



ISA On Target
Irwin Sportsmen's Association Newsletter

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May 2023 Edition

Youth Opportunities

Wildlife Leadership Academy

Do you know of a teen who enjoys wildlife and wants to get more involved with conservation? The Wildlife Leadership Academy is a year round program open to ages 14-17 who have an interest in wildlife, fisheries conservation and the outdoors. The Academy begins with a 5 day overnight summer field school in Madisonburg, PA that focus on wildlife/fisheries biology and conservation as well as leadership skills development and continues with community outreach via education, service, media engagement, creative arts and outdoor mentorship. Once the youth complete the program, they become certified Conservation Ambassadors.

Applicants are selected based on academic achievements, activities, non-academic achievements and personal essays. The process begins with filling out an online preliminary application. If found eligible, applicants will then have to submit an essay upon which final acceptance will be decided.

[Application Page – Wildlife Leadership Academy](#)

PA Game Commission Junior Warden Camp

Each year, the PA Game Commission hosts Junior Warden Camps for ages 11-15. These camps give the youth a chance to meet, interact with and learn from Game Wardens while doing diverse wildlife work. Information for 2023 has not been released just yet; however, you can check their webpage and Facebook page for announcements on the dates.

[Game Commission \(pa.gov\)](#)

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ISA Post 228 Junior Rifle Club Inc.



Pictured Left to Right: Nathan, Gianna, Cameron, Logan, Parker, Evan

The team continues to practice weekly for the upcoming National competition at Camp Perry in July. While the team is not currently registered for any upcoming in-person competitions, they are starting to compete in the Aces Postal Match. This match is a satellite match that will test their marksmanship skills nationally with their peers. The program consists of Air Rifle and Air Pistol.

You can continue to help support the team by purchasing monthly raffle tickets. Please contact Coach Paul to get your tickets. We also sell Triangle Bar hoagies each month at the following locations:

- Manor Car Wash
- S&T Bank on Route 130 in Penn Township
- Lot beside Earl's Dairy Whip (off Clay Pike in North Huntingdon)

Our next hoagie sale is Saturday, May 13 starting at 10:30 AM. The team recently held their first hoagie sale of the year on April 22 and did very well. We were able to sell 300 hoagies in about an hour and a half. Thank you to all that came out to purchase one!

PA State Park Spotlight

Each year, many of us venture out on lavish vacations to get away from everyday life. Unfortunately, the cost of hotels, amusement parks, vacation rentals, etc. have skyrocketed making it unrealistic for many living on budgets. Myself, like many others, want to get away from the stress of life but can't afford big trips. While exploring a local store recently, I discovered a book "50 States; 500 State Parks: An essential guide to America's best places to visit". Inside it featured 5-10 top rated state parks for each state. I bought the book and have decided that is our family challenge for this year: Tackle the Pennsylvania State Parks featured and explore wildlife and beauty right in our backyards.

Cooks Forest State Park



Cooks Forest State Park is over 8,500 acres in scenic northwestern Pennsylvania. It is known for its stands of old growth forest. The park is on the National Natural Landmark due to the park's Forest Cathedral of towering white pines and hemlocks. The Clarion River flows along the park for 13 miles offering opportunities for canoeing, kayaking and tubing. The Park features 47 miles of hiking trails, 13 miles of biking trails, wildlife watch areas, picnicking spots, overnight camping, fishing and hunting.

- *Forest Cathedral Natural Area* gives you the chance to walk along some of the oldest trees east of the Rockies. You can also hop onto *Longfellow Trail* from the Forest Cathedral area. This is a 1 1/2 mile trail that will take you along the massive trees and thru an area that was damaged from a 1956 tornado.
- *Henry Run Sawmill Dam Falls* is one of the can't miss spots and often not busy. It's located along the Baker Trail. The waterfall is about 10-15 feet tall and flows over a impressive dam.
- *Cook Forest Fire Tower* was built in 1929 and sits 87 1/5 feet above the hilltop. After climbing 108 steps to the top, you have an impressive view of the park. Be aware that this is the original structure and may sway with the wind.
- *The Paved Trail* was once known as "The Emerald Trail" due to being covered with green moss. It sits along the Forest Cathedral. It is a quarter-mile loop, flat and easily accessible for all.
- *Seneca Point* is located a few hundred yards from the Fire Tower. It overlooks the Clarion River Valley. Look down at the rocky ground below. On this land, native tribes once ground grains and seeds. You are still able to see indentations from their stone tools.
- *Clarion River* is the most scenic spots. The river is full of fishermen, canoes, kayaks and those looking to float down the river.
- *The Swinging Bridge* crosses Toms Run in the Forest Cathedral and can be reached from any of the trails in the area. This is one of the more fun bridges to cross and known as one of the top swinging bridges in Pennsylvania.
- *The Memorial Fountain*, built in 1950, is located behind the Log Cabin Environmental Learning Center at the start of the Longfellow Trail. It honors the original members of the Cook Forest Association who helped create the park. Natural spring water flows from the fountain.

