



Winchester IWLA Newsletter

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



www.winchester-iwla.org

December 2021

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

WIWL HOLIDAY PARTY

December 11th – Save the date! See [Other News](#) for details.

CHAPTER WORK DAY

There are two focus areas – the dam and tree removal. See [Lake and Conservation Report](#) for details.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Your editor has received questions about membership cards and renewals. Please see [Treasurer's Report](#) if you have questions or concerns.

SHOTGUN TIP OF THE MONTH

Are you an enthusiastic shotgunner or interested in becoming one? No matter where you may be on that continuum, the [Tip of the Month](#) under Range Report should benefit you.

SHOTGUN HOURS UPDATE

With daylight savings, the Dr Green Memorial Shotgun Range lost an hour on Sundays. Read more about this under [Range Report](#).

THANK YOU, MR. MASLAND!

WIWL member John Masland donated a number of tools to your Chapter. Read more in the [Lake and Conservation Report](#).

PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE DANDARS

WIWL members Ed and Ursula Dandar lost their beloved dog, Bear. You may have met Bear at Lake Neff as he was often with the Dandars enjoying the grounds. You can read more in [Other News](#).





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FROM THE EDITOR



The last newsletter of 2021. So much has happened at your Chapter this past year. Brian Callahan, with lots of help from the membership, successfully hosted the spring camporee for the Boy Scouts. This event really showcased what your Chapter has to offer the community. Thank you, Brian!

The Dr Green Memorial Shotgun Range has really come into its own. Hours have been expanded, thanks to volunteers stepping up to give of their time so others can enjoy shooting clays. New trails and campsites have been built. Lake Neff saw improvements and projects, as did your Chapter house. All of it was possible through the time and effort of volunteers. More can be done, but we need you to help out. Donating your time can reduce your membership fees, but beyond that will help preserve a legacy of conservation for generations to come. Please consider giving back to your Chapter this coming year.

I'd like to remind everyone that everything that happens at your Chapter is done by volunteers – men and women who give of themselves for others. Be patient, kind, and understanding when sending out an email asking about Chapter availability, membership fees and cards, and anything else. I want to take this space to thank the Board specifically for their dedication to your Chapter. Dan, Grant, Brian, Jim, Peg, Paul, John, Harold, Rick, Al, Garry – thank you so much for all you do for our Chapter. I know how many hours you give of yourself each month, and so many of those hours are never seen. I truly appreciate each of you and want to thank you for all you do.

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BOARD REPORTS

Your Board of Directors met on November 4th. The minutes are [posted](#). You can browse to the minutes by pointing here: <https://www.winchester-iwla.org/Board-Meeting-Minutes>.

The Membership Meeting was held on November 18th. The minutes are posted [here](#): <https://www.winchester-iwla.org/Member-Meeting-Minutes>. The Treasurer's report was given at this meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Renewal notices have been sent via email to all members who included an email address in their original applications, and that as of the date of the meeting 257 members have paid their 2022 dues. Those members for whom the chapter does not have an email address on record had their renewal invoices mailed to them via USPS on November 18, 2021. The full Treasurer's report is posted on the chapter bulletin board.

LAKE AND CONSERVATION REPORT

Millbrook Marching Band

The chapter hosted the Millbrook marching band for their annual end of marching season party. The event featured a bonfire in the field behind the dam with around 100 attendees. Several Chapter members are also band parents and organized the event. The Lake and Conservation team assisted with traffic control at the end of the event. Congratulations to the Millbrook band on a great marching season!



Special Thanks

Special thanks to John Masland who donated many used tools to the Chapter. The tools will be used for chapter maintenance and eagle scout projects. The chapter also received several 2-way radios from a donor. The radios required some maintenance but are now fully functional. Two way radios have been needed at our chapter for several years and will be used for events, safety and traffic control.

Trout Stocked

The lake was stocked in November and many of the trout being caught are 16"+. Orndorff Trout is the vendor our Chapter has used for 50 years and they always supply amazing fish. The committee will be planning the 2022 stocking and events schedule in the next meeting. Join the lake committee and volunteer!

Invasive Species Clean-Up Continues

Committee members are continuing the cleanup of invasive species. The committee is also working on cleaning up downed trees, and splitting and stacking firewood. If you have some time, we are always looking for assistance. Please contact Brian Callahan (brian_callahan@winchester-iwla.org).

