



14708 Mount Olive Road
Centreville, VA 20121-2517

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

NEWSLETTER

Volume 64, Number 3

August, September & October 2026

2026 Chapter Election Results



The annual Chapter elections were conducted in accordance with Chapter bylaws during the month of July 2026 with the polls being open on the 11th, 12th, 18th, and 19th 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 general member meeting in June. Tom Pike chaired the nominations and election committees.

The Chapter officer positions open for election in 2026 were vice president and treasurer. In addition, named directors for Conservation, Education, Skeet & Trap, and Target Archery 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 19th. 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:

Vice President: **Brian Hickerson**

Treasurer: **Bob Crisman**

Conservation: **Jack Scheible**

Education: **John Seaberg**

Skeet & Trap: **Bob Brino**

Target Archery: **Jeff Del Vecchio**

Directors-at-Large:

Benn Crandall

John Lindamood

Inocencio "Chencho" Orta

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

—**Tom Pike**, Nomination/Election chairman

(<https://wp.arlingtonfairfax-iwla.org/chapter-election-information/>)

Chapter's Shenandoah Property

It was discovered the property was mistitled and the Chapter spent several years working with lawyers, neighboring landowners, and the court to correct the property title to ARLINGTON-FAIRFAX CHAPTER INC. IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA.

The property usage has been very low, and the board of directors voted on May 6, 2025, to proceed with selling the property. The Chapter has identified a real estate company in the area of the property to assist the Chapter in selling the property. The president was given the authority to accept and proceed with valid offers by the board of directors on April 7, 2026.

The Chapter was informed an offer had been made on the property with a price of \$250,000.00.

Shenandoah Property continued on page 4.



Chapter Contact Information

Chapter Officers

<i>President</i>	Pamela Meara	703-362-7293
<i>Vice President</i>	Brian Hickerson	703-926-5711
<i>Secretary</i>	Bruce Crandlemire	703-743-1332
<i>Treasurer</i>	Bob Crisman	703-727-1946
<i>Membership Chairman</i>	Jeff Tackett	703-631-4495

Chapter Directors

<i>Air Range</i>	Keith Kuck	703-405-8935
<i>Conservation</i>	Jack Scheible	703-963-6059
<i>Education & Training</i>	John Seaberg	703-830-9365
<i>Field Archery</i>	Dick Riemer	703-543-8585
<i>Rifle-Pistol</i>	Chip Chidester	703-966-7369
<i>Skeet & Trap</i>	Bob Brino	703-368-4934
<i>Target Archery</i>	Jeff Del Vecchio	757-813-7545
<i>Youth Activities</i>	Joseph Turner	703-628-4808
<i>Directors-at-Large</i>	Bill Clayton	703-956-0667
	Benn Crandall	703-606-4979
	Mark Gauntner	703-943-9946
	John Hsu	571-233-3501
	Tom Pike	703-802-0740
	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 Twichell	571-225-0989
<i>Bullseye Pistol League</i>	Rich Sirois	401-365-8950
<i>Bylaws</i>	Mark Gauntner	703-943-9946
<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>	Tom Pike	571-8020740
<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>Pond Manager</i>	Brian Hickerson	703-926-5711
<i>Public Relations</i>	<i>Vacant</i>	
<i>Service Rifle Matches</i>	Paul Kent	703-631-4496
<i>Scholarship</i>	Sean Gagnon	703-631-4495
<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

<i>Pamela Meara</i>	Editor-in-Chief
<i>Tim Terrell</i>	Copy Editor
<i>Ellen MacBrayne</i>	Design & Production

Field House Phone Numbers

<i>Chapter field house</i>	703-631-4495
<i>Rifle-Pistol field house</i>	703-631-4496
<i>Skeet & Trap field house</i>	703-631-4497
<i>Field Archery field house</i>	703-631-4498
<i>Sills Air Range</i>	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.
Saturdays9 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

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



Save the Date Chapter Annual Family Picnic

Saturday, September 12, 2026

Gates open at 10 a.m., Lunch at 12 noon

Admission is FREE to All Who Attend

Bring your family & friends to this great event. Come out early and enjoy your Chapter, take a walk, do some fishing, or JUST RELAX.

Food & Fun for ALL

We will do the cooking, all you have to do is load your plate:

- Chicken • Hamburgers & Hot Dogs •
- Potato Salad/Coleslaw • Baked Beans •
- Ice-Cold Beverages •

For more information please contact: Bob Brino at 703-368-4934



E-Newsletter and Action Alert Sign-up

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://iwla.org/join-renew/>.

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)

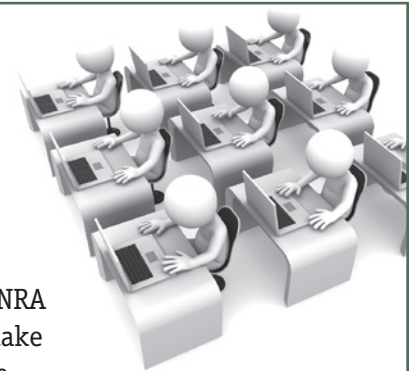
With extended hours reserved for staff and special scheduled events, such as camping activities, as needed.

