



Winchester IOWA Newsletter

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

www.winchester-iowa.org

April 2022

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

MIKE MERCER MEMORIAL KIDS' FISHING DERBY

Save the date! May 7th, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. See the flyer at the [end](#) of the newsletter.

GOLD WEDDING BAND FOUND

Please see note in [Other News](#).

ARMED WOMEN OF AMERICA

Are you a woman who likes to shoot, or wants to learn how? The Well-Armed Woman is now Armed Women of America. Read more about this group in [Other News](#).

RAFFLES

Your Chapter raffled off a rifle and pistol last month. See [Other News](#) for more.

FOR SALE

Chapter Member Eric Raybuck is selling his riding mower. See [Other News](#) for more.

HELP WANTED

All kinds of things are planned at your Chapter, but none can happen without you. Please reach out to anyone listed as a point of contact if you can help in any way – time, materials, labor. Thank you!

ARCHERY COMMITTEE

If you are interested in archery and want to help set up and serve on the Archery Committee for your Chapter, please contact board member Gary Tilley. He can be reached at mindbender119@hotmail.com or by phone - 314-409-5982.





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April 2022

FROM THE EDITOR



Happy April! As always there are lots of fun and exciting things happening at your Chapter. I only wish I could remember what they were...

One thing – the Mike Mercer Memorial Kids' Fishing Derby is happening very soon. May 7th, as a matter of fact. Read about it under [Lake and Conservation](#), and see the [flyer](#) at the end of this highly entertaining and informative newsletter. There was a raffle for two firearms – a 9mm handgun and a 300AAC rifle – last month. Read more in [Other News](#). Speaking of firearms, the Precision Shoot is coming back this year. Read all about it in [Range Report](#).

Your intrepid editor spent the weekend with the Boy Scouts, and seems to have come down with some kind of bug. I was supposed to make it to Lake Neff to take a sample for testing, but that's not happening. So, the test and report will be next month. I think we'll survive. Not to worry though, your Lake and Conservation committee added aeration to your lake which will help keep the weeds down, and make the lake even healthier for the fish population. Read about this effort under [Lake and Conservation Report](#).

Enjoy your PEEPS®, but do not forget what we celebrate this month. He is risen!

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BOARD REPORTS

Your Board of Directors met March 3rd at 7 p.m. The Membership meeting was held March 17th also at 7 p.m. Minutes for both can be found on the Chapter website under [Documents](#).

Your Chapter will be raffling off fun, outdoor equipment, such as rifles, shotguns, handguns, and compound bows, among other items. Last month, 50 tickets for a Ruger .308 rifle were sold out in 45 minutes. The next raffle starts March 3rd with tickets for sale until the March Membership meeting. Go to the Chapter website under [Chapter House > Raffle](#) to buy a raffle ticket... or many tickets. Your chances of winning get better the more you buy. Each ticket is only \$20 and all proceeds benefit your Chapter.

LAKE AND CONSERVATION REPORT

Opening Day!

The Chapter held its annual Opening Day event on March 19 with perfect weather and everyone had a great time! The members only Opening Day event celebrates the first trout stocking of the year with free coffee, breakfast sandwiches and the world's greatest hot chocolate. We had about 40 members fishing for trout and Harold Whitacre's Special Events Committee served 110 cast iron cooked breakfast sandwiches. This event would not have been possible without the volunteers that donated their time including Rick Wright, Mike Keenan, Charles Weiss and Jeff McCall. The chapter raised \$221 with donations and 50/50 proceeds to help cover the cost of the event.

Lake Neff Guest Policy

A common question asked of the committee is guests fishing Lake Neff. Unlike the ranges, there is no policy for guests fishing on the lake. The primary problem with a guest policy is the price. The cost of trout has risen, like everything else, and where the ranges charge \$10, that would not cover the cost of trout if a guest catches their limit. The chapter has

also spent tens of thousands of dollars on the lake over the past 3 years for species stocking and improvement, weed control, aeration, and dam safety. Our populations of trout, bass and catfish are consistently breaking chapter records for size and overall catch totals. Couple these costs with the popularity of the lake since the beginning of COVID and the rise of the price of ammunition, and we are now seeing Lake Neff member usage at an all-time high.

