



Winchester IWLA Newsletter

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

www.winchester-iwla.org

October 2023

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS

Several were recently completed, including an in/out sign board for the campsites, a new trail, and even a new island if you can imagine. All under [Lake and Conservation Report](#).

NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORT

Sue Arico provides a detailed report from this past convention. You can find and read it under [Board Reports](#).

BASS CONTINUE TO BITE

Well, at least for Gary Tilley. Read about what he's been doing under [Lake and Conservation Report](#).

PRECISION RIFLE AND BULLSEYE PISTOL

Updated results from September and general information, all can be found under [Range Report](#).

FOOD DRIVE

This year's food drive will kick off at this month's Membership Meeting. Read more under [Membership Meeting](#).

THANK YOU, MR. OHLIDAL

Gerald Ohlidal left a sizeable donation to your Chapter. You can read about him and his legacy in [Other News](#).





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FROM THE EDITOR



Man, October 1st came zipping right past me. Before I knew it, it was mid-October. Well, I wasn't hired for my timeliness or punctuality. Had to have been my good looks. Yes, I'm sure of it. And my humility.

This newsletter is chock full of good stuff. There was an Eagle project done over the summer that is only now getting reported out. And two additional Eagle projects more recently completed. One of them by my son, Andrew, with Troop 15. All three are a great benefit to your Chapter.

And a quick note about pumpkins – please consider bringing your pumpkins to the Chapter and tossing them into the field on the left as you approach the Glaze Shelter.

That's it. Sorry this is so late. Get out and enjoy all God has provided.

OFFICERS

- Dan Arico, President
(703) 229-3130
dan_arico@winchester-iwla.org
- William Nordman, Vice-President
vp@winchester-iwla.org
- James Sherry, Secretary
Jim_Sherry@winchester-iwla.org
- Paul Sattler, Treasurer
(516) 380-9000
treasurer@winchester-iwla.org
- Peg Sattler, Membership Director
(631) 255-1917
membership@winchester-iwla.org

POINTS OF CONTACT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- John Suter, Board Member
(540) 364-1782
john_suter@winchester-iwla.org
- Harold Whitacre, Special Events
(540) 533-8996
harold_whitacre@winchester-iwla.org
- Jeff McCall
(540) 336-9038
Jmccall0012@yahoo.com
- Rick Hill, Board Member
rhil1105@aol.com
- Howard Beny, Board Member

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- Range Masters
Rifle and Pistol
John Suter, (540) 364-1782
range@winchester-iwla.org
- Shotgun
Rick Hill
rhil1105@aol.com
- Archery
Garry Tilley, (314) 409-5982
mindbender119@hotmail.com
- Lake & Conservation
Brian Callahan
brian_callahan@winchester-iwla.org
- Education & Training
Al Stitt, (540) 336-2468
training@winchester-iwla.org
- Facilities
Eric Raybuck
- Newsletter
David Colf, (703) 401-7100
editor@winchester-iwla.org



BOARD REPORTS

Your Board met September 7th. Minutes are posted to the [website](#). The Membership Meeting was held September 21st. Conservation Police Officers **Brett Clauson** and **Tom Christian** of the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) spoke and answered members' questions about the state of wildlife health, hunting, and conservation across the Commonwealth. Those minutes are also posted and can be found [here](#).

Membership Meeting

This month's meeting will feature **Alton Butler**, General Manager of Sportsman's Warehouse. Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m., with the speaker at 7:00 p.m.

Please remember to bring a non-perishable food item for the Chapter's food drive. The Chapter will be collecting donations through November 11th.

National Convention

This summer, Chapter President **Dan Arico** and his wife **Sue** had the privilege of attending the 100th Izaak Walton League of America National Convention, held July 27-29, 2023 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Representing our chapter, the **Aricos** were among the attendees from all around the country who came together to hear about some of today's most important conservation topics, shape the League's path for the coming years, and, of course, enjoy time together with other Ikes. Among the agenda items was the election of the new slate of National Officers for 2024, including our new National President, **Jodi Arndt Labs**, and National Vice President, **Herbert Pritchett**, who had previously served as our Virginia Division Vice President.

Titled "Conservation at the Crossroad, Putting Solutions into Action", the convention featured presentations and workshops by leading experts on protecting water quality and encouraging boating, fishing and shooting sports. With an emphasis on actionable ideas, the convention highlighted the work of three young adults who represented the Green Crew from the League's Minnesota Valley Chapter. The Green Crew program is designed to create opportunities for youth to develop confident leadership skills as they work together on environmental projects.

A panel of water experts from Des Moines and the Washington DC region talked about the challenges of dealing with nitrate and road salt pollution. At a workshop on the League's Salt Watch and Nitrate Watch programs, attendees were taught how to navigate the League's "Clean Water Hub" database. They were also given a workbook on how to start their own road salt reduction campaign. Copies of the workbook are available from National IWL staffer **Abby Hileman**. In a show of support for the program, and after a hugely entertaining slew of comedy routines by **Samantha Briggs** and **Scott Kovarovics** (among others), delegates personally chipped in a total of \$10,000 for the Nitrate Watch effort at the final banquet.