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

Education & Training NRA Course Updates

The 2026 Education & Training schedule for NRA courses is available. Make sure you check out the schedule on the Web site:

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



Shenandoah Property continued from page 1.

The Chapter has accepted the offer of \$250,000.00 on April 16, 2026, with a closing date of June 5, 2026. Anticipated proceeds will be \$220,000.00 after taxes, closing costs, and fees.

Upon completion of the sale of the property, the board of directors is looking to use those funds to help start the upgrade process for the Rifle-Pistol Range as the current baffle system needs to be overhauled, the berm needs to be upgraded, and we are looking to possibly reconfigure the range to put in a short range.

The description of the property sold by the Chapter is below:

The Chapter owned 50.275 acres in Shenandoah County, Virginia, that was acquired in 1997 from the closure of the Annandale-Springfield Chapter, IWLA. The property is located south of VA 48/55, John Marshall Highway, northwest of Strasbourg, about 8 miles west of I-81 Exit 296 on VA 48/55. Shenandoah County Tax Map #: 007A011. The property is entirely wooded with no running water/streams or wells. The primary use of the property has been for hunting, hiking, and camping.

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://iwla.org/> and click on the SHOP button at top of page.

ATTENTION!

Chapter Pond — Fishing policy — Operating with Catch & Release Policy in effect. We follow all Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) regulations. See <https://dwr.virginia.gov/>.

Shooting is prohibited anywhere on Chapter grounds except at the designated shooting ranges.

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.



Check the Chapter Calendar

Just a quick reminder to all of our new members as well as those of us who have been enjoying our great Chapter for years. Before you head out to any of our ranges, take a moment to check the Chapter online calendar to make sure the range is open. The Rifle-Pistol range as well as the Skeet & Trap range are manned by volunteers. Although rare, sometimes an emergency pops up and a volunteer won't be able to cover their duty and for safety reasons, the range will be closed. When we know about it in advance, we will post it on the Chapter calendar saving you a trip. By the way, you can access the Chapter calendar by using the search engine on the homepage of the Chapter Web site.

ARL-FX IWLA Membership Notes

Important Membership News!

Renewal season opens on October 15, 2026, and continues until December 31, 2026, for the upcoming 2027 season. Come into the office during normal business hours and renew your membership. **WE LOVE WALK INS!!!** You can also renew your membership by clicking the link on the Chapter's home page under announcements or membership. Online renewals incur a sizable service fee for payment by credit card. We prefer checks or exact cash to be mailed or brought to the membership office during office hours.

The new membership director, Jeff Tackett, took office in March and is trying to make some changes to make the process as efficient as possible.

Membership Office Hours

The membership office is located in the Chapter field house and is open every Tuesday from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. and every Saturday from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. (except holidays). We are always looking for volunteers to help with administrative work in the office, especially during the membership renewal season. We will open renewals October 15, 2026, for the upcoming 2027 year.

Volunteer-Volunteer-Volunteer!

Arlington-Fairfax Chapter is the largest chapter in the nation with over 2,200 members. We do not have any full-

time paid employees. This Chapter is run by volunteers giving their time and expertise. Every new member is required to volunteer at least six (6) hours to obtain full membership. It is our hope every member will volunteer as many hours as feasible to ensure our Chapter continues to operate for years to come.

Membership Notes

All permanent, white metal, range badges must now be picked up from the membership office during normal office hours. The membership office is no longer mailing any permanent range badges. All new members who have completed their mandatory, six (6) hours of volunteer service must come to the office and pick up their permanent range badge during normal business hours. If you lose your permanent range badge, you can purchase a new one from the membership office during normal business hours. A \$10 fee is required, payable by cash or check only.

If you have any questions about membership or want to know about volunteer opportunities, please call the membership office at 703-631-4495 or e-mail us at memberships@arlingtonfairfax-iwla.org.

—Jeff Tackett, Membership Director

Help Wanted ASSISTANT TREASURER

The treasurer is looking for someone with financial management experience to assist the treasurer with Chapter financial operations.

The needed assistance includes banking—deposits, transfers, payments—working with the membership director and staff to track and deposit dues, assisting with financial advisory committee efforts, helping to establish the Chapter's annual operating budget, assist with preparation of the annual IRS Form 990 submission, and other financial-related duties.

A working knowledge of QuickBooks is highly desirable as well as the usual programs such as Excel, Word, etc.

Additionally, this will require filling in for the treasurer in the event of their absence.

Anyone interested in participating should contact the treasurer, Bob Crisman, by e-mail to Bob.Crisman@arlingtonfairfax-iwla.org.