Unfortunately, we cannot allow members to bring guests to fish our lake.

We are a 501c3 non-profit organization with our primary focus of getting youth into the outdoors. We do allow youth groups to fish the lake during their event (camping or lake pavilion special events). These groups, other than our annual kids fishing derby, primarily fish for panfish. Many times, youth groups will request chapter volunteers or loaner equipment to assist with the event. This is part of our Izaak Walton mission. Other groups, such as veterans groups, may also use the lake with Board approval. Lake Neff is one of the primary resources our chapter uses to complete the needed events required for renewal of our non-profit status.

Please understand our situation and respect the rules. The lake and conservation volunteers spend hundreds of hours improving the lake every year for the enjoyment of our members and youth. We are always looking for assistance and consider joining the committee.

Lake Neff Rules Reminder

Remember one rod per person on the lake.

Mike Mercer Memorial Kids Fishing Derby

The event will be held on May 7, 2022. Please contact Brian Callahan if you can volunteer for the committee or at the event. Due to the supply chain issues, we have lost several sponsors. Please donate any extra fishing gear in the Chapterhouse in the marked box. We need lures, hooks, bobbers and jigs for the Kids prizes which are small tackle boxes filled with fishing gear. Thanks again for the support of this event.

Bait Available

The chapter is very excited to offer live bait again in the chapter house. The chapter has teamed up with Jake's bait and tackle to provide quality bait for fishing Lake Neff. Every



bait purchase assists the chapter. Special thanks to Jake's Bait and Tackle for the support!!!

Eagle Scout Project Completed at Lake Neff!

The chapter would like to extend a very special thank you to Boy Scout Teddy Rudolph for the completion of his Eagle Scout project of a fish cleaning station on Lake Neff. Teddy is a Life Scout with BSA Troop 63 and his project turned out amazing with a granite top and stainless steel sinks. The new fish cleaning station was heavily used during the Opening Day event and will be used by chapter volunteers during the Kids Fishing Derby to provide fish cleaning service



for the first time. We ask members to dump the remains from their fish cleaning back into the lake where it will provide a food source for bottom feeders such as crayfish. This recycling of organic matter is critical for the health of our aquatic environment, and we cannot thank Teddy enough for his work. The chapter would like to thank Lake and Conservation member Jeff McCall who acted as the Chapter representative. The Chapter would like to wish Teddy the best of luck on his Board of Review on his journey to the rank of Eagle Scout.

Portable Sawmill

The Chapter will be bringing in a portable sawmill this spring for the first time. The committee has multiple trees that have fallen that are being collected to create lumber products. Typically, downed trees are used for firewood but with the removal of the pine trees by the chapter house, we have plenty for campground use. The committee could use some volunteers to assist with the sawmill including stacking and moving cut lumber on May 14. The campground will be closed on that weekend. The chapter does donate some wood to local wood workers. If you are a wood worker and would like to be included, please contact Brian Callahan. We simply ask for a finished product as a donation. We would prefer to see the wood used for its natural beauty as opposed to it being used as firewood.

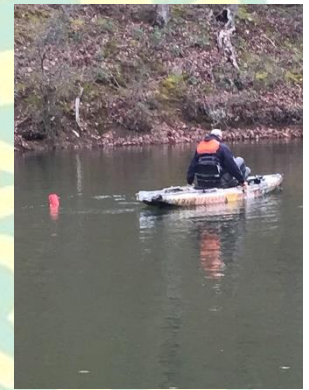
Please contact Brian also for pine firewood. The committee has cut and stacked about 10 cords for use in the campground. We will be splitting the remaining pine in the chapter house parking lot this spring.

