



# Winchester IWLA Newsletter

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

[www.winchester-iwla.org](http://www.winchester-iwla.org)

December 2020

## DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

### WIWL HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Starting December 1<sup>st</sup> your Chapter is collecting food for our local food banks to benefit those less fortunate. Click [here](#) for more information.

### THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

The Chapter workday was November 7<sup>th</sup>. So much work was completed by a small percentage of members who were able to come out and pitch in. Read [here](#) about all the work that was completed by them.

### DO YOU KNOW THE RULES FOR A COLD RANGE?

Don't guess! Know what the rules state and follow them to ensure everyone can enjoy free access to the range. Click [here](#) for more details.

### ANOTHER PERFECT ROUND!

David Henning joins the pantheon of immortals of those who have broken a perfect round on the five-stand. Well done, David! See more [here](#).







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## FROM THE EDITOR



As 2020 draws to a close I think I can speak for many when I say, "It's about time!" From COVID to murder hornets to ... well, I will leave politics out of this. Let's just say it's been a rough year.

There have been some successes at your Chapter this year, all due to the tireless efforts of our volunteers. It is not an exaggeration to say that, without them, we would not have a Chapter. Read more about all that has been accomplished [here](#) and give some consideration to giving of your own time in giving back to your Chapter. It is fun and you get to meet some good people.

Have a safe and very merry Christmas. This has been a tough year, but God is always and ever on His throne, sovereign over everything. Including COVID. Remember that as you celebrate His birth this month. And in that spirit, please consider [donating](#) to the Chapter's food drive and help those in need.

## POINTS OF CONTACT

Dan Arico, President

(703) 229-3130

[dan\\_arico@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:dan_arico@winchester-iwla.org)

Grant Javersak, Vice-President

(540) 533-0460

[vp@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:vp@winchester-iwla.org)

Paul Sattler, Treasurer

(516) 380-9000

[treasurer@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:treasurer@winchester-iwla.org)

James Sherry, Secretary

[secretary@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:secretary@winchester-iwla.org)

Peg Sattler, Membership

(631) 255-1917

[membership@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:membership@winchester-iwla.org)

John Suter, Board Member

(540) 364-1782

[john\\_suter@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:john_suter@winchester-iwla.org)

Harold Whitacre, Special Events

(540) 533-8996

[harold\\_whitacre@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:harold_whitacre@winchester-iwla.org)

Tino Peabody, Board Member

(703) 862-8686

[tino\\_peabody@winchester-](mailto:tino_peabody@winchester-)

Dave Prater, Range

[range@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:range@winchester-iwla.org)

Brian Callahan, Lake & Conservation

[brian\\_callahan@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:brian_callahan@winchester-iwla.org)

Al Stitt, Education & Training

(540) 336-2468

[training@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:training@winchester-iwla.org)

Dave Colf, Editor

(703) 401-7100

[editor@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:editor@winchester-iwla.org)





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT

Mr. James Sherry volunteered to take the position of Chapter Secretary and was unanimously approved by the Board. Thank you, Mr. Sherry, for volunteering.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 p.m. With the heightened COVID restrictions it may be virtual. Watch your email for any updates.

## LAKE AND CONSERVATION REPORT

### Workday

There were an amazing number of tasks completed on November 7 on the Lake and Conservation workday. Management of the property is a large job, not to mention all the work that goes in to preparing for events. The Chapter relies on volunteers to throw on gloves and donate some time to keep the Chapter looking good. We also had three teams of scouts on Chapter workday completing Eagle Scout projects.

Here is a summary of some of the major projects your volunteers completed:

#### *Ernie Neff Dam maintenance*

The Chapter will require a re-certification of the dam on Ernie Neff lake in 2021. Part of our ongoing maintenance requires clearing vegetation from the toe of the dam and removing any materials from around the drainpipe.



Volunteers were in the lake removing driftwood and debris from around the pipe. Several large logs required the use of the tractor to assist with their removal. This team also worked hard clearing vegetation from the shoreline. We typically do this at least twice per year.

A second team worked on clearing vegetation from the toe of the dam. This project pushed back the undergrowth to the 50-foot mark as required. Invasive species like Autumn Olive are continually popping up and the team was able to make amazing progress on the clearing the area as well as the section by the spillway.



Moving to the other side of the lake, our silt dam required some upkeep. The silt dam acts as a collection point



to block silt from blowing into our lake. A team of volunteers moved concrete cylinders from around the chapter grounds to shore up the dam.

We were able to repair about 2/3 of the dam, again with volunteers having to get in the lake to complete repairs.

