



**Winchester Chapter of the Izaak Walton League**  
**2863 Millwood Pike**  
**Winchester, VA. 22602**  
**BOARD RESOLUTION**

<b>Subject:</b>	Newsletter Redesign, Publishing and Advertising Sales			
<b>Dated:</b>	4/3/2018	# Aye: 8	# Nay: 0	Approved (Y/N): Y
<b>Resolution:</b>	Whereas: The Chapter newsletter is in need of a redesign to improve its appeal and readability, and to attract advertisers;			
	Whereas: Advertisers can be incentivized to purchase advertising space in the newsletter by also including their ads on our redesigned Chapter website at no additional cost to the advertisers;			
	Whereas: Publishing costs can be reduced by doing the layout work ourselves and adopting a new distribution paradigm.			
	Now Therefore: The attached layout is approved. Advertising will be sold with the understanding that ads sold will also appear on the Chapter website at no additional cost. Members will be encouraged to receive the newsletter via email rather than by 3 <sup>rd</sup> class mail.			

**Vote**

Member	M/S	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	E-Mail	Phone
Dan Arico		X					
Chris Barltrop		X					
Howard Beny		X					
Duane Kramer	S	X					
James Sherry	M	X					
Al Stitt		X					
Jack Weeks		X					
Harold Whitacre		X					

**Material Discussion**

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## Winchester IWLA Newsletter

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

[www.winchester-iwla.org](http://www.winchester-iwla.org)

May 2018

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**Board Meetings** are normally held the first Tuesday of each month at the Chapterhouse. See the Chapter website for dates and times.

**Membership Meetings** are held at the Chapterhouse on the third Thursday of each month. Dinner is served at 6:15 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. The cost of dinner is \$15.00 per adult and \$7.50 for children; reservations are required. See the Chapter website for details.

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## ***New Look for the Newsletter***

We are working to improve the newsletter, and you've already seen one of the big changes, it's on white stock, not the familiar yellow paper. The chief reason for that is a desire to use photographs, which will look better on white stock.

We also want to make the content fresher by shortening the time between our deadlines and your receipt of the newsletter. To help that along, we will be offering delivery via email as well as snail mail, and we will be publishing on the website so you can read it there or download it. Let us know what you think of the changes and give us any ideas you may have about improvements or things you would like to see in Chapter communications.

### **Pillar of the Chapter Mike Mercer Killed In Auto Wreck**

A head-on collision claimed the life of Mike Mercer, a long-time, valued member of the Winchester Chapter. Mike was a former secretary of the chapter and was webmaster at the time of his death. His father-in-law, Jimmy Kilbourne, a decorated Air Force veteran and well-known local resident, was also killed. Mike's wife Victoria and their son James "Trey" Mercer, age 17 were seriously injured. Both are recovering.

Mike, 59, was a member of the Chapter for more than two decades. He was a dedicated member of the Chapter Board of Directors who revamped and expanded the Chapter website and maintained the Chapter Facebook page. He was an avid shotgunner and despite serious health problems helped frequently with work parties and cleanup crews.

The March 24 accident that claimed Mike's life occurred as he was headed west on Papermill Road. A pickup truck veered into the path of Mike's Chevrolet Suburban. The driver of the pickup has been charged with drunken driving and two counts of involuntary manslaughter.

Mike was an honest man when honesty counted for everything during the difficult times of 2016 and 2017. He will be sorely missed.



To honor Mike's memory, the April 28 Kids Fishing Derby was renamed the **Mike Mercer Memorial Fishing Derby**.

## Still Time to Claim a Part in Shaping Chapter Success

Thanks to a lot of hard work by many people, the Winchester Chapter is at the start of a new, constructive era after a long period of contention and controversy. For those who appreciate what the Chapter offers and would like to have a hand in making it even better, there is no better time than now.

At the regular chapter meeting Thursday, June 21, the Chapter will elect six directors for two-year terms and two for one-year terms. The board then elects the Chapter's officers, so the board is crucial.

If you would like to seek a spot on the Board, contact any current board member to get the ball rolling. It's a chance to do some lasting good with hard-working, like-minded partners.

## Lake and Conservation

The Lake Project is moving ahead on three fronts, lake weed control, fish stocking and steep bank erosion control. Brian Callahan and Dave Prater have taken it on with support from Harold Whitacre. The Chapter has taken delivery of two jonboats and associated equipment to enable us to clean excessive vegetation from the lake. A boathouse will also be built to house the equipment.

