



Arlington-Fairfax Chapter, Inc. • Izaak Walton League of America

NEWSLETTER

Volume 63, Number 3

August, September & October 2025

14708 Mount Olive Road
Centreville, VA 20121-2517

2025 Chapter Election Results



The annual Chapter elections were conducted in accordance with Chapter bylaws during the month of July 2025 with the polls being open on the 5th, 6th, 12th, and 13th of the month. Nominations were solicited from the Chapter membership in the preceding months, and the nominees were presented, finalized, and approved at the monthly member meeting in June. John Hsu and Bill Clayton cochaired the nominations and election committees.

The Chapter officer positions open for election in 2025 were president, secretary, and membership chairman. In addition, named directors for field archery, rifle-pistol, youth activities, and air range and three director-at-large positions were on the ballot. Provisions for write-in candidates were also included on the official ballots.

All valid ballots cast were counted and the votes for each candidate tabulated by members of the election committee following the close of the polls on July 13th.

The number of valid ballots cast was 166. Additional vote-count statistics are available to Chapter members from the election committee chair. In accordance with the Chapter bylaws, the election committee report will be presented and the winners put forward for installation at the August monthly general membership meeting. By majority vote, the following officers and directors were determined to be the winners for their respective positions:

President: *Pamela Meara*
Membership Chairman: *Fred Bailey*
Rifle-Pistol: *Chip Chidester*
Youth Activities: *Joe Turner*

Secretary: *Bruce Crandlemire*
Field Archery: *Dick Riemer*
Air Range: *Keith Kuck*
Directors-at-Large:

Mark Gauntner
Tom Pike
Oscar Starz

Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to all the Chapter members who came out to vote.

—*John Hsu and Bill Clayton*, Nomination/Election chairmen
(<https://wp.arlingtonfairfax-iwla.org/chapter-election-information/>)

Annual Picnic and Fishing Derby

May 3rd turned out to be a perfect day for our Annual Picnic and Fishing Derby for Children and Adults with Disabilities. The sun was shining, the weather was warm and pleasant in the 70s, and everything came together beautifully. Volunteers arrived early to fire up the grill, clean, and decorate the pavilion. Fishing rods had been prepared ahead of time, neatly lined up and ready for casting. Our air rifle and outdoor archery ranges were also set up, complete with balloons for our guests to practice their aim and try something new.

Picnic Derby continued on page 4



Chapter Contact Information

Chapter Officers

<i>President</i>	Pamela Meara	703-362-7293
<i>Vice President</i>	Evan Phelps	202-876-7725
<i>Secretary</i>	Todd Skipper	703-362-1627
<i>Treasurer</i>	Bob Crisman	703-727-1946
<i>Membership Chairman</i>	Benn Crandall	703-631-4495

Chapter Directors

<i>Air Range</i>	Keith Kuck	703-405-8935
<i>Conservation</i>	Fred Bailey	703-929-8110
<i>Education & Training</i>	John Seaberg	703-830-9365
<i>Field Archery</i>	Dick Riemer	703-543-8585
<i>Rifle-Pistol</i>	Bruce Crandlemire	703-743-1332
<i>Skeet & Trap</i>	Bob Brino	703-368-4934
<i>Target Archery</i>	Ryan Johnson	703-609-3817
<i>Youth Activities</i>	Joseph Turner	703-628-4808
<i>Directors-at-Large</i>	Chip Chidester	703-966-7369
	Bill Clayton	703-956-0667
	Robert Hamilton	202-200-5564
	Brian Hickerson	703-926-5711
	John Hsu	571-233-3501
	Oscar Starz	703-321-8626

Other Chapter Contacts

<i>Adopt-A-Highway</i>	Steve Rumble	703-946-6920
<i>Awards & Grants</i>	Scott Meyer	703-999-2581
<i>Buildings & Grounds</i>	Brian Hickerson	703-926-5711
<i>Bull Run Muzzleloaders</i>	Art Twitchell	571-225-0989
<i>Bullseye Pistol League</i>	Rich Sirois	401-365-8950
<i>Bylaws</i>	Evan Phelps	202-876-7725
<i>Chapter Caretaker</i>	Brian Martin	703-625-6161
<i>Communications</i>	Pamela Meara	703-362-7293
<i>Cub Run Archers</i>	Mark Gauntner	703-943-9946
<i>Elections</i>	John Hsu	571-233-3501
<i>Historian</i>	<i>Vacant</i>	
<i>Junior Olympic Archery</i>	Jeff Del Vecchio	757-813-7545
<i>Knife Club</i>	Matt Michaelson	571-245-6075
<i>Newsletter</i>	Pamela Meara	703-362-7293
<i>Office Membership Admin.</i>	Membership	703-631-4495
<i>Open Firearm Matches</i>	David Park	703-304-9416
<i>Pond Manager</i>	Fred Bailey	703-929-8110
<i>Public Relations</i>	Todd Skipper	703-362-1627
<i>Service Rifle Matches</i>	Forrest Fleming	703-475-1713
<i>Scholarship</i>	David Dobbins	703-753-0878
<i>Scouting Activities</i>	Tom Pike	703-802-0740
<i>Web Site</i>	Pamela Meara	703-362-7293
<i>Winter League—Shotgun</i>	John Seaberg	703-830-9365



Chapter Board of Directors' Meeting

1st Tuesday of each month
7:30 p.m. @ Chapter field house
All members welcome

Attend Your Chapter Meetings

General Membership Meeting
3rd Tuesday of each month
7:30 p.m. @ Chapter field house

Newsletter Committee

Pamela Meara Editor-in-Chief
Tim Terrell Copy Editor
Ellen MacBrayne Design & Production

Field House Phone Numbers

Chapter field house 703-631-4495
Rifle-Pistol field house 703-631-4496
Skeet & Trap field house 703-631-4497
Field Archery field house 703-631-4498
Sills Air Range 703-631-4818

Chapter President's E-mail pmearaiwla@gmail.com

Chapter's Web Site <https://wp.arlingtonfairfax-iwla.org>

Chapter's Facebook Page
Arlington-Fairfax-Chapter-Inc-Izaak-Walton-League-of-America

Membership Office Hours

1st and 3rd Tuesday 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.
All other Tuesdays 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Other times, call 703-631-4495

Property Physical Address

14708 Mount Olive Road, Centreville, VA 20121-2517

Mailing Address

Post Office Box 366, Centreville, VA 20122-0366

IWLA Mission

To conserve, restore, and promote the sustainable use and enjoyment of our natural resources, including soil, air, woods, waters, and wildlife.

Izaak Walton League Member Pledge

To strive for the purity of water, the clarity of air, and the wise stewardship of the land and its resources; to know the beauty and understanding of nature and the value of wildlife, woodlands, and open space; to the preservation of this heritage and to mankind's sharing in it.

I pledge myself as a member of the Izaak Walton League of America.

Range Badge

Chapter members are required to display their range badge when they access/use the Chapter's ranges. Access will be denied if you do not display your range badge. If you have lost your range badge, please contact the membership office to purchase a replacement badge at <https://wp.arlingtonfairfax-iwla.org/membership-general-information/>. There is a \$10 fee for all replacement badges.



