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Wildlife Achievement Chapter 26430 Mullinix Mill Road Mt. Airy, Maryland 21771

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CHAPTER NEWS, EVENTS AND ARTICLES

AMERICAN CHESTNUT FOUNDATION WORKSHOP (Jim Piateski)

The American Chestnut Foundation is holding a workshop and picnic at IWLA national Headquarters in Gaithersburg, Md. on October 4 2008. The event is being held from 11:00am until 2:00pm at 707 Conservation Way in Gaithersburg.

The American chestnut was king of the forest for many years. They had important economic value for timber and food for domestic and wild animals. The introduced blight around the turn of the 19th century almost wiped them out. The American Chestnut Foundation is working to restore these majestic trees to the American landscape. Anyone interested in would benefit greatly from attending this event. Attendees will be able to find out how to obtain seeds to plant on their own property.

DAMASCUS HERITAGE SOCIETY TO HOLD FUNDRAISER AT WAC (Jim Piateski)

On Sunday, October 19, 2008, The Damascus Heritage Society will hold a fundraiser at the Wildlife Achievement Chapter. The event is scheduled to run from noon to 5pm. The purpose is to raise money to construct a museum exhibiting the rural heritage of the Damascus area.

As of this writing, some of the planned activities are speakers on local history, a display of antique farm equipment, a turkey shoot, scavenger hunts, chestnut tree tour, a cowboy action shooting demonstration and a beekeeping demonstration. A nature trail hike is planned as well. Static displays describing rain barrel and rain garden function and an invasive plant

exhibit are planned. The blacksmith forge will be operating all day and the adult air gun group will hold a demonstration.

Food and beverages will be served all day. Craftspeople and other vendors will have their wares available for sale.

This event is a great opportunity for our membership and the local community to see the many aspects of our chapter demonstrated at one large event. There is something for everyone.

The Wildlife Achievement Chapter is a charter member of the Damascus Heritage Society. Let's get out on October 19 and show our support for this endeavor.

MEMBER VOLUNTEER NEEDED

The chapter needs your help! We need a volunteer to take over the management and collation of the list of members who have donated their time to maintaining the chapter. This is a very important role at WAC because this is how the probationary members “graduate” to full member status and this is how we know who to thank for making our chapter thrive. Please contact Steve Lefebvre 301-482-1898 if you are willing to perform this task.

CALENDAR EVENTS OF NOTE

On September 13, WAC will once again host the “**Breakin’ Clay 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, beekeeping 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 (Red Skillings)

This month is the installation of the new Board of Directors. The general membership meeting is on 26 September. Social hour starts at 6:30pm .Dinner is served at 7:30pm. There is no charge for the dinner that night.

The following comprises the complete list of Officers/Directors for 2008/2009.

Steve Lefebvre, President
Guy Wright, First Vice President
Paul Turska, Second Vice President
Jeff Deschamps, Third Vice President
Red Skillings, Recording Secretary
Jim Piateski, Corresponding Secretary/Editor Newsletter
Joe Gick, Membership Secretary
Chuck Limparis, Treasurer
John Leaman, Chaplain
Mac McCollum, Parliamentarian
Dick Smith, Sergeant At Arms
Chuck Crooks, Director
Pete Doubroff, Director
Ken Lefebvre, Director
Tom Malarkey, Director
Tom Ouellette, Director
John Walter, Director
Greg Talamini, Director
Rich Fried, Director

DIVISION AND NATIONAL IWLA AWARDS (Red Skillings – membership meeting minutes)

2007 Division Conservation Award – the IWLA, Maryland Division presents the 2007 Division Conservation Award to David Jacobson for his effort in establishing the American chestnut orchard at the Wildlife Achievement Chapter.



Figure 1 - David Jacobson receives his awards from Jim Piatetski (Photograph by Bob Cumberland)

2007 IWLA National Conservation Award – the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) Conservation Award presented to David Jacobson in recognition of outstanding work in the Conservation field, the IWLA is honored to present the National Conservation Award for 2007. David also received recognition for his efforts in the Gazette (Damascus-Clarksburg) of 08/06/08.

National Honor Roll Award – The Izaak Walton League of America presented the National Honor Roll Award to The American Chestnut Foundation. The IWLA gives this award exclusively to nonmember individuals or organizations for outstanding accomplishments involving conservation, public information or publicity efforts in keeping with League goals.

