



Wildlife Achievement Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America

MAY 2011

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CHAPTER NEWS, EVENTS AND ARTICLES

Astronomy Club (Steve Lefebvre)

The Astronomy Club had its first organizational meeting on Wednesday, April 27, 2011. We had about a dozen guests who listened to a lecture by Gary Hand, an engineer and owner of Hands On Optics, a telescope dealer located at 26437-A Ridge Road, Damascus, MD 20872 (telephone: 1-866-726-7371). Gary gave a lecture and had different kinds of telescopes on hand for demonstration purposes. Unfortunately, the weather did not permit any outside viewing activities with the telescopes. The Astronomy Club would like to specially thank Gary Hand for his donation of a new pair of binoculars and a complete set of Star Charts with accessories for introducing the night sky to our new members. The next meeting of the Astronomy Club will be right after the General Membership Meeting (the "Meatloaf Throw-Down Spring National") on Wednesday, May 25, 2011. For more information or to join the Astronomy Club, send an email to lefebvre01@earthlink.net or call Steve Lefebvre at 301-482-1898. New members and new ideas are always welcome.

REMINDER: (Judy Riley)

There will be a "Meatloaf Throwdown" at the May 25th General Membership Meeting; otherwise known as, "The Meatloaf Slam Down Cook Off," by some and/or "The First Annual Spring Meatloaf Throwdown," by others. Contenders are Cherie Aker, Charly Culbertson, José Scoseria, Judy Riley and, one trio group that includes Rich Fried, Chuck Crooks and 'research technician', Greg Talamini. So, come join in the fun! We'll have a Slamin' Bamin' Rock'em Sock'em Good-Time...(will Bobby Flay show up?!)

The secret panel of judges will tell who wins the "bragging rights for a year!" (There's already a lot of friendly bantering and bragging going on...ha ha...time will tell who has the best secret meatloaf recipe;). Dinner will include mashed spuds (volunteer assistants for this task and other jobs will be welcomed with open arms), green beans, one of Cherie's famous salads, rolls and, dessert for this traditional, America-fare is non-other than "Mom's-Apple Pie!"

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Conservation (Meo Curtis)

Tree Planting and Riparian Buffer Maintenance Saturday May 14. 9 a.m.-Noon.

Come out to help with maintenance of our tree planting on County parkland along Reddy Branch near Brookeville. Tools, gloves, and water provided. Student service learning hours if the forms are brought for signature this day. Conservation work credit for probationary members. Contact Jeff Deschamps (jeff.deschamps@verizon.net) or Jim Piateski (jimpiateski@verizon.net) for details.

Conservation Maintenance Day—Sunday May 28. 10 a.m.-Noon.

The Conservation Committee has a number of tasks for the May maintenance day and needs some volunteers. We'll be re-doing the butterfly garden, mulching, and weeding, plus planting a few elm trees. For probationary members, this will count as a conservation work day. We'll meet at the green maintenance shed at 10 sharp to start working.

Gaithersburg Green Day-Saturday May 7

Our chapter joined Rockville and Bethesda-Chevy Chase at the IWLA-National Headquarters on May 7th for its Earth Day celebration. There were a wide variety of activities for young and older alike, including planting native plants, fishing at the lake, and monitoring its water quality. Jim Piateski and Jeff Deschamps led nest box building. Jim also brought a bee hive and gave folks an up-close and personal look into the busy world inside. Meo Curtis used the newly constructed Nature Trail to educate folks about some of the invasive plants present on the National grounds.

The folks at National worked very hard at organizing this event, drawing partners not just from the local chapters but also from the Montgomery County Master Gardeners and the newly-formed watershed group, the Muddy Branch Alliance. The sun shone bright but the temperature stayed mild, so it was a perfect day for being outdoors, enjoying nature while learning how to protect it.

Another 'successful' Watershed Clean Up-Saturday April 9

Continuing our decades old tradition, we sponsored our annual Spring Watershed Clean Up to prevent trash and litter from getting into our local streams and the Patuxent Reservoirs. There were 28 volunteers, including a good contingent from Trout Unlimited and a few young people for Student Service Learning hours.

We picked up about 35 bags of trash, along with miscellaneous assorted items such as:

1 tire; 3 5-gallon plastic carboys each partially filled with oily (but not oil) liquid; a fiberglass truck cap and bumper cover; many plastic 5-gallon buckets, some filled with paint, thinset, tile, etc.; and a plastic cooler, soon filled with trash.

We frequently find sports balls of all sorts on the roadside, including golf balls. This year, we found golf balls and a driver in good condition. Doug Kay said he will try it out and let us know if it was tossed out in a rage because of its hooks and slices.

Thanks to those who donated use of their own vehicles to shuttle people from point A to point B. Also, very special thanks to Jose Scoseria who once again provided a very tasty lunch to those who volunteered.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

We are in need of at least one individual, more if needed, to treat our chestnut orchard for Ambrosia Beetles. The insects have been discovered in our orchard and will eventually kill the trees. It requires a regimen of periodic spraying. All equipment and training will be provided by the American Chestnut Foundation and WAC. This will qualify as a conservation event for anyone participating. This is not a one-time event. It will need to be done at specific intervals and commitment is essential. Contact Jeff Deschamps(jeff.deschamps@verizon.net) or Jim Piateski (jimpiateski@verizon.net) for additional information.