By the way, you'll receive credit for 8 hours of volunteer work worth \$50 off your next membership renewal.

 **SIGN UP!**

 **SignUpGenius®**

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

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 (see page 12).

SOS Web Links

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

<https://iwla.org/save-our-streams/>.

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:

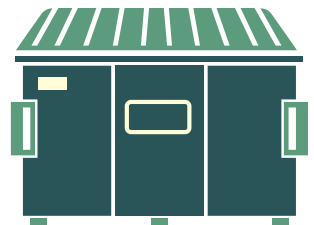
- Gather important data in our local area;
- Work with other engaged volunteers;
- Get first-hand knowledge of water quality in the streams monitored.

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.

Save Our Streams

The Izaak Walton League's Save Our Streams (SOS) program trains volunteers to collect and bring information about water quality to their communities. SOS is the only nationwide training of its kind. SOS includes stream monitoring and nitrate watch and salt watch activities. Stream monitoring involves volunteers placing a net in a stream to collect macroinvertebrates in the water, identifying the type and total of each macroinvertebrate type, and then determining the water quality of a stream based on applying metrics to this data. Nitrate and salt data is gathered using test strips.

The original IWLA stream monitoring protocol for use throughout the country was modified in Virginia to be a more region-specific protocol and called VA SOS, managed through IWLA SOS. This began as the Rocky Bottom protocol (streams with four or more ripples) but evolved to also include a Muddy Bottom protocol for streams in the Eastern Piedmont region of Virginia (generally streams east of the I-95 corridor) or streams that have less than four ripples. The protocols are used for monitoring in the Chesapeake Watershed, and the data is made available to the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative and submitted to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) by IWLA.

A Chapter SOS event was held on April 11, 2026, with a good turnout of members. A portion of Cub Run stream registered to the Chapter was monitored. Boots were provided to volunteers who needed them. Tables, nets, gloves, trays, tweezers, magnifiers, macroinvertebrate identification aids and other items were provided to support volunteers collecting and identifying stream macroinvertebrates. Volunteers were split into small groups for separate stream monitoring and each group gathered macroinvertebrates, identified and counted each, and

completed forms used to tally the macroinvertebrate data for calculation of the stream quality. On this day the water quality of the stream was calculated to be acceptable. The stream was also tested for nitrate and salt. All data was entered into the Clean Water Hub database. All members in attendance enjoyed the experience as did the youth who attended. If any Chapter members are interested in SOS activities, please send an e-mail to: Arlfxsos@gmail.com.

—Fred Bailey



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

The Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) program was established in 1988 by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and now each year thousands of volunteers pick up litter along roads and highways in Virginia generating over 25,000 bags of trash. These volunteer efforts save Virginia over a million dollars in road cleanup costs. In the program, individuals or groups pick up litter and recyclables along an assigned stretch of road. Highway signs that give recognition to the name of the individual or group are usually posted at each end of the assigned stretch of road. The ARL-FX Chapter of IWLA has been participating in VDOT's AAH program since 2008. ARL-FX Chapter AAH events are usually held 2-4 times a year typically in the spring and in the fall. The conservation director had a conflict so in response to his request I agreed to lead a Chapter AAH activity on April 18, 2026. Long time former Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Steve Rumble joined me to help lead this first Chapter AAH cleanup of 2026. This quiet Saturday morning with mild temperatures was a perfect day for a nice early morning walk with fellow Chapter member volunteers while helping the Chapter and the community by picking up litter. The volunteers completed a cleanup of the stretch of road assigned to our Chapter, while enjoying the walk. The volunteers spent approximately 2.5 hours performing the cleanup. We collected eight bags of litter having a total weight of 89 pounds, and also found one tire.

Please consider volunteering for future AAH cleanups when posted on SignUpGenius. This is great exercise, earns you volunteer credits, helps the Chapter conservation efforts and provides a huge service to the community. Members can bring nonmembers such as family and guests and will get credit for their volunteer hours added to yours. High visibility safety vests, bright orange garbage bags, gloves, and litter pickup grabbers (minimizing the



need to bend over) are all provided. Thank you to all of the volunteers who came out on April 18!

—Fred Bailey

Town of Vienna Green Expo 2026

For the second year in a row, I attended and provided info on IWLA Nitrate Watch and Salt Watch programs at the annual Town of Vienna Green Expo held this year on April 23, 2026. The Expo brings sustainable living to life where plant guidance, live animals, and expert tips on sustainable practices were among the numerous 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. There were over 40 different organizations and businesses represented at the Expo.

On the Chapter IWLA table I had separate poster boards for Salt Watch and for Nitrate Watch, which I had prepared, that displayed information about these IWLA programs.

