



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

March 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 Money Penny	Board Member Preston Wood	Board Member Ben Kelkye	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				
04 Mar – Conservation Committee Meeting, 6pm		12 Mar – Membership Meeting, 7pm		
07 Mar – Hunter Safety Class (Mar 7-9)		16 Mar – RSO Class (Range Safety Officer), 7:30am		
10 Mar – Youth Group Practice 12:30 – 4pm		24 Mar – Youth Group Practice 12:30 – 4pm		
12 Mar – Board of Directors Meeting, 6:30pm		26 Mar – Frederick County Sportsman’s Council, 7pm		
		30 Mar – Save Our Streams (SOS) Testing, 10am		



IWLA Frederick #1 Ikes completing Conservation Trail maintenance and property silviculture work, Feb 10, 2024.

In this week’s newsletter: Chapter News, Conservation Trail maintenance, Defenders Award, IWLA National Convention, environmental concerns from mega data center development, Frederick #1 Chapter charter date, Forest Stewardship Plan, Save Our Streams, conservation programs starting up, Chapter education classes, and more.

CHAPTER NEWS

Conservation Trail Maintenance

IWLA Frederick #1 Chapter completed maintenance work on the Conservation Trail Saturday, February 10, 2024 from 7:30am to 12pm. Wielding chainsaw, branch loppers, and hedge clippers, we cleared trees that have fallen across the path, painted blazes to mark the trail, and moved the Conservation Trail that is parallel to the neighboring horse trail so that it does not encroach upon the horse trail. Work was completed right at 12pm just before the rain came. This forestry and silviculture work is vital to the maintenance of our property and conducted in accordance with our property Conservation Easement and DNR-supplied Forest Management Plan.

Ikes participating:

Chuck Tibbs, Siamack Azhdehakosh, Mark Pickens, Mike Money Penny, Mike Morgan, Sasho Slavov, George Klarmann, John Gallo, Jake Bise, Preston Wood, Dwayne Ausherman, and Josh Phipps. Steve Meyer also attended evaluating invasive tree and plan locations in preparation for our upcoming invasive species removal project this year.





100th Anniversary and the IWLA Defenders Award



At our February 13, 2024 Membership meeting, National Director Roger Moran presented to Frederick #1 Chapter President, Mike Morgan, a plaque from IWLA National commemorating the 100th anniversary of our Chapter. Frederick #1 Chapter celebrated our 100th anniversary in 2023. Moran also awarded our Chapter with the Izaak Walton League Defenders Chapter Achievement Award. This is only one of the 44 bestowed in 2023 from a field of 205 chapters nationwide. Chapters nominated for this award must meet or exceed at least five of the six broad award categories including membership growth, financial support, education, conservation, youth involvement, and outreach and communications during the 2022 calendar year.

2024 National Convention

Roger Moran, National Director, announced the 2024 IWLA National Convention will be held in Cambridge, Maryland at the [Hyatt Regency](#).

This convention follows a new two-day format on Monday, July 15, and Tuesday, July 16. The Early Bird Welcome Reception will be Sunday evening, July 14. The Executive

Board and Endowment Board will also meet on Sunday. The Maryland Division is planning optional events on Wednesday, July 17, ranging from fishing trips to a tour of an oyster hatchery and research center. The convention's theme is Restoring Our Great Waters – Taking Action Today to Secure a Better Future

At the 2024 convention, the League will focus on our historic mission to protect the nation's great waterways, including the Chesapeake Bay, and discuss how we can take action today to secure a better future. We will also host a special event to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the League's 1924 achievement of establishing the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

[Learn more at this 2024 Convention link.](#)

When was the IWLA Frederick #1 Chapter chartered?



The National Izaak Walton League was formed in Chicago, Illinois in 1922. The Frederick Chapter was chartered in September 1923. To the best of our research, the Frederick Chapter was the first in Maryland and is one of the two oldest chapters in the nation. Fifty members signed the charter that proudly hangs in the Chapter house on Reels Mill Road just outside of Frederick City. Hunter Bowers, remembers that hunting and fishing laws were just being established and it was often difficult to convince many outdoorsmen that seasons and limits were needed and must be lawfully enforced. The Frederick Chapter began to encourage outdoor and hunter ethics as early as 1923.

[Learn more about our Chapter history at this frederickiwa.org link.](#)

CONSERVATION NEWS

Maryland governor wants hurdle cleared for mega data center development in Frederick County

An administration bill aims to exempt Quantum Loophole and other developers from environmental regulation on large-scale backup power generation.



Author: Scott Broom, February 15, 2024

FREDERICK, Md. — Maryland Gov. Wes Moore says he's all in on bringing data centers into the state.

Moore's administration has introduced a bill that would clear a big obstacle out of the way for developers in Frederick County trying to get a controversial project back on track.

In October, data center developer Quantum Loophole had some of its plans to build a gigawatt-scale complex on 2,100 acres in southern Frederick County derailed by state energy regulators. Maryland's Public Service Commission denied waivers from environmental regulations to install a fleet of 168 backup generators, which combined could produce enough power to run more than a quarter million homes, a scale that rivals some big polluting power plants.

Developers argue the generators are for emergency use only and would not come with even a fraction of the same environmental impact as a 500 megawatt plant.

The PSC denial forced one of Quantum Loophole's first big data center tenants to pull out of its deal, which did not go over well with Gov. Moore. The governor spoke to a statewide conference of county leaders in December about his data center priorities.

"Yes means making Maryland the best place for businesses to invest in data centers and infrastructure that will drive the technology economy," Moore said to applause from the group.