#### *Forestry Maintenance*

The Chapter forestry management team has identified 53 trees that are dead but standing in the campground area and around the trails. These trees pose a hazard to trail hikers, campers, and all members enjoying the property because they are rotting and/or being eaten by bugs. Special permission was granted from the Board of Directors in November to begin the process of removing these trees. A team of volunteers was hard at work cutting down several of the identified trees and all the cleanup once fallen. We will use as much of this downed timber as possible as firewood.

As an example of the risk posed by these dead and dying trees, this 60-foot pine snapped in half and fell during a





windstorm in October. Fortunately, it fell safely in the forest along the edge of the campground trail.



Our very special thanks go out to all of the members who assisted with the workday, including **Gerald Crowell, Terry Henry, John Suter, Robert Barnette, Bryan Duval, Russell Fitzgibbon, Jim Matthews, Bruce Metcalf, Jeffrey Brown, Rahel Yemane, Jeff McCall, Toby Norris, Peg and Paul Sattler and Albert Felicio**

### Water Quality

A sample was drawn from the lake during the first week of November. The water quality is stable and unchanged from the last two months.

	Nitrate	Nitrite	pH	GH	Kh	Ammonia
Sep-20	5-10	-	7	30.0	40.0	-
Oct-20	0-5	-	7	30.0	40.0	-
Nov-20	0-5	-	7	30.0	40.0	-

## RANGE REPORTS

### Rules Reminder

There have been too many cold range violations recently. Please remember to always follow the Chapter's [range rules](#).



When the range is **cold**:

- There is **ABSOLUTELY NO HANDLING OF FIREARMS**
  - This includes moving firearms between benches
- Shooters need to be **behind** the yellow Ready line
  - NO ONE should be seated or standing at the benches
- Firearms are to be on the bench with actions open.

Finally, all members bringing a guest to the range **must** sign them in at the Chapter house. Forms are to be filled out and signed by both the member and the guest. The bottom strip cut off the form and the guest must carry it with him as proof of compliance.

### Dr. Green Shotgun Range

There was another perfect shoot at the Dr. Green Memorial Shotgun Range. David Henning broke all 25 clays on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. He is only the second shooter to score a perfect round on the five stand. Great job, David!

## OTHER NEWS

### Clean your tackleboxes!

When your editor was a young man in his first apartment, ostensibly to attend college in San Diego, he would spend his free time fishing the local waterways. And at this time your editor will switch to first person so as to not sound so ridiculously pretentious.

The apartment I had was quite large and had a lot of closets for storage. I kept my fishing gear in one of the closets. One day, the bathroom began smelling...less than fresh. Being a single young man, I did not take too much notice and gave the bathroom a good once over.

The odor did not abate.

I went back in and did a very thorough cleaning – floor, toilet, sink, tub.

No change. In fact, it was getting worse.



I bought more cleaners, including bleach, and nearly discovered how to make mustard gas. Here is a hint from me to you: never mix bleach and ammonia. ☠

Through the bleach came that persistent, and worsening, malodor.

I considered moving. Back home.

It was that bad.

I went back into the bathroom for a final attempt. This time, I would leave nothing un-scrubbed.

Remember those cabinets, those awesome storage cabinets? I set to emptying them out, one by one, and scrubbing them inside and out. I kept no food in them – it was a bathroom, after all – but I was out of options. Everything had to be taken out, bleached, and returned.

One by one I would open a cabinet, take out the contents, and clean. Then, I opened that fateful cabinet, and nearly passed out. I had found the source of the odor. The only thing in the cabinet was my tackle box. I hadn't caught anything the last time I went fishing, and in any case I don't typically keep my catch in my tackle box, but nevertheless there it was. I reached in and took hold of the handle to pull it out.

At that point, something in my 20-year-old brain finally kicked in and sent an alert: *You left something in your tacklebox.*

The last time I went out fishing, I bought a container of chicken livers. Skunked at the end of the day I simply returned my tackle to the cabinet and went about my business.

My chicken livers had come home to roost.

The container had, thankfully, not burst, but it was swollen and dangerously close. I gingerly plucked it out of the tacklebox, carefully placed it in a bag, tied the bag securely, and hastened it to the dumpster.

Immediately, peace was restored to not only the bathroom but the rest of the apartment. It smelled clean, my eyes did not water when I got home, and my parrot was not complaining as much.

So, dear reader, please remember to always clean out your tacklebox. Even if you simply open it and ensure there are no perishable baits lurking about.





# Winchester Chapter Holiday Food Drive

• **December 1**  
through  
**December 14**

• Please drop  
donations inside  
the Chapter  
house in the  
marked bins

• All donated  
non-perishable  
food will be  
donated to local  
food banks

