



Winchester IWLA Newsletter

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



www.winchester-iwla.org

January 2021

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

WIWL HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Thank you to all who participated in your Chapter's food drive. It was a huge success! Nearly 400 pounds of food was collected for local food banks to help those in need. Read more [here](#).

BE SURE TO LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!

The Chapter has a new Facebook page. [Visit](#) and like it to stay up to date on all Chapter news, events, and weather-related closures.

DO YOU SHOP ON-LINE?

If you use Amazon (and it is nearly impossible to not have to use Amazon) to shop on-line, you can generate dollars for your Chapter by using Amazon Smile and choosing your Chapter as your charity. Click [here](#) to learn how.

CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD?

Relax. They are not lost in the mail nor were you forgotten. New cards will be sent out shortly. In the meantime you can continue to use your 2020 card.

OPENING DAY

[Opening day](#) will be here before we know it. Plan now. Put March 20th on your calendar and get your gear ready.





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FROM THE EDITOR



Welcome to 2021! This past year was a tough one for many of us. We all of us face personal challenges, and we mostly face them behind the scenes. In all cases, remember that those who make this Chapter run, who keep the gates open and the lake stocked and the ranges available, are all volunteers with lives like everyone else.

Let us all work on being kinder, more grace-giving, more patient, with everyone we meet. And I will start with me. Because I am the only one responsible for how I interact with others. Just because someone else is acting poorly does not mean I have to join them in that mud.

Let's shake the dust of the past year off our sandals and work on making this new year one in which we love one another, care for one another, and help carry each other's burdens.

POINTS OF CONTACT

Dan Arico, President
(703) 229-3130
dan_arico@winchester-iwla.org

Grant Javersak, Vice-President
(540) 533-0460
vp@winchester-iwla.org

Paul Sattler, Treasurer
(516) 380-9000
treasurer@winchester-iwla.org

James Sherry, Secretary
Jim_Sherry@winchester-iwla.org

Peg Sattler, Membership
(631) 255-1917
membership@winchester-iwla.org

John Suter, Board Member
(540) 364-1782
john_suter@winchester-iwla.org

Harold Whitacre, Special Events
(540) 533-8996
harold_whitacre@winchester-iwla.org

Tino Peabody, Board Member
(703) 862-8686
tino_peabody@winchester-iwla.org

Dave Prater, Range
range@winchester-iwla.org

Brian Callahan, Lake & Conservation
brian_callahan@winchester-iwla.org

Al Stitt, Education & Training
(540) 336-2468
training@winchester-iwla.org

Dave Colf, Editor
(703) 401-7100
editor@winchester-iwla.org



LOSS OF TWO LEGENDS

It is with profound sadness and our deepest condolences that we report the deaths of two of our top volunteers. Last October we lost both Dave Prater and his son Mark Prater to Covid-19.

Dave headed the Range Committee for several years, introducing the popular and highly successful Scholastic Action Shooting Program (SASP) and The Well-Armed Woman program to the Winchester Chapter, as well as the biannual Range Qualification training for all Chapter range users. Dave was also the prime mover in the Chapter's Education and Training program. Mark volunteered in so many ways it is difficult to list them, from helping run our first Turkey Shoot to supporting Education and Training.

Dave and Mark were good friends and staunch supporters of the Chapter and will be sorely missed.

LAKE AND CONSERVATION REPORT

Water Quality

The water was sampled on the 26th. Your intrepid editor braved the cold and risked touching the cold, cold water with his very digits, then rushed the sample to the lab for testing. The test consists of dipping a reactor strip in the sample and comparing the resulting color to the scale on the strip container. Therefore, there is some subjectivity in the determination of the values. Lab coats were not worn. Though, oddly, surgical masks were.

	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	-
Dec-20	5-10	-	7	30.0	40.0	-

In short, our lake is healthy and remains healthy and conducive to thriving fish populations. Be sure to follow the

catch regulations to ensure our populations remain vibrant for years to come.

Completed Eagle Projects

At the last Chapter work day in November there were three additional groups assisting with major projects. The teams were led by Scouts who achieved the Life Rank and were working towards their Eagle rank. These projects greatly benefit our chapter and were all conservation based. Their work teams contributed over 60 scouts and adults to our project work day and their contribution will be valued for many years.

Ashton Jones, Troop 63B

Ashton built several fishing line recyclers around Lake Neff. Used fishing line can be a nuisance if it is not disposed of in garbage cans. It is durable, does not decompose quickly and gets caught in our mowers and typically ends up in the lake as a hazard to aquatic life. Fishing line is 100% recyclable and several manufacturers have free shipping labels to send it back.



Ashton's design for the recycling units allows anglers to drop off used line while keeping wildlife out. It also had a drain to keep from holding water. He built several units and mounted them around the lake for the convenience of members. The units will be monitored by the lake and conservation committee.

