



Winchester IWLA Newsletter

Woods, water, wildlife - our heritage, our responsibility.



www.winchester-iwla.org

April 2020

April 25 Kids' Fishing Derby Canceled On COVID-19 Concerns

As a result of the COVID-19 restrictions, Chapter President Dan Arico directed the Lake and Conservation committee to cancel the Mike Mercer Memorial Kids' Fishing Derby scheduled for April 25th. The committee agreed with the decision and has been working to generate some ideas to replace the derby.

The kids fishing derby is the largest public benefit activity the Chapter performs annually and the committee is reviewing ideas including a fall catfish tournament and small group guided family fishing experiences to replace the 2020 derby.

The committee is recommending to the board that the Chapter proceed with a partial stocking of the trout to assist our vendor, Roger Orndorff, whose business, Orndorff's Rainbow Trout Farm, is seeing cancellations from multiple groups. Mr. Orndorff and his family have supplied our chapter with trout for over 50 years and he is considered a valued vendor and partner for our public outreach activities. —**Brian Callahan, chairman, Lake and Conservation Committee.**

R-P Range **New Hours & Enforcement**

The WIWL Rifle-Pistol Range will remain open for shooting activities unless further COVID-19 protocols restrict their usage. Common sense should be followed and hygiene instructions for coping with the virus should be followed.

The Board has approved new shooting hours for the R-P Range: March through October (DST) the R-P Range will close at 7:00 PM every day rather than the old rule of ½ hour before sunset; the Range will open at 8:30 AM Monday-Saturday instead of the previous 8:00 AM. Sunday opening hours are changed to 10:00 A.M. instead of the old 9:00 AM rule.

During the months of November through February (EST), the Range will close at 5:30 PM every day instead of the old one half hour before sunset rule. New signage is being developed to reflect these changes.

The Range Master and/or President may change the hours for special activities or situations on any WIWL range. Please check the calendar for events and special activities at the Range(s) and plan your shooting activities accordingly.

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March 6 – Roger Orndorff, left, receives a plaque of appreciation from the Chapter presented by Member Rick Wright for 50 years as a valued vendor and partner in stocking the lake. The occasion of the stocking of the lake with trout for the March 14 Opening Day was used for the presentation.

R-P Changes *(Continued from Page 1)*

The Board also has approved the development and deployment of a “Flying Squad” of volunteer Certified RSOs whose duties and responsibilities are to organize, conduct and supervise safe shooting and activities on the Chapter’s Ranges and to enforce the Range SOP/Safety Rules as well as write up incidents and violations of the Range SOP/Safety Rules.

The President or his/her designated representative will review incident reports and determine whether possible punitive sanctions are appropriate. All punitive sanctions against a member (including those resulting from the actions of a family member or a guest) may be appealed to the full Board for review and final action

NOTE: It is the duty of everyone on the ranges to follow the orders and directions of an on duty RSO. RSOs have been granted the power by the Board to order persons off the Range and to request assistance from Law Enforcement if their order is not followed. Any disagreement with an RSO’s order should be forwarded in writing to the Range Master and President for further consideration but at the time of the incident the RSO’s orders and directions must be followed immediately.

2020 Class Schedule Under Revision

E & T is currently revising its 2020 schedule due to the restrictions imposed on gatherings of 10 or more to assist in containing the COVID-19 virus. Classes will be rescheduled as restrictions change.

The NRA RSO Class scheduled for April 14th will be moved to the first available open date after restrictions are lifted. Participants who have reserved seats by submitting a \$25 deposit check to “WIWL” will have the class materials sent to them by mail for home study and review. The Chief instructor, David Prater, will be available on line to answer any questions participants may have when reviewing the material. Contact--**David Prater:** range@winchester-iwla.org

RQ Session Tentative for Aril 19

RQ Sessions: The next scheduled RQ Exercise is set for Sunday, April 19th at the conclusion of the New Members Orientation. Again, this date is tentative and subject to COVID-19 virus protocols. If you are already registered for the session, you will be contacted by e-mail should the Exercise date be changed. Please check the Chapter calendar as well for date changes. For further info contact: range@winchester-iwla.org

Shotgun Range still closed for construction of Five-Stand Pavilion. Stay tuned.

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Consult Chapter Website about Board of Directors and Member Meetings under COVID-19 restrictions.

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Around the Park

Clockwise from upper left: A new fire pit, bench and camping spot on the small bluff overlooking the Opequon Creek at the end of the trail at the back of the park. It was an Eagle Scout Service Project, as was the cleared hammock tent camping "outpost" nearby shown here with work on improved drainage.

Great progress is being made on the five-stand shotgun pavilion at the shotgun range, pictured here March 17.

Kimber Bonk, left, and Camden Gorman, grandkids of Board Member Richard Gorman, show off a bridge on one of the newly cleared and opened hiking trails on the property. The trails open the property in the area behind the mid-lake picnic shelter just in time for spring.



Need-To-Know, Need-To-Go Spot

Make it a habit! Check the Chapter on-line calendar early and often at <https://www.winchester-iwla.org/calendar>. Know when the activities you want are happening, and when the areas you want to use may be reserved for others.



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Winchester Izaak Walton League Newsletter For April 2020

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