



FREDERICK CHAPTER NO. 1  
THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

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# NEWSLETTER

April 2023

|  |  |                                     |                                   |  |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>President</b><br>Michael Morgan         | <b>Vice President</b><br>Tracy Hickman     | <b>Secretary</b><br>Ronald Colbert  | <b>Treasurer</b><br>Jim Stewart   | <b>Membership Secretary</b><br>Ron Colbert |
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| <b>Newsletter Editor</b><br>Robert Patrick |  |                                     |                                   |  |

## Important Dates

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 03 Apr – Conservation Committee Meeting 6:00 pm | 25 Apr - Sportsman’s Council 7:00 pm      |
| 11 Apr – Board Meeting 6:30 pm                  | 29 Apr – SoS Water Testing, Thurmont 10am |
| 11 Apr – Regular Meeting 7:00 pm                |   |

### Board Meeting Reminder

The Chapter Board of Directors meets each month just prior to the regular Membership Meeting. Members are welcome and encouraged to observe these open meetings which address the business of the Chapter. However, for the Board to effectively and efficiently conduct the meetings, members may not interact with the Board during the meetings. Members may bring up any issues they may have during the Membership Meeting. Thank you for your understanding.

### ACTIVITIES AND FUND RAISING

(Currently in need of Chair person/s)

The **Annual Grounds and Property Cleanup** event was a success!

### CONSERVATION

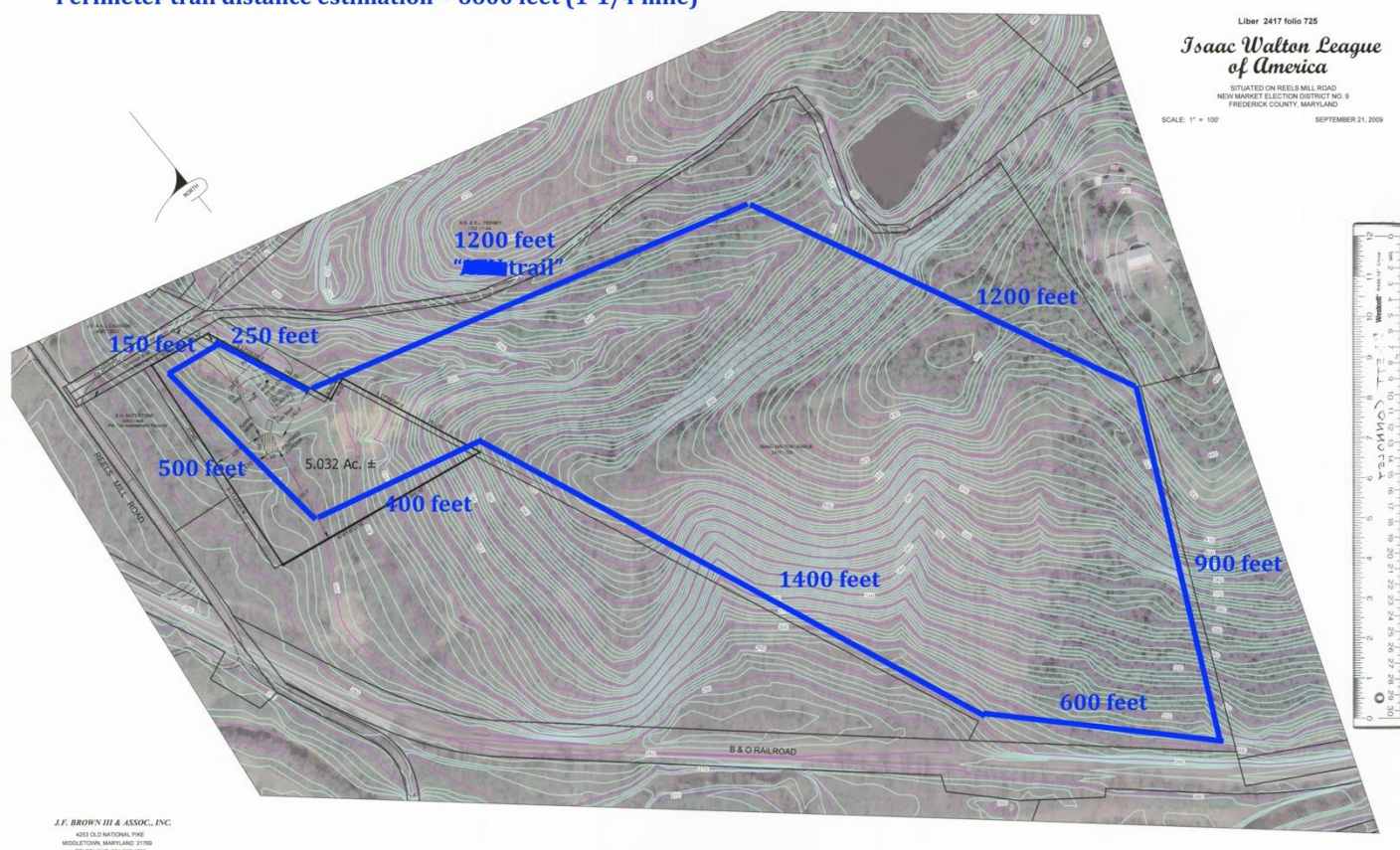
Our Chapter is dedicated to supporting the Izaak Walton League’s strategic goal “To conserve, restore, and promote the sustainable use and enjoyment of our natural resources, including soil, air, woods, waters, and wildlife.”