Dr. Doug Tallamy, Entomologist at the University of Delaware and best-selling author of "Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard" described the essential role of insects and native plants in balancing nature and ecosystem health. His approach is to harness the power of small-scale conservation to slow the decline of once common wildlife species. By re-introducing native plants in our own yards, we can attract a healthy ecosystem right at home.



Pictured above, left to right: Chapter President and National Director **Dan Arico**; **Chris Rose**, 2nd Vice President, Virginia Division; **Pam Meara**, National Director; **Scott Meyer**, National Treasurer; **Patty Nunn** (standing), Endowment Fund Chair; **Rachel McBride** (seated), National Director; **Herbert Pritchett**, National Vice President; and **Barbara Pritchett**, Virginia Division Treasurer.



LAKE AND CONSERVATION REPORT

Next year's National Convention will be just a few hours away in Maryland at a resort on the Chesapeake Bay. It is scheduled for July 14-16, 2024, at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort, Spa and Marina in Cambridge, MD. Located on the scenic Choptank river, League members will be able to enjoy the many waterfront attractions at the resort. The discounted hotel room rate for attendees will be \$175/night, which is a \$200 discount off the market rate.

Chili Cook-Off

Your Chapter will be holding a Chili Cook-Off on Sunday, November 12th. Set up begins at 2:00 p.m., with judging starting at 2:30 p.m. There will be three special judges for this event, and results should be in by 3:30 p.m. The winner will take half of the entries, so the more there are, the bigger the prize!

Reminders!

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

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

Please send an e-mail to brian_callahan@winchester-iwla.org to be added to a committee.

Save the Date

Your Chapter's Christmas Party is planned for December 9th. That's a Saturday. It is open to all members and their guests. Details will follow.

Danger Tree Removed

We observed a standing dead honey locust in the campground several weeks ago. The rain and winds in the past week further deteriorated the tree and it was taken down September 28th, 2023, by volunteers **Gerald Crowell** and **Steve Nurkowski**.



The 75 year old honey locust was about 65' tall and it was downed in the area where campers typically set up tents.

Thank you, Gerald Crowell!

Special thanks to **Gerald Crowell** for refurbishing the oars for boats. The boats are primarily used by the lake and conservation team for managing the lake.



Gary Tilley at it Again



Member **Gary Tilley** continues to yank nice largemouth out of Lake Neff back in mid-September. Fortunately for the rest of us, he does practice catch and release. **Gary** reported that he used a purple shakyhead. The alert reader will recall this is the same set up **Gary** used last month when he caught a 6.35 pound bucketmouth.

Eagle Scout Project – Andrew Colf, T-15

The latest Eagle Scout project was completed at the end of September by my eldest son, **Andrew Colf**, of Troop 15 out of Stephens City. The project entailed building an artificial



island, dubbed Walton Island, planting it with aquatic plants, and anchoring it in lake Neff.



The island was built using Poly-Flo filter media, purchased from LaBrake's Garden Path and Pond (www.gardenponds.com), a family-run business out of New York. The material is designed to include a high surface area for beneficial bacterial colonization, resist clogging and channeling, be durable, and is long lasting and UV resistant. Three, 2-inch thick layers were assembled, with the top two layers having holes drilled for planting.

Once the three layers were zip tied together, a two-part marine foam was mixed and applied. This provides the island its flotation. The island was set in the maintenance shed for a week to allow the foam to fully cure, and the weather to be better.



The following weekend, **Andrew** (kneeling, on the right) and his team pulled the island out and planted it with plants obtained from Zetts Fish Hatchery.

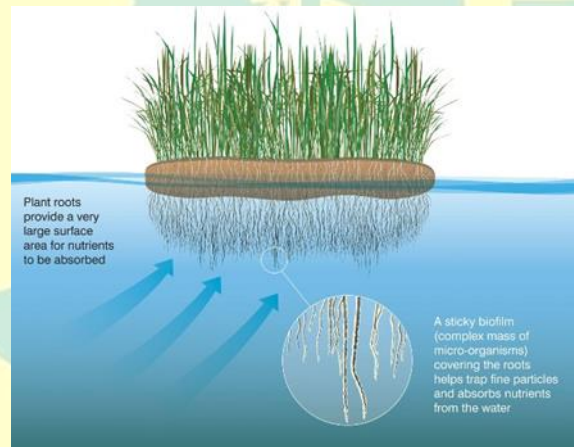


Andrew (standing, on the right) and his team then launched the island into the water, where I and **Austin Jenkins**, an Assistant Scout Master with Troop 15, towed it to its final location, using a Chapter rowboat and oars skillfully refurbished by **Gerald Crowell**.

Pictured to the right is Walton Island. The anchor chains were passed through black pool noodles and attached to cinder blocks below. If the island should break free of the chains, it will be easier to find the chains to reattach them. At least, that's the hope.