A trout stocking of the lake was undertaken before the Mike Mercer Memorial Fishing Derby, but some resources were held back for an August stocking of

warm water fish in order to provide balanced fish species as prescribed by Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries standards, and therefore better fishing over time. Bill Prokopchak of Winchester Trout Unlimited recommended the same thing.

Plans are being made to get recommendations from a knowledgeable local forester on the best native shrubs to plant on the steep side of the lake to help with erosion. That project will get fully underway in the fall. – **Brian Callahan**

## Treasurer's Report for March

We now have 508 regular, 92 family, and 2 student memberships, totaling 602 memberships and 694 members.

In March we processed 13 regular membership renewals and 4 family renewals, 7 new regular memberships and 1 new family membership. At the March 31 late fee deadline we had 108 non-renewing members. March expenditures included Payment of \$5,314 in Legal fees. For more detailed information on Treasurer's activities, please go to the Chapter website, [www.winchester-iwla.org](http://www.winchester-iwla.org) or check the bulletin board at the Chapterhouse. – **Jack Weeks**

## Buildings and Grounds

We are looking for volunteers for mowing the grounds. We currently have three people, but one of them is discontinuing due to illness. If we could get six to eight folks, it would lessen the burden. Please contact Butch Kramer or Ron Richards if you are interested so we can set up a date and time for instruction on how to operate the mowers.

We are also looking for one or two electricians to advise us on returning power to the Tractor Shed; if we don't get one or more volunteers in a couple of weeks, we are going to contract it out to a local electrical company.

Terracing Project: We are looking for ideas as to a terracing project for the "high hill side" of the lake in order to mitigate erosion. If anyone has some experience or ideas, please share them with the Board members.

During the week of 09 April, we took possession of three loads of crushed rock in order to level out the potholes on the various roads on the property. Ron Richards is handling this on his own as he said all he needs is the tractor with bucket to fill the holes and back-grade. Our appreciation to Ron for all he does to keep the property in good shape. – **Butch Kramer**

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### Name the newsletter!

We're revamping the newsletter and as part of that effort, we want a name that more accurately reflects the nature of our Chapter. It isn't exactly a contest because there's no prize, but send your suggestions to [jim\\_sherry@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:jim_sherry@winchester-iwla.org) or [vernon.a.guidry@gmail.com](mailto:vernon.a.guidry@gmail.com)

# ***Court Closes Mitchell Case But Cost Impact Goes On***

## ***Chapter Successfully Protects Privacy Right of Members***

The Winchester Izaak Walton Chapter has successfully defended the privacy rights of its members from a legal action that would have exposed personal data, including phone numbers, e-mail addresses and bank account information, to third parties in the Frederick County Circuit Court action brought by Jent Mitchell.

The action against former Chapter President Brian Callahan and the WIWC was closed out April 4, 2018, when the court accepted the Affidavits of Compliance from current officers President Dan Arico and Treasurer Jack Weeks. The court also accepted the Final Order prepared by our attorneys.

The Board summarized the case outcome in this way:

1. The WIWC provided Mr. Mitchell with copies of 78 dues checks from three years ago that were buried in old Chapter records, that the Chapter leadership did not know existed until required to search for them and had no reason to suspect existed.
2. The WIWC defended the privacy rights of its membership by successfully denying Mr. Mitchell the phone numbers and e-mail addresses of its membership and redacting the 78 check copies found to remove bank account and phone number information.
3. At a cost to himself of some \$110 in filing fees, Mr. Mitchell succeeded in causing over \$20,000 in financial damage to the Chapter, representing some 40% of our annual dues income, while tying up extensive volunteer management time and court time.

An extensive account of the court action and its outcome the Board declared:

“Responding to this case has cost the Chapter some \$16,000 and climbing with no benefit to Mr. Mitchell beyond the personal satisfaction of depleting the financial resources of the Chapter. These funds would have been far better used maintaining and enhancing the Park facilities and meeting the Chapter’s mission of public benefit as a 501(c)(3) designated public charity rather than tying up a substantial amount of volunteer managers’ time and wasting the Court’s time. He could have ended this drain on the Chapter’s resources at any time by accepting the legally required records provided to him and not pursuing an obsession that seems directed at the destruction of the Chapter for his own ends.”