Our monthly Conservation Committee meeting was held March 6, 2023 at the clubhouse. Next meeting is Monday, April 3, 2023 at 6pm. We will discuss our upcoming April conservation events including macroinvertebrate water testing (4/29), and continued monitoring of the Eastern Bluebird nesting boxes.



A team of Ikes met Sunday morning, March 26, and we successfully connected the Perimeter Trail all around the property from the shooting range to the railroad track, up the hill to the kennels, over to the pond, and back along the stream to the clubhouse again. See the property plat below.

Perimeter trail distance estimation ~ 6600 feet (1-1/4 mile)



Several dead and dangerously leaning trees were felled reducing the risk to members on the trail. There are still some adjustments needed to the trail section parallel to the horse trail, and some color blazes needed to mark the trail. But it was a major milestone achieved for the chapter making the back property more accessible to members and emergency personnel. Plus, the work was an integral part of our forest management and silviculture efforts to support mature trees and bring more sunlight to the interior of the forest in accordance with our property Conservation Easement. Those participating were: John Gallo, Mike Money penny, Matt Lohaus, Mike Morgan, Josh Phipps, Siamak Azhdahakosh, and Preston Wood.



The Save our Streams (SOS) water testing team resumed chemical water testing Saturday, March 25, 2023 at Ballenger Creek. Those present were Steve Meyer, Chris Barrett, Al Manus, and Preston Wood. The results are below:

| LATEST READING                    |                                       |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|                                   | Excellent Good Fair Poor No Threshold |
| Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)           | 11mg/L                                |
| Temperature (Degrees Celsius)     | 15.5°C                                |
| Dissolved Oxygen (%saturation)    | 109%                                  |
| pH Units                          | 7pH                                   |
| Chloride (Cl) (mg/L)              | 43mg/L                                |
| Reactive Phosphate (PO4X3) (mg/L) | 0.1mg/L                               |
| Nitrate (NO3) (mg/L)              | 0.5mg/L                               |
| Transparency (cm)                 | 45cm                                  |

This is our first water test of Ballenger Creek. The team was expecting less than ideal results since the stream is located close to industry and near dense housing developments. However, we were surprised all readings were good to excellent. We were also delighted in the Dissolved Oxygen saturation reading. This bodes well for macroinvertebrates and aquatic life in the creek.

Save Our Streams chemical and macroinvertebrate monitoring will take place at Big Hunting Creek in Thurmont MD on April 29, 2023 at 10am to 1pm. Observers are limited to two persons due to space limitations. Parking is available across the street from Catoctin Mountain Park headquarters (NOT the Visitor Center). Observers should contact Steve Meyer, [stephen.meyer7@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.meyer7@gmail.com) to reserve. Check for future training or monitoring sessions in the monthly chapter newsletter.