The Moore administration has introduced a bill **to change the law to exempt back up power for data centers from PSC regulations** by declaring data centers critical infrastructure, like hospitals and fire stations.

Maryland Tech Council CEO Kelly Schulz, who also lives in Frederick County, said data centers are good businesses that don't come with the costs of other types of development.

"If you look at the impact on the community from a data center as compared to an entire new neighborhood of homes that need to be serviced through the community and the county, its not even a comparison," Schulz said.

Skeptical opponents have been showing up at meetings of a special Workgroup on Data Centers in Frederick County, which will release its recommendations for local regulation soon.

"You need to look at regulations not for what the public relations department of a data center company says," preservationist Steve Black, the president of the Sugarloaf Alliance, told the work group on Jan. 25. "You need regulations that hold them accountable to a certain floor of behavior,"

Chelsea Kadish, the chief of staff to county executive Jessica Fitzwater, leads the work group.

"What I'm worried about is this constant comparison to Loudoun County," Kadish told workgroup members in January. "We've decided we don't want to be Loudoun county. We do not want to be them."

In previous presentations, Quantum Loophole promised development that is master planned to prevent the sprawl of data centers seen in Loudoun County. But the company already needs exemptions from some state power regulations to even get started. Moore's bill to remove the hurdle has not yet received a vote by legislators.

Sources:

[Maryland governor wants hurdle cleared for mega data center development in Frederick County](#)

Author: Scott Broom

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[Sugarloaf Mountain preservationists slam Frederick County Council](#)

WUSA9, YouTube

IWLA Frederick #1 Chapter in the Maryland Waltonian



The IWLA Maryland Division releases a monthly newsletter called the Maryland Waltonian. Our recent Frederick #1 Chapter conservation events and activities are featured in the March Maryland Waltonian. [Click this link to see the Maryland Waltonian newsletter.](#)

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, March 4, 2024, at 6pm at the Chapter Clubhouse.

Frederick #1 Chapter Forest Management



At our February Chapter Membership Meeting, Steve Meyer gave a presentation introducing the [Forest Stewardship Plan](#) (FSP) prepared by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forester, Thomas Keenan, that came from Keenan's two-day intensive assessment of our Chapter forest. In his presentation, Steve outlined a long-range plan, based on the DNR recommendations, for removal of invasive tree and plant species, conducting silviculture activities, sowing wildlife food plots, and planting native species.



Steve also introduced plans to apply for State and Federal fund cost-share programs which are available to our Chapter because of the FSP. Please contact Steve Meyer with interest in participating in management of our forest and invasive species removal at stephen.meyer7@gmail.com.



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:

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

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, March 4th at 6pm in the Clubhouse.

Chapter History: Squirrel Box Contest



In the early 1960s, the Frederick #1 Chapter sponsored a national competition to build a better squirrel box for supporting and increasing the squirrel population. At the time, squirrel populations were showing a steady decline as their homes were lost to timbering. The box would have to be one that squirrels would readily enter, could withstand weather and the test of time, and could be constructed inexpensively for wide use by conservation groups. The contest featured \$1,000 in prize money [\$10,419 adjusted for 2024 inflation] and was nationwide in scope. Entries by the hundreds were received from across the country. The winner was from Michigan and the 2nd and 3rd places were taken by designers in Arizona and Wisconsin. The Wood Duck box program also received much attention as hundreds of nesting boxes were installed along stream bottoms. [Learn more about our Chapter history at this frederickiwa.org link.](#)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NEWS

Chapter Rules Changes & Reminders

The following rule changes were finalized and adopted by Membership vote on November 14, 2023 and took 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.

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 have taken 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 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 directly after the Board meeting.

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#1 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 for February and March:

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

Date	Start Time	End Time	Course	Cost
Sunday, February 25, 2024	12:30 PM	4:30 PM	Youth Program	
Thursday, March 7, 2024	6:30 PM	10:00 PM	Hunter Safety Classroom	\$0.00
Friday, March 8, 2024	6:30 PM	10:00 PM	Hunter Safety Classroom	\$0.00
Saturday, March 9, 2024	7:45 AM	Finish	Hunter Safety Classroom	\$0.00
Sunday, March 10, 2024	12:30 PM	4:30 PM	Youth Program	
Saturday, March 16, 2024	7:30 AM	Finish	RSO	\$175.00
Sunday, March 24, 2024	12:30 PM	4:30 PM	Youth Program	

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>

Frederick #1 Chapter Youth Group



Through a motion and initial grant from then Chapter President Ellie Kirsch, the Frederick #1 Chapter started a formal [Youth Program](#) in 1997 to teach youth and provide a fun environment for kids to improve their hunting, marksmanship, and safety skills through the NRA’s Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC) program. Skills include rifle, bow, and muzzleloader shooting at life-sized targets, wildlife identification, map and compass orienteering, and more. Youth Group

participants can get hands-on training in eight skill areas, giving them expertise in all methods of take and all types of game. [Learn more about our Chapter history at this frederickiwa.org link.](https://www.frederickiwa.org)

CLASSIFIEDS / WANT ADS / NEEDS AT THE CHAPTER

Send any submissions to newsletter@frederickiwa.org



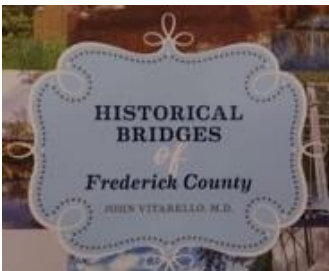
Photos wanted of Chapter clubhouse and grounds, Chapter activities, shooting sports, and conservation programs to be used for marketing and recruitment. Please send to newsletter@frederickiwa.org.



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.