



# Winchester IWLA Newsletter

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



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

September 2022

# SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

## FAMILY FUN DAY!

Save the date – September 18<sup>th</sup>! Family Fun Day at Izaak Walton. Details to follow.

## FRIENDS OF THE NRA

The Friends of the NRA will be hosting a fundraising banquet on Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Read more in [Other News](#) and see the [flyer](#) at the end of the newsletter.

## GERALD CROWELL HONORED

A long-time Ike was recognized at the last Membership meeting. Please read his press release in [Other News](#).

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Izaak Walton League National Conference was held in July. Two great Ikes – Paul Sattler and Brian Callahan – attended and brought a report. Please see more under [Board Reports](#).

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

When aren't you? Please see more under [Lake and Conservation](#). This is important work for our Chapter.

## 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](mailto:mindbender119@hotmail.com) or by phone - 314-409-5982.







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## FROM THE EDITOR



It's September already. Back to school for the kids and a bit of a breather for the parents. Unless you homeschool. Like we do. Then there are no breaks.

The national convention was had and two of our own – Paul Sattler and Brian Callahan – represented us well. They brought back information on what the focus will be for the League and a host of awards for your Chapter and members. Read more in [Board Reports](#).

A moment please for your Editor to vent. Apparently, way too much trash is being left behind by people using the lake and campgrounds. Stop it! Pick up after yourselves. Pick up your trash. Recycle what you can, dispose of the rest. Be mindful of the outdoors. Be the example, Ikes! One point made at the convention was that national has no say on how chapters are run. It was brought up with the adoption of the new logo. We can use either logo. National cannot dictate that we stop using the old logo. Understand though that a silhouette of a man from the 17th century is not the best method for attracting young folks and that logo is very difficult to use on promotional materials and impossible to use on embroidered products. We need to rally our state and national reps to move the direction of our organization back to getting kids into the outdoors and making our chapters the finest examples of a great outdoor experience. And that starts with picking up after ourselves.

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# BOARD REPORTS

The BOD and Membership meetings were held August 18<sup>th</sup>. Gerald Crowell, a long-time Ika and dedicated volunteer both for your Chapter and the BSA, received the annual Izaak Walton League of America National Outdoor Ethics Award for outstanding work in outdoor ethics over the past year. Please see Other News to read more about Mr. Crowell and all he does for your Chapter.

If you attended the Membership meeting, you enjoyed pizza and hearing all about the National Convention. Your Chapter received national awards for newsletter and the Robert C. O'Hare award for outstanding youth programs.

For those who didn't attend in person, here is a recap:

First timers Paul Sattler and Brian Callahan attended the 100th anniversary annual convention in Peoria, Illinois. The convention provides opportunities for the chapters to share ideas while also seeing many of the programs the national organization conducts. The speakers at the convention included topics such as citizen science and soil conservation.

It is imperative that our chapter is represented at the convention. Winchester has grown in members in the past couple years and our votes count in determining actions that impact chapters nationwide.

Paul and Brian were able to interface with many chapters and collect ideas for fundraising, conservation projects and youth involvement. Several of the Chapters in Wisconsin have amazing archery programs and would be willing to assist us in growing ours. Paul and Brian are working with chapters in Ohio and Nebraska on our RQ program and software integrations. Brian is working with a chapter in Iowa on building an artificial island for fish habitat.

Another interesting mention from the national convention is the new logo. The 100th anniversary logo is a major change from the well known silhouette logo of Izaak Walton. The convention voted to use the new logo (minus the 100 year information) as an official logo of the Izaak Walton League. We have a lot of heritage and recognition with our old logo but it's a bit out of touch

1922  2022



for attracting younger members. Although we are not crazy about the new logo, it is a modern logo and can be used. The current logo – Izaak Walton's profile – is not going away and will continue to be used.

Stay tuned for a special announcement coming in October!

