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CHAPTER NEWS, EVENTS AND ARTICLES

CONSERVATION NEWS AND NOTES (Meo Curtis)

Go Green in Your Lawn and Garden This Summer

At the Bull Roast in May, we had a couple of great presentations about being more environmentally friendly with lawn care. Visit the EPA's GreenScapes Web site for more tips and a calendar on landscape maintenance and other green practices. <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/green/homeown/calendar.htm>

The EPA web site provides some simple tips to combine a green thumb with a green lifestyle. Homeowners can save time and money, and also improve the health and appearance of their lawn and garden.

- Mow regularly and leave the clippings on the lawn – the clippings will recycle into "free fertilizer."
- Water deeply, but infrequently, to prevent lawn disease and save water.
- Mulch flower and vegetable beds with compost or grass clippings to conserve water and control weeds.
- Identify bugs before you spray, squash or stomp – most bugs are good bugs, not pests.
- Consider planting native trees and plants, especially ones with berries, fruits and flowers to invite birds, butterflies, and other wildlife into your yard.

GreenScaping: The Easy Way To a Greener, Healthier Yard: <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/green/owners.htm>

For more tips on how to save time, money, and the planet while tending to your lawn and garden this summer, check out EPA's new GreenScapes exhibit at "One Planet—Ours". EPA's outdoor exhibit showcases lawn and garden care practices that are easy on the environment and on your wallet.

One Planet-Ours at the U.S. Botanic Garden

The U.S. Botanic Garden is featuring a special exhibit from May 24 – October 13, 2008 entitled 'One Planet-Ours'. The focus is on how to reduce our consumption of energy, water, and land and assure the long-term sustainability of our natural resources. Government agencies, non-profit groups, and businesses all contributed to this series of displays on topics ranging from straw-bale houses, rain barrels and rain gardens, to renewable energy generation at your own home. The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection is a partner in the conservation landscaping exhibit-using plants that do not require much or any watering or fertilizing.

A big draw for young and old alike are the more than 40 "Cool Globes" sculptures. Toyota, Inc. provided funding to the artists who created portrayals of "whole-earth" solutions to the problems of living unsustainably. See photo of my personal favorite on why we might want to 'reduce' our use of plastic products.



Figure 1 - Photograph by Meo Curtis

Throughout the summer, there will be many special workshops on green techniques, even some on cooking with organic ingredients and a chance to taste your creations. Most of these workshops are free but registration is required. Family Day is Saturday July 19 from 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., with many activities scheduled that are suitable for all ages of youngsters.

The U.S. Botanic Garden is located near the Capitol in Washington D.C. and only a few blocks walk from Union Station on the Metro red line. <http://www.usbg.gov/education/events/One-Planet-Ours.cfm>

RECYCLING IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY (Jim Piatetski)

Recycling in Montgomery County got easier as of July 1, 2008. Montgomery County residents now have the chance to recycle more plastics than ever and county residents no longer have to check the resin identification number on every plastic container. Now, county residents can recycle all plastic containers unless they hold hazardous materials (oil, paint, pesticides, antifreeze, etc). Styrofoam is still not recyclable.

The county's recycle rate is about 43 percent, most of which is sold as scrap. When the trash is not recyclable, the waste is burned and is used to generate electricity.

So, if you live in Montgomery County, toss your margarine tubs, yogurt containers, cottage cheese containers, prescription bottles, five-gallon paint buckets and plastic deli tubs into your blue recycle bin. Your efforts to recycle go a long way to reducing the amount of trash going into the landfill.

For additional information on the Montgomery County recycling program, or to obtain blue recycling bins, go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling.

THE PLASTIC WATER BOTTLE DILEMMA (Michelle Chesnut)

At a recent Board of Directors (BOD) meeting, another BOD member approached me and suggested that the Conservation Committee should lobby to get rid of plastic water bottles at the chapter. Plastic water bottles are ubiquitous because of their convenience. News stories have vilified the plastic bottles as decadent, wasteful and even harmful to health. What is the real story of plastic water bottles?

A brief search of the web shows three major issues with plastic water bottle. The first is the inordinate number of single-use water bottles ending up in landfills. The second is that manufacturers use petroleum to make water bottles. The third problem is the health risks posed by plastic bottles.

