



DECEMBER 2006

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**Wildlife Achievement Chapter 26430 Mullinix Mill Road Mt. Airy, Maryland 21771**Main House Phone: 301-253-2384 Web Site: <http://www.DamascusIWLA.org> Range House Phone: 301-253-4779

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

### **Ranges are closed**

Remember, we close our ranges on December 25.

### **THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:** (Conley Phipps)

Probationary members are required to help with two chapter events during their first year of WAC membership. **At least one of those events must be a conservation activity.** 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. Additionally be sure to have that activity person notify me of this fact. Following are the names from the sign-up sheets for several recent events. Thanks to all. The following **11** probationary members graduated to full membership status as having completed their required projects: **Frank Wood, Tim Good, Thomas Hanagan, Keith Kosian, Kai Lee, Pasquale Tata, Fred Beam, Frank Lavorata, Thomas Lechner, Dennis Hubbard, and Eddy Tang.**

### **Chapter maintenance**

Tom Riley, Rick Mills, Peter Sittner, Paul Vitek, Alan Pressman, Paul Turska, Jake Turska, James DeBerry, Dennis Hubbard, Frank Lavorata Jr., Lisa Fahlstrom, Richard Bendt, Brandon Kinikin, Tom Lechner, Ray Gottlieb, Cyril St. Martin, Bill Wright, Peter Mell, John Leaman, and Guy Wright.

### **Damascus Wildlife Rangers (CAS) setup/tear down**

Paul Turska, Chuck Limparis, Hank Anderson, Mike Sage, Tom Tober, Andrew Hardin, Doug Hutchison, Ron Thompson, Carl Baker, Lefty Rhodes, and Dogmeat Dad.

### **General membership meeting help**

Rich Fried, master chef of the night's famous Fried Turkey Dinner, Eddie Harren, Chuck Crooks and Greg Talamini, assisted Rich generally and in serving. Thanks also to Rob Hallin and Ken Lefebvre, Hospitality Staff.

### **Range Orientation Grads**

Nicolas Dagher, Ian Duncan, Marjorie Hall, Jason Hall and Brian Tallerico successfully completed Range Orientation on 26 November 2006.

### **Newsletter Changes**

As we announced at the October membership meeting, we would like to deliver the newsletter online to all of you who have access to the Internet. This has the benefit of allowing us to publish pictures in addition to text. In order to implement this without affecting those of you who do not have Internet access, we need a list of names and addresses for those who would like to receive the newsletter via the United States Postal Service. We do not intend that this create a hardship for anyone. We will not stop delivery to anyone who wishes to receive the newsletter by post.

Online delivery of the newsletter will save the chapter hundreds of dollars in postage every year and will reduce the environmental impact of printing on paper.

Stay tuned for more details on how to let us know that you would still like a paper version of the newsletter.

### **Membership Meeting**

This month's general membership meeting and holiday party is on **Wednesday, December 20.** Social hour starts at 6:30 pm and we serve dinner at 7:30 pm.

### **Looking ahead**

In January, we will have a speaker during the dinner meeting. Carole Bergmann is a Forest Ecologist with the county. She manages the 'Weed Warrior' program that recruits and teaches volunteers to control invasive plants on County parkland. Ms. Bergmann is a much sought after speaker in the county and this will be a fun and informative talk. Please plan to attend.

Come join in the camaraderie, meet other chapter members, and enjoy a meal. Family and friends are also welcome.

### **Christmas Tree Sales**

Cut-your-own Christmas trees are on sale Saturday and Sunday from 10:00am until 4:00pm through December 17. Show your support for the chapter by purchasing your tree here. If you would like to volunteer to help sell the trees, contact John Leaman at 301-972-1572.



Figure 1 -- Santa Leaman reading to Gunner and Tom

### **American Chestnut Restoration** (David and Jen Jacobson)

The demise of the American chestnut tree is one of the greatest ecological disasters of the current era. The American chestnut was the keystone of the ecology and economy of the eastern United States throughout the 1800s. They once covered 25% of all wooded areas from southern Maine to Alabama. In 1904, an accidentally introduced chestnut blight nearly destroyed the entire population by 1950. Prior to that, American chestnuts were the most economically important tree along the Appalachian chain and a keystone species in a wildlife network that included deer, bear, turkey, grouse and other smaller animals. The conservation committee is proposing that the Damascus Izaak Walton League of America Wildlife Achievement Chapter take an active role in the restoration of this tree species by planting an orchard on the chapter's property.

The American chestnut was a fast growing and rot-resistant tree that was essential to the timber industry and produced a reliable crop of nuts for both wildlife and human consumption. The loss of the species due to a deadly fungus left a huge gap in the forest ecosystem. Except for a rogue population spread thinly throughout the region, today the tree has all but vanished from the landscape on the East coast. Only a few isolated stands of trees in the Western US remain intact.

