



Wildlife Achievement Chapter

Izaak Walton League of America

MARCH 2014

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CHAPTER NEWS, EVENTS AND ARTICLES

This is a reminder that our IWLA/WAC awards season is upon us. Please take a moment and review the awards criteria found on our web page. Pay close attention to the criteria and due dates of the applications. Think carefully of those who have put so much into the club and meet the specific award criteria for which you are recommending. Please, forward your recommendations to one of our three vice presidents prior to May 7, 2014. Remember to include a complete rationale for your nomination.

Thank you

Stay Informed During the General Assembly Session

At the February member meeting, Chuck Limparis (TFL) encouraged all members to follow what is happening during the 90 day General Assembly session and to speak up to your elected officials when there are any topics that you feel strongly about. A first step is knowing who they are—you get more credibility if you know the name and party affiliation of those sponsoring legislation and those voting on the issues that you think important. There is a link on our Chapter website so you can find your federal and state elected representatives: <http://www.damascusiwla.org/#Maryland Links>

For up-to-date information on State activities, including the actual bill language and fiscal impact statement, check the General Assembly web site: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frm1st.aspx?tab=home>.

Below are a few links to websites with information on what's happening with State legislation and well worth perusing if you are interested in getting insights from a variety of perspectives.

Maryland Association of Counties (MACo). Obviously, from the perspective of how county government will be affected including state funding for schools and transportation, taxes, and new and revising laws. <http://www.mdcountries.org/> MACo provides a single unified voice for county governments throughout the state. The Association advocates for county positions before the General Assembly, the Governor and executive branch officials, and federal decision makers. For timely updates on the 2014 General Assembly Session follow MACo's blog: <http://conduitstreet.mdcountries.org/>

Maryland Chamber of Commerce: The mission of the Maryland Chamber is to support its members and advance the State of Maryland as a national and global competitive leader in economic growth and private sector job creation through its effective advocacy, high level networking and timely communications. The Maryland Chamber lobbies decision makers to promote a positive, statewide, pro-business agenda. <http://www.mdchamber.org/issues-legislation>.

Maryland League of Conservation Voters (LCV). Maryland LCV staff tracks environmental legislation as it quickly moves through the legislative session, and pass that timely information on to interested parties via an electronic weekly hotlist. This is a great resource for information on the process of legislation. How a

bill becomes law, how to get involved, and tips for successful lobbying. To get on that mailing list, email info@mdlcv.org. If you just want to look at the lists, check this web link: <http://www.mdlcv.org/issues/2014-hotlists>

March Membership Dinner Menu

Appetizer...TBD...But You Know It Will Be Good!

Rye Rolls With Nuts & Raisins

Mixed Greens With Choice of Homemade Honey Mustard or Blue Cheese Dressings

Guinness Corned Beef

Colcannon (Traditional Irish Side Dish of Cabbage, Scallions, Bacon & Mashed Potatoes)

Dessert...Also TBD...Something With A Little Irish Whiskey Perhaps?

Conservation (Jeff Deschamps and Meo Curtis)

Yes, the first day of Spring is only a few short weeks away. Just this past weekend, I saw some sturdy daffodil stems standing four or so inches out of what was frozen ground only days before. There will be numerous events coming up to get outside and enjoy Nature without your wool hat and gloves!

UPCOMING CHAPTER CONSERVATION WORK EVENTS

Saturday March 15. Native Tree Project Maintenance. 9 a.m. to Noon. WSSC's Pigtail Branch area in Howard County. Gloves, tools, and water provided. We will plant native shrubs and trees and cage up the new trees and volunteer trees to protect them from deer browse.. Student Service Learning credit if forms are brought on the day of the event. Contact Jeffrey Deschamps (jeff.deschamps@verizon.net) for directions or additional information.

Saturday April 5. Upper Patuxent Watershed Clean Up. 9:30 a.m. to Noon. Rain Date: Sunday April 6. 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.

CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION

Montgomery County. Saturday March 22 H2O Summit. Silver Spring Civic Center. 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. Find out more about local and regional efforts to protect our streams and waterways. FREE. The morning session will feature speakers and panel discussions on watersheds and streams, including perspectives from three of our local watershed groups. The afternoon session will provide family-oriented hands-on exhibits and demonstrations, including the WSSC remote camera that can look into sewer lines for blockages or other problems. Sign up for the Rain Barrel Workshop to bring home a 55 gallon plastic barrel and fittings. More information is available at:

<https://montgomerycountymd.mygreenmontgomery.org/my-community/calendar/?eid=ljd73a7r0672m865mhmcf2csg&start=1395482400>

Howard County: Saturday April 5. Greenfest! 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Howard County Community College. Burrill Galleria and Quad. FREE. Plenty of time to go after you've worked at the Chapter's clean up. The theme: Water Quality Begins at Home. Exhibits, vendors, and workshops on things you and your family can do at home to reduce your impacts to our environment. FREE rain barrel workshops for a 55-gallon plastic barrel and parts. Limited to 50, pre-registration is necessary. Sign up at this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/13x4_y6rdsPwQ_VMywQBdl2aC_9uVgk7fvh2G_eZw0po/viewform

AVAILABLE IN MANY COUNTIES!

Backyard Buffers

The Potomac Watershed Partnership, in cooperation with the Maryland DNR Forest Service present the Backyard Buffers Program. This program is designed to assist homeowners who have a stream or other waterway on or adjacent to their property to create a streamside buffer of native trees and shrubs. A streamside buffer can create habitat for wildlife, reduce peak winter temperatures, and reduce the amount of sediment, fertilizer, and toxic materials that enter our waterways. Deep-rooted trees and shrubs can also stabilize streambanks, protecting them from erosion.

Backyard Buffer packet reservations are typically taken during the March, with bags available for pickup at a designated local site in time for the spring planting season. A limited number of bags are available each year on a first-come first-served basis. The bag includes 20-30 native tree and shrub bare-root seedlings, approximately 1 to 2 feet in height, of various species that are well suited to streamside conditions. Also included are fact sheets on the tree species included in the bag, tree planting techniques, proper tree maintenance, and additional information for those who wish to learn more. To find out the contact for your County, check the list on this brochure:

http://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/pdfs/byb_program.pdf.

Lawn to Woodland

Are you tired of mowing and maintaining lawn that you don't really use? Did you know that an estimated one million acres of Maryland's land is currently lawn, unnecessarily costing land owners like you time and money? Through Lawn to Woodland, the Maryland Forest Service is offering to plant trees on designated property owner's lawn free of charge if they own one to four acres of unused lawn. Unused lawn can be converted to tree cover at no cost to landowners while simultaneously improving the health of our environment. Find out more at: arborday.org/lawntowoodland or www.dnr.maryland.gov/forests/ or call 888-448-7337.

Skeet and Trap (Bob Cooley)

IWLA SHOTGUN RANGE ROSTER 2014

April 2014

Wed	4/2	Berle Cherney, Ed Shifflet
Sat	4/5	Mash Esfanaji, Mary Esfanaji
Sun	4/6	Tony Hess, Mark Gay
Wed	4/9	Frank Bis, Ron Roberson
Sat	4/12	Paul Fisher, Greg Myers
Sun	4/13	George King, Gary Giambalvo
Wed	4/16	Jay Jeffrey, Carl McMahan
Sat	4/19	Murray Welsh, Steve Olsen,
Sun	4/20	Jim Crowell, Maj Tavakoli
Wed	4/23	Brian Van Winkle, Bob Woodward
Sat	4/26	Bob Reynolds, Arden Young
Sun	4/27	Bob Poth, Dave Stevenson
Wed	4/30	Debbi Perry, Bob Cooley

Substitutes:

