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CHAPTER NEWS, EVENTS AND ARTICLES

SHARING THE SENSE OF WONDER

(Meo Curtis)

It's hot and humid and you're probably spending some time indoors in air-conditioned comfort. Keep a connection with the great outdoors by reviewing photos, essays, and poetry in the EPA's Sense of Wonder contest and by casting your vote for the winners. The finalists were selected based on originality, creativity, use of an intergenerational team, and ability to capture a sense of wonder.

The contest was named after one of Rachel Carson's books on nature—"The Sense of Wonder". Rachel Carson is the author of the book 'Silent Spring' that in the 1960s brought to national attention the ecological problems associated with uncontrolled pesticide use. The contest sought submissions "that best express the 'Sense of Wonder' that you feel when observing the sea, the night sky, forests, birds, wildlife, and all that is beautiful to your eyes."

The contest's intergenerational approach reflects Carson's efforts through her writing to have adults share with children a sense of wonder about nature and help them discover its joys. The deadline for voting is Sept. 15 and the winners will be announced in October.

More information on the contest:

<http://www.epa.gov/agingepa/resources/thesenseofwonder/2008/index.html>

CALENDAR EVENTS OF NOTE

The August Adopt-A-Road clean up is on Sunday, August 24 at 9:00 a.m. Contact [Meo Curtis](#) 301-604-3736 for more information.

On August 30, WAC will host a **New Cowboy Shooter Clinic**. Classes are at 8:00 AM - 11:15 AM - Contact [Chuck Crooks](#) 301-831-9666 for more information and for registration. **One pistol range closed during clinic, Pre-Registration Is Required.**

On September 13, WAC will once again host the "**Breaking Clays to Save the Bay**" **Skeet Shoot** from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Contact [Bob Cumberland](#) 301-253-1348 for more information.

Don't miss the **Annual Pig Roast** on September 21. We will have **Fun Shoots (10 AM to 1 PM) and Picnic & Family Events (1 PM to 5 PM)**. Bring the family outdoors for a nature trail hike, beehive demonstration, scavenger hunt, clown, games, crafts, demonstrations, food, music and more. This event is open to members and their guests only. Contact [Steve Lefebvre](#) 301-482-1898 for more information. **All Ranges Will Be Closed (Except For Fun Shoots), Skeet & Trap Special Event to be announced - Contact [Paul Turska](#) 301-252-7011**

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

This month's membership meeting is on August 27. Social hour starts at 6:30 pm with dinner at 7:30. We will vote on the 2008-2009 Board of Directors.

ADULT AIRGUN FUNSHOOT (Phillip Dean)

Targets that spin, flip, pop, fall, and shatter along with paper targets will be there for you at the outdoor airgun range on **Sunday afternoon, August 17, from 2:00 PM until 4:00 PM**. We have an excellent outdoor airgun range at the Chapter and as a way of making more of you aware of it, we are having an 'airgun fun shoot' on this date. Bring your own air pistol or air rifle to use on the supervised range during this afternoon activity. There will be a variety of airguns available for your use if you don't have your own or want to try some other types. This will be an excellent family activity and a good way to introduce new shooters to a fun sport.

Contact Phillip Dean (301-865-8202) if you have any questions.

DIFTA 2008 Maryland State Championship (Joe McDaniel)

Damascus Ike's Field Target Association (DIFTA)

July 20 Match Results

We had wonderful weather for our annual Maryland State Championship with very light breezes, temperatures in the 80s, and clear skies (although with our "shaded" lanes, that does not affect us much -- everything is pretty dark and a well-lit target makes one wonder what is wrong).

Attendance was down a bit with 24 shooters this year versus 30 last year. This has been typical of this year's matches with gas prices and other demands lowering attendance. One loss this year was that Werner Wicha — a very long time member of the club — moved to Florida.

Hans and Ray Apelles were present shooting their Crosman Discovery rifles with bright red Crosman Match stocks. Crosman is really trying to get serious about field target with this new rifle, improved quality control for their pellets, and support for the sport. Anyone thinking about getting into precharged pneumatic (PCP) or even field target (FT) for "cheap" should look at their rifles. The price is incredible and the performance is excellent.

