



Wildlife Achievement Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America
FEBRUARY 2020

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CHAPTER NEWS AND EVENTS

Conservation (Meo Curtis)

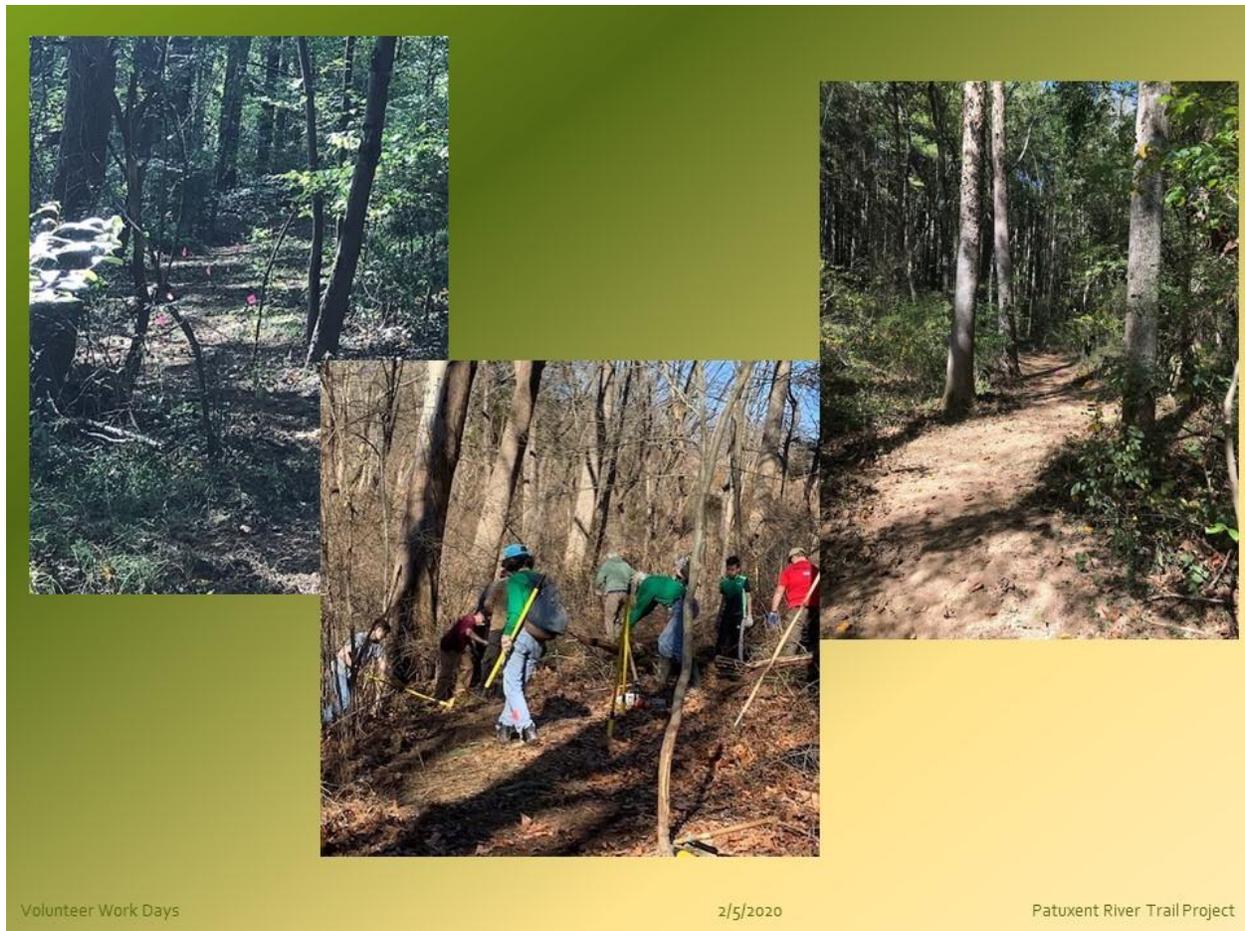
Patuxent River Trail Project—Conservation Work on March 1

In the November newsletter, there was an article about the Patuxent River Trail Project work days. On Sunday, March 1 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., the Patuxent Spring 2020 Trailwork Series will begin, and the Chapter will be participating with conservation work credit for probationary members. There will be donuts and coffee beforehand and lunch afterwards. The trail work will be down the road, near where Mullinix Mill Road crosses the river, with parking at the Chapter and then we'll shuttle workers to the access site.

Work consists of clearing vegetation (including thorny stuff) and low tree limbs along the marked path and some initial smoothing of the natural surface path. All tools and gloves provided—expect to get dirty and dress appropriately. Student service learning hours available for students 12 years and older.

