



Wildlife Achievement Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America
FEBRUARY 2018

President Cheri Aker 301 330-9468	First Vice President Rodger Moran 301 831-5282	Second Vice President John Porter 301 253-6390	Third Vice President Susan Bortniak 301 972-9258
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Wildlife Achievement Chapter 26430 Mullinix Mill Road Mt. Airy, Maryland 21771

Main House Phone: 301-253-2384 Web Site: <http://www.DamascusIWLA.org>

Range House Phone: 301-253-4779

CHAPTER NEWS AND EVENTS

President's Corner (Cherie Aker)

Guess by now everyone knows on February 2nd – Punxsutawney Phil, the Pennsylvania groundhog saw his shadow. According to the legend, seeing his shadow means six more weeks of winter. For the Wildlife Achievement Chapter – it means a reason to celebrate winter with a Polar Bear Rifle Match. The match is scheduled Saturday February 24th on the Rifle Range 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. For more information – contact Mike Gugulis 301-947-2447.

The Rifle and Pistol Committee is dedicated to providing safety awareness and firearms education to our WAC members. Introduction to Firearms & NRA Basic Rifle Certification will be offered in two sessions:

- Session #1 Saturday March 3rd 7:30 am to Noon in upstairs hall
- Session #2 Saturday March 10th 7:30 am to Noon Upper Hall – Noon to 4pm Pistol Range

Reservations are required. Please contact John Porter for information and to reserve your space.

Okay Ladies - time to step up and join in on the fun. I'm talking about fun on the range. "Girls and Guns Having Fun" event has been scheduled for Saturday May 19th. The event will start at 10:00 am with a safety orientation on the covered pistol range. RSOs will be present to provide hands-on training and safety. I am the contact – Cherie Aker. Please do not hesitate to email me at Cherie.Aker@gmail.com with questions and to reserve your spot for the first Annual Girls and Guns Having Fun event. Hope to see you there!

National IWLA has issued a Clean Water Challenge to all their members. The challenge is to monitor water quality at 100,000 streams nationwide by 2022. The goal is to improve water quality and to ensure clean and safe streams across the country. To learn more about what you can do to help – click on the following Web site: <http://www.iwla.org/conservation/water/clean-water-challenge>

And as always – I'm stepping back on my "soapbox" to encourage you to take a look at our WAC calendar <http://www.damascusiwla.org/calendar2018.html> for events and opportunities to join in and have fun – meet other members – and lend a helping hand at our WAC Maintenance Days.

Hope to see you at the next Membership Meeting! Until then – take care!

Cherie Aker
WAC President

WINTER WEATHER PROCEDURES AT THE CLUB (Chuck Crooks)

(since we're not out of the woods yet, this is a rerun from last month)

With winter upon us, it is time to let you know the snow and winter procedures at the club.

Generally, with a 1 to 3" snowfall, we only clear sidewalks. To clear the gravel roadways using plows and snow blowers causes more damage to the road and does little to make the road safer. Larger snowfalls will be reviewed as they happen.

With larger snow amounts, we clear the main road to the chapter house first, then the upper and rear parking areas. The range road and range parking lot are cleared last.

The range road is the most difficult and it gets the least amount of sun, compared to the other areas. With deep snow, the range road could be closed for a lengthy period of time. Shooters can walk to the ranges but the actual ranges are cleared by mother nature only. We will say that walking down the road on foot is not too bad. Coming up is a totally different story.

During snow or ice events, chapter activities are canceled only as a last resort. It is up to the event chairperson to cancel the event or the house and grounds committee can deem it unsafe to hold the event. Every attempt to clear the main road and chapter house is made by those that have been selected to do the work. However, they must get there first. We have the capability to see the cameras around the chapter house remotely and can make a possible decision without going to the chapter. We also have a tenant that can inform us as well.

Event cancellations will be E-mailed to all members and the event cancellation will be posted on the club's web site calendar. If your trip is for an event, check with the event contact (posted on the web calendar) prior to coming to the club. If you are an event chairperson, you need to be in contact with Guy Wright or Chuck Crooks.

Range closures will be listed in a header on the web site and regular updates will be posted. Updates, date and time of update, are also included.

If there is any snow on the range road we strongly advise that you use an all wheel drive or four wheel drive vehicle. You do so at your own risk.

Always look at the web site shortly before you leave for the club. Range closures, event cancellations and delays are all posted on the web site's main page and club calendar.

Every attempt is made to clear all areas for normal activities. This takes time. Safety is the main objective.

Your cooperation and patience is appreciated.

Conservation (Meo Curtis)

Conservation News for February 2018

Spring will be here before you know it and it will be time to get outdoors and get dirty with conservation projects. The first work credit event scheduled is for Christmas Tree maintenance on Sunday February 25. Next up are the Pigtail Recreation Area tree maintenance on Sunday March 18; the Annual Spring Watershed Clean Up for Saturday March 24; and Christmas Tree maintenance for Sunday March 25. Keep an eye on the Chapter calendar and the Conservation Committee website for details on these and other activities as they get scheduled.

