



Winchester IWLA Newsletter

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

www.winchester-iwla.org

May 2023

MAY HIGHLIGHTS

IN MEMORIAM – VERNON GUIDRY

On April 3rd, we lost a fine Ike. Vernon was responsible for your award-winning newsletter. Please read more about him under [Board Report](#).

CHAPTER ELECTIONS NEXT MONTH

Please see [Board Reports](#) for important information regarding next month's election.

MIKE MERCER MEMORIAL KIDS FISHING DERBY

A whole passel of kids showed up and had a great day fishing. See more under [Lake and Conservation](#).

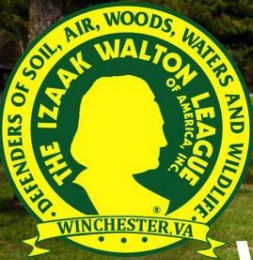
THE BEES HAVE ARRIVED

Read all about them in [Lake and Conservation](#).

PRECISION RIFLE AND BULLSEYE PISTOL

See [Range Report](#) for details.





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FROM THE EDITOR



This month we lost yet another good Ike. Vernon Guidry, 79, who created our award-winning newsletter, and who passed the torch to me, passed away on April 3rd.

He left very big shoes to fill. Fortunately, he helped me with ideas, content, and format. When you read this newsletter, you are very much still feeling his lasting imprint on our Chapter.

Besides the newsletter, Vernon helped with every request for a grant, Chapter press release, and all submissions to Outdoor America. Vernon was a master photographer, taking photos of virtually every Board and Membership meeting and Chapter event.

Vernon brought home the award from National for the very best newsletter in the entire 200+ chapter organization that make up the Izaak Walton League of America. Vernon was a key volunteer for your Chapter. He will be greatly missed.

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BOARD REPORTS

In Memoriam

About six years ago **Vernon** transformed the Chapter newsletter from the old "yellow sheet" format to the award winning format we're still seeing today. His ideas for newsletter content and writing style created an information medium that our members and the National organization recognized in a formal award as a vast improvement in getting the word out to our membership.



Vernon with his grandson

Vernon's experience in photography, journalism, and publishing benefitted the Chapter in other valuable ways as well. He edited and in most cases help write every request for grant funds submitted by the Chapter over the past several years, resulting in funding for kids' events, many of the improvements to Lake Neff, and campground development. He attended virtually every Board of Directors and Membership meeting, gathering material for the newsletter and staying current on Chapter activities. He attended those activities as well, photographing for posterity their successes.

Vernon was a quiet, humble man of great talent, knowledge, and devotion. His presence and assistance made a tremendous difference to the Chapter and our members.

In recognition of **Vernon's** many contributions to the Winchester Chapter, our new apiary has been named for him. Perhaps more impressive is his recognition by the

hundreds of Boy Scouts that use the improved camp grounds: they refer to him as "the coolest member of the Chapter." We should all be so honored.

Like another former member, **Ray Palladino**, **Vernon Guidry** will be sorely missed as a major contributor to the Chapter's success in the years since the 2015 court decision.

Meetings

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.

I missed it last month, but **Howard Beny** rejoined the Board of Directors in March. The bylaws allow for members to join the Board outside of the annual June elections by volunteering and being voted in by a majority of the existing Board members. **Rick Hill** and **Bill Nordman** (current VP) joined that way in November, and **Howard** in March.

Of note too is the appointment of member **Buz Grover** as the Chapter Safety Officer. He'll also be working to revitalize the Education and Training program.

Speaking of this...

Elections

Please plan on attending the Membership Meeting scheduled for 7p.m., June 15th at the Chapter House. From the bylaws

Regular Chapter elections will be held at the June membership meeting. A slate of up to twelve (12) members in good standing will be elected to the Chapter Board of Directors in accordance with Chapter election procedures. Each year, up to six (6) Directors will be elected to a two (2) year term. If more than six positions need to be filled, the remaining positions will be filled by Directors elected to a one (1) year term, with allocation to the two-year term based on highest vote count.

At the June membership meeting, the following will stand for re-election to the Board:



Dan Arico, incumbent
Jim Sherry, incumbent
Peg Sattler, incumbent
Garry Tilley, incumbent
Harold Whitacre, incumbent

The following still stand for election as they were appointed mid-term:

Bill Nordman, appointee
Jeff McCall, appointee
Rick Hill, appointee
Howard Beny, appointee

Please attend and let your voice be heard through the ballot box.

