



**Winchester Chapter of the
Izaak Walton League
Membership Meeting
April 18, 2024**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by President Dan Arico. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the IWLA pledge. Thirty one members were in attendance. Dinner was provided by the Chapter and was served with support from the Winchester Chapter Ladies Auxiliary from 6:30 until 7:00 pm.

Speaker: President Arico introduced this evening's speaker, Virginia Conservation Officer Brett Clawson. Invited for a second time because of his superb presentation to the membership in late 2023, Officer Clawson clarified many of the sometimes confusing regulations concerning trout fishing in Virginia. He entertained and authoritatively answered myriad questions from the members covering such diverse topics as deer and bear health, coyote populations, handling violations in the field, as well as several other areas of conservation interest.

President's Report: President Arico acknowledged that the traditional business announcements that would ordinarily follow the speaker's presentation could be handled with less formality than usual, and led a discussion that included comments from several Board members as well as questions and comments from the floor. Discussions included:

- About 8,000 have been brought in to replace bees that perished in this past winter's freeze. The hives are healthy and productive.
- Planting of flowering species that will attract pollinators has begun, especially in the areas in the vicinity of the beehives.
- Selection of the next firearm type to be raffled. Paul Sattler informally polled the members present to determine what kind of firearm would be the subject of the next gun raffle: handgun, rifle, or shotgun. Results were mixed, with the decision to raffle a shotgun carrying the day.

Adjournment: 8:16 pm

/s/J F Sherry

J. F. Sherry, Secretary