



Winchester IWLA Newsletter

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



www.winchester-iwla.org

October 2022

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

SUCCESSFUL FAMILY FUN DAY

Peg Sattler and Harold Whitacre did a great job making Family Fun Day a success. Read more about it in [Board Report](#).

IT'S RENEWAL TIME

Watch for renewal information coming by e-mail in October. If you do not have an e-mail on file, it will be coming by mail..

ANY IDEAS FOR YOUR CHAPTER?

See [Board Reports](#) for information on the 2023 planning cycle. We want your input.

ANOTHER EAGLE PROJECT FOR YOUR CHAPTER

Jacob Beny installed a fire pit at the Dr Green Memorial Shotgun Range. It looks great! Thanks, Jacob! Read more in [Range Reports](#).

BEAR SIGHTING

There have been several reported and verified bear sightings near the campground. Please use common sense when on the property. Dispose of your trash properly. Don't keep food in your tent. Read more under [Lake and Conservation](#).



ARCHERY COMMITTEE



If you are interested in archery and want to help set up and serve on the Archery Committee for your Chapter, please contact board member Gary Tilley. He can be reached at mindbender119@hotmail.com or by phone - 314-409-5982.





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FROM THE EDITOR



Welcome to October. Boo.

Big things happening in your Chapter, chiefly because of the dedicated and tireless work of a few volunteers who, behind the scenes and largely unnoticed, make sure your Chapter has ample bank fishing available, trimmed and maintained trails to hike, safe live-fire ranges open to all members, and facilities to make your time at the Chapter enjoyable. These volunteers ensure the bills and vendors are paid, the lake is stocked, and that there is generally something happening at your Chapter for everyone to enjoy. For example, the Family Fun Day that just happened. These just don't happen. Many hours – volunteer hours – are spent making sure your Chapter is usable.

This isn't a call for help. Well, it is. But more than that, it is a sincere **Thank You** from your Editor to all the men and women who put so many of their own hours into my Chapter to make it the success that it is. Thank you for all you do!

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BOARD REPORTS

Last month your Editor told you to 'stay tuned' for an exciting announcement this month. Well, it seems that will be delayed as the subject of the announcement was destroyed in transit. So, you'll just have to wait.

In the meantime, why not enjoy the minutes from the last Board meeting, held Thursday, September 1st. It's absolutely riveting! New kitchen cabinets, roster information, etc. Y'all can find that and more by browsing to it on the Chapter's website - <https://winchester-iwla.org/Board-Meeting-Minutes>.

I kid. Seriously, your Board keeps this joint running smoothly. A very small number of men and women, committed to the values of the Izaak Walton League, give of their own valuable time to clear trails, maintain and rebuild your Chapter House, ensure Lake Neff remains usable and healthy for the fish population, staff the various ranges so you can enjoy them year-round. I won't name names, because invariably I would omit critical people ~~even I am unaware of~~ even I am unaware of whom even I am unaware of. Suffice to say that there are nearly 900 members at your Chapter, and a very small number are dedicated to keeping it running like a well-oiled machine. To each and every one of them, I extend a sincere 'thank you.' Without them, there is no Izaak Walton chapter in Winchester.

Family Fun Day

Amazing kudos to Peg Sattler for her work setting up and running family fun day. The daylong celebration featured activities including shotgun, fishing, tomahawk throwing and kids games at the chapterhouse. The special events committee chairman Harold Whitacre shared in the fun and assisted with a wonderful meal of hotdogs, hamburgers and a potluck of sides and desserts. The turnout was almost 70 people and based on how much fun everyone had, this event will continue to grow every year. We had a great mix of kids, parents and grandparents. Thanks also to the volunteers that assisted Harold and Peg including Howard and Sandy Beny, Jeff McCall, Rick Hill Megan McGonigal and Paul Sattler.

2023 Planning Cycle

Its that time of the year again where the committee chairpersons are hard at work planning their 2023 budgets with the committees. It's always important to hear from the members as to what they want to see from the Chapter. If you have any ideas or feedback, please contact the editor and he will route your information to the correct committee.

An example of feedback was changing our fall trout stocking. Our late season stocking was always 300 trout in the late fall. Last year we modified our order to our vendor to 300 lbs. of trout. This meant fewer but bigger fish. This change resulted in late season trout averaging 14-21". The committee was overwhelmed with feedback and so we changed our stocking plan going forward to accommodate the change.