Founded in 1983, The American Chestnut Foundation strives save this species through selective breeding of blight resistant strains. At present, they have succeeded in growing resistant trees and are developing seeds from these trees. For information that is more detailed see the American Chestnut Foundation web site – [www.acf.org](http://www.acf.org), including background on their research efforts with the trees and details of the ongoing restoration projects.

Editor's note: We appreciate David's involvement in leading the American chestnut restoration project. He is a new member who has taken his membership and the league's mission to heart.

### **Energy** (Jeff Deschamps)

Montgomery County has introduced InfoWIRE, a free electronic newsletter featuring the latest information about rising energy costs, energy-efficiency improvements, energy-related events, and County activities to promote

clean energy and prevent climate change. Each newsletter issue will include tips, feature articles, event announcements, links to resources and other important information. The fall edition is now available and focuses on winter energy efficiency and weatherization so consumers can save money and help the environment this winter. The County will distribute Energy InfoWIRE on a quarterly basis with occasional special announcements and updates. To sign up for Energy InfoWIRE, go to the County's website at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov), click on Online Services, and then scroll down to eSubscription Newsletters. Enter your email address and other information, and then select Energy InfoWIRE.

For more information, contact DEP's Senior Energy Planner Eric R. Coffman at [eric.coffman@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:eric.coffman@montgomerycountymd.gov) or 240-777-7754.

### **Well and Septic Workshop** (Michelle Chesnut)

Have you ever wondered what happens after you flush your toilet knowing it only goes as far as your back yard? Do you know how to care for your well to ensure that it remains uncontaminated? Do you know how to care for the septic system to ensure that it works as designed?

The Wildlife Achievement Chapter will host a well and septic workshop on Wednesday, January 17, 2007 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. The workshop lead by Dr. Herbert Reed, Senior Agent of the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension and will teach you how to care for your well and septic systems. This should be a fun and informative event.

The workshop is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is necessary. A workbook of reference and recordkeeping information will be available for \$5 at the workshop. To register, contact Bill Kelly at 301-717-0302 or [kelly24100@comcast.net](mailto:kelly24100@comcast.net).

So tell your friends and neighbors to come learn how to maintain their well and septic systems.

### **NEW COWBOY SHOOTERS CLINIC** (Chuck Crooks)

We will hold the next New Cowboy Shooter Clinic, at our IWLA-WAC Chapter, on Saturday, March 31, 2007. There will be two sessions. The first class starts at 8:00 AM and a second class at 12:00 PM. This will be the first of two clinics in 2007. Class size is limited, and seats are on a first come, first serve basis. You can view the **APPLICATION** on the web, fill it out on line and print a copy from your PC. If you cannot wait for the clinic, please contact **Chuckaroo** for alternative options.

The purpose of the clinics is to introduce the sport to potential enthusiasts who would like to try it without "the whole world watching." Though playing the game under the watchful eye of the Range Officer and their timer is part of the fun, it can be a little intimidating if you're new at it. SAFETY and fun are the real focus of the sport, and we would like to be sure everyone gets off to the right start. Students will learn how we play the game, hear the SASS rules, see the equipment and accessories that are

required, and get a chance to try out the range of firearms that are appropriate to the sport. A history of the sport is included in the classroom portion. You can look at the **Clinic Outline** to see what is covered. Atlantic Guns and the Damascus Wildlife Rangers provide all equipment and ammo, if students do not have their own yet. Each person will get the chance to shoot a real cowboy scenario or two using the ol' hoglegs, scatter gun and lever action rifle! You will feel the fear of that dang buzzer and learn what real brain fade is like!

**The clinics are not meant to be initial firearms training. Students must already be familiar with the safe use and the loading of revolvers, rifles and shotguns.** For additional information, contact **Chuckaroo** ([WildlifeRangers@aol.com](mailto:WildlifeRangers@aol.com)) 301-831-9666.

#### **Wild Game Dinner** (Rich Fried)

We still need donations of food and items for the auction. If you have any game to donate, contact Jorge Silva ([jgs1949@gmail.com](mailto:jgs1949@gmail.com)). The auction is one of the biggest fundraisers for the chapter. We need useable high-quality items, except for exercise equipment. Please contact Rich Fried (301-253-2789 or [TanRicFried@aol.com](mailto:TanRicFried@aol.com)) to donate items.

