



FREDERICK CHAPTER NO. 1
THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Chapter Web Site: <http://www.frederickiwa.org>
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Chapter Calendar: <http://www.frederickiwa.org/calendar.html>

NEWSLETTER

January 2024

President Michael Morgan	Vice President Tracy Hickman	Secretary Ronald Colbert	Treasurer Jim Stewart	Membership Secretary Ron Colbert
Board Member Hiram Escabi	Board Member Michael Moneypenny	Board Member Preston Wood	Board Member Ben Kelbye	Board Member Vineet Kewalramani
Newsletter Editors Preston Wood, Josh Phipps, Lisa Merriam Send submissions or articles for the newsletter to newsletter@frederickiwa.org . Let us know if you are not receiving the newsletter.				

Important Dates

06 Jan – Rescheduled RSO Class, 7:30am	09 Jan – Membership Meeting, 7pm
09 Jan – Board of Directors Meeting, 6:30pm	14 Jan - Western Maryland Coalitions, 12pm - 3pm



In this week's newsletter: Holiday Dinner Pictures, Mandatory Range SOP Briefings, Conservation Trail Maintenance Project, Sustainable Food Production, New Bat Habitat Program, Archery Hunt, the Chapter on Radio, and much more!

Annual Holiday Dinner



The Frederick #1 Chapter held its Annual Holiday Dinner on Tuesday, December 12, 2023. It was a lovely evening of fellowship, friends, and culinary delights while we reflected on our Chapter Year of conservation, education, youth training, community outreach, and promoting the sustainable use and enjoyment of our natural resources. Thanks to all Ikes who made this social event a great experience. Special thanks to Lisa Merriam, Ben Kelkye, and Dave Carlson for their leadership and hard work organizing, decorating, and cooking for the dinner.



(l to r) Evan and Jesse Benton.



(l to r) Preston Wood and Holden Kewalramani



(l to r) Kishore Vallapureddy, Mike Morgan, Jesse Benton



Lisa Merriam and Ben Kelky



(l to r) Tracey Hickman, John Gallo, Mike Money Penny, Camron Money Penny



(l to r) Lisa Merriam, Hiram Escabi, Dave Carlson



(l to r) Ben Kelkye, Dwayne Asherman, Steve Chado, Mike Morgan, Matt Lohaus



(l to r) Vineet Kewalramani, Kishore Vallapureddy, Mike Morgan

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NEWS

Mandatory Range Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Briefing

Per the Chief Range Safety Officer, there will be a mandatory Gun Range Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Briefing required in January. Dates will be announced. Two briefings will be scheduled.

Chapter Rules Changes & Reminders

The following rule changes were finalized and adopted by Membership vote on November 14th and will take effect January 1, 2024. The main purpose of these changes is to help entice new prospective members to join as well as ease the burden on current members in hopes to maintain .

Objective: To increase membership numbers and club participation by removing barriers which may hinder new members joining, renewing, or actively participating in club activities.

Goal: To distinguish our chapter from what similar clubs in the area can offer its members.

The following take affect *January 1, 2024.*

Hunter Eligibility: Goal is to promote increased participation of those members who take advantage of the club's hunting privileges.

Amend **Section 5:1 – Rules of The Hunt** – to add the following language:

1. Be a member in good standing (dues up to date)
2. Attend (4) or more monthly membership meetings prior to requesting their initial hunt for the season.
3. All hunters are required to complete points requirements regardless of age for the privilege of hunting the property. Members must complete 50% of their required points before they are eligible to sign up or hunt the club property.
4. Delete Section 4:4 – May only hunt once a week. (Section 4:1 Location and Time Selection; already ensures a fair and ordered selection process. Limiting any member to hunt only once a week is arbitrary and capricious.)

Membership Dues Reduction: Goal is to evaluate barriers to new or continued membership with the need for club participation. The objective is to gain new members and maintain legacy members.

