



Wildlife Achievement Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America
FEBRUARY/MARCH 2015

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CHAPTER NEWS, EVENTS AND ARTICLES

Editors note: You may notice the layout is a bit different than usual. Some data was lost when my computer went south. The shotgun range schedule covers two months. Things should return to normal, such as it is, next month.

Be sure to check the calendar on the website as changes and additions are not uncommon.
www.damascusiwla.org.

Conservation (Meo Curtis)

Good Morning,

I am reaching out to the Wildlife Achievement Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America to bring awareness for The 27th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup! The largest regional event of its kind, the Cleanup has become a decisive catalyst for progress that ignites people throughout the watershed with the Alice Ferguson Foundation's community spirit.

Some facts from last year:

Final 2014 Cleanup Results

Sites: 671 sites reporting from Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Washington, DC.

Volunteers: 14,766

Trash Data:

- Tons: 288 (576,000 pounds)
- Beverage Containers: 211,000
- Cigarettes: 18,600
- Plastic Bags: 35,600
- Tires: 1,288

The Cleanup is on April 11th 2015 (though we include all Cleanups from March 20th – May 5th if April 11th does not work for you). If interested, you can participate in two different ways. The first way is by leading your own Cleanup site, and the second is by volunteering at a preexisting site. We have a wonderful database of all our sites and events on the [TrashNetwork](#).

If you have any questions about how best to get involved, or would like a formal announcement to post on your website or newspaper, please contact me.

Looking forward to April!

Best Regards,

Hannah Seligmann

Trash Free Potomac Watershed Initiative

Alice Ferguson Foundation
2001 Bryan Point Road
Accokeek, MD 20607
Office: [301-292-5665](tel:301-292-5665)
potomaccleanup@fergusonfoundation.org
TrashFreePotomac.org

Please note: This event does not conflict with our cleanup on March 28th and is not initiated by the IWLA. At this time, it would not qualify for conservation credit for your chapter obligation.

Patuxent Hiker Biker Trail (Bob Cooley)

The Patuxent Trail Project is coming together. Mark your calendars for Saturday June 20th for the project kick-off. Details to follow.

Controlling Invasives

At the Chapter and at our off-site tree maintenance days, our members spend quite a bit of time removing ‘non-native invasives’. These are plants, especially vines, that are very aggressive and are displacing more desirable plants, shrubs, and trees. Very common on the Chapter are numerous types of asian honeysuckle vines and shrubs as well as Russian and Autumn Olive and multiflora rose. There is an increasing amount of research which shows that not only do these invasive plants create physical displacement, they are also affecting our beneficial insects (i.e. native pollinators) and birds. Studies have shown a link between high density of Japanese barberry and incidents of Lyme disease—because of the habitat provided for the ticks carrying that disease (<http://nativeplantwildlifegarden.com/more-findings-on-the-link-between-japanese-barberry-and-lyme-disease/>). Controlling non-native invasive plants and animals in agricultural and wild areas has been estimated at over \$120 billion per year (<http://www.fws.gov/home/feature/2012/pdfs/CostofInvasivesFactSheet.pdf>). Below is an announcement for a free nearby training session coming up to learn how to identify and control these pests!

Let's Stop the Invasion!

Presentation on Non-Native Invasive Plants

March 11 / 7:30-9 PM / FREE

Robinson Nature Center

6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia MD

Call for Information:

Master Gardener Aylene Gard, 410-992-9889 or

Jeff Claffy, Assistant Natural Resources Manager, 410-313-6209.

FREE National Park Admission Days. Mark your 2015 calendar with these days when America's great outdoor treasures are free to visitors. Only 133 of our country's 405 national parks usually charge an entrance fee. Find a Park near you at: www.nps.gov/findapark/index.htm and start planning your visit!

*Fee waiver includes: entrance fees, commercial tour fees, and transportation entrance fees. Other fees such as reservation, camping, tours, concession and fees collected by third parties are not included unless stated otherwise.