The total trail work is expected for about 25 miles from Long Corner Road to Georgia Avenue and take about five years of volunteer and contracted professional effort. Rodger Moran has volunteered to be the Chapter's liason for coordination, as needed, for future work days. To volunteer for the March 1 work day, contact rodger.j.moran@gmail.com.

Spring is right around the corner. Keep an eye on the chapter calendar for upcoming events and conservation activities to fulfill your requirements. Don't wait until November!



Volunteer Work Days

2/5/2020

Patuxent River Trail Project

Clean water is an essential part of the environment, making possible many outdoor recreation activities, including hunting, fishing and boating. At some point in their life cycle, streams form or contribute to habitat needed for the survival of many species.

Two years ago, our Wildlife Achievement Chapter revived stream monitoring and began collecting chemical, biological and physical data from a location on the nearby Upper Patuxent River. In 2019, an additional monitoring site was added in Lower Magruder Branch Park. Magruder Branch is part of the Potomac River watershed.

Monitors collect data using basic chemical testing techniques as well as noting physical conditions in and around the streams. Bi-annually, macroinvertebrates living in the stream are collected, identified and counted. The data is then entered into the Izaak Walton League's Clean Water Hub database. The data is also reported to Montgomery County Parks and Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Ideally the data can be used to advance local and regional environmental policy.

Meaningful data collection requires trained individuals to commit a few hours of their time every couple of months. Four people contributing eight hours a year each can monitor a site up to eight months a year.

However, monitoring does require a couple of hours of training. In 2020, we invite observers to watch and learn how our chapter monitors the Upper Patuxent site. If you are interested, choose a date posted under Save Our Streams in the chapter calendar and notify Stephen Meyer at stephen.meyer7@gmail.com. Please do not show up unannounced, as our site is only a couple of yards wide. Once training is completed, conservation credit can be awarded for any monitoring performed.

The Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) is providing a workshop for those who wish to learn how to test their local water quality and become a certified SOS Monitor. Training materials will be supplied for attendees. This training applies to Maryland monitors as well.

Sat, May 9, 2020
10:00 AM – 5:00 PM EDT

Location
IWLA Loudoun County Chapter
19237 Mountain Spring Lane
Leesburg, VA 20175

Save Our Streams Training - Cockeysville, MD
by Izaak Walton League of America
Classes fill up quickly, so register now!

Sat, May 30, 2020 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM EDT
Oregon Ridge Nature Center 13555 Beaver Dam Road Cockeysville, MD 21030

<https://www.iwla.org/news-events/upcoming-water-monitoring-workshops>

Come learn about water quality issues and learn to monitor stream health by collecting and identifying benthic macroinvertebrates! Training will consist of an indoor morning session followed by an afternoon session practicing monitoring techniques at a nearby stream. Rain or shine . Bring your own rubber boots, waders, or water shoes, and a bagged lunch. Note-taking supplies are suggested.

For beginners, I also recommend reviewing <https://www.macroinvertebrates.org/> beforehand, plus the YouTube For videos at www.iwla.org Save Our Streams website, as the on site training progresses fairly quickly.

Stephen Meyer
IWLA WAC Save Our Streams Chair
stephen.meyer7@gmail.com

Range Schedule (Steve Olsen)

March, 2020

Sun 3/1 Steve Meyers, Rodger Moran

Sat 3/7 Tim Mulreany, Erik Hill

Sun 3/8 Hank Williams, John Duchai

Daylight Savings Starts

Wed 3/11 Ron Roberson Frank Bis

Sat 3/14 Phil Butler, Neil Burkinshaw

Sun 3/15 Joel Gross, Gerhard Bartsch

Wed 3/18 Jay Jeffrey, Jeremy Dvorak

Sat 3/21 Bob Shelley, Jim Shay

Sun 3/22 Paul Turska, Jake Turska

Wed 3/25 Charlie Mello, Larry Buck

Sat 3/28 Murray Welsh, Doug Chapman

Sun 3/29 Dave Stevenson, Bob Poth

Rifle/Pistol Committee (Hans Varmer)

Are you familiar with Maryland's "**Child Access Prevention Law (CAP)**"? It states that a person "may not store or leave a loaded firearm in a location where the person knew or should have known that an unsupervised child would gain access to the firearm."

It's something we teach in every NRA Rifle and Pistol Class:

**IT IS THE GUN OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT
UNAUTHORIZED OR UNTRAINED INDIVIDUALS CANNOT GAIN ACCESS
TO HIS OR HER FIREARMS.**

If every gun owner in America followed the advice of the NRA and State law we would see a lot less gun violence reported by the media. So please take inventory of your situation. What steps have you taken to prevent unlawful access to your firearms? If you can afford a firearm, you can afford to make it inaccessible to unauthorized people. Please make this a part of your New Year's Resolutions.

