

Rockville Chapter History - The Beginnings

In the late 1920's and early 1930's there was an organization in Rockville, MD, called the Montgomery Fish and Game Society. They did a great deal of propagating of rabbits, pheasants and fish in the County and worked closely with the Maryland Fish and Game Commission. They began to go dormant and eventually dissolved in the early 1930's.



At the time, anyone wanting sporting goods such as fishing lines and hunting equipment would go to the Atlas Brothers Sporting Goods Store on D Street in Washington, D.C. Many of the members of the Montgomery Fish and Game Society would meet there when purchasing supplies and discuss conservation and hunting. In one of the early discussions, the subject of the Izaak Walton League, Washington, DC Chapter came up. The DC Chapter (it is now defunct) met in the ballroom of the Raleigh Hotel. Robert F. (Bob) Carter attended several of their meetings.

Bob Carter was talking to Reuben (Bill) Riggs and told him about the IWLA meetings at the Raleigh Hotel. Bill Riggs asked Bob Carter to find out what was necessary to start an IWLA Chapter in Rockville. Dr. M. D'Arcy McGee, then President of the DC Chapter, prepared the necessary paperwork for the Rockville Chapter. Dr. McGee obtained the charter for the Rockville Chapter and presented it to the Charter Membership in the old Rockville Court House in June 1933.

Date of the organization of the Rockville Chapter is June 24, 1933, at which time the officers elected were:

President - Reuben (Bill) Riggs, Vice President - Lawrence (Spuds) Higgins, Secretary - G. H. (Tony) Darby Treasurer - Robert F. (Bob) Carter. Others responsible for the formation were Joe Dawson and Joe Fisher.¹

There were about 30 members initially and 42 by the end of the year. All signed the Charter and are considered Charter Members. They are listed in Attachment A. The original charter is hung to the left of the chapter house lower level fireplace. A copy of the original Petition for Charter that was sent to National is included in the same section. A membership list of 26 names copied from National records is also included. Interestingly, seven of the 26 members are not shown on the original charter. It was not possible to research this discrepancy any further. Meetings were

held at the Courthouse and at the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department on South Perry Street. Annual dues were \$2.50. At the time, the major interest of the members was fishing. Later the Chapter took its place in promoting other aspects of conservation.

One of the first major projects was to build the Chapter's own "clubhouse" also known as "The Shack"², at Violettes Lock (#23) on the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal. The building was built over an old ice house foundation where ice cut from the river was stored for use on the barges in the canal in the summer. They obtained a 100-year lease on the land from the B&O Railroad who owned the property. There is no trace of the original lease in the Chapter's files. The building was between the lock and the Potomac River. It was made of wood (frame) with a large stone fireplace. The foundation of the fireplace is still evident. The main meeting room was also large (Room enough for 50 to 70 members), with a screened-in porch and a kitchen. Members and their friends built it in 1935 and 1936. All the stone was gathered by members from the river and canal dam and carried by hand to the location. Lumber and building material had to be carried across the canal and down the path to the building location, all by hand. This building was used for formal meetings and parties, from 1936, for many years. An engraved stone that was part of the fireplace is in the flowerbed in front of the present chapter house. It says "Rockville IWL 1934." Another project started after the Chapter building was completed was a dam across the C & O Canal. (The Canal ceased to operate after a bad flood in 1927 or 1928.) The dam was built of wooden posts and boards. It was about 5 or 6 feet high, but since the canal was level in this area, the small amount of water still flowing was enough to have a back-up of 5 or 6 miles, making a long, narrow lake of about 20 acres. The water was clear and warm and made good swimming, boating and excellent large-mouth bass fishing. It was a mile west of the Chapter building, and a 1/4-mile west of Rileys Lock (#24).

Apparently the preparation and advent of World War II significantly interrupted activities in the Chapter. There were no Chapter presidents elected during the 1937-1946 time frame.

In the period of 1947-1949, after considerable vandalism at the Violet's Lock Chapter House, the Chapter acquired 35.5 acres of land off Clopper Road. This property was deeded by Emma T. Strider to the Rockville Chapter Isaac (sic) Walton League, Inc. on February 9, 1949, in consideration of the sum of \$10 (copy in Attachment B) "To be forever used for the purposes of the conservation of the soil, waters, woods and wild life." Malcolm E. King witnessed the transaction, which is recorded in Montgomery County records as Liber 1229, Folio 524

History of the 1950's

The members decided to build a Chapter House on the Clopper Road property. We have the original building permit, which was issued by Montgomery County in September 1949 at a cost of \$2.00, in our history files. Completion was estimated to be September 1950 at an estimated cost of \$3,000. There is an article and photo by the Gaithersburg Gazette Newspaper taken on January 1, 1950 showing progress on starting work with the upper level. It is hanging in the lower level of the Chapter House near the window along with a photograph of the interior of the upper level soon after its completion. Lighting was by a Coleman lantern dangling from a rope.

At this time the Board of Directors included Frank Herdeck, Ralph Mathias, Paul Wire, Roy Sherman, H.C. Hillerman, Frank Dement, Malcom King, Tom Ridgley, Fred Anderson and Al Fessenden. There were 50 members and a budget of approximately \$556. In 1953 two members were added to the Board, Warren Sargent and Leo Demoy, with 100 members and about a \$1,500 budget.

The Chapter proposed to borrow approximately \$3,000 from a bank for continuing construction of the Chapter House at Clopper Road. In April of 1953 the directors authorized \$1,000 to acquire additional land near the Chapter property. This 15.25-acre property was deeded on May 11, 1953 by Mary A. Hutton, Rose Hutton and Elizabeth H. Caulfield to the Rockville Chapter, Isaac (sic) Walton League, Inc. for the sum of \$10. There are no restrictions for the use of this property, which is recorded as Liber 1796 Folio 287 (copy in Attachment B). This property was originally part of a larger 294-acre tract called "Martha and Mary" or "Norway" which was conveyed by Frances G. Clopper to Mary Augusta Hutton in April 1863.

Some items that were also under consideration during this time were a Rifle Range and the building of a picnic area, with tables, benches and fireplace. There was no anniversary party held this 20th year. The Chapter won a citation from National for attaining its membership quota.

The 1954 Board of Directors was Warren Sargent, George Milne, and Albert Fessenden. Paul Wire, Leo Demoy, Roy Sherman, Frank Dement, Frank Heideck and Malcom King. Motions were carried at the Directors Meeting of March 19, 1954 to spend \$500 and to borrow \$1,500 for the purchase of additional land. There is no record that additional land was ever acquired.

In an April 20, 1954 letter to the Montgomery County Council, the Chapter protested action, which would extend the "No Hunting" area of the county to cover an additional 21,000 acres. The Chapter made a pet project at the time of protesting the construction of the Little Falls Dam across the Potomac River without first making provisions for "fish ladders." In July of 1956 Congress approved monies to construct fish-way facilities at Little Falls Dam and in 1958 the fish-way was finally approved.

Much building was going on in and around the Chapter House in **1955**. A Trash House was roofed and completed. The upstairs floor of the Chapter House was completed. In addition to the construction, a number of wildlife Food Patch plantings were accomplished.

In 1956, the Pistol Program was initiated. The Rifle Range (170 yards) was open to high power rifles. The Archery Range opened and the Hunter Safety Training Program was initiated.

1956 was also a big year for legislative involvement. The Chapter supported the inclusion of \$208,000 in the Public Works Appropriation for the screening of turbine intakes at the Savage Rapids Dam on the Rogue River. The Chapter, on May 7th, in a letter directed to the Director of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, objected to demonstrations held May 4th that were "for exterminating the groundhog." On May 15th, the Chapter received a favorable reply to its letter of May 7th to the Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, which suggested

that water to be impounded by the proposed Potomac Electric Power Company dam installation near Dickerson, Maryland, be used to rehabilitate a portion of the Canal below that point. May 20th, in a letter to the Honorable Herbert C. Bonner, Chairman, Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, the Chapter opposed the transfer of 11,700 acres of the Witchita Mountains Wildlife Refuge to the U.S. Army for training purposes. Action was taken to obtain approval to permit access across the C & O Canal to the Potomac River for the purpose of taking carp with bow and arrows. In August of 1957 bow hunters were permitted to cross, and in May 1957 permission was granted for both bow hunters and gunners to cross (with unloaded guns and unstrung bows.) In a letter to Senator John Stennis, Chairman, Subcommittee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate, the Chapter requested that the Committee take appropriate action to assure that construction would begin on the fish-way facilities at Little Falls Dam on the Potomac River.

In 1957 the Chapter started the year with approximately 150 members and approximately \$500 in the budget. The Trout Pond was completed in May. In March the Chapter offered to sponsor a new chapter in the Deep Creek Lake area (Garrett County Conservation Association). In August the Garrett County Conservation Association advised that they were tabling entry into the IWLA for the present time.

In January 1957, at the regular meeting, it was reported that the "Hunter Safety Program" got underway recently. Three persons attended the first meeting and only one attended the second. In June 1957 the Chapter held its first open house, and in August the Chapter opened its booth at the Montgomery County Fair. It has had a booth at the annual fair ever since. In August 1957 the Chapter sent letters to various U.S. Senators and Congressmen opposing new firearm laws being considered by the ATT Division of the IRS. November 1957, the Chapter sent a letter to the Montgomery Council opposing suggested firearms registration. In December 1957 the Chapter sent a letter to the Honorable F.A. Seaton, Secretary of the Interior, in thanks for regulations seeking orderly development of wildlife lands, rather than exploitation by oil interests. As a matter of interest, the annual Chapter dues were raised from \$5.00 to \$10.00.

