



# Winchester IWLA Newsletter

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



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

March 2023

## MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

### OPENING DAY

Opening Day is Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. Bring a guest! See [Upcoming Events](#) for more.

### THE BEES ARE COMING!

The first stage of the introduction of honey bees at our chapter is complete. Please read more under [Lake and Conservation Report](#).

### MULEY FANATICS FUNDRAISER

Virginia Blue Ridge Chapter of the Muley Fanatic Foundation is hosting their annual fundraiser on Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. For details, please see [Other News](#).

### WORKDAY RECAP

So much work was done by just a handful of dedicated members. Please read what they accomplished for your Chapter, and if you think about it, send some thanks their way. You can read the details under [Lake and Conservation Report](#).

### ENTRANCE CLEANUP

If you come to the Chapter regularly, you may have noticed some changes. You can read about all that was done and what is being done for your Chapter's entrance under [Lake and Conservation](#)..

### LADIES' AUXILIARY

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







# Winchester IWLA Newsletter

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



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

March 2023

## FROM THE EDITOR



Procrastination.

Pro-cras-ti-na-tion (prəˌkrastəˈnāSH(ə)n) *noun* – the action of delaying or postponing something.

Etymologically, “procrastination” is derived from the Latin verb procrastinare — to put off until tomorrow. But it’s more than just voluntarily delaying. Procrastination is also derived from the ancient Greek word akrasia — doing something against our better judgment. My two boys are homeschooled, and as such are learning Latin. *Procrastinare* hasn’t come up in their vocabulary to my knowledge. Likely it’s been put off for later...

Enough about me. On to your Chapter newsletter and all that’s going on! Two big fishing events – Opening Day this month, and the Mike Mercer Memorial Kids Fishing Derby next month. The Muley Fanatics are hosting their fundraiser this month. A huge and very successful Chapter workday last month, and upgrades to our Chapter’s entrance. So much is going on at your Chapter! And with this beautiful weather we’ve been blessed, get out and enjoy all that your Chapter has to offer.

### OFFICERS

- Dan Arico, President  
(703) 229-3130  
[dan\\_arico@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:dan_arico@winchester-iwla.org)
- William Nordman, Vice-President  
[vp@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:vp@winchester-iwla.org)
- James Sherry, Secretary  
[Jim\\_Sherry@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:Jim_Sherry@winchester-iwla.org)
- Paul Sattler, Treasurer  
(516) 380-9000  
[treasurer@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:treasurer@winchester-iwla.org)
- Peg Sattler, Membership Director  
(631) 255-1917  
[membership@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:membership@winchester-iwla.org)

### POINTS OF CONTACT

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- John Suter, Board Member  
(540) 364-1782  
[john\\_suter@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:john_suter@winchester-iwla.org)
- Harold Whitacre, Special Events  
(540) 533-8996  
[harold\\_whitacre@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:harold_whitacre@winchester-iwla.org)
- Jeff McCall  
(540) 336-9038  
[Jmccall0012@yahoo.com](mailto:Jmccall0012@yahoo.com)
- Garry Tilley, Board Member  
(314) 409-5982  
[mindbender119@hotmail.com](mailto:mindbender119@hotmail.com)
- Rick Hill, Board Member  
[rhill1105@aol.com](mailto:rhill1105@aol.com)

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- John Suter, Range Master, Rifle and Pistol  
(540) 364-1782  
[range@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:range@winchester-iwla.org)
- Rick Hill, Range Master, Shotgun  
[rhill1105@aol.com](mailto:rhill1105@aol.com)
- Garry Tilley, Range Master, Archery  
(314) 409-5982  
[mindbender119@hotmail.com](mailto:mindbender119@hotmail.com)
- Brian Callahan, Lake & Conservation  
[brian\\_callahan@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:brian_callahan@winchester-iwla.org)
- Al Stitt, Education & Training  
(540) 336-2468  
[training@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:training@winchester-iwla.org)
- Eric Rayback, Facilities
- Dave Colf, Communications/Editor  
[editor@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:editor@winchester-iwla.org)  
(703) 401-7100





# BOARD REPORTS

Your Board meets on the first Thursday of each month; Membership meets on the third Thursday of each month. Minutes can be found on the Chapter website under Documents.