Our awards this year were pellet boxes made by Bob Zimmerman. Bob donated the Junior Division award. The artwork was the same as shown here.

The 72-shot course difficulty was about 30T with some extra difficulty unintended by the match director picking targets for the kneeling lane incorrectly -- the lane was about 60T while a more normal difficulty would be about 20T (everyone hates kneeling!). There were 6 shots offhand, as well. Other than the kneeling lane, only the usual gripes: A gopher with a 3/8" hole (got to measure that some time -- it sure seems smaller!) was placed in a gopher hole (Doh!) that happened to be right in the middle of a lane at a reasonable distance. Regardless, several people complained that the target was malfunctioning but it kept going down with enough regularity to indicate it was working -- at least one of the hits was with a 10-fps rifle!

Steve Schulz was a surprising last place finisher. He decided to use his FWB instead of LDSS #2 and discovered that various things were not working correctly.

We had two ties: 1st place PCP and 3rd place in Hunter. The PCP tie between Joe McDaniel and Tinh Nguyen was decided by a shoot-off administered by Ray Apelles with Joe McDaniel winning. The other tie was decided by default -- Tim Avera had to leave early.

Results:

Open Class

Joe McDaniel 59

Tinh Nguyen 59

Carl Johnson 56

Hans Apelles 55

Al Otter 55

Keng Hao Liu 51

Chuck Jordan 49

Lauri Apelles 43

Steve Schulz 34

Piston Class

Rex Gori 51

Paolo Amedeo 46

Tim Berlett 13

Hunter Class

Henry Canoles 54

Ed Canoles 46

Ray Jordan 37

Tim Avera 37

Bill Gazdik 29

Shane Feller 29

Singson Tiu 28

Phil Dean 24

Bill Feller 15

Offhand Class

Ray Apelles 45

Junior Class

Scoring is 2 for a "kill," 1 for a faceplate hit. Name Score

Phil Karcher 75

Michelangelo Avera 25

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (Jeff Deschamps)

After many months of hard work preparing the site, planting the nuts, and installing the fence, the work on our American Chestnut Nursery is finally complete. While the 'hard part' is now done, the work isn't over. The nursery will require periodic maintenance. We also have other projects that got shifted to the back burner while we focused on the Chestnuts...we fell behind in maintenance on our American Elm Trees and now need to make up for their neglect. Happily, we still have a large number of trees surviving. Over that past two workdays, we have begun to get the Elm trees back under control. As soon as supplies are available, we will begin re-staking the Elms. It seems tree shelters don't do well over time in the wind. It doesn't seem to matter how well the shelters are staked they still get blown over. Just look at the recently completed Chestnuts and you can see shelters askew. I can promise you that when those shelters were installed they didn't lean like some now do. So get on the chapter e-mail list to keep up-to-date on when we are working and come out to help us if you have time.

BLACKSMITH COMMITTEE (Dick Smith)

The Blacksmith Committee has accepted a commission from the Chapter to fabricate/forged a hand railing for the chapter house. The committee submitted sketches for the various elements and the Board of Directors approved them. Work should begin as soon as the elevation plan and budget are completed and approved.

In addition, Dick Smith and Tim Beachley made the latch on the gate for the Chestnut tree orchard. The latch is made from mild steel, hand forged and fabricated to incorporate a leaf, acorn and daisy. Tim Beachley made the daisy during a class Dick took from him recently in forging life forms. During this class, Dick finally learned the proper method of forging leaves and he has been making them all week at the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair in Gaithersburg. Dick welded the daisy to a lag bolt and used it to fasten the hook to the gate. Some of Dick's Russian blacksmith friends made the leaf a few years ago. They showed Dick how to forge them using a power hammer. With the 3/4 inch square stock used to make the leaf, Dick forged a mounting segment with two punched screw holes, and a hand-forged acorn at the other end. The hook Dick forged from 3/8 inch round stock. The finished latch was treated with five coats of "Rust Reformer" and secured to the gate with brass screws (machine made). (See the photo in the on-line newsletter.)