Tickets are \$20.00 and are available for sale at the Shotgun Range house during open hours and at the membership meetings until we sell out. Get your tickets soon. We have only 50 tickets left as of the December Board of Directors meeting.  
Wild Game Dinner Auciton

Once again, this year, the auction at the Wild Game Dinner will include the auction of several weeks at Port Largo Villas Resort in Key Largo, Florida. You may view additional information about the facility online at their website, [www.PortLargoVillas.Org](http://www.PortLargoVillas.Org). The weeks run Friday-to-Friday with Check-In at 4:00pm and Checkout at 10:00am.

These weeks have been very popular in the past and again this year, one of the weeks coincides with the Montgomery County Public School Spring Break! The dates for the weeks we will be auctioning are as follows;

Friday, 30 March 2007 - Friday, 6 April 2007 MCPS Break  
Friday, 6 April 2007 - Friday, 13 April 2007  
Friday, 13 April 2007 - Friday, 20 April 2007  
Friday, 20 April 2007 - Friday, 27 April 2007  
Friday, 17 August 2007 - Friday, 24 Aug 2007  
Friday, 24 August 2007 - Friday, 31 Aug 2007

Hope to See You There and Happy Bidding!!

#### **Upcoming Roasts** (Steve Lefebvre)

In support of our conservation committee programs, we will be holding two outdoor festivals during 2007: the Annual Spring Bull Roast on Saturday, May 12, and the Annual Fall Pig Roast on Saturday, September 29. There will be plenty of outdoor activities

including crafts demonstrations and other exhibitors, a clown and games for the kids, open pit barbecue food and beverages, and live entertainment. Tickets will be available for sale at the membership meetings after the first of the year. Mark your calendars to reserve those dates. For more information, contact Steve Lefebvre at (301) 482-1898.

#### **Membership Renewals** (Joe Gick)

Thanks to those who have renewed their membership for 2007. Your timely renewal means that you will receive your new Membership Card and Range Access card on time, before the old ones expire on 12/31/06. If you have not sent in your renewal by the middle of December, it means that you will most likely not get your cards back by the end of the year. The National Office controls the cards and they shut down between Christmas and New Year. It will also force me to make a second mailing of bills in early January. At the present time, 436 members have not renewed. It will cost our club to spend \$170.00 just on postage to bill you again. Folks, this is a waste of your money. Send it in now; you wouldn't do this to your credit card company.

To those of you who have paid up in a timely manner, I would like to say "**Merry Christmas from Joe Gick**". To those of you who after these many years who still continue to spell my name wrong, I would like to say "**Merry Christmas from Joe Gick – No 'L'**".

#### **Changes in Range Access Rules** (Joe Gick)

As of April 1, 2007, every member who shoots on **any range**, including the rifle range, pistol ranges, outdoor air rifle range, the archery range, and the skeet/trap ranges, must be visibly wearing a Range Access card. If you do not have one, you must attend a Range Orientation class, held at 10:00 A.M. on the last Sunday of the month. (Check the online calendar at [www.damascusIWLA.org](http://www.damascusIWLA.org))

The only exception to wearing a Range Access card is if you are shooting in an event where non-members are invited that are not specific guests of members under current Chapter Rules. Such events include Cowboy Action Shoots, Seneca Valley Matches, Breaking Clay to Save the Bay, etc.

You have four months to obtain your Range Approval card if you are not already in compliance.

#### **Invasive Species** (Michelle Chesnut)

Invasive species are a growing concern worldwide. When humans introduce a new species to an area, either intentionally or accidentally, there is a risk that the new species will have a detrimental impact on the new ecosystem. The Chesapeake Bay and its watershed are under threat from invasive species. Unfortunately, the list of invasive species in the Chesapeake Bay area is growing. All of the species listed in this article are invasive species that have affected the Bay, but this list is definitely not inclusive. The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States and has an incredibly diverse and complex ecosystem. The Bay also provides economic benefit to the region through fisheries, recreation and

shipping. Everything that affects the Chesapeake Bay watershed (New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, the District of Columbia and Virginia) affects the bay. According to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDDNR), 15% of all introduced species become invasive.

An invasive species is a species that humans introduce that has the ability to reproduce and spread throughout the environment. Often, these new species have no natural diseases or predators. Invasive species have a detrimental effect on the ecology or the economy or both. One example is the American chestnut blight that, for all practical purposes, wiped out a native, keystone species affecting both the habitats where it grew and the timber industry. Invasive species can be a virus (chestnut blight) or mammal (nutria) or anything in between.

In contrast, a native species is a species that has evolved in an area. Species that evolve together have a mutually beneficial relationship that invasive species disrupt. Invasive species compete with the native species for resources. For example, multiflora rose grows so aggressively that it crowds out native plants. This affects all parts of the ecosystem because the native plants provide food and shelter for native insects, birds and mammals.

