

Wildlife Achievement Chapter

FEBRUARY 2007



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CHAPTER NEWS, EVENTS AND ARTICLES

Committee Chairs (Michelle Chesnut
smc_geek@msn.com)

It is essential that you get all who help with the WAC activities to record their participation. It is also important that you give the list to Conley Phipps. We cannot give proper credit to members for their contributions without these lists. It is especially important for new members to get credit toward their probationary requirements. Please make the effort to record the participants and to pass the list to Conley.

Newsletter Changes

Starting with the June 2007 newsletter, we will publish the newsletter primarily online. If you would like to continue receiving the printed newsletter, you need to write to Joe Gick
16601 Cavalry Drive
Rockville, MD 20853-1219
Let Joe know that you would like to receive the newsletter by post. The last paper copy you will receive will be the May 2007 edition unless you notify Joe.

Wild Game Dinner and Auction

 (Michelle Chesnut)

The auction was a huge success. Thank you to all who contributed the auction items and to all who attended. As always, Rich Fried, Joe and Delores Gick, Nora Burns, Donna, Chuck, Nick and Alex Limparis did an outstanding job of running the auction. The dinner was the best ever; prepared by Jorge Silva and his family along with Steve Lefebvre and Lisa Falstrom helping with dishes.



Figure 1 -- Donna Limparis auctioneer extraordinaire (Photo by Tony Evans)



Figure 2 -- Rich Fried inspecting the merchandise (Photo by Tony Evans)



Figure 3 -- Bill Rahn and Greg Talamini (Photo by Tony Evans)

Membership Requirements

Starting in March, new members will have a two-year probationary period. We will require new members to complete 4 work details, 2 each year with at least one each year a conservation working event.

Update on the American Chestnut Restoration (Chuck Crooks)

The Chestnut tree chair, David Jacobson, Guy Wright, Tom Riley and Chuck Crooks met on Saturday morning to finalize the location for the Chestnut tree farm.

The goal was to provide a spot that was accessible, does not require the cutting down of any trees that are currently beneficial for sound abatement, is easily cleared and visible to our members and guests.

There is an acre of land, which will require a minimum of clearing, to the right of the driveway as you first come onto the property. Right now, it is a partial eye sore from our own dumping.

When in place, there will be approximately 25 or 30 feet between the road and the tress. This will be a very visible site which, when matured, will be a very nice area. We will lose some overflow parking spaces but, in the past years, we have not needed them for any of our projects. The remaining space between the road and trees will be sufficient for any overflow needs.

This is a real win-win project. In addition to the benefit of adding a worthwhile conservation project, we will create an additional noise buffer for our neighbors, further our efforts to be agricultural, provide good conservation work projects and improve the look of the property.

Some of you thought that we would harvest the trees. That is not the case. They will provide some seeding but will remain in place on the full acre.

Membership Meeting

This month's membership meeting is on February 28, 2007. Dan Boward from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources will talk about the Stream Waders program. As noted elsewhere in the newsletter, we are hosting one of the Stream Wader and Save Our Stream training events at WAC on March 3 and 4, 2007. Please come share a meal, get to know your fellow Ikes and learn about the Stream Waders program.

Stream Waders and Save Our Streams (SOS)

(Contact: Michelle Chesnut 301-831-0237 or smc_geek@msn.com)

On March 3 and 4, 2007 from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the national office of IWLA are conducting a training session for the DNR Stream Wader and IWLA SOS programs. These programs share a common interest in

monitoring the health of streams using macroinvertebrates as indicators.

The Stream Waders program supplements data collection by DNR staff so that they can cover more streams.

The SOS program teaches how to identify, to the family level, the macroinvertebrates you find and interpret the results. These are complimentary workshops.

Macroinvertebrates are the larval stages of insects that we use as indicators because there are many different species that have different sensitivities to pollution. Based on the number of individuals and species found, we can determine the health of the stream and relative cleanliness of the water.

If you are interested in attending and learning how to sample the streams, you must register through DNR. To register for a training session or to receive more information, email Joanne Alewine at jalewine@dnr.state.md.us or call 1-877-620-8DNR (x8613). Please provide your name, contact information, that you will be training at the Wildlife Achievement Chapter, and let them know if you will be attending the Save Our Streams training on Sunday.

