



Winchester IWLA Newsletter

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



www.winchester-iwla.org

November 2020

November Highlights

Important Membership Meeting

There are amendments to the bylaws that will be voted on at the next membership meeting. Details can be found [here](#), but if you want your voice heard, attend the meeting and have a vote.

New Website

The transition from one hosting platform to another, which will save our Chapter thousands of dollars each year, took longer than expected, but it is now up and running. We are still working on ensuring things are current, like the calendar, so please be patient.

Visit: www.winchester-iwla.org.

Dues Increase

The Board made the difficult but necessary decision to increase the annual membership dues. The last increase was five years ago, so this was a long time coming. Even with the increase, this is an incredible bargain. Whether you are here to only engage in one activity, or enjoy all the aspects your Chapter offers, the dues are still very reasonable. See [Page 3](#) for details.

A Perfect Score!

Mike Formichella was the first to run a perfect score of 25/25 birds on the wobble trap. For his efforts, his 'friends' shot his hat to smithereens. I would have preferred a nice certificate, but what do I know?





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FROM THE EDITOR



Anyone else have election fatigue? I just want it over, and I want my guy to win. That said, there are proposed changes to the Chapter by-laws. As members, you have the right to attend the Membership meeting and voice your opinion on the changes. In the newsletter you will find the original text and the proposed change for each section so you can make an informed decision.

Other changes are happening in your Chapter. Our Treasurer has been working hard to bring your Chapter into the modern age. In the past, we would mail out renewal invoices to members. Doing this took a great deal of effort (volunteer-hours) and money. Paul spent hundreds of hours of his own time transitioning us to a digital billing system, eliminating the costly paper billing and saving thousands of dollars and hundreds of man-hours. As with all transitional periods, there will be hiccups. Be patient and remember that everything that happens at your Chapter is only possible through the dedicated work of volunteers.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT

Your Board met on October 1st. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 5th, 2020, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Dues Increase

The big news from that meeting is the increase in membership dues which will be effective for the 2021 year.

Membership	Current	New
Individual	\$140	\$165
Family	\$185	\$225

The rates had not changed for five years, and in that time your Chapter has only gotten older and more used. There are a number of repairs that are necessary, and updates and upgrades to all areas of the park that would enhance everyone's enjoyment. It is never fun to increase costs, but even with the increase, Izaak Walton is still a bargain. For less than \$20/month you have access to hundreds of acres of land to shoot, fish, camp, or hike.

Seniors will continue to enjoy a \$25 discount from their dues.

Our New Online Billing was implemented this month. All members were emailed their renewal. Within the first week, we received back just under 100 renewals seamlessly.

For Members that do not use email or members that requested this to be mailed, they were mailed a paper copy. During November, we will monitor the progress of renewals to make sure any members that need assistance will be contacted.

Any member that has any questions regarding the renewal process is encouraged to reach out to the Membership Director or the Treasurer for assistance. We are committed to serving our members.

If you feel a burning desire to complain, send a note or call the Editor.

By-Laws

In other news, three amendments were proposed to the by-laws. These amendments will be voted on at the next Membership meeting, scheduled for November 19th. Go [here](#) for the tables showing the proposed changes, and plan on attending the meeting and having your voice heard.

LAKE AND CONSERVATION REPORT

Workday

The Lake and Conservation Workday is scheduled for November 7th, 8 a.m. to noon. Please join the many crews already committed to the workday. The following activities are planned:

- Trail marking
- Brush cleanup
- Wood cutting, splitting, stacking
- Lake cleanup (debris by drain pipe)

There will be a boy scout crew working on repairing the trails and building the shotgun handicap access path.

And if anyone has any pallets laying around, we need them for firewood storage. Please contact Brian Callahan or drop off in the campground. Thank you.

Water Quality

The lake was tested again in October. Any measurable amount of nitrites or ammonia in the water would be very bad for the fish. The hardness levels are both good, as are the nitrate and pH levels. Our lake is in good health.

	Sep-20	Oct-20
Nitrate	5-10	0-5
Nitrite	-	-
pH	7.0	7.0
GH	30.0	30.0
Kh	40.0	40.0
Ammonia	-	-



2021 Planning

At the last meeting of the Lake and Conservation Committee there were some great ideas shared for 2021 activities. We are planning our annual popular fishing events like Opening Day and the Mike Mercer Memorial Kids Fishing Derby and brainstormed on new fundraisers like a Bass Fishing tournament and an all-night catfish tournament.

We are also planning for activities utilizing the natural beauty of the chapter. We have scheduled the 2nd annual Ike's Defender Virtual 5k with additional course routes. Other ideas included family activities utilizing the new outpost area.

All events are only possible with the help of volunteers and the support of chapter members. Most of our events are members only with their guests. We limit events open to the public because it requires many more volunteers to coordinate. We are always open to new ideas.

RANGE REPORTS

Dr. Green Shotgun Range

Thanks to all our new and old participants for making our second month of operation another success. We have had some problems but thanks to the many volunteers we are having some great shooting days. The weather has been cooperative and of course even on rainy days we can still shoot so unless it is a full blown down pour, we will be open.

