



Winchester IWLA Newsletter

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

www.winchester-iwla.org

May 2024

MAY HIGHLIGHTS

MIKE MERCER MEMORIAL KIDS' FISHING DERBY

Lots of kids came out and had a great time at Lake Neff. See the full report and loads of pictures under [Lake and Conservation](#).

CHAPTER ELECTIONS

June is election season at your Chapter. Read more under [Board Reports](#).

BEE REPORT

Did you know your Chapter is home to thousands of bees? Read about them under [Lake and Conservation](#).

BULLSEYE PISTOL & PRECISION RIFLE

It is starting! See the [flyer](#) at the end of the newsletter.

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



Was it just me, or did it go from February 2nd to August 15th overnight? Just a couple of days ago, I was wearing a sweater and a knit cap and sitting on my hands to warm my fingers. Now, it's shorts and a tee-shirt and an iced tea! It's funny, because I was telling Mrs. Editor that we should stop complaining about how chilly it was, because come July we'd be wishing for it. Well, I guess I shouldn't have said anything.

Speaking of Mrs. Editor, this is a special month for all the moms out there. I would like to take this opportunity to tell all the moms, grandmas, and great-grandmas a sincere "thank you" for all you have done, continue to do, and will do. So, if you have a mom, or if your wife is a mom, or if you know a mom, be sure to let them know how much you appreciate them. And fellas, let's not limit that expression of appreciation to just one day a year.

Beyond that, the weather is gorgeous, and nothing is stopping you from getting outside and getting some sun and enjoying all God has given us. Let's be good stewards of His gifts.

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BOARD REPORTS

LAKE AND CONSERVATION REPORT

Chapter Elections

It's that time of year again! Election season. 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.

Plan on attending the June Membership Meeting and make your voice heard. I don't have any information on the candidates at present. Please watch your email for information on those candidates standing for election, or re-election.

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.

Mike Mercer Memorial Kids' Fishing Derby

April 28th was a beautiful day for fishing. We had parents and guardians supporting 93 children under the age of 15 fishing.



Steve Nurkowski helped the little anglers clean their catches. They kept him busy, bringing him more than 80 fish to clean. Great technique, Steve!



The kids caught 123 fish! Very nice tackle boxes were awarded to the first and second place by age bracket: 2/3, 4/5, 6/7, 8/9, 10/11, 12/13, and 14/15. In addition, the longest fish measuring over 15" received special recognition.

WINCHESTER, VA





Whether they won an award or simply enjoyed the afternoon and caught fish, everyone had a great time!

President **Dan Arico's** two-year-old granddaughter **Ina** caught her first fish at the derby. Great job, **Ina!** I'm sure you're hooked for life.



It takes a lot of volunteers on the day of the event to make it happen! Special thanks to those who donated their time including **Toby Norris, Fran Norris, Steve Nurkowski, Bill Nordman, Paul Sattler, Peg Sattler, Zolton Palffy, Jeff McCall, Jack Weeks, Vicki Crosby, Vicki Mercer, Dave Marker, Terry Henry, Dave Kavanah, Sandy Beny, Howard Beny, Jim Nesselrodt, Eric Raybuck, Zac Bowers, and Patty Nunn.**

Finally, the behind-the-scenes crew that made sure the grounds looked kempt and the grass neatly mowed: **Palm Bisceglie, Rice Levi, Henry Larsen, Jim Nesselrodt, Steve Nurkowski, Charles Tinsman, Terry Henry, Dave Kavanah and Eric Raybuck.** They also ensured the pond was well-stocked with healthy, vigorous fish.

Bees!

Thanks to **John Lewis**, local beekeeper of Shenandoah Valley, we now have cleaned and restocked the 7 bee hives with 8,000 bees and 7 queen bees. John was ably supported by **Jeff McCall**. Also, our Chapter President **Dan Arico** announced during April's Membership Meeting that planting of flowering species that will attract pollinators has begun, starting near the Chapter's bee hives.



For more information on our local bee hives, or if you'd like to help, please contact **Jeff**. He can be reached at (540) 336-9038, or by email at jmccall0012@yahoo.com.

