenteronline.com
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If you have a pet, or are interested in one, please consider doing your business with them. They give to your Chapter; we should give back at least a little. They are located at 190 Costello Drive, just down from Costco.

Muley Fanatics Foundation



The Muley 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.

This year's banquet is scheduled for April 13, 2024. Seating is limited to 250 people, so get your tickets early. As

in past years, a portion of the banquet proceeds are allocated to the Winchester IWLA Youth Outdoor programs, and we will again be doing the same this year.

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code in the flyer at the end of the newsletter.

Jake's Bait & Tackle

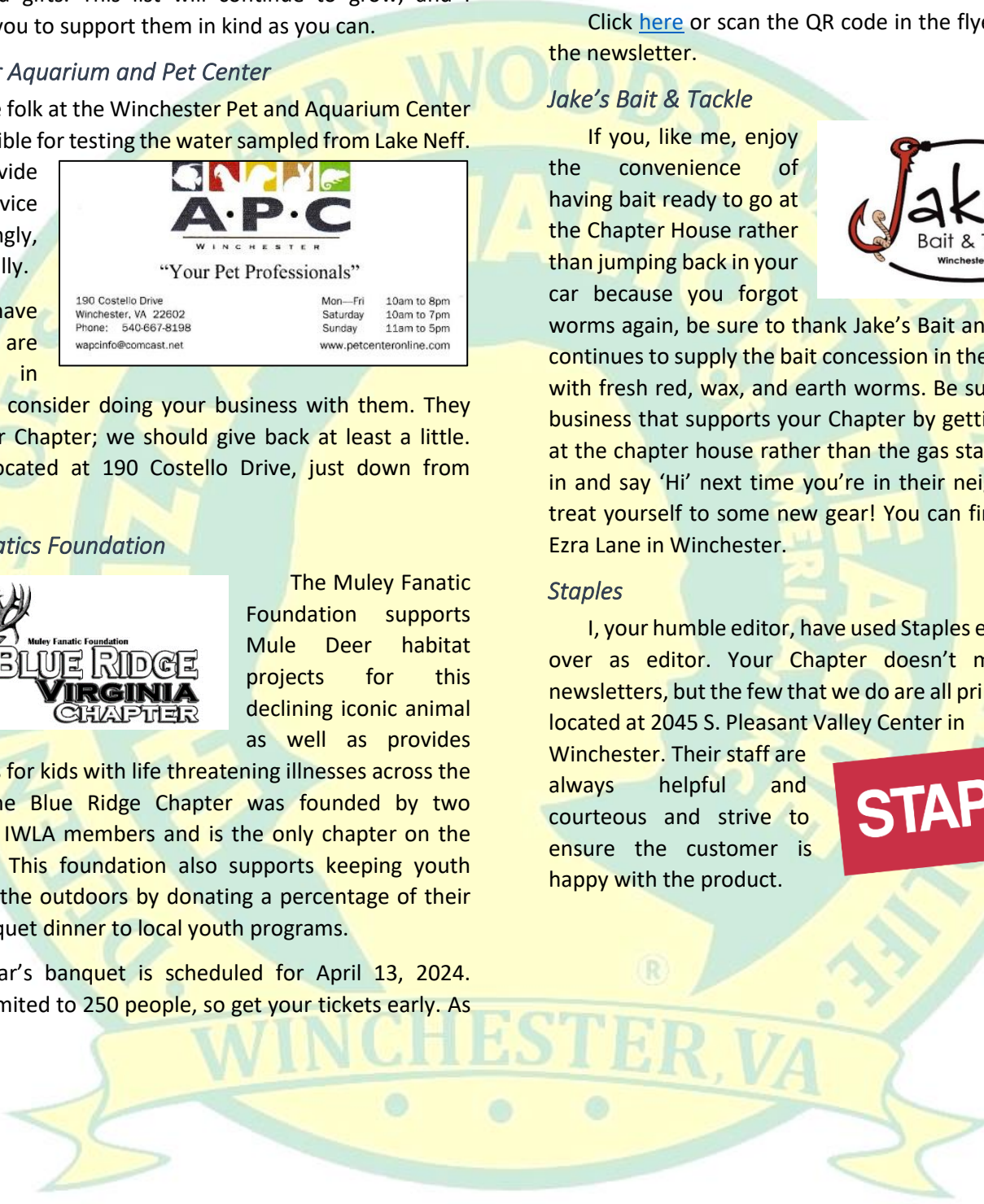
If you, like me, enjoy the convenience of having bait ready to go at the Chapter House rather than jumping back in your car because you forgot



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.

Staples

I, your humble editor, have used Staples ever since taking over as editor. Your Chapter doesn't mail out many newsletters, but the few that we do are all printed by Staples, located at 2045 S. Pleasant Valley Center in Winchester. Their staff are always helpful and courteous and strive to ensure the customer is happy with the product.





MULEY FANATIC FOUNDATION FUNDRAISING EVENT

Guest Speaker



Dr. Kevin Monteith
Professor at University of Wyoming
Mule Deer Research and challenges moving forward.



Mule Fanatic Foundation

BLUE RIDGE VIRGINIA CHAPTER

5th Annual Banquet
Saturday April 13, 2024
Doors open at 4:30 PM

Shenandoah Valley Golf Club
134 Golf Club Circle
Front Royal, Virginia

We support our local Youth Outdoor Sporting Activities and Conservation / Education through the Izaak Walton League



Tickets:

Corporate Table \$1200.00 (LIMITED TO 13 TABLES)
(Reserved seating for 8, 8 memberships, 8 meals & \$300 raffle tickets)

Couple Tickets \$120.00
(2 meals, 1 membership)

Single Ticket \$80.00
(1 meal, 1 membership)

Youth Ticket \$25.00
(1 meal for ages 11-17)

Kids 10 and under are FREE



EARLY MIGRATION Purchase tickets before March 1st and receive Raffle Tickets and your name in the bucket for a special prize drawing!

Purchase tickets online at mffbrc2024.givesmart.com



For more information:

Dave Kavanah @ (757) 635-3841

Ron Kendra @ (540) 327-8691

muleyfanatic.org



Winchester Chapter of The Izaak Walton League of America



PRIZES

FREE!

Open to
Public



Mike Mercer Memorial Kids' Fishing Derby

Open to kids Age 15 and under.

Registration Begins at 11:00 AM. Derby runs from 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Prizes and Awards 4:00 PM

Snacks Provided to Participants with Concessions Available

Prizes are Awarded by
Fish Length for Each Age
Group



1922

2022

A Century of Conservation Leadership

We have a small
Pier for Special
Needs Children

COME JOIN THE FUN ON **SUNDAY APRIL 28th!**

IZAAK WALTON PARK, 2863 MILLWOOD PIKE, WINCHESTER, VA 22602

