



ROCKVILLE CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 2255
Germantown, MD 20875

October 2017

T. Anderson, Editor



President's Message

By the time you read this, our annual National Hunting and Fishing Day Open House will be one more successful event in Chapter history. Each year hundreds of our county neighbors have fun trying activities like kayaking, archery, fishing (many a kid's "first fish" is caught that day) or black powder shooting, and they come away with a positive image of outdoor recreation, conservation, the League and our chapter. Even, we hope, a new appreciation of the outdoors and the desire to get into the woods, on the water or out to a range someplace.

Many of you have joined this chapter after first attending a Hunting and Fishing Day Open House and we are very glad you did. But, believe it or not, that's not the goal. Nope, the real goal is to demonstrate the key role that hunters, anglers, boaters, target shooters and archers play in wildlife conservation. But a day like this isn't possible without the 100 or so volunteers who turn out to make it happen plus the dozens more behind the scenes who keep our property and facilities top-notch. If you were there helping on September 23rd, thank you. And if you couldn't volunteer this year but helped spread the word, you too played a key role. But even if you, as a member, came to have fun and try a new outdoor activity with friends and family, well, that's important to a successful Open House, as well. So to all of you – all of us – a heartfelt Thank You.

Hey, let's do it again, huh? Mark September 22, 2018 on your calendar right now!

Ryck Lydecker

Sunday Morning Bow Hunting

In order to help thin out the deer population, Montgomery County has joined other counties to allow bow hunting Sunday mornings from 1 hour before sunrise to 10:30 AM. October 1 will be the first day of this year's hunting season. *This will be archery only, no guns are allowed.* Visitors to Chapter property are advised to avoid the woods between the creek and the Chapter house, however, visitors can feel free to visit the Lake. For additional information, contact Bill Jackson.

Reminders for October

The air pistol league will begin Tuesday, the 10th.
Annual Bonfire & Roasted Marshmallow Night, the 21st

October Speaker Spotlight

October's speaker will be volunteer Ranger Bonnie Bell. Shortly after moving to Gaithersburg, Bonnie discovered the newly constructed Seneca Creek Greenway Trail passing near my house. One day there was nothing more than a deer path, the next day there was a beautiful, fully cleared and graded trail! She lives for her time in nature and had to learn about this trail. A sign posted at the trailhead announced that a volunteer crew would return a few weeks later to continue building the trail.



After that first volunteer trail building experience Bonnie was hooked. She worked on completing the Greenway trail, and then discovered trail maintenance work sessions on the State Park portion. For many years Bonnie volunteered on natural surface trail building and maintenance. She resisted the first couple of invitations to serve in the Friends board, citing lack of time. After being assured that the time commitment was minimal, Bonnie finally relented and added more work, taking on the Facebook page and the newsletter. A year ago, Bonnie was asked if she would be willing to become a Volunteer Ranger. After being assured that she would be able to accommodate her full time job and still participate, Bonnie agreed to become a Volunteer Ranger.

Scenes from Hunting and Fishing Day 2017

The Chapter had its annual "Open House" on September 23 and about 400 visitors visited the Chapter property and availed themselves of our many opportunities. Photos below courtesy of David Schwartzman.



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@yahoo.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!

Pistol Range: looking for experts and leaders

There are two specialized projects that require specific expertise: drainage and electric plan.

We are looking for one person with significant experience in landscaping and drainage for a fairly major intervention in an attempt to improve the current situation of muddy spots.

The second specialized project consists in rewiring and expanding the electrical plan at the range. We would put fans on timers above each shooting position to reduce the smoke, provide more outlets at different positions, etc. We have already most of the material, we need one or more people with relevant experience to lead this effort.

The leaders for both projects should be willing to take the leadership in organizing dedicated work parties and in planning the work. Of course, whenever possible, the Pistol Range chair person will help.

If you are interested, please, contact Paolo Amedeo.

Kids Autumn Hike

Register the kids for the Autumn Hike and Marshmallow roast on Sunday, November 19 at 1:00. We will celebrate the end of autumn with a nature hike through the woods to the lake, followed by a marshmallow roast and a fun fall craft.

Please arrive at the Chapter House by 1pm to check in. The nature hike to the lake will begin promptly at 1:15pm. We will hike back to the chapter house at 3:30pm. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. This event is targeted for children ages 5-10, but all ages are welcome. It is FREE and open to the public; you do not need to be an IWLA member to attend. Please RSVP at: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C48A9A6229-fall>.

The event is hosted by the IWLA Jr. Youth Conservation Team. Please contact Jeri Crist with questions.

Meeting Night Meals

A big "Thank You" to Grill Master Richard Southwell and his lovely wife Sue for providing the delicious barbecued hot dogs at the September meeting. Don't miss October's meal - it is being prepared by Tom and Marie Perazella - I'm sure these two cooks will be creating a truly memorable meal for us to enjoy.

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.

Chapter Newsletter Via Yahoo 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.

It's Renewal Time!

You should receive your annual membership renewal in the mail soon if it hasn't already arrived. Please follow the renewal instructions provided. As always, you have until 12/31/2017 to get in your 6 hours. Note that this is 6 hours per membership, whether individual or family. Watch the Newsletter and the Chapter's Yahoo group email for volunteer opportunities. Participating in Chapter-sponsored conservation activities certainly counts towards your hours.

Hours are not pro-rated. You need to get in your six hours, or else pay \$75 in lieu of those hours. Also, remember that renewals postmarked after 1/16/2018 will incur a \$25 late fee plus another \$10 for a new access card. Starting with this renewal cycle, membership cards will no longer have range qualification stickers affixed to them. For more details, see the August Chapter Newsletter. Members should also pay close attention to the materials inside their renewal packet, as more information will be included.

If you have any questions contact Judy Danish. Please let Judy know ASAP if you don't intend to renew – you will save the Chapter stationery, postage expense and valuable time.

New Members Recently Inducted

Marta Bohorquez &	
Natalya Usmanova	Boyds
Joseph Lin	Clarksburg
Steve & Barbara Phillips	Kensington

A warm welcome to all and we hope to get to know you better throughout the year. The best advice we can give you: Get involved and enjoy all we have to offer!

Native Flowers/Plants and Gardeners Wanted!

The Butterfly/Pollinator Garden, located in our Chestnut Grove, is expanding. If you will be thinning out your flower garden this fall and would like to donate to the garden, contact Juanita McMullan. Native species are preferred, but as long as it is not an invasive, we'd like to add to the variety and color of the Butterfly/Pollinator Garden.

You could bring your plants/tubers/bulbs/rhizomes to the Chapter's October general membership meeting, or better yet, arrange to meet us at the garden and plant them yourself! Other gardening help is also welcome and appreciated; let us know if you are interested.

Ike's Want Ads

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