Chapter Campgrounds

The chapter campgrounds are filling up!!! The committee created a new campsite last year and are always working on improvements. If members have an interest in camping, make your reservations now!!! Reservations are not required but open weekends are also being requested by Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Trail Life and American Heritage Girls youth groups. The calendar is filling up and don't miss this opportunity for a great camping experience!!!

Aeration

The bubbles on Lake Neff are the Chapter's new aeration system. The lake and Conservation team installed a new aeration system with heads located throughout lake Neff. Aeration is key to correcting some of the issues with the lake. The most important component of aeration is cycling healthy bacteria from the surface to the bottom of the lake to assist with decomposition. These bacteria will assist with the breakdown of organic materials which are slowly filling in the lake. We are hoping aeration will also assist with moving the water and avoiding the large outbreaks of the surface level vegetation such as duckweed which occur in stagnant water. We are also hoping the oxygen rich water enriches the fish species in the lake.



Captain Braydon Gilson and his father, First Mate Dean Gilson



Rick Hill was instrumental in designing and specifying the equipment needed. Rick also flipped the switch for the first time and inaugurated the system.



This project took 9 months and an entire team to implement including John Whitacre, Brad Whitacre and Terry Henry who were instrumental in getting power to the lake. We

also need to thank Steven Rhodes who fixed the solar panels.

Gerald Crowell, John Roberts, Marty Mood, Captain Braydon Gilson, First Mate Dean Gilson, Charlie Weiss, Eric Raybuck and Dan Arico comprised the setup and installation team. Great thanks to everyone that assisted!

RANGE REPORT

Bullseye Precision Competition/.22 Pistol & Rifle

Returning for another exciting season, your Chapter will soon be starting Bullseye Pistol and Precision Rifle competitions. These fun and informally competitive shoots are open to IWLA members, their spouses, and appropriately aged children under parental supervision, and we welcome shooters of all experience levels! We anticipate starting in early May and running through October, with pistol shooting on the first and third Monday and rifle shooting on the second and fourth Monday. Watch this newsletter space or an email to all Chapter members announcing the date of the first event.

The Rifle and Pistol Range will be closed to members not participating in the competition from 4:00 to 6:30 each Monday.

Shooters and competition organizers agree to abide by and adhere to the range and safety rules and regulations posted at the range and available on the Chapter website and IWLA Winchester Chapter Range Qualification is required of each participating shooter.

Bullseye Pistol – Course of Fire

Shooters are required to use a .22LR pistol, semi-automatic preferred, and will need 70 rounds of ammunition (10 for sighting-in/warm up if desired; 60 for score). Revolvers allowed but are a real challenge in the rapid-fire shooting segment (five shots in 10 seconds). Open sights, red dot sights, and scopes are allowed. Shooters can use either one-hand (conventional military/NRA), or two-hand (defense stance) as their pistol holding grip. Separate scoring categories for each.

The shooter will fire a total 60 rounds in three sets of 20 rounds each, at three separate bullseye targets set 25 yards downrange.

Set 1: Slow fire - 20 shots in 20 minutes.

Set 2: Timed fire - Four 20-second sets of five shots each.

Set 3: Rapid fire - Four 10-second sets of five shots each.

Maximum score: 600 points.

Precision Rifle – Course of Fire

Shooters are required to use a .22LR repeater rifle (bolt, pump, semi-auto action) and will need 50 rounds of ammunition (10 for sighting-in/warm up if desired; 40 for score). As with Bullseye pistol, open sights, red dot sights, and scopes are allowed.

The shooter will fire 40 rounds in two sets of 20 rounds each at two separate bullseye targets 25 yards downrange. All shooting will be done off-hand (standing), with no sling support or Olympic-style shooting coat allowed. The shooter can request 50-yard targets to increase his challenge but cannot alter any other parameters of the course of fire and does not receive a score handicap for a longer range.

Set 1: Slow fire - 20 shots in 10 minutes.

Set 2: Rapid fire – Four 20-second sets of five shots each.

Maximum score: 400 points.

