



Winchester IWLA Newsletter

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

www.winchester-iwla.org

January 2023

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

MONSTER GOLDEN

Member John Whitacre pulled a monster golden trout of Lake Neff. Read more about it – and see the impressive fish – under [Lake and Conservation](#).

EAGLE PROJECTS

Read about the past and current Eagle projects being done at your Chapter under [Lake and Conservation](#).

DR GREEN MEMORIAL SHOTGUN RANGE

See the numbers from 2022 and planned changes for the shotgun range in 2023 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



Happy New Year everyone! I am looking forward to the new year with great anticipation. Not that 2022 massively horrible, but still. Here's hoping to a fresh start.

Your Chapter is improving through the tireless efforts of so many volunteers who go anonymously about their business. So much work is being done. If you can spare a few hours, consider spending some time at your Chapter giving back.

Your intrepid Editor last January resolved to be more timely with the newsletter. Well...how about a quick recap of 2022 instead?

- Member Gerald Crowell was honored with the annual Izaak Walton League of America National Outdoor Ethics Award for outstanding work in outdoor ethics at the National Convention. Your Chapter also received the Robert C. O'Hare award for outstanding youth programs.
- Your Chapter installed an updated gate system
- The Mike Mercer Memorial Kids Fishing Derby was postponed/canceled due to extensive flooding
- The Izaak Walton League unveiled a new logo celebrating a century of service
- Your Editor took Lantern Fly training, and in a totally unrelated event, came down with COVID. I did recover.

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BOARD REPORTS

Both the Membership and Board of Directors meetings were canceled in December. The next meetings are scheduled for January 5, 2023.

LAKE AND CONSERVATION REPORT

Fishing Report

We have received numerous accolades regarding the fall stocking from members trout fishing in Lake Neff. We actually received so many pictures of kids catching fish that we were not able to get all of them in the past 2 newsletters. This stocking coupled with nice fall weather brought a lot of families to the lake fishing. Mr Orndorf generously donated 3 trout 24" in size of which 2 have been caught. Last month we reported Member Ronnie Willis had caught the first – a huge rainbow. Member John Whitacre pulled the second – a beauty of a golden trout.



This is kind of like the Golden Tickets in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Who's going to get the third monster fish? Could be you! Get out to your Chapter and wet your line!

Tree Successfully Removed

Hazardous tree removal across from the Layman shelter was successful including having the stump ground. The remaining pine logs will be split into firewood and stacked. All of the branches were mulched and added to our mulch pile. Chapter access was closed for 3.5 hours during the operation with no members impacted. We also signed up with the tree service as a collection point for future mulch donations if work is done in our area.

Speaking of Tree Removal

Autumn Olive trees were removed from approximately 2 more acres (of the 16 total) in the campground area. More work was also completed removing autumn olive by the dam. This included pole saw and chainsaw work to clear the area. The dam area is 70% complete, the campground is 30% complete. We are currently wearing out 1 chainsaw chain a week cutting autumn olive. We are resharpening chains and purchasing more as they wear out. There are 2 sections of the campground equaling about an acre which will be very difficult to remove because of the infestation of multiflora rose and bittersweet. The committee has requested a quote for a forestry machine to complete those areas. We are experiencing an eradication success rate of about 8-10% meaning we are spraying and re-spraying concentrated roundup on any new growth from the cut stumps.

Shotgun Range Native Prairie Restoration

USDA signed off on the first stage of grass removal with payment initiated for the progress. Work will begin again in March with tilling of the area prior to native seed planting. Quotes have been gathered for native seed (mixed with lime and buckwheat) with estimates of about \$500.

General Committee Report

Facilities and Lake Committee members have been working diligently on cleaning out the green building and the tractor building. Member Ronnie Willis donated a band saw which is being used for woodworking projects. Two new shelving units were built for storage of fasteners and power equipment maintenance supplies.

We have sold about \$815 worth of cut lumber. The sawmill cost the chapter about \$1000 so we are well on our



way to breaking even and even making a profit. There is about 40% of the lumber remaining including cherry, oak, black walnut, honey locust and sycamore boards.

Pinewood Derby

The Chapter will be hosting the Shawnee District Pinewood derby on March 11, 2023. We will be selling concessions and expect about 150 people during the day including racers and spectators. We plan on providing a small gift for each cub scout attending encouraging outdoor activities. Last year we gave away small fishing kits (bobbers, hooks, sinkers and a sticker).

Youth Activities Report

Flag Donated

Boy Scout Troop 159 donated an American flag for the chapterhouse since the flag flying at the chapter was faded and ripped.

Wood Split

Boy Scout Troop 118 split much of the remaining slab wood from the sawmill operation and stacked it in the campground during their camping weekend.

Your Chapter Gave Back

The Chapter donated firewood to Boy Scout Troop 3 for a camping trip where firewood was not available.

Eagle Scout Report

Eagle Scout Projects at the Chapter:

- New
 - In use / Vacant Board for the campsites
 - Flag poles for the campsites
 - Fishing rod storage rack
- In Progress
 - Water rescue stations
 - New campsite
 - Wood fired pizza oven in campground
- Completed
 - Campground nature trail
 - Firewood storage racks

Eagle Scout Project Highlight

Are you looking for a fun winter activity that includes some outdoor education? A new feature at the Chapter has the cure to beat those winter blues.

James Larson IV completed his Eagle Scout project by creating a nature trail in the campground. James identified and labeled 14 unique trees with placards including information on the species. The nature trail follows the existing campground loop trail which is 1 mile in length at a relatively flat grade. This project provides a wonderful resource for members and another fun outdoor educational activity for the numerous youth groups that use our campground.



James is the son of James and Kristen Larson and he attends Handley High School. The chapter wishes him success in his Eagle Scout board of review and we cannot thank him enough for his amazing project.!

RANGE REPORT

Dr Green Memorial Shotgun Report

Thank you for your continued support of our Dr. Green Memorial Shotgun Range. Just a few figures and changes to go over for our 2023 shotgun shooting season.

1. The range was open 120 days.
2. The range was used by almost 800 Shooters
3. The range traps threw almost 38,000 clay targets



We have changed some things for 2023 that will help us increase our range of open days even more. These include the volunteering of more shotgun range officers and the days they will be able to work. We have a calendar set up with those days open should you decide to shoot with us. Currently our days open are Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1pm-3pm, until daylight savings time begins

We have made an email & phone list of all current shooters so the RSO responsible for the days shoot can report the range closed. We realize driving to the range on posted days and finding the range closed has frustrated some shooters. One way to solve that is to become a Shotgun RSO and volunteer your time. One of the perks for becoming a Shotgun RSO is you have permission to open the range at your convenience and bring your own members/guests to shoot with you. We are now in the process of educating our new RSO's for the 2023 shooting season. If this is something you might be interested in, please contact Mike Harper 404-310-4534 or Rick Hill 202-255-1512. Your time and help will be appreciated.

Another of our goals for 2023 is to have more shotguns available and offer Learn to Shoot programs. What is a Learn to Shoot? We offer ½ day of classroom introduction to safety, gun use, and shooting ethics. The rest of the day is spent at the range, with our NRA/NSCA shooting instructors breaking clay targets. We will have separate classes specifically for Youth, Ladies, and Men. More to follow before springtime comes. When the chain is down, we invite you drive up, see what a fantastic shooting range is available to you and our club.

*Rick Hill
Shotgun Range Master*

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/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.

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.



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Mon—Fri 10am to 8pm
Saturday 10am to 7pm
Sunday 11am to 5pm
www.petcenteronline.com



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.

