



Winchester IWLA Newsletter

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



www.winchester-iwla.org

January 2024

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

INVASIVE SPECIES

Two particularly invasive trees – the Tree of Heaven and the Paulownia – were identified in our Chapter and steps are being taken to eradicate them. Read more under [Lake and Conservation](#).

FRIENDS OF THE NRA BANQUET

An organization worthy of our support. If you can, consider attending. See more in [Other News](#).

CHAPTER WORKDAYS

The first Saturday of each month will be set as a Chapter Workday. Remember that volunteer hours go to deductions on annual dues. Read more under [Lake and Conservation](#).

CAMPING AVAILABILITY

Hey, who doesn't like leaving their climate-controlled home to sleep on the ground protected from the elements by a thin sheet of polyester or nylon? If you do, campsites are available! Read more under [Lake and Conservation](#).

HELP NEEDED!

We are always looking for more volunteers. But we do have two very important committees – Lake and Conservation and Archery – that currently do not have a chair. If you have a passion for either, please consider donating of your valuable time to help out. The Chapter cannot function apart from her volunteers. Read more under [Board Reports](#).





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FROM THE EDITOR



Happy New Year! Hopefully you all enjoyed a safe New Year's Eve, and are getting ready for a productive 2024.

Here's an idea for your new year – how about volunteering? We need people on all manner of committees, and if you want to chair either Archery or Lake and Conservation, well, this may be your opportunity. Read more in [Board Reports](#).

No matter how you plan on spending your time and resources in the coming year, I pray you spend some of it being thankful to God for all He has blessed us with. Regardless of your circumstance, life is a beautiful gift. Enjoy all He has given us.

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BOARD REPORTS

Help Needed!

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

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

We also have a pressing need for two volunteers – one to chair the Lake and Conservation Committee, and one to chair the Archery Committee. If you have passions in either area, please consider giving of your time

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

LAKE AND CONSERVATION REPORT

Invasive species update:

The chapter has begun the process of removing several highly invasive trees on the property. Several Tree of Heaven trees were discovered by the Layman shelter and after consultation with our USDA representative, we have begun the process of killing the tree. It is imperative that the tree is killed prior to cutting or it will immediately kick out 50 runners and begin again from the roots. The process involves cutting pockets into the base, as shown in the photo to the right, and filling with a high concentration of roundup. This tree will not be able to be cut down for at least a year.



[Somethings I learned about this particular tree, besides being an invasive species, it is also the favored tree of the

Spotted Lantern Fly. Too, it produces chemicals that prevent other plants from growing near it, creating monocultures that reduce biodiversity and wildlife habitat. And it smells bad. All in all, good riddance I say. -ed.]

The second tree identified was a Paulownia, also known as a Princess or Empress tree (pictured right). This tree also spreads quickly and will choke out all of the native trees. The process for this tree involved banding the tree with a clean cut which will kill the tree. Paulownia wood has a straight grain and is lightweight. It is also resistant to decay, rot and insects, which makes it a suitable material for use in outdoor applications. The fine and even texture of the wood makes it suitable for use in decorative applications such as furniture and musical instruments. The chapter plans on harvesting this tree.



Winter Camping

There are still some open weekends for winter camping in the campground. There are no mosquitoes and campfires are much more appreciated than when it is 90 degrees in July.



Chapter Workdays

The Chapter will begin having chapter workdays on the first Saturday of each month beginning in February. This is a great opportunity to donate some hours. Look for an announcement as we get closer to the date.



Facilities Update

The facilities team was again hard at work this winter clearing the chapter entrance on Route 50. A very common complaint is finding the chapter entrance while driving 55 mph westbound. At least twice a year, the maintenance team cuts back foliage to make the entrance easier to see. The trees are typically topped not removed which assists with blocking much of the garbage that comes from the road. 35 trees were cut back this session all the way east to the cedars. The cedars cannot be cut without potentially falling on the power lines.

Attention: CSI-Winchester



In clearing out the overgrowth, the team found the front end of a car that had been buried for about 5 years in the foliage. The team wanted to light it and hide it in the lake for Halloween next year, but instead

trashed it. Special thanks to **Eric Raybuck** and **Steve Nurkowski** for their hard work clearing this area.

RANGE REPORT

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.

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday for classroom work at the WIWL Chapter House and the 4th Tuesday for live fire at the WIWL Range. We cover a wide variety of topics such as fundamentals of shooting, malfunctions, field stripping to grow our shooters' confidence, as well as guest speakers that expand our training knowledge. For more information please contact **Vicki** or **Christina** at

AWA.ShenandoahValleyVA@gmail.com.

Range is Open

Just a reminder to all range-qualified members – the range is open for use. **Jim Vogt** brought some of his kids to the range and made small holes in paper. **Amalia**, her younger brother, **Ben** (in the red hoodie) and elder brother **Sebastian**, US Army, all show excellent stance and grip. That's my kind of gun control. Well done, **Jim!** You've taught them well!



OTHER NEWS

Friends of the NRA Banquet

Friends of NRA events boil down to one goal – fundraising for the future of shooting sports. Since its inception in 1992, Friends of NRA has held over 17,600 events and reached over 3.2 million attendees, and in 2021 we surpassed the billion dollar milestone for funds raised for The NRA Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

By holding fundraising banquets we make meaningful contributions to youth education, law enforcement training, hunter education, conservation, firearms and marksmanship training, and safety. This year our banquet will be held on March 2nd. We will have live and silent auctions, raffles, and games to raise money for the shooting sports. Each year the NRA Foundation allocates half of all net proceeds to fund projects within the state in which the money was raised and uses the other half to fund similar projects with a national scope. Recognizing that American young people represent the future of shooting sports, State Fund Committee grants are frequently given to youth programs, allocating more than 50% of grant monies to this important area. Many of our local youth groups, such as Scouts, 4-H, school programs, Izaak Walton Leagues, and Sportsman organizations have received grants from the NRA Foundation funds. Last year we were



able to give back to our community \$25,389.00 in grants for youths.

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	<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> <tr><td colspan="2">www.petcenteronline.com</td></tr> </table>	Mon—Fri	10am to 8pm	Saturday	10am to 7pm	Sunday	11am to 5pm	www.petcenteronline.com	
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Mule Fanatics Foundation

The Mule 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.





NORTHERN VALLEY FRIENDS OF NRA BANQUET

Saturday March 2, 2024

Doors Open at 5:00pm

Shenandoah Valley Golf Club
134 Golf Club Circle Front Royal, VA

Silent & Live Auctions Raffles One-of-a Kind & Limited Editions

2024 FRIENDS OF THE NRA GUN OF THE YEAR SET

Henry Big Boy Revolver 357/38 and Henry Big Boy Side Gate
357/38 Rifle with NRA LOGO



For Tickets & Table Package Information Contact

David Mason at 540-481-0049 or email d314m@yahoo.com

Or order online at www.friendsofnra.org

