



ROCKVILLE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 2255
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July 2020

T. Anderson, Editor



President's Message

Time to GET OUTSIDE

In these strange times we are practicing social distancing, avoiding places, friends and some activities. All of these may be / are essential to our health and well-being. But it's summer, so make the time to get outside. It's probably one of the best things you can do for yourself and your family.

A lot of our summer activities at the Chapter have and will be cancelled or curtailed. But the property is still there and it's a beautiful respite from work, quarantine, and the other stresses we are all experiencing. Take time to walk the Chapter grounds. We have fifty plus acres of nature in the middle of one of the most densely populated areas in the U.S. Explore our Chapter. Go for a walk in the woods, a picnic at the lake, watching the wildlife and generally enjoy what is nearby with ample room for the necessary social distancing.

As I noted last month, if you or your family need something and you think your fellow Ikes may be able to help, just ask. I am certain that someone will step forward to be there to provide that help.

As best possible, enjoy your summer and the joys of nature. Spend some time outside.

Lee Hays

2020 Montgomery County Fair (tentative)

Each year the Rockville Chapter provides the tent, booth and set-up at the County Fair. However, due to the Covid-19 crisis, this year's Fair isn't a sure thing. Montgomery County is supposed to provide a definitive answer by July 10. Until then, the Chapter can plan and hope for the best.

Assuming it takes place the Fair is scheduled for August 14-22. Volunteers would be needed from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or from 4 p.m. till 10 p.m. (6-hour shifts), and to set up and tear down. No experience is necessary just a desire to help. Tickets are provided for entry into the Fair. Again, *all this is tentative*, but those interested can contact Bill Leaman to sign up or for any questions.

The ranges are open, so...come on down!!

The shooting ranges re-opened a few weeks ago. Although the morning sessions have been closed down the afternoon time slots from 1 to 5 pm on weekends remain available.

Range Officer Scheduler David Schwartzman has indicated that utilization of the ranges has been light so far. Folks may still be taking precautions from Covid-19 or may be unaware that the ranges are again open. However, for those who have missed the opportunity to practice shooting, now is as good a time as any to get back into it and not have to pay to use some overpriced commercial range or travel a great distance to maintain their marksmanship skills.



Ranges (for members only) will comply with social distancing and other government requirements (as applicable) until resumption of normal operations. Face masks are required. Members must sign up to use the ranges! A more expansive description of the rules and sign up slots are available at <https://www.iwlar.org/supp-range-rules/>

Still Virtual

Although we have been able to resume some activities, our general membership meetings will remain “virtual.” We were able to successfully hold a virtual meeting for June with little or no technical issues and achieved a quorum.

The benefits of Chapter Scholarships

As in years past, the Chapter will be awarding scholarships to students seeking to study conservation or environmentally related disciplines. One past recipient recently wrote Chapter President Lee Hays to describe her experience. Her comments are repeated here:

Mr. Hays,

Hello! I was a recipient of the chapter's Conservation & Environmental Studies Scholarship in 2019. I wanted to send an update on my education and career progress.

In May, I graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in Environmental Science & Policy. During my senior year, I took classes about environmental law, urban wildlife management, ocean conservation policy, and other interesting environmental topics. For my senior capstone class, I acted as a consultant for USDA APHIS Wildlife Services. My team created a web application and made future communication recommendations to help Wildlife Services better communicate their threatened and endangered shorebird conservation efforts with the public.

Outside of class, I was an undergraduate research assistant for a project attempting to quantify habitat connectivity in the Chesapeake Bay. I also worked part time at the University's performing arts center, where I was a founding member of the department's green office committee.

In August, I will be attending the University of Montana for a Masters degree in Resource Conservation. I will be taking classes on natural resource policy, public lands management, human dimensions of natural resources, and so much more! I am very excited to move out to Montana and continue learning about conservation.

I am very grateful for the scholarship award. It has definitely helped me in my journey to become a lifelong steward of the environment!

Best,

*Audrey Glendenning
University of Maryland, College Park*

Volunteers Still Needed

IWLA Rockville is known for the multitude of special activities run by volunteer membership. Not only are these activities and special events beneficial to the General Membership but also to the community as well. In recent years, some of the members who have chaired these activities have been unable to continue in those leadership positions. As there are now five such activities that are in need of someone to assume the leadership role. These activities are:

3D Archery

Annual Auction

Annual crab feast/barbeque

County Fair

Hunting and Fishing Day

Please consider volunteering for one of these positions. Those who volunteer can be assured they will receive robust support from fellow Chapter members. Contact Lee Hays at for more info.

Meeting Night Meals

Once we resume regular in-person meetings, volunteers will be needed to cook throughout the year. Pick a month and get your six volunteer hours in one night. For more information contact Jeri Crist.

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 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.

Hard Copy of Newsletter to Become “Opt In”

In order to encourage more Chapter members to receive electronic copies of the monthly newsletter, during the next renewal period members will be required to specify if they want to receive the hard copy of the Newsletter. Previously, members received a hard copy of the newsletter unless they chose to receive an electronic copy.

The League Takes on Climate Change

There is a really excellent discussion of the facts regarding climate change in the latest edition of *Outdoor America*.

Scientists have been nearly unanimous for years, and members of the public increasingly agree: Climate change is happening, it is caused by human activities, and we are seeing the impacts of it now. In upcoming issues of “Outdoor America,” we will explore some of these impacts on public health, our economy, and natural resources. We’ll also take a deeper look at the policies League members voted to adopt, how League staff are taking action on those policies, and how you can get involved.

To read this article in it’s entirety, go to <https://www.iwla.org/publications/outdoor-america/articles/outdoor-america-2020-issue-1/straight-talk-on-climate-change-part-1-the-basic-facts>.

Support the League Through AmazonSmile

Amazon.com is the online store that has it all, and most of us use it from time to time. Next time you shop online, use the League’s new AmazonSmile page and Amazon will make a donation to the Izaak Walton League -- at no cost to you.

The premise is simple: You shop. Amazon gives. The AmazonSmile web site is the same Amazon you already know. It has the same products, same prices, and same service. The big difference is that Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to the Izaak Walton League. Prices are not marked up to cover this donation. Amazon is sharing a portion of its profits with groups such as the League.

It really works and it really is simple. Just log on to smile.amazon.com and take it from there. Any and all donations will be much appreciated.

Logo License Plates

Maryland Division Logo License Plates are available to any member in good standing for a one-time fee of \$25.

Contact Kurt Feldmann for an application by sending your name and address to the email address listed in the State Division’s newsletter.

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.