



ROCKVILLE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 2255
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April 2018

T. Anderson, Editor



President's Message

It's April so Earth Day is coming up, this year on Sunday, the 22nd. Help mark the occasion by participating in the Chapter's Second Annual Clopper Mill Clean-up in partnership with Friends of Seneca Creek State Park.

Meet at the Chapter Lake, 9 am, to hike in along the creek and haul out accumulated trash from near the ruins of the historic mill within the state park.

Hope to see you there!

Ryck

IF YOU NEED MORE:

Wear heavy duty hiking clothes, waterproof boots (or at least study shoes) and bring work gloves. There are no paths near the mill, so much of the actual clean up will be done in the "wild." Every winter trash accumulates along the bank between Clopper Road and the mill ruins, some pitched from cars on the road and more that washes into Great Seneca Creek with heavy rains.

Ryck Lydecker

Outdoor Pistol League

The 2018 outdoor pistol league is starting on April 10, 2018. All are welcome and beginners are encouraged to participate. This is a bullseye league which means you will be shooting one handed at targets on the 25 yard line. Any pistol that can be used on the range can be used for the league and it is a handicapped league so you are basically shooting against yourself. This is a social league where the main emphasis is on safety and fun. Please feel free to come out and give it a try and hopefully join us this season. For questions, contact John Majane III, Tom Perazella, Susan Cassell or George Brill.

Reminders!

The Chapter's Annual Auction, which normally takes place in April, will not be held this year.

Summer Archery registration is open. For more information, go to: www.iwlar.org/recreation/archery to download the "2018 Summer Archery flyer". To register, click on the "Member Registration" link. Member cost \$50/participant. For questions: Contact Martha Patterson.

April Speaker Spotlight (rescheduled)

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 MS in Ecology from Johns Hopkins and an MS 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 on the Chesapeake. 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.

Range Short Shots – Red Range Flags

General Range Rule 12 (see the Chapter Range Rules, page 5) states that ... “A red range flag will be flown on each range whenever that range is being used.” Flying a red range flag visibly indicates shooters are present and all persons must be alert and use caution when approaching.

When shooting events occur inside the chapter house (Jr. BB Gun, Air Rifle, and Air Pistol), the upper chapter house is an active range under the direct control of the authorized adults running the range (General Range Rule 39). For the safety of all participants, spectators, and yourself, DO NOT enter the chapter house when a red range flag is displayed at the entrance door; remain outside until instructed by persons in charge that it's safe to enter. Being alert will continue the Chapter's impeccable safety record for our shooting sports events.

~ Duval Crist, Range Coordinator ~

CPR Class – Get Certified

The Chapter's second CPR class taught by Chapter member and qualified CPR instructor Sheila Colihan is set for Saturday April 7 at the Chapter House upper level. The fee for Chapter members is \$35, which includes American Heart Association certification. To reserve a slot, contact Ryck Lydecker.

Learn Kayaking!

An introductory kayak class is scheduled for June 2 rain or shine from 10 AM to 2 PM at our Chapter House and lake. All kayak equipment will be provided. This class is for those who have never kayaked and those with limited experience and it will cover safety, parts of a kayak, entry and exit, strokes and more. Participation is for those 8 and up and will be limited to the first 15 who register. For more information see Introduction to Kayaking - June 2, 2018 under Recreation/water sports at our website.

To register send an email to watersports@iwlar.org with the number of adults, and number of children and their ages or call Tom Selle. Chapter members are needed to assist with transporting equipment to and from the lake and to assist participants while on the water. This is a great way to earn your volunteer hours, volunteers please send an email to the above address with your name and the hours you are available.

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.

To sign up, send an email identifying yourself to iwlar-owner@yahoogroups.com. This is the most effective way to receive short notice activity announcements and cancelations. Don't get left out of the loop – sign-up for the email group now!

