

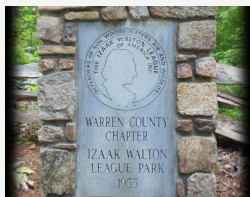
The Hogback Echo



Izaak Walton League of America, Warren County VA

Editor: Dan Olson
webmaster@wacovaikes.onmicrosoft.com

Presidents Message



Welcome Back!

I am thrilled to see the return of The Hogback Echo newsletter! I encourage you to check out the articles, upcoming events, and review the updated information shared by each board member. The Hogback Echo serves as another method to better ensure that every member stay informed about our Chapter's activities and events.

As we transition from winter to planning for our spring and summer projects, I would like to address some challenges that

have been successfully resolved since our election in September.

As you may notice, we have addressed immediate issues with changes in the leadership structure that have proven to be quite beneficial to the Chapter. We have assembled a great team that has made strides in recognizing our process and documentation deficiencies, and have diligently worked throughout the winter to address each of them.

For instance, following careful consideration and active participation, we are revising our by-laws and we are formulating job descriptions and operational guidelines for every board and committee role. Additionally, we have launched a new website that is both more informative and contemporary, resolved concerns related to the shooting range, and are in the midst of

developing a feasible budget aimed at ensuring our Chapter's financial stability in the coming years.

The Board of Directors aims to involve members in the development and implementation of programs that promote responsible stewardship. I cannot stress enough that the success of these initiatives relies on the support of our members. **It is a proud time to be an Ike in our Chapter!**

Our first membership meeting is right around the corner on March 3, 2024. In closing, your board and committee members are looking forward to updating you on the great progress we have made, what we have planned for the new year, and partaking in great conversation with each of you.

Carl Longmire, President

Points of Interest:

- Upcoming Events
- Committee Updates
- Shooting Range Updates
- Hal Meredith Interview



Visit our New Website

LEADERSHIP TEAM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Carl Longmire / president@wacovaikes.onmicrosoft.com

1st VP, Don Broadway / 1st.vp@wacovaikes.onmicrosoft.com

2nd VP, Harry Reed / 2nd.vp@wacovaikes.onmicrosoft.com

Treasurer, Richard Kurzenknabe / treasurer@wacovaikes.onmicrosoft.com

SECRETARIES

Membership Secretary, John Morash / membership@wacovaikes.onmicrosoft.com

Recording Secretary, Dan Olson / webmaster@wacovaikes.onmicrosoft.com

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Ways & Means, Sharon Longmire / ways.means@wacovaikes.onmicrosoft.com

Conservation & Community, Hershel Finch / sos@wacovaikes.onmicrosoft.com

Anti-Litter, Bill Lacy / antilitter@wacovaikes.onmicrosoft.com

Save Our Streams, Michele Sims / sos@wacovaikes.onmicrosoft.com

Grounds & Maintenance, Michael Longmire / ways.means@wacovaikes.onmicrosoft.com

PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Shooting Range, Ken Pullen / kenpullen@comcast.net

Website Administration, Dan Olson / webmaster@wacovaikes.onmicrosoft.com

Investments, Richard K./Don B./Ralph W. / treasurer@wacovaikes.onmicrosoft.com

Banking, Richard K./Don B./Ralph W/John M. / treasurer@wacovaikes.onmicrosoft.com

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Conservation Soapbox—Hershel Finch



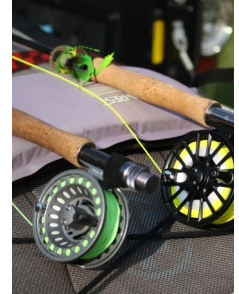
I don't know about anyone else's house, but Spring is rapidly approaching in my yard. Certain species of my lawn are starting to green up, the daffodils are a good 6 inches tall already and the occasional Oak and Tree-of-Heaven has started popping up in the

flower beds. My azaleas already have buds in the bush ready to pop and irises are greening up and growing as well. Time to get out there and start digging up, pruning back and NOT fertilizing or Rounding-Up !!

We've all heard about the lawsuits against the manufacturers of various weed killers because of their carcinogenic components. But again, the runoff from suburban (and not-so-suburban) lawns and farm fields is one of the main contributors to stream and river pollution that give rise to bacterial blooms and algae growth in our rivers. Fertilizers also feed the heavy nitrogen and phosphorus loads.