Watershed News from Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

This year is the 100th anniversary for WSSC. The centennial theme is A Century of Serving Our Community, and there will be numerous events on past, present and future activities, as well as the value of water and our contributions to the water industry. More information at: <https://www.wsscwater.com/100>.

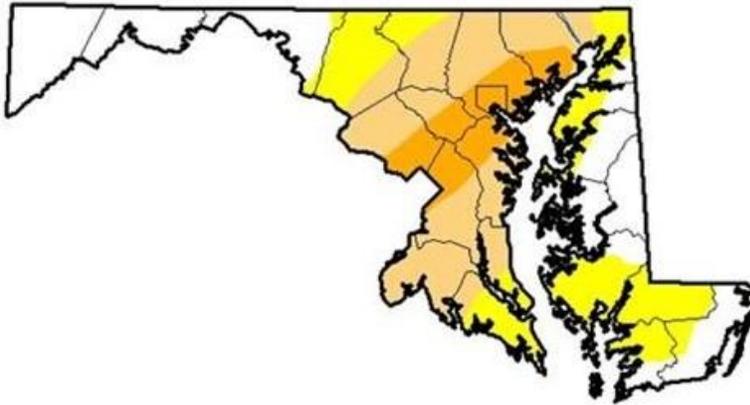
Among the future activities is a new environmental outreach building. Those of you who use Brighton Dam Road have undoubtedly noticed construction going on where the WSSC cabin used to be. This work will result in a new building with classroom for youth and other groups. The building is scheduled to be finished by 10/20/2018. The Azalea Garden across the road is scheduled to reopen in the fall of 2018.

Due to ongoing dredging and work on Brighton Dam, the Triadelphia reservoir will be closed to the general public throughout 2018. The WSSC watershed property was open this fall and is expected to be open next fall for the managed hunts. The final count for the most recent hunting season was 194 harvested deer.

Water level at T. Howard Duckett Dam on the Rocky Gorge Reservoir is more than 20 feet below normal due to extended drought conditions this fall and early winter.

U.S. Drought Monitor Maryland

February 6, 2018
(Released Thursday, Feb. 8, 2018)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	31.84	68.16	41.21	11.37	0.00	0.00
Last Week <i>01-30-2018</i>	16.42	83.58	44.78	11.37	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>11-07-2017</i>	61.23	38.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-02-2018</i>	16.44	83.56	44.31	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>09-26-2017</i>	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago <i>02-07-2017</i>	26.48	73.52	31.02	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:

Eric Luebehusen
U.S. Department of Agriculture



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

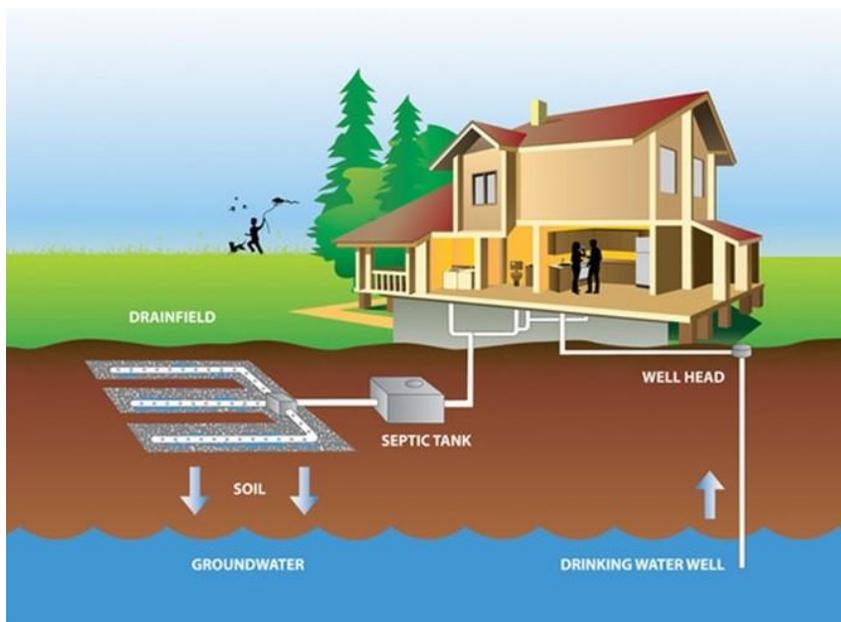
Howard County. Two FREE workshops for County residents on using solar power. Both on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 from 7 - 8:30pm.

Rooftop solar. Where: Owen Brown Village Center, 6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045. Retrofit Baltimore, a project of the non-profit Civic Works, is holding an information session for Howard County homeowners to learn more about the basics of solar power, the installation process and financial considerations. Based on the same principal as buying in bulk, homeowners can save 20 percent off the standard cost of a solar system through this solar co-op.

The Columbia Association is hosting the meeting, which is open to all Howard County homeowners. Register at: http://retrofitbaltimore.civicworks.com/events/columbia-solar-info-session-7/?mc_id=60. Can't make it but want to learn more? Contact an energy advisor at info@retrofitbaltimore.org or 410-929-6139.