Also, this year on the IWLA table I put together a series of photos that visually illustrated each step of the stream monitoring process used for determining the stream

Vienna Expo continued on page 9

Rifle-Pistol Range

Bull Run Muzzle Loaders

The Bull Run Muzzle Loaders (BRML) as a charter club of the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association (NMLRA) exists to promote, support, nurture, and preserve our nation's rich historical heritage in the sport of muzzleloading through recreational, educational, historical, and cultural venues such as match competition, hunting, gun making and safety, historical reenactments, exhibits, museums, libraries, and other related programs.

As an association founded upon our heritage of early American guns, we declare our support of the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

We are dedicated to: The understanding of, and the ability in, marksmanship with early American muzzleloading guns. Match promotion for the purpose of advancing fine accuracy with these arms and the establishment of standard practices for competition. The recognition and support for the continuing and growing interest in the added challenge of hunting with a muzzleloading gun. Greater safety with all guns, especially with muzzleloading rifles, pistols, and shotguns. The collecting, preservation, and recreation of antique guns and related accoutrements, and the recognition

of the value of living-history reenactments. The promotion, support, preservation, and education about our nation's rich historical heritage in the use and sport of muzzleloading.

BRML meets on the third Sunday of every month from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. However, expect the unexpected because the Schutzenmeister delights in selecting challenging targets and conditions. Any safe muzzle loader (flintlock, caplock, side slapper, under hammer, fire lock, match lock, wheel lock, inline) may be used. Iron sights (open, battle peep, aperture) only, no scopes or optics are permitted. Spotting scopes may be used to check targets.

BRML members have worked with various Scouting groups teaching safety, use, and marksmanship with muzzleloading firearms. They have been, and were in 2026, present at the Women On Target events.

If you have a new muzzle loader and want to learn, are just curious, or have an old muzzle loader you want to check out, come on out and join us. If you're checking out a muzzle loader, sighting in, or testing a load, you're welcomed. You don't have to join the competition. There's plenty of advice and help available.

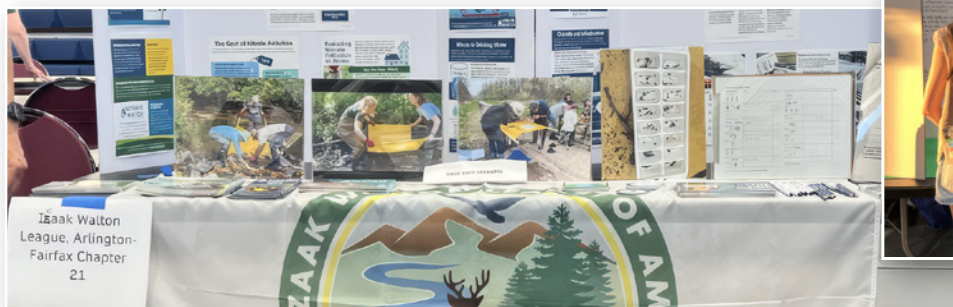
Vienna Ezpo continued from page 8.

water quality, instead of the stream-monitoring slideshow that continuously played on a tablet that I used last year.

Postcards, stickers, pens and pencils on Nitrate Watch, Salt Watch, and Save Our Streams were also on the table for the taking by the attendees. This year I also included a number of different macroinvertebrate stickers that were popular with the youth in attendance. Hopefully the community is now more educated about these IWLA Save Our Streams programs.

I have been informed that next year's event has already been scheduled for April 22, 2027, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center. The 22nd also happens to be Earth Day.

—Fred Bailey



Kings Park ES Earth Day Event

At the request of the IWLA National Mid-Atlantic Save Our Streams (SOS) Coordinator, I agreed to run an information table on SOS programs at the Kings Park ES Earth Day event on April 22, 2026. The challenge was finding a way to educate and entertain students ranging in age from 5-9 years old. Poster boards with information would not do it. Therefore, an exhibit was created and used to help illustrate the stream monitoring process. The exhibit included a net, slightly raised on one end, with small photos of macroinvertebrates on the net simulating bugs caught in the net, a blue cloth at the other end of the net simulating the stream, the cloth having rocks on it (rocks in the water), and photos of bugs attached to the rocks with Velcro (allowing rubbing of the rocks to dislodge the bugs in the net). Photos of the stream monitoring steps and aids used in the process (e.g., bug ID info and forms) were also placed on the table in front of the exhibit.

When attendees stopped by the IWLA table, I explained the stream monitoring process using the exhibit and the photos. Students were allowed to handle the rocks with the bugs on them and rub them off into the net. Both student and adult attendees made it clear to me that they had a good understanding of the process when they left the table.

I also included the following on the table: (1) a few numbered vials containing real macroinvertebrates for viewing, along with a sheet next to them with the numbers and associated names of the macroinvertebrates; (2) a Critter Cubes game that simulates catching macroinvertebrates in a net, then calculating the stream quality; and (3) stickers of different types of macroinvertebrates, which were

given out. The game comprises shaking a container with 9 cubes inside, each cube having pictures of different macroinvertebrates on all sides, then dumping them out onto a table. The pictures on the cubes that face up simulate the bugs that would be found in the net if collected from a stream. Students identify, count and determine the stream quality using the same ID aids and forms used in real stream monitoring. The game came be played several times to illustrate how different collections of bugs may yield different water quality results.