The single use plastic water bottle does not need to end up in a landfill – they are recyclable. However, the current recycle rate for water bottles is only about 2 in 10. It takes 700 years for plastic to begin to decompose in the landfill. Of course trying to decide which of the many different plastics are recyclable complicates the issue. For those who live in Montgomery County, plastic recycling just got much easier, see Jim Piatieski's article titled Recycling in Montgomery County in this newsletter. For the rest of us, we will need to check with our county's recycle program, but recycling plastics is becoming more inclusive in most places.

Another problem with plastic of all kinds is that most of them are made from petroleum. The more demand for petroleum, the more everything that uses petroleum costs. It takes over 17 million barrels of oil to manufacture a year's supply of bottled water. That is enough oil to fuel 1,000,000 cars, and more than a day's petroleum imports for the entire country.

This brings us to the health hazards associated with plastic water bottles. Reusing water bottles of any type requires thorough cleaning to get rid of bacteria. The single use bottle does not stand up to cleaning as well as the refillable types of plastic bottles. The refillable (and easy to clean) polycarbonate bottles have a potential to leach bisphenol-A (BPA), a chemical that mimics the hormone estrogen.

If you are worried about the long-term environmental or health hazards of using plastic water bottles, try switching to other materials such as glass—made from abundant sand—or stainless steel, which is a reusable alternative with, low health risks. And when you do avail yourself of a refreshing cold plastic bottle of water, make sure the empty finds its way into the recycle bin.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

This month's membership meeting is on July 23 Social hour starts at 6:30 pm with dinner at 7:30. We will accept floor nominations for the Board of Directors election in August.

DIFTA MATCH (Joe McDaniel)

DIFTA will host the Maryland State FT Championships July 26. This will be a 72-shot match with 6 offhand and 6 kneeling (which can be shot offhand) shots. The cost is \$20 (\$25 day of the match; \$10 for Juniors). We will not be providing food this year but will have lunch at Lou and Joe's (no relation) after the match (this is a great Thai/American/Chinese place just north of Damascus). We will provide water and snacks at the match.

The awards this year are custom pellet boxes. We will have awards for 1st to 3rd in PCP, Piston, and Hunter and 1st-only in Offhand and Junior.

If you would like a registration form, you can find it at

<http://www.aافتa.org/Assets/calendar/matches/2008/DIFTA%20MD%20States.html>

COMMITTEE REPORTS



Figure 2 - Flag Flying at Ft McHenry (Photograph by Tony Evans)

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS (Conley Phipps)

Probationary members are now required to help with four chapter events during their first two years of WAC membership. At least one project **MUST** be in support of Chapter Conservation efforts. If you are a probationary member, and don't see your name in the newsletter after helping out with an event, it would be prudent to contact the person who ran the event and find out why your name has not reached me. Thanks to all.

The following **probationary members graduated to full membership status** as having completed their required projects: **Wade A. Dayberry, Michael J. Statland.**

JUNE General Membership Meeting Kitchen and Hospitality Staff:

Thanks to Mac McCollum and Ed McNally for the wonderful meal. Kitchen clean-up Wendy Smith and libations crew Rob Hallin and Ken Lefebvre.

Chapter maintenance: JUNE 29th, 2008

Thank you to all the below members donating their time and labor to help keep the Chapter looking neat and clean, Adopt - a - Road, Chestnut Tree and Range maintenance. Guy Wright, Tom Bragg, Benson McGowan, Jim Pike, Nunzio Litterio, Chuck Limparis, Meo Curtis, Jeff Deschamps, Larry Emswiler, Wade Dayberry, John Leaman, Paul Fisher, Peter Sittner, Josh Jonas, Martin Cherry, Derek Charles, Andy Lefevre and Bill Wright.

Chapter maintenance: April 27th, 2008

Sorry for the late thank you but just received this listing. The following members participated in Chapter grounds maintenance, Christmas Tree trimming and Range maintenance. Benson McGowan, Chuck Limparis, Dany Smith, Tom Ouellette, Tom Bragg, Pete Douberoff, Alan Palestine, Heather Barber, Edward Grim, Chris Grim, Mark Gay, Henry gay, Thomas Gay, Paul Turska, Martin Cherry, Josh Jonas, Guy Wright and John Leaman.

THUNDER VALLEY DAYS:

You may notice names listed more than once in this category, as TVD is a four day event with set-up beginning on Wednesday and tear-down on late Saturday afternoon. Also Kitchen staff and Parking covers three days. Rather than attempting to weed out multiple name entries I will list them as recorded. Spellings will be my best attempt at translating what you have written.