Upcoming Events:

NRA Range Safety Officer / UPDATED TO INCLUDE RANGE EXERCISES

Saturday, February 22, Class from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm. Range Exercise from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Open to WAC Members & Family

To preregister send email to: wac.instructor@gmail.com

Include "RSO" in the subject along with full Name, Address, Phone Number, and WAC #

NRA Basic Rifle

Saturday, March 7, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Open to WAC Members & Family ages 13+

To preregister send email to: wac.instructor@gmail.com

Include “RIFLE” in the subject along with full Name, Address, Phone Number, and WAC #

NRA Basic Pistol

Saturday, April 25, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Open to WAC Members & Family ages 13+

To preregister send email to: wac.instructor@gmail.com

Include “PISTOL” in the subject along with full Name, Address, Phone Number, and WAC #

Note: Cost of these events is \$50 for Members, \$80 for Family.

RANGE SAFETY (Chuck Crooks) (*This can't be posted enough*)

The club has had security cameras in place for about 6 years. The cameras became necessary after some property thefts and general safety concerns.

Range rules are established for a reason. They are designed to protect the safety of all members, their guests, our neighbors and our property. For these reasons, we take range violations very seriously. No matter how trivial you might think a rule is, there is a basis for safety that must be adhered to.

All range safety rules are accessible from our web site's main menu under the Rifle and Pistol Safety Rules link or you can take this direct link
<http://www.damascusiwla.org/RiflePistolRules.html>

Recently there has been a series of range rule violations including; shooting from a holster at a non-sanctioned event, failure to display range cards for members and their guests, shooting from the hip, shooting beyond the posted hours, failure to wear safety glasses, failure to write a guests name on the sign in log, using rifle caliber firearms on the pistol ranges and having more than one firearm on the firing line at the same time.

Initial violations (handled by the rifle and pistol committee) can be a warning and/or suspension from the ranges until you retake the range safety course. Serious violations may be reviewed by the board of directors for disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the club.

As you know, firearm ranges are always on the radar, especially in our area. Therefore we take our rules and the safety of our members and guests a priority.

As range officers, you are asked to report known violations to the rifle and pistol chairman.

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

If you joined the chapter on or before February 2018 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 completed his probation; And is now graduated to Full Member status.

Kevin Wittenberger

Wild Game Dinner

January 22

Helped with moving the Picnic Tables from the Barbeque Shed to the Chapter House
(Chairperson, Cherie Aker)

Probationary Members: (Regular Credit)

Neil Benson, Joe Warren, Justin Yackoski, Will Bolen, and William Bolan Sr.

January 24

Wild Game Dinner Set-Up

(Chairperson, Chuck Crooks)

Members, Family, and Nonmembers:

Lee Trunnell, Jim Benton and Paul Bluteau

Probationary Members: (Regular Credit)

Charlie Chang, Kyle Boyd, John Zarou,
Robert Wolfe, Robert Kalbacher and
Kevin Huck.

January 25

Dinner and Auction

(Chairperson, Susan B.)

Members, Family, and Nonmembers:

Paul Bluteau, Jean Aker, Adrian Jackman,
Ken Lefebvre, James Hyman, John Hartwell,
John McNicholas and Chuck Crooks

Probationary Members: (Regular Credit)

Michael Smith and Rob Hyman

We had several names of participants; whose names were not readable.
(Perhaps there was too much Wild and not enough Game?)

January 26

Chapter House clean-up

(Chairperson Jean Aker)

Probationary Member: (Regular Credit)

Justin Yackoski, Joe Warren, Neil Benson, Joel Martin, Shivangi Bhatt, Will Bolen, William Bolen,
Matthew L. Packard and Matti Hendriksson.

Chapter Range Maintenance (R/P)

January 26 (Chairperson, Chuck Crooks)

Members, Family, and Nonmembers:

Al Goldschmidts, Joe Pauley, Chuck Crooks,
Guy Wright, Tom Ouellette, Dean Elliott, Hans
Varmer, Candy Varmer, Larry Northup, David
Hanley, Dan Basta and John Mullaney

Probationary Members: (Regular Credit)

Amraj Singh, Uriah Simonton, Bob Breiner,
Kevin Wittenberger, Matthew Johnson,
Steve Johnson and Rob Bird.

Chapter Range Maintenance (Shotgun)

January 26 (Chairperson, Chuck Crooks)

Kim Buynak, Adam Buynak, Jeremy Dvorak,
Jacob McDougal, Rodger Moran and Steve Zobel.

Probationary Members: (Regular Credit)

Ryan Turner, Rick McDougal and Bob Breiner.

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 Hans Varmer, Chuck Crooks, Meo Curtis, Stephen Meyer, and Steve Olsen for their contributions to this newsletter. 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 Piateski 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 1630

Olney, MD 20830

membership@iwlawac.org