My table was busy but I was happy to have been able to expose and educate so many youth and adults on the Virginia Save Our Streams water quality monitoring process.

—Fred Bailey



Women on Target Clinic

On May 16, 2026, the Arlington-Fairfax Chapter, Inc., of the Isaac Walton League of America proudly hosted its 23rd annual Women on Target event. This year's program welcomed 36 women, ranging in age from 14 to 79, highlighting the broad appeal of this unique educational experience. Participants traveled from across the region—including Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, Washington, D.C., and Kentucky—to take part in the day's activities.

The event brought together women of all experience levels. For some, it was their first introduction to firearms, while others brought backgrounds in law enforcement or military service. This wide range of experience helped create a supportive and encouraging environment where participants could learn at their own pace and build confidence.

First launched in 1999, Women on Target instructional shooting clinics are designed to provide a safe, welcoming, and educational introduction to shooting sports. Each clinic is uniquely tailored by its host organization. The Arlington-Fairfax Chapter, Inc., IWLA, program offers an especially comprehensive experience. Participants were able to explore a variety of disciplines, including rifle and pistol shooting, shotgun, air rifle and pistol, and field archery.

In addition to hands-on instruction, attendees had the opportunity to participate in classroom sessions covering important topics such as Refuse to Be a Victim®, Legal Aspects of Self-Defense, Firearms and the Law, buying and caring for a firearm, and home firearm safety. A highlight of the program is the legal instruction, led by a retired Fairfax County judge, offering valuable real-world insight.

The event fee included all necessary equipment and materials, as well as a T-shirt, swag



2026 WoT continued on page 15.

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 2026 are:

Sarah Smith, Don Early, Ken Brumback, Jorge Gonzalez, and Jim Kerrigan. (Awarded at the May 19, 2026, general membership meeting.)

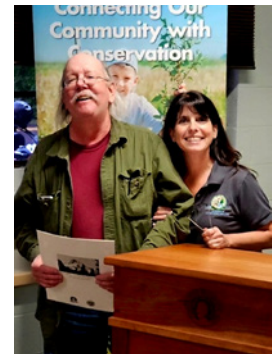


The Judge John W. Tobin Award

Chapter members Art Twichell (top photo) and Marvin Hick (bottom) each received a 2026 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 Art and Marvin.

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.

For more information about the Judge Tobin Award and other IWLA awards, visit the National IWLA Web site at <https://www.iwla.org/chapter-resources/awards>.



The 2026 Charter Organization of the Year

On May 29, 2026, the Arlington-Fairfax Chapter, Inc., IWLA, was presented the Charter Organization of the Year award from the Cub Run District of Scouting America National Capital Area Council, by District Chairman Carlos Vallejo. The award presented follows:

"Your unwavering support of multiple Cub Scout Packs, Scouts BSA Troops, and Venturing Crews has made a lasting impact on the youth across our District. Through your partnership, you have helped provide a strong foundation where Scouts can grow in leadership, character, and service.

"We are especially grateful for your commitment to developing future generations of conservation-minded leaders. By opening your property for service projects, you provide invaluable hands-on opportunities for Scouts to give back to the community while learning the importance of environmental stewardship. Additionally, your continued support of the Annual Twilight Summer Camp has created meaningful and memorable experiences for Cub Scouts from across our District and Council.

"Your dedication exemplifies the very best of what a Charter Organization represents—community

partnership, mentorship, and a shared commitment to youth development.

"We sincerely thank you for your continued partnership and the profound impact you have on Scouting. It is with great appreciation that we present this award in recognition of your exceptional support of the Cub Run District.

"Thank you for your commitment to service and to the youth we proudly serve."
—Carlos Vallejo



Pictured: Tom Pike, Carlos Vallejo, and Jeff Tackett



Skeet & Trap Range

The 2026 Winter Skeet & Trap League Season Award Winners

After a whole month delay due to the snowy winter, the 2026 season of the Winter Skeet & Trap League finally ended on April 26th. As in past seasons, the final standings were determined during the very last matches. The league fielded 28 teams this season with 167 full-time members and 61 substitute shooters participating. The weekly matches were all conducted safely and efficiently due to the many contributions made by the league members in maintaining the range facilities.



The Winter Skeet & Trap League has been conducted for well over 30 years, providing the Chapter with a family oriented recreational shooting activity. In addition to the competitive nature of the league, it also offers members of all ability levels the opportunity to improve their shotgun shooting skills. The winter league is one of the largest and longest Chapter events conducted each year. The season begins in early January and runs for 13 weeks.

