



Winchester IWLA Newsletter

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



www.winchester-iwla.org

March 2020

New Fishing Limits for Lake Neff

At the recommendation of the Lake and Conservation Committee, the Board of Directors has approved new limits for fishing on Lake Neff effective March 1. After several discussions within the Lake and Conservation committee, the limits are necessary to ensure a thriving population of native fish in the lake. Protecting the breeders will assist in maintaining fish populations.

Overall fish sizes are continuing to climb. 6-8 inch panfish were the norm three years ago and now 10-12 inch panfish are a common catch. With these limits, we believe we've hit the right numbers to allow everyone to have a great day at the lake while maintaining a sustainable, fishable population. Watch for the new signage around the lake.

Lake Neff Fishing Limits

Blue Gill – 12 per day
Channel Catfish – 5 per day, release any fish 26" or longer
Flathead Catfish – 1 per day, release any fish 30" or longer
Yellow Perch – 10 per day, 8" minimum length
Black Crappie – 12 per day, 8" minimum length
Trout – 4 per person/8 per family (No release of trout)

The following species are mandatory release:

Grass Carp
Koi
Common Carp

Board Takes Action on Range Rule Violation

By unanimous vote on February 4, 2020, the Winchester Izaak Walton League Board of Directors took disciplinary action against a member found to have used the shotgun range when it was closed and with no Range Safety Officer present. The member and a guest fired at clays thrown by a hand device. The board suspended the member's access to Walton Park until June 30. Access will be restored on that date only if the member has completed a remedial shotgun safety course conducted by a designated Chapter Range Officer. The board will not make the member's name public. The Board's actions were based on recommendations from a Disciplinary Committee's Hearing held in mid-January that reviewed evidence and heard testimony from the accused member.

"Use of the shotgun range when no RSO is present and throwing clays with a personal hand thrower are serious violations of the Shotgun Range SOP and Safety Rules," said Range Committee Chairman David Prater. "It raises issues not only of personal safety and the potential for property damage, but also could jeopardize the Chapter's continued operation of its firearms ranges. Violation of any of the Chapter's Range Regulations and Standard Operating Procedures will not be tolerated and violators will face disciplinary actions for such actions. – **Dave Prater**

Win-Win for Winchester IWLA Chapter and BSA Troop 159

BSA Troop 159 braved one of February's coldest weekends (2/21-2/23) for a camping session that provided outdoor conservation service hours for the scouts and improvements for Izaak Walton Park.

Twelve scouts and four adult leaders completed 100 conservation service hours earning the scouts their Paul Bunyan Woodsman patch.

The troop worked on the Tyler Campbell Eagle Scout Camping Outpost Project, cut and cleared new hiking trails from the Layman Shelter at mid-lake to the Chapter House and cleared a downed tree on the campground trail.

Saturday, April 25

2020 Mike Mercer Memorial Kids Fishing Derby



- Largest trout stocking
- Open to Public
- Kids Only, to Age 15
- Tackle Help, Repair
- Concessions

Annual Opening Day Set for March 14

Our annual Opening Day Event is March 14th, 2020. Opening Day marks the first trout stocking of the year in Lake Neff and is a great time to dust off the fishing poles and enjoy some early spring fishing with family and fellow Ikes.

We will be serving cast iron breakfast sandwiches, hot coffee and the WORLD'S GREATEST HOT CHOCOLATE at the Layman shelter from 7:30 am -11:00 am. The event is free to Chapter Members and we will have a donation bucket available.