For more information, see the DNR website http://www.dnr.state.md.us/streams/mbss/mbss_volun.html and the IWLA website <http://www.iwla.org/sos/> Save those dates to save our streams.

New Cowboy Shooter Clinic (Chuck Crooks)

We will hold the next New Cowboy Shooter Clinic, at our IWLA-WAC Chapter, on Saturday, March 31, 2007. There will be two sessions. The first class starts at 8:00 AM and a second class at 12:00 PM. This will be the first of two clinics in 2007. Class size is limited, and seats are on a first come, first serve basis. You can view the **APPLICATION** on the web, fill it out on line and print a copy from your PC. If you cannot wait for the clinic, please contact **Chuckaroo** for alternative options.

The purpose of the clinics is to introduce the sport to potential enthusiasts who would like to try it without "the whole world watching." Though playing the game under the watchful eye of the Range Officer and their timer is part of the fun, it can be a little intimidating if you're new at it. SAFETY and fun are the real focus of the sport, and we would like to be sure everyone gets off to the right start. Students will learn how we play the game, hear the SASS rules, see the equipment and accessories that are required, and get a chance to try out the range of firearms that are appropriate to the sport. A history of the sport is included in the classroom portion. You can look at the **Clinic Outline** to see what is covered. Atlantic Guns and the Damascus Wildlife Rangers provide all equipment and ammo, if students do not have their own yet. Each person will get the chance to shoot a real cowboy scenario or two using the ol' hoglegs, scatter gun and lever action rifle! You will feel the fear of that dang buzzer and learn what real brain fade is like!

The clinics are not meant to be initial firearms training. Students must already be familiar with the safe use and the loading of revolvers, rifles and shotguns. For additional information, contact **Chuckaroo** (WildlifeRangers@aol.com) 301-831-9666.

Beginner, Novice Reloading Class (Conely Phipps phippscd@hotmail.com or 301-460-8528)

Come one come all beginner, novice or interested party to The WAC on Saturday 24 February at 10:30 AM for a class on reloading ammunition for Skeet/Trap, Rifle and Cowboy style shooting. Class duration will be about one and a half hours.

Three of our Chapter members have graciously consented to teach classes on each of these disciplines. Safety will be our foremost concern. Learn some of the secrets the pros use when reloading. Have a great time meeting other members with some of your same interests. The classes will have practical demonstrations. It's a great Family activity. We will award door prizes!

We will hold the classes upstairs in the Chapter House. Things that you will need to bring with you: pencil or pen and a pad of paper, as much we will present a lot of information.

If participation warrants, we will schedule an advanced class later. Please come out and support the activities of your Chapter.

For additional information, please email Conley Phipps at phippscd@hotmail.com or call 301-460-8528.

Upcoming Roasts (Steve Lefebvre 301 482-1898)

In support of our conservation committee programs, we will be holding two outdoor festivals during 2007: the Annual Spring Bull Roast on Saturday, May 12, and the Annual Fall Pig Roast on Saturday, September 29. There will be plenty of outdoor activities including crafts demonstrations and other exhibitors, a clown and games for the kids, open pit barbecue food and beverages, and live entertainment. Tickets are available at a 25% discount at all membership meetings. Mark your calendars to reserve those dates. For more information, contact Steve Lefebvre at (301) 482-1898.

Membership Renewals (Joe Gick)



Figure 4 -- Joe Gick, Membership Secretary, as auctioneer (Photo by Tony Evans)

Renewal time for 2007 has officially come and gone. As you have been told many times, your membership for 2006 ended on 12/31/06. The month grace period ended on 01/31/07. If you wish to stay a member in our club, you have to pay your back dues plus an additional \$40 late fee. If you do not do this and want to come back into the club, you cannot rejoin until January 2008 or later at which time you will be charged yearly dues plus a \$40 initiation fee (or whatever fees are in effect at that time.)

Changes in Range Access Rules (Joe Gick)

As of April 1, 2007, every member who shoots on **any range**, including the rifle range, pistol ranges, outdoor air rifle range, the archery range, and the skeet/trap ranges, must be visibly wearing a Range Access card. If you do not have one, you must attend a Range Orientation class, held at 10:00 A.M. on the last Sunday of the month. (Check the online calendar at www.damascusIWLA.org)

The only exception to wearing a Range Access card is if you are shooting in an event where non-members are invited that are not specific guests of members under current Chapter Rules. Such events include Cowboy Action Shoots, Seneca Valley Matches, Breaking Clay to Save the Bay, etc.

