

Loudoun Outdoors



THE PRESIDENT'S DIME

Greetings, 2005 is more than half over and I can hardly believe it. It's been an interesting year so far for the LCC-IWLA. We've survived a direct hit from a major tornado, held our 15th Outdoor Ethics award ceremony (thanks to Mike Phillips) and become the first IWLA Chapter in Virginia to be certified by the EPA for our best management practices and how we manage the environmental impact of the use of our firearms ranges. All of our Programs continue to improve and, while still conducting ongoing recovery efforts from the tornado, our Chapter is moving forward with several important initiatives. With close to 700 members and still growing, our Chapter is strong and well supported by the community. This circumstance is no small achievement in the face of the continuing pressures exerted by the rapid growth of the county. Urban encroachment is the number one cause of the demise of facilities such as ours.

To continue to exist, grow, and remain a valuable asset to you the members, the community, and to insure this valuable heritage for your children, the Chapter needs your help. Due to moves out of the area and other circumstances, we have several committee and Officer positions open which need to be filled and made functional for the good of the organization.

The available positions are:

- Director's position – can also serve as the Chapter Training Officer or Finance Chair
- 1st Vice President – responsible for coordinating the support and maintenance of buildings and grounds (not Ranges or the Pond)
- Finance/Capital Improvements Committee Chair – coordinates the development of long and short term Capital Improvements plans and associated finances.
- Skeet Range Chairman – manages the operation and maintenance of the Skeet Range. Also plans and coordinates the use of the range by other groups.
- A "Save Our Streams" and Outdoor Ethics Committee Chair is needed to coordinate the Chapter's participation in these activities.
- Chapter Training Officer – to coordinate and support training activities and courses taught by NRA Certified Instructors. NOTE: this position will become critical as we move over the next year toward a more structured range management program. There will be a significant need for additional NRA Certified Range Safety Officers.

In addition, all of our Committees need member participation. If you signed up for, or were assigned to a committee when you joined, you are urged to GET INVOLVED ! There is work to be done in every area and program of the club from removing dropped limbs from the camp sites above the pond (more tornado damage), to helping with the YHEC program for our youth, to trimming the weeds and repairing the posts at the entrance to the property. We even have a new hot water heater and stove that need to be installed in the Chapter house. If nothing else, come out and run the weed eater for an hour around one of the camp sites along the road. There are many large and small tasks you can do to help out without being asked or waiting for a formal workday to be called. All of which you receive credit for towards your required nine

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hours of service. So again, GET INVOLVED for a couple of hours a month. Every little bit helps. (Make sure you log your time on the sheet on the bulletin board in the Chapter house.)

A request for more participation by the membership is a normal and perpetual request by any volunteer organization. With most volunteer organizations, 5% of the people do 80% of the work. If 5% of our membership would step up and actively get involved in the management and support of this Chapter, there would be no limit to the growth and improvement we could achieve. There are several people who invest much of their valuable time to insure you continue to have this beautiful facility to enjoy. They recognize the benefits and enjoyment they receive through use of the facilities and support the conservation goals of the organization. Your Chapter is asking you to do the same. Please consider devoting a few hours to support your organization. If you can serve in any of the above listed positions, or can help out with a few of the committees, please let us know by e-mailing me at: president@loudouniwl.org.

Regards,

Herb Goodfellow Sr.
President, LCCIWLA

RIFLE-PISTOL RANGE REMINDER

Range work days are the second and the fourth Sunday of each month during the summer. If you use this facility and have ideas on improving these facilities, then you are exactly the person we wish to talk to ! Contact Butch Thompson at range@loudouniwl.org, or visit the contacts page in the members area of our web site for Butch's telephone number .

NEW DOCK AND PAVILION

Plans are in place to build a new and larger picnic pavilion this summer. The chapter directors recently approved these plans by the Waltonian Club for construction, which will greatly enhance our chapter grounds.

This pavilion will be adjacent to a new and substantially larger dock with improved access for fishing and canoe launching . This new facility will be named in honor of past member Al Phillips in remembrance of his service to the LCCIWLA.

VIRGINIA DIVISION ELECTIONS

On Saturday June 18, elections were held at to fill all officer positions, and to elect three National directors of the Virginia State Division IWLA. The state meeting was held at the Arlington-Fairfax chapter and was very well attended. Thanks are in order for the several LCCIWLA delegates who took the time out to attend to make our voices heard. As the Virginia Division is the largest division within the IWLA, the outcome of this meeting will prove instrumental in shaping league policy in the coming years.

Newly elected officers are Cathy Bolton, President; Mike Phillips, First Vice President; John Barry, Second Vice President; Ginny Bolton, Treasurer; Jill Padgette, Secretary. Newly elected National Directors were Mike Phillips, Melvin Poling, and Jill Padgette

Loudoun Outdoors had a few minutes to chat with Mike Phillips on his election to First Vice President and National Director :

LO: Mike, what will your focus be in your term as 1st VP and National Director ?

Mike: First off, I would like to personally thank Herb, and the LCCIWLA directors who came out for this meeting. One of the areas where I feel we should work to make noticeable progress in the near term is National dues increases. I believe that the Izaak Walton League will be better served by raising funds via chapter and membership expansion, and not dues increases. The IWLA should strive to ensure that there are chapters in every state in the US., and chapter membership continues to grow at a healthy pace.

LO : How do you feel that the goal of member and chapter expansion can be met ?

Mike: To do this, IWLA must make the membership feel completely confident that the league is there to represent their interests, whether it be hunting, fishing, or other outdoors conservation interests. We all need to understand that you can be a conservationist without being interested in hunting and/or fishing, but you can't be interested in hunting and fishing without being involved to some extent as a conservationist. We need to focus on bringing these folks to the table to protect our natural resources for future generations, and that IWLA listens to what they have to say.

LO: What can we do at the chapter level to help ?

Mike: Each chapter can work to ensure their members remain actively involved in what we are trying to do. As a national organization, we are still the best thing going as far as what we offer and what it costs. Take the Loudoun Chapter for instance, where else can you go in Loudoun County and spend the day with the family shooting your .22, do a little fishing, and maybe shoot some archery, or camping, or help to save a local stream ? Bottom line is you can't. For this legacy to continue for our kids, it is up to each of us, and not the next guy to save it. If we allow it to slip away, then once it is gone, it will be gone forever.

LO; Thanks Mike, good luck in your new role.

Mike: Thank you.

COMING SOON ON OUR WEB SITE

The web site is currently being updated to allow activities and events scheduled in the web site calendar to be available via RSS. It is hoped that this will allow easier viewing of upcoming events and activities. Those currently using RSS enabled browsers will see the availability, those not will need an RSS reader to point to feed://www.loudouniwl.org/lcc.rss . It is also hoped that soon chapter news and other information can also be added, so check back often.

UPCOMING ELECTIONS

Just a reminder that our chapter elections will be held at the August general membership meeting. Nominations are now being accepted, and may be made at the July or August meetings, or by contacting any of the current chapter officers or directors. Contact information can be found on the member's page of the chapter web site.

Loudoun Outdoors is a periodical of the Loudoun County Chapter Izaak Walton League of America. For further info visit us on the web at www.loudouniwa.org , or call 703-777-9684.