**An extensive account of the court action can be found on the Chapter website [www.winchester-iwla.org](http://www.winchester-iwla.org)**

## **Board Creates Legal Defense Fund**

The Frederick County Circuit Court closed the Mitchell case but costs for responding to the case are now estimated at some \$20,000 for the Chapter, leaving little for other discretionary spending. The Chapter operates on about \$50,000 a year, the portion of member dues that goes to the Chapter after paying State and National dues. This is not a lot to manage a property this size. The Chapter has been sustained by the work of many volunteers and Chapter office holders.

Even so, at some point, “doing more with less” becomes doing less and less more and more often. Therefore, acting out of necessity at the last meeting, the board approved the need to establish a Winchester Izaak Walton League Legal Defense Fund to help pay legal fees. We are asking members with the means to make a voluntary contribution to this fund to help meet the needs of the Chapter. Please make checks out to WIWL, note on the check "Legal Defense Fund" and mail to our PO Box 2955, Winchester, VA 22604. Cash donations will be accepted at our monthly membership meetings, as well. The donations are tax deductible and receipts will be provided for tax purposes.

As with all the Chapter’s actions, the operation of this fund will be completely transparent. We will keep you posted. – The Board of Directors

## **Breaking News**

**Jent Mitchell expelled in Special Disciplinary Board Meeting**  
See [www.winchester-iwla.org](http://www.winchester-iwla.org) for details.

## *In Our Backyard – Woody*

Does anyone remember the cartoon character Woody Woodpecker? Well that character was based on a real bird! A black body with white & black wings and a prominent bright red crest atop his head! You see a streak of fast motion in the hardwood forest, and a large bird, about the size of a crow, flies with a "clucking" sound to the side of a large oak tree. Meet the Pileated Woodpecker!

This bird retreats before man, and is rare to see. But as you walk quietly through your Winchester IWLA Park, you can often see him. As you walk to the high Shotgun Range meadow surrounded by the beautiful open hardwoods you may see Old Woody as he lands on the side of a big oak, then hops around to the opposite side and "peeks" around at you. Yep, he's out there, living in your 150-acre backyard, the WIWL Park. – **Stan Kugler**



Not our Woody

## *Dinner in the Park*

It isn't impossible – once a month, the Winchester Izaak Walton League Park could become a dinner destination. The food by professional caterer Mary Fox is getting excellent reviews. The weather is getting better and a table outside with a view of the lake could make for a great occasion. And after dinner, the monthly membership meeting is the best way to keep up with fellow Ikes and with what's going on with the Chapter. Membership meetings and dinners are the third Thursday of each month. Dinner is \$15 for adults, \$7.50 for children.

The menu for May 17, 2018:

- Pork BBQ
- Grilled Chicken
- Coleslaw
- Potatoes
- Broccoli Casserole
- Dinner Rolls
- Dessert
- Ice Tea, Coffee, Sodas, Spring Water, Fruit

Punch

## *Range Safety*

Range and firearms safety is essentially a combination of a knowledge of firearms, common sense, and etiquette. So, for example, it's not only rude to point a firearm at someone, it's also deadly...common sense, knowledge of firearms, and etiquette (or politeness). All three of those concepts run through our Chapter range rules, posted on the Chapter web site, and worth reading if you haven't recently.

Integral to the concept of firearms etiquette is the notion that one doesn't damage the facility where we're privileged to use our firearms. Yet someone recently used firearms to destroy the target frame at the 7-yard berm. Not to worry, it's been rebuilt; but the rudeness of the act is staggering. And deliberate rudeness where firearms are involved is unforgiveable.

This is not meant as an admonishment to the hundreds of our members who are frequent or occasional users of the Rifle-Pistol Range, but a reminder that under our range rules we are all responsible for range safety. If you see an unsafe act, let the person who committed the act know what he or she did wrong; in the vast majority of cases the person will take it seriously and graciously if the conversation is a calm and factual one. But if you see an act that goes beyond an innocent rule infraction, let someone on the Board of Directors know. – **Jim Sherry**

## *Calendar*

- May 1 Board of Directors Meeting; Chapterhouse; 7:30 pm-8:30 pm
- May 5 SASP Virtual Match State/National Qualifier; 8:00 am – Noon; Range Closed
- May 9 WIWL SASP Team Practice; 5:30 pm – 7:15 pm; Range Closed
- May 12 NRA Basic Pistol Course; 3:00 pm – 5:30 pm; Range Closed
- May 15 Range Committee meeting; Chapterhouse; 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
- May 17 Membership Meeting; dinner served at 6:15 pm; make reservations; business meeting 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
- May 23 WIWL SASP Team Practice; 5:30 pm – 7:15 pm; Range Closed
- May 27 New Member Orientation: 2:00 pm