RANGE REPORT

Bullseye Pistol and Precision Rifle

Please see the [information flyer](#) at the end of the newsletter. Contact **Jason Adcock** if you'd like more information: jason.adcock@outlook.com.

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.

At our April meeting, we had a good time testing our firearm and range knowledge with a rousing game of trivial pursuit. A fun time was had by all. We followed our game with some dry fire exercises at the chapter house simulated range. We learned many different exercises we can practice at home that will continue to build our skills.

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 and to attend a meeting, please contact **Vicki** or **Christina** at AWA.ShenandoahValleyVA@gmail.com.

OTHER NEWS

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.

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.



Jake's Bait & Tackle

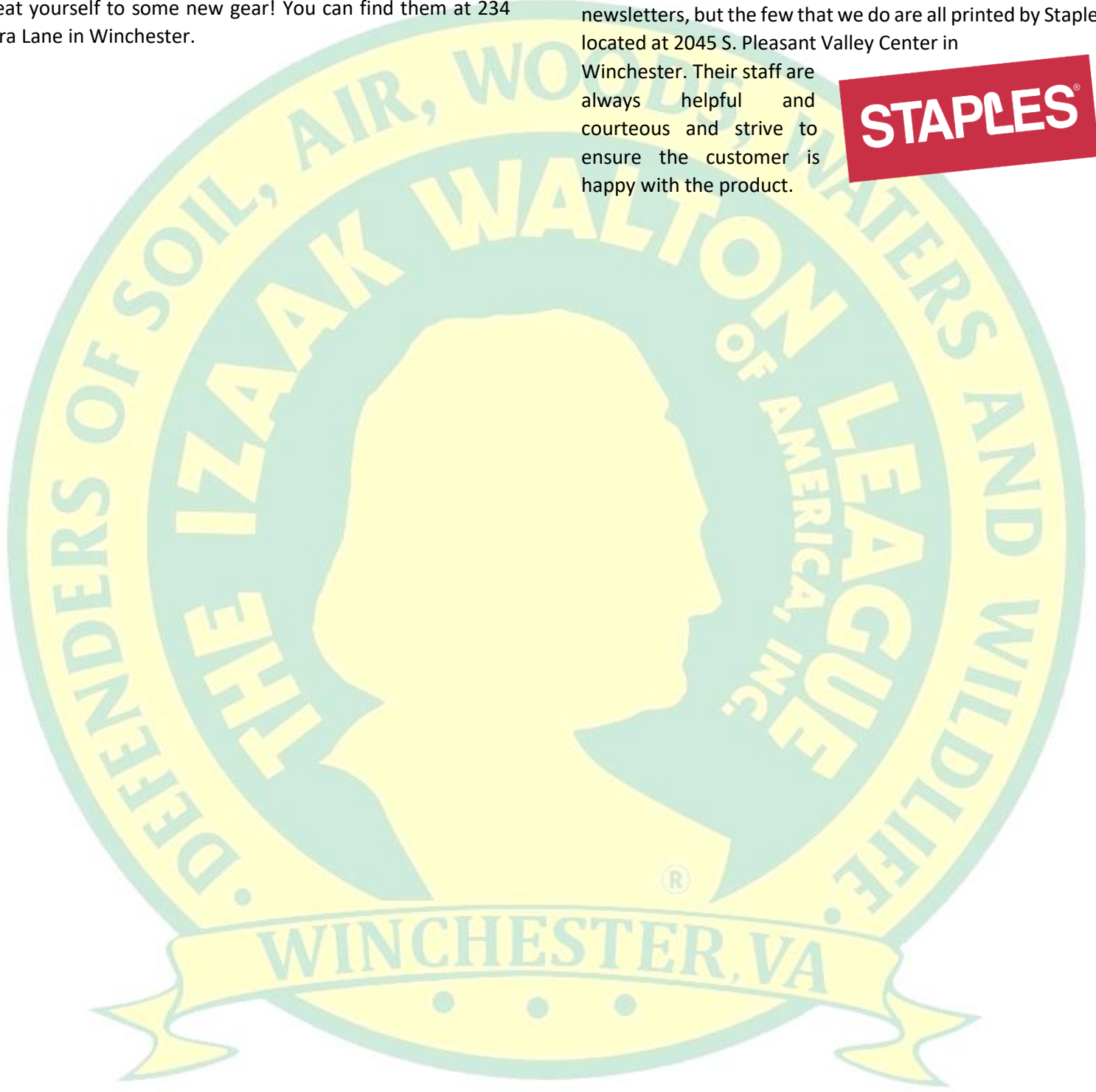
If you, like me, enjoy the convenience of having bait ready to go at the Chapter House rather than jumping back in your car because you forgot worms again, be sure to thank Jake's Bait and Tackle. Jake's continues to supply the bait concession in the Chapter house with fresh red, wax, and earth worms. Be sure to support a