HELP WANTED in Chapter Membership Office.

The Arlington-Fairfax Chapter, Inc., IWLA, is looking for a part-time worker to help in the membership office on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Good communication skills required. If interested, send an e-mail to Membership Director Benn Crandall at benn0825@aol.com.

Chapter Gun Show

On March 29, the annual gun show returned to Field Archery's indoor range. The event has become one of the Chapter's most popular events, with an increasingly large crowd of visitors attending every year.

The seller's tables are popular with Chapter members and this year a few more tables were squeezed into the range to accommodate an increasing demand. Almost three dozen sellers displayed firearms from their personal collections, along with various calibers of ammunition. A major attraction to attendees is that each table offers many different handguns, rifles, and shotguns, leaving buyers with a tremendous opportunity to find a unique firearm they might otherwise not run across. Another reason the gun show is so popular is the sellers offer their firearms at a fair price or are willing to negotiate with a buyer, increasing a buyer's opportunity to actually leave with a treasured firearm. The Cub Run Archers' table also displayed archery equipment for sale. A day-long line for FFL transfers was indicative of the number of firearms being sold at the show.

While the event lasted for only four hours, an estimated crowd of 200 people—both members and nonmembers—made their way into the building and past all the seller tables. Opening the gun show to the public increases attendance and allows every seller a greater opportunity to leave with fewer firearms and more cash than when they arrived that morning. In addition, the gun show can also serve as a recruitment tool for the Chapter, as nonmembers are able to access the property and see all of the excellent ranges located at the Chapter.

The annual gun show has become an important fundraiser for the Field Archery Program. While attendance is free for everyone, income is generated from table sales, a 50-50 raffle, donations from gun transfers, and great food and beverages sold by the Cub Run Archers.

Members interested in participating in the 2026 Chapter gun show should watch the Chapter Web site early next year for more information.

Finally, unlike the large gun shows, no tables sold pickles, jewelry, dog treats, chocolate, or BBQ sauce and spices. Maybe next year

—Todd Skipper

Izaak Walton League of America Store

Are you interested in getting IWLA apparel/items? Did you know that IWLA National has an online store? Visit <https://members.iwla.org/apps/#Store>.

Picnic Derby continued from page 1

We were thrilled with this year's large turnout. As guests began to arrive, many chose to head straight to Gilbert's Pond for fishing, while others stayed under the pavilion to enjoy the weather and relax. Meanwhile, our Master Chef Don Cotchen grilled up delicious hamburgers and hot dogs, served alongside fresh salads and snacks by our enthusiastic volunteers.

Unfortunately, the rainbow trout were elusive this year, but guests still managed to catch sunfish, crappie, and catfish. After lunch, some continued fishing while others took a shot—literally—at popping balloons on the archery and air rifle ranges.

Fishing continued into the afternoon, ending with everyone gathering back at the pavilion for the Fishing Derby awards. Prizes were handed out for the largest, smallest, and most fish caught. Although no trout were reeled in, the smiles, laughter, and excitement of the day remained undiminished.

A heartfelt thank you to all the dedicated volunteers who made this event possible. Your energy, generosity, and hard work brought joy and lasting memories to so many guests and their families.

—John Hsu



IWLA Digital Newsletter

Want the latest conservation news from the Izaak Walton League and Action Alerts on key advocacy issues? Sign up today at <https://members.iwla.org/apps/#SignIn>.



E-Newsletter and Action Alert Sign-up

ARL-FX IWLA Membership Notes

August, September & October 2025

Important Information About Your Membership

The gate code is located on the back of your membership card. PLEASE do NOT give out the code to anyone else. This is your Chapter, YOU paid the money, why give the code to someone who hasn't paid?

Volunteer Notes

The membership staff and volunteers have been working very hard to improve the function of the Chapter field house. We have cleaned the inside from top to bottom, and we have reorganized the chairs and tables to make setups easier. We need a gardener who can identify the needs of the gardens around the field house. We would like to have flowering plants and greens for all year round. If you are interested, please send an e-mail to the membership chair.

Help Wanted

We are still looking for help in the membership office on Tuesdays and Saturdays. It's all part-time work. Answer phone calls, reply to e-mails, and help out supervising the volunteers for cleaning and setups. The pay is good and you get the satisfaction of contributing to the health and wellbeing of our community. To apply, simply send an e-mail to the membership chair.

Improvements

Finally, we are installing an actual database system for the Chapter. This will include future individual access to your Chapter information and will allow you to renew your dues online.

—*Beuu Craudall*, Membership Chairman
(for a little while anyway)

Chapter VIP Award

The Chapter started the Chapter VIP award in 2016 to nominate and select volunteers yearly who have been with the Chapter for 15+ years as a thank you for their excellent volunteer service. Some of the Chapter long-term volunteers put in a full week (40+ hrs.) working on behalf of the Chapter. To show the Chapter's appreciation

for all the hard work these individuals have done, each individual received a jacket, shirt, and hat. Those who were selected for 2024 are Bill Clayton, Jeff DelVecchio, James Reece Duncan, Brian Hickerson, John Murphy, and Ben Regala. The awards were made at the May 20, 2025, general membership meeting.



IWLA's Save Our Streams (SOS) Program



Virginia Save Our Streams is a program of the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA). Founded in 1922, the IWLA is one of the nation's oldest and most respected conservation organizations. With a powerful grassroots network of nearly 270 local chapters nationwide, the League takes a commonsense approach toward protecting our country's natural heritage and improving outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans. For more information about our Virginia chapters, please visit the Virginia Division of the Izaak Walton League Web site.



SOS Web Links

Check out the IWLA *Save Our Streams* Web site:

<https://www.iwla.org/water/stream-monitoring>.

Check out the IWLA Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/iwla.org/>.

Check out the VA SOS Web site for more information, forms, and gear:

<http://www.vasos.org/>.



Save Our Streams Volunteer Opportunities

The Arlington-Fairfax Chapter, Inc., IWLA, is looking for a few volunteers to help with the Chapter's conservation efforts dealing with Save our Streams (SOS) events.

The SOS method is recognized by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to determine potential impairments to the waters of Virginia. The method collects samples of "bugs" from the water that provide indicators of stream health.

By volunteering for this program, you can:

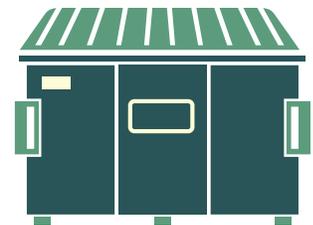
- Gather important data in our local area;
- Work with other engaged volunteers;
- Get first-hand knowledge of water quality in the streams monitored.

For more information, please e-mail ARLFXSOS@gmail.com.



Dumpsters

Please remember the dumpsters located on the Chapter property are for Chapter use only, not your personal use. Anyone caught dumping their personal trash in a Chapter dumpster will be brought before the board of directors for disciplinary action.



SIGN UP!

