



Winchester IWLA Newsletter

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



www.winchester-iwla.org

February 2023

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

NATIONAL CONVENTION

You all should have received an email about the convention scheduled for July. If you did not, read more under [Board Reports](#).

SAVE THE DATES

Chapter Workday – Saturday, February 24. Details to follow in a separate email.

Opening Day – Saturday, March 18. See [Other News](#) for details.

Mike Mercer Memorial Kids' Fishing Derby – Saturday, April 15. Please see more under [Lake and Conservation](#).

BIG PERCH

Member Gary Tilley pulled in a fat perch in early January. See his impressive fish under [Lake and Conservation](#).

SPOTTED LANTERN FLY TRAINING

Your Editor attended the virtual Spotted Lantern Fly egg mass training and learned a great deal about this invasive species. The training is being offered again this month. If you have time, I highly recommend it. Blue Ridge PRISM is hosting a training webinar in February. See [Other News](#) for details.

LADIES' AUXILIARY

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





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FROM THE EDITOR



By the time you receive this we will all know what the groundhog saw. Heck, knowing my track record of punctuality, it may well be June by the time you get this!

February is famous for the groundhog and scads of flowers and candies bought on the 13th by panicked men who forgot. In truth, we men should treat our ladies like every day is Valentine's Day. Regardless of the result. Treat them with kindness and love them as Christ loves His church (Eph 5:25). And no matter what any groundhog sees or doesn't see on the second, there is no time like now to get out to your Chapter. We've enjoyed a very mild winter (so far), and I for one am grateful for the lack of snow. Your Chapter offers so many activities that don't require snow, such as hiking, camping, fishing, shooting. Come on out! Just [look](#) at the improvements at the Glaize Shelter!

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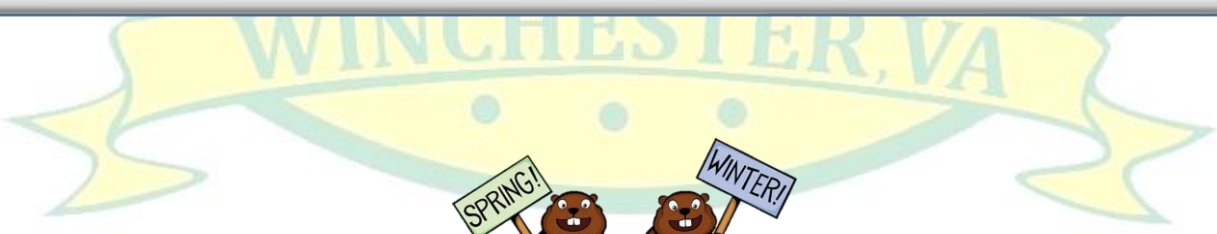
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BOARD REPORTS

Your Board met on January 5, and Membership held their meeting on January 16. Minutes are posted on the [website](#).

National Convention

From Vicki Arnold, National President:

You're invited to join me and Ikes from across the country for the Izaak Walton League's national convention. The theme of the convention is "Conservation at a Crossroads: Putting Solutions Into Action."

This July, we'll gather in Nebraska – the middle of the country – to share ideas and work together towards realizing the Izaak Walton League's ambitious vision for the future of conservation. As a nationwide community of Ikes, we can build on our strengths and take urgent action towards a future where every community has clean air and water, people of all ages rediscover their love of the outdoors, and common-sense solutions are turning the tide against climate change.

Every League member is invited to be there as we turn our vision into reality at the 2023 national convention. Join us July 27-29 in Lincoln, Nebraska, for "Conservation at a Crossroads: Putting Solutions Into Action."

Save the date and watch for more news about convention events, proposed resolutions, youth activities, things to see and do in Lincoln, and much more. We can't wait to see you there.

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!

RANGE REPORT

Not much reported out for the ranges. There will be Bullseye and Precision Rifle information coming soon, so keep your eyes peeled for that.

In the meantime, the Riffle Family enjoyed our very mild January and put some holes downrange at Archery.



LAKE AND CONSERVATION REPORT

Outdoor Activities

Winter is upon us which means that hiking in the chapter is free of most bugs. It also presents a much better



opportunity for seeing wildlife with the leaves off the trees. The chapter offers 2 different loops with different intensity levels and distances.

Reminder to book your camping dates now! We are filling up for the spring and fall.

Campground Improvements



Before

We are about 90% completed with a big winter maintenance project in the campground. The former firewood storage area to the left of the Glaize shelter was cleared out due to water drainage. Water from the hill continually flooded the firewood stacked on pallets causing it to rot. Once the rotten wood was removed, the shelter began flooding.



During

The area was scraped with the backhoe and back filled with crushed run. This new area is perfect for troop trailers with easy access from the shelter. The johnny blue was moved to the other side of the shelter and the area to the



After

left of the shelter will be blocked off to prevent damage to the trail timbers. Old rotten pallets still need to be cleaned up and eventually the firewood under tarp will be moved with an axe yard being built. We may need to complete more water management in the area and we will know more after the spring rains.

Fishing Derby Planning Session

We will be holding a Lake and Conservation meeting on Wednesday February 8 at 7:00 PM. This is the first planning session for the kids fishing derby on April 15 which is our largest public event of the year. We always need assistance with this event to make it successful! Please email brian_callahan@winchester-iwla.org if you can assist but cannot attend.

Workday

We have a workday planned for Saturday, February 24. More details to follow!

Fishing Report

Board Member Gary Tilley pulled this fat perch (see next page) out of the lake recently. Gary caught this fine fish on 2 January, on a trout magnet bait, gold in color. He didn't weigh fish, but dubbed it the "best eating fish in the lake." Well done, Gary!





spotted lanternfly, its current distribution, how and where to conduct egg mass surveys, and how to record data.

Presentations will be given by Lori Chamberlin and Katlin DeWitt from the Virginia Department of Forestry. Register for the training [here](#). If that link does not work, visit their website at www.blueridgeprism.org. The training can be found under Events and Workshops.

Blue Ridge PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management) began as a volunteer-driven organization dedicated to reducing the negative impact of invasive plants in the northern Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. Blue Ridge PRISM Inc is a 501(c)(3) public charity.

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.

190 Costello Drive
Winchester, VA 22602
Phone: 540-667-8198
wpcinfo@comcast.net

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

OTHER NEWS

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).

Spotted Lantern Fly Training

The spotted lanternfly is an invasive insect that was discovered in Virginia in 2018 and has the potential to cause significant economic and ecological impacts. Help us monitor its spread by looking for egg masses in high-risk areas. This training will cover the biology and identification of the



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.



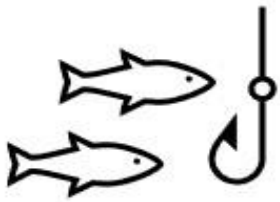
Jake's Bait & Tackle

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.



Opening Day



**& Trout Fishing
& Cast-Iron Breakfast**

Saturday March 18, 2023

8:00 AM - 11:30 AM

