



# Winchester IWLA Newsletter

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



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

June 2021

## JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

### SPORTSMAN'S SWAP MEET

Due to limited response, the Swap Meet has been cancelled. Please read about why here.

### JUNE ELECTIONS

The election will be held during the Membership Meeting on June 17, 2021. Read more about that in the [Board Reports](#) section.

### HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

This month we honor the dads out there. Guys, be good to the lady who made you a dad.

### SLOW DOWN!

Please observe the 10-mph speed limit on Chapter grounds. Repeat offenders will be reported to the Board for disciplinary action. Read more in [Other News](#).

### NATIONAL CONVENTION

Do you want to be a delegate at this year's National Convention? Find out how in [Other News](#).

### SHOTGUN LEAGUE

Your Chapter's shotgun league started. Read more in [Range Reports](#) and sign up to join the fun!





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## FROM THE EDITOR



We are at the Wednesday of the year. Hump month. Mid-way through 2021. Six down. Six to go. So far, it has been a roller coaster. At least it seems that way. Single mask, double mask; vaccine or flask? I will have the flask, thanks.

Last month was about the moms out there. What a wonderful month to celebrate the mom in your life and let her know how important she is. This month, it is all about the dads. If you have a dad, be sure to let him know how much you appreciate him.

And if you are a dad, please give me just a moment of your time. Never let a day go by that you do not tell the woman who made you a dad just how important she is, how wonderful she is for putting up with you, and for giving you children. Put the X-Box down and get your kids out fishing or shooting. As the Apostle Paul said in his first epistle to the Corinthians, "Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong." You have an awesome responsibility to your family, dads. Raise your sons to be respectful but firm, knowing right from wrong. Raise your daughters to have self-respect and confidence. And for both – guard them from the wicked influences that will turn them aside from good. Dads: "...act like men, be strong."

### POINTS OF CONTACT

#### OFFICERS

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  
[Jim\\_Sherry@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:Jim_Sherry@winchester-iwla.org)

Peg Sattler, Membership Director  
(631) 255-1917  
[membership@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:membership@winchester-iwla.org)

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Suter, Board Member  
(540) 364-1782  
[john\\_suter@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:john_suter@winchester-iwla.org)

Harold Whitacre, Special Events  
(540) 364-1782  
[harold\\_whitacre@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:harold_whitacre@winchester-iwla.org)

Tino Peabody, Board Member  
(703) 862-8686  
[tino\\_peabody@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:tino_peabody@winchester-iwla.org)

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Range Master, Rifle and Pistol  
[range@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:range@winchester-iwla.org)

Rick Hill, Range Master, Shotgun  
[rhill1105@aol.com](mailto:rhill1105@aol.com)

Range Master, Archery  
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)

Facilities  
Dave Colf, Communications/Editor  
(703) 401-7100  
[editor@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:editor@winchester-iwla.org)



# BOARD REPORTS

Your Board met on May 6<sup>th</sup>. A quorum was not established and so the meeting could not be held. This is an excellent time to remind you that elections are this month!

The Membership Meeting was held May 20, 2021. The next meeting will be June 17<sup>th</sup>, during which members in good standing may vote for the candidates running for election to your Board. The candidates are Dan Arico, Jim Sherry, Gary W. Tilley, and Harold Whitacre. The election will begin at 6:30 p.m. and voting will end at 7:30 p.m. Please bring your current IWLA membership card with you to vote.

## Weed Abatement

The weed treatment on the lake has been successful. This time last year saw weeds across the surface of the lake and reports from fisherman and boaters are reporting greatly reduced hydrilla. The section above the silt dam was not treated, allowing for habitat for smaller fish. Several other sections on the shore opposite the road were also left untreated for habitat..

## New Campsite

The Lake and Conservation Committee developed a new campsite with firepit on the Opequan Creek in the campground over the Memorial Day weekend. We will be adding a picnic table and bench in the next week.



## Eagle Scout Projects

Two Eagle Scout projects were completed in the last month at the Chapter. Jimmy Taylor Jr. , Troop 63, built and installed 3 fish attractors in the lake. These structures,



marked with yellow floats, provide structure in the lake for small fish and greatly enhance the lake ecosystem by protecting the young. This greatly supports the sustainability of several species in the lake.