In 1958 a map of Chapter grounds, as originated by Mr. Causey, a reproduction layout of our area, was presented by P. Hubanks. Some Chapter improvements during the summer: Upstairs floor was refinished, stairs were painted, a new water pump was installed, the water lines were changed to plastic, and electric lights were installed in the shed. Posts for road and chains were planted at the lake entrance. Other activities and accomplishments: the Chapter offered to provide labor and transportation involved in restocking the Potomac River with bass.

The Comptroller of the Treasury, State of Maryland, confirmed IWLA exemption from amusement and admissions tax in reply to the Chapters query of February 22, 1958; June 21 was the Chapter's 25th Anniversary. The Jim Berrier Lake was dedicated (Malcom King chaired the lake committee). Congressman DeWitt Hyde was guest speaker. A number of successful "Turkey Shoots" were held this year. Mr. Hubanks, Mr. Campbell and Mr. Pessenden were given credit for these successes.

In a January 22, 1958 letter to Governor McKelden the Chapter indicated its concern over a

move to abolish the Water Pollution Control Commission and reassign its function to the State Board of Health. The Governor referred that letter to the Maryland Self-Survey Commission, who in a letter to the Chapter, dated February 5, 1958, promised that the Commission would give careful study to the problems involved. The same day the Chapter advised the State of Maryland Game and Inland Fish Commission that a law prohibiting hunting on Sundays which was passed was considered detrimental to the best interest of Maryland sportsmen. The Commission replied on January 28, 1958 to the effect that "most sportsmen's organizations do not wish to have the law amended."

Conservation was big in 1958. In the January 3rd general meeting it was reported that areas planted for feed and cover in the past were now abounding with game. Tom Fisher volunteered to represent the Chapter and put it on record with the Game Commission as being in favor of the passage of a Doe Deer Bill for those areas in the State where it was needed. Joe Fisher suggested that the Chairman of the Conservation Committee take immediate steps to promote stocking of fingerling small-mouth bass in the Potomac River. Such a stocking two years ago provided excellent fishing. In General Meeting of February 7, Tom Fisher discussed Asiatic Quail and its introduction into the United States. He discussed the possibility of a thorough biological study to be made on the effects of Asiatic Quail introduced into this area before the Chapter approved of such a program. At the February 7 General Meeting, the members were asked for information regarding available plots of farm land that farmers would allow to be planted in feed for rabbits and quail. In July it was reported that six new food patches were planted.

Many of the 1959 records have been lost but we do have a list of the officers and members of the Board of Directors. Mrs. Frank E. Gantz of Washington, D.C donated an electric range, refrigerator and freezer to the Chapter. On January 8th the Chapter sent a letter to the Honorable John Marshal Butler in thanks for fruitful efforts in monies appropriated for Little Falls Fish Dam.

History of the 1960's

Due to a loss of records for the period 1959 - 1965 we can not provide any information about this period other than names of the Chapter presidents. A complete list of Chapter presidents is contained in Appendix D. Apparently the records were destroyed by burning them in the lower fireplace after a meeting, by a member who was angry with the Chapter about some matter.

1966's first regular meeting, January 7th had a guest speaker. Mr. George Shields, Director, Maryland Department of Game and Inland Fishing, spoke on the objectives of his department, the means of achieving them, and asked for help from the League and sportsmen in general, alerted us to "the tendency of public agencies to reclassify public lands and other usage's incompatible with gunning, and suggested the Chapter establish a pilot project to show that park lands can be used for all types of recreation including hunting. At the same meeting Malcom King gave the treasurer a check from the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission for \$2,000 for easement through our bottomland to install a sewer line.

The 60's closed with a fury of Chapter activity. Five separate interest groups had developed who were exerting extreme pressure on the Chapter Board Members for movement toward their respective planned activities. In addition a sudden financial improvement in the Treasury funds was received from gas and electrical line easements on the Chapter properties, which set up a healthful financial reserve.

Everyone wanted to spend this sudden wealth, however controversy over the introduction of "Caretakers Quarters" on the Chapter grounds was by far the most active group, followed by Membership, Range Improvement, and Range Safety, as well as Finances and Budget Controls.

Plant management and facility improvement became a major concern to many of the new members who were recruited after the trap shooters lost their battle to limit membership for the Chapter at a three hundred and fifty (350) mark in 1968-1969. (Editorial note: 350 is the approximate number of current members in 2003, the year this portion of the paper is being revised).

History of the 1970's

When newer members openly rebelled in the 1970-1971 election and voted in a president from the floor instead of the individual recommended by the Nominating Committee, some of the older Chapter members changed their IWLA membership to other Chapters in the area. Many of the departing members were members of the inter-Chapter, Trap Shooters Team, which had an immediate effect upon the communication between the local Chapters, when Rockville failed to field a competitive Trap Team.

During the late 60's several efforts to induct females and non-whites into the Chapter membership were met with mild but firm opposition. The applications by females were openly discussed before the Board of Directors and in General Membership meetings, but were all voted down. The applications by non-whites were directed to an executive committee set up to study the effects of changes in the Chapter By-Laws to handle new civil rights activities. The original 1937 By-Laws (Attachment C) allowed membership for: "Any white person, who is of good character, reputation and morals, over the age of eighteen years, provided his or her application is endorsed by one member of the Chapter, and requisite dues accompany the application, shall be eligible for membership in this Chapter." The By-Laws were changed and a non-white male member was inducted into the Chapter during the 1970-71 year. He happened to be a hunter and trap shooter. It should be noted that females were included in the original 1937 By-Laws ("her" noted above). They must have been excluded by a later By-Laws change.

The Chapter dues had been raised in the late 60's and the steady increase of new members into the Chapter together with the funds collected from the various easements swelled the monthly treasure balance to unforeseen amounts. Monthly meetings, as well as the Directors' meetings, were filled with requests for improvements to Chapter activities in all areas. As a result the Finance and Budget Committee was re-organized and headed by a professional C.P.A. The 1969-1970 budget showed large increases in funds for all active committees and the Directors

approved a Range Improvement Fund of several thousand dollars to be authorized for use by the officers.

The 1969 Audit issued in February 1970 indicated some concern over the tabulation of new members, who were required to attend three meetings before being sworn-in as Chapter members. The confusion came when dues collections were made on any one of the three attended meetings, which often lead to inaccurate membership totals. Late in the 70's the attendance requirement was changed to one required meeting.

The 1971-1972 election committee brought the 1969-1970 "Ladder" effect back to the September 1971 elections and elected the "passed-over" President from 1970-1971 "Ladder" listing.

This President was an active individual who immediately settled the membership problem by influencing the Chapter to accept an "open-door" membership policy on recruiting. However this did not change the By-Laws to include females. He also introduced special committees to study the idea of either expanding the Chapter House structure or providing separate quarters for a caretaker. He set up a committee to study our Range activities.

The special committees did a very good job during this time by bringing first-rate studies and accurate information on instruction and building costs. While the Range Committee reported serious conditions on the Pistol Range as well as ideas for improving the target areas of the Rifle Range and the lighting on the Trap Range. This committee also indicated that the County Range Committee would not approve our continuing use of the Chapter Pistol and Archery Ranges. During the winter months the lights on the Trap Range were beefed-up and the Archery Range backstop was greatly improved to meet acceptable safety standards.

In the spring of 1972 there was a combined effort to move a privately owned house onto the Chapter property. The contract presented to the Chapter for this event was so complicated, indifferent and poorly drawn, it finally was settled by time and default. However, this struggle had caused so much hard feeling between officers and Chapter committees, the Chapter returned to an indifferent attitude similar to the late 60's due to the lack of membership.

The 1972 election suddenly projected a "line-wire" engineer in the office of President. He immediately injected his leadership and personality into the Chapter elected officers. He met individually with each of the five competing groups and prepared the means for fulfilling their plans for Chapter improvements. Since the Chapter ranges were shut down for lack of an insurance carrier, he appointed an experienced hunter/target shooter as Range Coordinator to study the overall range problems. He developed a close relationship between the Treasurer, the Membership Secretary, and the Chairman of the Finance Committee. He appointed active members to the various standing committees with outlined duties of responsibilities and he let the elected Chapter officers know he expected them to become actively engaged in Chapter programs.

By Thanksgiving 1972 most of the groups had identified their problems and had made plans for future action. All this Chapter study had developed several additional internal problems such as the leadership in the Junior Unit program and the general condition of the Chapter Lake and the deteriorated condition of the Chapter house.

The 1972 studies had a lasting effect on Chapter activities for the next ten years. The first positive action in the Chapter year 1972-1973 was providing a suitable and safe backstop for both the pistol and archery ranges. A hard working member who had volunteered to rebuild the Junior Programs also volunteered to act as the Pistol Range Chairman. He quickly recruited several engineers, several ex-military range officers, and three active N.R.A. range instructors to propose an immediate course of action. From this group came three plans: (1) build a 20 ft. backstop, 60 ft. long to meet E.P.A. requirements with a railroad tie eye brow at a distance of 50 yards from the firing line shelter. (2) Build the backstop along with overhead impact baffler to prevent the flight of stray bullets, and (3) enclose proposal (2) with an insulated Quonset hut to reduce the firing sounds. These three proposals with the associated cost factors slowed the action down to a halt.

By early March the pistol range study group finally settled on the first order of building a suitable and safe backstop which would meet the demands of the insurance company, the County Range Committee, and the County E.P.A. Department. The range chairman found a building contractor who had to move about six thousand yards of soil from his property. The Chapter was fortunate to find the soil and build a backstop seventeen feet high and sixty feet wide, complete with railroad tie eyebrow.

By May 1, 1973 the pistol range had been completed and approved by the County Range Committee. The Chapter negotiated an insurance policy to cover all Chapter activities on the grounds. The President had set-up a new range safety policy specified by the insurance underwriters. This safety policy required all members who are eligible to use any or all of our ranges for target shooting, must have received adequate safety instructions and be able to pass a standard written and signed test statement. On our fiftieth anniversary the safety requirements were still in effect.