So consider this your annual warning about spreading too much fertilizer and weed killers on your properties. Remember the old DoahRat's motto for his own homestead;

'If it's GREEN...it's GOOD'



"...we have set up a birdhouse in memory of Ed Irre"

Grounds & Maintenance—Mike Longmire

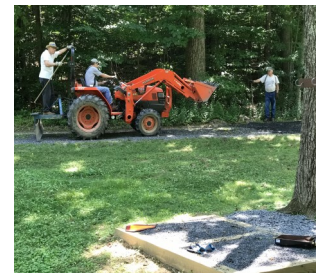
I don't need to remind anyone of the absolute beauty we are so fortunate to enjoy at our Chapter grounds. The gardens are beginning to bloom, indicating that spring is approaching. We encourage everyone to take advantage of the various amenities offered at the Chapter grounds.

The Grounds and Maintenance crew puts in a tremendous effort to maintain our Park in a tidy and usable condition throughout the year. The dedication displayed by the individuals who vol-

unteer to come to the Park to work is remarkable - fueled by the amazing breakfast provided every Friday morning by **Wes Hammack**. Join us!

Note that we have set up a birdhouse in memory of Ed Irre on the light pole, and a plaque will be added soon.

Overall, our Park is in good condition. While we will address some minor issues this summer, there are no urgent capital improvements needed at the moment. Stay tuned for more details in the upcoming issue.



Anti-Litter—Bill Lacy “The Trash Man”

I would like to recognize and thank my predecessor **Dennis Mosher** for his 10+ years of faithfully filling this position! His dedication to our efforts is unparalleled, setting a high standard for us to strive towards.

As an organization committed to protecting the environment and preserving the beauty of nature, we are conducting quarterly trash cleanups along Browntown Road and semi-annual cleanups along Happy Creek. Trash collection usually lasts for 3 to 4 hours and is a fulfilling activity, as it contributes to enhancing the beauty of our roadsides and neighborhoods. These

events are more than trash collection, as we also get the opportunity to enjoy the companionship of individuals who share similar values.

- Our upcoming event is along **Happy Creek on March 17th, 2024**. The meeting point will be at the Rural King parking lot near the tractors at 1 pm.
- **On April 14th, 2024, we will be conducting a cleanup along Browntown Road** in preparation for the **Redbud Festival**.

Members—we need your help!

This cleanup is crucial to ensure Browntown Road looks its best for the **Redbud Festival**. The meeting point for this event will be at the Church of Latter Day Saints at the beginning of Browntown Road and Hwy 340 at 1 pm.

Please ensure you wear sturdy shoes with good traction as we will be working along the creek bank. Waterproof clothing and footwear are recommended, but not required. [See you there!](#)



Website/Newsletter—Dan Olson

Last year, we explored the idea of improving communication with our members and community to increase participation in our Chapter's initiatives, while staying true to our values of conservation, beautification, and stewardship. I am pleased to announce that we have created and launched a new website dedicated to serving these objectives, and have resurrected our quarterly newsletter "The Hogback Echo".

Explore the fresh website design! Discover engaging articles, contact details, upcoming events, calendar updates, a plethora of Park images, and more. Don't forget to bookmark the new website for easy access!

[https://Izaak Walton League of America - Warren County VA | Izaak Walton | Virginia \(wacovaike.org\)](https://Izaak Walton League of America - Warren County VA | Izaak Walton | Virginia (wacovaike.org))

Chapter members should have received an invitation to join our website. If not, simply click on the QR code below and choose "Log In" at the top right corner. You will then be guided to create your account.



By logging in, you will gain access to the *Members Feed*, as well as historical and current *Chapter Documentation*. Furthermore, you will have the ability to view past and present meeting minutes and "The Hogback Echo".



Membership Secretary—John Morash

The Membership front has been quite active in recent months. All membership renewals for 2024 are complete, membership cards have been sent, and gate/home lock combinations have been changed.

There were a few hiccups along the way (National had the wrong address for our membership cards, multiple/duplicate Square invoices, etc), but with the help of your new Board – we got it done. THANK YOU all for your understanding and patience as we worked to process everything. Next we'll be getting ready to lift the Membership Freeze and accept new members. We already have a waiting list of candidates to process and welcome to our Chapter.

As we resume activities in 2024, a key focus for the Chapter will be membership dues. We haven't raised our dues since 2015. The expenses related to operating, maintaining, and providing programs at our Chapter have risen over the past 9 years, necessitating an adjustment to dues to accommodate these cost increases.

