



Winchester IWLA Newsletter

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

www.winchester-iwla.org

December 2022

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

⚠️ CHAPTER CLOSURE ⚠️

A large tree near the lake will be removed the morning of December 12th, necessitating the closure of the road and all facilities beyond. Please see [Lake and Conservation](#) for more information.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Set for Saturday, December 17th. See [Board Reports](#) for details.

★ FOOD DRIVE ★

The food drive was a huge success! Thanks to all who donated, whether it was food items or their time (likely both, actually). Please see [Board Reports](#) for more.

CHAPTER WORKDAY RECAP

So much was accomplished and ended with a bonfire and marching band! Read more about it under [Lake and Conservation](#).

RANGE QUALIFICATIONS

The system is being modernized. Information will be sent out as it becomes available. Read more under [Range Report](#).

LADIES' AUXILIARY

If you are a lady and interested in learning more, see details under [Board Reports](#).





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FROM THE EDITOR



Apologies for how late this newsletter is. You know how when you have a deadline, something due, and you find everything else to do but what is due? Yeah, that's me.

You may have noticed the tree surrounded by caution tape near Lake Neff. It's a very large tree, and due to an equally very large crack, needs to be removed. It is scheduled for December 12th, and the grounds beyond the tree will be closed. You can read more about what is specifically closed under [Lake and Conservation](#).

Yesterday was the seventh of December, a day which will indeed live in infamy, overshadowed only by 9/11/2011. Both were attacks against the values and liberties we, as Americans, largely take for granted but which have been paid for with the blood of countless men and women over the past two and a half centuries. This isn't much of a Christmas message, actually. Other than to say our second greatest gift was given to us some 231 years ago. Our first greatest gift, of course, was given some 2,000 years ago when God came to earth, fully God and fully man, to rescue fallen man. Christmas is a time we celebrate that gift. However you celebrate this most magnificent gift, I pray you enjoy your time with family and friends, and return happy and healthy in the new year.

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BOARD REPORTS

Your Board met on November 17. Dan Arico reported that Megan McGonigal has resigned as chapter VP and from the Board. Member William (Bill) Nordman was proposed as a new Board member and was unanimously approved by the Board. Bill volunteered perform the duties of the Chapter VP and was elected to that position. Member Rick Hill was proposed as a new Board member and was unanimously approved by the Board. Chapter member Eric Raybuck has volunteered to act as the Chapter Facilities Manager. Welcome to both new Board members.

Christmas Party

Please join us for our annual Christmas Party!!! We will have a full traditional menu, raffle prizes, 50/50, dancing and fellowship! Guests are welcome with the purchase of a ticket.

Tickets are \$30 per which includes 25 raffle chances and 1 door prize ticket. Tickets on sale till Wednesday, December 14th. Get yours today!!!

Tickets are available at the website under Events. <https://winchester-iwla.org/event-5051691>

Schedule of Events

- 7 pm - 7:30 pm – Meet and greet.
- 7:30 – Buffet dinner.
- 9:00 pm - ?? – Raffles and dancing.

This will be a BYOB party.

Ladies' Auxiliary

We are starting a Ladies' Auxiliary at our chapter and recruiting members. If you are interested in joining please email Peg Sattler at membership@winchester-iwla.org.

We have a lot of awesome activities we would like to host in 2023! Bingo nights, chapter dinners, movie nights, Super Bowl party, etc! So many things will be happening in 2023 and you could be part of it! Join us!

Food Drive

Our annual food drive concluded yesterday with the proceeds being delivered to the local food bank by Ike Tino Peabody and family.



THANK YOU to all our members for the donations of non-perishable food including Tino and family who generously supplemented the total delivered to the food pantry.

LAKE AND CONSERVATION REPORT

Tree Removal – Chapter Closure

One of the chapter maintenance volunteers found that a 65' pine on the lake near the Layman shelter has a large crack running the full length of one of the main limbs. This section is about 15" thick and roughly 30' high, extending out near the shoreline over the lake. This section is now causing the main trunk to develop a crack also.



The Chapter will be having a tree service remove the pine tree, currently marked off with caution tape. The road will be closed during this operation which is expected to take 4 hours. There will be no access to any resources beyond that point during the removal operation. The following areas will be closed until about 1 p.m.

- All ranges
 - Shotgun
 - Rifle/Pistol
 - Archery
- All campgrounds and trails
- Lake Neff beyond Layman Shelter

They may open early depending on how quickly the tree can be removed.



Chapter Workday Recap

Saturday November 12 was a busy day at the chapter as we had chapter workday during the day and Millbrook Marching Band bonfire that evening. Millbrook marching band's end of year bonfire was a tremendous success again this year. The students and parents were fantastic guests, and many thanked us on their way out of the park. The bonfire area was completely cleaned up by noon the next day.

Eric Raybuck coordinated the activities which included 23 volunteers who worked very hard on some big projects.

Repair erosion damage on Shockey bridge

Volunteers moved an estimated 3 tons of concrete cylinders to correct the erosion problem under Shockey bridge. We may need to move more cylinders around the bank but the most serious issue is corrected. This project is 80% complete.