From the minutes of the November 1974 general meeting: *“Chapter President John Andervont asked how the archery range burned down. The best available evidence is that a MK79 practice grenade ended up in the target area and the only way it could get there without a pin was to have been thrown or fired. The Montgomery County Detention Police had been authorized to use the ranges that day. Estimated damage is in excess of \$3,000. The State of Maryland, according to the Lieutenant in charge, will pay.”*

One of the more important events of the 70's was the naming of the Chapter "Nature Trail" for Emma King. She may have been the first and only female Game Commissioner in Maryland history. Emma King was the mother of one of Rockville Chapter members and was instrumental in obtaining the 35-acre tract of land along Waring Station Road. Editorial note: It's ironic that at the time the nature trail was named after a woman, females were not allowed membership.

History of the 1980's

The 50th anniversary of the Chapter had prompted the preparation of a draft Chapter history, which is the basis of this paper up to this section. The original history draft was never published. The major sources of historical information from this point on are the Chapter's newsletters. Member Harry Crow provided a complete set from 1982 forward which was an invaluable aid to this project. Miles Greenbaum was the newsletter editor from this point on; much of the verbiage is his work.

Activities in 1980 included active support for a state bill to mandate the use of returnable bottles and cans; formal pistol shoots for both .22 cal. and center fire; an annual auction; a display at Montgomery Mall supporting an Agricultural Week program sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service; and a strong Junior water sports program and shooting program led by Jim Hill. The Chapter ended 1980 with approximately 600 members.

The lake required major repairs in 1981-82. It had to be drained, dredged, and the dam repaired. The work was completed early in 1982 and it was filled and stocked with fish in the late spring, as they wanted to make sure all carp had been destroyed. It was fully operational in June, with a new gate and lock installed. John Garner led the project in its entirety, including the engineering, earth moving and rounding up the volunteer help.

Activities in 1982 included: The pistol range had the safety berm extended. A formal grounds patrol program was instituted to insure that nonmembers were not using the property. A service rifle match program was instituted using four M-1 Garand rifles obtained from the Director of Civilian Marksman; the first match was held on December 30, 1981. A woman's pistol safety and training course was offered in March 1982, the 50 slots quickly filled up and a second course was scheduled and it sold out; a third course also filled up quickly. An outdoor .22 cal. pistol league was initiated, firing from April-September. An indoor air pistol league was initiated in October to compete through March. A hunter safety course was offered in April 1982. A beer cooler was donated to the chapter in October. The swinging bridge was declared in dire need of repair. A Constitution and By-Laws change was approved to change the yearly dues payable date to from April 1st to February 20th in order to meet the March 5th deadline for submission of National dues. Planning was started for collecting historical information for the Chapter's 50th anniversary celebration to be held in June 1983. A considerable amount of data was distributed regarding pending conservation legislation in Annapolis. A record 39 new members were sworn in at the November meeting. Total Chapter membership at the end of 1982 was 735, making us the largest chapter in Maryland.

A major problem encountered at the time was controlling access to the property. Concern was primarily with non-members using our ranges, which were unfenced at the time. Planning was initiated to fence in both the pistol and rifle ranges.

The Montgomery Woman's Chapter became more active, due in part to the Pistol Safety and Training courses that were conducted. This Chapter had full use of the facility and was cited as

the primary reason that women were excluded from membership in the Rockville Chapter.

The proposed budget for 1982-83 was \$34,250. Major facility improvements were authorized at the February 1983 general membership meeting. The most important decision was to erect a 6-foot fence around the rifle and pistol ranges. The fence was to be U-shaped, open along the edge facing the lake and grounds, to permit access by the members. The edges paralleling the railroad tracks, Chapter access road, and Waring Station Road were to be fenced to insure no one can accidentally wander onto the property, and maybe wind up in the impact area. Other modifications and improvements included fixing and upgrading our downstairs toilets, and installing a new bar to incorporate the beer tap that was donated to the Chapter. As stated in the March newsletter: "Fixing the toilets has been long overdue; modifications to the bar will at least bring the ambiance of our downstairs meeting room up to the level of an early San Antonio bus depot."

The Chapter's 50th anniversary celebration was held on June 25, 1983. Following is copied from the June 1983 newsletter.

"June 25 will be the date for the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Rockville Chapter of the IWLA. Rain or shine, this is the day that has been set aside for a family-type day, for all members and their families to come and get reacquainted, to meet new friends and to reminisce with old friends. It will be an opportunity for our member's families to become familiar with everything that the Chapter has to offer, and for sharing common interest. The day is for Chapter members and families only, and not opens to the general public.

It's going to be a day full of activities on all the ranges, on the Chapter grounds, and at our Lake. The Montgomery Women's Chapter will be sharing the day with us, as will the Boy Scout Troop that we sponsor. The Junior's will be holding a .22 rifle match at the pistol range, and the women that have recently completed our Women's Pistol Safety and Training Course will also be firing that day. Black powder rifles will be demonstrated on the rifle range; trap shooting will be demonstrated, and programs are scheduled for the archery range. Wherever possible, the programs will attempt to provide the opportunity for novices to try their hand.

There will be a sound-and-slide show in the Chapter House covering the lake rehabilitation project, and programs will be held honoring our long-term (40+ year) members. At the Lake, water safety programs will be demonstrated, as will kayaking and canoeing. Our Scout troop and our Juniors will put on displays of work done in the area of conservation. After dark, weather permitting, our Scouts will also put on a campfire program.

All in all, it will be a full day. The Chapter will provide food and drink throughout the day. So come on out. Bring your family and spend a great day in celebration of ourselves. Just remember, the next chance you'll get to join a celebration like this will be for our 100th Anniversary in 2033."

On a sadder note, the next article in the newsletter was one this regarding an illegal action on our

property: “\$500 REWARD - The Officers and Directors of the Rockville Chapter of the IWLA have offered a \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individual who shot and killed a Canada Goose at the Chapter lake on or about the 18th of May.

The goose was shot at point-blank range with a 12-gauge shotgun, using a #8 Federal trap load. It's difficult to find the right words to express how strongly we feel about this. It's difficult to understand how anyone could be such a thoughtless slob to do such a thing. Make no mistake about it; we want this guy. We want him bad. This is, by the way, a Federal offense, and carries a maximum penalty of \$5000.”

The Officers and Board of Directors addressed the requirement for each member to donate at least four hours of his time to the Chapter each year. As of January 1, 1984, all renewal members and new members will be asked to specify whether they prefer to work the four hours or to increase their membership by four hours. Those who chose to work but do not do so will be assessed the additional \$20 at the end of the calendar year.

August 1983 saw the membership of the Chapter hit the 700 mark. The range fencing was planned to be finished by mid-month (it was finally completed in November as it was a rainy year). Our BSA Explorers group sent five Junior shooters to the National Explorers Olympics in Columbus, Ohio. They came back with five gold and four bronze medals. The new house on the trap range was also completed.

The October 1983 newsletter reported the following dire situation: “RIFLE RANGE CLOSED FOR REPAIRS - Several weeks ago, an incident occurred at the rifle range that has given rise to all kinds of wild and speculative rumors. To set the record straight, a rifle bullet -- presumably a ricochet -- appears to have escaped the range, and broke a window in a neighboring community. The bullet had spent its energy by the time it landed, and did only minor damage. Although it has not been firmly established that the bullet originated at our rifle range, the Board of Directors -- at an emergency meeting the following night -- decided to accept the possibility that it had indeed come from our range, and decided to act immediately and accordingly. The decision of the Board was to close the rifle range until such time that a select committee could review the situation and report back to the Board with specific recommendations. This report was made at the Board Meeting in September, and the observations and recommendations will be reported to the general membership at the regular meeting in October.

To lay some rumors to rest, we were not shut down by anyone. This was solely a decision of the Board. Further, we fully expect the rifle range to reopen and be operational in a reasonable amount of time. Of course, our main concern is for the safety of the surrounding communities; the modifications and changes that will be incorporated into our rifle range will insure that this sort of accident will not happen.”

This is the follow up to the prior situation: “MAJOR RANGE DECISION IN NOVEMBER -- At the regular Chapter meeting on November 4, the general membership will be asked to vote on proposed major changes to the rifle range. The changes that have been proposed by the special committee

convened to solve the rifle range problem include the building of a four-position range specifically designed for use in an urban area. This means that firing will be done through an anechoic chamber, to reduce sound to minimal levels, and reinforced baffles to insure that no rounds can possibly escape the range in any direction. At the Board meeting on October 21, it was decided to recommend building a full-function range, which will permit position shooting, as well as bench-rest shooting. Of course, any final decision will be predicated upon approval by the Montgomery County Range Committee, and the Chapter must be prepared to modify plans to be acceptable to that Committee.

Proposals will also be presented on upgrading the pistol range, to minimize sound levels, and to maximize safety, although the modifications involved there are considerably less than those required for the rifle range.

These are critical issues to the survival of our Chapter. Like it or not, our ranges are now surrounded by housing developments, and we no longer can afford the casual attitude towards firing that we once had. Please try to be at the November meeting; the only way that an acceptable and responsible decision can be reached is through the participation of all of our members.”

The membership voted to direct the Chapter's range committee to take our proposal and submit it to the County Range Approval Committee. They went forward with a recommendation for a four-point, full-function range. Once approval was received, renovations were priced at an approximate cost of \$10,000, and construction was approved by the general membership.

The year closed out with Casablanca-type ceiling fans being installed in the Chapter House; a new coke machine installed at the lower level; a conservation movie at the December general membership meeting, followed by free beer courtesy of President Tom Breeden (a rare event indeed).