Once the plants are established and the roots extend into the water, the island will provide food and shelter for smaller fish, while extracting excess nutrients from the water and helping to reduce the algae bloom.



Andrew is the son of **David** and **Jill Colf**. **Andrew** is homeschooled. The project is the culmination of his scouting career that started with his announcement, as a Wolf cub scout, that his goal was to attain Eagle. Well done, **Andrew!**

Eagle Scout Project – Alexander Dellinger, T-3

This project was completed back in June, but due to editorial difficulties, reporting was delayed until this month.





A new trail has been created connecting the lake to the campground. It is the light blue trail indicated by the red arrow in the image.

With the completion of this trail, a member can now take trails from the chapterhouse to the Prater outpost. This new trail was an Eagle Scout project completed by **Alexander “Xander” Dellinger** from Troop 3 in Winchester. The Chapter now has over 2 miles of hiking trails!



Xander, wearing the ‘PIPSICO’ shirt in the picture above, is the son of **Eric** and **Becca** Dellinger of Winchester, VA. **Xander** performed in the Millbrook marching, wind ensemble and jazz bands and has continued that as a Marching Virginian tuba player at Virginia Tech, where he is studying Biochemistry.

Thank you, **Xander**, for blazing a new trail at our Chapter that will be useful for many years to come!

Eagle Scout Project – Sam Thome, Troop 3

Eagle Scout **Sam Thome** designed, built, and installed the Campground In/Out Board just over the Schockey Bridge heading back to the campsites. Not shown in the picture are the movable white blocks. When one gets to the campsite area, simply move the block to uncover the In Use side, placing the block over the Open side. Be sure to reset when you’re done. I, your



humble editor, can attest to how useful this sign is. At a glance, you can see which sites are in use and which aren’t.

Sam’s proud parents are **Michael** and **Tess Thome**. **Sam** is a senior at John Handley High School and plans to pursue a degree in Business Administration in college. **Sam** was the Winchester Star’s High School golfer of the year in 2022, and is eager to get on the college golf team. They’d be lucky to have him! Great job, **Sam**!

RANGE REPORT

Dr Green Memorial Shotgun Range

Just a reminder that 12- and 20-gauge shells are available for purchase at the five stand. Your friendly RSOs are happy to help new shooters, young and old, male or female.

Precision Rifle & Bullseye Pistol

We’re now into October and our 2023 shooting season is coming to a close, but it’s not too late to come out and see what this Bullseye thing is all about! We’ve got two rifle matches (Oct 2 and Oct 16) and two pistol matches (Oct 9 and Oct 23) left in us this season before the time changes and the range hours are reduced. We’ve had a great season so far and scores continue to improve. For the season through the end of September, our average Precision Rifle score is 370 out of 400 and our average Bullseye Pistol score is 463 out of 600.

Top 3 Shooters	
Precision Rifle (400 Perfect Score)	Bullseye Pistol (600 Perfect Score)
Jason Adcock (394)	Jason Adcock (527)
Robert Kilby (381)	John Lewandoski (524)
Chad Morris (368)	Chad Morris (449)

Please reference the [May 2023 newsletter](#) for a full run-down of the courses of fire for each discipline and 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 (remember – only four more to go)!!

Jason Adcock



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.

In our happenings, we had our annual AWA picnic at the lower campground on October 7. It was a beautiful day – the weather was with us. We had a large gathering of 20 adults and 4 children. There was a wonderful abundance of food and socializing with friends and family. A good time was had by all.

We met on October 10th for our monthly meeting and discussed if .22 pistols made sense for Self Defense? Many of our members are using .22 LR Pistols at the Range and we explored the Pro's and Con's of carrying .22 LR Pistols for self-defense. We talked about the Advantages and Limitations. We discussed ammo, reliability, effectiveness, usefulness, and things to consider as well as recommended practices. There was a lot of information shared and discussed.

We meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month for classroom work at the WIWL Chapter House, and the 4th Tuesday of the month at the WIWL Pistol Range. We are grateful to have WIWL as our host! For more information, please contact Vicki or Christina at AWA.ShenandoahValleyVA@gmail.com.

OTHER NEWS

Anton Gerald Ohlidal

You may not know his name, but I hope you remember him for his contribution to your Chapter. Mr. Ohlidal was born in Schenectady, NY, in 1935 and served in the US Army, 28th Infantry, 24th Division, stationed in Munich, Germany. Mr Ohlidal was an avid outdoorsman, hunting and fishing through the mountains and streams of New York, Pennsylvania,



Wisconsin, and the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. He belonged to a number of service organizations, one of which being the Izaak Walton League.

Mr. Ohlidal passed away earlier this year. In his will, he left a monetary contribution to your Chapter. I never met or knew Mr. Ohlidal, but I tip my hat and send him a heartfelt “thank you,” for both his service to our country and his contribution to our Chapter.

Pumpkins

It's that time of year again. Instead of throwing your old pumpkins away, please consider throwing them into the field of high grass on the left-hand side of the road as you head towards the Glaize Shelter and Campground. The wildlife love them!

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.

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

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.

