



# Winchester IWLA Newsletter

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



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

February 2021

# FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Your Chapter continues to excel and provide outstanding service to the community. We can only do that through the dedication and support of our volunteers. Please consider helping out. See [here](#) for a list of subcommittees that need help.

## SPEAKING OF VOLUNTEERS...

We are introducing a new section this month to recognize the people who have really stepped up and helped your Chapter. You can see that [here](#).

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

If you use Amazon or visit Facebook, you can help your Chapter from the comfort of your own home. Use Amazon Smile, choosing the Winchester Izaak Walton League as your charity of choice, and like our Facebook page. Read more about Amazon [here](#), and Facebook [here](#).

## TWO MORE PERFECT ROUNDS!

Are the birds bigger? More BBs in the shells? What is going on at the Dr Green Memorial Shotgun Range? Come on down and see for yourself. And read about it here.

## OPENING DAY

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





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## FROM THE EDITOR



I cannot be the only one anxiously waiting for the weather to warm up. Winter's nice and all, but I am ready for warm, even hot, days. I got a crawdad trap I am looking forward to trying out at the lake. I don't know if I will catch any, but if I do I'll share my prepping and cooking tips.

Not surprisingly, COVID is still around. Did anyone really think it would go away? Viruses never do, and while it does not seem reasonable that the rules for social distancing and limitations on gatherings can be permanently imposed, I have learned to never expect logic and reason to prevail.

Even with the restrictions there has been a lot of work done at your Chapter in the recent past. From Eagle Scout projects that greatly benefit our Chapter, to new trails dedicated to our tireless volunteers, there are a lot of new places and things to explore at your Chapter. Come on out and enjoy!

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# BOARD REPORT

Your Board meets the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Chapter house. The BOD met on January 7<sup>th</sup> and appointed your editor as Communications Director. The job description is evolving, but the intention is to have one voice for all general Chapter communications to the membership. This will ensure consistency in reporting out what is happening, and if a mistake is made, it will be easier to know who it was. The full minutes can be found on the Chapter's [website](#). The next meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2021, with proper COVID-19 [precautions](#) in place.

Speaking of COVID restrictions, Membership meetings will resume once the Governor's distancing mandate is eased.

## LAKE AND CONSERVATION REPORT

### New Trails

The new trails officially opened in November, 2020, and we were finally able to get pictures of all the Fine Ikes for whom the trails are dedicated. We cannot thank them enough for all they have done and continue to do for your Chapter, and we highly encourage everyone to visit the Chapter [website](#) and read the details about each trail. Better yet, head out to your Chapter and enjoy each one!



*Jim Sherry and Victor Cogle at Loch Neff Trail*



*Butch and Robbie Kramer at Bishop Ken Trail*



*Chris Barltrop at Gloria Memorial Trail*



## 2021 Planned Events

The Lake and Conservation Committee last met as a group in November, 2020. The restrictions with COVID as well as the struggle trying to gather electronically meant that we have been segmenting into subcommittees to tackle different initiatives. One of the actions taken was to plan out 2021 and pray that we would actually be able to have some of these events. A key element for success is volunteers. Please consider donating some of your time back to your Chapter to make it a successful year.

### *March 20<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m. – Opening Day*

Mark your calendars for this one, folks. The lake will be closed on March 16<sup>th</sup> for stocking, and won't reopen until Opening Day. This event is open to members and their guests. There will be Cast Iron Breakfast Sandwiches.

### *April 24<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m. – Kids Fishing Derby*

Lake Neff will be closed on April 19<sup>th</sup> to stock for this event and will reopen on the 24<sup>th</sup>. This is our largest public event and is open to all kids 15 years old and younger. If you can help in any capacity, your volunteer time would be greatly appreciated.

### *May 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> – BSA Spring Camporee*

We are estimating 400 scouts and leaders will participate in this camporee. Due to the volume of visitors the Lake and the Ranges will be closed.

### *June 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> – Catfish Derby*

This should be a fruitful fundraiser for your Chapter. It is open to members and their guests. There is a \$10 entry fee, with a 40/60 payout. This means the winner gets 60% of the total purse, the Chapter gets 40%. Because this is for catfish, it will be an overnight event with concessions!

### *September – Ike's Defender 5K*

This will be a virtual 5K Chapter fundraiser that can be completed anytime in the month of September. Log 5 kilometers of exercise in the outdoors to qualify and have fun while earning a fine t-shirt.

### *September 25<sup>th</sup> – Bass Tournament*

Another fundraiser for your Chapter. Open to members and their guests, there will be a \$10 entry free with the standard 40/60 payout. There have been some lunkers

pulled from 'Neff, so warm up your spinnerbaits and practice your cast for this one.

## Major Projects

### *Lake Aeration and Weed Control*

Your Chapter will be investing in aeration and the application of directed herbicide to assist with weed management. Aeration will require power to the lake and the installation of the equipment. This is a major investment to improve the quality of the lake.

The herbicide we intend to use is of a type that works on contact, rather than dispersing through the water and possibly harming the fish. It sinks where dropped and kills the weeds on contact. This allows for directed weed abatement while leaving critical weed growth for cover.

### *USDA Land Projects*

The Chapter has signed an agreement with the USDA to return two sections of the Chapter's property to natural foliage and the removal of invasive species in a third area. The meadow behind the dam and about 30% of the shotgun range will be converted from mowed areas to natural meadows. The combined area is about 5.5 acres and will require the removal of existing (partially invasive) grasses and the planting of seed. The invasive species removal will be the cutting and spraying of autumn olive throughout the sixteen acres of the campground.

