



1st Annual IWLA-Rockville Cabin Fever Potluck Party

When: Saturday, Feb 10th 6pm – 11:00pm Where: IWLAR Chapter House All IWLAR Chapter Members and friends are welcome!

It's a potluck – bring something to share

BYOB – (Bar is not planning on being open, but could change)

Sign up (and indicate the number in your party) at

https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/20F0C48A9A6229-iwlarockvillecab

Get out of the house! Have a fun night out!

Let's feast, play games and socialize!

Questions, contact Jeri Crist

President's Message

Our Chapter is a "private, membership club," we all know that. But we also know that this Chapter is an asset to the Montgomery County community by virtue of all the programs and events we open to the public – think Summer Archery, Junior Youth Conservation programs (2/24), the Thomas W. Fisher Conservation Scholarships, and others.

So, what makes us different from other organizations that share similar goals for conservation and outdoor recreation? We (that's you, the current membership) own 53 acres of land where we've practiced the IWLA mission of protecting the woods, waters and wildlife for more than seven decades.

And that's the reason, owning and caring for this unique property, that we invite like-minded organizations that don't have their own facilities to come tell their stories during our National Hunting and Fishing Day Open House. Groups like Seneca Valley Trout Unlimited, the Maryland Bluebird Society and Outdoor Women's Life are regular exhibitors but I wonder if we aren't missing some.

So, if you know of other conservation organizations we could invite (Sept. 22 this year), let me know. They should have a conservation/outdoor recreation objective but also – and this is important – they should have a chapter or a base of operations or activities in Montgomery County or Maryland. Send your suggestions, and better yet, any contacts to: president@iwlar.org.

Ryck Lydecker

Animal Rescue Event

Help! You found an injured or abandoned squirrel? What do you do next? Join the Jr. Youth Conservation group as we learn from the experts on what to do if you find an injured or orphaned animal! Hear stories of rescues and happy releases. Second Chance Wildlife Rehabilitation Center cares for over 3000 injured and orphaned wild animals in our community every year.

This event is targeted for children ages 5-12, but all ages are welcome. Space is limited; register at https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/20f0c48a9a6229-injured

Cost is FREE; however, we encourage you bring a donation for Second Chance to help them continue caring for our community wildlife.

For questions please e-mail Jeri Crist.

Update on New Range Cards: They are coming, a little more slowly than planned but the Chapter is devoting additional resources to ensure their timely delivery. Keep your eye on your snail mail and save your 2017 membership card until the new one arrives.

February Speaker Spotlight

Mark Mendelsohn has been a biologist at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District since 2002. He has worked on large environmental studies and has been the lead Biologist on the Poplar Island Project since 2004 when the project was in the planning stage. He is a Commissioner on the Patuxent River Commission. He has developed a Food Web puppet show for children using dozens of puppets. The show demonstrates how organisms are connected during their life stages. Mark has been a volunteer water quality monitor for Anne Arundel County and an amphibian monitor at Jug Bay.



Mark lives on a brackish creek in Arnold Maryland with his wife Laurie who is an entomologist and a research scientist at EPA and with their sixth rescue Airedale Terrier named Louise.

Mark has an M.S. in Ecology from Johns Hopkins and an M.S in Technology Management from the University of Maryland.

The Poplar Island Restoration Project is 30 miles south of Baltimore and 2 miles from the Eastern Shore. The project is cost shared between the Federal Government and the State of Maryland. When completed in 2044 the project is expected to cost 1.4 billion dollars and will be 1,750 acres in size, half of which will be wetlands and half will be uplands. To date 285 acres of wetlands have been created using clean dredged material from the approach shipping channels to the port of Baltimore. Approximately 2 million cubic yards of dredged material is placed annually. Over 200 species of birds use the project including 25 species that nest there including Glossy Ibis, Egrets, and Terns. The project is recognized internationally and has 2,000 visitors a year including 1200 school children who have reared terrapins from Poplar Island in their classroom.

Explore Archery This Summer!

If you or your kids ever wanted to learn the fundamentals of archery or improve your skills, IWLAR's Summer Archery is the program for you! You'll learn proper shooting form and fundamentals in a safe and family-friendly environment from our USAA-trained instructors.

Children 8-10 years old are taught in a small group with fun, learning activities--like shooting watermelons and 3D alligators.

Older children and adults are coached at the regular archery range, and then later you'll be able to shoot from the tower and go out on the 3D archery range.

As an IWLAR member in good standing, registration opens March 1. Members can register their children ages 8-18 and member adults. The general public registration opens April 1 and is only available for children 8-18. The program runs on Sundays from June-August and all equipment is provided.

Member registration opens March 1. Go to: http://iwlar.org/Recreation/Archery and click on "Member Registration." If you have questions, please contact Martha Patterson.

New Members Recently Inducted

Todd & Erica Hayton Rockville
Matt Jans Rockville
Channing Mahatan Germantown
Even & Angela Walseng Potomac
Maureen Williams Germantown

A warm welcome to all!

March 10 Range Officer Training Class

Space remains in the Range Officer Training Class scheduled for Saturday, March 10, to train new range officers and re-certify existing RO's. The class runs from 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM with lunch provided.

For new Range Officers, class prerequisites are that you must be Range Approved for at least six months, have a Range Officer Certification Card signed by three Duty Range Officers while using the pistol range on separate occasions before the class, and successfully complete a test on the Range Rules prior to the class. **Upon class completion, new Range Officer candidates must successfully serve as the Duty Range Officer during the live fire portion of a Range Orientation Practical Training Class for new members held each month to receive their Range Officer credentials.**

Range Officers are granted the privilege of using the rifle and pistol ranges when a Duty Range Officer is not present on weekends. With the privilege of greater range access comes a responsibility – you must serve as a Duty Range Officer approximately twice each year.

For more information and to register for the class, contact Duval Crist.

~Duval Crist, Range Coordinator~

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.