Mia Lunceford, Troop 2G

Mia met with the Lake and Conservation committee and we discussed our concern for run off in the lake. She designed and built a rain garden to absorb potentially harmful chemicals in the parking lot runoff before they drain into Lake Neff. Her team dug down several feet by the primary culvert at the bottom



RANGE REPORTS

Dr Green Memorial Shotgun Range

Rick Hill, Shotgun Range Manager



It took us a while, but we finally got our shotgun range open around the first of August, in fact this photo was taken on opening day. Since then, we have hosted 319 member

shooters, 37 guests, shot 774, twenty-five shot rounds at 19,350 clay targets, and grossed for WIWL \$4,036.00 to the club in revenue.

This could not have happened without the support of our Shotgun RSO's and their time helping at the range. THANK YOU!

We are looking forward to a great shooting season in 2021 and putting together some programs for interested new shooters. We have some lady and youth shooter's but would like to see more. Once the weather breaks, we would like to offer "learn to shoots" for those that have never shot a shotgun, or their last experience was "it hurt". Through NRA we have shotguns and ammunition available for both Ladies and Youth using light training loads (no kick) and will set up days and times for both. We forgot to mention our Learn to Shoot program is free, but a small donation would be appreciated to cover the cost of all the clay targets you will break. Another of our goals is to set up more hours to shoot both on the weekends and during the week. This means we will need more Shotgun RSO's and invite anyone with an interest to either stop by or send us an email.

Along with involving our existing membership, we would also like to open the range to nonmembers. This would be on "Specific days" and times where we would waive our guest fee. More to follow on this

We would also like to open the range for group shoots, corporate shoots, family shoots or any other type of shoot you are interested in. Again, we will follow up with details for all these events.

of the hill and refilled the area with soil that allows for proper drainage. Her selection of native plant species will help with absorption without becoming a maintenance issue for our mowing operations. Mia is on pace to be in the initial class of female Eagle Scouts in our area and we are thrilled that she chose to complete her project at the Chapter. Mia is also a member of the Blue Ridge Bullets SASP team at the Chapter.

Victor Cogle, Troop 63B

Victor's project was the building of the Loch Neff Trail. The Lake and Conservation committee has worked for two years are on new trails in the former



3D archery course between the chapter house and Archery range. Victor designed and completed an amazing trail which follows a small stream through a valley from Lake Neff to the back of the chapter property. Victor had to repair several foot bridges through mucky areas and used his ingenuity to use the existing and recycled materials for most of the build. The completed trail is amazing and opens a section of the Chapter which was previously overgrown and unusable. The Lake and Conservation committee highlighted Victor's project as a conservation model on our webpage which shows both [before and after pictures](#). The completed trail was dedicated in honor of Jim Sherry who chose its name.

We wish these scouts well on the final requirement on their journey to Eagle Scout which is the Eagle Board of Review. We cannot be more honored to have these upstanding, outstanding young adults chose our chapter to complete these projects.



Thank you again for your support and we look forward to seeing and meeting each of you at the Dr. Green Shotgun Range.

“Feel the gun, see the break, smell the powder”

OTHER NEWS

WIWL Food Drive

This year’s food drive was a huge success, and a giant Ike thank you to Tino and Noah Peabody who collected and delivered your donations. Nearly 400 pounds of food was provided by you to local families in need. Thank you!



Facebook Page

There are two Facebook pages for your Chapter. The original was set up, but the password for that page has been lost and so that page can no longer be maintained.

A second Facebook page was created recently and can be found [here](#). It is updated regularly and is your best source to know the latest goings-on with your Chapter.



Sometimes the Chapter will be closed or events cancelled due to weather or other reasons. Be sure to check the Facebook page to check for closures or cancellations.

Amazon Smile

Would you like an easy way to give back to your Chapter? By selecting Winchester IWLA as your charitable organization at smile.amazon.com, a portion of eligible purchases will be donated back.

The exact amount is 0.5% of eligible purchases and monies donated based on your purchases are not tax deductible for you. You can read more about this program [here](#).

To select your Chapter, follow these simple steps:

1. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com>.
2. Choose “Winchester Izaak Walton” as your charity. It can be found [here](#).
3. Be sure that when you shop you are at smile.amazon.com. Having the ‘smile’ at the beginning of the URL makes the difference.

New IWLA Logos for 2022

I know it is a long way off, and if 2021 is anything like 2020, it’s going to seem a lot longer. Nonetheless, a new IWLA logo celebrating a century of conservation has been rolled out and is to be used for all official IWLA correspondence.



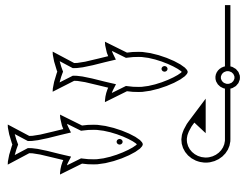
1922

2022

A Century of Conservation Leadership



Opening Day



Trout Fishing & Breakfast

*Save the Date: Saturday
March 20, 2021*