Our 2023 water testing schedule (all start 10am):

- March 25, 2023, Chemical Testing @Ballenger Creek
- April 29, 2023, Chemical and Macroinvertebrate Testing @Big Hunting Creek, Thurmont
- May 27, 2023, Chemical Testing @Ballenger Creek
- June 24, 2023, Chemical Testing @Big Hunting Creek, Thurmont
- July 29, 2023, Chemical Testing @Ballenger Creek
- Aug 26, 2023, Chemical Testing @Big Hunting Creek, Thurmont
- Sept 23, 2023, Chemical and Macroinvertebrate Testing @Big Hunting Creek, Thurmont
- Oct 28, 2023, Chemical Testing @Ballenger Creek
- Nov 18, 2023, Chemical Testing @Big Hunting Creek, Thurmont

IWLA Frederick Chapter #1 Save our Streams program provides testing and long-term water chemistry data on select streams in Frederick County Maryland. The Izaak Walton League's Save Our Streams program is the only nationwide program training volunteers to protect waterways from pollution and bring information about water quality to their communities.



The Bluebird nesting season is underway. We are monitoring our Bluebird nesting boxes on a weekly basis looking for occupants noting broodsize and eventual indications of fledging. Our boxes around the Chapter property and the pond are currently empty. But we will keep you posted on any nesting activity. Ikes checking the Bluebird nesting boxes are Preston Wood, Steve Meyer, John Gallo, and Al Manus. If you would like to join in the rotation to check the Eastern Bluebird Nesting boxes, please contact Preston Wood ([woodpreston@yahoo.com](mailto:woodpreston@yahoo.com)) to get on the rotation schedule. Commitment would be roughly once a month from now until September visiting each of the 10 boxes looking for occupancy and brood size, if any, and reporting data collected in the data binder.

If you have ideas for conservation projects, please contact Preston Wood [woodpreston@yahoo.com](mailto:woodpreston@yahoo.com). If you would like to participate in Chapter Conservation Committee activities, please attend our monthly Conservation meeting at the Chapter. Next meeting is this Monday, April 3rd at 6pm.

## **BOOK MANAGEMENT**

Please contact Ben Kelkye for any Bridges of Frederick County book sales.

## **Facilities (Club House) Cleanup and Maintenance**

Join Robert on Thursday evenings at 1630 2-hour general cleanup detail. This will accommodate removing leaves and mud tracked into the Club House and still allow classes to proceed during the day. For more information call 717-752-9369 or email: [Legendrider70@gmail.com](mailto:Legendrider70@gmail.com). Any work hours will be applied to the annual requirement!

## **Courses**

Concealed Carry Permit procedures course each week on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Contact the Range Master for details and sign-up.

Ladies Basic Pistol Course is scheduled for 20-22 April in the Club House.

The full schedule of courses to be conducted at the Chapter house for the year **2023** has been posted online at the **Chapter website at [FrederickIWLA Training Schedule 2023](#)**. This training is conducted to support the Youth Program, and not all courses are endorsed or promoted by the Chapter. However, certain courses are required for members to use the range and hunt on Chapter property. The schedules are posted for the convenience of members in determining the expected status of the range at a particular time, and for selecting courses they may be interested in. Contact Ben Kelkye if you have any questions about the schedule or courses.

YHEC training and competitions begin again. Be supportive in any way you can so that our Youth continue to grow in the knowledge of conservation of our natural resources and the safe shooting sports.

## **2022 YHEC Competition**



## 2022 YHEC Champions

The Senior & Junior Teams took First Place in Maryland for the first time in Chapter history!!! Big shout-out to Coaches and the Team!! They set a high bar for the entire region to reach. Keep up the good work. This was the FIFTH consecutive year for the Senior team!!

## Editor Special Notes

It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve ya'll as the Newsletter Editor for this past year. I will be stepping down and a new Editor will need to be assigned as of the June meeting. I shall continue as the clubhouse janitor and look forward to your continued support with the weekly cleanups and comradery.

Any time you have information or articles you think appropriate for the newsletter, or comments on the newsletter, send them to [newsletter@frederickiwa.org](mailto:newsletter@frederickiwa.org).

We remind you to keep your postal and email address current. Let us know if you're not getting the monthly notice about the Newsletter posting.