"Community solar" offers a different approach to solar - buying into a local solar project rather than installing panels on your own roof. Neighborhood Sun is a community solar company that works to bring clean, affordable, local solar energy to Maryland community members. Anyone who pays an electric bill is eligible to subscribe to a solar project. At the workshop, company representatives will talk about projects in the BGE, Pepco and Delmarva Power service territories. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/learn-about-community-solar-in-your-area-tickets-41958135914?aff=es2>. Where: Emmanuel United Methodist Church, 10755 Scaggsville Road, Laurel, MD 20723

Montgomery County. Request Well Records and Septic Location Online. If you are looking for water well records or the location of your septic system, you can now make an on-line request. Not sure how accurate these would be for older systems, but the link is: <http://permittingservices.montgomerycountymd.gov/dps/online/eInformationRequest.aspx>



Shotgun Range Roster (Steve Olsen)

MARCH, 2018

Sat 3/3 Tim Mulreany, Gary Green
Sun 3/4 Steve Meyers, Rodger Moran
Sat 3/10 Roman Drews, Paul Fisher
Sun 3/11 Joel Gross, Gerhard Bartsch

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS STARTS March 11

Wed 3/14 Ron Roberson, Frank Bis
Sat 3/17 Bob Shelley, Jim Shay
Sun 3/18 Paul and Jake Turska
Wed 3/21 Jay Jeffrey, Larry Buck
Sat 3/2 Murray Welsh, Doug Chapman
Sun 3/25 Dave Stevenson, Bob Poth
Wed 3/28 Charlie Mello
Sat 3/31 Mike Webb, Jeremy Dvorak

Substitutes:

Dan Ciambora, Jim Crowell, Bob Cumberland, Mash Esfanaji, Mary Esfanaji, Paul Fisher, Mark Gay, Gary Giambalvo, George King, Steve Olsen, Debbi Perry, Jim Shay, Maj Tavakoli, Jeff Tokar, Arden Young,

WAC Range Safety Officer Committee, Rifle and Pistol October Update – (John Porter)

WAC Rifle and Pistol RSO upcoming events

Registration is now available for the following classes:

1. Feb. 24 NRA Range Safety Officer
2. March 3 NRA Basic Rifle Certification Day 1 (Classroom)
March 10 NRA Basic Rifle Certification Day 2 (Range)
3. April 7 NRA Refuse To Be A Victim THIS IS A FREE CLASS !!!!!
4. April 21. NRA Basic Pistol Certification Day 1 (Classroom)
May 5 NRA Basic Pistol Certification Day 2 (Range)
Please Note: This class will qualify requirements for Md. HQL

Contact John Porter porter253@aol.com for info and registration details

EVENTS:

March 3 Practical Defense Match 1:00PM - 4:00PM Uncovered Pistol Range

March 17 Seneca Valley HP Rifle Match 8:30AM - 2:00PM Rifle Range

March 31 22 Fun Shoot 10:00AM - 2:00PM Rifle Range

March 31 Bowling Pin Shoot 1:00PM- 5:00PM Uncovered Pistol Range

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

If you joined the chapter on or before **February 2016** 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.**

If you are not sure as to your status, email Nick at nicolasgiu@yahoo.com and you will receive an email of your work history on record.

CONGRATULATIONS **TO OUR NEW FULL MEMBER**

The following probationary member has Successfully completed probation and is now graduated to Full Member status.

Stephen Edward Mason

Archery Range Maintenance

12/29/2017

Member: John Porter

Probationary Member: (Regular Credit)

Steve Heintze

Wild Game Dinner Set Up

1/26/2018

Members, Family, and Nonmembers:

Paul Bluteau, Chuck Crooks, Barb Crooks,
Mark Kirchman, Bev Haggerty, Robert Bloom,
Phil Rafferty and Chuck Limparis

Probationary Members: (Regular Credit)

Gary H. Kirkpatrick, Robert Shelley, H Bharmal,
Dan Basta, Jim Shay, Bill Burgess, Travis Earles,
Steve Zobel and Jon Hoffman

Wild Game Dinner Take Down

1/28/2018

Members, Family, and Nonmembers:

Guy Wright and E. Fineran

Probationary Members: (Regular Credit)

Darrel Della, Mike Schneider, Andrea Schneider,
Vince Spruill, John Fineran, Charles Swinford,
and Gary Kirkpatrick

Range Maintenance Day

1/28/2018

Members, Family, and Nonmembers:

Al Goldschmidts, Hans Varmer, Candy Varmer,
Joe Pauley, John Leaman, Chuck Crooks,
Barb Crooks and Guy Wright

Probationary Member: (Regular Credit)

Ivy Huang

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS (Jim Piateski jimpiateski@verizon.net)

Thanks to Nicolas Giuliano for mailing the printed version of the newsletter every month and tracking volunteer hours. Thanks to Cherie Aker, Steve Olsen, Meo Curtis, John Porter and Chuck Crooks for their contributions to this newsletter. Thanks to Chuck Crooks for posting 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 Piateski 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 Piatieski 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:

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membership@iwlawac.org