SignUpGenius[®]

Please use to sign up for Volunteer Opportunities —located on the Chapter Home Web page.

Animal Protection



The Chapter grounds are considered a wildlife sanctuary and hunting is strictly prohibited. All animals are protected and are not to be harmed in any way. Anyone found to be harming wildlife on the Chapter grounds will be brought before the board of directors for disciplinary action.

Chapter Inaugural Save Our Streams (SOS) Event

The Izaak Walton League's SOS program trains volunteers to bring information about water quality to their communities. SOS is the only nationwide training of its kind. Volunteers collect data to assess water quality in local streams and report this data to be analyzed. The analyzed data is used to determine current stream quality, and taken with previously collected data, creates a critical record of water quality over time.

After months of preparation that included identifying and acquiring all necessary equipment (e.g., nets, tables, gloves, magnifiers, tweezers, macroinvertebrates identification charts, trays, etc.), visiting different stream sites to assess suitability for stream monitoring (e.g., easily accessible, not too deep, not too fast, etc.), obtaining the required permit, registering the chosen site on the Clean Water Hub under the Chapter's name, etc., on April 5, 2025, the Chapter held its

first ever Save Our Streams stream monitoring event at the registered portion of Cub Run Stream.

There were 16 enthusiastic volunteers including three youth that participated in this inaugural event. Over 700 total macroinvertebrates were collected by the formed teams of volunteers. After all macroinvertebrates were classified, counted, and recorded on analysis forms, a multimetric index score that represents the stream quality was calculated to be 8 (ecological conditions cannot be determined). An unacceptable condition index would have been in the 0-7 range and an acceptable condition index in the 9-12 range. We also did nitrate level and salt level testing. All data was later reviewed, verified, and recorded in the Clean Water Hub. Thank you to all volunteers who participated in this inaugural event and made it a success.

—Fred Bailey, Conservation Director



Adopt a Highway Cleanup

The Arlington-Fairfax Chapter, Inc., (Chapter) has been a participant in the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Adopt-a-Highway program since 2008. We cleanup Compton Road from Route 28 to Mount Olive Road and Mount Olive Road from Compton Road to Old Mill Road, for a total coverage of approximately 2 miles. Mount Olive Road is primarily a residential road and provides a safe place for juveniles 10 to 18 years old to participate in a conservation activity and gain hours toward Scout merit badges. We do not assign juveniles to work on Compton Road as it is a pass-through road with fast traffic and very narrow shoulders in some places.



The Chapter has agreed with VDOT to complete two Adopt a Highway cleanup events each year. However, cleanup events have frequently been conducted three or four times per year.

Through its most recent cleanup event on June 8, 2025, the Chapter has conducted 58 cleanup events, donated 1,342 hours, collected 1,402 bags of trash, many tires, paint buckets, and other assorted materials that would not fit in the trash bags. The Chapter also found and reported downed road signs and utility markers to VDOT for repair/replacement.

—Steve Rumble,
Adopt-a-Highway Coordinator

Vienna Green Expo Article

The town of Vienna held its annual Green Expo on April 24 that brings sustainable living to life where plant guidance, live animals, and expert tips on sustainable practices were among the attractions this year. Dozens of local exhibitors were on hand with information about green landscaping ideas, composting, recycling, energy efficiency, solar power, water conservation, wildlife conservation, a showing of live birds of prey, children's activities and more.

I accepted an invitation to the Chapter to attend and provide information on the IWLA Nitrate Watch and Salt Watch programs. A poster board for Salt Watch and another for Nitrate Watch were prepared and displayed along with a slideshow that continuously played on a tablet on the Chapter's table that I put together of photos of stream monitoring events. Postcards and stickers



on Nitrate Watch, Salt Watch, and Save Our Streams were also on the table for the taking by the attendees. Hopefully the community is now more educated about these IWLA programs. Next year's event has already been scheduled for April 23, 2026, at the Vienna Community Center.

—Fred Bailey, Conservation Director

Arlington-Fairfax Chapter, Inc., IWLA Chapter Hours of Operation

8 a.m. – 9 p.m. for outdoor recreational use
(including outdoor range operation)

8 a.m. – 12 midnight for indoor uses
(including indoor range operation)

With extended hours reserved for staff and special scheduled events, such as camping activities, as needed.

See designated range Web pages for specific days and times of range operations.

Education & Training NRA Course Updates

The 2025 Education & Training schedule for NRA courses is available. Make sure you check out the schedule on the Web site:

<http://wp.arlingtonfairfax-iwla.org/education-and-training-2/>



Air Range

NoVA Sharpshooters Win National Titles

Seven members of the NoVA Sharpshooters Junior Pistol Club travelled to the Civilian Marksmanship Program facilities in Alabama to participate in the USA Shooting National Championships. The juniors had an impressive medal haul earning ten medals. The week started with the small-bore pistol events at the Talladega Marksmanship Park. First up was the Men's 25-meter Rapid Fire Pistol match. William Regala, a rising senior at Lake Braddock High School finished fifth in the qualification stage. He ended his final day of qualification by shooting a personal best. In the finals, Regala found himself squaddled next to a four time Olympian shooter. In a close final, Regala ended up besting the other five finalists to win the national title.

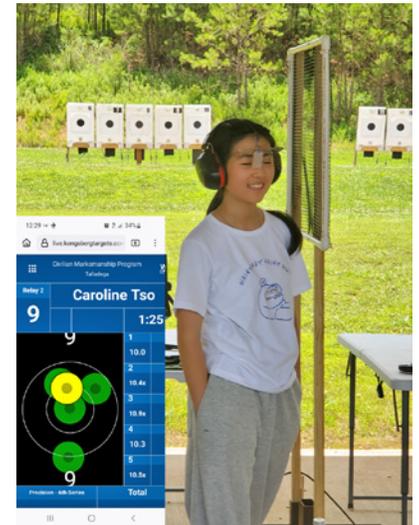
Standard pistol was next. The course of fire is similar to NRA Bullseye pistol. Caroline Tso, a rising freshman at Woodson High School, finished sixth overall and Regala taking ninth place. Tso received a silver medal and Regala a bronze medal in the junior category.

Sport Pistol was the final small bore pistol event. Elie Arkin, a rising senior at Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, had an impressive qualifying stage by shooting his personal best on the second day of qualification. Arkin finished second in qualification and Regala third. On the Women's side, Tso had a solid performance and finished 14th. All three juniors advanced to the junior finals. Unfortunately, the finals match was canceled because of a thunderstorm. Arkin

received a silver medal, Regala a bronze, and Tso received a gold medal in the Under 15 category.