Shooters of all skill levels are welcome to participate in the league. Since its inception, over 1,000 shooters have been regular members with hundreds more participating as substitute shooters. Over this period, a total of 2,363,475 targets were attempted by the regular league shooters. Of these, 1,739,910 were scored as hits equating to an overall average of 18.404 out of 25. When combined with the substitutes, a total of 2,371,125 targets have been thrown in league competition.

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. Evan Phelps took the honors for High Skeet Average with an impressive 24.167 hitting 290 of 300 targets. Right behind him for Skeet

Runner-up was Derek Vacco, with a 24.000 average. In Trap, the High Average winner was Travis Rockwood, ending the season with an average of 24.000, hitting 288 of 300 targets. The runner-up for high trap was Kan Nawabi, coming in with a 23.250 average. In the Most Improved category, Davis McKinney captured the award for the most improved combined average from last season of 4.546 targets.

Team awards were awarded to the ten squads that recorded the highest season cumulative team scores. This year, Captain Mike Whitmore led his Team 25 to a season score of 2,383.304 to lock down the 1st place award. Team 9 was close behind in the 2nd place slot with a score of 2,374.842 led by Captain Brian Hickerson. Third place was won by Team 22 with a score of 2,367.156 with Captain Randolph Williams at the helm. Captain Ashly Palles' Team 27 captured 4th place coming in with a score of 2,363.454. The 5th place finisher was Captain James Hsu's Team 14 with a score of 2,359.745. Rounding out the top ten were Team 24 led by Captain Rohit Dean in 6th place, Team 18 led by Captain Bart Bennett in 7th place, Team 21 led by Captain Jim Scites in 8th place, Team 1 led by Captain John Seaberg in 9th place, and Team 26 led by Captain Jeff Bernhard in 10th place.

Congratulations to all of our 2026 award winners and special thanks to Bob Brino, the Skeet & Trap range director, from all the league members for his hospitality and hard work in keeping the ranges operational. The 2027 Winter League season will begin to form up this fall with the first week of competition scheduled for Sunday, January 10th.

Contact John Seaberg, the league chairman, via e-mail at jseaberg@cox.net for more information.



CRUSH'N CLAYS®

Crush'n Clays to Help Fight Childhood Cancer—June 2026

On June 13, 140 shooters assembled at the Chapter Skeet & Trap range to help fund the fight against childhood cancer.

They pitched in by participating in Crush'n Clays, a trapshooting event benefiting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. It is the longest-running shooting event supporting St. Jude and the longest-running charity shooting event in the country. St. Jude, located in Memphis, Tennessee, treats children who have cancer and other catastrophic illnesses.

Crush'n Clays, cohosted by the Arlington-Fairfax Chapter, Inc., IWLA (ARL-FX) and the Virginia Shooting Sports Association (VSSA), raised more than \$35,000 for the hospital (final figures were not yet available). Prior to this year, Crush'n Clays had raised more than \$440,000 to support St. Jude.

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

The conditions could not have been much better, with plenty of sunshine and temperatures in the high 80s. Shooters were spared the high heat, humidity, and severe weather that had settled into the Washington area for a week prior.

The day started with a shotgun clinic for new shooters conducted by Scott Petitto. It set the right tone by emphasizing safety first and helped the novices get accustomed to handling a shotgun. Later, under

Scott's tutelage, St. Jude Area Managing Director Erwin Stierle, Jr., crushed his first clay target during the break between events.

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.

VSSA 1, composed of Lee Atkins, J.R. Windfield, Mike Katsarelis, and Joe Turner, won the team award by breaking 135 of the 150 targets. Tony Graves, who broke 49 out of his 50 targets, was the High Overall winner.

As usual, the Annie Oakley side event was popular with participants all day. There were nearly 100 entries, with many shooters competing multiple times. Half of the entry fees from each group participating in the long-distance shoot-off went to St. Jude, with the other half of the pot going to the last shooter standing in the single-elimination competition. The winning shooters donated more than 85 percent of their prize money to St. Jude.

Crush'n Clays continued on page 15.



2026 ARL-FX Chapter Skeet & Trap Shoot Dates

Skeet-Shoot Dates

Stonewall Open August 7–9
Tater Salad Open August 28–30

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

Trap-Shoot Dates

Jeff Miller Memorial Corn Shoot September 6
IWLA Open Trap Shoot October 4

Note: Shoot dates subject to change. Check Chapter online calendar.

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

Crush'n Clays continued from page 14.

More than \$2,000 was raised through the annual 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 goes out to Mary Bergman, who sang the national anthem to start the day's festivities.

Special thanks also must be given to the event sponsors: Virginia Shooting Sports Association; Arlington-Fairfax Chapter, Inc., IWLA; D&F Construction; Suburban Electric; Tony's NY Pizza; Equipment Works; Mid-Atlantic SCI Chapter; The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company; ARL-FX Education & Training; Carter Machinery Company, Inc.; NOVEC Helps; Clark Brothers; Sloper's Stitch House; Ray's Guns; Deem Printing; Veros Technologies; General Dynamics; ASPIS Protection Service; L2 Construction;

and The Gilbert Family. All of them played a crucial role in promoting a successful event.