You have two months to obtain your Range Approval card if you are not already in compliance.

Committee Reports

New Members December 2006 (Joe Gick)

Please welcome the following new members to our chapter.

Michael Altobelli, Donny Johnson, Randall T. Sandifer Jr.
Gary Lee Nelson, Justin Nelson sponsored by Joe Gick
John Bortniak, Susan Bortniak sponsored by Karl Moline
Carl A. Bastiani, Demetri Giakoumatos, Matthew Phillips sponsored by Bill Schneider
Stephen J. Garland sponsored by Bill Rahn
William B. Gordon sponsored by Red Gambrell
Gary Green sponsored by Robert Poth

Jon J. Metrey sponsored by Richard Shapiro
LeRoy Oettinger sponsored by Guy Wright
Kevin Whitener Jr. sponsored by Bob Schneider

Thanks to our volunteers: (Conley Phipps)

Probationary members are required to help with two chapter events during their first year of WAC membership. After this month, that requirement will change to four events over two years. **As of now, at least one of those events must be a conservation activity.** If you are a probationary member, and don't see your name in the newsletter after helping out with an event, it would be prudent to contact the person who ran the event and find out why. Additionally be sure to have that activity person notify me of this fact. Following are the names from the sign-up sheets for several recent events. Thanks to all. The following **6** probationary members are now graduated to full membership status as having completed their required projects: **Orlando Agostino, Tim Good, Joe Handley, Jr., Thomas Michael Hanagan, Peter Gracyalny and Tom Crabill.**

Chapter maintenance: January 2007

Tom Riley, Alan Pressman, Paul Turska, Jake Turska, Brandon Kinikin, Jason Ledney, Danielle Ledney, Tom Crabill, Chris Reposa, Conley Phipps, Peter Gracyalny, Ezzat Grant and Guy Wright.

If I have failed to credit anyone for a required work project, please contact Conley Phipps @ 301-460-8528 or phippscd@hotmail.com.

Conservation (Bill Ladd and Meo Curtis)

Upcoming conservation events at the Chapter

Tuesday, February 13, 2007. Nest Box workshop: 7:30 PM. Learn how to make a nest box and attract birds to your yard. - Contact Bill Ladd 301-482-1128.

Saturday March 3, 2007. Tree planting along the lower Hawlings River. 9 a.m. Work with Trout Unlimited and the DEP to expand the forested buffer and help protect water quality. Contact Jeff Deschamps at 301-604-3736. jeff.deschamps@verizon.net

Other conservation items of interest

Energy

Montgomery County residents can earn rewards for reducing pollution from the energy that they use through the County's innovative Clean Energy Rewards program. Clean energy is produced in ways that do not contribute to the increasing levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide and other pollutants. Susan Kirby, the program's coordinator, will be at libraries throughout the county *helping people make the switch*. You'll find out what clean energy is and what renewable energy sources are readily available in our region. You'll learn what human activities produce the largest emissions of greenhouse gases and how small changes in your actions can make a positive impact on our local environment. By

the end of the evening you'll actually understand what a renewable energy certificate (REC) is! And if you are dreaming of generating your own electricity, Susan will give you a few resources to get you headed in the right direction. For more information, see <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cleanenergyrewards>

Come out to a library near you and learn more about clean energy and how to earn rewards by *making the switch!*

- Thursday, February 8, 7:30 p.m., **Silver Spring Library**, 8901 Colesville Rd.
- Thursday, February 15 7:30 p.m., **Poolesville Library**, 19633 Fisher Ave.
- Friday, February 23, 10 a.m., **Chevy Chase Library**, 8005 Connecticut Ave.

Non-native Invasive Plants

At the January member meeting, Carole Bergmann, MNCPPC forest ecologist, did a presentation on the problems with non-native invasive plants (NNIs) which are taking over local and state parks. Many of these plants originated as ornamentals 'escaped' from yards, and landscaping through seeds or vigorous vegetative propagation. Often these introduced plants are poor (or poorer) quality wildlife food sources and crowd out or strangle species that are more desirable. Ms. Bergmann mentioned the Montgomery County 'Weed Warriors' program as a volunteer-based effort to control these NNIs on County parkland. The Conservation Committee hopes to develop its own 'weed warrior' force to control the NNIs on the Chapter grounds. Stay tuned for more details.



