



Winchester IWLA Newsletter

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

www.winchester-iwla.org

March 2024

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

CHAPTER HOUSE RENAMED

Your Chapter House has been renamed in honor of **Harold Whitacre**, in recognition of his many years of service and contributions to your chapter. You can read about it in [Board Reports](#), and about **Harold** in [Other News](#).

MULEY FANATICS

Save the date! The April fundraiser banquet is coming up. Read more in [Other News](#).

OPENING DAY

Save the date and mark your calendars. Opening Day is March 16th. See [Lake and Conservation](#) and the flyer at the end of this [newsletter](#).

NEW FEATURE

A new addition to your newsletter was suggested, and I think it's a capital idea. Please see [Ike's Miscellany](#) for more.

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



I had the opportunity and honor to sit down and talk with long-time Winchester resident and Izaak Walton member, Harold Whitacre. My intention was to collect information on his contributions within the Chapter, such as committees he either worked on or chaired, and anecdotes from his time over the years. What I got was so much richer and more interesting. Oh, I got plenty of Chapter-related information and history, but it was meeting him and talking with him that was so enriching. Read – learn

– more about him in [Other News](#).

Don't forget that Opening Day is right around the corner! And I'm not kidding. Had I been on time with this newsletter there might have been more notice, but it's *THIS WEEKEND!* See the [flyer](#) at the end of this newsletter.

Lastly, Easter is in March this year, March 31st. Remember – it's not about bunnies and eggs. It is always and ever about our risen Lord Jesus Christ. That He may reign supremely in each of us.

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BOARD REPORTS

Membership Meeting

The Board of Directors has unanimously approved a motion to recognize the long record of service to the Winchester Chapter of Board member **Harold Whitacre** by naming the Chapter House in his honor. **Harold** was accorded a standing ovation by all present.

Read more about **Harold** in [Other News](#).

Membership Cards

A lot of members are emailing to see if we have received their member dues and when they will be getting their cards. Just like years past, please log into your account and see if your dues have posted yet before emailing us. It takes a lot of time to go through all the emails I'm receiving to verify payments when you can easily check for yourselves.

Membership cards are forthcoming. When we get them and get them processed, we will send you an email to let you know it's been mailed. If you are having trouble logging in your account, you should reset your password and log in.

You can log in by clicking on the silhouette in the top right-hand corner, (circled in red- see above image). This is also where, if you do not know your password, you can click on "forgot password" and it will email you a new password link.

Help Needed!

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

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

If you have any interest in serving on one or more of our committees, please send an e-mail to editor@winchester-iwla.org.

LAKE AND CONSERVATION REPORT

Opening Day

The annual Opening Day Event is scheduled for Saturday March 16 from 7:45 AM to 11:30 AM. The event celebrates our first big trout stocking of the year and we will be serving cast iron grilled breakfast sandwiches, coffee and "The world's greatest hot chocolate" at the lake at no cost. Donations are gratefully accepted! Members may bring guests for \$15. Come on down, have some breakfast and enjoy some excellent trout fishing.

Lake Neff

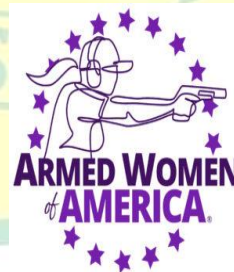
Please stay off Lake Neff during the winter, especially if there is ice on the lake. The lake has multiple springs which weaken the ice and it is not safe, no matter how thick you think it is. Also, use caution when using the chapter during the winter. The roads and trails can become ice covered and slippery.

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.

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.

Old Man Winter has not been good to us. We've had to cancel our January monthly classroom meeting as well as our



range meeting. Here's hoping February will be better. Our topic for our February classroom meeting is Be Your Own General – An Exercise to Understand Defense of Your Home.

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.

Requals

If you have not re-qualified for our ranges, you will be receiving an email to do so. The email will have a section for you to fill out: your first and last name and your email address. Please fill out this information and click on "take the test". The test is designed to be an RQ refresher. If you get a question wrong, it will tell you to go back and re-address that question. Once you get it correct, the test will move on to the next question. Once you have completed all twenty questions, your completion score will pop up and your record will be submitted, you are finished! Results are sent automatically to Membership. Please do not send your score, a screenshot showing completion, or anything else related to the RQ test to Membership.