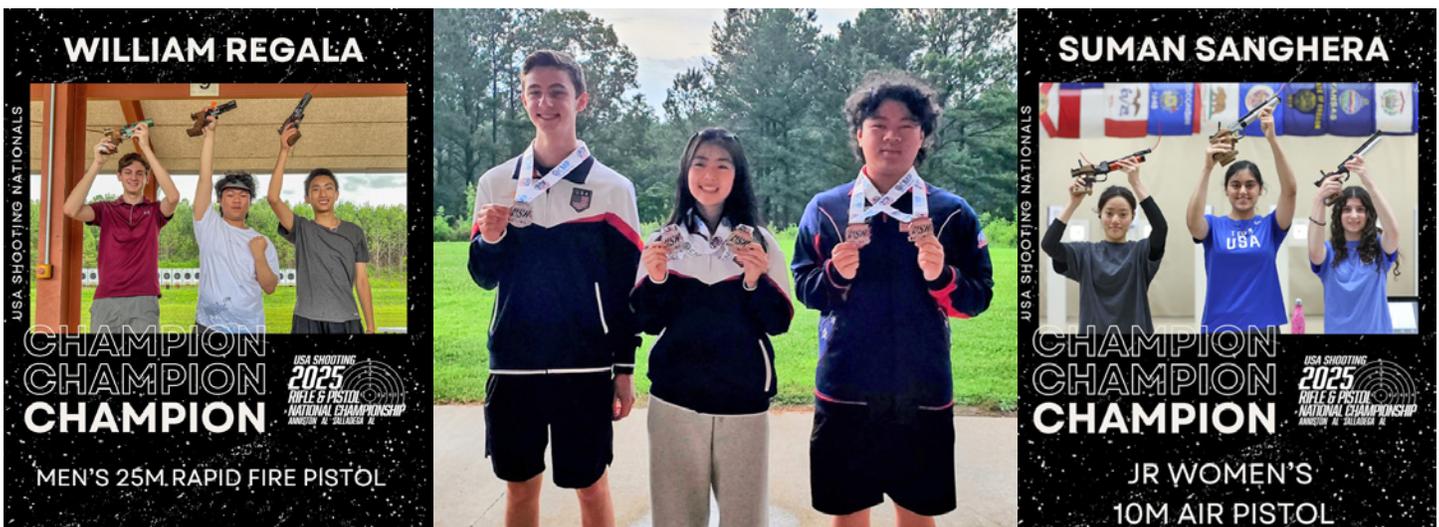
The juniors then moved to the Judith Legarski Air Range in Anniston, Alabama, for the 10-meter pistol events. They were joined by Suman Sanghera, Robin Haw, Hayden Haw, and Chapter member Marshall Mutamanje.

In the Women's event, Sanghera, a junior at Case Western Reserve University, repeated her impressive 2024 performance by winning the Women's Junior title and finishing a very close second in the Women's Open final. This was her fourth year in a row winning the junior title and taking silver in the Open competition. Sanghera will be representing Team USA later this year at the Junior Pan American Games in Paraguay. In the Men's competition, Arkin finished third in the Junior competition earning a bronze medal. Regala finished fourth



Caroline Tso celebrates shooting a perfect series in Sport Pistol.

NoVA Nationals continued on page 10



Left: Will Regala is the Men's 25M Rapid Fire Pistol National Champion. **Center:** Elie Arkin, Caroline Tso, and Will Regala show off their medals in small bore pistol. **Right:** Suman Sanghera wins her fourth Junior title in a row.

Scholarship News

In 1993, the board of directors of the Arlington-Fairfax Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America established its Environmental Sciences Scholarship as a means of demonstrating the Chapter's concern for the environment and for the young people of the tri-county (Arlington, Fairfax, and Prince William Counties) area. The scholarship is for a total of 4 years at a value of \$5,000 per year paid directly to the applicant's institution of higher learning in support of their degree in environmental sciences or a related field. The scholarship committee of the Chapter reviews the applications submitted each April and makes its recommendation to the board of directors on the basis of the applicant's academic achievement, financial need, environmental activities and achievements, and the individual character of the applicant.

The 2025 Environmental Sciences Scholarship has been awarded to Scarlett Flood who recently graduated from Lake Braddock High School in Burke, Virginia. Scarlett will be majoring in civil engineering. She will be attending the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. Scholarship Committee Chairman David Dobbins said Scarlett's academic credentials, maturity, and impressive activities in diverse local and regional environmental and community programs makes her a most deserving recipient of the scholarship.



The 2025 Environmental Sciences Scholarship awarded to Scarlett Flood from Lake Braddock High School in Burke, Virginia. Pictured with Scholarship Committee Chairman David Dobbins and Arl-Fx Chapter President Pam Meara.

Below are updates on the progress of our current four Chapter Environmental Sciences Scholarship winners:

Samantha Seagle, 2024 Scholarship Winner

I completed my first year of full-time college at Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA). While I originally expected to spend 2 years at NOVA I was accepted to the University of Virginia (UVA) early and will be attending there in the fall as a sophomore.

At UVA I will continue on my engineering path with a focus on sustainability. This past year I had many challenges like Calculus 2 and

balancing my new college life. Continuing my search for sustainability experience, recently I have been granted an opportunity to grow. By assisting in sustainable development for a new campground where I can not only make a difference but also learn different ways to account for the environment in conjunction with disposal and infrastructure.

I look forward to my future with UVA and joining the women's engineering club and environmental clubs. During my time at NOVA, I was able to experience the following classes: Calculus, Java, Calculus-based Physics, Microeconomics, Chemistry, and Intro to Engineering. While I've loved learning about math and physics, the best part was being able to apply my knowledge in those courses

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NoVA Nationals continued from page 9

in the Junior competition earning a silver medal in the Under 18 category.

Chapter Para athletes Jay Martin and Ben Hays also competed in the air rifle and small bore rifle events. Martin won a silver medal in the 50-meter Rifle Prone SH1 match and a bronze medal in 10-meter Air Rifle Prone SH1. Hays won silver in 50-meter Rifle Prone SH2, bronze in 10-meter Air Rifle Standing SH2, and silver in 10-meter Air Rifle Prone SH2.

The junior pistoleers will compete later this summer at the Civilian Marksmanship Program National Pistol matches at Camp Perry, Ohio.



Jay Martin shooting 10 meter air rifle.



Skeet & Trap Range

2025 ARL-FX Chapter Skeet & Trap Shoot Dates

Skeet-Shoot Dates

Stonewall Open Skeet Shoot August 1–3
Tater Salad Open Skeet Shoot August 22–24

E-mail IWLASkeet@yahoo.com for more information.

Trap-Shoot Dates

Jeff Miller Memorial Corn Shoot September 7
IWLA Open Trap Shoot October 5

Contact Bob Brino at (703) 368-4934 or by e-mail at Bob.Brino@arlingtonfairfax-iwla.org for more information.

2026 Winter Skeet and Trap League

The 2026 season of the Arlington-Fairfax Chapter, IWLA, Winter Skeet and Trap League will begin on Sunday, January 4th, and run for 13 weeks. The competitive format provides a demanding challenge for shooters of all ability levels and is also a great way to get to know many of your fellow Chapter members. The league size is limited to 28 teams (168 shooters). Another large turnout is anticipated for the 2026 season with most of the teams returning.