In retrospect, it seems that 1983 was an exciting and very eventful year for the Chapter. Seems appropriate for the 50th anniversary.

Activities during 1984 were relatively routine, with the usual Chapter functions being carried out as planned. The Montgomery County Range Commission approved our plans for refurbishing the rifle range in July and work immediately commenced on the revisions. Work was completed in December and test firing was done for demonstration. The upstairs Chapter house floor was refinished in November. The total membership ended the year at 701, with 40% of those paying the extra \$20 membership fee. We were still the largest chapter in Maryland.

An item of note occurred at the January meeting when it was pointed out that one of our neighbors, Mrs. Coyle, has for years been working to save many of the injured birds and animals in the area. At her own expense, she takes in these animals and nurses them back to health so they can be returned to the wild. Many times, veterinary costs are required. A collection was taken up and the members present came up with \$127.25, which was then matched by President

Breeden from the President's fund. A check for \$254.50 was presented to Mrs. Coyle by John Garner. She was overwhelmed.

The following year, 1985 was relatively normal until April, when more range issues surfaced. Following is verbatim from the May newsletter: "*RIFLE AND PISTOL RANGES CLOSED -- The big news this month, of course, is the fact that both our rifle and pistol ranges are now closed. There are many rumors going around and many self-proclaimed "experts willing to tell everyone who will listen exactly what the outcome will be -- one way or the other. The unfortunate truth of the matter is that there are still many unresolved questions with regard to the rifle range, and many questions now regarding the pistol range on which our officers, directors, and range coordinator and chairmen are actively working.*

The Montgomery County Range Approval Committee has asked that we raise the rifle range impact area, and do some other relatively minor modifications before they will give their approval. The question is, are they serious, or are they just stalling? We have sent them a letter asking, if we comply with their latest conditions, will they give their approval? We are awaiting a response. We certainly should know by the May meeting. In the event that their response is positive, there will be a work party held on May 4 & 5 to do the job. If you can assist, call Nemo Farmer so that he can plan what's needed.

On the pistol range, an emergency meeting of the officers and board decided to have it closed before the County Committee officially did so. At a recent walk-through, members of that Committee were "shocked" to note that Waring Station Road is directly behind the pistol range impact area. Again, at the present time, it is unclear whether we will be required to close the facility permanently, whether we have the option of relocating to some other area of our property, or whether some other course of action can be taken.

In any case -- and this is speculation -- the County Committee will probably insist that we initiate a program of having a qualified range officer present at any firearms range before it is opened for use. Certainly, such a program would place our Chapter in a stronger position with regard to any questions of safety, which is the overriding concern of all involved."

The County approved the rifle range in September, with the requirement that all users take a range safety course and that an approved range officer be present to supervise the facility. Preliminary pistol range upgrade plans were prepared in December.

Thanks to the urging of long-time member (Thomas) Warren Fisher, the Chapter agreed to construct Wood Duck nesting boxes for installation at the newly-filling County 500 acre Little Seneca Lake at Black Hill Park in Boyds, MD. The Wood Duck used to be on the endangered species list; thanks to the efforts of wildlife conservationists, they have made a strong comeback. Thirty boxes were finished by the end of the year, with 10 more planned for construction. Installation was planned to occur before the spring nesting season.

The final membership count for 1985 was 621.

Next years (1986) focus was on getting the pistol range functioning. Engineering plans were submitted to the Montgomery County Range Committee in March and construction began in June with Colin Michael spearheading the effort. The work was completed on October 18; the range approved, and was opened for use on November 22.

The lake suffered a plant infestation of Elidea (?) and required spraying treatment in August which closed it for several weeks. The bridge was still a problem and member Andy Sauvage offered to have his engineering firm study it and prepare a solution. The solution required asking the State for a waiver of their property rights so that we can anchor a new bridge on the large rock outcropping just adjacent to our existing bridge. More on bridge bureaucratic adventures with the State later. The Chapter donated \$1,000 towards a new National Headquarters in Gaithersburg on Muddy Branch Road. The BB gun team established an NRA record in December at the 1986 Maryland BB-Gun Championships. The top three shooters earned the NRA Junior Olympic Shooting Program Bronze Star qualification. The Chapter ended 1986 with 470 members.

1987 started with an approved budget of \$29,970. All members who wanted to use the rifle or pistol ranges were required to take a new range safety course, which was held the third Monday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m.

Six specific Constitution and By-Laws changes were discussed and voted upon at the January general membership meeting. The outcome was as follows:

1. Change (lower) quorum requirements – failed.
2. Revise Articles sequence (editorial) – passed.
3. Add Preamble stating purpose, history and authority – passed.
4. Remove male references – failed.
5. Change Board expenditure authority (to \$600) – passed.
6. Provide specific conditions for Chapter dissolution – passed.

(An editorial comment regarding item 4 above. I, Peter Grahn, was at the meeting. The majority of discussion regarding allowing women membership centered around the future of the Montgomery Women's Chapter, which had a membership of about 20 and full use of the Rockville Chapter's facilities. The argument was that accepting women into the Rockville Chapter would lead to the end of the Montgomery Women's Chapter. This argument prevailed with over 2/3 of the members present. My recollection was that about 90 members were present at the meeting.)

The Montgomery Women's Chapter was originally chartered on November 3, 1975 with 13 charter members. This Chapter used the Rockville Chapter's facilities, meeting on the first Monday of each month.

The Wood Duck nesting boxes built back in 1985 were finally installed in the lake at Black Hill Park in Boyds on March 21. The delay was due to the requirement to fill the lake before the final shoreline could be determined. Twenty-eight boxes were installed and a monitoring program was initiated. On another note, an excessive Canada goose population was stripping all of the foliage at our lake.

The July newsletter had an article about a Chapter member, DC Police Officer Robert Remington, Who was shot and killed recently while investigating a robbery in Georgetown. A sympathy card was sent on behalf of the Chapter and \$203 was collected for the family at the June meeting.

A fund drive for a new National Headquarters was started and an Honor Roll parchment listing all those individuals who made a donation of \$45 or more was posted on the chapter house wall. It contained 38 names at the end of the year. It eventually was expanded to two parchments.

The bridge saga continued. The August newsletter stated: *“BRIDGE OVER SENECA CREEK - Six and a half months ago, our Chapter President wrote a letter to the Seneca Creek State Park manager requesting State easement to anchor our bridge on the left bank. The letter was followed up with several phone calls and conversations, with the objective of eliciting a response to the request. The President's recent letter to the head of Maryland's Department of Natural Resources has finally achieved the desired result. Recent interoffice communication received from the Maryland Forest, Park and Wildlife Service indicates that the State is now prepared to enter into an agreement with us on the easement. November's newsletter reported that we still have not heard anything from them. The President is sending them a stronger letter.”*

The Chapter initiated sponsorship of Girl Scout Troop 2087 (Mariners) under the auspices of our Juniors program. It was open to girls from 9th to 12 grades, providing training in such things as canoeing, water safety, sailing and seamanship.

Membership at the end of 1987 was 514.

1988 started with a budget of \$37,960. We also received a notice from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources that they would be sending a draft agreement for use of their rock on which to anchor our new bridge. Final approval according to DNR should be forthcoming no later than February. Chapter members agreed to spend \$1,800 to buy a Chapter pick-up truck, a 1977 Chevy, for use by the Grounds chair. They also decided upon a \$4,000 donation to National for their building fund, to be spread over three years. The 1988 budget was revised and all operating expenditures were reduced by 10 percent due to lower membership.

A 22-man work party was held on May 7 and the old bridge was removed in five hours. The conditions imposed by the Maryland DNR were not acceptable to the Chapter. They wanted the Chapter to give up too many rights in order to anchor to their rock. The Board decided that a replacement bridge would be built entirely on Chapter property. Engineering assistance in this endeavor was requested. *Editorial note: It took 12 years to accomplish, as the replacement was finally completed in November 2000, with formal dedication on January 13, 2001.*

The monthly scheduling of Range Officers at the Pistol and Rifle Ranges was initiated in July 1988. This requirement continues to this day. The BCC Chapter's Chapter house burned to the ground due to arson and we made our Chapter house available to BCC for their monthly meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month – at no charge – until they made other arrangements. They only met here

one time as our facility was too small for their membership, especially as their members wanted to hear in person what was going on.

Our Rockville Juniors won 12 State titles in the team events in seven shooting sports in 1988.

The year closed out with the archery tower being removed as the footings were rotted; serious budgetary issues were encountered that required additional ways to raise money; the institution of a monthly fund raising lottery; and a final membership count of 524.

Activities during 1989 were generally routine. In May, Ron Bordeaux installed four ceiling fans in the upstairs meeting room. The Chapter sponsored an “Outdoor Ethics Essay” at local High Schools and Junior Highs. Two winners were announced and their essays read by them at the June meeting. They were Kenneth Reinert (Junior High, \$150) and Ryan Hill (High School, \$250). There was an unusual donation in May. Member Howard Roberts was handling a commercial real estate deal concerning a beer store being bought by a church group. The Chapter ended up with over 100 cases of free beer. It took a while to dispose of the donation.

The Board of Directors had named the pistol range sometimes in the 1970’s after Dale Girton, a long-time member who regularly patrolled the grounds in the 1970’s and 1980’s. He was a retired U.S. Calvary Trooper who had his McClellan saddle in his living room. He also had authorization from the county to be armed. The Pistol League, at the urging of Montgomery Woman’s Chapter member Mary Lou McFall, bought and installed on the range a brass plaque honoring Dale Girton.

The Junior shooting team won the Seneca Valley High School air rifle match and took second place in the Clopper Mill BB gun tournament. Our four-position air rifle team, coached by Dick Jurgena, had won 11 of the 12 Maryland championships and regional matches since the activity began in 1985. It was quite an impressive record.