Repair erosion damage on Rifle Pistol

Good news is that we dumped and arranged 1.5 tons of cylinders which has corrected the problem. Bad news is that we have lost 4 feet of stream bank since the problem was first discovered.



Remove driftwood debris from Lake Neff

Volunteers removed submerged logs and branches from Lake Neff using a grappling hook. The driftwood was cut up with chainsaws on the bank. The volunteers filled the backhoe bucket 9 times and the wood was deposited next to the splitter.

Splitting wood

Several volunteers spent the morning splitting wood.



Cleaning and repairing chapterhouse gutters

The gutters around the chapterhouse were cleaned and repaired. Half of a 5 gallon bucket was filled with roofing nails, roofing pieces and debris from the gutter elbows. A section of gutter was straightened and returned to position. Gutter sections by the porch were reattached but the wood is rotten so it's a temporary fix.

Limbing trees on the hill between the chapterhouse and the lake

Lower limbs on the trees were removed to assist with mowing.

Autumn olive, tree removal and brush hogging the dam

Autumn olive removal was started by the lower dam. 2 trees were removed by the discharge pipe. An additional 12 feet was brush hogged and will be maintained as mowable area. These were all tasks required by the engineer report as part of our previous dam inspection. The work in this area is 40% complete.

Daffodils on the bank below the Izaak Walton Park sign

The steep bank below the Izaak Walton Park sign at the front entrance had 80+ daffodil bulbs planted. This area is very difficult to weed and we continue to improve the look of our front entrance. The bulbs were donated by member Steve Nurkowski.

Final Note

On a side note, we usually close all areas during a chapter work day. We were unwilling to do that this session because of the date being so close to the opening of deer hunting season and the importance to members to get rifles sighted in. Because we could not close the rifle pistol range, we also did not close the other areas. We expect to close all chapter resources at the next workday and all future sessions.



We need to recognize the following individuals who assisted with chapter work day:

Eric Raybuck, Jim Nesselrodt, Steve Nurkowski, Sawyer Paine, Rhett Paine, Robbie Spezzano, Zach Paine, Bonnie Paine, Robert Spezzano, Donna Spezzano, Dennis Adams, David Wingenbach, John Spencer, Warren Dudenbostel, Gerald Crowell, Terry Henry, Tom Sherwood, Dave Kavanah, Brett Osborn, Jamie Wade, Miles Wade, Nicholas Wade and Harold Whitacre.

We need to thank the following individuals who managed traffic control moving over 100 cars in and out of the chapter, at night, at the end of the bonfire:

Charles Weiss, Charlie Weiss, Olivia Weiss and Ed Dandar.



FYI, Miss Olivia took control of this effort and kept everyone in line.

Finally, we need to recognize member Eric Dellinger who brought the Millbrook Marching Band event to the chapter. He is a dedicated band parent (and Ike) who sets up, manages and cleans the bonfire every year.

Fishing Report

What Lake and Conservation section would be complete without a fishing report? There were three 24"+ fish added to the stocking courtesy of Mr Orndorf, one is a golden. Member Ronnie Willis caught the first of thosethree. Nicely done, Ronnie!



Not to be outdone, some of the younger Ikes pulled some respectable trout out of Lake Neff. Marina Raybuck, granddaughter of member Eric Raybuck, got a nice stringer

of trout. And Nolan McConnell, son of member Jim McConnell, got this hefty fish as well.



Marina says the secret to her success is glitter on her crocs and bringing her grandpa to the lake as her good luck charm!

RANGE REPORT

Dr Green Memorial Shotgun Report

The One-Shot event at the Shotgun range was a success, attracting some thirty shooters, including several new to shotgun shooting, and forty guests overall. Rangemaster Rick Hill commented that the Shotgun range welcomes new shooters, and that range safety officers are always happy to teach new shooters the basics of shotgun handling and clay shooting. The range has a new flurry trap, adding an additional challenge for shooters.

Range Quals

We are pleased to announce we have instituted an on-line requalification for range use. In the past, in order to maintain your Range Qualified status, you had to appear in person. Thanks to technology, we have designed a program that will reinforce your range knowledge using a short 20 question quiz.

The annual qualification will be emailed to all members by December 12th. We urge all members to complete this simple process as soon as possible. For members without access to email, we will be arranging the requalification quiz to be held at the chapterhouse. Details for this will follow.



As always, we strongly recommend reading our range rules and membership rules that are posted on the website. Make a New Year's resolution early, and make sure you're up to date on all of our essential range safety rules.

OTHER NEWS

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/ChapterHouse) (<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.

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.



A.P.C.
WINCHESTER
"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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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.

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.



Final Thoughts

Please consider bringing your pumpkins and jack-o-lanterns to your Chapter after Halloween. Just toss them in the fields along the road between the range and the campgrounds. The animals love to forage on them. Do remember to remove any candles or other non-pumpkin things from them before tossing, please.