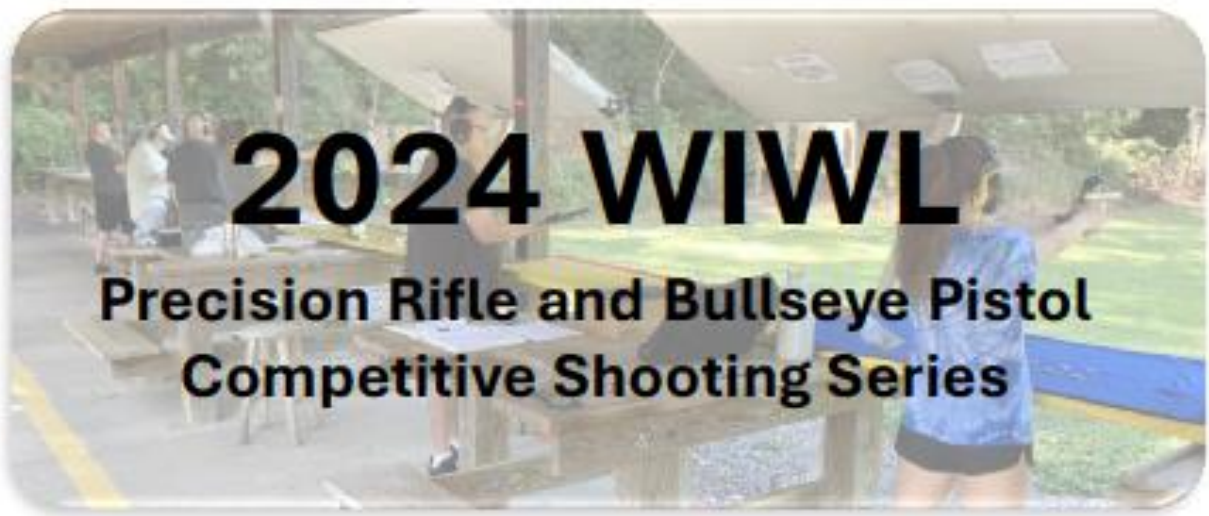


business that supports your Chapter by getting your worms at the chapter house rather than the gas station. Also, drop in and say 'Hi' next time you're in their neighborhood and treat yourself to some new gear! You can find them at 234 Ezra Lane in Winchester.

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.





2024 WIWL

Precision Rifle and Bullseye Pistol Competitive Shooting Series

Bullseye Pistol

When: 1st and 3rd Mondays @ 5:00pm

What: .22LR Pistols (semi-auto or revolver)
Iron sights or optics

How: **Slow** (20 rounds in 10m on a B-16)

Timed (4 strings of 5-in-20s on a B-8)

Rapid (4 strings of 5-in-10s on a B-8)

60 rounds total



Precision Rifle

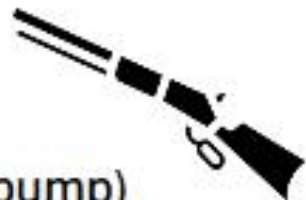
When: 2nd and 4th Mondays @ 5:00pm

What: .22LR Rifles (semi-auto, bolt, or pump)
Iron sights, optics, or scopes

How: **Slow** (20 rounds in 10m on a B-19/B-19C)

Timed (4 strings of 5-in-20s on a B-19/B-19C)

40 rounds total



Who: Everybody! Old, young, ladies, gents...if you have a .22LR gun and want to participate in some informal, friendly, and FUN competition with your fellow WIWL chapter members, come out and join us! **Mondays @ 5:00p from May through October.**

More info: jason.adcock@outlook.com