For more information visit <https://wp.arlingtonfairfax-iwla.org/winter-league/>, or to sign up, contact John Seaberg, jseaberg@cox.net

League competition consists of six-person squads shooting six two-round matches each of trap and skeet. All winter league matches are shot on Sundays when the shotgun ranges are closed for open shooting. Awards are presented to the top-scoring teams and to the individual shooters with high raw averages in Skeet, Trap, and Overall, plus a Most Improved prize.

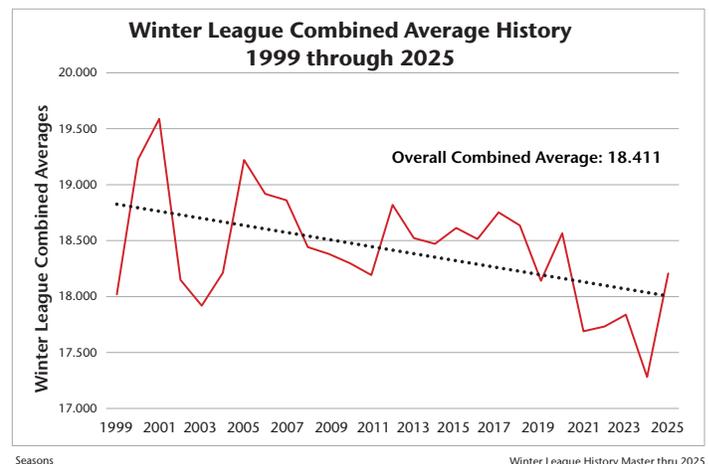
The “Bucky” Sills Winter Skeet & Trap League 2025 Season Award Winners

The 2025 season of the Winter Skeet and Trap League wrapped up on April 6th and once again, the final standings were determined during the very last matches of the season. The league fielded 27 teams this season with 162 full-time members and 51 substitute shooters participating. Thanks to the many volunteer hours contributed by the league members to maintain the range facilities, the weekly matches were all conducted safely and efficiently. Only one day had to be canceled back in January due to snow.

The Winter Skeet and Trap League has now been conducted for well over 30 years, offering the Chapter a family oriented recreational shooting activity. In addition to the competitive nature of the league, it also offers members the opportunity to improve their shotgun shooting skills regardless of their ability level. The winter league season runs for 13 Sundays beginning in early January with up to 28 six-person teams, making it one of the largest Chapter events conducted each year.

In the Individual Competition, our High Overall Average winner was John Allen, who broke 559 of 600 targets for a

combined skeet/trap average of 23.292. Simon William took the honors for High Skeet Average with an impressive 23.917 hitting 287 of 300 targets. Right behind him for Skeet Runner-up was Jonathan Scites with a 23.583 average. In Trap, the High Average winner was Jim Hickerson, ending the season with an average of 23.667, hitting 284 of 300 targets. The runner-up for High Trap was Mike Whitmore, coming in with a



Season Winners continued on page 12

Season Winners continued from page 11

23.500 average. In the Most Improved category, Heath Wells captured the award for the most improved combined average from last season of 7.125 targets.

Team awards were awarded to the 10 squads that recorded the highest cumulative team scores over the course of the entire season. This year, Captain Mike Whitmore led his Team 24 to a season score of 2,387.952 to lock down the 1st place award. Team 5 was close behind in the 2nd place slot with a score of 2,375.967 led by Captain Brian Hickerson. Third place was won by Team 11 with a score of 2,370.056 with Captain Ashly Palles at the helm. Captain Randolph Williams' Team 13 captured 4th place coming in with a score of 2,362.193. The 5th place finisher was Team 2 with a 2,354.892 with Captain James Hsu. Rounding out the top 10 were Team 12 led by Captain Gary Weiss in 6th place, Team 6 lead by Captain Cash Miller in 7th place, Team 7 led by Captain Bruce Crandlemire in 8th place, Team 20 led by Captain Brian Ransom in 9th place, and Team 21 led by Captain Bart Bennett in 10th place.

Over the past 27 years for which we have records, a total of 778 shooters have been regular members of the

league with hundreds more participating as substitute shooters. Over this period, a total of 2,273,400 targets were attempted by the regular league shooters. Of these, 1,674,261 were scored as hits equating to an overall average of 18.411 out of 25.000. When combined with the substitutes, a total of 2,329,075 targets were thrown. Shooters of all skill levels are invited to participate in the league as reflected in the individual averages. Interestingly, the overall combined average of all shooters has consistently been about 18.5 out of 25, although the trend is slightly downward. See chart below.

The formulation of the 2026 Winter League Season will begin this fall with the first week of competition scheduled for Sunday, January 4th. Contact John Seaberg, the league chairman, via e-mail at jseaberg@cox.net for more information.

A debt of gratitude goes out from all the league members to the Skeet and Trap Range Director, Bob Brino, for his hospitality and working in the cold to keep the range equipment operating. Congratulations to all of our 2025 award winners.

—John Seaberg, Winter League Chairman

THE CHARLES "BUCKY" SILLS WINTER SKEET AND TRAP LEAGUE

2025 AWARD WINNERS

Individual Awards

	Name	Team Number	Targets Hit	of	Average
High Overall	John Allen	5	559	600	23.292
High Skeet	Simon Williams	24	287	300	23.917
Skeet Runner-Up	Jonathan Scites	20	283	300	23.583
High Trap	Jim Hickerson	11	284	300	23.667
Trap Runner-Up	Mike Whitmore	24	282	300	23.500
Most Improved	Heath Wells	14	Combined Average Increase from 2024		7.125
					18.792

THE CHARLES "BUCKY" SILLS WINTER SKEET AND TRAP LEAGUE

2025 AWARD WINNERS

Team Awards

1st Place		2nd Place		3rd Place		4th Place		5th Place	
Team	24	Team	5	Team	11	Team	13	Team	2
Score	2,387.952	Score	2,375.967	Score	2,370.056	Score	2,362.193	Score	2,354.892
Captain		Captain		Captain		Captain		Captain	
Mike Whitmore		Brian Hickerson		Ashly Palles		Randolph Williams		James Hsu	
Team Members		Team Members		Team Members		Team Members		Team Members	
John Murphy		John Allen		Tom Delewski		Ralph Bruner		James Hsu	
Evan Phelps		Butch Gamble		Don Hickerson		William Donnelly		John Hsu	
Tim Tynan		Alan Hickerson		Jim Hickerson		Robert Ellis		George Mong	
Derek Vacco		Ben Hickerson		Matthew Hickerson		Dave Freeman		Charlie Nilles	
Mike Whitmore		Brian Hickerson		Ashly Palles		Tom Horio		Derek Slusher	
Simon Williams		Sam Rathbone		Travis Whitworth		Randolph Williams		Dave Symm	

Crush'n Clays: Big Turnout to Help Battle Childhood Cancer—June 2025

On June 14, more than 130 shooters turned out at the Chapter Skeet & Trap Range for Crush'n Clays, a charity trapshooting event benefiting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Crush'n Clays, cohosted by the Arlington-Fairfax Chapter, Inc., IWLA (ARL-FX) and the Virginia Shooting Sports Association (VSSA), raised more than \$40,000 for St. Jude, located in Memphis, Tennessee, which treats children who have cancer and other catastrophic illnesses. Prior to this year, Crush'n Clays had raised more than \$450,000 to support St. Jude.

