



ROCKVILLE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 2255
Germantown, MD 20875

February 2021

T. Anderson, Editor



President's Message

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart." ~Elizabeth Andrew

I must admit, I don't know who Elizabeth Andrew is, but I agree with her quote. As an organization run solely by volunteers, we have a lot of members with a lot of heart. Whether it is a member of the Board, Committee Chairperson, activity volunteer, or just picking up trash or weeding while walking the trails or fishing at the lake, I appreciate all the hours that you all contribute to make our Chapter the special place that it is.
Hearts to you,

Susan Cassell

Looking for a New Treasurer

Our Treasurer Tom Selle has worked hard over the past year and a half. He has put a lot of time and effort into not only taking care of the Chapter's bills and reimbursements, but also organizing a lot of the outside correspondence for which the Treasurer is responsible. Unfortunately, for personal reasons, Tom has decided that he cannot fulfill his full term and needs to resign as Treasurer. He will stay on for some time until we can fill his position and transition to a new Treasurer. It has been a pleasure working with him during his tenure. If you have any experience in this area and have the time and are willing to help, it would be greatly appreciated. This is a very important position for the Chapter and needs to be filled. Tom's term ends in September, when a new Board of Officers and Directors will be installed after the August elections.

According to the By-laws if a vacancy is created of an elected Officer the vacancy shall be filled for the prescribed term at a regular Chapter meeting. Nominations will be made from the floor and the positions filled by a majority vote of the qualified members present, provided the election notice has been sent to each member at least five (5) days in advance of the meeting. The President can only appoint interim officers if the remaining term is 3 months or less, so that is not an option.

Newsletter Distribution Change!

The Chapter is changing the way it the Newsletter is being distributed, see p. 4 write up for more details.

February Speaker Focus

Our Speaker for the February 2021 GMM will be Suzanne Shoemaker of the Owl Moon Raptor Center. Founded in 2002, Owl Moon Raptor Center is a state and federally licensed wildlife rehabilitation center specializing in birds of prey. They have been a licensed non-profit organization since 2014. Owl Moon is located in Boyds, Maryland at the home of its primary operator, Suzanne Shoemaker, and serves Montgomery and neighboring counties.

Owl Moon cooperates with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife & Heritage Service, and local animal control offices and humane societies to answer calls concerning injured, orphaned, or otherwise jeopardized birds of prey. Owl Moon rescues, rehabilitates, and reconditions raptors with the goal of returning them to the wild.



Suzanne is highly credentialed and is current president of the Maryland Wildlife Rehabilitators Association. She is an expert in animal behavior, ecology, and the adaptations of animals to their natural environment.

Suzanne became involved in education through the Maryland home learning community. Concerned about the deteriorating health of our environment, she engaged herself and her two (now adult) children in volunteer activities to preserve wildlife and our environment and began teaching environmental education classes to youth and families. Suzanne has taught nature and science classes for Friends of the National Zoo, Audubon Naturalist Society, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), and independently since 1991.

Suzanne and her husband, Jan Lewandrowski, share their home with two dogs, Mako and Puck, and whatever birds of prey are currently under her care. Her other hobbies include photography, hiking, horseback riding, whitewater kayaking, and backyard beekeeping.

Creek Critters

Roberto Clemente Middle School students in grade six will be learning about stream health during their Outdoor Education experience virtually when their teachers and staff from the MCPS Outdoor Education Programs use our lake area to access Great Seneca Creek for their stream studies. Covid-19 has prevented the usual hands-on Outdoor Education Program for county 6th graders where they spend 3 days and 2 nights learning about outdoor ethics and "engage in relevant, interdisciplinary environmental learning in the outdoors."