## 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](mailto: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!

# LAKE AND CONSERVATION REPORT

## Front Entrance Update

The chapter has been having problems at the front gate for the past several months where the gate would open at around 11:00 AM and remain locked open until about 5:00 PM. This was very problematic on sunny days and the gate error code read that the sensor was being activated so the gate could not close. A working gate is imperative to the operations of the chapter.

We knew we had a bad sensor and assumed it was the electronic eye that was being activated by the sunlight causing the gate to lock open. When the gate company arrived to diagnose the issue, it turned out the problem was the in-ground sensor getting triggered as the asphalt heated up.



We have marked the current sensor with white spray paint to indicate where it is in the pavement. The approach sensors will be replaced and we will spray paint them once they are installed.

## Chapter Entrance cleanup

The facilities team has been working to clean up much of the foliage prior to the chapter entrance. The scrub trees have been cut back to make the entrance easier to find. Please also notice that the the daffodils planted at the fall chapter workday are blooming!

## February Chapter Workday = Success

BSA Troop 2 contacted our Chapter in December looking for an outdoor service project for their scouts. We set up a chapter workday on February 25 to coordinate a combined team to remove autumn olive. With the assistance of the scouts and our volunteers, we were able to clear 3+ acres of the thickest foliage in the chapter. This area was dense with autumn olive, multiflora rose, Virginia creeper, grape vine, and poison ivy. Our combined team worked for 5 hours to completely clear it out.



The results of this workday are that, for the first time in over 20 years, one can see the top of the ridge from the road in the campground. The invasive species that took over large sections of our forest are now cut and stacked into large piles that create habitat protection for small mammals in the forest. The lake and conservation team will continue to eradicate any new growth in the cleared area.





How does one explain to the 11-15 year-old scouts who volunteered that they saved a forest with their amazing effort? They may not see it today or even next year, but they will understand the role they played in 20 years when they see a rejuvenated forest that was being completely choked out from these highly invasive species.



We cannot thank the scouts from Troop 2, their Scoutmaster Roy Walker, and his Assistant Scoutmasters enough for their assistance. We also need to thank our Chapter Volunteers that worked tirelessly on the workday including **Terry Henry, Steve Nurkowski, David Campbell, Dennis Adams, Tom Sherwood, Charlie Weiss, Braydon Gilson, Dean Gilson, Eric Raybuck, Jeff McCall, and Tim Mayfield.**

The best way to get involved at the chapter is to join the lake and conservation team! Contact the newsletter editor at [editor@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:editor@winchester-iwla.org) to join the committee. The Lake and Conservation committee manages the lake, forest, campground, and trails.

We will be planning another chapter workday in that late spring. This next workday will be focused on routine maintenance including painting.

### The Bee Team

The bees are the way! The first stage of the introduction of honey bees at our chapter is complete. Volunteers on chapter workday were able to create a bee enclosure including a leveled surface, ground cover, and protective fence. Volunteers removed dead standing trees that had to

the potential to impact the enclosure, cleared the overgrown access road and bush hogged the area around the enclosure.

The protected enclosure is large enough for for 12 hives and we will be beginning with 8 hives. The bees and hives have an expected arrival date in April. Special thanks to Bee Team chapter volunteers **John Lewis, Steve Nurkowski, Eric Raybuck, Dean Gilson, Braydon Gilson, and Jeff McCall.**

### Upcoming Events

#### *Opening Day Event is Saturday March 18*

The lake will be closed from March 5 at 2:00 p.m. to March 18 at 8:00 a.m. when the event opens. The event is members only. Members can bring a guest for \$10. We will be serving cast iron breakfast sandwiches, coffee, and hot chocolate from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

#### *Mike Mercer Memorial Kids Fishing Derby*

It's time to clean out your tackle box and donate some tackle to the kids fishing derby. We will gladly take any fishing tackle and equipment as we build the many prizes for the different categories of youth winners. We always need hooks, lures, rigs, bobbers, artificial worms, and any fishing equipment. We lost our primary sponsor with COVID so any donation is greatly appreciated.