Crush'n Clays is the longest-running shooting event supporting St. Jude and the longest-running charity shooting event in the country.

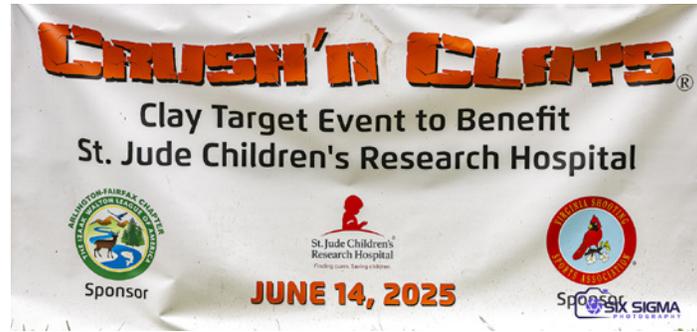
"I would like to say thank you. It means a lot that [people] are choosing to come here with their families, have fun, and support this lifesaving mission," said Jean Almonte, a St. Jude adviser for the Washington, D.C., area, who shot his first-ever round of trap during the event. "We never know who's going to have the unfortunate news that, 'your child has cancer.' So, when you do these events, you're supporting these families and (helping) hope stay alive."

The conditions were hot and humid, but thankfully the stormy weather held off until after the event and cleanup were complete.

Participants received ammunition, commemorative T-shirts, and lunch from Tony's New York Pizza in Manassas, Virginia, with their paid registration.

Scott Petitto started the day by conducting a shotgun clinic to help novice shooters get acquainted with shooting and to emphasize that safety is always our top priority.

Shooters, whether registered with teams or as individuals, shot 25 targets from the 16-yard-line in the morning, followed



by a round of handicap from the 22-yard line after lunch. The top three scores on each squad in each event were used to determine the team totals.

Whiting-Turner, composed of Charlie Westberg, Mike Whitmore, Tom Muddiman, and Dave

Weddle, won the Team Award by breaking 146 of 150 targets. Scott Petitto was the High Overall winner, determined in a shoot-off with Whitmore and Muddiman. Each broke 49 of 50 in the regular program. The shoot-off consisted of 10 targets each from the 16 yard line and 10 targets from the 22 yard line. All three were still tied after the first 10, but Petitto pulled away on the handicap targets and ended the shoot-off with 18 to Muddiman's 16 and Whitmore's 14.

As usual, the Annie Oakley side event was popular with participants all day. There were more than 100 entries, with many shooters competing multiple times. Half of the entry fees from each group participating in the long-distance shoot-

Crush'n Clays continued on page 14



Crush'n Clays continued from page 13
off went to St. Jude, with the other half of the pot going to the last shooter standing in the single-elimination competition.

Additional money was raised through a silent auction, and we are grateful to the members and those from outside the Chapter who donated the items up for bids.

A big thank-you also goes out to Mary Bergman, who sang the national anthem to start the day's festivities.

Special thanks must be given to the event sponsors: The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company; D&F Construction; Arlington-Fairfax Chapter, Inc., IWLA; Mid-Atlantic Bowhunters; Suburban Electric; Virginia Shooting Sports Association; ARL-FX Education & Training; The Gilbert Family; General Dynamics; Equipment Works; Tony's NY Pizza; Clark Brothers; NOVEC; Virginia Division IWLA; Deem Printing; Slopers Stitch House; and Ray's Guns. All of them played a crucial role in promoting a successful event. We would also like to thank our St. Jude field representative, Jean Almonte, who confirmed that he would be our rep again next year.

Multitalented entertainer Danny Thomas founded St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in 1962. Their tireless efforts, for which families never receive a bill, have significantly improved survival rates for childhood cancers in the past 63 years. During that time, the overall childhood cancer survival rate has risen from 20 percent to

80 percent. We are honored to be associated with such a worthy institution.

And a special "Thank you" goes out to Pamela Meara, Bob Brino and Scott Petitto for all their hard work they put into this year's event. Without their dedication this event would not have been as successful as it was.

—Sean Moores



Scholarship Updates continued from page 10

to my engineering project. During the project, I built a functional drawbridge, applying my grasp of stress, strain, and torque to ensure it functioned correctly. I enjoyed putting my CAD skills to work to give our bridge a look, unlike our classmates.

I would like to thank the Arlington-Fairfax Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America for making these experiences possible and giving me the confidence to continue learning. During this past year, the Chapter reminds me to think about environmental conservation. Whatever I build next it's something I continue to take into account and lead my daily decisions.

Daniel Clay, 2023 Scholarship Winner

I'm Daniel Clay and I am the recipient of the 2023 Chapter scholarship. I have just completed my sophomore year at Virginia Tech as an environmental resource management major. This year has been simultaneously challenging and rewarding. As in, my workload has been ever increasing and the content in question becomes more specialized, though in spite of this I feel what I have learned will be very useful in the future. Forest Dendrology was by far one of my favorite classes. The professor who taught it was both entertaining and educational, teaching me how to properly identify particular tree species and the biological mechanics behind trees. I think my education still has a long way to go but I am confident my understanding of environmental issues and ability to draft possible solutions to those problems are improving. I look forward to my junior year as I continue to delve deeper into more specialized classes that will provide me with the tools I need to advance myself and make a meaningful impact on the world. I would like to thank the Chapter for sponsoring me and helping me to pursue a worthwhile discipline.

Grant Miller, 2022 Scholarship Winner

As I conclude my junior year at Virginia Tech (VT), I can say I have gained valuable hands-on experience through my classes and also the study abroad trip to Australia I participated in last summer. In Australia we spent the majority of the trip in Queensland where we participated in a koala population study on Magnetic Island, conducted coral reef health and population ecology surveys on the Great Barrier Reef, and listened to many engaging lectures about Australian wildlife policy, ecology, and management. This trip gave me insight into how marine science and ecology work is done in the field and provided me with unforgettable hands-on experiences.

Once back at VT for the 2024-25 school year, I had the pleasure of taking one of my favorite classes at VT, that being

fisheries techniques. This class was very engaging as part of the class included a 5-hour lab where we traveled to nearby streams and applied the techniques we learned in the lecture portion of the class. We conducted many fish population studies using a variety of techniques like seine netting and electroshocking. This allowed us to easily catch the fish for the purpose of weighing, measuring, and collecting data. We used the data to calculate various population parameters to determine population and ecosystem health. The class also included a final project where we were able to create and conduct a fish population study using data collected in the field or sourced from online databases. My group conducted a population study on the health and recruitment of South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico red snapper fisheries. We gathered data from online sources including NOAA and various fisheries stock assessments. I really enjoyed being able to get out in the field and apply what I learned in this class as it gave me a greater understanding of how fish population and ecology studies are conducted in the field.