The goal of The American Chestnut Foundation is to restore the American chestnut tree to its native range within the woodlands of the eastern United States, using a scientific research and breeding program developed by its founders.

Robert Strasser and Kathy Marmet, of The American Chestnut Foundation in Maryland, have been instrumental in providing technical assistance and resources to our Chapter, to establish an American chestnut nursery. The The American Chestnut Foundation has also worked with the Rockville Chapter on their property near Gaithersburg, and are currently working with the Southern Maryland Chapter in Charles County to establish American chestnut tree nurseries.

On behalf of The American Chestnut Foundation and Kathy Marmet, Robert Strasser received the IWLA National Honor Roll Award.



Figure 2 -Robert Srasser receives the National Honor Roll Award from Jim Piateski on behalf of the American Chestnut Foundation (Photograph by Bob Cumberland)

Defenders Chapter Achievement, Five-year Recognition Award, 2003-2007 – for successful chapter programs promoting membership, contribution, education, youth involvement and communications. The following chapters received this award:

Wildlife Achievement (MD), Central New York (NY), Lake Keuka (NY), Grand Isle (NE) and Sunshine (SD) at the Eighty-sixth Annual IWLA National Convention

Chapter Membership Recognition Award – The Izaak Walton League of America presented the Honor Chapter Membership Recognition Award to the Wildlife Achievement Chapter, in recognition of our time, energy and dedication invested in the growth of the IWLA and our chapter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (Meo Curtis)

Adopt-A-Road and Gardens Maintenance –

The Chapter completed one of its Adopt-A-Road obligations on the August workday. We had 12 volunteers (including three young Ikes) and cleaned up Long Corner Road from the Patuxent River to Rte. 108/Damascus Rd. In about three hours, we picked up about 17 bags of trash, a sofa (no cushions), a water heater, a tractor seat, two tires, a countertop, and miscellaneous landscaping supplies. One full bag of trash (on average) weighs about 20 pounds so there was more than 300 pounds of bottles, cans, and fast food containers just along those two roads. The clean up crews noticed a pile of tires off Long Corner Road and reported it to the County.

Thanks to all who volunteered for the Adopt-A-Road and those helped with maintaining our gardens. We have a continuing battle with thistle and other 'weeds'. There will be a workshop in conjunction with the September workday to learn about the worst kinds of weeds on the Chapter property and a conservation workday to get rid of some of these. This will take place on Sunday September 28 from 8:30 to noon, first a brief overview about what 'invasive' plants are and how to control them, followed by fieldwork along the main access road and close to the Chestnut Tree nursery. Most control will be mechanical (i.e. pulling them out or cutting them).

Conservation Committee members may also be applying herbicide to 'permanently' get rid of some of our pesky plants. More details will be available on the Conservation Committee web page after September 7 (<http://mysite.verizon.net/vzeo63qr/index.html>).

The **Fall Watershed Clean Up** is coming up on October 18 from 9:00 AM to Noon - Lunch 11:30 AM Rain or shine. Join us!

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 (2)** 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 me. Thanks to all.

The following **probationary member graduated to full membership status** as having completed their required projects: **WENDY SMITH.**

AUGUST General Membership Meeting Kitchen and Hospitality Staff:

Thanks to Mac McCollum and Ed McNally for the wonderful meal. Kitchen clean-up- Dan Floyd, Mark McKeivitt, Jim Aldrich. Ken Lefebvre and Rob Hallin libations. A special thanks to Wade Dayberry for furnishing watermelons for dessert.

ADOPT-A-ROAD: AUGUST 24th, 2008

Thank you to all the below members donating their time and labor to help keep the roads leading to and from the Chapter clean. Jay Pickens, John Maisel, Michael Swaine, Paul Bartock Jr., Malden Udbinac, David Cheng, Cary Spice, Ed McNally, Steve Garland, Daniel Schmidt, Andrew Dolgun, Sean St. Martin, Bill Stansell, Mike Stansell and Will Stansell.

CHRISTMAS TREE MAINTENANCE: AUGUST 24th, 2008

Wendy Smith and Wade Dayberry

SKEET and TRAP: AUGUST 24th, 2008

Paul Turska, James Aldrich, Michael Barvir, Paul Fisher, Conley Phipps, Jimmy Arnold

RIFLE and PISTOL: AUGUST 24th, 2008

Al Goldschmidts, Guy Wright.

SPECIAL "STUFF" CLEAN-UP: AUGUST 24th, 2008

Dogmeat Dad, better known as Chuck Limparis.