This year MCPS OEP staff are providing a virtual experience for students using a local stream to each middle school whenever possible. Approximately 7 MCPS staff will rotate throughout the day to demonstrate live stream sampling for abiotic factors such as pH, turbidity and dissolved oxygen for their 6th grade students at Roberto Clemente Middle School. They will also use a sampling method similar to IWLA's Save Our Streams protocol to assess stream health based on capturing sample populations of benthic macroinvertebrates (stream insects). Results are posted on the Clean Water Hub via the Creek Critters app which is a cooperative program between the Audubon Naturalist Society and the Izaak Walton League of America.

Creek Critters is easy and fun and "perfect for families, public programs, and even as a solo activity." The app includes simple step-by-step instructions, and an interactive identification key. Contact our SOS Chair Tom Vegella or Conservation Activities coordinator Cindy Stevens if you are interested in setting up a stream sampling day or to borrow our Chapter's loaner kit.

March 20 Range Officer Training Class

Seven spaces remain in the Range Officer Training Class scheduled for Saturday, March 20, to train new range officers and re-certify existing RO's. The class will run 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 (administered on-line) prior to the class.

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

Chapter Member Notoriety

The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) has a write up on longtime Rockville Chapter member Tom Willats. The CMP is a national organization dedicated to training and educating U. S. citizens in responsible uses of firearms and airguns through gun safety training, marksmanship training and competitions.

Tom earned the Distinguished Pistol Badge in 1997 and was a national match competitor for 25 years. Tom served as the Chapter's Range Coordinator and Scheduler for many years.



Tom is the furthest to the right

The write up is available at <https://thecmp.org/longest-national-match-competitors-tom-willats/>

Wood Duck Work

Eleven Ikes and one special guest turned out January 10 for a very successful wood duck workday, the second of the year. Thanks to the efforts of Scott Kovarovics, Matthew McGuire and his sons Jeremiah and Cole, Aaron Rosenzweig and wife Jen with son Akiva, Kent Shaw, Fred Snead and Joe Walther we checked all 24 nest boxes and got some important repairs done.

Just over half the boxes showed evidence of nesting last spring, which is a little below the year-to-year average, and we recorded 65 egg membranes, meaning at least that many ducklings hatched in spring 2020.

Oh, the special guest? That would be documentary filmmaker, Tony Ipina, who has offered to produce a film about our program. And judging by what I've seen of this work, it will be outstanding. Tony, a Communications major at UMD, came along the prior Sunday and got hooked! He'll be out with us on the remaining workdays, too.

(Special thanks to Kent Shaw for inviting Tony. Like Kent, Tony is a pilot and you can see his documentary about Davis Airfield here:

<https://youtu.be/uWEtsDr6g7Q>)

All-in-all, a great work day. Thank you, everyone!

~Ryck Lydecker~

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.

Chapter Newsletter Distribution

The Chapter has recently changed the Newsletter distribution options. Going forward, electronic distribution of the IWLA-Rockville Chapter Newsletter will be the default. Chapter members may still receive a hard copy but will be required to “opt in” to do so. To receive a hard copy only, contact Judy Danish.

If you do not receive the Newsletter in your email and wish to do so, contact David Schwartzman.

New Members Recently Inducted

Marcus & Wendy Johnson

Steve Kim

Young Lee

Marc Meisel

Evan Minor

Kenny Northup

Carl Peters

Dean Sauder and Daniel Sauder

Rodger Moran (new caretaker)

A warm welcome to all!

Gaithersburg

Gaithersburg

Germantown

Bethesda

Kensington

Germantown

Fulton

Gaithersburg

Germantown

Road Cleanup Rolls on

A Road Cleanup was held on Sunday, January 10th from 1 – 3 pm. Thanks go to Tom Selle, Brett Johnson, Todd Anderson, Evan Minor, and John Lawrence (Crew Leader). They collected a record 18 bags of garbage. The most unusual item was an unopened can of beer (they are usually empty). The next Road Cleanup will be held on Sunday, March 7th at 1 pm.

Ike's Want Ads

To Place a non-commercial ad, write to the Chapter's PO Box, or contact Todd Anderson.