- o April 18-19: Opening weekend of National Park Week
- o Aug. 25: National Park Service Birthday
- o Sept. 26: National Public Lands Day
- o Nov. 11: Veterans Day

Legislation 2015

The Maryland General Assembly is convening its 435th session in Annapolis from January 14 - April 13, 2015. The Environmental Legislative Summit met on February 3 to hear from elected officials, state agency heads, and a broad coalition of environmental groups on issues to follow during the upcoming session. The identified priorities cover energy, litter, pesticides, and funding.

The link below is to a summary provided through the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo). MACo is a non-profit created to follow all legislative and policy issues that affect local governments—not just environmental issues—and provide recommendations based on input from those local government representatives. I encourage you to join their email or become a follower to get up-to-the minute news on the current legislative session. The information can help you craft a knowledgeable position statement if you decide to reach out to your elected representatives on any type of pending legislation.

<http://conduitstreet.mdcountries.org/2015/02/06/environmental-groups-lay-out-2015-legislative-agenda-at-21st-annual-summit/>

IWLA-NATIONAL EVENTS: **Announcing Spring 2015 Tiny Ikes Classes**

Encourage your children to love the outdoors and they'll love it for life – and lead a healthier lifestyle. Join the Izaak Walton League for our young child program that celebrates the wonders of nature.

This program has been designed specially for children ages 2 to 5. Children must be accompanied by an adult for each program – it's an experience you'll treasure together.

SPRING CLASSES*

Thursday, March 19 – 10:30-11:30 a.m. Signs of Spring

Join us as we look for the first signs of spring and find evidence that the plants and animals are ready to wake from their long winter naps.

Wednesday, April 8 – 10:30-11:30 a.m. Bugs, Slugs, and Slimy Things

Let's learn about dirt and all the bugs, critters, and wiggly things that live there! Be sure to dress to get messy.

Thursday, April 23 – 10:30-11:30 a.m. Earth Day Every Day

Learn how you can be a nature steward and help make the planet a healthy place for all animals and plants.

Wednesday, May 6 – 10:30-11:30 a.m. Birds of a Feather

Take flight in an adventure to learn where birds live, how they build their nests, and see how many different birds we can find.

Thursday, May 21 – 10:30-11:30 a.m. Water Explorers

Let's explore the stream and see if we can discover some of the many creatures that call the water home!

Dress to get wet (weather permitting).

For more information and registration, check the IWLA web site at:

<http://www.iwla.org/index.php?ht=d/sp/i/85859/pid/85859>

CLASS LOCATION

Izaak Walton League National Conservation Center
707 Conservation Lane
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
(Located next to NIST off Muddy Branch Road)

*At least one adult 18 or over must stay with child. Younger siblings are welcome, but slings or carriers are recommended for outdoor adventures!

If you are interested in outdoor activities for the **WHOLE** family, you should also check out our [Family Adventures in Nature \(FAN\) Club outings!](#)

CONSERVATION WORK EVENTS

NEEDED: A chapter member to complete Orientation for Organizations through the Montgomery County Volunteer Center.

The Chapter needs to be represented at an orientation once every three years in order to maintain the Chapter's certification to sign for Montgomery County Student Service Learning Hours. Ideally, the



member would be able to attend the next session on Wednesday March 25th from 10 am to Noon at the Upcounty Regional Services Center in Germantown.

This is a conservation work credit possibility for probationary members, but you must get approval from the Conservation Committee before signing up if you want conservation credit. Our organization is already registered and we need to provide you with the registration specifics for your attendance.

<http://www.montgomeryserves.org/nonprofits-government/orientation-organizations>

This is a two hour training session and you must attend the entire two hours. You'll get an overview of programs and services, an introduction to using the online database and hints on ways to maximize volunteer recruitment. Organizations that engage high school or middle school students as volunteer will stay for the second portion of the meeting that focuses specifically on the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Student Service Learning (SSL) program and requirements for community organizations that wish to be pre-approved for SSL by MCPS.

