



Wildlife Achievement Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America
APRIL 2015

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CHAPTER NEWS, EVENTS AND ARTICLES

Conservation (Meo Curtis)

Pigtail Site Maintenance Day—Saturday March 14

It was a cold and rainy day but 12 hearty souls showed up for the first conservation work event for 2015. We spent the next couple of hours pulling vines and cutting back and removing unwanted shrubs like multiflora rose and autumn olive. Our group also maintained the cages, straightening the crooked ones and replacing or adding support as needed. The ground was covered by snow and frozen which made it a problem for driving the rebar or stakes for supporting the wire cages.

We will be working with the new WSSC watershed manager to develop a plan to better manage the site which is still mowed once or twice a year. The plan will include more tree and shrub plantings as well as continuing to manage the vines and other plants that are trying to overgrow the native plantings. Improving this buffer will provide additional filtering for runoff entering the drinking water reservoir and also more habitat for birds and other wildlife.





Watershed Clean Up – Saturday March 28, 2015

It was overcast and still cold for this year's spring Upper Patuxent Watershed Clean up. There were even a few flurries throughout the event. Thirty-eight members and family and two DNR rangers participated in this year's event. We cleaned up from Windsor Forest, Brown Church Road, Long Corner, Mullinix Mill, and Annapolis Rock Roads, accumulating about 60 bags of trash, 16 car tires, 8 5-gallon buckets and 2 big totes with miscellaneous contents and a toilet and toilet tank. Much of the litter collected consisted of beverage containers of all types, almost all recyclable in Montgomery County.

Many thanks to Jim Piateski, Bill Kelly, and other members who used their own vehicles to transport people and trash; to Judy Riley for being a rover to keep folks supplied with bags and water; and to Jose Scoseria for the terrific lunch for all participants. Thanks also to DNR Ranger Technicians Alan Zlotkowski and Travis Watts who came with a truck to help haul the trash for pick up and to Montgomery County Department of Transportation for taking everything we collected to the transfer station for proper disposal.



Patuxent Hiker Biker Trail (Bob Cooley)

June 20th is the kick-off day for the Patuxent Trail Project. Do you need Conservation Credits? This is a great opportunity to work on the trail and earn Conservation Credit at the same time. Sign-in with Bob Cooley on the day of the Project. Finish at the Chapter House with lunch and credit earned. Hope to see you there. More details to follow.

Controlling Invasives

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, 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

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 the muzzle of the FIREARM (muzzle control). Control the direction of your firearm's muzzle **at all times** by pointing it in a safe direction. This means:

- 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.

CONDUCT Rule# 18 . We will conduct a strict audit and observe any member using the rifle and pistol ranges for prohibited training and certification activity outside of the WAC sanctioned training programs.

- **Rule# 18.** No member may use our ranges for commercial training purposes. Using any WAC firearms range for financial gain, personal or otherwise, jeopardizes our charitable organization status and is a major conduct violation of our range rules. Anyone found to be in violation of this rule will have his or her range privileges suspended pending investigation by the Rifle and Pistol Range Safety Officer Committee, which will present its findings to the Board of Directors for their action.

If at any time observed or 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 TRAINING UPDATE – by Wendy Smith

IMPORTANT: Pre-registration is required for ALL WAC sponsored NRA classes.

Walk-ins cannot be accommodated due to the fact we have strict registration requirements from the NRA and student materials are ordered in advance of the classes.

Please watch the April WAC newsletter and special WAC announcements in early April announcing the May (2nd and 9th) NRA Basic Pistol Course. **Registration will be announced on or about April 13th in the afternoon and classes fill up fast.** Pre-registration cannot be accommodated due to make-up seats and limited instructor to student ratios. Classes are open to WAC members and their family (per WAC membership rules/definition). Minimum age is 12, and minors MUST be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian the entire time.

The March NRA Basic Rifle class was held and luckily was in-between the various winter storms and weather we endured throughout March.

A big THANK YOU TO our instructors: Gregg McDonald, Hans Varmer, Jean Aker, Jesse Lim, John Mullaney, Judy Riley, Pete Ott, Rick Thornley and Suzy Floyd.