The Mike Mercer Memorial Kids Fishing Derby will be held on Sunday April 23 from noon to 4:00 p.m. Please note that Lake Neff will be closed from April 13 at 2:00 p.m. through April 23 due to the trout stocking.

### Bait is Available

Speaking of fishing at your Chapter, the Chapter house cooler is fully stocked with bait!!! The Lake and Conservation committee sells bait in the chapterhouse as a convenience to our members. We can maintain our current prices of \$5 for red worms, night crawlers and wax worms due to tremendous support from Jake's Bait and Tackle. Please support this business that greatly assists our chapter.





# OTHER NEWS

## Eagle Scout Project Completed

Ian Liang of BSA Troop 22, Stephens City, Virginia completed one of the most important safety projects ever done at the chapter. Ian redesigned and built 6 water rescue stations along Lake Neff.

We reviewed the problems with the previous water rescue rings with Ian. Those issues included rotted ropes, ropes that would dangle on the ground where they would be caught in the zero turn mower blades and real estate signs marking "No Swimming" in the summer and "Stay off the Ice" in the winter. The warning signs were getting blown over, moved for mowing, and needed to be manually changed with the seasons.

Ian designed water rescue stations with new life saving rings. He developed standardized signs marking the stations with clear instructions for no swimming/stay off ice that included easy to read graphics. Ian used water rated rope that is enclosed in a throw bag. The throw bag contains the rope so it will not interfere with mowing and it also protects the rope from being degraded by UV light. Ian also created a maintenance plan for checking the different components used for water rescue with a simple checklist at each station.



Ian is the son of Paul and Cissy Liang and is a senior at Sherando High School. The chapter wishes him success in his Eagle Scout board of review and we cannot thank him enough for his innovative project that will protect all of our members and guests that use Lake Neff.

The chapter would also like to thank volunteer Eric Raybuck for his assistance as project coach and chapter representative.

## 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.

## Mule Fanatics Chapter Banquet

Chapter members Dave Kavanah and Ron Kendra formed the Virginia Blue Ridge Chapter of the Mule Fanatic Foundation (MFF) to raise research funds and increase awareness of a declining mule deer population in the west, and to involve local Virginia youth in the outdoors. They are hosting their annual fundraising banquet at the Shenandoah Valley Golf Club on Saturday, March 18th. The Banquet website and ticket options / donations can be accessed through the website: <https://mffbrc2023.givesmart.com>.

Please feel free to reach out to Dave Kavanah or Ron Kendra for additional information or desire to participate in this foundation.