Membership approval for a dues increase was received at the September general membership meeting as follows:

Initiation Fee	from \$30 to \$45
Annual Dues (Regular)	from \$45 to \$50
Annual Dues (Student)	from \$24 to \$30
Annual Dues (Retiree)	from \$27.50 to \$30
Annual Work Hours	from 4 to 6 Hours
Contribution in lieu of work	from \$20 to \$30

The final membership count stood at 496.

In retrospect, the decade was full of exciting milestones such as the Chapter’s 50th anniversary celebration; a membership high-water mark of 735 in 1982; the fencing of our Rifle and Pistol ranges; the closing of the Rifle and Pistol Ranges; their subsequent rebuilding and reopening; the creation of an Outdoor .22 Pistol League and an Indoor Air Pistol League; building and installation of Wood Duck boxes in State and County Parks; complete dredging and rebuilding of the Chapter’s Lake; and the establishment of a Formal Range Officer Training Program.

Many valuable Chapter activities continued year to year. These included: a Spring and a Fall Dinner Dance; Wildlife Food Patch Plantings; an Auction each May; a tent exhibit at the Montgomery County Fair; an open house celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day in September; an Annual Swap Meet in the Fall; Public Hunter Education Courses; Public Handgun Safety Training Courses; a Trap League; Turkey Shoots; a very strong Junior Program which included both Air Rifle and BB Gun Shooting and Water Sports; sponsorship of Boy Scout Troop 1097.

History of the 1990's

Thanks to Harry Crow, Pete Grahn and Miles Greenbaum we have a complete set of newsletters for our historical records. Miles Greenbaum continued to serve as newsletter editor for the entire decade. The two-sided 8-1/2" X 14" newsletter format used in the past was changed to a four-page 8-1/2" X 11" format in 1991. This is still the format in use. A Letter-to-the-Editor section and a free Ike Want Ad section were also added at this time. It also allowed for photos to be included.

A family membership (husband and wife) was approved at the January 1990 meeting. The fee structure was \$65 initiation and \$75 annually. Existing members could convert by paying the additional \$25 annual fee with a one-time waiver of the initiation fee. (*Editorial note: This opened the window for women members*) The February meeting discussed this possibility and voting on the change occurred in March. The motion passed by an overwhelming majority vote. The Chapter Constitution and By-Laws were accordingly modified. (*Editorial note: I, Peter Grahn, was present at the meeting. Newly sworn in family member Carol Eichling, a regular Navy Lt. Commander who was in uniform, gave the ultimate comment. "If I'm good enough to defend our country, I should be good enough to join the Chapter."*) The question was then called and the motion passed.

A new ceiling was installed in the chapter house. We received Scouting Charters for the two Explorer Posts that we sponsor: Explorer Ship 444 (whitewater rapids ship) and Post 1097 (snow skiing post). Jim Hill was our Scouting point of contact for these. A new archery tower was constructed in June. The Chapter adopted Waring Station Road from Clopper to Wisteria under the State's Adopt-a-Road program. The Juniors, under the leadership of our sponsored Sea Explorer Scouts, cleaned up the Montgomery Fair Grounds, getting \$3,000 for their efforts. A Monday night football program was started featuring hot dogs and beer. This activity later morphed into wild game dinners and is still being continued. Thirty Wood Duck boxes were installed in mid-November at Pennifield and Violettes Locks on the C&O Canal.

Chapter shooting teams had many accomplishments. Our seven-member BB gun team went to the Nationals and came in 18th in the country. Chapter members competing in 28 air gun events attended the State Games in Frostburg, MD. They won about 100 medals. We really dominated the games.

Food Patch Farewell – We had been planting at least 20 wildlife food patches annually with the assistance of the Department of Parks and Planning for over 35 years. The Parks and Planning Dept. notified us that due to scheduling problems and the difficulty of getting the tractor through the weeds to the plots, they can no longer let us plant these areas. The Chapter was going to research

alternatives.

Finally, the October newsletter contained the following discussion regarding our forest. This will lead to one of the most significant Chapter projects of the decade: *“FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT -- Of our Chapter's fifty-plus acres, slightly over forty are in forest that has always gone unmanaged. Responsibilities begin at home, and we are now looking at ways to implement forest management practices to maintain the health of our forest and to improve wildlife habitat while maintaining aesthetic qualities. The planning that we do now will affect the Chapter quality and life for the next twenty or thirty or more years.*

A detailed management plan has been prepared for us by the Maryland Forest Service; it looks at our timber stands, their history, extent, species, size, age, and level of stocking. It identifies desirable trees, undesirable trees, and den trees, and makes recommendations for harvesting to promote vigor of remaining tree, to create openings for regeneration, and reducing susceptibility to Gypsy Moth defoliation. Harvested timber could be sold for sawtimber, firewood, or both, and could create a fund to significantly enhance our ability to enter into conservation projects.

The decision of how to approach forest management is going to be difficult, and there will be many divergent opinions. At the September Board of Director's meeting, a committee was formed to analyze the options, and to present recommendations to the general membership. If you believe you have something constructive to add, and would like to serve on that committee, please call Ed Lopez by October 13 at the latest.”

The first Maryland Air Gun Tournament and 1990 State Championships was hosted by the Chapter on December 30 & 31 and drew 40 competitors from 12 Maryland communities. Junior member Joy Freund scored a 552 in the Air Rifle, gaining her the right to try out for the U.S. Olympic Team.

The year ended with 507 members.

Activities in 1991 started out with the fund raising lottery having to be cancelled due to lack of participation. It was noted that Paul Wire (1904-1990) one of the original founding charter members of our Chapter and a past president passed in December. Our Forest Reforestation Plan was ready to be implemented with the improvement of the 4.5-acre area near the railroad tracks. Once cleared of low quality trees, shrubs and multiflora rose, it would be reforested with oak, black walnut and hickory or chestnut. The plan was to plant over 400 seedlings. Wood duck boxes were placed in February at the Penifield Dierson Waterfowl Sanctuary. A request was made for bids to replace the windows and doors in the chapter house. The first estimate was for \$8,700. Installation was done by Heritage Builders of Rockville and was completed in November. The Tuesday .22 pistol league changed to “The Outdoor Pistol League” and alternated relays between .22 and centerfire.

John Lane, whose family donated the collection to the Pinecrest Elementary School in Silver Spring, took the African animal heads that adorn the chapter house walls on safaris in 1967-69. The school was being torn down in 1991 and the new school did not have room for the collection. Member Warren Fisher found out about situation and we now have the collection. The lake had a hydrilla

infestation and chairman John Garner was seeking a licensed firm to treat it. Thirty-two wood duck boxes were built in November. Plans were being made to also build and install kestrel-nesting boxes.

The Juniors program during the period consisted of five organized groups. These covered shooting sports (BB, air rifle, air pistol, small-bore rifle); water sports (canoeing, kayaking, power boating, sailing); and fishing and conservation (fishing, recycling, garden plots, tree planting, conservation groups). The groups were:

1. Roaring Rifles (Junior NRA Rifle Club)
2. 4-Leaf Clovers (4-H Club)
3. Sea Explorer Ship 444 (BSA)
4. Seneca Kayakers
5. Clean & Green Conservation Club

The year closed with a total membership of 539. Of these, 173 failed to fulfill their obligation of performing six hours duty to the Chapter.

Conservation activities in 1992 started with a summary of lake activities by chair John Garner. His passing the can at meetings allowed him to distribute about 100 bushels of corn to feed wildlife. The lake was stocked in late November 1991 with 400 trout. The Chapter received permission from the State to reforest the Rt. 270/188 cloverleaf; they planned to plant over 500 trees starting in April. Ed Lopez chaired the project. Ron Murray restarted the wildlife food patch program by renting a tractor and Rototiller, as the State no longer supported the wildlife project. Explorer Ship 444 cleaned up Seneca Creek from Clopper to Riffleford Roads. The Chapter reforestation project began with logging operations starting in November with completion expected to be early January 1993. Three hundred seedlings (100 each red oak, black walnut and white ash) were ordered for spring planting.

A 100-yard target area at the rifle range was under design by Bill Leaman. It became operational in July. A proposal to install a new automatic trap machine was discussed. The old trap house will be demolished and a new one built to Amateur Trapshooting Assoc. specifications, plus a new trap machine leased; this was completed in April. Planning was started for a 3-D archery layout, which was completed and made operational in April. It was an immediate success with matches on Sunday a.m. and then on Wednesday nights. An annual Club Shooting Championship match consisting of Pistol, Rifle, Trap, Archery and Darts (!) was initiated in September as part of National Hunting & Fishing Day. The overall winner was ????. A motion was made and approved in December to conduct a controlled deer hunt on the Chapters grounds. This would be a bow hunt only. The hunter must have a valid MD license; be bow qualified; a portion of the harvest must be donated to Hunters for the Hungry; and hunters will be scheduled by lottery.

Chris Holler chaired the replacement of the house's sidewall and wooden rear steps with 40 tons of stonework. A crab feast was held in July. It was so successful that a pig roast was held in November. A special presentation on Bats by the Wild Bird Company in October featured the live critters. Dinner dances were held in both the spring and fall. A Past President's dinner hosted by Teresa and Chris Holler was held in October. The newsletter noted the passing in December of Win Drissel

(1903 – 1992). Win was membership chairman for 15 years, the first budget chairman, and personally built our BBQ pits and picnic tables. The year closed out with 541 members.

The year 1993 had full-scale logging operations underway as the first step in the long-term reforestation plans. Harry Crow directed this project. The operation was completed by spring. Revenues from the logging were \$35,000. They had ordered 300 seedlings (100 each red oak, black walnut and white ash) plus Tubex tree shelters and planted them in June on the five acre clear cut area near the railroad tracks. The reforestation project at the interchange of I-270 and Rt. 118 continued. Last year they planted 525 seedlings; this year they planned on an additional 1,700 seedlings. This was being done as a Maryland Forest Stewardship Program.