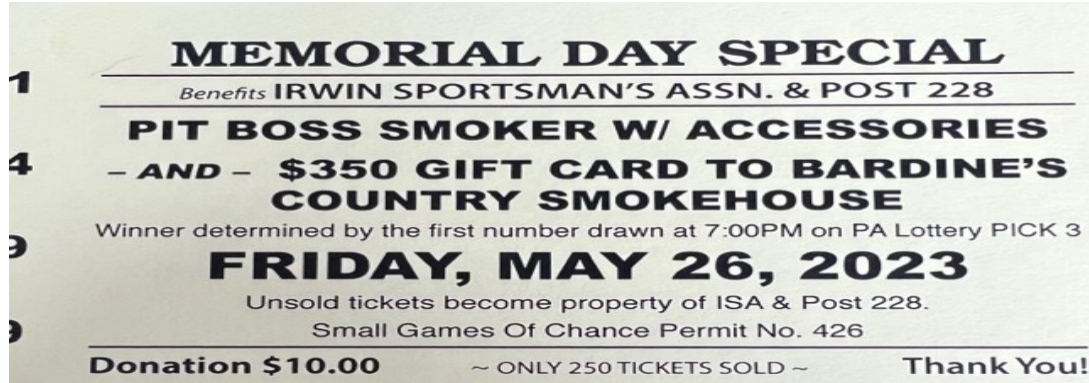
Sporting Events in the Area

May 21 Northmoreland Park Fishing Derby, 8:00 AM—1:00 PM
[2023 Schedule of Events | Westmoreland County, PA - Official Website](#)

ISA Events

- May 2: Ladies Pistol Instructional League, 6:30 PM, \$5.00/person
- May 3: ISA Member Work Party, 5:00 PM—7:00 PM
- May 4: Outdoor Pin Shoots, 5:00 PM
- May 7: Trap Shoots, Noon, \$4.00 per person/round
- May 10: ISA Member Work Party, 9:00 AM—11:00 AM
- May 10: ISA Member Work Party, 5:00 PM—7:00 PM
- May 11: ISA Officers Mtg, 7:00 PM
- May 13: ISA Post 228 Jr. Rifle Club Inc. Hoagie Sales: Purchase your Triangle bar hoagie for \$8.00 at Manor Car Wash, Brickhouse Oven, S&T Bank on Route 103
- May 14: Trap Shoots, Noon, \$4.00 per person/round
- May 16: Ladies Pistol Instructional League, 6:30 PM, \$5.00/person
- May 17: ISA Member Work Party, 5:00 PM—7:00 PM
- May 18: Outdoor Pin Shoots, 5:00 PM
- May 21: Trap Shoots, Noon, \$4.00 per person/round
- May 24: ISA Member Work Party, 5:00 PM—7:00 PM
- May 25: ISA Membership Mtg, 7:30 PM
- May 28: Trap Shoots, Noon, \$4.00 per person/round
- May 31: ISA Member Work Party, 5:00 PM—7:00 PM

ISA Fundraising



ISA Memorial Day Special

We are currently selling these Memorial Day tickets. The prize is a Pit Boss Smoker with accessories, along with a \$350.00 gift card to Bardine's Country Smokehouse. Tickets are \$10.00. It has 4 numbers on the ticket.

We need help selling tickets. If you are interested in selling tickets. please contact Dan Nave at (724) 433-4965.

If you would like to purchase a ticket, contact any ISA Officer. Stubs and money are due back to the club by May 11, 2023.

ISA Turkey Hunters Special Ticket

Congratulations to John Bajay who won the ISA Turkey Hunter's Special Ticket!



ISA Member Work Parties

It's that time of year for the Work Parties to start at ISA. In order to keep the grounds usable and the clubhouse clean, we need all the members help. Work parties are held every Wednesday from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM. On the second Wednesday of each month, we also run a work party from 9:00 AM until 11:00 AM.

Duties vary at the work parties such as grass cutting, weed eating, pulling weeds, branch pickup, painting, cleaning/dusting inside the clubhouse, bathroom cleaning, etc. We realize not everyone is physically able to do the manual labor. Please contact an officer and we will work with you so you can get your 3 work party credits.