Bill Ladd, Greg Talamini, Rip Van Winkle, Mac McCollum, Joe Carinci, Red Skillings, Greg Talamini, Mac McCollum, Joe Carinci, Rip Van Winkle, Red Skillings, Wendy Smith, Conley Phipps, Phillip Dean, Ed Lloyd, Bill Gaxdik, Bill Ladd, Blix Winston, Richard Lee Rankin, Guy Wright, Rick Sommer, John Leaman, Tom

Malarkey, Mike Kalmar, Mike Webb, Mike Statland, Karl Krchma, Red Skillings, Joe Carinci, Bill Gazdik, Bill Ladd, Rip Van Winkle, Mac McCollum, Steve Peck, Mike Kalmar, Ron Peddicord, Dave Gold, Martin Blake, Paul Bluteau, David Elston, Gunner Leaman, Spotted Horse, Richard Rankin, Mary Pat Donals, Tony Evans, Merry Talamini and Karl Krchma.!

A special thanks to all listed above, especially those volunteering to work the many hours and days to support Thunder Valley Days. **THANKS MEMBERS and VOLUNTEERS!**

Also a special thanks to our dedicated staff of **Range Orientation Instructors.**

If I have failed to credit anyone for a required work project or misspelled a name please contact Conley Phipps @ 301-460-8528 or phippscd@hotmail.com. If you are interested in getting involved in a Chapter Support Function consider the job of tracking work details, which takes from 30 minutes to an hour per week, “no meetings required” just some record keeping and of course an article like this in each Newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP (Joe Gick)

New Members

Please welcome the following new members to our chapter.

James Aldrich sponsored by Phil Omenitsch

George F Hughes and Scott Hughes sponsored by Sean Dwyer

John R McCarreher sponsored by Bill Paven

Mark E McKeivitt sponsored by Steve Myer

John Mullaney sponsored by Tony Evans

Mark Nestor sponsored by Joe Gick

Elizabeth Shannon sponsored by Daniel Earnest

Cary A Spice sponsored by Bill Schneider

RIFLE AND PISTOL RANGE REPORT (Guy Wright)

INFORMATION: For more information about any rifle or pistol range activities mentioned in this article, contact Guy Wright, by e-mail, at guywright@verizon.net or telephone 301-253-4604(home) or 301-775-3741(cell).

SHOOTING HOURS: Permitted rifle and pistol range shooting hours are posted on the box, which contains the range sign-in register, as well as above the range entry card reader. For July 2008, starting time is 10:00 AM daily and ending time is 8:00 PM, unless some activity has preempted the range (see “**Upcoming Events Affecting Range Availability**” below).

NEW ITEMS

My thanks to members Josh Jonas, John Leaman, and Al Goldschmidts, for their help on range cleanup at our May Maintenance Day. Additional thanks to Al Goldschmidts for an infusion of pistol target backers.

REMINDERS

Keep it Clean: Have you ever seen some of the trash-filled locations that serve as public shooting areas on the back roads of this country? Not pleasant places to spend much time in, are they? For comparison, come out to the WAC ranges some morning before anything is going on, and you’ll find both peace and natural beauty. Our challenge is to maintain that pleasant environment, while still providing a place to shoot. You can help by cleaning up after yourself every time you shoot. Pick up your empty cartridge cases, and please don’t use prohibited targets. Always try to leave the range in better condition than it was when you arrive

Rules May Be Boring: Nevertheless, carelessness in following the range rules and regulations cannot be condoned in an arrangement like we use at the WAC, where each range-approved member is trusted to use the ranges as an unsupervised “range officer,” both complying with and helping to enforce the chapter’s range rules. You wouldn’t be happy with the alternative. So, please take the time to find and read a copy of the current range rules. They are available on our web site, posted on bulletin boards at the ranges, or from Guy Wright. Better yet, if you took the range orientation course more than a year ago, sit in on the current course, which the range safety trainers have significantly revised. It is held in the Rathskeller from 10 AM to about 1:30 PM on site maintenance days.

Rifle Range Target Placement is permitted at the 50, 75, & 100-yard berms. This is perfect for all center-fire and some rim-fire rifles. If you want to shoot at 25 yard targets with rim-fire ammo then use the covered pistol range, where all currently available rim-fire caliber rifles may be used.