Figure 1- Chestnut tree orchard gate latch. (Photo by Dick Smith)

All members of the chapter, new and old, are welcome to join us on Saturdays in the pole barn for informal smithing and instruction in basic blacksmithing. Safety glasses are required in the forge area, and we recommend long sleeved shirts and full trousers, but shorts are acceptable, especially in warm weather. Bring along a bag lunch and plenty of fluids to drink; it is very easy to become dehydrated while working over a hot forge and pounding steel in 90 degree weather.

This past Saturday Andy Lefevre and his son Andrew were forging fishhooks and Anne Rickert was working on bottle openers. Anne starts with a box wrench for most of her openers, and sometimes forges skulls on the handle. Joe Gick has been forging tomahawks and I have been trying to finish a pair of colonial strap hinges for a wooden chest.

ADULT AIRGUN (Phillip Dean)

There may be some of the chapter members who have not seen or used our outdoor airgun range. This range, dedicated to the firing of air rifles and air pistols only, is located in the woods to the left of the trap / skeet range. There is a covered 50 yard range with a number of benches from which to fire. Target frames for the use of paper targets can be located at any distance from 10 yards out to 50 yards. In addition to these targets, there are three sets of silhouette targets, a number of spinners and reactive targets, three swinging can racks, and a field target. One of the 'most fun' targets to use are the Daisy ShatterBlast targets. These are a biodegradable, non-toxic clay disc about the size of a poker chip. When hit, they 'turn to dust' leaving no doubt that you hit what you aimed at! You will have to provide your own ShatterBlasters (order over the internet) but there are two racks of holders for them at the 10 yard and 20 yard lines. Adjacent to the cover firing line is the area used for the field target matches.

If you have not yet done some airgun firing on the outdoor range, now is the time to do so. The same general range safety rules used on the rifle and pistol ranges apply to the airgun range. Contact Phillip Dean (301-865-8202) if you have questions.

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 two projects 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 the newsletter. Thanks to all.

The following probationary **members graduated to full membership status** as having completed their required projects:
Neal London, David Huott, Miles Benson, Stephen Garland and Nunzio Litterio, Jr..

JULY General Membership Meeting Kitchen and Hospitality Staff:

Thanks to Mac McCullum and John Walter for the wonderful meal. Kitchen clean-up Jose Tassara, Mark McKeivitt, Jim Aldrich and Steve Lefebvre and libations Rob Hallin.

Chapter maintenance: JULY 27th, 2008

Thank you to all the below members donating their time and labor to help keep the Chapter looking neat and clean; Guy Wright, Nunzio Litterio, Meo Curtis, Jeff Deschamps, Martin Begosh, Tony Evans, Jerry Hill, Stephen Garland, Michael Gutierrez, Journey Delauder, Heather Barber, Alan Palestine, Anthony Hess and Jake Turska.

Chestnut Tree Fencing: June 21, 2008

Sorry for the late thank you but just received this listing. Ira Krowitz, Gerhard Bartsch, Tyler ?????, Douglas Hull, Bob Stanek, Andy Lefevre, Andrew Lefevre, Alec Lefevre, Neal London, Meo Curtis, Jeff Deschamps, Red Skillings and Bill Ladd.

Chestnut Tree Fencing: July 19, 2008

David Huott, Dean Huott, Cary Spice, John McCarraher, Dennis Crossen, Michael Swaine, Jim Piatieski, Cyril St. Martin, Sean St. Martin, George Hughes, Journey Delauder, Mark Hamilton, Jim Krantz, Miles Benson, Clark Kunkle, Joe Carinci, Wendy Smith, Gerhard Bartsch, Stephen Adams, Richard Blatchford and David Jacobs.

Cowboy Set Up: July 25, 2008

Dogmeat Dad, Renegade Lee and Sandia Sidewinder

Cowboy Tear Down: July 26, 2008

Snake Eye Skulker, Renegade Lee, Colorado, DQ Dave, Damascus Steel, Tomahawk Teri, Two Gun Tuco, Dogmeat Dad, Humphry Hook and Most Wanted and several that didn't sign the sheet.