## *How to Map Out a Great Day – Take a Walk in the WIWL Park*

By Stan Kugler



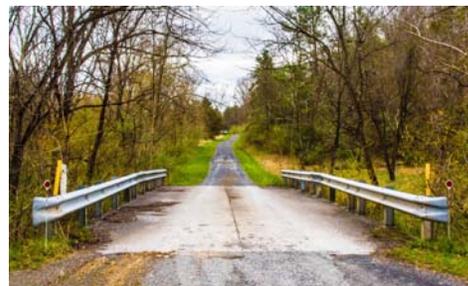
When many of us come to our Winchester Izaak Walton League Park, we drive to the range, fishing lake, or campground, remaining captive in our cars. Next time, on a nice sunny, or even “soft” rainy day, try something new for yourself! Park your car in the gravel parking lot near the chapter house, grab your daypack loaded with drinks, lunch, and snacks, as well as raingear, binoculars, compass, and camera. Leave the car and **start walking!** Follow the driveway downhill at your own easy pace, this is not a race. Pass beautiful Lake Neff and along the forests and meadows surrounding you on the driveway.

Watch and listen for nature all around you. The deeper you go into the park, the more you will see and hear. On a weekday morning, or early evening, if the shooting ranges are quiet, you may feel you own it all; with the deer, turkeys, squirrels, birdlife, and all of nature’s creatures. At a road intersection, turn right over the bridge that crosses the lake outflow stream and follow the gravel trail to the covered campground shelter. Pause at a picnic table,

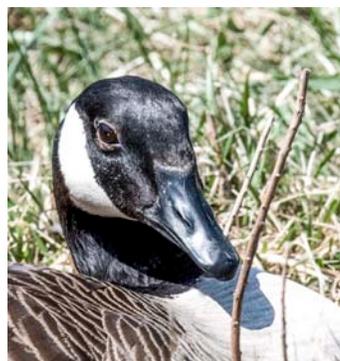
rest and enjoy a drink and snack from your pack. There is a well pump near the shelter with cold spring water. Listen to the forest noises around you, feel the breeze and see the dappled sunlight through the leaves. On a rainy day listen to the patter of the raindrops through the leaves and on the forest floor. Continuing past the shelter, bear right on a narrow, intimate, grassy forest trail which will bring you to the end of the property, overlooking the Opequon Creek, “babbling” along below you. Chances are very good that you will “jump” forest animals back in this quiet corner of the park.

Turn left here and follow the grassy meadow down along the creek flowing on your right and return to the shelter or follow the meadow all the way back to the bridge. Crossing the bridge, you can turn right, down along the treed meadow to the rifle/pistol range. Look for birdhouses among the trees, but **DO NOT** go beyond the firing line at the range. Returning to the bridge, go right to the shotgun range. Hike a gravel drive along an open wooded hollow, uphill to a big meadow, where you will find another covered shelter.

This area is used for shooting flying targets when it is open on weekends. When quiet, this is a perfect “breezy” spot for you to take a lunch break, read a book, take a nap, or just listen to nature. Beyond the shotgun tower and patterning range on the left, follow a woodland trail back to a power line clearing, where your binoculars will come in handy watching the forest edges for animal or bird movements.



Backtracking on the downhill gravel drive or hiking down through the open hardwood forest, will bring you back to the gravel entrance trail you came in on. Turning right, it soon passes an uphill path on your right, to a hilltop pine grove and the archery range. Returning to the gravel trail takes you straight back to the lake. At the lake, you can rest on one of the lakeside benches, watch for fish jumping, dig out a fishing rod, look for deer watering along the shore, or wild geese swimming by. You can check to see if wood ducks are using the nest boxes on the lake. After a rest, munching the remaining snacks from your pack, retrace the gravel drive along the lake, stopping at the fishing pier, then going up the hill and back to your car.



With leg muscles a bit stretched, your vision and hearing much more in tune with nature, you feel good and fulfilled, with increased appreciation for **your** Izaak Walton Park and woods, waters, open spaces, clean air, and wildlife that shares it all with you. If you really enjoyed this experience, next time, share it with your spouse, kids, family, and friends. Introduce them to nature and **your** 150-acre backyard, the Winchester Izaak Walton League Park. It’s safe to say that every trip will be different. The only downside may be, that your pack will be heavier next trip, with more snacks for your family and friends. Isn’t that a good thing? *Hope to see YOU out on the trail.* ♦

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