Ten Chapter rifle instructors were graduated from a NRA certification program held by Jim Hill an NRA Training Counselor. The Chapter took possession of a new ATV with tractor capability for primary use at the 3-D Archery Range. This allowed expansion of the range to 30 targets. A Chapter information center was set up near the phone on the lower level. The May newsletter noted the passing of John Brawner (1930-1993) a Past President (1968-69) who donated all of the paneling and cabinets downstairs in the chapter house. The Chapter obtained a used Ford tractor immediately nicknamed Big Blue.” It was used by Ron Murray to plant 11 food patches including five of the old patches that were lost five years ago. Recertification of all range officers was initiated. This was to be completed by the end of the year. Chris Holler built a horseshoe pit alongside the chapter house. Twenty Kestrel nesting boxes were built for installation on the back of I-270 and I-70 directional signs with the help of the Maryland State Roads Commission.

Chapter President Joe Abosso along with members Warren Fisher, Dan Poole and Malcolm King attended the July 8th groundbreaking ceremonies for the new National IWLA Headquarters. Larry and Steve Musser, owners of the Musser Brothers, Inc. Landscaping company were presented with a special award recognizing all of their efforts on excavating, hauling and grading the gravel road to the lake. The fall dinner dance was cancelled due to lack of participation. Twenty-five couples were needed to break even, only 14 signed up. The reforestation efforts resulted in the Chapter being designated as a Stewardship Forest by the Maryland DNR. The 3-D archery program was an overwhelming success with over 2,000 paid participants and over 70,000 arrows fired without a single negative incident. Ron Murray and Roger LaFlesh were the co-chairs responsible for this activity. Membership at year-end was ???

Activities in 1994 began with a Superbowl Potluck Dinner at the chapter house in January 30.

Another major project with huge significance to the Chapter surfaced with this note in the February newsletter: *“**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:** Our Chapter faces an interesting challenge in 1994; specifically, the construction of the "Great Seneca Creek and Gunners Branch Relief Sewer" through the entire length of our property. Heavy trucks will haul out soil that will be returned after the sewer is laid. They will also bring in large sections of 60" pipe and materials. Some controlled blasting will be required. A public meeting on this \$8.6 million project will be held 7:30 p.m., February 3, at the Seneca Valley High School. The Chapter will be well, represented. Jim Naccarato, our Corresponding Secretary, has been dealing with the WSSC on our behalf. The situation has reached*

the point where we are going to engage an attorney skilled in real estate matters to protect Chapter interests. I believe that we will also need to exercise considerable oversight during the construction phase in order to protect our Chapter's air, waters, woods and wildlife. We will be seeking your direct help in this endeavor. – Pete Grahn”

The following month has this article containing more information about the project: **“WSSC BATTLE CONTINUES -- Our Chapter has retained the services of attorney William Francis Xavier Becker to represent our interests in minimizing damage to our property and disruption of our activities during the WSSC sewer construction. The WSSC is planning to cut a 50-70 ft. swath across the length of our property, crossing Seneca Creek twice, with two major access roads and a staging area where we recently planted our hardwood seedlings. The blasting required may affect the artesian springs that feed our lake, and may weaken the dam that holds back the lake. The potential for WSSC doing serious mischief to our interests is enormous. There are many issues involved, and we have to be prepared.”**

Chris Holler remodeled the chapter house bathrooms. They remain today as he completed them. The Chapter bought 17 seedlings from the Wye Oak. (*Editorial note: The Wye Oak was felled by a severe storm in 20??*) These were planted in June. Chairman Ron Murray reported major changes to the archery range in April. The old range was torn down and replaced with brand new backstops, and a new shooting protocol. There will be one shooting line for all distances, with the three backstops placed at 20, 30 and 40 yards.

The passing of Eldo Wiebe (1914-1994) was noted in May. He contributed to every area of the Chapter's life. Also, Malcolm E. King died on May 24 at the age of 80. He was instrumental in the donation of the initial 35.5 acres of the Chapter's property from Emma Strider. He was the founder of the “Save Our Streams” Program. He was also key in getting a private donation of 225 acres of land to the State for the beginning of the 5,000 acre Seneca State Park which is around us on three sides.

The first annual Chapter Awards Banquet was held in July and provided member recognition on a local, state and national level. An impressive list of awards was presented to deserving individuals.

The WSSC saga continued with the officers and directors voting in August to accept a version of a land lease agreement with WSSC for the use of part of our property as a staging area for construction of the Great Seneca Relief Sewer project. The agreement provided payment of \$18,000 for the 18 months estimated for completion of the work.

A 20X40' Lake Pavilion was built and dedication occurred in October. The Pavilion was named after John Garner who has been lake chairman since 1977. Dave Worrell and Vic Ezerski were instrumental in the conception, design and construction of the Pavilion. On a down side, the lake pier was closed for repairs.

It was with sad regrets that it was noted that Henry A. (Joe) Dawson who was the Chapter's second president in 1935 died on November 19. December's meeting had 21 new members sworn in. This

was the largest class since the mid-1980s. The 1995 operating budget was approved at \$63,100. Membership dues were increased by \$5.00 to cover a projected revenue shortfall and to keep the budget balanced. A \$4,000 cash grant was received from DNR to improve our pistol range. This was the largest single grant received from the total State grant pot of \$36,000 for range improvements. Ed Lopez, Mike Queen and Dan Poole prepared the application. We ended the year with ??? members.

1995 started out with an update on the WSSC project. The lease for the parking area was signed; the right of way easement for both parcels of property (one on each side of Seneca Creek) was signed; house well water quality testing was initiated; regular testing of the lake began. The checks started flowing shortly thereafter. Total revenues received from the project finally amounted to about \$30,000. Mike Queen initiated a pistol range redesign. This was intended to sink the entire range by about six feet, increasing the height of the end berm, and erecting side berms. The cost would be offset by the State grant of \$4,000 and a grant of \$2,500 from the Friends of the NRA. The Chapter would pick up the remaining cost of \$5,000 - \$9,000. Construction would be done at the end of the year to minimize disruption. A Capital Improvement Fund was initiated to deal with the income from the WSSC project. The trees that were planted earlier on the upper acreage had to be removed for the WSSC project. Members could take them for replanting on their own property. A state-of-the-art voice mail system was installed on the Chapter phones. A lake committee was formed to design a new pier. Bids were solicited to make repairs to the Caretakers house to remodel the bathroom and re-pipe all water supply lines. A trophy cabinet was installed in the chapter house. The lake area became a trash-free preserve with the Chapter providing the bags for removing the trash.

July's newsletter welcomed the Chapter to the Information Superhighway with the announcement that we had our own Home Page up and running on the Internet. We were even ahead of National on this one. Bob Gottesman was responsible for making this happen. (*Editorial Note: He is still our Webmaster as of June 2004*). It was also noted that the bridge over Seneca Creek is still missing and civil engineering help with designing a new bridge was requested. It was noted that Junior shooter Chris Deigan came in second in Small-bore Rife at the Camp Perry National Championships. Spraying in September terminated an infestation of hydrilla at the lake. A very hungry beaver went on a rampage and took down all of the trees in our orchard near the lake, except three. These were protected with metal flashing. A state-sanctioned exterminator was hired to get rid of the beaver(s). Alan Frans, a Junior water sports participant, was recognized for performing a life-saving rescue on the Youghageny River over Labor Day weekend. He accomplished this while the adults present were pondering what to do and in spite of being admonished to stay out of the way. Our Chapter, under the direction of Jim Hill, had trained Alan in water rescue.

The year ended with construction of the WSSC relief sewer underway. The first activity was to tunnel under the railroad overpass, which was expected to take 100 days. WSSC looked out for our interests at the contractor kept trying to take shortcuts in violation of their contract.

The year closed out with a membership of ???

1996 started with the following announcement in the January newsletter: "**FEBRUARY VOTE SCHEDULED FOR PCS TOWER ON CHAPTER PROPERTY** – *In accordance with Article XI of*

the Rockville IWLA Chapter By-Laws, this is an official notice that there may be a vote at the February 2, 1996 Chapter meeting concerning the long-term lease of a piece of our property. The vote would be to determine whether we want to commit our Chapter to a lease which would allow the erection of a Personal Communications Services (PCS) monopole tower. This issue was presented at the December meeting, and will be discussed again in detail at the January meeting, including a report by our counsel on the legal and tax issues involved.

To briefly review what has happened, American Personal Communications will be providing digital PCS service under the brand name Sprint Spectrum. They will need a series of local transmission towers for the modern PCS technology, which is being hailed as the next generation of cellular telephone, paging and wireless data technology. Our property, apparently, presents them with a useable site for their monopole tower which may reach as high as 200' (requiring a 1' setback for every 1' of height) and require a dedicated piece of land about 30' x 50'. In return, American Personal Communications will enter into a 20-year lease with the Chapter, with five-year options, to pay the Chapter \$8-900 per month.

We hope to be able to answer all legal and technical questions at the January meeting. We will also probably be handing out proxies at the January meeting to anyone who may not be able to make the February meeting. It is obvious that this is going to be a major issue in our Chapter's history; please try to be there."

The article was correct about the impact of the cellular tower on the Chapter. The communications industry did not want to deal with the State to attempt to lease on its parkland. We have the highest elevated non-State property in the area, so the tower now has its maximum of five tenants. Because of this, projected tower revenue from the cell tower in 2004 is expected to be \$50,000.