FACT:
You may or may not know, but we do not keep 100% of the Membership dues paid. In fact, ~56% of Individual/Family Dues go to National and Division. We only keep ~44% at our level to "keep the lights on".

Failure to adjust our dues in accordance with the current cost of living may

jeopardize our ability to cover essential expenses such as utilities, insurance premiums, and children's programs.

The Board is currently examining other IWLA Chapters in Virginia for guidance, and we have developed a budget worksheet that includes additional membership tiers to assist in determining the suitable membership fees. Please remain engaged and keep an open mind as we work towards resolving this funding challenge without significantly burdening the majority of our members.



Izaak Walton League of America, Warren County VA



Ways & Means—Sharon Longmire

Now that spring is near, we are all looking forward to spending time with friends and family, meeting new people, and creating lasting memories at the Park. It's going to be a year to remember, and I'm ready for all the fun and adventure that lies ahead.

Let's make the most of every moment and enjoy every experience that comes our way. Cheers to a busy, but unforgettable year!

MAY 4, 2024
IZAAK WALTON COMMUNITY DAY
 11:00 AM -- 5:00 PM
FREE DAY OF FUN
 3364 GOONEY MANOR LOOP
 BENTONVILLE, VA 22610

COME OUT AND ENJOY A DAY IN THE MOUNTAINS WITH BAD DOG BBQ, SILENT AUCTION, BAKE SALE, CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT, FACE PAINTING, AND DOOR PRIZES
 GO TO OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO
WWW.WACOVAIKES.ORG

Youth Day
 May 25, 2024
 10:30AM to 3:30PM



Kid Days!
 April 13, July 20, September 14, November 16
 10AM to 2PM



Red Bud Festival In Browntown!
 April 20, 2024



Earth Day
 Sunday, April 21, 2024



Join us in June for our **Walton Wednesday** Nature Program for kids!
 Free and open to the community



Join us at the park for **Music In The Mountains**
 August 25, 2024



Izaak Walton Family Picnic
 September 22, 2024
 11AM to 3PM

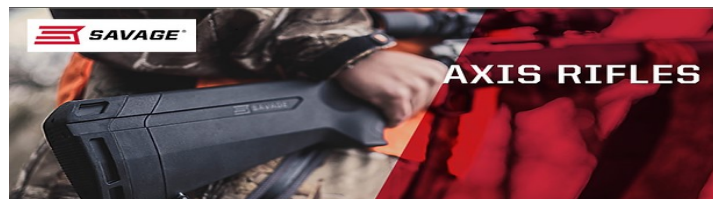


IWLA GUN RAFFLE!

\$20.00 for 2 chances to win per ticket

The prize is a Savage Axis, with scope, in the winner's choice of caliber.

Click the target (online Newsletter) to register to WIN!



Use you camera to register to WIN!





Shooting Range—Don Broadway



Several interested members cooperated to assist the Gun Range committee to plan the rehabilitation of our Shooting Range last Fall. The Board of Directors approved the plan that was devised, and much work has been accomplished this winter. We hope to have the Shooting Range open again for our Chapter members very soon.

As nature and sometimes other factors sometimes dictate, weather conditions and timing of material deliveries delayed the completion of the rehabilitated range, but we're getting close!

Once the physical site work is completed, orientation classes will be scheduled with an announcement forthcoming. In preparation for the Range opening, I encourage all members to carefully and thoroughly read the recently ratified document available on the website: in the "Member/Chapter Documents/Shooting Range Documents" folder:

[IWLA Policy Annex SR - Shooting Range SOPs Rev3.pdf](#)

Copies will also be available on the table at the March 3, 2024 Membership Meeting at the Park. Members should print out and bring this document with them to the class—along with the following forms already filled out and completed:

[WC-VA-IWLA Gun Range Safety Program Sign-Off form.pdf](#)

[WC-IWLA-Membership-Waiver-Release-Agreement.pdf](#)

Be sure that you have "logged in" to our website in order to access the files above.

Serialized badges will be produced for each member that has signed up for the 30 minute training. Upon completion of the course, badges will be handed out.

We have been working diligently to ensure that the Shooting Range meets all safety standards and regulations before allowing members to use it again. Your safety and wellbeing are our top priorities, and we appreciate your cooperation during this time.