Anyone who does come for a work party will be required to sign the book at the end of the session in order to get credit. Members are expected to earn 3 work party credits.

Opportunities to Earn Work Party Credits

- * Attend ISA Member Work Parties that are held each Wednesday
 - * We have a variety of tasks that can be completed for all skill levels
- * Attend Monthly Membership Meetings
 - * Attendance at 4 meetings = 1 Work Party Credit
- * Monitor the ranges
 - * Instructions for this duty are inside the binder in the Club House room. Make sure to sign-in for credit and borrow a safety vest.
- * Help clean up Sandy Hill Road up to the intersection of Route 130.
 - * Contact Jack Ruffner or Smoky Burdin
- * Help sell monthly tickets with the Post 228 Jr. Rifle Club Inc.
 - * Contact Paul Angelicchio
- * Help sell a minimum of 10 tickets for ISA
 - * Contact Dan Nave
- * Contact an ISA Officer to inquire about additional opportunities that may be coming up

Membership Renewal Cards

If you did not include a Self-Addressed-Stamped-Envelope with your dues payment, your new card is at the club and may be picked up at any regularly scheduled meeting.

Turkey Season

Just a reminder that the 2023 spring turkey season ends Tuesday, May 30, 2023. In years past the season has run thru the end of May. Due to the Game Commission not having a quorum in early 2022, they were unable to set seasons.

Bear Camera

When a homeowner in Pike County, PA decided to replace their deck on their home, they were shocked to find out it had become a black bear den. They reached out to the PA Game Commission to find out what to do and what options they had. This was the start of the bear cam launch “Under the Deck” that would be watched world wide.

The Game Commission was able to install a camera and microphone under the deck, which could also be controlled remotely so as not to disturb the sow. The sow denned alone in December and had her cubs in early January. Viewers watched as the sow kept watch over the cubs throughout the next few months.

The two cubs were quite the entertainment for many viewers by wrestling with each other, jumping on the sows head and even later on, playing with the camera. By late March, the cubs had ventured outside from the deck with the sow to learn how to climb trees. Viewers streamed from within the United States and even as far away as Germany and England.

On an evening in early April, the sow and her cubs left the den for the last time. Since then, the PA Game Commission has posted many videos and held a Q&A session to discuss black bears and their behaviors.



2023 ISA Officers

PRESIDENT	JOYCE LICHTENFELS	724-863-6940
VICE PRESIDENT	KEVIN KENNELTY	724-640-0726
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	SMOKEY BURDIN	724-396-9627
RECORDING SECRETARY	DAN NAVE	724-863-1392
TREASURER	RICH LINDH	412-817-4074

2023 ISA Council

JOE CURRAN (24)	412-610-3692	JOHN RUFFNER (22)	724-744-2514
JON GILMORE (24)	724-433-9854	ED GOLLINGER (22)	724-864-0687
LAUREN WEST (24)	724-244-9053	LARRY LICHTENFELS(22)	724-863-6940
PAUL ANGELICCHIO (25)	724-864-2026	KEN GRAY (24)	412-610-2963
LOU GROBMYER (25)	724-261-0693		

2023 ISA Contacts

ARCHERY	Ken Gray	412-610-2963
COUNTY LEAGUE	Smokey Burdin	724-396-9627
DAISY BB INSTRUCTIONAL	OPEN	
FUNDRAISING	Dan Nave	724-863-1392
INDOOR PISTOL PIN SHOOT	Rich Lindh	412-817-4074
ISA WEBSITE	John Roper	
ISA POST 228 JR. RIFLE CLUB INC.	Paul Angelicchio	724-864-2026
KITCHEN	Ed Gollinger	
LUCKY BB SHOOT	Al Ceol	724-396-7010
NEW MEMBER MEMBERS DUES WORK PARTY RECORDS	Smokey Burdin	724-396-9627
NEWSLETTER	Jaime Nave	724-433-4964
NRA	Smokey Burdin	724-863-7365
PISTOL PIN SHOOT	Jim Daley	724-527-7778
RIFLE	Al Ceol	724-396-7010
TRAP SHOOT	Lauren West	724-244-9053
WOMEN'S LEAGUE	Joyce Lichtenfels	724-863-6940
YOUTH SHOOTING SPORTS	Paul Angelicchio	724-864-2026

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Petrill, Dan: 724-863-0680

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Samek, Steve: 724-523-0102

Scott Electric: Chuck Konkus 412-389-9181

Varine-Slavin Insurance: Eric Slavin, Agent 724-527-2802

Varine-Slavin Insurance: Niles Slavin, 724-527-2802

Westmoreland Equipment, Rental Sales & Service: Ernie Graham 724-744-3130 -