In addition to classwork at VT, I am also continuing my work in the Shark Lab at VT by conducting a literature review on responses to illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing in the Indian Ocean. I hope to be involved in a lab-based research lab next semester, I was going to work on genetics research on wild vs farm-raised Nile Tilapia in Lake Victoria, but it took a while to get data back when samples were sent away for more complicated genetic testing and I was not able to do any lab work.

This fall semester I will be attending the University of North Carolina Wilmington as a part of my major requirement to attend a coastal university for the marine science credits required for my degree. I am also looking to add freshwater fisheries conservation to my major alongside my biology minor. I will return to VT for spring semester and subsequent graduation in 2026.

I would once again like to thank the Chapter for providing me with a scholarship that gives me access to educational experiences that will help me pursue future endeavors in the field of fish conservation.

Will Beer, 2021 Scholarship Winner

Dave Dobbins reports: If you read last year's scholarship update in the Chapter newsletter, you will remember, unbenownst to me, Will was taking extra classes at night and classes online such that he completed his Virginia Tech requirements for a degree in forestry in three years rather than the usual four years. Since last June Will has been working as a Forest Ranger in Yellowstone National Park, a job that he loves.

Knife/Ax Sharpening Clinic



Knife/Ax Club Conducts Sharpening Clinic

The weekend of March 22nd, several of our Chapter members met under the large Pavilion to enjoy several hours of carry and field knife discussions, knife sharpening, oiling, and general care and maintenance. Organized by the Chapter's Knife/Ax Club contact, Army Lt. Col. (Retired) Matt Michaelson, members brought their "daily carry" blades that included light folders, some "old-dog" favorites, and sheath knives, generally with less than 5-inch lengths. The members enjoyed orientations to and try-outs of carbon steel knife sharpeners, croc sticks, and also diamond hones for those harder to sharpen stainless steels. They also learned about varied folder locking mechanisms, means of cleaning them, and important

differences in knife geometry/grinds. Sharpening the right blade with the wrong sharpener can change a blade's edge for the worse, if not done carefully, and several members had good questions answered. After a few hours of fun, skills work, and banter, everyone left "sharper" than they had arrived, with zero band-aids being issued or used.

Future clinics with the Knife/Ax Club will include tomahawk carry and use, wood processing, ax sharpening, and for fun of course, some throwing at the Chapter's awesome throwing range. For any questions about bladed tool use and education, or to schedule a class please contact Matt at <https://www.warriorwellnessllc.org/outdoor-module>.



Don Early with Pam Meara.

The Judge John W. Tobin Award

Chapter members Fred Ansick and Don Early each received a 2024 Judge John W. Tobin Award. This award is presented by the Izaak Walton League of America to a Chapter member or members in recognition of their outstanding service to the Chapter. Congratulations to Fred and Don.

Over the years, this Chapter and all of its members have directly benefited from these members' skill, talent, and volunteerism, along with their commitment and dedication to this Chapter. We now recognize them for their contributions and dedication to the Chapter, as they represent the true spirit of the IWLA.



Fred Ansick with Pam Meara.

Outdoor/Indoor Archery

Arlington-Fairfax Chapter, Inc., IWLA, Archery 101 Classes



The Archery 101 classes will take place in the indoor archery range. These one-day classes are designed for anyone who has never shot archery before or has very little knowledge of the sport and would like to see what our sport is all about. The minimum age for children is nine years old.

The class will cover the different types of archery equipment, archery safety, purchasing of equipment, and live shooting. All equipment needed (bows and arrows)

is available through the Chapter. All you need to do is register and show up.

Fee Schedule (Members/Nonmembers)

- \$25 for adults
- \$15 for ages 9 through 17
(Must be accompanied by a parent or guardian)
- \$50 max for family

Class fees will be collected before the start of each class beginning at 12:45 p.m.

Sunday	August 31, 2025	1–3:30 p.m.
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To register for the class e-mail Dick Riemer at rriemer@cox.net or by phone at 703-543-8585.

Trail Campsites Cleanup

A cleanup was conducted on the Chapter Nature Trail and all campsites on March 29. Multiple groups of helpers walked the Nature Trail cleaning it up as they walked. Fallen branches, overgrown vegetation, log segments, and debris were cleared from all Nature Trail paths. New/refreshed trail blazes marking the trail were also painted on some trees.

Campsites 1 to 9 were also cleaned up to make them more suitable to pitching tents and other uses. Helpers cleared the same type branches, vegetation, etc. from the campsites. The fire pits associated with each campsite were refurbished and cleaned up. Also, the ropes on all life preservers around the pond were replaced with new 50' lengths of the same yellow nylon rope. The Chapter thanks Trail Life Troop 1115, BSA Troop 577, and the member volunteers who came out and performed this much needed cleanup. Please monitor SignUpGenius for the next scheduled cleanup.