## 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.

### 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.

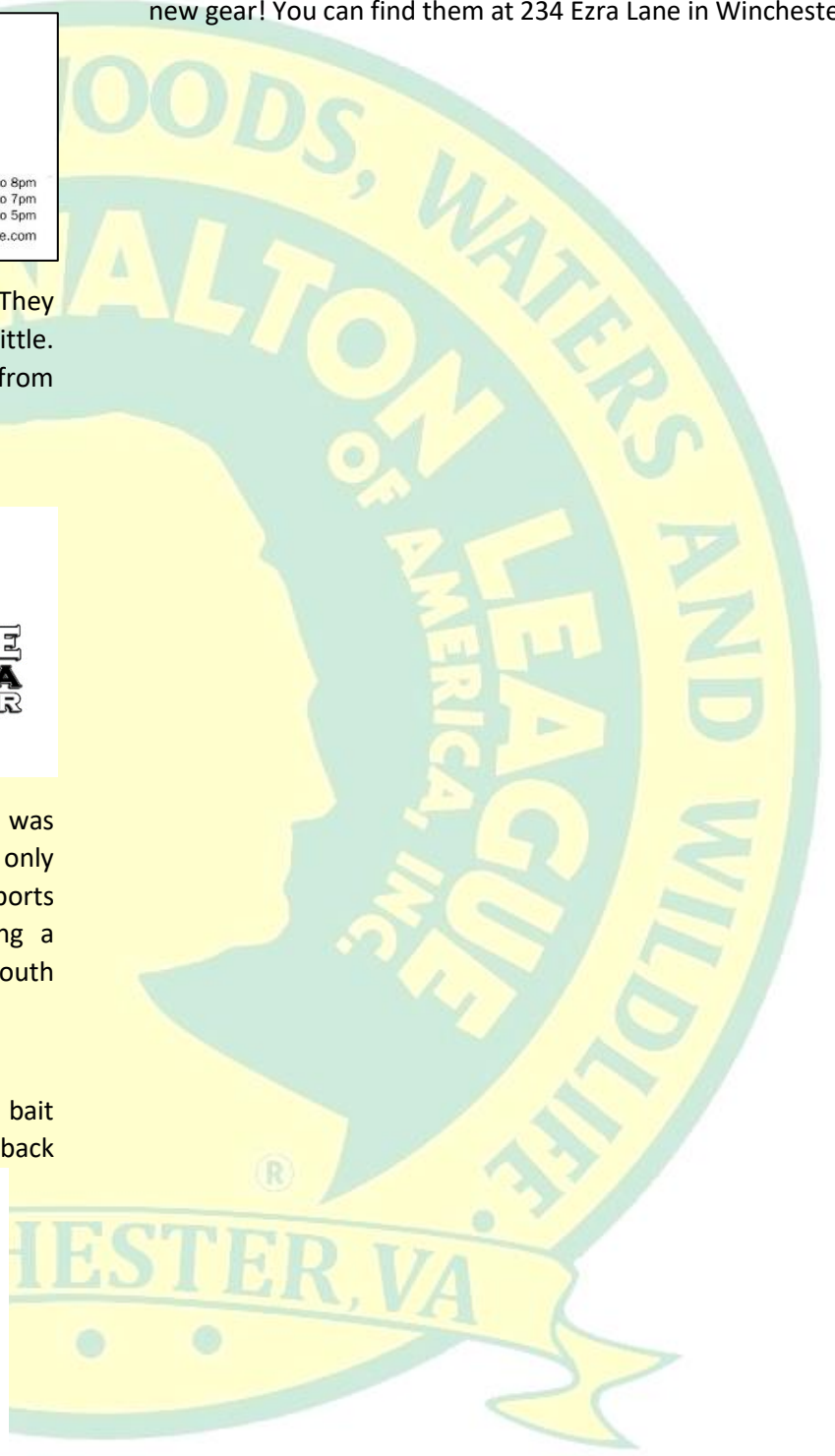


### Jake's Bait & Tackle

If you, like me, enjoy the convenience of having bait ready to go at the Chapter House rather than jumping back in your car because you forgot worms again, be sure to thank Jake's Bait and Tackle. Jake's continues to supply the bait concession in the Chapter house with fresh red, wax, and earth worms. Be sure to support a business that supports

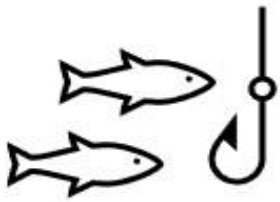


your Chapter by getting your worms at the chapter house rather than the gas station. Also, drop in and say 'Hi' next time you're in their neighborhood and treat yourself to some new gear! You can find them at 234 Ezra Lane in Winchester.





**Opening Day**



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

**Saturday March 18, 2023**

**8:00 AM – 11:30 AM**