IWLA SHOTGUN RANGE ROSTER 2015

May 2015

Sat 5/2 Tim Mulreany, Gary Green
Sun 5/3 Steve Rowcroft, Stephen Meyers
Wed 5/6 Berle Cherney, Ed Shifflet
Sat 5/9 Jim Arnold, Keith Kosian
Sun 5/10 Hank Williams, Mike Webb
Wed 5/13 Frank Bis, Ron Roberson (out)
Sat 5/16 Roman Drews, Bill Murphy
Sun 5/17 Joel Gross, Gerhard Bartsch
Wed 5/20 Jay Jeffrey, Carl McMahon
Sat 5/23 Robin Dixon, Glenn Hubert
Sun 5/24 Bob Poth, Dave Stevenson
Wed 5/27 Brian Van Winkle, Bob Woodward
Sat 5/30 Paul Turska, Jake Turska, Bob Cumberland
Sun 5/31 Jay DeVan, Gerhard Bartsch

Substitutes:

Mash Esfanaji, Mary Esfanaji, Tony Hess, Mark Gay, George King, Gary Giambalvo, Murray Welsh, Jim Crowell, Maj Tavakoli, Ed Gilpin, Debbi Perry, Bob Cooley, Paul Fisher, Greg Myers, Steve Olsen, Bob Reynolds, Arden Young, Bill Murphy, Roman Drews

May Safety Thought

The weather is getting warmer. You may want to forego the flip flops and shorts at the club and ranges. Go for stability in footwear. Avoid the slip and twist while enjoying yourself at the club and on the ranges. Keeping your legs covered just may help prevent getting poison ivy. Be Safe!

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

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.

Bob Dietsch Ginger Dietsch
Susan Baker Charles T. Baker
John F. Tredway Tom Peters
Michael A. Bennett Pat Riley
Lance Kennedy Diane Brooks
Kenneth P. Reichard

Membership Dinner

February 25

Probationary Members: (Regular credit)

John Porter, Adrian Jackman and Neil Balfour

Maintenance at Pigtail Area

March 14

Members, Family and Nonmembers:

Meo Curtis, Jeff Deschamps and Roger Miller

Probationary Members: (Conservation Credit)

John Ahrens, Joe Donoghue, John Arness, Dave Lane, Stephen Elko, Marcel Moone, Chris Miller, Michael Veirs Jr., and TJ Monahan

Membership Dinner

March 25

Probationary Member: (Regular credit)

John Porter

Watershed Clean Up

March 28

Members, Family and Nonmembers:

Meo Curtis, Jeff Deschamps, Jim Piatetski, Rich Fried, Paul Largent, Michael Schmidt, Bill Kelly, Jose Scoseria, Judy Riley and from DNR Alan Zlotkowski and Travis Scott Watts

Probationary Members: (Conservation Credit)

David Bergtold, Alexander Bush, Raynu Clark, Carl Coakley and daughter, Andy Doherty, Charles Dorian, Tyler Gergler, Kim Hewitt, Phil Lowe, Donna Largent, John Smith, William Gugliemini, Christine Gugliemini, Marcel Moone, Paul Webster, Mary Jo Webster and daughters, Tom Merkle, Gail Merkle, Richard McDougal and son, Judah Organic, Angel Moe, Duane Moe, Madison Moe, John Smith, Dave Stout and Erin Stout

Chapter Maintenance Day

March 29

Range Maintenance (Shot Gun/Rifle/Pistol)

Members, Family and Nonmembers:

Al Goldschmidts, Aleks Goldschmidts, Hans Varmer, Candy Varmer, James Nail, John Leaman, Steve Garland, Thomas Garland, Rob Van Tassell,

Frank Saenz, Arden Young, Bill Murphy, Jeffrey Kordenbrock Jr. and Stephen Rowcroft

Probationary Members: (Regular credit)

Susan Baker, Charles Baker, Glen Weston, Marcel Moone, Dan Leaman, Jeff Kordenbrock and Charles L. Dorian

Green Shed support: (Regular Credit)

Bud Gates and Chris Miller

Conservation work: (Conservation Credit)

Neil Balfour and William Dunn

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 Piatieski 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 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 Box 1630
Olney, MD 20830-1630