Please rest assured that we are doing everything we can to expedite the process and will keep you updated on any developments. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

"We have been working diligently to ensure that the Shooting Range meets all safety standards and regulations"



August 25, 2023



November 17, 2023



February 21 2024

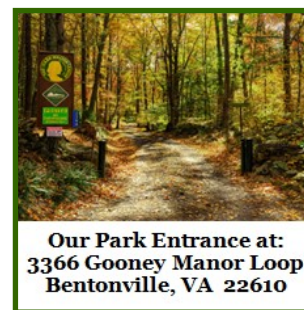
Izaak Walton League of America, Warren County VA

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webmaster@wacovaiques.onmicrosoft.com

We are committed to protecting the environment and preserving the beauty of nature. Our family-oriented conservation organization is located on a beautiful 19th-century farm in Browntown, VA, where we strive to maintain sustainably. Our organization aims to protect the precious environment in the Northern Shenandoah Valley by developing and implementing programs that encourage responsible stewardship.



**Our Park Entrance at:
3366 Gooney Manor Loop
Bentonville, VA 22610**

Izaak Walton League of America, Warren County VA

Interview of a Legend: Part 1 of a 4 part Series



Hal Meredith

April 3, 1918 - February 18, 2014

Interview conducted on December 21,
2012

by:

ROBERT S. HARDING
Senior Archivist, retired
National Museum of American
History
Smithsonian Institution

*This interview can be viewed in
its entirety from our website at:*

[Hal Meredith Interview](#)



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DR. HARDING:

I am talking with Hal Meredith.

Okay, Hal, let's see. I want to talk about the founding of the Izaak Walton League, Warren County Chapter, of which you are one of the founding members.

And I guess the first question would be how did this come about? Why did you decide to found this Chapter?

MR. MEREDITH:

I actually didn't found the Chapter. This Chapter was founded in 1929. The Izaak Walton League itself was formed in 1923 in Colorado by 54 trout fisherman who were angry because the streams were becoming polluted. The Warren County Chapter then was reorganized for some reason -- I don't know why -- in 1942, and we have pretty much run it ever since.

DR. HARDING: *Okay. How many founding members were there?*

MR. MEREDITH: *We were not founders.*

DR. HARDING: *Okay. What should I say?*

Reformed members? How many of you were there?

MR. MEREDITH: *There were 14. When we bought the Izaak Walton Park -- years ago we met at the Hotel Royal on North Front Royal Avenue in Front Royal. So each year the Izaak Walton League sponsored a crow shoot. The guy killing the most crows was given a prize.*

DR. HARDING: *Okay.*

MR. MEREDITH:

And that was the big annual deal at that time. Then the Hotel Royal was sold and removed and we started meeting at the law library at the courthouse for some years. That did not go over big. We gradually dwindled down in membership until there was only 14 of us. We then started looking around -- what to do -- and several of us got the idea we needed to buy a piece of property and move into it. Lynchburg had just bought a piece of property and so had Winchester. So Bob Priode and I started out looking for something for sale. Where the 4-H Center now is, there's 400 acres for \$10,000.00. We were looking favorably at that, and then we found out that the Borden place at Browntown was for sale. We came up and looked at this place. Bob had a new car and was driving through brush coming up the driveway, cutting brush as he went, and we looked around and strictly -- mostly from the view of the mountains from this place we decided to recommend that they buy this place. Now at that time we were down to 14 members. We had \$187.00 in the Treasury. We got together with the membership and we decided to buy it anyway. Several of us put up enough money to make a down payment of \$250.00, then we would pay it off \$25.00 a month for five years. In any event, we started raffles and things like that and it proceeded along pretty good. We got some good donations. We then had ten year bonds, non-interest bearing, printed up, and we got these out among the members to where we had enough that we paid the place off in four years. Then five years later we paid off all the bonds and we've never been in debt since.

DR. HARDING: *Can you remember the names of the 14 members now?*

MR. MEREDITH:

Yes, the members and officers active in the Warren Chapter of the IWLA when our Park was purchased on March 5, 1955 were Myself (President), Giles Nossett (Vice-president), Ray Borden (Secretary), Turner Slaughter (Treasurer), Francis Slaughter, Bennet Ball, G.L. Linkenhoker, Haywood Griffith, Herbert Thrush, Ike Everly, Ralph Gimmell, George Bratton, Jack Crouse, Bill Coffman.