Upper Patuxent Watershed Clean Up. Saturday March 28. 9:30 a.m. to Noon. Rain Date: Sunday March 29.

Meet at the large green maintenance shed. Enjoy some time outdoors with your fellow chapter members and do a good deed for the Damascus area community. Clean up the roadsides and river crossings to keep litter and associated pollutants from getting into the Triadelphia Reservoir. Student Service Learning credit if forms are brought on the day of the event. Wear sturdy shoes that you don't mind getting dirty. Gloves, water, bags, and a limited number of trash grabbers will be available. Lunch for all participants at noon at the Chapter House. Contact Meo Curtis (meosotis58@verizon.net) for additional information.

Tree Planting and Maintenance at Rachel Carson Park, Brookeville. Sunday April 19. Contact Barry Fleming barryjflem@verizon.net or Rodger Moran rodger.j.moran@gmail.com for more information and directions.

RIFLE AND PISTOL / RANGE SAFETY OFFICER UPDATE (Jesse-Thomas Lim)

Important! It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO READ AND KNOW ALL WAC Rifle/Pistol range safety, conduct and rules!

The rules are available on our website and posted at the ranges as well.

<http://www.damascusiwla.org/RiflePistolRules.html>

If you have any questions, please contact Jesse Lim via cell at 240-832-0354 or email alphashooter@usa.com .

The WAC RSO Committee would like to highlight the following safety rule:

Safety rule 17. Firearms which are not in use shall be stored appropriately behind the shooting position.

Firearms stored in the range racks shall be unloaded with action open, chamber empty, magazine removed, and safety on if available.

This means the shooter may only have one firearm on the shooting line at a time. All others are to appropriately stored behind the shooting position.

Additional safe gun handling rules that should be practiced every time one is shooting:

Watch where you point your FIREARM'S MUZZLE. Control the direction of your firearm's muzzle **at all times** by pointing it in a safe direction.

- Always keep the firearm's muzzle pointed in a safe direction. A "safe direction" means that the gun is pointed so that even if an accidental discharge occurred, it would NOT result in injury. Pointed downrange at all time and muzzle-up when removing from bench for proper storage.
- Always keep your finger off the trigger until you actually intend to shoot. When handling a gun, rest your finger outside the trigger guard or along the side of the gun. Don't touch the trigger until you are actually ready to fire.

- Firearms should be unloaded when not actually in use. Whenever you pick up a gun, such as when removing it from or returning it to storage, remember to point it in a safe direction and make sure it is unloaded.
- Be sure you know how your firearm operates: read the manual on your firearm, know how to safely open and close the action of the firearm and know how to safely remove any ammunition from the firearm and its magazine.
- Know your target and what's beyond it.



IWLA SHOTGUN RANGE ROSTER 2015
April 2015 revised

Wed	4/1	Berle Cherney, Ed Shifflet
Sat	4/4	Mash Esfanaji, Mary Esfanaji
Sun	4/5	Tony Hess, Mark Gay
Wed	4/8	Frank Bis, Ron Roberson
Sat	4/11	Jim Arnold, Greg Myers
Sun	4/12	George King, Gary Giambalvo
Wed	4/15	Jay Jeffrey, Carl McMahan
Sat	4/18	Murray Welsh, Steve Olsen
Sun	4/19	Maj Tavakoli, Jim Crowell
Wed	4/22	Brian Van Winkle, Bob Woodward
Sat	4/25	Bob Reynolds, Arden Young

Sun 4/26 Ed Gilpin, Dave Stevenson
Wed 4/29 Debbi Perry, Bob Cooley

Substitutes:

Tim Mulreany, Gary Green, Steve Rowcroft, Stephen Meyers, Hank Williams, Mike Webb, Roman Drews, Bill Murphy, Jim Arnold, Keith Kosian, Jay DeVan, Paul Turska, Jake Turska, Joel Gross, Gerhard Bartsch, Robin Dixon, Glenn Hubert, Bob Poth