Christmas Trees Update (Wade Dayberry and Wendy Smith)

Thank you to Mike LaRoi, Gary Young, and Mike Fitzgerald for coming out and joining Wade and I on a rainy Saturday, April 16th. We were able to plant all the trees in short order! We planted 130 trees in all – a variety of (25) ConColor, (50) Douglas Fir, and (25) Blue Spruce. A special thanks to Judy Riley for donating (15) Meyer and (15) Colorado Blue Spruce “Tommy” trees, in loving memory of her husband, Tommy Riley. We would also like to thank Mother Nature for sending a little rain our way and to those volunteers who came out on maintenance day, as well. Photo credits thanks to Mike LaRoi.



Rifle and Pistol Report (Jesse-Thomas Lim and Wendy Smith)

The Rifle and Pistol Committee would like to thank all of the volunteers that came out and helped on the April 17th maintenance day, under the direction of Al Goldschmidts. We would also like to send a special thank you to Al for his dedication and for all of the numerous improvements that have been made to the rifle and pistol ranges over the past year.



The May NRA Certified Basic Pistol class is underway and registration is closed. We have had fantastic interest and turn-out for the classes. The last scheduled NRA Certified Basic Pistol class of the year will be the annual Ladies, Daughters and Teens (dinner) and class and will be held in the fall. Registration will begin in September, stay tuned for more information at that time.

Upcoming Rifle and Pistol events: Please refer to the WAC calendar for more information:

May 14th – Practical Defense Match

June 11th – Bowling Pin Match

AIRGUN

CHAPTER AIR PISTOL CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH (Phil Dean)

The annual Chapter Air Pistol Match was fired during the Monday Night Adult Sessions on April 4 and 11. There were 10 participants this year. The course of fire was the NRA indoor air pistol 10 meter match of 60 shots for a possible score of 600. The winner this year was Paolo Amedeo (539); second place was Hiem Trang (524); and 3rd place shooter was Jim Piateski (514). Carole Poth was the high woman shooter. Those participating were: Paolo Amedeo, Hiem Trang, Jim Piateski, Phillip Dean, Jim Pachulski, Steve Lefebvre, Don Hunt, Karl Krchma, Carole Poth, and Rory Walley.

IWLA RANGE ROSTER 2011 (Bob Cooley)

JUNE 2011

Wed 6/1 Brian Van Winkle, "Rip" Van Winkle, Bob Woodward

Sat 6/4 Maj Tavakoli, Mash Esfanaji

Sun 6/5 Tony Hess, Mark Gay

Wed 6/8 Conley Phipps, Ron Roberson

Sat 6/11 Jim Arnold, Bob Cooley

Sun 6/12 Seamus Webb, Mike Webb

Wed 6/15 Jeff Greenhut, Carl McMahon

Sat 6/18 Mike Bowen, Ira Wein

Sun 6/19 Jim Crowell, Judy Crowell

Wed 6/22 Richard Maple, Berle Cherney

Sat 6/25 Robin Moore, Rodney Winstead

Sun 6/26 Bob Poth, Dave Stevenson, Dick Smith

Wed 6/29 Debbi Perry, Dick Smith

Substitutes

Tim Mulreaney, Gary Green, George King, Gary Giambalvo, Paul Fisher, John Davis, Jay DeVan, Gerhard Bartsch, Murray Welsh, Wade Dayberry, Mary Esfanaji,, Heather Barber, Alan Palestine, Joel Gross, Maj Tavakoli, Frank Bis, Jay Jeffrey, Bill Rahn, Charlie Weaver, Glenn Hubert

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS (Nick Guiliano)

Upper Patuxent Watershed Clean Up

April 9

Jay Sheppard, Jose Scoseria, Don Hunt, Meo Curtis, Jeff Deschamps, Marc Hutcell, Steve Naugle, Cathy Nutler, Donald Jackson, Richard E. Jones, Lynn Jones, Bob McDermott, Jack T. Roach, Stephen Wass, Steve Schertler, Karl Krchma, Angie Lai, Lauven Amsellem, Yong Fan, Monica Carter, William Jones, Dan Failacci, David Failacci, Douglas Kay, Debra Kay, Chris Hoffmann, Kiley Switanek and Michelle Chesnut.

Chapter Maintenance Day

April 17

Rifle and Pistol Ranges

Jean Aker, Al Goldschmidts, Todd Denny and Michael Holder Sr.

Shotgun Ranges

Berle Cherney, Mark McKeivitt, Mash Esfanaji, Mary Esfanaji, Mark Gay and Paul Turska Sr..

Christmas Tree Maintenance

Jeff Deschamps, Meo Curtis, Wade Dayberry, Hans Varmer, Candy Varmer, Craig McLean, Wendy Smith, Gary Young, Mike Holder, Mike, LaRoi and Mike Fitzgerald.

Green Shed

John Leaman and Guy Wright.

Membership Meeting Dinner

April 22

The evening meal was roast beef, and roast pork served with scalloped potatoes, green beans and salad.

Prepared by Chef McNally assisted by Cherie Aker, Don Hunt, Mary Hunt, Andy Huo, Mitchell Optican, Rod Kahn and Wes Morgenstern.

Bill Carbone and Rod Kahn set up the dining room.

Cowboy Set Up

April 22

Steve Peck, Paul Bluteau, Richard Rankin and Guy Wright.

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

Joseph S. Wolf

Caroline M. Wolf

Pat Mills

Jon W. Barker

If your name does not appear in this issue of the newsletter and you have volunteered in the past month or so please send an email with your information to: nicolasgiu@yahoo.com

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS (Jim Piateski at jimpiateski@verizon.net)

Thanks to Nicolas Giuliano for mailing the printed version of the newsletter every month. Thanks to Nick Giuliano ,Wendy Smith ,Jesse Lim, Meo Curtis, Judy Riley, Wade Dayberry ,Phil Dean, Steve Lefebvre and Bob Cooley 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 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

Joe Gick

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