Finally, just to be clear, if you do not get a re-qualifying email, either you have already completed it, or you were not Range Qualified to begin with.

OTHER NEWS

Who Is Harold Whitacre?

Harold told me he turned 85 this past December. I didn't ask the specific date. Suffice to say, he's seen quite a few changes. When he was a toddler, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, bringing us into World War II. A few years after that, we ended the war with two bombs of our own.

Long before the Chapter grounds were Izaak Walton, they were parceled among several families. **Harold's** family was one. The **Singletons** were another. The **Singletons** and the **Whitacres** both ran their cattle down through the area

we now know as Lake Neff and the Rifle and Pistol Range. Towards where the dam is now there sat a two-story log cabin. In it lived a reclusive man. A very reclusive man. This man's daughter had married into the **Singleton** family. One day, a young **Harold**, 14-15 years old or so, was down on his horse looking to collect up his cattle. He noticed this man's bucket near the spring, which was odd. You took an empty bucket to the spring, and you returned with it full. You didn't leave it there. So, **Harold** went up to the house to check on his welfare. Not getting any response, he mounted his horse and rode to the **Singleton** home up the hill. He told the man's daughter of his concerns. She told him that her father was just fine, that she had seen him that morning. Harold allowed how that might be, but there was no response now and she should check on him. She assured him that her father was fine. She told him he was very reclusive, and was not about to come out for any stranger. She thanked him for his trouble, and sent him on his way.

A few months later, **Harold** is back in the area working his cattle. He's got his dog, Lady, with him. Lady was a mix of German Shepherd and Collie, not anyone's first pick for a cattle dog, but Lady was a one-of-a-kind. She could get a cow out of a thicket with the best of them. **Harold** and Lady were working up a draw to get a cow out when he saw something move. Lady alerted on the movement.

The motion turned out to be that old recluse from the cabin. He'd been caught out. He called out to **Harold** to 'keep that dog away' and 'don't let it bite me.' **Harold** assured him that Lady was a good dog and wouldn't hurt him. **Harold** called Lady and she sat next to **Harold** and his horse.

The recluse from the cabin came out. Lady began waving at him with her right paw. The man stopped short and asked, "What's she doing? Is she going to attack me?!"

Harold said, "Sir, she's wanting to shake your hand." From that day, he, **Harold**, and Lady were good friends.

Sometime after that, not long, though. **Harold** was about the same age, he was again on his horse. No dog this time, likely due to the massive thunderstorm raging overhead. All the cattle were eager to get back to the shelter of the barn and **Harold** was there to make sure the entire herd made it. There was one steer who was dead set against returning. He



was proving to be as difficult as he could possibly be for **Harold** and his horse to work.

Harold was working hard getting that steer out of a thicket he'd wedged himself in, when a massive lightning bolt flashed by. The current traveled from where it struck, through the ground and up through horse's hooves. Both the horse and **Harold** were knocked down.

Harold collected himself, caught his horse and calmed her. He looked around to assess what had happened. And there he saw it. The steer, flat on his back, legs straight and stiff in the air. That lightning had hit that steer square in the back. **Harold** judged his work to be done, and he and his horse made quick time getting back to shelter and safety with the remaining herd.

Harold worked as a warden for Clark County Animal Control in the mid-60s. In the early 70s, the Izaak Walton chapter offered law enforcement free membership. **Dave Ramsey**, another warden, and **Aaron Zuckerman** were both members, and nominated **Harold** for an honorary membership.

When **Harold** joined the chapter, there was no official rifle/pistol range. People simply shot at their targets with the trees acting as a backstop. Because **Harold** was a well-known warden, the Game Commission asked him if there was a place they could shoot and train. **Dave Ramsey** and **Harold** designed the rifle/pistol range, with pistol shooting on the right, and rifle to the left. Their design included berms, the berms we have today. As luck would have it, **Harold** was building a road at his farm and didn't know what to do with all the dirt he'd moved. So he and **Dave**, using **Harold's** uncle's excavating business, brought trailer loads of dirt from his own place to build the berms.

When I talked with **Harold**, he had no idea the chapter house would soon bear his name. I asked him about the chapter house, and what it was like back when he first joined. Turns out the chapter house we all are familiar with started off as a shelter, with a massive stone fireplace where the office, storeroom, and bait station are now. In the winter, when it was very cold, the meetings would be held off-site at an area restaurant.

