



ROCKVILLE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 2255
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January 2020

T. Anderson, Editor



President's Message

It's hard to believe that a new decade is here. This will be the 87th anniversary of our Chapter. A new year, a new decade – they present the opportunity to expand and refine our many conservation programs and define and initiate new programs.

For those who run our programs – Thank You. I'll challenge you to look at how you may be able to improve, work with your volunteers and make the changes. For those who have “a good idea”, bring it to the Board of Directors. They will work with you to evaluate it and help you make it happen. Everyone has a good idea. Share yours.

Lee Hays

2020 Range Cards

2020 range card credentials (year stickers along with range combination stickers for Range Officers) were mailed December 14 to 136 Range and Archery Approved members and 102 Range Officers who completed both the on-line range rules attestation and membership renewal process.

2020 range card credentials will be mailed in late January to persons who complete the on-line range rules attestation and membership renewal process after December 14.

Beginning January 1, individuals without 2020 range card credentials must have a current membership card in their possession to use the ranges. On February 1, persons without 2020 range card credentials will not be allowed to use the ranges.

Thanks to all the volunteers whom organized and constructed the mailings! (Brian Benhaim, Susan Cassell, Rich Clement, Duval Crist, Jerry Czecha, Matt Eckel, Greg Harrison, Bill Leaman, Greg McDonald, Michael Nerstheimer, Arnie Nygaard, George Parrish, Tom Vegella, and Joe Webster). The team finished in 2.5 hours, enjoying a delicious chili and cornbread lunch prepared by Jeri Crist. Susan Cassell and Rich Clement provided tasty desserts.

Lastly, a special shout out to Paolo Amedeo, Judy Danish, Lee Hays, and Greg McDonald for maintaining, analyzing, and placing many information pieces together in electronic format that makes our range card system possible!

~Duval Crist~

A Two-Bagger for January Speakers

In January Andrew Ralowicz and Ron Kuipers will discuss how things are going with the Chapter's Chestnut orchard, how well the national program to restore the Chestnut trees is coming along and future plans in the overall Chestnut restoration program.

Dr. Andrew Ralowicz earned his Ph.D. from the University of Arizona in Plant Genetics, focusing on Population or Statistical Genetics, with a minor in Soils, Water, and Engineering. He is a past member of the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, a member of the United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation, and completed thermal mapping and resource management, crop assessments, land cover, and forest fire fuel mapping projects around the world.

Currently, Andrew is a Senior Principal Scientist for a global aerospace company. He has been on the Board of Directors of The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) Maryland Chapter since 2014 serving on multiple committees within the organization.

A Rockville Ike since 2008, Andrew received the 2016 Gorman Fry Conservation Award from the Chapter for his work with the TACF.



Ron Kuipers joined IWLR in 1997 when Jim Hill recruited him to work on the wood duck program. He later joined The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) and in 2006 combined his IWLR and TACF interests to persuade our chapter to establish a chestnut orchard on our property. The success of our small orchard has since then inspired the establishment of chestnut orchards at the Wildlife Achievement, Southern Maryland and BCC chapters. Ron holds BS and MA degrees in Geography and is retired from the CIA.

NOTICE

2020 National Convention in Cambridge Make Your Hyatt Regency Hotel Reservations Now

The official dates for the 2020 convention are Monday July 20 through Wednesday July 22. The IWLA group room rate applies three days before and three days after the convention, but room availability is only guaranteed for the three days of the convention and not for the three day extended periods before and after the convention. The Cambridge Hyatt Regency is a very popular luxury resort that normally sells out well before the beginning of the summer season, and if you are planning to stay at the hotel during one of the extended periods, you should make your reservation now, while rooms are available. Note: Most people arrive a day before the convention to attend the Early Bird social event held the night before the convention.

I'm not riled up; I just look that way!



Falconer Tristan Engelke displays his Hawk named "Squirrel" during a presentation at the December GMM.

ABSOLUTELY FINAL NOTICE ON MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS!

You should have received your renewal instructions in the mail in September. Your renewal form and check must be postmarked no later than 12/31/19. Any renewal postmarked after 12/31/19 must include an extra \$25 late fee plus \$10 for a new access card.