And a special congratulations to Mike Formichella for being the first to break a perfect 25 out of 25 birds from the five stand. The wobble trap throws the birds in random directions at random



heights. Shooters shoot five birds each from the five positions (hence the name 'five stand'). Truly a remarkable example of marksmanship.

We would especially like to thank the new Shotgun RSO's for their help in running the range. Remember, the more volunteer Shotgun RSO's there are the more times the range can be open. You need to first be a trained Rifle/Pistol Range Safety Officer in order to be certified to operate the five stand. If you are already an RSO and interested in becoming a shotgun range RSO volunteer, please send Rick Hill an email (rhill1105@aol.com). We offer on the job training most weekends with procedure sheets available to take home and study.

Mike Formichella

We have a couple projects at the range we need help with. One of those is the moving of our storage shed to a location closer to shooting station. If you have access to a rollback truck with winch to help move our 10x10 storage building, please contact us. The building only needs to be moved about 100 feet and we are willing to meet anytime you would be available. Please contact Rick Hill either at the email address above or by phone @ 202-255-1512. We thank you in advance for your time and help. The second need is some maintenance on our lawn tractor so nicely donated by Joe Black. It seems to have run out of spark! If you have any knowledge in small engine repair please let us know, again we would be happy to meet with you anytime you are available.

After review of our finances and the need to keep up with recurring costs we will be raising our price per 25 shot rounds to \$5.00 for members and \$7.00 for guests. We also have loaner shotguns available for a nominal donation of \$5.00. This is needed to maintain the guns in proper working order and store them properly. We have available both 12ga and 20ga semi autos for adults and youth along with limited ammunition @ 7.00 per box.



On a personal note, your editor finally made it to the five stand this past Saturday, October 24th. The weather was perfect – cool and overcast. I took my friend, Sean, who is not yet a member. He purchased a Mossberg 500 turkey gun and had not shot it much. He ended up shooting several rounds on the stand and broke a surprising number of birds.



I was impressed by not only the five stand but also the shooters. There was not a hint of superiority or an unkind attitude. They were all of them very gracious and welcoming.

Yes, I gave him a membership application.

OTHER NEWS

At the very core of the Izaak Walton is volunteering. So much of our success comes from the efforts of people volunteering their time, knowledge, and expertise to achieve the Chapter goals. Volunteering has so many benefits. Volunteering...

1. ...can have an impact on your community
2. ...is a great way to network
3. ...is a great stress relief
4. ...creates a sense of purpose
5. ...keeps your mind and body healthy
6. ...makes you part of a much bigger picture

At the Winchester Izaak Walton, all members are encouraged to offer volunteer hours to support their chapter. There are so many opportunities available for members to volunteer in an area that interests them.

Do you love guns? Become an RSO and volunteer at our classes and ranges.

Do you love fishing? Join our lake committee and help keep the lake stocked and clean.

Do you love nature? Be a part of keeping our trails beautiful.

Want to get some exercise? There is plenty of hard work, landscaping, and maintenance.

Have a unique skill? Share it with the chapter. We are always looking for skills to enhance the IWLA.

Our Chapter does have a volunteer credit program as well. Once you achieve 8 hours of volunteer work, you can get a renewal credit of \$20. If you hit 16 hours or more, you can get a maximum volunteer credit of \$40 for your renewal. Although we know the benefits of volunteering far exceed the credits earned, it is still nice to get that extra recognition during renewal time. We know this because many of our volunteers will not even submit the slips for their credit... just proving they are here to support the club.

Reach out today and let's start building a better world together!



PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Please read the original text and the proposed change carefully.

The first two changes are under Article II – Membership, Section 8 – Discipline and Termination of Membership

Current Language	Proposed Change	What changed
The Chapter shall be the judge of its own membership, subject to the restrictions of the National and Virginia Division constitutions and bylaws. Members may be suspended or expelled only upon proper showing of cause. All charges must be supported by affidavit by the accusers. No member in good standing shall lose his membership until given a fair trial in such manner and form as the state division bylaws and the governing board of the Virginia Division shall prescribe.	The Chapter shall be the judge of its own membership, subject to the restrictions of the National and Virginia Division constitutions and bylaws. Members may be suspended or expelled only upon proper showing of cause. No member in good standing shall lose his membership until given a fair trial in such manner and form as the state division bylaws and the governing board of the Virginia Division shall prescribe.	Delete the requirement that charges must be supported by affidavit.
d) Disruptive and/or abusive behavior;	d) Disruptive and/or abusive behavior, including lack of proper decorum and repeatedly disrupting meetings after due warning;	Add the clause “including lack of proper decorum and repeatedly disrupting meetings after due warning;”

The next and last proposed change is under Article III – Board of Directors, Section 5 – Election and Term.

Current Language	Proposed Change	What changed
Directors are limited to three (3) consecutive terms without a break in service. Any director who has reached his or her term limit may not serve in any Officer capacity on the Board of Directors for a period of one (1) year.	[Delete current language without replacement]	Eliminate the term limit.

Be sure to attend the Membership meeting on November 19th if you want to discuss or vote on any or all of these proposed amendments to your by-laws.