NRA Classification Scoring

Scores are not submitted to the NRA. While this course of fire is very similar to what the NRA runs for its



classification, the NRA does not allow for a two-handed stance. These official rank classifications, however, enable you to see how you might rank against other shooters across the country who participate in official NRA competitions and other competitions with similar courses of fire.

To calculate your percentage, divide your total score by the maximum total score (600 for pistol, 400 for rifle).

NRA Official Classifications	Score Percentage	Score Range – Pistol	Score Range – Rifle
High Master	97% and above	582 and above	388 and above
Master	95.00 – 96.99%	570 – 581	380 - 389
Expert	90.00 – 94.99%	540 – 569	360 - 379
Sharpshooter	85.00 – 89.99%	510 – 539	340 - 359
Marksman	Below 85%	509 and below	339 and below

Dr Green Memorial Shotgun

To make the Dr Green Memorial Shotgun Range more available to the membership, we need to enlist more Shotgun RSOs. If you are interested in helping contact Rick Hill, Shotgun Range Master, or talk to one of the other RSOs while shooting and we will get you trained and qualified. You can email Rick at rhill1105@aol.com.

We would also like to open the shotgun range for outside events. This season we would like to invite groups of no more than 10 shooters. Your group could shoot any day or time except when the range is open for members. The Chapter would provide shells, clays, and rental shotguns if needed. Chapter Shotgun RSOs will also be on hand for safety, the number to be determined based on your group’s size. If interested give us a call or email rhill1105@aol.com for more information.

Thanks for your interest and support, we are planning other events for 2022 and will share with you in upcoming newsletters.

*Rick Hill
Shotgun Range Master*

Dr Green Memorial Shotgun Range Hours

There has been a little confusion regarding the hours for the shotgun range, and thanks to daylight savings, now there’s more. Note the new hours for Sunday below.

Day	Time
Wednesday	1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Sunday	1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

We still need volunteers to work as RSOs at the five Rick Hill (rhill1105@aol.com) if you are interested. If you are a current RSO, you will need training on operating the wobble trap.

OTHER NEWS

Raffles

If you are not yet aware, your Chapter is raffling off firearms. Visit the website - <https://www.winchester-iwla.org/Raffles> - to see the current raffle. Draws are held at the Membership meetings. Winners need not be present.



Last month, members Paul and Joe were the lucky winners. Paul won the Canik pistol TP9 SFx Whiteout in 9mm.

Joe won the Diamondback DB15 300 Blackout rifle chambered in 300ACC.



Armed Women of America

The Well Armed Woman (TAWW) is now doing business as Armed Women of America!

Armed Women of America provides a safe and comfortable environment for women to gather, learn, train, and discuss issues important to women gun owners while creating opportunities for women to learn and grow as shooters. Chapters across the country offer a welcoming, non-intimidating place for women to learn more about the safe and responsible use of firearm, including firearms safety, personal protection, concealed carry, mindset and so much more.



The meeting offers classroom and range time, all under the guidance of certified women instructors.

The Shenandoah Valley VA Chapter of Armed Women of America meets for classroom training from 6 – 8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the WIWL Chapter House. We meet for range time from 1- 3 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Clyde L. Heishman Memorial Rifle and Pistol Range.

Anyone interested in joining, or for more information, contact Vicki Rhodes or Megan McGonigal at AWA.ShenandoahValleyVA@gmail.com. We look forward to meeting you!

Lanternfly Part Deux

Last month your editor included information on the Lanternfly infestation and how to identify egg masses. Fellow like Dave Campbell of White Post wrote the following article on his work at eradicating this pest on his farm, Hidden Mysteries.

We noticed the Spotted Lantern Fly (SLF) about 3 years ago. I reported it the state and they came out to review the area and discuss options. After the visit I was more familiar



with the identification of the Tree of Heaven and how to identify it. I spent hours walking the woods trying to find the tree in the early fall of 2021 when it is easy to identify. Once I found the tree I marked it with pink ribbon.