LAKE AND CONSERVATION REPORT

Bear Report

Be aware there is a bear around our property. The bear has been seen several times in the campground area and scat has been found. The bear has been eating on our neighbor's farm. We need to take some simple steps to encourage the bear to move on to other locations. Please do not leave any food (fast food leftovers) in any garbage cans along the lake or at the ranges. Please take food garbage with you or leave in the garbage cans by the chapterhouse. Take caution walking dogs off leash in the campground. The best way to avoid the bear is to make noise and alert it to your presence so not to startle it. We have regular activity in the campground area during the week doing forestry and invasive species removal and they are monitoring for any bear activity.

Campground Updates

The campground is busy this time of year! There are open campsites on most weekends and we will be building another new campsite this fall. The maintenance team has been busy



making sure the campground is in amazing shape including mowing, weed trimming, and tree removal.

Bait Available

The chapter is very excited to offer live bait again in the chapter house. The chapter has teamed up with Jake’s Bait and Tackle to provide quality bait for fishing Lake Neff. Every bait purchase assists the chapter. Special thanks to Jake’s Bait and Tackle for the support!!!

RANGE REPORT

Archery

The 3D targets are set up at the archery range. Do NOT use broadheads against these targets. Target points only. Please contact Gary Tilly (mindbender119@hotmail.com or (314) 409-5982) if you have any questions.

Eagle Project

Jacob Beny of Troop 22, Stephens City completed his Eagle Scout project at the shotgun range under the direction of Rick Hill, Rangemaster. Jacob built a firepit to be used during the cold weather months by spectators, youth shooters and members waiting their turn at the 5-stand.



The firepit design features a fire ring with solid wall blocks surrounded by a framed landscaped area making it easy to mow and maintain. This project was made possible with a donation of materials by Boyer Landscaping.

Jacob is the son of members Howard and Sandy Beny. He attended Sherando High School, graduated early and is currently attending Shenandoah University. We wish Jacob best wishes in his Eagle board of review and we cannot thank him enough for his amazing project.



Wait... what about...

The Bullseye Competition? Patience, please. A complete wrap-up of the competition will be in next month's newsletter. Unless I forget or am replaced. Don't let your subscription lapse!

OTHER NEWS

Save the Date!

The next Chapter work day will be Saturday November 12. We will have AM/PM crews as in previous work days.

Reminder – Flag Retirement Box

The Chapter has a flag retirement box by the front entrance that was built by Spencer Blick of Troop 34 of Berryville as his Eagle Scout Project. American flags that are worn can be dropped off here for proper retirement by the Boy Scouts.

Whoops!

Way, way back in early August, member Marla sent your Editor an email that dish soap and water in a spray bottle defeats the Lantern Fly. I completely forgot to include her advice and to give her credit in last month's edition. In fact, her advice is sound. Dawn dish detergent is the preferred soap, used in equal parts with water.

Thank you, Marla!

Armed Women of America

Armed Women of America provides a safe and comfortable environment for women to gather, learn, train, and discuss issues important to women gun owners while creating opportunities for women to learn and grow as shooters. Chapters across the country offer a welcoming, non-intimidating place for women to learn more about the safe and responsible use of firearm, including firearms safety, personal protection, concealed carry, mindset and so much more.

The meeting offers classroom and range time, all under the guidance of certified women instructors.



The Shenandoah Valley VA Chapter of Armed Women of America meets for classroom training from 6 – 8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the WIWL Chapter House. We meet for range time from 1- 3 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Clyde L. Heishman Memorial Rifle and Pistol Range.

Our members are improving their shooting skills using the NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program. To date we have 12 Pre-Marksmen, 10 Marksmen, 8 Sharpshooters, 4 Expert and 3 Distinguished Expert.

Anyone interested in joining, or for more information, contact Vicki Rhodes or Megan McGonigal at AWA.ShenandoahValleyVA@gmail.com. We look forward to meeting you!

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/ChapterHouse) (<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



A.P.C.
WINCHESTER
"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> <p>www.petcenteronline.com</p>	Mon—Fri	10am to 8pm	Saturday	10am to 7pm	Sunday	11am to 5pm
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Saturday	10am to 7pm						
Sunday	11am to 5pm						

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.



Jake's Bait & Tackle

Jake's will be managing the bait concession in the Chapter house. 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.



Final Thoughts

Please consider bringing your pumpkins and jack-o-lanterns to your Chapter after Halloween. Just toss them in the fields along the road between the range and the campgrounds. The animals love to forage on them. Do remember to remove any candles or other non-pumpkin things from them before tossing, please.