# LAKE AND CONSERVATION REPORT

## Water Quality

Our friends at Winchester Aquarium and Pet Center, “Your Pet Professionals” located at 190 Costello, across from Costco, tested our water sample taken from Lake Neff. You can see them for all your pet needs.

Our lake is, as ever, very healthy and conducive to growing, vibrant, and effervescent fish populations.

	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	-
Feb-21	5-10	-	7	100.0	40.0	-
Mar-21	5-10	-	7	60.0	40.0	-
Apr-21	0-5	-	7	65.0	30.0	-
May-21	0-5	-	6.5	100.0	60.0	-

Be sure to always follow the catch regulations to ensure our aquatic populations remain vibrant for years to come.



Jackson Wade, Troop 159, built a boat storage rack for the Chapter boats and canoe. This rack cleaned up the shoreline, assisting with mowing operations and helps protect the equipment we use for managing the lake. Jackson



landscaped the area and designed the rack for future expansion.

The Chapter cannot thank these scouts enough for the hard work, environmentally friendly design and solid leadership they exhibited on their projects. These projects provide amazing benefits to our Chapter for ongoing 501c3 missions. We also need to thank members Terry Henry and Ben Storrick for assisting the scouts as Chapter representatives who assisted the scouts.

### Lake Neff Boat Use

It is great to see so many members using Lake Neff with their small boats and kayaks. Fishing is in top form and the lake is producing large crappies and aggressive bass. The member rules must be followed regarding personal flotation devices. Everyone in boats **MUST WEAR** their life jackets. It is not enough to have it in the boat. It must be worn. This is an insurance requirement and if we continue to have issues with it, the committee will need to review allowing boats on the lake.

### Campground Use

The rules of the campground are the 7 principles of leave no trace. In a nutshell, this means “take only pictures, leave only footprints.” Volunteers are finding every kind of refuse imaginable left at your campsites, including beer bottle caps, bones from cook dinners, partially burned plastics in the fire pits, etc.

This is a conservation-minded organization! Pack out what you pack in! It is completely unacceptable to burn or leave garbage in the fire pits.

We are not able to get trash service in the campground and we do not provide garbage cans in that area. Please remove your trash and if needed, use the garbage cans above the chapter house.

### What’s Next?

Next up for your Lake and Conservation Committee:

- Installation of aeration equipment in Lake Neff
- Expansion of camping sites around the Chapter
- Beginning work on several USDA projects

## RANGE REPORT

The range rules have been changed concerning violations to the range guest policy. If a member is found in violation of the policy, he or she will forfeit range privileges for 60 days, and the case will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for further action. The updated Range Rules should be read by all range users; they can be found at <https://winchester-iwla.org/Rifle-Pistol>. Plans call for new signage at the Rifle-Pistol range outlining the Range Guest Policy changes, along with NRA firearms safety rules. John Suter reported that Shotgun range guests can now be registered at the Shotgun range. He also announced the establishment of a new shotgun league. Details may be found on the Chapter website.

### Dr Green Memorial Shotgun Range

Here is a great tip for your shotgun shooting, I’m sure some of you have heard me ask you to try this and been amazed at the results. In Sporting Clays, one-third of lost targets are missed in front, two-thirds are missed behind. The competitors who miss out front are among the winners. My first rule to overcoming Separation Anxiety is to recognize that “they don’t fly backwards,” and so if you are going to miss, which is inevitable, “miss in front.”

Good Shooting!

Rick Hill, Shotgun Range Manager



## Shotgun League

There is a shotgun league running currently. There were two shoots in May. There will be 6 more in June, July, and August on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month. Shooting starts at 9 am. The cost is \$15 with an optional \$5 side game. We have makeup times on Sunday at noon and Wednesday at 1p.m. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jack MacGregor either by email or phone at (301) 873-4493.