### *Eagle Scout Projects*

The Committee needs assistance working with Life Scouts who want to complete their Eagle Scout project at the Chapter. The list is maintained by the Committee Chair and once a scout commits to a project, the Chapter will need a member to review and guide the scout as he leads his team on the project. There are currently seven Eagle Scout projects in progress.

## Lake and Conservation Subcommittees

The following is a list of subcommittees that fall under Lake and Conservation. If you are interested in heading up or helping on any of these, please reach out to Brian Callahan, Lake and Conservation Director, or me, your Editor.



Forest Management	Chainsaw work; wood splitting/hauling; trail clearing/ management
Lake	Species management; stocking; lake health; water sampling
Events	Organize Kids Fishing Derby and help with other events
Aeration	Power to lake; installation of equipment
Dam Recertification	Work with engineers to prepare the dam for recertification. Develop and manage annual maintenance
Community	Review Chapter participation in conservation activities outside our property

## Water Quality

Your intrepid editor broke through nearly ¼” of ice to get to the water to draw a sample. The pH reading is lower than

	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	-
Jan-21	0-5	-	6	30.0	40.0	-

normal because the water is so cold. Or so said the person who analyzed the sample. Perhaps if I had drawn a sample from the middle of the lake, and deep, it would have read closer to 7.0. We will never know because I have an aversion to frigid water. All other readings are good.

Lake Neff 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.

## NOTABLE IKES

The Winchester Chapter of the Izaak Walton League would like to thank the following Ikes for their dedicated service to others last month. In no particular order:

### Pete and Jessica Montero

Pete and Jessica jumped in and fixed the gate after the rain and hard freeze. This saved your Chapter an

emergency call (and emergency call money) to our gate maintenance vendor.

### Toby and Fran Norris

Toby and Fran helped on the wood cutting with the forest management team and brought their small tractor and trailer. The team cut, split, and used the tractor to haul 1.5 cords of wood out of the forest to the Glaize Shelter and saved the other team members several hundred dollars in chiropractor bills.

### Jeff McCall and Ben Storrick

Jeff and Ben both stepped up and volunteered to assist with new Eagle Scout projects as Chapter representatives and advisors. Jeff will be the advisor for a fish cleaning station and Ben is our resident expert on building fish attractors for the lake.

### Terry Henry and Dave Kavanah

Terry and Dave hauled multiple truckloads of cut brush and branches from the cleared dam area to the brush pile near the Chapter house. This material was required to be removed for the upcoming dam certification and these two Ikes jumped in and got it done.

### Charlie Weiss

Charlie rewired the broken communications cable for uploading gate card information. This fix allowed our membership director to upload new member gate cards for chapter access.

### Tim Walton and Eric Raybuck

Tim and Eric gave up a Saturday morning with an urgent request to clear a 65-foot downed oak tree in the outpost. They sawed, split, and stacked the wood for future campers to use.

A huge *Thank You* to these Great Ikes, and all the other volunteers who were not listed. Every hour you give back to your Chapter matters and makes a difference. Whether you can give a little or a lot, please consider giving something back if you are at all able.



# RANGE REPORT

## Dr Green Memorial Shotgun Range

By: Rick Hill, Shotgun Range Manager

Neither rain, nor snow, nor cold has hindered shooting at the Dr Green Memorial Shotgun Range, thanks to our RSOs without whom we could not open.

We had two more shooters make a perfect 25 shot round. We still need to add their hats and a photo. The two were Peter Keith and Jack Macgregor. Good shooting gentlemen!

We have added another trap with three more to finish repairing and have on the range by first of March. Our final trap will be “the rabbit”. Since this year’s budget will be used to purchase a 20-foot sea container, we are looking for donations to purchase the rabbit trap and if you are interested in helping click [here](#). Be sure you address your donation is for the rabbit trap in the comment section.

Once the weather breaks, we will be forming a summer League. There will be more on that in next month’s newsletter. If you have never been to the range and would like to try it out, we offer the use of a gun, shells, and instruction by one of our trained Shotgun RSOs that will be there while the range is open. There is no charge for this service. Be sure to coordinate with Rick Hill, the Shotgun Range Master, prior to arriving to ensure there is at least two RSOs – one to run the five stand, and one to help the new shooter.

Thank you, and we look forward to meeting you at the Dr. Green Memorial Shotgun Range. Remember: Feel the gun, see the break, smell the powder.

## OTHER NEWS

### Chapter 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](https://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](https://smile.amazon.com). Having the ‘smile’ at the beginning of the URL makes the difference.



## The Spider

Finally, some levity to ring in the new year. This is courtesy of my mom, Mary Ann Colf, and it is called The Spider. She wrote it as a young girl growing up in Southern California.

### THE SPIDER

M.A. Colf

Across the rug upon my floor,  
Crawls a spider all alone.

I feel so sorry for him,  
'Cause his legs, they have no bone.

He has no hands, he has no feet,  
He has no head of hair.

He has no neck to hold his head,  
His head's just sitting there.

No belly button has he got,  
He has no toes or heels.

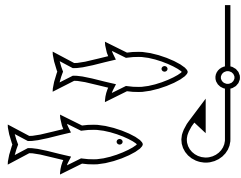
And as I squash him on the floor,  
I wonder how it feels.



Incredibly, she was not nominated for Poet Laureate.



# Opening Day



# Trout Fishing & Breakfast

*Save the Date*

**Saturday March 20, 2021**