Chapter Newsletter Via Google Group Mail

The Rockville Chapter Newsletter is available in PDF format sent to your email account. If you wish to receive your newsletter by email only contact David Schwartzman, and include your name so that we can confirm your membership.

Meeting Night Meals

A big "Thank You" to Dorothy Bunn for providing a wonderful meal of pork tenderloin, potatoes and peas with cookies for desert at the January meeting.

Volunteers are needed to cook throughout the year. Pick a month and get your six volunteer hours in one night. For more information contact Jeri Crist.

CPR Classes Offered

The Chapter's annual CPR certification classes for 2020 are scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 25 and Saturday, February 22.

If you or someone you know needs American Heart Association certification (or recertification), this is the opportunity. IWLA-Rockville Chapter member and qualified CPR instructor, Sheila Colihan is again offering the class for \$35 (most classes cost \$85 to \$100) to cover materials but it's limited to eight students.

AHA certification is only valid for two years so if you were certified in one of the classes that we offered in 2018 (or before), then you are due again. The class runs from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm in the Chapter House, upper level.

Because we view this as a public service to the community, the class welcomes non-members of the Chapter who need certification -- friends, family, work colleagues -- at the member price.

This is training that quite literally can save lives. To reserve a slot, contact Ryck Lydecker.

Wood Duck Work Days Set

Every Sunday in January the Chapter will hold work day activities to tend to the 75 Wood Duck nest boxes that are part one of our most significant conservation projects. So get the jump on your work hours for 2020 by joining one or more workdays.

Most of the boxes are in the McKeeBeshers Wildlife Management Area along River Road, west of Poolesville. We meet at 10:00 a.m. at a location in the field that will be announced by email the week before. Each workday, teams check the boxes, make repairs, log nesting data from the previous spring's nesting and prep each box for the new nesting season, which starts in late March. The work is usually done by 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. each day.

The boxes are in wooded swamps and that requires wading in shallow water so chest waders or hip boots are ideal. For those who don't have their own, the Chapter has a few loaner pair (bring dry socks!). All tools and repair materials are supplied; you just bring the warm, willing body. To sign up for any Sunday in January – or all of them – contact Ryck Lydecker

Chapter Time Capsule - 35 Years Ago this Month:

From the Rockville Chapter Newsletters, Dec'84/Jan'85

Someone has been using bolt cutters to get through our gate lock and into the lake. At \$18 per lock, this is costing us money. If you see something, don't confront them. Get their license number and turn it over to Lake Chair John Garner. He'll take it from there.

Thanks to Range Coordinator Nemo Farmer, who has been the driving force behind the new rifle range, the electric hook-up, the range house, the fence and the impact area have been completed. One reason why the range is coming in under budget is thanks to the volunteer efforts of George Courtney, Ron Bordeaux and Aldo Weibe in installing electricity. The next (and final) steps required before we can finally open the new rifle range is to reach agreement on the training program and to obtain county certification.

Due to our increased membership and the increased congestion at our pistol range, until further notice the range will be open only to Chapter members and (supervised) members of their family.

Water Sports director Jim Hill has let us know that two of our Juniors' Olympic training kayaks have been stolen from the Montgomery Village locked shed. These craft are unique and easy to spot, so the thieves may just dump them somewhere. If you hear about them, let Jim know.

The Rockville Email Group

The Rockville Chapter operates a members-only email list for announcements and discussions among members. The newsletter comes out once a month, so the email group is the only way to stay informed about important things that occur in between newsletters. You will be added to iwlar@googlegroups.com automatically when you become a member unless you request not to be added. You can remove your address from the list anytime but we are hopeful that you will not do this because the list is the most effective way to receive short notice activity announcements and cancellations.

New Members Recently Inducted

Cade Belknap-King	Brunswick
Bradley Clayton	Gaithersburg
Paulo Falabella	N. Potomac
Evan Griffiths	Rockville
Jennifer & Brendan Marshall	Germantown
Cole Matula	New Carrollton

A warm welcome to all!

Ike's Want Ads

To Place a non-commercial ad, write to the Chapter's PO Box, or contact Todd Anderson. Ads must be submitted by third Friday of the month.