## LAKE AND CONSERVATION REPORT

### Campground Updates

The campground is busy this time of year! There are open campsites on most weekends and we will be building another new campsite this fall. The maintenance team has been busy making sure the campground is in amazing shape including mowing, weed trimming, and tree removal.

### Speaking of Tree Removal...

The campgrounds will be closed to allow a sawyer to come in with a portable saw mill to cut up the fallen trees. These will be cut and split to be used for firewood. Volunteers, as always, are needed to help haul off and stack the firewood for use at the campsites. The camp closures will happen during the week so as to not interfere with weekend reservations. Please contact Brian Callahan if you are able to help out in this work.

### Litter

We are finding litter around the chapter. The folks mowing are finding beer cans along the road to the campground and around the park. Please drop your garbage in the cans by the chapter house.

### Autumn Olive Updates

We are still working on autumn olive removal. As autumn arrives, we will be focused on clearing large areas of the forest. In preparation, we have stocked up on chainsaw chains and bar chain oil. This is a great workout for our fitness folks and no skill is required.





## Lake Assistance Needed

We need assistance trimming weeds on the lakeshore. This is a routine task but really assists the people fishing, especially kids. Please contact Brian C. if you can assist.

## Front Entrance

The maintenance team has been hard at work clearing the vegetation at the front entrance of the chapter. This removal makes it easier to see the entrance including our flag banner. The banner had to be moved after snapping in a storm.

## 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!!!

# RANGE REPORT

## Clyde L. Heishman Memorial Rifle & Pistol Range

Both the weather and the action have been hot on the RP range this summer! The Bullseye Pistol and Precision Rifle



lines have been full of a great many shooters honing their craft. It's fulfilling to see the enthusiasm for the fine things in life: subsonic ammunition, excellent trigger control, and large ragged holes in paper. If this sounds like a great way to spend an hour on Monday afternoons, come join us at the RP range at 4:00 each Monday. This shooting season will last

through October 31, after which the time change puts an early end to the light necessary for safe shooting.

## Archery

The 3D targets are set up at the archery range. Do NOT use broadheads against these targets. Target points only. Please contact Gary Tilly ([mindbender119@hotmail.com](mailto:mindbender119@hotmail.com) or (314) 409-5982) if you have any questions.

# OTHER NEWS

## Gerald Crowell Recognition

Gerald Crowell, a long-time Virginia state forester and tireless local volunteer, has been awarded the annual Izaak Walton League of America National Outdoor Ethics Award for outstanding work in outdoor ethics over the past year.

The award was presented at the August Membership meeting.

"It's an honor for us to recognize Gerald's contribution not just for a year but for decades of public and civic service," said Brian Callahan, chairman of the local chapter's Conservation Committee.

Gerald was a Virginia state forester for over 40 years. and volunteers extensively in City of Winchester, Frederick County and State of Virginia. Gerald is very active in Boy Scouts where he manages the Eagle Board including the review of all Eagle Scout projects and final approval for the Eagle Scout Rank. He was previously Nature Director where he managed the Nature Center including the coordination of teaching of 11 conservation merit badges with 6 youth instructors during summer camp at Camp Rock Enon.

Gerald's conservation volunteer service and accolades include:

- Board of director for Virginia State Arboretum for 6 years
- Winchester City National Resources Board chairperson which identified and preserved natural resources.
- Served on the Virginia State Tree farm committee for 9 years
- Tree farm inspector for 35 years





- Taught 4-week classes in forest and wildlife management, timber sales administration for land owners
- Organized and taught forestry tours in the Winchester area through Virginia Tech University
- Administrator for About.com forestry website for international instruction and reference
- Certified arborist for International Society of Arboriculture
- Virginia tree farm inspector of the year in 1984
- Silver Beaver Award Recipient for the Shenandoah Area Council for exceptional character who have provided distinguished service
- Served on the Virginia State Tree Farm Committee for 9 years

The Winchester chapter of the Izaak Walton League relies heavily on Gerald's expertise and resourcefulness. As an example, the Chapter held a camporee for 200 Boy scouts in 2021. This event was postponed three times because of Covid. There were originally thirteen conservation organizations that committed to presenting at the camporee and eventually all but two were not able to commit. The two organizations were the Frederick County (VA) Sheriff's department and the Virginia State Police. The chapter organizers were stumped as to how to integrate law enforcement with outdoor conservation. Gerald came up with a brilliant idea of creating a "Crime Scene Investigation" of a forest fire to determine if it was arson. Gerald ran the station for all 200 participants, and it was a huge hit at the event.