It wasn't until the 1990s that the Chapter decided to enclose the shelter and build a proper house. The Board

voted to buy a backhoe that a member had for sale. There was a lot of back and forth and arguing about money, but eventually they bought the backhoe, and the Chapter House was built. There have been additions over the years, but it wasn't all that long ago that your Chapter House was a breezy shelter with a fireplace.

During his time with the chapter, **Harold** has been active chairing and organizing the annual fishing rodeo for kids, the fall picnic, and generally served as the official cook for any chapter activity that involved food. He has served on the Board of Directors, Facilities Committee, Lake and Conservation Committee, Archery Committee, among many other ad hoc committees. While on the Facilities Committee, he worked on getting two zero-turn mowers from Winchester Equipment.

Personally, **Harold** was very active with Wild Turkey Federation. The Federation would sponsor conservation-minded women who wanted to shoot. They'd meet at the Chapter House and **Harold**, using his tractor, would load them in the hay wagon and take them to the range. One particular day, it had rained, making the road from the Chapter House down toward the lake quite slick. He warned them to sit down as it might get bumpy. One woman defiantly remained standing. As they went down the steep slope, the tractor began to slip on the rain-soaked pavement. He quickly lowered the bucket on the tractor to the ground to provide some friction to slow and stop the tractor. The resulting bump knocked her out of the wagon and right on to her posterior. He refrained from giving her an "I told you so," and she decided walking would be a better idea.

Harold Whitacre is a fascinating, engaging, and enjoyable person to talk with. I greatly enjoyed my time talking with him and am a better man for having done so. Thank you for spending time with me, **Harold**.

Now, when you see his name over the chapter house, you'll know the man behind the name.

Muley Fanatics Fundraising Banquet

Our local chapter – and the only one east of the Mississippi River – is holding their annual fundraising banquet in April. See their [flyer](#) at the end of this newsletter. MFF donates a portion of the proceeds back to your Chapter to fund youth outdoor programs.



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) (<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.

Ike's Miscellany

- Did you know that the chapter has cherry smoking wood available? We also have wood for backyard fire pits and solo stoves. If you would like to pick some up, please contact Brian (brian_callahan@winchester-iwla.org).
- Did you know that the chapter has a Lost and Found? If you lose something, let us know! We find items at the ranges, by the lake and in the campgrounds on a regular basis.
- The chapter needs used tarps for our firewood storage. These can be in any condition and any size. Please drop them in the chapter parking lot at the wood pile.
- The chapter bait station will be starting again in early March. We will be stocking red worms, night crawlers and mealworms in the chapter house as a convenience to our members. Please use the envelopes and drop payment in the treasurer's box when purchasing bait.
- Please remember to check the chapter event calendar for all area closures and special events.

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.

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.

This year's banquet is scheduled for April 13, 2024. Seating is limited to 250 people, so get your tickets early. As in past years, a portion of the banquet proceeds are allocated to the Winchester IWLA Youth Outdoor programs, and we will again be doing the same this year.

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code in the flyer at the end of the newsletter.