Rifle and Pistol Range Rules: The rules governing Rifle and Pistol Range safety, conduct, permissible firearms, and violation policy are posted at the covered pistol range, the covered rifle range, the notice board between the pistol ranges, the notice board at the path leading to the covered rifle range, on the chapter WEB site (damascusiwa.org) and in MS Word format from me via email, when requested. Sometimes questions come up. Though our bylaws indicate that you can call any Board of Directors member about these rules, you will be better served to start with the folks closest to them, i.e., range orientation instructors or the committee chairman.

Up-Coming Events Affecting Range Availability:

Seneca Valley HP Match on Saturday July 5, 2008 from 8:30AM to 2:00PM. Rifle Range is closed.

Practical Defense Match on Saturday July 12, 2008 from 9:00AM to 2:00PM on Pistol Range 1. Pistol Range 1 will be closed during this time. For additional information, you can contact Jesse Lim via e-mail at jlim@phillips.com or telephone 301-540-0860 (evenings only please).

Cowboy Action Setup on Friday July 25, 2008. Rifle and Pistol Ranges will be closed beginning at 1:00PM.

Cowboy Action Shoot on Saturday July 26, 2008 from 8:00AM to 3:30PM. Rifle and Pistol Ranges will be closed during this time.

Seneca Valley HP Match on Saturday August 2, 2008 from 8:30AM to 2:00PM. Rifle Range is closed.

.22 Rimfire Fun Shoot on Saturday August 9, 2008 from 10:00AM to 2:00PM. Rifle Range will be closed.

Bowling Pin Shoot on Saturday August 16, 2008 from 9:00AM to 2:00PM on Pistol Range 1. Pistol Range 1 will be closed during this time. For additional information, you can contact Jesse Lim via e-mail at jlim@phillips.com or telephone 301-540-0860 (evenings only please).

Cowboy Action Setup on Friday August 22, 2008. Rifle and Pistol Ranges will be closed beginning at 1:00PM.

Cowboy Action Shoot on Saturday August 23, 2008 from 8:00AM to 3:30PM. Rifle and Pistol Ranges will be closed during this time.

If anyone has any rifle and pistol related topics or items they wish to include in future newsletters, send them to Guy Wright at the above email address and include some contact info in case there are questions.

IWLA RANGE ROSTER (Bob Cooley)

July 2008

Wed 7/16 Conley Phipps, Scott Wood, Tom Moore, Bill Dowes

Sat 7/19 Mike Bowen, Dave Gold, Ira Wein, Gary Green

Sun 7/20, Jim & Judy Crowell

Wed 7/23 Jay Jeffrey, Frank Bis, Howard Goldberg

Sat 7/26 Tony Evans, Richard Zabell, Red Gambrell, Charles Weaver, Bill Rahn

Sun 7/27 Heather Barber, Alan Palestine, Bob Case

Wed 7/30 Bob Woodward, Carl McMahon

August 2008

Sat 8/2 Bob Cooley, Tim Mulreaney, Gary Green

Sun 8/3 Joel Gross, Bill Wright, Bob Poth

Wed 8/6 Mike Fleisher, Jeff Waters, "Rip" Van Winkle, Carl McMahon

Sat 8/9 Paul Fisher, George Fichter, Dave Fichter

Sun 8/10 Randy & Evan Stewart, Seamus Webb, Mike Webb

Wed 8/13 Jeff Greenhut, Ron Roberson, Jacob Lambert, Bob Woodward

Sat 8/16 Mike Bowen, Dave Gold, Ira Wein

Sun 8/17 Jim & Judy Crowell

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS (Michelle Chesnut smc_geek@msn.com)

Thanks to Nicolas Giuliano for mailing the printed version of the newsletter every month. Thanks to Meo Curtis, Jim Piatetski, Bob Cooley, Guy Wright, Joe Gick and Joe McDaniel for their contributions to this newsletter. A special thanks to Chuck Crooks for his patience with the editor and his work on publishing the newsletter on-line. Thanks also to Conley Phipps for managing and collating the lists of participants in chapter activities.

If anyone has an article, picture or topic, which they wish to have included in future newsletters, send them to Michelle Chesnut at the above email address and include some contact info in case there are questions. If possible, please send articles as an attached Word document. 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 Michelle Chesnut 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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