



FREDERICK CHAPTER NO. 1
 THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA
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NEWSLETTER

May 2023

President Michael Morgan	Vice President Tracy Hickman	Secretary Ronald Colbert	Treasurer Jim Stewart	Membership Secretary Ron Colbert
Board Member Hiram Escabi	Board Member Michael Money Penny	Board Member Preston Wood	Board Member Ben Kelkye	Board Member Vineet Kewalramani
Newsletter Editor Robert Patrick				

Important Dates

01 May – Conservation Committee Meeting 6:00 pm	23 May - Sportsman’s Council 7:00 pm
09 May – Board Meeting 6:30 pm	06 May – Macroinvertebrate Testing, Thurmont 10am
09 May – Membership Meeting 7:00 pm	27 May – Water Testing, Ballenger Creek 10am

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.

There was a lively and in-depth discussion concerning the Work Requirement associated with Membership. It has been determined that a minor correction to the Bylaws will be forthcoming. Additional discussion on Work Hours reminded everyone to submit their annual Work Hours Cards to Ben for validation and collection by Ron Colbert to Validate membership requirements have been upheld.

Normal work period is 1 Jan – 31 Dec each year. Be prompt in submitting your cards and your privileges will be preserved.

Discussion on and comments to additional areas of work was positively received and will be considered in the bylaws update.

ACTIVITIES AND FUND RAISING

(Currently in need of Chair person/s)

Plans for the Annual Pig Roast are already beginning. Make it a priority to support the Chapter in this major Fund Raising event. This year it scheduled for 24 September at “The Farm”. See you there and best of luck... I won a shotgun last year!

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 April 3, 2023 at the clubhouse. Next meeting is Monday, May 1, 2023 at 6pm. We will discuss lessons learned and review from our April events including the conservation presentation at Sabillasville Environmental School, and planning for May events including macro-invertebrate water testing (5/6), planting Swamp Milkweed in our pollinator garden, and our new Bluebird nesting box checking schedule.

New Conservation Community Partnership



The IWLA Frederick Chapter #1 has a new conservation partnership with [Sabillasville Environmental School \(SES\)](#). SES provides elementary and middle school-aged children in Frederick County with a college and career focused instructional program that develops students' knowledge, reason, and self-expression with a focused curriculum on environmental learning. SES has partnered with Frederick Chapter #1 to collaborate on studying environmental issues and conservation education.

On Friday, April 28th, members of our Frederick Chapter#1 Conservation Committee, Steve Meyer and Chris Barrett, conducted their first in a series of presentations to the SES student body on the Izaak Walton League's [Save Our Streams \(SOS\)](#) program, presented our work, and shared our Chapter's discoveries and methods in stream water and macroinvertebrate testing. Future sessions will include conducting stream testing on the school grounds with SES students, teaching water testing methods and evaluation, analyzing data, and determining next steps in applying conservation principles. Chris and Steve's SOS presentation was well received, and SES faculty is very much in anticipation of their next visit.

[Save our Streams](#) Water Testing

Save Our Streams chemical and macroinvertebrate monitoring at Big Hunting Creek in Thurmont MD was postponed to May 6, 2023 at 10am. Observers are limited to two persons due to space limitations. Parking is available across the street from Catoclin Mountain Park headquarters (NOT the Visitor Center). Observers should contact Steve Meyer, stephen.meyer7@gmail.com to reserve. Check for future training or monitoring sessions in the monthly chapter newsletter.

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

- May 05, 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.

Pollinator Garden

Two pollinator gardens on the Chapter property have been created to support our Mason Bee habitat program providing pollen as food for the Mason bees. Also, the Swamp Milkweed plants will provide breeding habitat for Monarch butterflies which are declining in population. Monarch butterflies prefer to lay eggs on Swamp Milkweed plants which provides food for their larva. Our intention is to cultivate a robust garden of milkweed plants and eventually have butterfly chrysalises that will bolster the Monarch population and can serve as instructional tools for students.





On Tuesday, April 25th, Steve Meyer, Chris Barrett, and Preston Wood installed a garden mesh fence around both gardens to protect the pollinator plants from the deer and other wildlife, yet still provide access to insects as well as Mason bees and Monarch butterflies. Fence materials were sourced and procured by Ben Kelkye. If you would like to help support and cultivate these gardens, please contact Preston Wood at woodpreston@yahoo.com.

Bluebird Nesting Boxes



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. We're looking to implement ways of attracting Bluebirds to the boxes. Ikes checking the Bluebird nesting boxes are Preston Wood, Steve Meyer, John Gallo, Al Manus, and Josh Phipps. If you would like to join in the rotation to check the Eastern Bluebird Nesting boxes, please contact Preston Wood (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 noting any occupancy and brood size and reporting data collected in the data binder.

If you have ideas for conservation projects, please contact Preston Wood 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, May 1st at 6pm.

BOOK MANAGEMENT

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

Facilities (Club House) Cleanup and Maintenance

told you the schedule would change from winter to summer)

This will accommodate removing leaves and mud tracked into the Club House and still allow classes to proceed during the rest of the week. For more information call 717-752-9369 or email: Legendrider70@gmail.com. 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 was conducted 20-22 April with 11 new lady guardians!



Good shooting!!

Boating Safety course was conducted on 27-29 April in the Chapter Club House.

RSO - will be conducted on 20 May

Basic Instructor Training - NRA BIT - 25-27 May

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.

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.