“Critter” Extravaganza

Cotton tails, bats, squirrels, turtles and more..... The Jr. Youth Conservation event was spectacular. Second Chance Wildlife chairman, Jim Monsma taught us so many interesting things about these and more local animals, how they live and how to tell when we need to step in and help them. TC Carpenter brought her hermit crabs and taught us about keeping them as pets and how to keep them happy and healthy. We played Bird Bingo and our bingo winners won "chocolate cotton-tail bunnies". Erica Crist worked the IWLAR Hands on Nature table, sharing all of nature's fun finds! SSL Student volunteer, Alex Vargas ran the bird bingo game. In all over 35 attended our event today. Thank you to Tom Vegella, Jay Copsey, Terry Carpenter and Marion Lindenbaum for helping at the event. The next Jr. Youth Event will be July 15. Watch for details and sign-up!



Bullseye Pistol Clinic

The Bullseye Pistol Clinic is a great introduction to bullseye pistol shooting and the PERFECT way to get tuned-up for the Chapter's Tuesday-evening pistol league. It is taught by some of the best and most experienced bullseye pistol shooters in Maryland, and features a good combination of classroom discussion and practical work on the pistol range. The clinic is sponsored by the Twelfth Precinct Pistol and Archery Association and the Anne Arundel Fish and Game Association (AAF&G) and takes place at the AAF&G range just outside Annapolis.

Several Chapter members have attended this clinic over the years. The cost to attend is \$60.00, which includes instruction, course materials, and lunch both days. You must provide your own .22 caliber handgun and ammunition. Please contact John Hollingshead or Tom Willats if you'd like more information.

3D-Archery Chair Needed

You love the outdoors! You love animals! Put the two together and you can be our next 3D Archery Chair person. The Chapter is looking for a new Chair, please contact Ryck Lydecker at president@iwlar.org.

The Future of Hunting and Shooting Sports

Hunters and target shooters are committed conservationists, following in their parents' or grandparents' footsteps to ensure the natural world – where many of us spend our best times – is healthy and protected. We value our outdoor traditions and the nearly limitless opportunities we have to pursue them on public lands and other places across the country, including at many Izaak Walton League chapters.

Unfortunately, the numbers of active hunters and (until recently) target shooters have declined relentlessly over the past three decades. The hunting community alone has shrunk to less than 6 percent of the U.S. population. It is symptomatic of a society that continues to flock toward the "great indoors." The United States is home to approximately 13.7 million hunters and more than 40 million shooting sports participants. Their combined activities support more than 1.5 million jobs each year and produce nearly \$110 billion in annual economic output. Clearly a decline in these sports has serious economic consequences.

One of the most pressing concerns related to a decline in hunting and shooting sports is the impact on conservation funding. Hunting is also an important component of modern wildlife management. It's not just traditions, family adventures, and community ties that will fade if outdoor recreation continues to decline – wild things and accessible public lands may vanish as well. That's why it is critical to reverse the declines of the past three decades.

In 2016, leaders from firearms, archery, and ammunition companies, state fish and wildlife agencies, and conservation groups (including the Izaak Walton League) developed a plan to help reverse declines in hunting and shooting sports participation.

The Wildlife Management Institute and the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports coordinated development of the plan, which is called the "National Hunting and Shooting Sports Action Plan" (or the "National Plan").

The process through which we will implement the National Plan – and the science behind successful programs to recruit new outdoor recreationists – is commonly referred to as "R3." R3 stands for recruitment, retention, and reactivation.

In the purest sense, R3 and the strategies of the National Plan are really all about expanding the "us." That is also R3's biggest challenge. As any parent knows, getting kids to take part in family activities is hard enough, let alone trying to get someone else's kids involved. We will need to change our thinking and begin doing things that are outside our comfort zones. It will take time, hard work, and strong partnerships.

National Plan is just the start – it won't make a difference unless sportsmen and women are engaged in the effort to increase our ranks. That's why organizations such as the Izaak Walton League are working to tackle this issue head-on. League chapters can implement effective R3 programs on the ground. Many chapters host regularly scheduled outdoor recreation events – including shooting sports competitions, hunter education classes, and archery clinics – and provide locations where outdoor activities can be learned and practiced. To learn more on how you can contribute to the R3 conversation, please visit www.nationalr3plan.com. (Adapted from "A Roadmap for the Future of Hunting and Shooting Sports." <http://www.iwla.org/publications/outdoor-america/article/outdoor-america-2017-issue-1/a-roadmap-for-the-future-of-hunting-and-shooting-sports>)