**“Your Pet Professionals”**

190 Costello Drive Winchester, VA 22602 Phone: 540-667-8198 wapcinfo@comcast.net	Mon—Fri 10am to 8pm Saturday 10am to 7pm Sunday 11am to 5pm www.petcenteronline.com
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## OTHER NEWS

### Sportsman’s Swap Meet

The Sportsman’s swap meet mentioned in last month’s newsletter as tentatively scheduled for next month has been postponed, perhaps indefinitely. We learned that our favored date of June 19th had already been reserved, a minor inconvenience. More significantly, despite a show of interest at the April membership meeting by a number of members, there have only been three requests for table reservations. That is one less than was received the last time a swap meet was proposed a few years ago. This may be due to the changes in the laws governing private firearms sales, which are no longer permitted in Virginia, or other factors of which we are not aware. Without exhibitors there is not much point in holding the meet, so we will look for a stronger expression of interest before scheduling the swap meet again.

### Watch Your Speed!

Your Chapter has received several complaints from members about others driving on the Chapter roads in excess of the 10-mph limit. Folks, there is no where you need to be in a hurry when you are at Izaak Walton. The fish are not going anywhere, and all the gun ranges are fixed. Most importantly, there are children all over the place! Any members who are repeatedly seen zooming down the roads will be reported to the Board for disciplinary action.

### Winchester Aquarium and Pet Center

The fine folk at the Winchester Pet and Aquarium Center are responsible for testing the water sampled from Lake Neff. They provide this service freely, willingly, and cheerfully.

If you have a pet, or are interested in one, please consider doing your business with them. They give to your Chapter; we should give back at least a little. They are located at 190 Costello Drive, just down from Costco.

### IWLA National Convention

You may have received this in your email, but in case you missed it, or do not use email, this year’s convention will be held virtually rather than in-person due to the ongoing concerns over COVID. The League will hold a virtual convention in July minimally to elect new national officers and members of the Executive Board and consider policy resolutions submitted by chapters and divisions. The specific date, format, and any additional components of a virtual convention, such as speakers or workshops, will be determined over the next few weeks. Please look for updates via email, "Outdoor America" magazine and the League’s website. And, of course, your intrepid editor will keep you apprised through your newsletter. Not sure how timely it will be, but nonetheless.

The Winchester Chapter of the Izaak Walton League is entitled to 10 delegates. Come to the next Board meeting to pick up an application.

### Chapter Facebook Page

I know this same message has been in previous newsletters, but it bears repeating. 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

This is another nugget worth repeating. 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. 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.



# DAVID C. PRATER & MARK PRATER MEMORIAL



The Chapter held a memorial service for our long time volunteers David and Mark Prater. The service included soldiers from the USMC who presented David's wife Keiko with a flag for his military service and taps was played. Several friends spoke about memories with the Praters and their contributions to the chapter. It was wonderful to share those stories with the Prater family who came from across the nation to be part of the event.



David was a former Chapter president who was also the rangemaster for all of the ranges. He was involved with all the committees and his work is seen everywhere at the chapter. David created the new member orientation, range rules and range qualification process. He also wrote many grant requests included in the grants were the loner shotguns used at the 5-stand, the



boats at the lake and financial support for youth shooting, David and Mark founded the SASP youth shooting team at the Chapter. He also taught all of the NRA shooting classes. David was a "mountain man" and loved flintlock and muzzle loading shooting; and the lifestyle of that time period. The chapter dedicated the outpost in the campground in David's name. David's dedication included a flag retirement ceremony completed by BSA Troop 159.



Mark Prater was very involved in the chapter supporting his father. He was a tireless volunteer for Lake and Conservation, Education and Training, Range and Special Events committees. Mark did all of the IT work at the chapter. Mark was also the head chef for every event for several years from Christmas parties to kids events. The Chapter will honor his memory by naming the kitchen in his memory.

David and Mark completed about 1300 volunteer hours a year EACH at the chapter. These men with their immense knowledge and skill sets are impossible to replace and their loss greatly impacted chapter operations. We will greatly miss their humor and hard work and all of us mourn the loss of our good friends. The memorial service allowed us to meet their family, share their story of dedication and honor their memories.