1. Introductory New Member 1st year due structure discount of 50% (Attracts new members without the financial burden or risk)

2. Remove any initiation fee. Currently it is \$75.00. (Again, this lessens the financial commitment to new members and potentially brings back old or lapse members who are opposed to having to pay the initiation fee again.)

Service Hour Requirement: Goal is to evaluate barriers to new or legacy members with the objective of increasing membership and participation. The objective is to gain new members and maintain legacy members.

Participation Requirement: Each member (or Family) is required to accrue 12 participation points annually.

1. Members earn 1 point for each monthly membership meeting attended (12 points max).
2. Members can earn 1 point for each sponsored activity attended (12 points max). This includes Conservation activities, Book Management, YHEC, and Course Instruction etc.
3. Members earn 2 points for each quorum critical meetings (Annual Budget & Annual Nominating meeting).
4. Members earn up to 4 points for each chapter designated event attended (Fund Raising, Recruiting, Division Meetings, Etc.). This can be pro-rated to include prep work, set-up, take down and clean-up.
5. Members earn 1 point for every hour they engage in a sponsored chapter workday.
6. Participation Points will be recorded utilizing the chapters established validation process.

Individuals: \$105 (current rate) – **AND-** 12 points earned –**OR-** \$260 (current rate)
Family \$157.50 (current rate) – **AND-** 12 points earned –**OR-** \$315 (current rate)

The Board of Directors would also like remind all members that membership renewals have been mailed out. The Chapter By-Laws have changed to be in line with National rules requiring members to renew memberships by December 31 to remain in good standing.

The Frederick Chapter Board of Directors meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm just prior to the regular Membership Meeting. Members are welcome and encouraged to observe these open meetings which address the business of the Chapter. Members may bring up any issues they may have during the Membership Meeting.

Sustainable Food Production



At current rates, U.S. farmland will lose its remaining topsoil to erosion in a just a few decades. That would be a dangerous outcome for future generations. The U.S. has lost about half of the fertile topsoil that was in place two centuries ago. Worse, modern farming practices are causing us to lose soil 10 times faster than it can naturally be replaced. Without soil health practices to

replenish topsoil across the landscape, we could lose the ability to grow any food at all within our children's lifetime. [Learn more about Sustainable Food Production at this IWLA.org link.](#)

CHAPTER CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

Our Chapter is dedicated to supporting the Izaak Walton League's [Mission Statement](#): "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 meetings are normally held the first Monday of the month; all Chapter members are welcome to attend. Our next meeting is Monday, **February 5, 2024**, at 6pm at the Chapter Clubhouse (no January meeting).



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.

[Save Our Streams](#) monitoring occurs each month from March to November currently alternating between Ballenger Creek and Tuscarora Creek. Check the date and location on our [Chapter calendar](#). Please email stephen.meyer7@gmail.com if you wish to observe or participate. Below are the 2024 test dates:

New Save Our Streams testing dates for 2024:

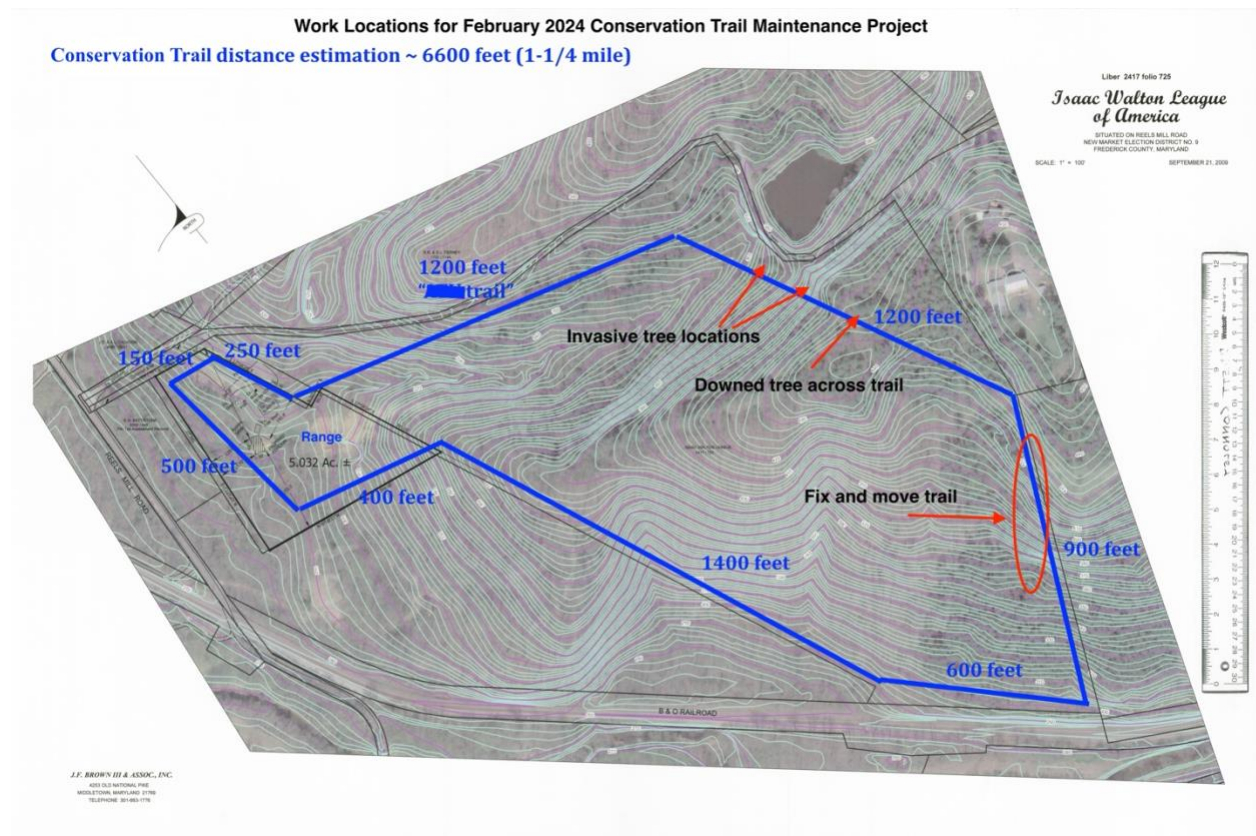
- 10AM Saturday March 30, Ballenger Creek
- 10AM Monday April 29, Tuscarora Creek
- 9AM Saturday May 25, Ballenger Creek includes macroinvertebrates
- 10AM Monday June 29, Tuscarora Creek
- 10AM Saturday July 27, Ballenger Creek
- 10AM Monday August 26, Tuscarora Creek
- 9AM Saturday September 28, Ballenger Creek includes macroinvertebrates
- 10AM Monday October 28, Tuscarora Creek
- 10AM Saturday November 16, Ballenger Creek



We will have a **Conservation Trail Maintenance Work Event** on Saturday, February 10, 2024 from 7:30am to 12pm. Please arrive at the Clubhouse by 7:30am, and bring your chainsaw, branch loppers, and hedge clippers. Our primary goals are to fix and move the Conservation Trail that is parallel to the neighboring horse trail so that it does not encroach upon the horse trail,

clear a few trees that have fallen across the path, and remove some invasive trees and plants including Ailanthus trees and Japanese Barberry.

This forestry and silviculture work is vital to the maintenance of our property, conducted in accordance with our property Conservation Easement and DNR supplied Forest Management Plan, and attending will earn a membership participation point for a sponsored chapter work event. Also, participation in trail maintenance projects is required to hunt on the property for the 2024-25 season. See Ben Kelkye to validate your trail maintenance participation for hunting privileges.



The Frederick IWLA Chapter has begun a new bat habitat conservation program receiving a donation of a bat box habitat from Boy Scout Troop 796 in Ijamsville, MD. The bat habitat was a custom construction by the Troop and installed December 19, 2023 on the Chapter property as an Eagle Scout Project from Life Scout Luke Reyna. This box features space for a hundred or more bats, ventilation to keep the box from overheating in the summer, and includes a mesh pup-catcher to prevent young bats from falling to the ground enabling these young "pups" to climb back up into the habitat. The Bat Box is well in time to be discovered by a bat colony when they emerge out of hibernation some time at end of March to early April. We'll keep you posted on the latest developments of this new program.