Chapter Work Day

Chapter workday was a great success! We were able to work on multiple projects including invasive species removal, Dam maintenance and woodcutting. We had 31 volunteers including 9 scouts and parents from Boy Scout Troop 34 in Berryville. We were able to make an amazing amount of progress on several major projects.

No date has yet been set for the next Chapter Work Day, but the focus of the work will be on repairing the dam pipe using the concrete support cylinders we have, and cutting down the autumn olive trees. If you would like to pitch in, keep your eyes peeled for the announcement and call for volunteers.



RANGE REPORT

Shotgun Tip for December

What should you see when properly mounted to your shotgun? You should be “no lower than snowman” meaning that you should see the mid-rib bead immediately below the muzzle bead and no space in between.

Many shooters I fit have the misconception that they need be flat on the rib, with no rib visible at all. This is incorrect and will diminish your visual connection with the target. Other shooters, however, shoot with more “float” than others and see more of the rib, and that’s OK. Verifying POI on the patterning board, and particularly on actual targets, is the real test. If your shotgun shoots where you are looking, you are in good shape.

With that said, you should NEVER adjust your mount to make a shotgun fit. If you are, it is time for a gun fitting. Adjusting your mount to compensate for a poorly fitted shotgun can result in the formation of some very nasty habits, which can be very hard to break. If you have verified that you are shooting high when properly and comfortably mounted to the gun, you have three options given that your adjustable comb is already at its lowest adjustment:

1. Sand down the top of your comb until your gun shoots where you are looking, but no further. Be careful not to encroach on the hardware inside your comb.
2. Raise your rib slightly by adding an aftermarket add-on rib. There are a number of companies that will make a custom rib for your shotgun but you will need to have some idea of the height that is ideal for your fit. Using a piece of balsa wood to achieve the correct height is the technique I use.
3. Get a gun fitting from an expert gun fitter (not necessarily a stock maker) and have a custom stock made for your gun.

Dr Green Memorial Shotgun Range Hours

There has been a little confusion regarding the hours for the shotgun range, and thanks to daylight savings, now there’s more. Note the new hours for Sunday below.

Day	Time
Wednesday	1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Sunday	1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

We still need volunteers to work as RSOs at the five stand. It cannot open without a trained RSO. Please contact Rick Hill (rhill1105@aol.com) if you are interested. If you are a current RSO, you will need training on operating the wobble trap.

OTHER NEWS

Holiday Party

Your Chapter is presenting the 2021 Holiday Party on Saturday, December 11th, at the Chapter House from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. There will be a buffet dinner, DJ, raffle baskets, 50/50, door prizes, special party awards, and fun!

Tickets are \$20/person, which includes your dinner, drink, and 25 raffle tickets. There is a 100 person limit, so get your tickets today! Register at the Events section of the WIWL [website](https://www.winchester-iwla.org/event-4562408) - <https://www.winchester-iwla.org/event-4562408>.

In Memory of Bear



Ed and Ursula Dandar lost their beloved dog, "Bear". He passed from a cancerous tumor right before Thanksgiving. Bear spent his whole life exploring WIWL and he knew every inch of the park. Most people remember seeing him retrieve orange/duck

decoys from the lake. He will truly be missed.

Dogs are more than simply ‘pets.’ They become part of the family. They give unconditional comfort, love, and joy. My sympathies to the Dandar family for their loss.



Thank you for the memories, Bear.



pages for your Chapter. The original was set up, but the password for that page has been lost and so that page can no longer be maintained.

A second Facebook page was created recently and can be found [here](#). It is updated regularly and is your best source to know the latest goings-on with your Chapter.



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.

“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	www.petcenteronline.com
Mon—Fri	10am to 8pm							
Saturday	10am to 7pm							
Sunday	11am to 5pm							

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.

Chapter Facebook Page

I know this same message has been in previous newsletters, but it bears repeating. There are two Facebook

Sometimes the Chapter will be closed or events cancelled due to weather or other reasons. Be sure to check the Facebook page to check for closures or cancellations.

Amazon Smile

This is another nugget worth repeating. Would you like an easy way to give back to your Chapter? By selecting Winchester IWLA as your charitable organization at smile.amazon.com, a portion of eligible purchases will be donated back. You can read more about this program [here](#).

To select your Chapter, follow these simple steps:

1. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com>.
2. Choose “Winchester Izaak Walton” as your charity. It can be found [here](#).
3. Be sure that when you shop you are at **smile.amazon.com**. Having the ‘smile’ at the beginning of the URL makes the difference.