Figure 5 -- Bush Honeysuckle at WAC, invasive species (photo by Michelle Chesnut)

Weed Warrior volunteers complete an online tutorial (it takes less than an hour) and then undergo a two-hour hands-on training session with the forest ecologist that stresses proper identification of invasives, correct removal and control techniques, and working safely in the woods. Enrolled Weed Warriors are authorized to work on county parkland on their own schedules and at their own pace. Many live near regional, stream valley, or neighborhood parks and do removal activities on a casual schedule. Others develop specific work schedules, taking time each week or two to remove invasive plants-sometimes in the company of another Weed Warrior. Still others choose to work with larger groups, such as those organized by community groups with permission from the parks

department. Still others-perhaps physically unable to work in the woods-devote time to educating others about the problem of invasive plants. Since 1999, Weed Warriors have logged more than 20,000 hours and made a valuable contribution to the NNI control efforts. All training sessions are on the last Wednesday of the month, April - October from 4-6 pm at Shorefield in Wheaton Regional Park.



Figure 6 – the seeds of Tree of Heaven, invasive specie at WAC (photo by Michelle Chesnut)

For more information, see http://www.mc-mncppc.org/Environment/weed_warriors/intro.shtm or call MNCPPC volunteer services at 301-495-2464 to register.

Adult Airgun Programs (Phil Dean -- 301-865-8202)

Air rifle field target matches will begin on Saturday, April 7, with a field target 'fun shoot' being held on the outdoor airgun range. Target set-up will begin at 9:00 AM. This 'fun shoot' is an excellent way to get started in the sport of air rifle field target shooting. This will be a low-keyed activity using larger targets set at closer distances. Bring your own scope-sighted air rifle or you can share a rifle with one of the other shooters with whom you will be shooting. An information table will be set up at the February 28 membership meeting to answer your questions about the field target program. We have scheduled matches once a month from April through November. You can find all of the dates in Chapter calendar. Call Phillip Dean (301-865-8202) for more information.

The Monday night adult air pistol shoots are continuing in the downstairs indoor range. Target set-up is at 6:30 PM. Bring your own air pistol or you can use one that is available for your use.

Trap and Skeet (Paul Turska – turska77@netscape.net)

The Wildlife Achievement Chapter is very lucky to have some very talented skeet shooters as members. Some of these talented members are also certified instructors.

They have voiced interest in helping IWLA members who wish to learn skeet shooting. Many of our women members have expressed an interest in learning to shoot trap and skeet. Look for a woman's introduction workshop in the near future. Please let us know if you are interested.

Speaking of talented skeet shooters, a big congratulations to Maj Tavakoli- Maryland 1st team, Peter Sittner- Maryland Honorable Mention team, Debbi Perry- Maryland 2nd team and All American ladies 2nd team and to Jake Turska- Maryland Junior leader for 2006 and All American Rookie 1st team.

Trap and Skeet Range Roster

February 2007

Sat 2-17 – Tom Moore, Peter Currall, Ira Wein, Dave Gold
Sun 2-18 – Brandon Kinikin, Jason Ledney, Judy and Jim Crowell
Sat 2-24 – Richard Zabell, Charles Weaver, Tony Evans, Red Gambrell
Sun 2-25 – Frank Saenz, Rob Van Tassell, Peter Sittner, Joel Gross

March 2007

Sat 3-3 – Tim Mulreany, Scott Wood, Ryan Cooley, Bob Cooley
Sun 3-4 – Bob Case, Mark Gay, Paul and Jake Turska
Sat 3-10 – Rob Roberson, Paul Fisher, Dave Fichter, George Fitcher
Sun 3-11 – Mike Webb, Chris Reposa, Randy Stewart, Evan Stewart
Sat 3-17 – Ira Wein, Dave Gold, Tom Moore, Peter Fitch
Sun 3-18 – Judy and Jim Crowell, Jason Ledney, Brandon Kinikin
Sat 3-24 – Charles Weaver, Red Gambrell, Tony Evans, Richard Zabell
Sun 3-25 – Joel Gross, Peter Sittner, Frank Saenz, Rob Van Tassell
Sat 3-31 Mike Bowen, Martin Cherry, Robert Jeffery

Rifle and Pistol Range Report

INFORMATION: For more information about any rifle or pistol range activities mentioned in this article, contact Guy Wright, by e-mail, at guywright@verizon.net or telephone 301-253-4604(home) or 301-775-3741(cell).