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. I don't know who will be tracking NEW MEMBER WORK REQUIREMENTS next month and forward, so be extra sure to sign the sheet provided and give proper information.

ADULT AIRGUN PROGRAM (Phil Dean)

Adult air pistol and air rifle shooting is held every Monday night at the indoor airgun range in the Chapter House. We meet at 6:30 PM to set up the range and firing begins at 7:00 PM. Those shooting air pistol generally fire a 60 round match. Those firing air rifles have been doing a somewhat less formal program within the same timeframe. Firing ends about 8:15 PM followed with cleanup. You can plan to be ready to leave by 8:30 PM - or you can stay for some socialization and leave about 9:00 PM.

A number of the pistol shooters will be participating in a 'postal match' during November through February. Individual scores fired on specific dates will be submitted to a fellow in Washington State who consolidates them with scores from other shooters from the US and foreign countries and puts out a match

bulletin every two weeks. This has proven to be an enjoyable activity that provides an opportunity to see how your shooting 'stacks up' with others across the country. It is also a good way to see how you are improving during the shooting season.

Either air pistols or air rifles can be fired during the Monday night Adult Airgun session. Feel free to bring your own gun or you can use some we have available until you decide the type you want to get on your own. The only cost is a charge of \$1.00 per person per session for the cost of targets. Contact Phillip Dean (301-865-8202) for information. We hope to see some new shooters at our Monday night sessions.

IWLA RANGE ROSTER (Bob Cooley)

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 Doves, Conley Phipps, Bill Wright, Howard Goldberg

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

Sun 9/21 Pig Roast Funshoot

Wed 9/24 Alan Palestine, Heather Barber,

Frank Bis

Sat 9/27 Tony Evans, Richard Zabell, Red Gambrell, Charles Weaver, Bill Rahn

Sun 9/28 Peter Sittner, Jim & Judy Crowell,

Bob Case

RIFLE AND PISTOL RANGE REPORT (Guy Wright)

INFORMATION: For more information about any rifle or pistol range activities mentioned in this article or suggestions for topics for this article contact Guy Wright, by e-mail, at guywright@verizon.net or telephone 301-253-4604(home) or 301-775-3741(cell) or Tony Evans, by email at tony.evans@verizon.net or telephone 301-649-1895.

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 September 2008, starting time is 10:00AM daily and ending time is 7:30PM, unless some activity has preempted the range (see "UPCOMING EVENTS AFFECTING RANGE AVAILABILITY" below).

NEW ITEMS

My thanks to members Al Goldschmidts, Chuck Limparis, Tony Evans Andrew Dolgun, and Jim Aldrich, for their help on range cleanup at our August Maintenance Day. Also thanks to Al Goldschmidts for his donation of precut rifle and pistol backers.

REMINDERS

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, Guy Wright, 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 chair.

UP-COMING EVENTS AFFECTING RANGE AVAILABILITY:

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 jlim@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.

Junior Rifle Practice on Saturday October 4, 2008 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM – Contact Tom Malarkey 240-246-6941 (Covered pistol range closed during event)

Bowling Pin Shoot on Saturday October 4, 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).

Junior Rifle Practice on Saturday October 11, 2008 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM – Contact Tom Malarkey 240-246-6941 (Covered pistol range closed during event)

Hunter Safety Class on Saturday September 11, 2008 from 9:00AM to 1:30PM – Rifle and Pistol Ranges will be closed during this time.

Junior Rifle Practice on Saturday October 18, 2008 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM – Contact Tom Malarkey 240-246-6941 (Covered pistol range closed during event)

Cowboy Action Setup on Friday October 24, 2008 – Rifle and Pistol Ranges will be closed beginning at 1:00PM.

Cowboy Action Shoot on Saturday October 25, 2008 from 8:00AM to 3:30PM – Rifle and Pistol Ranges will be closed during this time.

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, Bob Cooley, Guy Wright, Phil Dean and Jim Piatetski 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. In addition, thanks to Red Skillings' wonderful meeting minutes from which I harvest loads of information for the newsletter and for his article. Thanks to Bob Cumberland for the excellent photographs.

With this newsletter, the responsibility for editing passes to Jim Piatieski. I thank everyone who helped me during my tenure as Corresponding Secretary and contributed to this newsletter during the last two years.

If anyone has an article, picture or topic, which they wish to have included in future newsletters, send them 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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