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## **CHAPTER NEWS, EVENTS AND ARTICLES**

Those who read the last issue will notice some repetition. Very little material was received for this edition and the information is still current, at least for the online version.

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

(Yes, I'm really pushing this!)

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.

### **CALENDAR EVENTS OF NOTE**

Damascus Heritage Society Fundraiser Oct. 19

Cowboy match set up Oct. 24

Cowboy match Oct. 25

Chapter maintenance Oct. 25

Hunter Qualifications Nov.2

Daylight savings end Nov.2 (this will affect range times and skeet and trap will no longer be open on Wednesday afternoon on a regular basis)

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING (Red Skillings)

The following comprises the complete list of Officers/Directors for 2008/2009. See the photo to see who holds what position.



*Left to right, back row: Joe Gick, Chuck Crooks, Steve Lefebvre, Tom Malarkey, John Leaman, Ken Lefebvre, Jim Piateski*

*Left to right, front row: Chuck Limparis, Red Skillings, Rich Fried, Greg Talamini, Guy Wright, Jeff Deschamps, Dick Smith, Paul Turska, Tom Ouellette*

*[not pictured: Mac McCollum, John Walter, Pete Doubroff]*

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

## **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.

## **GETTING INVOLVED**

Most of the newer members have heard the speech about getting involved in the chapter and getting out of it what you put into it; some of the older members may have forgotten about it.

The chapter is many things to many people. The possibilities are only limited by imagination. Any member willing to start an activity or committee can come to the board of directors and pitch their idea. WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW IDEAS FOR PROJECTS AND PEOPLE TO RUN THEM.

## **TRADING POST BULLETIN BOARD**

There is a bulletin board on the wall of the downstairs Rathskeller for WAC-IWLA members to use to advertise **shooting related items** for sale to other members. Items should be listed on a 3 x 5 card if possible, and need to have the seller's name and telephone number listed. The card needs to be dated with the date posted. Listings will be removed when the caretaker of the board is informed of the sale or after 30 days from the posting date. If you have an item to sell but cannot get to the chapter house to post the ad on the TRADING POST BULLETIN BOARD, mail it to the address below and it will be posted within a few days.

## **FIREARMS SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Montgomery County has openings on the Firearms Safety Committee, previously known as the Range Approval Committee. Specifics on the position are described at [http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/exec/vacancies/pr\\_list.asp](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/exec/vacancies/pr_list.asp)

If you want more details on this, call Jim Piatetski at 301 758-4016. The deadline for applications is October 24, 2008 and you must be a Montgomery County resident to apply.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **CONSERVATION COMMITTEE** (Meo Curtis)

October Conservation Activities

Managing Non-native Invasive plants

For the September 28th work day, 12 new and old members came in early that morning to learn the 'Sinister Seventeen'-the most problematic non-native invasive plants in Montgomery County- and how to control them- and then worked in some of the more visible areas of the Chapter property using these techniques. Most of these plants were deliberately introduced for ornamental, agricultural, or wildlife habitat uses and then 'escaped' into woodlands, parks, and unsuspecting neighbors' yards. The group focused on Oriental bittersweet, Japanese honeysuckle, bush honeysuckle, autumn olive, wineberry, and tree-of-heaven. Thanks to Michelle Chesnut,

Bill Gazdik, Georgia Townsend, Thomas Bragg, Mike King, Mark McKeivitt, Jim Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. Alf Shupe, Scott and Nate Springer, and Mladen Udbinac for their attention and help.

The workshop was conducted by Meo Curtis and Jeff Deschamps of the Conservation Committee. The presentation is posted on the Conservation Committee web page:  
<http://mysite.verizon.net/vzeo63qr/index.html>.

Meo has completed the Montgomery County's Department of Parks 'Weed Warrior' training and volunteers in quarterly events to control the major problem species on County parkland. Most of the local parks managers have established volunteer-based 'invasives management' programs and work with community groups to organize local events at various times of the year. As on the Chapter property, repeated and regular 'mechanical' and 'chemical' treatments will be needed to keep these fast-growing and fast-spreading 'pests' under some control. For more information about local volunteer programs:

Montgomery County: [www.weedwarriors.org](http://www.weedwarriors.org).