Thank you, Gerald, for all you continue to do not only for your Chapter, but also for helping to mold today's young men into tomorrow's leaders.

## Armed Women of America

Armed Women of America (AWA) Chapters across the country offer a welcoming, non-intimidating place for women to learn more about the safe and responsible use of firearms, including firearms safety, personal protection, concealed carry, mindset, and so much more. AWA provides a safe and comfortable environment to gather and discuss issues important to women gun owners while creating opportunities for women to learn, train and grow as shooters. The meetings offer 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. On September 13, we will be discussing the four levels of Situational Awareness. Members will be making their own awareness purse charm to remind them to always be aware of their surroundings.

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. Our members are using the NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program for Basic Pistol to develop and hone their firearm skills.

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

## Friends of the NRA

Friends of NRA is a grassroots fundraising program that fosters community involvement to organize and, with help from NRA staff, plan community events for firearms enthusiasts. All net proceeds from Friends of NRA events are allocated to The NRA Foundation, the leading charitable organization in support of the shooting sports. Through The NRA Foundation grants for equipment, training materials, range improvements and more, qualified local, state and national programs receive aid to involve and inspire a new generation of competitive shooters. Learn more about Friends of NRA at [www.friendsofnra.org](http://www.friendsofnra.org). Table packages include 8 tickets (full package) or 4 tickets (half package) plus the gun of your choice in your chosen level.

## Critters At The Park

Alert member Mark Sunderlin caught this fat groundhog living the easy life behind the Lake Neff dam. I recall not too long ago needing to trap the groundhogs who had taken residence under your Chapter House. I wonder if this guy's related...





And speaking of catching things at your Chapter – Max Lebish, 9, caught this monster cat. It’s nearly as big as Max!



Cats aren’t the only species biting in Neff. Look at this fine bass caught by John Whitacre.



## Raffles

Your Chapter continues to raffle off fun, outdoor equipment, such as rifles, shotguns, handguns, and compound bows, among other items. The next raffle starts soon. Go to the Chapter website under [Chapter House > Raffle](#) (<https://www.winchester-iwla.org/Raffles>) 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.

Visit the website to see the current raffle. Drawings are held at the following month’s Membership Meeting. Winners need not be present.

## 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.

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

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.

### *Mule Fanatics Foundation*

The Mule 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.





FRIENDS OF

**NRA**

**SAVE THE DATE**

*One Team. One Voice. One Vision.*



2022  
*GUN OF THE YEAR*



**SIG SAUER 1911 STX .45 WITH 30TH ANNIVERSARY GRIPS**



# Winchester Friends of NRA

**JOIN US!**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2022**

**5:30 PM**

**WEST OAKS FARM MARKET**

**4305 MIDDLE ROAD**

**WINCHESTER, VA**

TICKET PRICES

\$70

CONTACT INFO

KEITH BRISSON

804-513-2848

RAFFLES/ LIVE AUCTION/ FUN

[WWW.FRIENDSOFNRA.ORG](http://WWW.FRIENDSOFNRA.ORG)

Attend a Friends of NRA event this year and continue the legacy of fighting for the future of the Second Amendment while enjoying a night of auctions, drawings, firearms, and fun!

Friends of NRA is an exciting grassroots fundraising program that fosters community involvement, raises money and gives 100% of the net proceeds to qualified local, state, and national programs.

Be sure to check out this event to support the shooting sports programs in your area!

[www.friendsofnra.org](http://www.friendsofnra.org)