March 2015

Sun 3/1 Steve Rowcroft, Stephen Meyers
Sat 3/7 Tim Mulreany, Gary Green
Sun 3/8 Hank Williams, Mike Webb
Wed 3/11 Frank Bis, Ron Roberson
Sat 3/14 Jim Arnold, Keith Kosian
Sun 3/15 Joel Gross, Gerhard Bartsch
Wed 3/18 Jay Jeffrey, Carl McMahan
Sat 3/21 Roman Drews, Bill Murphy
Sun 3/22 Bob Poth, Dave Stevenson
Wed 3/25 Brian Van Winkle, Bob Woodward
Sat 3/28 Robin Dixon, Glenn Hubert
Sun 3/29 Maj Tavakoli, Ed Gilpin

Substitutes:

Mash Esfanaji, Mary Esfanaji, Tony Hess, Mark Gay, George King, Gary Giambalvo, Murray Welsh, Jim Crowell, Berle Cherney, Ed Shifflet, Debbi Perry, Bob Cooley, Paul Fisher, Greg Myers, Jay DeVan, Paul Turska, Jake Turska, Steve Olsen, Bob Reynolds, Arden Young

April Safety Thought

Take your time. Know where you are and what is around you.

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS(February/March)

A reminder to our members

If you joined the chapter on or before January 2013

And you have not seen your name listed in any issue of the newsletter as being graduated to full member status, you are still on probation.

Congratulations

The following probationary members have successfully completed their probation and are now graduated to Full Member status.

Liam P. Kelly

Fran Payne

Jeff Tokar

Robert Dahlin

Alexander A. Flavin

Steven John Kordell

Michael J. Zarchin

Kenneth Montgomery

Cowboy Dinner (Kitchen Service)

November 22

Probationary Member: (Regular credit)

Neil Balfour

BOD Meeting (Kitchen Service)

December 3

Probationary Member: (Regular credit)

Neil Balfour

Membership Dinner (Kitchen Service)

December 17

Members, Family and Nonmembers:

Jim Kelly and B. Kelly

Probationary Members: (Regular credit)

Karen Engling and Adrian Jackman

Chapter Maintenance Day (range maintenance)

December 21

Members, Family and Nonmembers:

Al Goldschmidts, Guy Wright, Chuck Crooks, Rich De Riso, Brendan De Riso, John Leaman, Gunner Leaman, Bill Kelly and Billy Ramos

Probationary Members: (Regular credit)

Andy Goldschmidts, Bud Gates, James Nail, Jeff Tokar, Chris Gockley, Liam Kelly and Matt Dill

Congratulations(March)

The following probationary members have successfully completed their probation and are now graduated to Full Member status.

Mark R. Adkins David B. Morrow

Glenn Anderson Edward J. Lisee

Mark Evans Janice B. Lisee

Stephen Gilpin Chris Gockley

Andy Goldschmidts Kevin Mook

Larry W. Carpenter John A. Tokar

Arthur Paholski James H. Nail

Judith Schneider Kevin Grasson

Katherine Morrow Grasson

Chestnut Tree Maintenance

Several dates during 2014

Member:

Leslie McKinney

Shotgun Range Maintenance

December 21, 2014

Members:

Frank Saenz and Rob Van Tassell

Wild Game Dinner Set-Up

January 23

Members, Family and Nonmembers:

Guy Wright, Stephen McCaskill, Tim West, Bill Gazdik, Vernon King Jr., Troy Agnew and Chuck Crooks

Probationary Members: (Regular credit)

Art Padama, Dawn Shapiro, Tom Shapiro, Phil Lowe and Judy Heming-Powell

Wild Game Dinner (Kitchen Service)

January 24

Probationary Member: **(Regular credit)**

Karen Engling

Wild Game Dinner (Dining Room Clean-up)

January 25

Probationary Member: **(Regular credit)**

Marty Svrcek

Range Maintenance Day (Shot Gun/Rifle/Pistol)