The local Coop informed me that cutting down the tree and burning it was

the quickest and cheapest method of control for the SLF. With their direction I spent a few weeks during the late winter of 2021 cutting down about 30 Tree of Heaven and burning them in my burn pit. Per their direction after felling the tree I painted the trunks with a 100% solution of Roundup.

The Tree of Heaven is a tree that has root suckers that extend through the area and sprout up in adjacent areas.



The intent of the Roundup was to stop the suckers from continued growth after the parent tree was removed.

During the summer of 2022 I noticed that I had missed identifying many trees and our infestation was worse. I re-walked the woods and after marking the trees I also saw that some of the stumps from my tree removal work in winter of 2021 had new growth coming from them.

I made a visit to the local coop and after a discouraging meeting and little help due to multiple issues I began a search with the Penn State program. They seem to be on the cutting edge of this research for the SLF and how to control it.

I decided to begin a hack and squirt method of control with the Tree of Heaven. That involves cutting the bark and squirting a specific herbicide chemical into the new tree wound. If this is performed during the late fall when the leaves are beginning to drop it is effective. The sap of the tree is moving down the trunk to the roots and putting the herbicide under the bark allows the chemical to travel down the tree and kill it at the roots. With the roots of the treated tree also connected to the surrounding trees through the ground the hope is that the herbicide will travel through the roots and kill the adjacent trees as well. After I used the hack and squirt method of control on the tree I used a different colored marking ribbon on the tree. This allows me to know that a tree has been treated and if I missed treating any. While treating trees it is rather easy to miss some.

Currently I am waiting for spring and summer to see if the herbicide treated trees are dead or dying. I have many trees and it will take years of effort and funds to rid the property of the Tree of Heaven which is the preferred tree of the Spotted Lantern Fly.

This fall it is my plan to use the hack and squirt method again on trees that I missed treating this past fall. I will continue to identify and flag trees in the hopes of removing the tree from our property. I realize that the tree and the SLF are here to stay. I see the trees everywhere and many people to nothing to control them. I can only do my own small part to try and control them.



Thank you, Dave. Good luck in your eradication attempts and keep us posted!

Entry Gate Light



Your entry gate now is well-lit so you can safely enter the Chapter at night and read any bulletins or announcements posted on the board.

Friends of the Winchester Izaak Walton Chapter

Several businesses help support your Chapter through services and gifts. This list will continue to grow, and I encourage you to support them in kind as you can.

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.



A.P.C.
WINCHESTER
"Your Pet Professionals"

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

Muley Fanatics Foundation

The Muley Fanatic Foundation supports Mule Deer habitat projects for this declining iconic animal as well as provides youth hunts for kids with life threatening



illnesses across the country. The Blue Ridge Chapter was founded by two Winchester IWLA members and is the only chapter on the East Coast. This foundation also supports keeping youth involved in the outdoors by donating a percentage of their annual banquet dinner to local youth programs.

Jake's Bait & Tackle

Jake's will be managing the bait concession in the Chapter house. Support a business that supports your Chapter by getting your worms at the chapter house rather than the gas station. Also, drop in and say 'Hi' next time you're in their neighborhood and treat yourself to some new gear! You can find them at 234 Ezra Lane in Winchester.



For Sale: Riding Mower

Member Eric Raybuck is selling his riding mower. The motor is Kohler and is in great condition. Contact him at troutfisher033@gmail.com if interested.



Found Wedding Band

The work crew installing the aeration system on the lake found a gold wedding band in the road. Please contact Dan Arico or me, your Editor, if it may be yours.

You may remain anonymous.





PRIZES

FREE!
Open to Public



Mike Mercer Memorial Kids' Fishing Derby

May 7, 2022 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Open to kids Age 15 and under.
Registration Begins at 9:30 AM. Derby runs from 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM
Prizes and Awards 2:30 PM

All registered children will receive a snack and drink.

Prizes are Awarded by
Fish Length for Each Age
Group



We have a small
Pier for Special
Needs Children

COME JOIN THE FUN ON MAY 7th!

IZAAK WALTON PARK, 2863 MILLWOOD PIKE, WINCHESTER, VA 22602