Opening Day is also a great time to invite a friend to experience our Chapter. Chapter members are allowed to bring a guest for a \$10 fee payable at the Layman shelter on the day of the event. We will have loaner fishing gear available for anyone that needs it.– **Brian Callahan**

Contacts

OFFICERS

Dan Arico, President
703-229-3130
dan_arico@winchester-iwla.org

Mike Harper, Vice President
404-310-4534
mike_harper@winchester-iwla.org

Chris Barltrop, Treasurer
202-368-1086
chris_barltrop@winchester-iwla.org
treasurer@winchester-iwla.org

Secretary
(Vacant)

Richard Gorman, Membership Director
540-664-6819
richard_gorman@winchester-iwla.org
membership@Winchester-iwla.org

Newsletter Contact:

Vernon Guidry
540-664-3009
vernon.a.guidry@gmail.com

DIRECTORS

Patricia Nunn
patty_nunn@winchester-iwla.org

Al Stitt, Education & Training
training@winchester-iwla.org

John Suter
john_suter@winchester-iwla.org

Harold Whitacre, Special Events
harold_whitacre@winchester-iwla.org

Website: www.winchester-iwla.org

Board Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at the Chapter House at 7 p.m.

Membership Meetings are held at the Chapter House on the third Thursday of each month 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

THE NRA FOUNDATION
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E&T Notes

NRA Pistol Coaching Clinic

The Chapter is sponsoring a NRA Pistol Coaching Clinic (Level 1) at the WIWL Chapter House on Saturday and Sunday March 21-22, 2020. The 2 day class runs from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturday and from 8:00 to 12:00 PM on Sunday but requires no range live fire and is focused on the many aspects of coaching and the differences with instructing and focuses on developing competitive shooters at all levels. The cost of the class is \$200.00. Registration and reserved seat information is available on the NRA Instructor site:

<https://www.nrainstructors.org/CourseDetails.aspx?Courseid=569075&seats=8&State=n&zip=22604&radius=10.1&id=5&bsa=&youth=&women=>

The Course is being taught by Tom Ciarula from Arlington-Fairfax IWLA. Tom is a NRA Level 3 Coach/Instructor and has been instrumental in coaching Olympic Class athletes as well as organizing and instructing many of the NRA Certification classes at the AFIWLA Chapter. WIWL will be providing a Continental Breakfast with hot items, lunch, snacks/drinks throughout the day. All materials, food, drink and snack service is included in the course fee.

Basic RSO Class

An NRA Basic RSO Class will be offered on Saturday, April 11, 2020. Participants successfully completing the Course will be eligible to obtain NRA Certification as RSOs as well.

The Class cost is \$75.00 which includes all classroom materials, a Continental Breakfast with hot items, lunch, and snacks/drinks throughout the day. The class is being taught by David Prater, a certified Chief Range Safety Officer and the WIWL Chapter's Range Master and Chief Instructor. There are 8 seats available in the class.

Formal Certification fees with the NRA are not included in the Class fee. The NRA Formal Certification Fee is \$65 for non-NRA Members and \$35 for NRA Members.

Reserved seats are available. A reserved seat fee of \$25 should be sent to: WIWL NRA Class/ DCPA, PO Box 28, White Post, VA 22663. Checks and MO should be made out to "WIWL" with a notation that it is for the WIWL NRA RSO class. If your reserved seat deposit is received by April 3, 2020, class materials will be mailed to your address in advanced or may be picked up at the WIWL Chapter House with prior arrangement. To register, on line, go to "NRA Classes near me", put in zip code after selecting SAFETY category and checking box--NRA Basic RSO Class". Select: 04/11/2020 class--Location shows as "White Post, VA". Fill out course info including DOB and NRA number, if any. Contact: Dave Prater at 540-324-9076 or email range@winchester-iwla.org.

Good News on Grants

The NRA Grant submission to fund women and youth shotguns was awarded. We now have three 12-gauge and two 20-gauge semi-auto shotguns for training and loaners at the range. We are working with E & T Committee to develop some New Shooter Training Clinics and Coaching sessions for experience shooters to help improve their skills. – **Dave Prater**

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.

If you want something
done, give it to
someone already
busy!
We know you're busy.

So volunteer!

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115 N 21st Street
Purcellville, VA 20132
frankbriggsrealtor.com

KNIFE & TOOL SHARPENING LLC

Patrick Condon

11607 Lord Fairfax Highway
Boyce, VA 22620

540-288-4899

KnifeandToolSharpening@gmail.com

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