Jake's Bait & Tackle

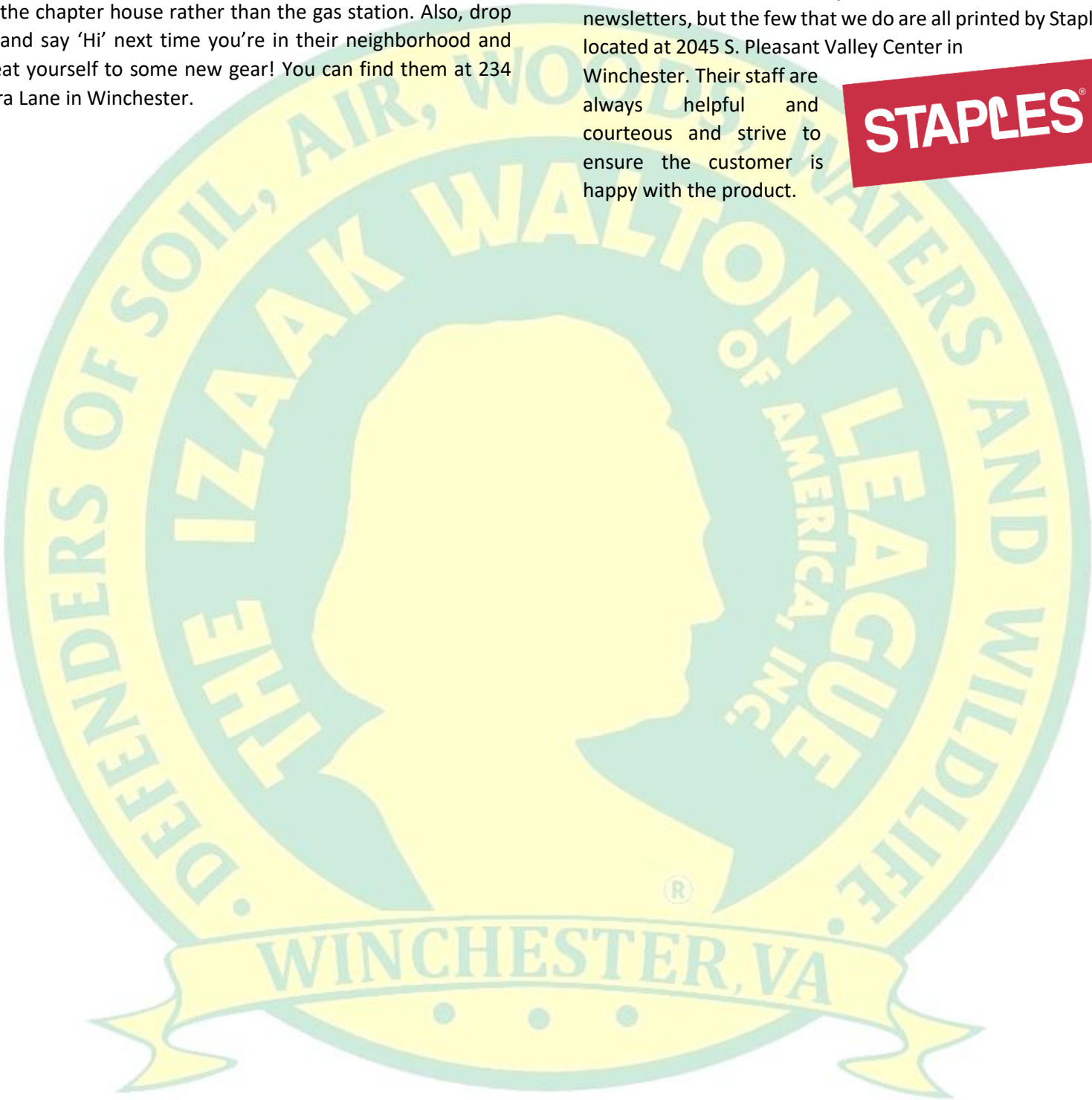
If you, like me, enjoy the convenience of having bait ready to go at the Chapter House rather than jumping back in your car because you forgot worms again, be sure to thank Jake's Bait and Tackle. Jake's



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.





MULEY FANATIC FOUNDATION FUNDRAISING EVENT

Guest Speaker



Dr. Kevin Monteith
Professor at University of Wyoming
Mule Deer Research and challenges moving forward.



Mule Fanatic Foundation

BLUE RIDGE VIRGINIA CHAPTER

5th Annual Banquet
Saturday April 13, 2024
Doors open at 4:30 PM

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

We support our local Youth Outdoor Sporting Activities and Conservation / Education through the Izaak Walton League



Tickets:

Corporate Table \$1200.00 (LIMITED TO 13 TABLES)
(Reserved seating for 8, 8 memberships, 8 meals & \$300 raffle tickets)

Couple Tickets \$120.00
(2 meals, 1 membership)

Single Ticket \$80.00
(1 meal, 1 membership)

Youth Ticket \$25.00
(1 meal for ages 11-17)

Kids 10 and under are FREE



EARLY MIGRATION Purchase tickets before March 1st and receive Raffle Tickets and your name in the bucket for a special prize drawing!

Purchase tickets online at mffbrc2024.givesmart.com



For more information:

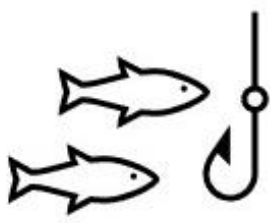
Dave Kavanah @ (757) 635-3841

Ron Kendra @ (540) 327-8691

muleyfanatic.org



Opening Day



**& Trout Fishing
& Cast-Iron Breakfast**

Saturday March 16, 2024

8:00 AM - 11:30 AM