There was bad weather at both the January (rain turning to ice) and February (snow) regular meetings which prevented any motions from being made. It was noted that James Robbie Woodard (1915 – 1995) the long-time member who, for the past 25 years maintained and provided the birds and animals that were a mainstay of our IWLA exhibit at the MC Fair had passed. Also noted was the passing of Mike Talbot (1938 – 1996), one of the Chapters Past Presidents (1975 – 1976).

Some problems occurred with the WSSC project in February when one of the sub-contractors got into an area of our property without permission and did some damage to our nature trail and other property. Our attorney met with WSSC who agreed to immediately repair all damage to our satisfaction.

The cell tower option to lease was signed by Harry Crow (President) and Lee Hays (Recording Secretary) on March 18, 1996. Payments were to commence on April 1. The area leased was 60' in length by 50' in width. APC was going to build a three-legged lattice tower 225 feet high. According to an undated article from the Gazette, the Montgomery County Planning Board voted 4-0 to support the tower. Since the property is in a residential zone, APC needed a special

exception approval from the county Board of Appeals to build the tower. A public hearing for the special exception was to be held on June 10. The 225-foot tower will be painted gray and have a red beacon on top to meet Federal Aviation Administration requirements. The \$250,000 facility will be on the second highest point on the property, which is 360 feet high. The transmission and receiving station will be topped with one dozen antennas. Cellular coverage will extend over a two-to two-and-a-half-mile radius. Two thousand dollars of the tower revenue were going to be awarded annually as a conservation scholarship.

A Chapter awards banquet was held at IWLA National Headquarters on March 30 with 50 members attending the event, which was organized by Charlie Overly.

It was noted in the August newsletter that former lake chairman John Garner (1920-1996) had passed. He joined the Chapter in 1972 and was involved in many activities including rewiring the chapter house, feeding animals in the winter and rebuilding our lake in 1980-81. The article closed noting that the Chapter had already named John Garner Pavilion at the lake in recognition of his services.

The Chapter Membership in August 1995 approved construction of a new fishing pier at the lake. The old one was closed as being unsafe in October 1994. Dave Worrell, Lake Chairman, supervised the construction of a 52-foot pier that was opened for use in June. An additional "T" extension was added over Labor Day Weekend (huh!).

The year closed out with a successful dinner dance and a membership of ???

1997 began with the Chapter being certified as a Tree Farm by the Maryland Tree Farm Committee. The tree farm program is a nationwide organization sponsored by forest product industries to recognize and promote the use of scientific forest management principles on private land. The Certified Tree Farm status is reserved for land-owners who are actively managing their property for timber, wildlife, recreation and watershed protection.

A conservation poster contest for children (Kids for Conservation) in the fifth through tenth grade was initiated in January. We received 47 entries. Two winners were chosen and sent on to National for the nationwide contest.

Scout Troop 1097 received its charter from the Boy Scouts of America for its 35th year of service to youth and the community. Once again, the Boy Scouts recognized Troop 1097 with an Outstanding rating. Because this is our Troop, we were proud of their accomplishments and pleased with the volunteer time and support provided by the 30 leaders, some of whom are Chapter members. The Troop ended the year with over 40 scouts, several of whom earned the rank of Eagle Scout, Boy Scouting's highest rank. (*Editorial Note: There is a plaque in the lower level of the Chapter House that lists the names of Troop 1097's 49 Eagle Scouts.*)

A revised Constitution and By-Laws was unanimously adopted at the March general membership meeting. The changes were to bring these documents up to date, and to clarify a number of issues

and responsibilities. Jim Hill formed a Chapter Conservation Committee. Smoking on meeting nights was banned. The septic field encountered problems and needed to be completely replaced or a sewer hookup accomplished. A Port-a-Potty was installed at the lake. No more “walks in the woods” or poison ivy on those delicate parts. The pistol range berms were built up substantially during the WSSC project with about 250-300 dump truck loads of leftover dirt. Over 500 feet of conduct was laid to the pistol range. Ron Bordeaux led the effort. The tower contractor dug the trench at no cost to us, but the hard work was in the installation. It was a tough job.

A major refurbishing of the Caretakers house was initiated in April as a result of an earlier inspection. The work included a new roof, new porch, improved windows and lots of other needed repairs. It was completed in May.

The WSSC project was finally completed with the contractor clearing out its equipment and restoring the grounds in April. We discovered in June that the contractor buried quite a bit of debris on our property including broken macadam, old stumps and a gasoline compressor. Work was done with WSSC to correct the situation.

Richard Blair Giarth (1949-1997) passed in June after a yearlong battle with cancer. Blair gave 150% to the Chapter and his work with the Junior and 3-D programs.

Construction of the cell tower was started in September. It was operational in November. The general opinion was that the tower was somewhat less intrusive and obnoxious than some members had worried about. (*Editorial Note: Think of the blinking red light on top as singing “Pennies from Heaven.”*)

A 25% dues increase from \$60 to \$75 was voted in October for the 1997-98 fiscal year. The year ended with 533 members.

1998 started with a lengthy discussion of the problems associated with our failing septic field. This is verbatim from the newsletter: **“So What’s Happening With the Septic Field? -- *It's terminal. That's what's happening with the septic field. It was originally installed in the mid-1950s, was never designed for the volume of usage that it's been getting, is being invaded by tree roots, and in general is just falling apart. By today's standards, the field would be totally inadequate. Our sewage handling capacity has to be replaced. That's a given. The question that the Board has been dealing with is, just how should we replace it?***

There are two options. We can build a new septic field to today's standards, or we can hook up to WSSC. On the surface, this looks like an easy question to answer, but nothing is ever easy. This article will try to explain some of the problems and issues that we are facing in our decision process. First of all, the cost. Estimates for a new septic field run \$17,000 to \$20,000, with negligible annual maintenance costs, and an expected life of 15-20 years. Time to construct would be three to six months, with appreciable disruption of some of our facilities during that time. WSSC would cost a little over \$30,000, with annual hookup charges of a few hundred dollars. Time to construct, according to WSSC, would be "about a year," but the disruption to facilities would be quite a bit less

than with the septic field.

The Chapter has decided to go forward with the septic field, if we can. That's a big "if. " We must pass ground percolation tests as required by the Montgomery County Well & Septic people. They have already come out and identified seven test sites for testing to be done. At each site, a high (36") and low (15') hole is dug to be tested. Of the seven sites, two were immediately disqualified because the tester hit solid rock. Of the remaining five holes, only one spot by the archery range perked and one low hole below the trap range perked. We are going to have the high hole below the trap range retested, and will try two more holes in the trap range field and one in the parking lot adjacent to the trap range. All of those must percolate for the county to issue a permit. If they fail, then we have no option but to go with the WSSC alternative.

For our needs, our septic field will require about 20,000 square feet of area. This equates to about 1/2 acre. Meanwhile, to stay legal we are pumping out the existing septic field at a cost of about \$175 per hit. But we can only continue to do that for so long, because the field continues to deteriorate. Wish us all luck, and we'll keep you posted."

Concerning shooting sports, it was reported that the Maryland State Air Pistol Championships were sponsored by the Chapter late last year. It attracted nearly 50 shooter from five states. Maryland residents Trevor Jones (Winner) and Roland Breden (Junior Winner) led to a sweep of winners by the Chapter. High Woman was Susan Cassell; High Junior Woman was Beckie Heise. Pete Grahn won High Senior. The Chapter was working to sponsor three Junior Olympic Trap State Championships (DC, MD and VA) during June 1998. Jim Hill was leading this effort.

The Chapter was still looking for someone to design a replacement bridge. It was also taking inventory of all Chapter equipment including boats, firearms, tools, and other outdoor equipment, etc. The Chapter was notified in January by a Virginia law firm that their client had purchased our property for non-payment of taxes. That was interesting because, among other reasons, we're tax-exempt. It turns out the bill was an "assessment" rather than a tax, so we were liable, but were never made aware that the bill existed. So, in 1996, we were put on the block. We had our attorney settle the matter.

National IWLA was proposing changing the organization name from "The Izaak Walton League of America" to "The Izaak Walton Conservation League." The logo would change from the Izaak Walton bust to a symbol with a bunch of panels showing fishing, conservation, etc. Opinions were being solicited of the membership. The Chapter membership voted unanimously at the March meeting to reject the proposed changes. It was subsequently voted down at the National Convention held in the summer.

The next big Chapter project was noted as follows in the February newsletter: *"Now, About that Quonset Hut..... Storage has become a serious issue at our Chapter, but maybe we've found an answer to that problem that has some other very positive benefits as well. We've been given a 30' x 40' Quonset, 15' in height. Right now, it's located inside the old "Bob's" men's store next to the Best*

Buy on Shady Grove Road. It breaks down into (a lot of) 8' x 36" curved sections, heavy gauge galvanized steel. All we have to do is to break it down, transport it to our property, and re-bolt it back together. Any volunteers? We've already got a flat bed truck committed, but we really will need a lot of hands-on help. We are tentatively planning a takedown work party on Friday night, 2/27, then all day on 2/28 (Saturday) and 3/1 (Sunday). We must have a lot of hands available.

There are still a lot of questions that have to be answered regarding permits (we're working on it). We are particularly sensitive about not jeopardizing our "grandfathered" status with the county. There are also questions pertaining to options for its use; e.g., not only for storage, but it can be used for the Juniors' air rifle and air pistol training. Of course, if we use it for the Juniors; we'll have to provide some sort of heat (wood-burning Franklin stove?), some way to move the air around in the building (fans?), etc., in any case we'll need to run electricity to the building, we'll need to provide a footed foundation; and some sort of floor. All of these issues, and more, will be presented and discussed by Marv Freund at our February meeting. If you want to be heard, arid especially if you have some constructive ideas, please make sure to be there. But mainly, call Marv or Harry Crow for more information and to let them know that you will be available and can be counted on to help on one or more of the work party days."