Bat box habitat for Life Scout Luke Reyna's Eagle Scout Project on the ground showing ventilation ports and mesh pup catcher.



Troop 796 Boy Scouts (l to r) Life Scout Luke Reyna and Eagle Scout Aidan Lenz digging a hole on the property to mount the Bat Box pole.



Boy Scouts (l to r) Eagle Scout Rowan Wood and Life Scout Luke Reyna preparing the pole to install the Bat Box.



Boy Scouts (l to r) Eagle Scout Rowan Wood, Life Scout Luke Reyna, and Eagle Scout Aleksander Meyerle raise the Bat Box pole into the air.



Troop 796 Boy Scouts (l to r) Eagle Scout Rowan Wood, Life Scout Luke Reyna, and Eagle Scout Aleksander Meyerle pose below the installed Bat Box Habitat.



Frequent snow is predicted for Winter 2023/2024. Each year, the roads are salted during the winter leading to saltier and saltier waterways due to runoff. That in turn can lead to detrimental effects to our environment, infrastructure, and drinking water! The Izaak Walton League needs your help measuring the impact road salt is having on our creeks and streams. You can be ready for Salt Watch by ordering your [free test kit](#) from the IWLA website.

If you have ideas for conservation projects or would like to participate in our conservation programs, please contact the Conservation Committee at iwlafred1conservation@gmail.com. If you would like to participate in Chapter Conservation Committee activities, please attend our monthly Conservation meeting at the Chapter. Next meeting is Monday, **February 5th** at 6pm in the Clubhouse (no January meeting).

The Izaak Walton League's Approach to Conservation



The Izaak Walton League doesn't take a "doom and gloom" approach to conservation. We work for practical solutions that balance conservation with sustainable use of natural resources. Want to help find common-sense

solutions to today's environmental problems? Join the League as a national member to support our conservation and advocacy work. Prefer to join a place-based conservation community? The League's 200+ chapters offer opportunities to enjoy outdoor America – and protect it for the enjoyment of others – in the company of friends, family, and neighbors. Each of our independently run chapters manages their own membership process. [Learn more about National Membership at this IWLA.org link.](#)

CHAPTER EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

The full schedule of courses conducted at the Chapter Clubhouse is posted on the Chapter website. Proceeds from training classes support the Frederick Chapter Youth Program. Contact Ben Kelkye (ben@kelkye.com) if you have any questions about the schedule or courses.

Below are courses offered at the Frederick #1 Chapter:

**** Classes from January thru March will be cancelled and rescheduled during Frederick County Snow Emergencies ****

Date	Start Time	End Time	Course	Cost
January 6, 2024	7:30am	5:00pm	Rescheduled RSO class	\$175

Contact Ben Kelkye to schedule an appointment. Cell: 301-401-6262 Email: ben@kelkye.com				
<i>By Request Only</i>	<i>Appointment</i>	<i>Only</i>	<i>Wear and Carry - 16 Hour Class for new applicant - MD or DC</i>	<i>\$275.00</i>
<i>By Request Only</i>	<i>Appointment</i>	<i>Only</i>	<i>Renewal - 10 Hour Class - MD or DC</i>	<i>\$225.00</i>
<i>By Request Only</i>	<i>Appointment</i>	<i>Only</i>	<i>MD & DC - Wear and Carry - 16 Hour Class for new applicant</i>	<i>\$415.00</i>

MORE FROM AROUND THE CHAPTER

Send any submissions to newsletter@frederickiwla.org

Six-Point Buck Harvested on Frederick #1 Chapter Property Archery Hunt

Frederick Ike John Gallo harvested a six-point buck archery hunting the Chapter property on Monday, December 4, 2023, assisted by Frederick Ike Jake Bise.