LAKE AND CONSERVATION REPORT

Mike Mercer Memorial Kids Fishing Derby

What a success! Due to your generosity and the tireless devotion of a handful of volunteers, many kids enjoyed fishing Lake Neff, and more than a few walked away with prizes to boot! All left with great memories and, hopefully, a lasting love of the outdoors.

Pictures have been uploaded to the website and can be found in the Gallery section, or by clicking [here](#).

Thanks to all the volunteers that made it happen!



The Bees Are Here!

The chapter released 90,000 bees in our apiary. The bees will forage up to 3 miles and subsequent visits to the hives show them settling into the hives.



Anyone interested in learning more about the bees should contact the editor. Our bee project included the purchase of bee suits so our members could get involved.



Special thanks to the volunteers who assisted our beekeeper **John Lewis** including **Braydon Gilson**, **Dean Gilson**, **Terry Henry**, and **Jeff McCall**.

Fishing Report

Your Board Member and Archery Range Master **Garry Tilly** had another fine outing at Lake Neff. The alert reader will remember that **Mr. Tilly** pulled a fine perch out of the lake back in February. At the end of April, **Garry** hoisted a fine 3 pound bass using a crank bait.



Also enjoying the lake that day were **Tim** and **Wendy Wharton**.

Wendy pulled a really nice 15" rainbow out of the lake, along with a stringer of other fine trout. I'm sure **Tim** caught some fish too, but any day fishing with your bride is a good day.



RANGE REPORT

Dr Green Memorial Shotgun Range

Members have been using the five stand quite a bit the past month. While having a great deal of fun breaking clays, shooters are also participating in one of the best money-making efforts we have at the Chapter. Thanks to all the volunteers who spend of themselves to make this great resource available to all!

Precision Rifle and Bullseye Pistol

Precision Rifle and Bullseye Pistol Is Starting Now!

Get those .22LR pistols and rifles cleaned, lubed, and ready to go! The Chapter's weekly Precision Rifle and Bullseye Pistol shooting series started on Monday, May 1, at 6:00pm 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 rifle and pistol on alternating Mondays starting in May: rifles on May 1, pistols on May 8, rifles on May 15, and so forth. Fifth Mondays are off (enjoy Memorial Day with your families!), and we start the same rotation in June, and go through October. 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.

Precision Rifle

Rifle uses two courses of fire: Slow Fire and Timed Fire, both using the same target (NRA Target B-19...though we use the smaller and less expensive B-19C, which is just the center rings of the full-sized target). Slow Fire is 20 rounds in 20 minutes. You have 20 minutes to put 20 of your best shots on paper. Most people finish in four or five minutes, and we move on when everyone is done, but you do have 20 minutes. Then we take that target down and put up a fresh one and do Timed Fire. This is four strings of five shots, 20 seconds per string. If you have a bolt- or pump-action rifle, then you start each string five seconds early and get 25

seconds total. No bench resting and no slings...it's just pure stand-and-shoot.

It's a total of 40 rounds fired, and a total possible score of 400. Some of the best shooters can get in the 390s. I don't think we've had a perfect 400...yet...maybe that's you this season!

Bullseye Pistol

This uses three courses of fire: Slow Fire, Timed Fire, and Rapid Fire. Slow Fire uses the NRA Target B-16. This is 20 rounds in 10 minutes. Again, most complete in four or five. Then we pull targets and post a B-8 for Timed Fire. Similar to rifle 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.

It's a total of 60 rounds fired, and a total possible score of 600. Some of the best shooters get in the mid-to-upper 500s. Traditionally, this was done only with a one-hand hold, but we started doing either one- or two-hand holds last year.

Contact **Jason** at jason.adcock@outlook.com if you'd like more information. See you on the line at 6pm on the first four Mondays of each month!

OTHER NEWS

Camping and Axe Throwing

Your Editor, with Troop 15, camped at the Glaize campsite the last weekend of April.

Well, we didn't really camp overnight. The rains and winds really cooled the interest the scouts had in camping. However, we did enjoy the tomahawk throwing station installed at the end of 2021 by Eagle Scout Caleb Vining. If you haven't yet tried it out, give it a throw!



Saturday morning, **Rick Hill**, **Jack MacGregor**, and the **Brisson Brothers**, took our scouts to the five stand and taught the young men the art of breaking clays.

The boys all agreed that Izaak Walton is the best place to go camping and want to return soon. **Mr Hill**, we might want to get some more shells and birds!

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 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.



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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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

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.