The Quonset Hut was dismantled in February by the removal of about 8,000 bolts. There were several work parties over two weekends with 15 to 30 members helping at each work party. It was stored on the Bob's site for a while and then moved to storage provided by a friend of Marv Freund. After a lengthy amount of dialogue between our attorney and Montgomery County zoning officials who required rezoning of the property from "non-conforming, pre-existing use" status, it was decided to donate the Hut to the Frederick Civil Air Patrol for use as an emergency vehicle storage shed at the Frederick Airport. This was done about two years after we received the shed.

Long-time member Thomas Warren Fisher was honored in February for his lifetime of conservation work when he received the Wildlife Conservation Award from the Maryland-Delaware Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

Vince McLaughlin (1914-1998) passed in April. Vince set up our DNR-approved Hunter-Safety Course over twenty-five years ago and, during that time, was responsible for training well over a thousand people to be good and safe hunters. His widow, Susan, was presented with our IWLA Hall of Fame Award.

The newsletter format was changed in June to include a full-page monthly calendar listing all functions and activities. One of the main changes was that Range Office assignments were shown on the appropriate day. This format is still being used when this was written.

Joseph E. Fisher, 84, the last surviving Chapter Charter Member of the Chapter died November 21, 1998. Mr. Fisher lived in St. Michaels, MD and was a current member of our Chapter and the Talbot County Chapter. He was a Rockville Chapter director several times. During WWII he served under General Patton in Europe from the Battle of the Bulge to the Victory in Berlin. He was discharged with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Kurt Anders reported at the December meeting that we had received preliminary approval from the County for the design of our septic system. The system would consist of 267 feet of trench being fed by a 1,500-gallon tank. Membership at the end of the year was 492.

1999 started out with an increase of the “In Lieu of Work” charge from \$30 to \$50. After two attempts, the January general membership meeting was cancelled due to bad weather. The Board meeting was also cancelled due to an icy parking lot. A policy was implemented to have the Chapter President make the cancellation decision and update the Chapter’s voice mail recording by 5:30 p.m. A County range inspection was completed on January 9 in the rain, snow, ice and slush. The committee suggested additional signage around a new, second perimeter and installing a range flag on the pistol range. The ranges were approved for six months. An ice storm in mid-January caused concern, but no tree or power line damage. (*Editorial note: Waring Station Road was closed for a day or so due to the ice.*)

Jamal Kadri reported that we successfully fixed up and renovated about 80 wood duck nesting boxes in the McKee-Beshers and other locations in the area. The Chapter conservation scholarship award program (two \$1,000 scholarships annually) was named in March for long-time member Warren Fisher. Four conservation scholarships were awarded at the May meeting (two for 1998 plus two for 1999). Treasurer Cathy Tait McMillan negotiated to a favorable resolution (zero dollars) a \$3,500 Chapter fine from the IRS. A lock was placed on the Archery Tower. A series of work parties were held for various Chapter locations. A three-year Range approval was received in June. The 3-D archery program was expanded to shoot every Wednesday evening and every other Sunday. Thanks to Kurt Anders’ successful dealings with the County environmental control bureaucracy, the new septic system was installed in July. Lowell Von Egger established a listbot e-mail list for those members interested in receiving Chapter information. The membership in August approved a new trap machine as the old one was broken and not repairable. After all the ice and snow in January, the September President’s message discussed water conservation due to a severe drought.

Bob Montgomery (1925-1999) passed on August 5. He was Chapter Treasurer from 1956 to 1998, a remarkable tenure.

A weekend work party in September drew 30+ participants. Dave and Trish Carr headed up a project to mount and monitor kestrel-nesting boxes in our area. Ron Kuipers lead a group in mid-December that installed wood duck nesting boxes. A Range Rules Committee chaired by Bud Corazza revised the rules to conform to guidance from both IWLA National and the County Range Commission. These were distributed to each member with the membership renewal notice.

They were saddened to report the death of long-time membership secretary Gordon Anderson (1927 – 1999) who passed on December 24. He was the Chapter scouting coordinator, and was an elder at the Rockville United Church, where he was Chairman of the Buildings and Grounds Committee for many years.

The new millennium was celebrated with a Chapter New Year’s Eve party attended by about 20

people. (*Editorial note: There was an incredible amount of hype concerning potential year 2000 (Y2K) computer problems that would stop airplanes from flying, power and water from flowing, etc. It would be the end of civilization, as we know it, back to the Stone Age, ditto, ditto. Nothing of any importance happened, other than a lot of computer programmers made a lot of money fixing potential problems and billions of batteries were sold.*) The membership ended the decade at 476.

The decade of the 1990's was full of significant events. A brief summary includes:

- Family and Women memberships allowed
- Waring Station Road adopted by the Chapter and cleaned bimonthly
- Wood Duck and Kestrel Box Program initiated
- Forest Management Program and logging accomplished (\$35,000)
- Planting trees at Rt.270/118 Interchange
- Certified as Tree Farm
- 100 Yard Rifle Range position established
- Controlled Deer hunts initiated
- Archery and Pistol Ranges rebuilt
- 3-D Archery Program initiated
- Annual Awards Program and banquet initiated
- Conservation Scholarships established
- Lake Pavilion built
- Replacement Pier built
- Chapter House windows and doors replaced
- Chapter House bathrooms remodeled
- Caretakers House remodeled
- Stone wall built behind Chapter House
- African animal heads installed in Chapter House
- New septic tank and field accomplished
- Chapter Internet Home Page and e-mail list established
- Cell Tower installed on property (\$\$\$)
- Monday Night football initiated
- WSSC Relief Sewer through property (\$30,000)
- Maryland Air Gun Championship sponsored

Other activities that continued throughout the decade included work parties, fish stocking, dinner dances, annual auction, firearms training, range officer training, Junior shooting and water sports, support to the Boy Scouts, outdoor pistol league, air pistol league, Trap League, MD DNR-approved Hunter Safety courses, and ???

2000 began with the installation of Kestrel boxes in Little Bennett Regional Park. A Save-Our-Streams training session was held with eight participants. The Sprint PCS tower compound was expanded to include addition of an AT&T antenna. We received 40% of the AT&T lease fee. Sprint replaced the screen of trees around the area. It was decided to increase the scholarship fund to three

\$1,500 awards. Richard Bishop and Paul Keats reactivated the Air Rifle Program, concentrating on Sporter Rifle events.

A work party in April planted fifty black walnut seedlings on our property. The Chapter took delivery of a new John Deere tractor (The Green Machine) with the help of a special donation of \$5,000 from Dr. Bruce Ammerman. It has an automatic transmission and an easy disconnect bucket and arm removal. Gladhill Brothers of Damascus gave the Chapter a special deal on the tractor. The Quonset Hut saga continued with our attorney meeting with the MC Department of Permits, with no positive feedback. A subsequent decision was made to liquidate the Quonset Hut.

Range Officer (RO) recertification started for all RO's. The project was to take three years, with the individual recertification good for five years. A new roof was installed on the pistol range. A dues increase from \$?? To \$75 was voted on and approved in July. Another antenna was installed on the cell tower, adding about \$660 per month to the revenue stream.

New trap range lights were installed in July. A monthly .22 Gallery Rifle Shoot was initiated in July by Pete Grahn. A new Draft Beverage Cooler system was installed in October. Andy Patton chaired the replacement cooler effort.

Civil engineer Chuck Roman and member Tom Beavers set up a Bridge Repair Committee to review the feasibility of a new bridge. As background, the old one was declared unsafe in 1982 and finally completely removed in 1988. A work party was held in July to remove underbrush and old materials. Four new bridge support poles were installed in August. By October, all bridge posts were installed, foundations in place, and steel suspension cables pulled. Richard Bise and Ricky Riggelman provided heavy equipment work and expertise. The bridge was finished and the first crossing made on November 15, 2000, by Tom Beavers, George Courtney, Chuck Roman and Jessie Wade. The formal bridge dedication took place on January 13, 2001 when Warren Fisher, the man who provided so much of the impetus and drive for the bridge, cut the ribbon officially opening the bridge to traffic. The two sections of our property were finally reconnected after a 12-year wait. Approximately 60 folks showed up for the dedication and brunch afterwards.

The year ended with a membership of 463, a decrease of 13 from the prior year.

2001 began as noted above with the dedication of the bridge. A wood-cutting party in December provided a lot of firewood that the Chapter decided to sell to members at \$15 a trunk load; \$50 for a small pickup truck load. Pete Grahn began collecting Chapter historical information in March. This paper is a culmination of that effort. Chuck Roman and Bill Leaman initiated planning for a 50-yard target area at the rifle range. Ten new Wood Duck nesting boxes were installed (locations unknown to the editor). Additionally, ten boxes were built for installation later at McKee-Beshers. Tim Ames, a pharmacist with the Public Health Service, gave a "Tick Talk" at the May meeting focussing on Lyme Disease, which has been caught by many of the Chapter members. A work party in April planted fifty Leland Cyprus trees along the pistol range berm ridge. Chris Holler and Frank Markus completed and installed a new Chapter entrance sign in July. Judy Danish initiated a new system to more accurately track work hours that members put in towards their annual commitment. John Hicks managed construction of a new roof on the chapter house in December. The old one rotted and began

leaking.

Bud Corazza spent considerable time running monthly Range Officer Recertification classes, required by all RO's, during the year. The bottom line was that 103 RO's were recertified and 48 new RO's added. The year ended with a membership of 463, the same number as the prior year.

2002

“Life can only be understood backward. But it must be lived forward.” -- Kierkegaard

¹ Source is the Booklet prepared for the 54th National IWLA Convention held in Baltimore, MD July 14-17, 1976.

² Source is an oral interview of Thomas Warren Fisher conducted by Judy Danish and Peter Grahn at Mr. Fisher's home in Boyds, MD on August 27, 2001.