SHOOTING HOURS: Permitted rifle and pistol range shooting hours are posted on the box, which contains the range sign-in register, as well as above the range entry card reader. For February 2007, starting time is 10:00 AM daily and ending time is 5:30 PM, unless some activity has preempted the range (see "Upcoming Events Affecting Range Availability" below).

New Items

January Maintenance Day: My thanks to the brave souls who ventured out the day after what was, in all likelihood, a very successful Wild Game Dinner. In addition to the normal cleanup activities on the ranges, these volunteers put down about 1,400 pounds of lime on rifle and pistol

range impact berms, to support our lead mitigation plan. The remainder of the pallet of lime will be spread by tractor spreader in early spring.

Reminders

Rifle and Pistol Range Rules: The rules governing Rifle and Pistol Range safety, conduct, permissible firearms, and violation policy are posted at the covered pistol range, the covered rifle range, the notice board between the pistol ranges, the notice board at the path leading to the covered rifle range, on the chapter WEB site (damascusiwla.org) and in MS Word format from me via email, when requested. Sometimes questions come up. Though our bylaws indicate that you can call any Board of Directors member about these rules, you will be better served to start with the folks closest to them, i.e., range orientation instructors or the committee chair.

Plywood Donations: Your donations of plywood for use as target backers on the rifle and pistol ranges are always welcome. For backers, the plywood should be 1/2 inch or thicker and either pre-cut or capable of being cut into pieces 2'x2' (pistol range) or 2'x4' (rifle range). Please help keep the WAC looking good by dropping off your donations by the sliding door on the back side of the green equipment shed; that is, at the side nearest the chapter house. Thanks

Range Sign-In Information Change: Beginning immediately all members must write the member number shown on their range badge in the area provided next to their name. Please write as legibly as possible.

Up-Coming Events Affecting Range Availability:

Bowling Pin Shoot on Saturday February 17, 2007 from 9:00AM to 2:00PM on Pistol Range 1. (Please note that participants will meet at 9:30 AM in the Rathskeller for registration; don't go directly to the range). Pistol Range 1 will be closed during this time. For additional information, you can contact Jesse Lim via e-mail at jljm@phillips.com or telephone 301-540-0860 (evenings only please).

Military Fun Rifle Shoot on Saturday March 10, 2007 from 10:00AM to 1:00PM on the Rifle Range. The Rifle Range will be closed during this time. For additional information, you can contact Jose Tassara at 301-431-2799.

Practical Defense Match on Saturday March 17, 2007 from 9:00AM to 2:00PM on Pistol Range 1. (Please note that participants will meet at 9:30 AM in the Rathskeller for registration; don't go directly to the range). Pistol Range 1 will be closed during this time. For additional information, you can contact Jesse Lim via e-mail at jljm@phillips.com or telephone 301-540-0860 (evenings only please).

Cowboy Action Setup on Friday March 23, 2007. Rifle and Pistol Ranges will be closed beginning at 1:00PM.

Cowboy Action Shoot on Saturday March 24, 2007 from 8:00AM to 3:30PM. Rifle and Pistol Ranges will be closed during this time.

Attention all Members

Are you interested in becoming a member of the Board of Directors? Do you wonder how we select the board?

We have new elections every August for all but the Director positions we elected the previous year. All other BOD positions go through the yearly process of nomination in June by the Nominating Committee or from the floor at the regular July membership meeting. Those nominated must also approve their own nomination. Then all who attend the August membership meeting get to vote for the people they think will be best at running the Wildlife Achievement Chapter. At the September membership meeting, a National Director swears in all newly elected officers. Dinner is free, too.

If you have any interest in seeing how the BOD works, come to any BOD meeting. If you would like to become a member of the board, let the current board know of your interest.

Newsletter Contributions (Michelle Chesnut smc_geek@msn.com)

Thanks to Meo Curtis, Conley Phipps, Guy Wright, Chuck Crooks, Joe Gick, Paul Turska, Steve Lefebvre and Michelle Chesnut for their contributions to this newsletter.

If anyone has any topics or items they wish to include in future newsletters, send them to Michelle Chesnut at the above email address and include some contact info in case there are questions.



Figure 7 -- Your photographer and newsletter editor enjoy the wild game dinner and auction (photo by Greg Talamini)