John Gallo with his six-point buck.

According to Gallo, "I was set up in a climber in Zone 2 over three ground scrapes. Evening hunt. Jake [Bise] and I got in around 1400 hours. Jake was in zone 1. [I] shot the deer at 35 yards on the left side as he was walking to the rear of the property. [The deer] ran down the zone 1 and 2 line for about 100 yards and bedded quickly by a tree. Deer got up and went downward toward tracks. That's when I lost sight.

Gave the deer some time. Went back to the parking lot to drop gear and develop [a] plan with Jake. Found arrow and blood trail quickly. Lost blood at the tree deer bedded down. Searched for a few hours. Decided to return in the AM."

Gallo was concerned the deer may have been recovered by other hunters since, "...I heard four rapid shots in the direction of travel. Top of property heading to the tracks. Timing was to[o] perfect. I think some other hunters grabbed him."

Gallo continued, "Got [back] in at 0730. Found [the buck] around at 0830. Cleared the grounds by 0900. Couldn't have been better. Lost blood and was just grid searching. Found [the buck] on the Right of way near tracks. [In] great condition!"

Regulated and legal hunting is an important part of the Department of Natural Resources plan for wildlife management in the State of Maryland.

Frederick #1 Chapter on the Radio



If you missed Ben Kelkye interviewed by Bob Miller with Chris Michaels on WFMD 930AM radio during their Christmas Cash for Kids broadcast on Wednesday, November 29th at 4:12pm, you can watch the interview by clicking this link to the WFMD Facebook page for the "[2023 WFMD Christmas Cash for Kids - Wednesday Afternoon](#)". Fast forward to 50:22.

CLASSIFIEDS / WANT ADS / NEEDS AT THE CHAPTER

Send any submissions to newsletter@frederickiwa.org



Jordan Weinstein, with the Maryland School of Falconry, is looking to run some falconry classes and raptor conservation classes in Maryland. Anyone interested can contact Jordan Weinstein at the Maryland School of Falconry at 443-286-0377.

Please email newsletter@frederickiwa.org if you have interest in falconry classes at the Chapter. If there is enough interest, we may be able to host falconry classes on the Chapter grounds."



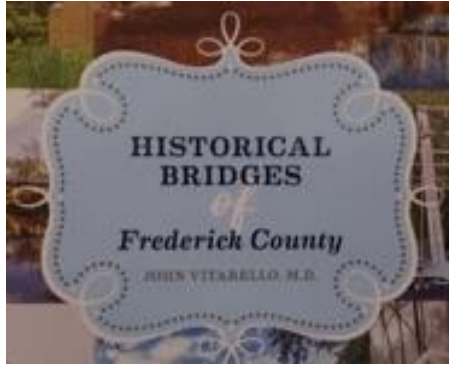
Photos wanted of Chapter clubhouse and grounds, Chapter activities, shooting sports, and conservation programs to be used for marketing and recruitment.



Get your new IWLA Frederick Chapter 100th Anniversary shirts, official swag and uniform for Frederick Chapter events. These heavy cotton quality shirts are \$15. Shirts are currently sold at the Clubhouse and Membership meetings.



Please let us know what you are doing in the outdoors, enjoying nature, and being a champion and defender of the nation's soil, air, woods, water, and wildlife. If you would like to participate in nature outings, please let us know at newsletter@frederickiwa.org.



On sale at the Clubhouse is the book *Historical Bridges of Frederick County*, written by Frederick Chapter member Dr. John Vitarello containing 99 pages of photographs coupled with information about each of the bridges and their connection to Frederick County's history. There are also driving, bicycle and fishing tour routes included to aid readers who will be inspired to seek out the bridges themselves. Each book is \$20. Purchase of each book helps fund the Frederick Chapter's conservation programs. According to Dr.

Vitarello, "Individuals, service groups and charitable organizations alike have made an everlasting favorable impression on me to the point that I want to dedicate this book to local Frederick charities." Books can be purchased at the Frederick Chapter clubhouse. Please see Ben Kelkye.