Tim Mulreany, Gary Green, Steve Rowcroft, Stephen Meyers, Ron Roberson, Jim Arnold, Kieth Kosian, Hank Williams, Mike Webb, Charlie Weaver, Mike Bowen, Roman Drews, Joel Gross, John Davis, Robin Dixon, Glenn Hubert, Gerhard Bartsch, Jay DeVan, Jeff Greenhut, Paul Turska, Jake Turska

Safety Thoughts

With good fortune you have made it through the bad weather unscathed. I'm sure when things got bad outside your senses sharpened and helped you avoid a mishap or two. Or perhaps someone brought a potentially bad situation to your attention thus avoiding some slick spot that could have ended badly. It is when we look out for each other that we increase the potential to avoid an accident. If you see a potential hazard let someone know. You never can tell, the next warning may come your way.

Rifle and pistol (WAC Range Safety Officer Committee,) - Jesse Lim (repeated from February)

Note: Reminder due to possible wintery weather conditions, please always check the WAC website for range road closure notifications. Please drive with caution and have proper footwear for walking on slippery pathways at our rifle and pistol ranges. Use the stairs when at all possible. Stay warm and be safe !

Important! It is your responsibility to read and understand our WAC R/P range's safety conduct and rules
<http://www.damascusiwla.org/RiflePistolRules.html>

Although members should read and understand **ALL** R/P rules, we would like to highlight a section under SAFETY and CONDUCT that we need to ensure all members are aware of: SAFETY Rule# 5. While personnel are in front of the shooting benches or down range, all firearms shall be placed on the shooting bench, unloaded, with action open, chamber empty, magazine removed, and safety on if available. Firearms, ammunition magazines, ammunition, firearm scopes and accessories shall not be touched during this period. SAFETY Rule# 16. Only the firearm in use is permitted at the firing point while shooting. CONDUCT Rule# 16. All range-approved members are range officers, and as such, are expected to maintain an attitude of SAFETY, PATIENCE, and COURTESY at all times when using the ranges.

If at any time you are approached by anyone at WAC for individual training for a fee on our rifle or pistol ranges, have any questions about the R/P rules, concerns about member conduct on the R/P ranges, do not hesitate to contact Jesse Lim.

NRA Basic Pistol update

We look forward to our 2014 curriculum starting in March with the Basic Rifle class and May with the Basic Pistol class. Registration for both classes will be announced via special WAC email notification about a month prior. Please do not delay signing up, classes fill up fast.

WORK ACTIVITY RECORDING

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.

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Congratulations

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

Laurie Balagurchik

George A. Caperones

Mariya Charny

Jay Copsey

Michael Gagne

Chestnut Orchard Work

February 8

Members:

David Jacobson and Leslie McKinney.

Range Maintenance

February 22 (Shotgun)

Probationary Members: (regular credit)

Marty Svrcek.

Chapter Maintenance Day

February 23 (Pistol/ Rifle/Shotgun)

Members, Family and Nonmembers:

Al Goldschmidts, Wendy Smith, Joseph Smith, John Leaman, Candy Varmer, Guy Wright, Barb Crooks, Chuck Crooks, Rich Deriso, Rich D. Deriso,

Probationary Members: (regular credit)

Hans Varmer, Billy Ramos, Tom Peters, John Ahrens, Robert Nugent, Alfred Chun, Connor Walsleben and Marty Svrcek.

Probationary Members: (conservation credit)

William Leaman and Dan Leaman.

A reminder to our probationary members:

If you are not sure as to your work status, please email me at nicolasgiu@yahoo.com and I will get back to you in short order. No need for a lengthy email, just put the word Status and your name in the subject line and I'll do the rest.

Nick Giuliano

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 New Times Roman font and in Word format.

I thank you for your consideration.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS (Jim Piatieski jimpiateski@verizon.net)

Thanks to Nicolas Giuliano for mailing the printed version of the newsletter every month. Thanks to Chuck Crooks, Jesse Lim, Meo Curtis, Jeff Deschamps, Bob Cooley and Randy McKenzie 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 Piatieski 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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