



Winchester IWLA Newsletter

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



www.winchester-iwla.org

July 2023

JULY HIGHLIGHTS

NO FIREWORKS IN THE CHAPTER

We say this every year. No fireworks of any kind within the Chapter grounds. None. Not even a sparkler. Thank you.

CHAPTER ELECTIONS

Elections were June 15th. Read about the results under [Board Reports](#).

SHOOTING SPORTS

From SASP to in-house Chapter competition, lots going on at the range. Read about them under [Range Report](#).

MULEY FANATICS DONATION

The Muley Fanatics donated \$2,500 to your Chapter to support youth programs. Thank you, MFF! Read about their donation under [Board Report](#), and about the Foundation under [Friends of Izaak Walton](#).

TRASH LEFT AROUND LAKE NEFF

It surprises me to have to put this reminder to the membership of an organization whose mission is "To conserve, restore, and promote the sustainable use and enjoyment of our natural resources, including soil, air, woods, waters, and wildlife." Clean up after yourself. Please see [Lake and Conservation](#) for details.

SNAKES!

Many snake sightings. Watch your steps! Read more in [Lake and Conservation](#), and how to identify snakes under [Other News](#).





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FROM THE EDITOR



I need to make something clear straight from the beginning – anything in the From the Editor section is exactly that: from me, the editor. I write, or try to most times, what is on my heart in the moment. It's the last part of the newsletter I write, and often the reason the newsletter is late getting out.

Not this month. This month, it is the first section. I knew that when I wrote last month's "From the Editor" it would likely generate a response. Happily, there was, to date, only one negative. The rest were very positive and supportive, thanking me for saying what they were thinking (and starving to hear said by someone).

It is fitting that this is July, the month we celebrate our independence. One of our founding principles is the pursuit of happiness. If that means pretending to be the opposite sex, go for it! Have fun. Just keep the kids out of it. That's not too much to ask.

(continued in [Other News](#))

OFFICERS

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BOARD REPORTS

President's Report

President **Dan Arico** introduced **Dave Kavanaugh** of the Blue Ridge Chapter of Muley Fanatics. **Dave** presented the Winchester Chapter with a check for \$2,500.00 to be used in support of Chapter youth activities.



Elections

Members began voting at the published time of 6:30 p.m. Chapter election official **Vicki Rhodes**, assisted by Election Committee members **Ed Dandar**, **Ursula Dandar**, **Brenda Schilinski**, & **Marla Cruz** checked members' IWLA membership cards and a second government-issued identification to verify eligibility to vote, and provided each voter a single ballot containing the names of the candidates. Completed ballots were then placed in the secure ballot box under the control of Vicki Rhodes. Voting ceased at the published time of 7:15 p.m. The votes were tallied and confirmed by the Election Committee and announced as follows:

Dan Arico	24 votes
Bill Nordman	23 votes
Jim Sherry	23 votes
Peg Sattler	24 votes
Harold Whitacre	23 votes
Jeff McCall	20 votes
Rick Hill	22 votes
Howard Beny	18 votes

One ballot contained a write-in vote for a Board member who was not up for election.

Immediately following the verification of the vote tally the Directors met in executive session to elect the Chapter officers from among the Directors elected and currently serving. Officers for the current term are:

Dan Arico, President
Bill Nordman, Vice President
Jim Sherry, Secretary
Paul Sattler, Treasurer
Peg Sattler, Membership Director

LAKE AND CONSERVATION REPORT

Lake Neff

Trashed

Please clean up after fishing. We are finding garbage on a regular basis along the lake including fast food wrappers, empty bait containers and broken lures/worms. Please also remove the used fishing line. Fishing line causes issues with the equipment we use for mowing. The white tubes around the lake are for used fishing line *only*. Do not put anything else in those tubes.

Stocking

The Lake and Conservation Committee voted last year to stock bait this year. Thousands of minnows, rosies, and shad are being added to the lake to boost the ecosystem. Members will see the effect of this stocking with catching much larger fish. It is important to continually boost the lake with food sources that self-replicate. While many of these fish will be eaten soon after stocking, the survivors will reproduce in the lake providing a continual food source.

Chapter Grounds

We are seeing many snakes this year. Watch where you are walking! Most of the snakes are harmless but several venomous snakes have been seen. I asked a local pest control professional about the snake population, and he has also



seen a marked increase this year primarily because the mild winter caused the rodent population to spike.

Most are harmless rat snakes, but a few have reported seeing juvenile copperheads. You can read more about telling juvenile snakes apart in [Other News](#).

RANGE REPORT

Dr Green Memorial Shotgun Range

Good News – Bad News from Dr. Green Shotgun Range. The good news is that the range will open earlier so shooters can shoot before the day gets too hot. The new range hours, starting July 1st, are:

Saturday	9:00 a.m. to Noon
Sunday	9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday	

Now for the bad news. Like everything, prices are going up for shells, and we’ve had to make some adjustments too. Still a great value! Pricing at the five-stand:

25 shot round	\$7.00
12ga/20ga shells	\$12.00/box
12ga/20ga shotgun rental	\$5.00/shooting day

Have you ever thought about shooting a shotgun? We have NRA, NSCA shooting instructors available to help you break your first moving clay targets and experience the fun and satisfaction. Give us a call or email us to set up an appointment. The instruction is free, Shotgun, Shells, & Clays \$10.00 per person.