—Fred Bailey, Conservation Director



SAVE THE DATE

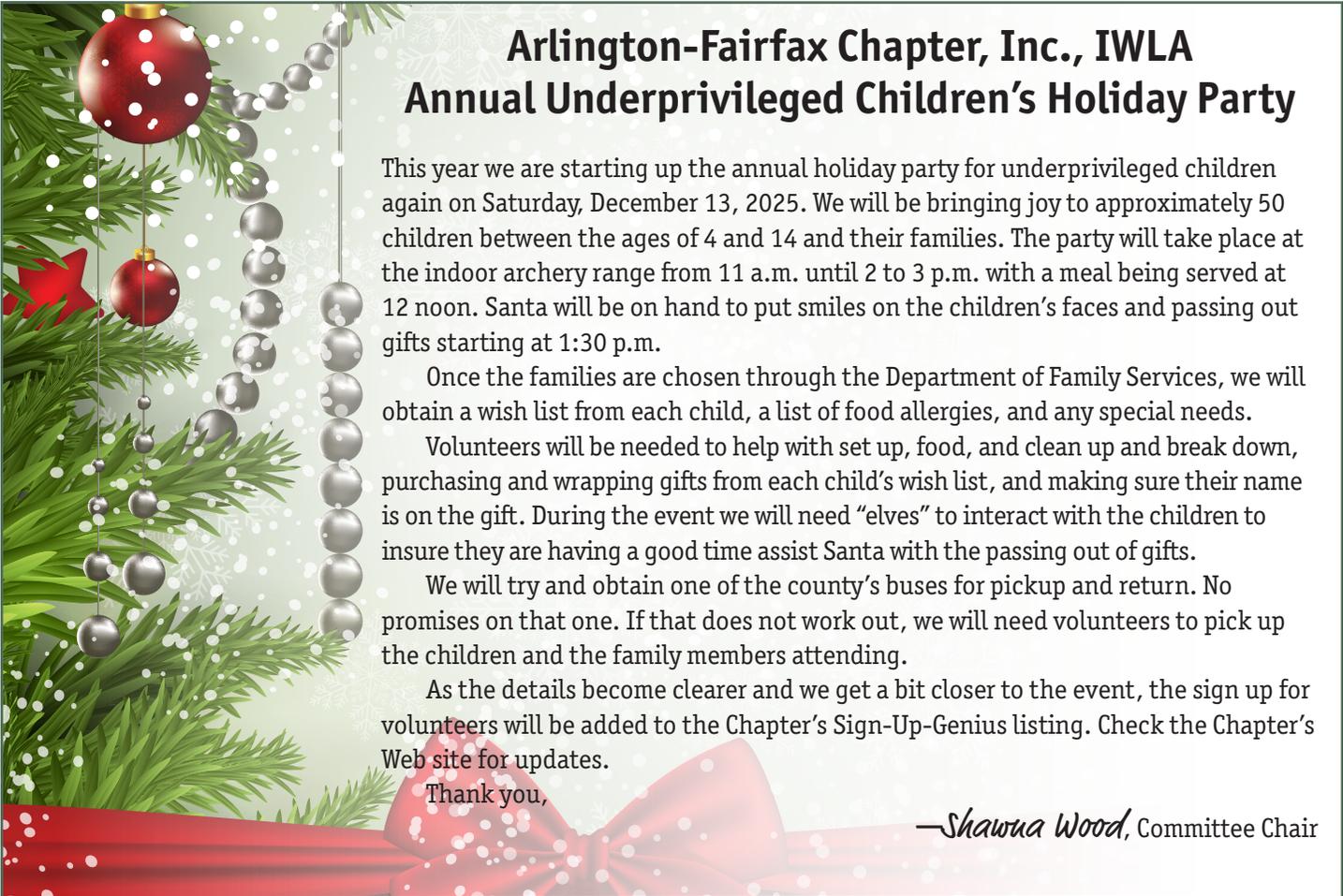


From the Women of the NRA®
Instructional Shooting Clinic

Saturday, September 20, 2025 • 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Register by August 15, 2025 • Fee: \$100

<https://wp.arlingtonfairfax-iwla.org/women-on-target/>



Arlington-Fairfax Chapter, Inc., IWLA Annual Underprivileged Children's Holiday Party

This year we are starting up the annual holiday party for underprivileged children again on Saturday, December 13, 2025. We will be bringing joy to approximately 50 children between the ages of 4 and 14 and their families. The party will take place at the indoor archery range from 11 a.m. until 2 to 3 p.m. with a meal being served at 12 noon. Santa will be on hand to put smiles on the children's faces and passing out gifts starting at 1:30 p.m.

Once the families are chosen through the Department of Family Services, we will obtain a wish list from each child, a list of food allergies, and any special needs.

Volunteers will be needed to help with set up, food, and clean up and break down, purchasing and wrapping gifts from each child's wish list, and making sure their name is on the gift. During the event we will need "elves" to interact with the children to insure they are having a good time assist Santa with the passing out of gifts.

We will try and obtain one of the county's buses for pickup and return. No promises on that one. If that does not work out, we will need volunteers to pick up the children and the family members attending.

As the details become clearer and we get a bit closer to the event, the sign up for volunteers will be added to the Chapter's Sign-Up-Genius listing. Check the Chapter's Web site for updates.

Thank you,

—*Shawua Wood*, Committee Chair

 **SIGN UP!**



Please use to sign up for **Volunteer Opportunities**, located on the Chapter Home Web page.



The Izaak Walton League of America

Web Links

Check out the IWLA Web site: <https://www.iwla.org>

Check out the Virginia Division Web site: <http://va-iwla.org/>



REMEMBER

Speed limit is 10 mph on the ARL-FX IWLA property!

Arlington-Fairfax Chapter, Inc., IWLA, Calendar

For current Chapter calendars and event times, go to the Chapter Web site under the Calendar tab—<https://wp.arlingtonfairfax-iwla.org>.

AUGUST, SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2025

Event	Date	Facility
Cub Run Archers Meeting	1st Sunday of each month	AC
Board of Directors' Meeting	1st Tuesday of each month	FH
Junior Chapter BoD Meeting	2nd Tuesday of each month	ST
Service Rifle Matches	2nd Thursday of each month	RP
Open Firearms League Matches	3rd Monday of each month	RP
General Membership Meeting	3rd Tuesday of each month	FH
Bullseye Pistol League—Rimfire Matches	1st Sunday (March-July)	RP
Bull Run Muzzle Loaders	3rd Sunday of each month	RP
Open Air Range (Member Practice)	Sundays	AR
Regular Open Air Range	Mondays & Fridays	AR
Fellowship Dinner	Every Tuesday	AC
New Member Orientation	Saturday, August 2	FH
Stonewall Open Skeet Shoot	August 1-3	ST
Tater Salad Open Skeet Shoot	August 22-24	ST
101 Archery Class	Sunday, August 31	AC
Rifle-Pistol Short Range Day	Sunday, August 24 & 31	RP
New Member Orientation	Saturday, September 6	FH
Jeff Miller Memorial Corn Shoot	Sunday, September 7	ST
Archery 201 Class (5 Weeks)—Start	Sunday, September 14	FA
NRA Women on Target® Shooting Clinic	Saturday, September 20	Chapter Wide
Newsletter Article Submission Deadline	Tuesday, September 23	
Rifle-Pistol Short Range Day	Sunday, September 28	RP
New Member Orientation	Saturday, October 4	FH
DuCharm/Igou Memorial Trap Shoot	Sunday, October 5	ST
Rifle-Pistol Short Range Day	Sunday, October 26	RP
New Member Orientation	Saturday, November 1	FH
Cub Run Fall Cleanup	Sunday, November 8	FA
Fall USA Indoor Archery Tournament	November 8-9	FA
Wendell Thompson Match	Saturday, November 15	AR
Ed. & Trng. NRA Courses	Various Dates	<i>See Web site</i>

AC=Archery Club House, AF=Athletic Field, AR=Air Range, Camp=Camp Sites, FA=Field Archery, FH=Field House, LP=Large Pavilion, RP=Rifle-Pistol, SP=Small Pavilion, ST=Skeet & Trap, TA=Target Archers



Use of Outhouses

IMPORTANT: Septic tanks are used for the outhouses on the property. Trash (plastic bottles, bags, etc.) should never be disposed of in an outhouse for any reason. Trash clogs the septic tank and the Chapter has to pay to get it cleared. Groups may be charged these costs if the septic tank becomes clogged while they use the property.



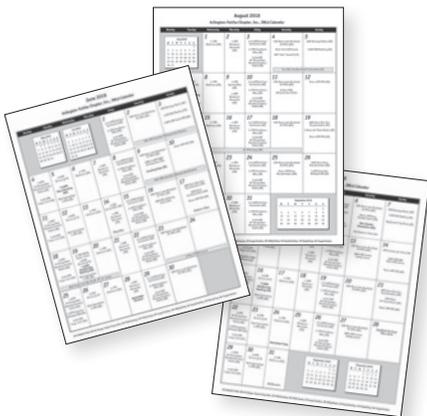
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The Chapter Newsletter is your link to all Chapter activities and information. Keep it handy. It is also available on our new Web site in color.

<https://wp.arlingtonfairfax-iwla.org/>



For current Chapter calendars, go to the Chapter Web site under *Calendar!*

<https://wp.arlingtonfairfax-iwla.org/chapter-calendars/>