Thank you to all the volunteers. Without their help we would not be able to pull this event off.

Last, but certainly not least: a special thanks to Bob Brino for all his many hours of hard work and dedication in pulling this event together. Without his tireless efforts, this event would not be what it is today.

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.

—Sean Moores

2026 WoT continued from page 11.

bag, snacks, beverages, and a catered lunch—ensuring a comfortable and enjoyable experience for all participants.

Women on Target continues to be a valued and well-supported program within the community. In addition to empowering participants with new skills and knowledge, it reflects the dedication of the Chapter's Education and Training team and its volunteers, whose enthusiasm and commitment help make this event a continued success year after year.



—Sarah Smith,
2026 Chapter NRA
Woman On Target
Director

Skeet & Trap Range

I want to send a REMINDER to all members that the Skeet & Trap ranges are OPEN during the week.

Range — Hours of Operation

Monday 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Wednesday 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Sunday 12 noon – 5 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Hope to see you out there.

—Bob Brino, Director Skeet & Trap

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://](http://va-iwla.org/)
va-iwla.org/



The 2026 Annual Picnic and Fishing Derby for Children and Adults with Disabilities

The 2026 Annual Picnic and Fishing Derby for Children and Adults with Disabilities got off to a chilly start, with temperatures in the high 50s. Fortunately, the sun was shining, and no rain was forecast for the rest of the day.

Volunteers arrived early to prepare for the event by firing up the grill, cleaning and decorating the pavilion, and making final arrangements. Fishing rods had been prepared ahead of time and were neatly lined up, ready for casting. Our air rifle and outdoor archery ranges were also set up, complete with balloons for guests to practice their aim and try something new.

We were thrilled with this year's large turnout. As guests began to arrive, many headed straight to Gilbert's Pond to start fishing, while others relaxed under the pavilion. Meanwhile, our master chef, Don Cotchen, grilled delicious hamburgers and hot dogs, which were served alongside fresh salads and snacks by our enthusiastic volunteers.

Fishing was exceptional this year, thanks to the extensive preparation and lessons learned from previous events. Everyone caught fish, and several anglers reeled in some humongous rainbow trout. Smiles were everywhere as participants proudly pulled fish from the water and shared in the excitement.

The only complaint we heard came from the air rifle and archery ranges, whose volunteers joked they were bored due to low attendance, as most guests chose to spend their time fishing.

Fishing continued throughout the afternoon before everyone gathered back at the pavilion for the Fishing Derby awards ceremony. Prizes were presented for the largest fish caught, the most fish caught, and the most enthusiastic participant.

What began as a chilly morning turned into a warm and charming day. The smiles, laughter, and excitement never faded, creating lasting memories for everyone involved.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to all the dedicated volunteers who made this event possible. Your energy, generosity, and hard work brought joy to so many guests and their families. Because of your efforts, another successful Fishing Derby was enjoyed by all.

—John Hsu



Outdoor/Indoor Archery

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



The Archery 101 classes will take place in the indoor archery range. This one-day class is 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 (9) 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. Cash or check made out to AFC-Field Archery accepted

Sunday	August 16, 2026	1–3:30 p.m.
Sunday	September 20, 2026	1–3:30 p.m.
Sunday	October 18, 2026	1–3:30 p.m.
Sunday	November 15, 2026	1–3:30 p.m.

To register for the class e-mail Dick Riemer at rriemer@cox.net or by phone at 703-543-8585.

Archery 201 Classes

The Archery 201 classes are taught by members of ARL-FX Chapter's Cub Run Archers. The classes are held in the indoor archery range. These sessions are held on five consecutive Sunday nights, excluding holidays. There are two time slots, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. and 7 – 8 p.m. with a maximum of 11 students in each time slot. These are mixed age classes so families can learn archery together. All archery equipment is provided so there is not any initial equipment expense to participate. During the last two nights, we encourage the use of personal equipment if the student has already purchased it. **The fee for the five-night class is \$150.**

The class is taught using the USA Archery 11-step instruction model, then the 1-2-3 method. We first concentrate on shooting form. Then we build upon this foundation with each lesson, so by the end of the five-week class, the student has the total archery shooting package. Safety and range rules are taught the first night and reviewed before each class along with warm-ups and stretching. The class will cover the different types of archery equipment used, archery safety, purchasing of equipment, and live shooting. We try to have a 1:3 coach to student ratio so the student gets the best coaching we can provide.

Coach Mark Gauntner demonstrates proper shooting form.

Archery 201 Schedule

Classes:	5-week sessions (Sundays, excluding holidays)
Fall Session Starts:	September 13, 2026
Youth:	Ages 9–12; 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Adult:	Ages 13 & up; 7 – 8 p.m.
Class Fee:	\$150.00

NOTE: All under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian

Contact: Mark Gauntner for registration at gauntneriwla201@gmail.com.