Range Orientation Instructors: June 29, 2008 and July 27, 2008

Ray Logan, Bud Bell and Bruce Roth

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 this job, 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.

Jay DeVan sponsored by Bob Schneider

Daniel Floyd sponsored by Bill Schneider

Dan Jordan sponsored by Joe Gick

Robert Mongelluzzo sponsored by Al Goldschmidts

James Mooney sponsored by Steve Schneider

Nicholas A Peters sponsored by Joe Gick

Brian White sponsored by Chuck Crooks

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).

RIFLE AND PISTOL RANGE REPORT

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 August 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 Tony Evans, Martin Begosh, Jerry Hill, and Steve Garland, for their help on range cleanup at our July Maintenance Day.

REMINDERS

Targets: To ensure the safety of everyone shooting or observing shooters on the WAC ranges, permissible targets are specifically identified in the safety section of our range rules and regulations as shown below. Failure to abide by these rules is a serious safety violation and may result in the loss of shooting privileges.

10. Permissible targets include paper, balloons, and frangible, biodegradable items such as candy, crackers and clay pigeons. Such targets must be attached to the target backboard and mounted so they do not obscure the steel target stand frame.

11. Permissible free standing targets include commercially made steel or “self-sealing” plastic targets which swing, spin, or fall when hit by a bullet.

12. Homemade target frames and metal targets must be approved by the Rifle/Pistol Committee Chairman or a designated representative before use on the Chapter ranges.

13. The target being fired upon must be directly in front of the firing point. Shooters must ensure that only one target is in the line of fire.

14. Steel targets must be placed at least 25 yards from the firing line and directly in front of the earth bank backstops.

15. Only unjacketed lead or frangible bullets in the correct caliber for the target are permitted for use on steel targets.

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 (damascusiwla.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 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 jljm@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.

Seneca Valley HP Match on Saturday September 6, 2008 from 8:30AM to 2:00PM - Rifle Range is closed.

Practical Defense Match on Saturday September 6, 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 jl原因@phillips.com or telephone 301-540-0860 (evenings only please).

Hunter Safety Class on Saturday September 20, 2008 from 9:00AM to 1:30PM - Rifle and Pistol Ranges will be closed during this time.

Pig Roast on Sunday September 21 2008 from 10:00AM to 5:00PM - All ranges are closed except for Fun Shoots held for Roast participants from 10:00AM to 1:00PM. Ranges close and Pig Roast festivities begin at 1:00PM.

Cowboy Action Setup on Friday September 26, 2008 - Rifle and Pistol Ranges will be closed beginning at 1:00PM.

Cowboy Action Shoot on Saturday September 27, 2008 from 8:00AM to 3:30PM - Rifle and Pistol Ranges will be closed during this time.

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

IWLA RANGE ROSTER (Bob Cooley)

August 2008

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

September 2008

Wed 9/3 Mike Fleisher, Jeff Waters, "Rip" Van Winkle, Carl McMahon

Sat 9/6 Bob Cooley, Tim Mulreaney, Gary Green, Nunzio Litterio

Sun 9/7 Joel Gross, Howard Goldberg, Bob Poth

Wed 9/10 Jeff Greenhut, Ron Roberson, Jacob Lambert, Bob Woodward

Sat 9/13 Paul Fisher, George Fichter, Dave Fichter (2-7) Breaking Clays

Sun 9/14 Randy & Evan Stewart, Seamus Webb, Mike Webb

Wed 9/17 Bill Dowes, Conley Phipps, Bill Wright

Sat 9/20 Mike Bowen, Dave Gold, Ira Wein

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS (Michelle Chesnut smc_geek@msn.com)

Thanks to Nicolas Giuliano for mailing the printed version of the newsletter every month. Thanks to Dick Smith (article and photograph) Meo Curtis, Phil Dean, 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

Joe Gick

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