Rick Hill, Shotgun Range Manager
“Feel the Gun, See the Break, Smell the Powder”

Armed Women of America

The June 13 monthly meeting of the Armed Women of America (AWA) Shenandoah Valley VA Chapter was held at the Winchester Izaak Walton League’s Dr. Robert C. Green Jr. Memorial SHOTGUN Range. **Rick Hill**



along with four awesome shotgun instructors/RSOs provided orientation and then one-on-one instruction to our 13 ladies present. It was one of our most memorable meetings and one that we won’t soon forget. We are very grateful to be sponsored by WIWL. A big thank you to a 5 STAR facility and crew.

Armed Women of America – Range Appreciation

To show our appreciation for Winchester Izaak Walton League sponsorship and use of their range, we used our June 27th scheduled range time (while the range was closed) to pick up as many spent casings as we could in 2 hours at the Rifle – Pistol Range. We made a small dent in the copious



amount of casing in the parking lot and in front of the firing line. In all, we picked up 45 pounds of spent casings! Thank You Izaak Walton League, we will be back and see if we can beat Tuesday’s record.

SASP

The Blue Ridge Bullets youth shooting team, recently participated in the Scholastic Action Shooting Sports (SASP) Virginia State Match. Held on June 9th and 10th at the Winchester Izaak Walton Chapter's rifle and pistol range. This year the match was conducted virtually, with teams shooting from their respective home



ranges and submitting scores online. Although the team is still awaiting official placements, the Blue Ridge Bullets showcased impressive performances, with many shooters achieving personal best scores. Moreover, the team prioritized safety throughout the event, ensuring a fun and secure experience for all participants.

With dedication and passion, the Blue Ridge Bullets demonstrated their commitment to the sport during the two-day competition. Combined, the team fired over 6500 rounds of ammunition. Each member showcased their skills and control, highlighting their growth and progress.



While the final rankings are yet to be announced, the Blue Ridge Bullets embodied the true spirit of the SASP and continue to be a source of pride for the WIWL Chapter. Their focus on camaraderie and sportsmanship created an environment where everyone had an enjoyable experience. The team celebrated personal achievements and maintained a strong emphasis on safety, solidifying their reputation as responsible competitors.



Regardless of the final placements, the team can be proud of their accomplishments and the memories made during this exceptional event. With their talent and

commitment, the Blue Ridge Bullets continue to be a force to be reckoned with in the league, leaving a mark on the world



of youth shooting. The team's coaches, shooters, and parents would like to express their immense appreciation to the WIWL chapter and its members for their support of the team.

Shawn Baird

Precision Rifle & Bullseye Pistol: a *Barrel* of Fun!

The 2023 season is off with a bang (har har!) and we've enjoyed having some shooters new to the series this year. The scores have been excellent – we have some real deadeyes out here! Through the middle of June, our average Precision Rifle score was 365 out of 400 and our average Bullseye Pistol score was 464 out of 600.

Top 3 Scorers – Precision Rifle	
Name	Score (possible 400)
Jason Adcock	394
John Lewandoski	385
Phil Geiger	369

Top 3 Scorers – Bullseye Pistol	
Name	Score (possible 600)
Phil Geiger	571
Mike Murphy	547
John Lewandoski	525

Please reference the [May 2023 newsletter](#) for a full run-down of the courses of fire for each discipline. Contact **Jason** at jason.adcock@outlook.com if you'd like more information



or if you'd like to be added to the email distribution list. See you on the firing line at 6pm on the first four Mondays of each month!

Jason Adcock

Range Restrictions

This should go without saying, but it needs to be said apparently. The Rifle/Pistol range is just that – rifle and pistol only. No shot of any kind. If you want to pattern your shotgun, there is a patterning range at the Dr Green Memorial Shotgun Range. An RSO needs to be present to open the range, so plan on going during shotgun hours.

OTHER NEWS

Snakes Alive!

Is it a copperhead? Or a juvenile rat snake? Just what kind of hideous creature is this thing?

I, your humble editor, don't actually find them hideous. At one point in my young life, I wanted to be a herpetologist. I read Lawrence Klauber's book Rattlesnakes: Their Habits, Life Histories, and Influence on Mankind. I caught and kept rattlesnakes while growing up in Southern California. Here in Northern Virginia, we have different snakes.

Building a raised bed garden for Mrs. Editor a few years ago, I unearthed an old rat snake nest. They're thick *chez nous*. One thing I noticed was the markings on the juvenile rat snakes make them hard to distinguish from copperheads.



However, on close inspection, two striking differences stand out:

1. The juvenile rat snake has distinctive markings on the head, including a dark eye stripe. The juvenile copperhead, however, has an unpatterned, copper-colored head.
2. The tail of the juvenile copperhead is bright yellow. The tail of the juvenile rat snake is a continued pattern of the body.

As with all snakes... well, all wildlife, leave them alone in their environment. They're where they belong. Even in our yards. If you think you have a copperhead in your yard, contact a professional.

Photos taken from the Department of Wildlife Resources blog "It's Baby Snake Season!" and can be found [here](#).

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.

From the Editor (continued)

Enshrined in our Bill of Rights is our freedom of speech. Not freedom *from* speech you find offensive. In fact, quite the opposite. A nation is only truly free when ideas and opinions, no matter how they offend you, can freely be



expressed. Fascists suppress thoughts and ideas that run counter to their opinions. Our nation – *your* nation – is not a fascistic nation. You will not find anywhere in our Constitution the right *not* to be offended. If something offends you, move away, quit reading, or counter it with your own argument. Few are demanding that drag shows be prohibited. Most are simply asking to keep it away from children. That's not fascistic, nor is it asking too much. It's frankly reasonable.

Editor

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.



Muley Fanatic Foundation
BLUE RIDGE VIRGINIA CHAPTER

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.