ARL-FX IWLA Cub Run Archers

For those Chapter members who are interested in competing in Virginia Bowhunters Association (VBA) archery events, the Chapter established a VBA group called Cub Run Archers so field archery tournaments could be held at the Chapter. VBA is the representative for bowhunters throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Applications to join Cub Run Archers are available at the Field Archery field house. For more information, please contact Stan Briczinski, secretary, Cub Run Archers, by e-mail at sbriczinski@gmail.com.

Deer Processing Station

For Chapter deer hunters who would like to process their deer, the deer processing station is 20 yards off the Field Archery deck. The area is lighted and has running water from a garden hose located by the deck entrance. You will need to bring trash bags with you for proper disposal of all parts of the carcass. *When finished be sure to wash the area down completely, putting all remains in plastic bags before placing them into any dumpster. During cold weather, when finished be sure to drain the hose of water to keep it from freezing. Please leave the area cleaner than you found it.*

Field Archery Sign-In Stations

Before starting to shoot outdoors, members must sign in at the outdoor range sign-in station. For the indoor archery range, sign in at the desk. For any family member wanting to shoot, who lives in the same household, a **GUEST LIABILITY RELEASE FORM MUST BE FILLED OUT TO SHOOT ARCHERY**. Members with a guest who lives outside the household, a \$10 guest fee is in place. Place the \$10 in the liability release form, fold, and place in drop box. **Signing in and filling out the Guest Liability Release Form for your family member or outside guest before starting to shoot is a IWLA CHAPTER REQUIREMENT AT ALL RANGES.**

—*Dick Riewer*, Field Archery Director

Troop 1137 Welcomes New Scouts, Completes Service Project at Archery Range

On April 17-19, Troop 1137 held its annual New Scout Campout, a weekend dedicated to welcoming our newest members and introducing them to the outdoors. Beyond mastering foundational skills like first aid and knot tying, the Scouts spent their Saturday morning giving back to the community. By clearing brush and mulching the Chapter Archery Range, they practiced the core Scouting value of "Service to Others" in a tangible way. Under the guidance of our senior Scouts and leaders, the new Scouts mastered essential skills like knife safety and fire building, continuing the tradition

of mentorship within the troop. The weekend concluded with laughter around a traditional campfire, marking the beginning of their journey toward leadership and character development.



 **SIGN UP!**


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

WANTED

OLD ISSUES of the Chapter newsletters prior to 2003.

Send paper copies or scanned copies.

Contact:

ARLFXIWL@
gmail.com

**SPEED
LIMIT
10**

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 2026

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
General Membership Meeting	3rd Tuesday of each month	FH
Bullseye Pistol League—Rimfire Matches	1st Sunday	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 1	FH
Stonewall Open Skeet Shoot	August 7–9	ST
Buck Buster 3D Archery Shoot	Sunday, August 9	FA
101 Archery Class	Sunday, August 16	FA
Rifle-Pistol Short Range Day	Sunday, August 23 & 30	RP
Tater Salad Open Skeet Shoot	August 28–30	ST
New Member Orientation	Saturday, September 5	FH
Jeff Miller Corn Registered Trap Shoot	Sunday, September 6	ST
Chapter Annual Picnic	Saturday, September 12	LP
Archery 201 Class (5 Weeks)—Start	Sunday, September 13	FA
101 Archery Class	Sunday, September 20	FA
Newsletter Article Submission Deadline	Tuesday, September 22	
Rifle-Pistol Short Range Day	Sunday, September 27	RP
New Member Orientation	Saturday, October 3	FH
IWLA Open Registered Trap Shoot	Sunday, October 4	ST
101 Archery Class	Sunday, October 18	FA
Rifle-Pistol Short Range Day	Sunday, October 25	RP
New Member Orientation	Saturday, November 7	FH
Rifle-Pistol Short Range Day	Sunday, November 22 & 29	RP
New Member Orientation	Saturday, December 5	FH
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.



Arlington-Fairfax Chapter, Inc.
Izaak Walton League of America
Post Office Box 366
Centreville, VA 20122-0366

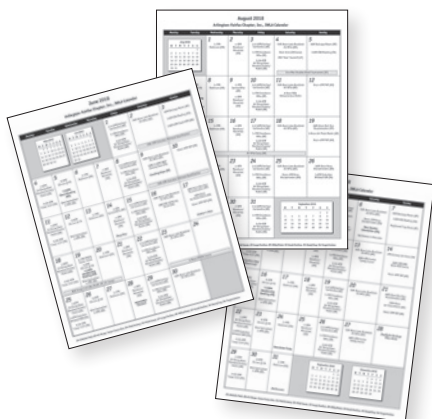
Return Service Requested

PLACE
STAMP
HERE



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/>