January 25

Members, Family and Nonmembers:

Al Goldschmidts, Guy Wright, John Leaman, Billy Ramos, Hans Varmer, Candy Varmer, Rich De Riso, Brendan De Riso, Frank Saenz, Rob Van Tassell, Carl Newcomer and Fran Payne

Probationary Members: **(Regular credit)**

Bub Gates, Nick Hewitt, William Leaman, James Nail, Jim McTague, Nick Hrabak, Dale Hrabak, Megan Newcomer, Donald Waldschmidt, Matthew Konas, John Porter, Pam Porter, Ed Gilpin and Dan Leaman

Membership Dinner

January 28

Members, Family and Nonmembers:

Billy Ramos, Jim Hitchcock, Randy McKenzie, Dawn Crupi, Kenny Lefebvre and Steve Lefebvre

Probationary Members: **(Regular credit)**

John Porter and Neil Balfour

Membership Dinner

February 28

Probationary Member: **(Regular credit)**

Neil Balfour

If you volunteered for an activity in the past month and your name does not appear in this issue of the newsletter or you are incorrectly listed or you need a reminder as to your work history please email me at nicolasgiu@yahoo.com.

PROBATIONARY MEMBERS!

IF YOU JOINED IN 2012 OR BEFORE

CHECK YOUR WORK STATUS

RENEWAL TIME **IS HERE** AVOID THE

\$60 PENALTY

Probationary members have a work requirement. Most understand that. But, there is some confusion as to how that work requirement is fulfilled. New members must help with a minimum of two projects in each of their first two years of membership. Failure to do so will prevent a renewal of your membership the following year (you could be charged an additional registration fee in order to renew). When you work on a project you are required to be there for the entire project. You are expected to arrive on time for the project. If you leave early you will not get credit for the project.

In year one of your membership, you are required to work on a minimum of two projects. One of which must be a conservation based project. The second project can be any club project including another conservation event.

In year two, you are required to work on a minimum of two projects. One of which must be a conservation based project. The second project can be any club project including another conservation event.

You cannot work additional projects in year one and have them carried over to year two. The work requirement is set up to span two years with the hope that members will find projects they are interested in and want to support after they have completed their probation.

All projects will have a signup sheet. FIND IT. If you do not sign the sheet we do not mark you as there. It is your responsibility to sign in for proper credit. If you are a probationary member, be sure to check the box that says you are probationary, otherwise it will not be recorded.

Each monthly newsletter will show the credit given, by project, and who was there. Check to see if your name is listed. It is possible your name was not legible.

Mistakes can happen. When they do we want to correct them as soon as possible. Check the newsletter after volunteering and report any error as soon as possible. Our newsletters are archived back to 2005.

Due to the poor legibility of a number of names, I am forced to guesstimate these names. This Thank You list of volunteers is made up of Full Members, Probationary Members and Non-members so my guess could be wrong. If you are working towards getting credit please give me a legible name.

Editor's note: It will make my life much simpler if future submissions are in 12 point Times New Roman font and in Word format.

I thank you for your consideration.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS (Jim Piatetski jimpiateski@verizon.net)

Thanks to Nicolas Giuliano for mailing the printed version of the newsletter every month and tracking volunteer hours. Thanks to Meo Curtis, Bob Cooley, Jesse Lim, Wendy Smith for their contributions to this newsletter. Thanks to Chuck Crooks for posting and contributing to the newsletter on the web in such a timely fashion.

If anyone has an article, picture or topic, which they wish to have included in future newsletters, send to Jim Piatetski at jimpiateski@verizon.net and include some contact info in case there are questions. If you have photographs of chapter events that you would like to share with the membership in the on-line newsletter, please send them to Jim Piatetski at the above email address. Please include the names of those pictured as well as the date and name of the event.

If you would like to receive a printed newsletter, write to:

Tim Garrity
PO Box 1630
Olney, MD 20830-1630