Paul Carlson at [MCP-WeedWarriors@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:MCP-WeedWarriors@mncppc-mc.org) or 301-942-4709

Howard County:  
Sue Muller at [sue.muller@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:sue.muller@howardcountymd.gov) or 410-313-4697

Frederick County:  
Kay Schultz, [watershedalliance@fredco-md.net](mailto:watershedalliance@fredco-md.net), or  
301-694-1741

**Coming up at the Chapter:** Fall Watershed Clean up. Saturday October 18, 2008. 9 a.m. -Noon. Come out and help us prevent trash, litter, and dumped materials from getting carried from our roadsides and down into the Patuxent River. Meet at the green maintenance shed to get your area assignment.

Gloves, water, and lunch will be provided for all participants. Community service hours available for students if the completed forms are brought for signature on the day of the event. No pre-registration necessary. If there is pouring rain at 8:30 a.m. on October 18, the rain date will be Sunday October 26, from 9 a.m. to Noon.

Message will be available on the Chapter voice mail 301-253-2384, Conservation mail box (4). Event flyer has been posted at the Conservation Committee web page:  
<http://mysite.verizon.net/vzeo63qr/index.html>

### **THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS**

Information on participants on the last maintenance day was not received. We are looking for a volunteer to take over the position recently vacated by Conley Phipps who has monitored this activity for the last few years. Thanks, Conley!

Be assured that this information will be published when it is received.

### **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 at 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.

**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).

## **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](http://damascusiwla.org)) and in MS Word format from Tony Evans, 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.

**INFORMATION:** For more information about any rifle or pistol range activities mentioned in this article or suggestions for topics for this article contact Tony Evans, by email at [tony.evans@verizon.net](mailto:tony.evans@verizon.net) or telephone 301-649-1895.

## **UP-COMING EVENTS AFFECTING RANGE AVAILABILITY:**

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.

## **GAS SAVING TIPS** (Michelle Chesnut)

Gasoline has become a major expense in many household budgets and most of us do not have a viable alternative to driving. However, no matter what kind of car we drive, most of us can make a few changes in the way we drive that will improve the mileage we get.

Recently, after my car was rear-ended and totaled, I had to purchase a new car. Because gasoline was about \$4.00 per gallon, I wanted a car that got decent gas mileage. To find the mileage estimates for 2008 cars, I went to [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov). In addition to the standard city and highway miles per gallon (MPG) estimates, the website has a measure of the average of “drivers like you”. For the car I was interested in the average of was 34.2 MPG, but the range of average mileage was 29 – 45 MPG, a difference of 16 MPG. The major difference in the reported MPG was the person driving. What accounts for this huge difference in average mileage and how could I or anyone else safely maximize mileage? Fueleconomy.gov has several tips for improving gas mileage for any vehicle.

Drive efficiently. This means no “jack-rabbit” starts or stops, no weaving in and out of traffic, no tailgating and the like. Driving less aggressively can save up to 33% on the highway and 5% in town and has the added benefit of being safer for you and those with whom you share the road. Slow down and go the speed limit. This is easier said than done when you have a someone riding your bumper, but when and where possible, slowing down can save up to 23%. Additionally, remove excess weight from the vehicle. This will reduce the overall weight of your car and increase your MPG – how much depends on how much extra weight you remove. If you have a choice of when to drive, drive when traffic is lightest. Traffic jams and other stop and go traffic will substantially decrease MPG since the engine is burning fuel without going anywhere. Combine trips – a warm engine is more efficient than a cold engine.

Keep your vehicle in good repair. Get regular tune-ups (up to 4% MPG improvement), maintain the air filter (up to 10% MPG improvement), and keep tires properly inflated (up to 3% MPG reduction). Using the recommended oil weight and oil that has a label with the “Energy Conserving” performance symbol of the American Petroleum Institute contains friction-reducing additives that can improve fuel economy (1-2% MPG improvement).

For more information and to find out what the fuel ratings are for your vehicle go to [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov). If your mileage is closer to the low end of the range, try some of the above tips. Increasing your gas mileage will save you money.

**NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS** (Jim Piateski at [jimpiateski@verizon.net](mailto:jimpiateski@verizon.net) )

Thanks to Nicolas Giuliano for mailing the printed version of the newsletter every month. Thanks to Meo Curtis, Phil Dean, Red Skillings and Michelle Chesnut for their contributions to this newsletter.

If anyone has an article, picture or topic, which they wish to have included in future newsletters, send them to Jim Piateski at [jimpiateski@verizon.net](mailto: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:

E-mail: [joe.gick@verizon.net](mailto:joe.gick@verizon.net)

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