Economically, invasive species are very costly. The zebra mussel, introduced through ship ballast water, attach themselves to water intake pipes, channel buoys and other structures damaging or even destroying them. Cleaning the zebra mussel off these structures and retrofitting the structures with devices that keep the mussels from attaching is very costly. The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries estimates that zebra mussel control cost industry, businesses and communities over \$5 billion for the period 1993-1999. This cost does not include the cost to the local ecosystem. Zebra mussels attach themselves to other mollusks and to crayfish. With the weight of the zebra mussel, these animals cannot move around freely so they are unable to gather the food they need.

We cannot measure the entire impact to ecosystems in dollars and cents. Ecosystems provide services to everyone and every thing by cleaning our water and air, providing habitat for humans to enjoy, cooling our planet and providing species diversity that many of us enjoy for their own merits.

We all need to concern ourselves with the control of invasive species. It is important to our economy and our ecosystems. To learn more about controlling invasive species, come to the January 24 dinner meeting. Carole Bergmann is a Forest Ecologist with Montgomery County. She manages the 'Weed Warrior' program that recruits and teaches volunteers to control invasive plants on County parkland. Ms. Bergmann is a much sought after speaker so please plan to attend.

## **Committee Reports**

### **NEW MEMBERS December 2006** (Joe Gick)

Please welcome the following new members to our chapter.

Dr Len Fechter sponsored by Barry Ephraim  
Mark A Caruso and Jim Shortley, Sr sponsored by Bill Schneider

Scott Gavel sponsored by Bob Mabie  
Jeff Demuth and Anne Rickert sponsored by Chris Holweck

Timothy W Warman sponsored by Greg Christensen  
Eddie Baxter, Charles Christianson and Cheryl

Hutchinson sponsored by Joe Gick  
John U Leaman sponsored by John I Leaman  
Stephan Goldner sponsored by Mark Anzalone

Debra Perry sponsored by Paul Turska  
Rob Eby and Eric Stefan sponsored by Peter Mell  
Milton J Seidel sponsored by Rick Thornley

Dan Conroy and Benjamin Tedesco sponsored by  
Thomas Conroy

Scott C Jacobs sponsored by Tom Malarkey

### **CONSERVATION** (Meo Curtis and Bill Ladd)

The Conservation Committee has scheduled talks, workshops, and other activities throughout 2007. The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday December 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the Chapter House. If you have an idea for a conservation project to involve Chapter members and are willing to lead in organizing the activity, contact either Meo Curtis ([meosotis@verizon.net](mailto:meosotis@verizon.net), 301-604-3736) or Bill Ladd at 301-482-1128 to talk about it.

There will be two educational activities in January.

1. Wednesday January 17, there will be Well and Septic Maintenance workshop at 7:30 p.m. at the Chapter House. Contact Bill Kelly at [Kelly24100@comcast.net](mailto:Kelly24100@comcast.net) or 301-717-0302 to register.

2. Member meeting on Wednesday January 24, at about 8 p.m., there will be an Invasives Plant Management talk by Carole Bergmann, Forest Ecologist with MNCPPC.

The first 2007 activity for conservation credit (other than the monthly Christmas tree maintenance) will be on Saturday March 3 (Rain date March 10) Lower Hawlings Tree Planting, contact Jeff Deschamps at [Jeff.deschamps@verizon.net](mailto:Jeff.deschamps@verizon.net), or 301-604-3736. Check the IWLA-WAC calendar for the other scheduled activities, the items in GREEN count as conservation work credit.

We have two new long-term Conservation projects in the development phase right now. David and Jen Jacobson are working on the details for an American chestnut tree nursery on the property. Meo Curtis, Michelle Chesnut, and Steve Lefebvre are working on an Invasives Plant Management Plan for the property. Stay tuned as more details emerge and we solicit your help.

### **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](mailto: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 December 2006, starting time is 10:00 AM daily and ending time is 4:30 PM, unless some activity has preempted the range (**see "Upcoming Events Affecting Range Availability" below**).

**New Items:**

**Range Sign-In Information Change:** Beginning immediately all members must write the member number shown on their range badge in the area provided next to their name. Please write as legibly as possible.

**Hunter Qualification:** This year 54 shooters received their Hunter Qualification during our yearly event. Thanks to our volunteers: James Fort, Mike Gugulis, Dennis Price, Andrew Cooke, Robert E. Griffin, Cyril St Martin, Sean St Martin, Paolo Amedeo, Bill Gazdik, Carlos W. Riviera-Silva, Jack Chomko, Hiem Trang, Mike Canter, and Jesse Lim.

**Reminders:**

**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 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.

**Using Sandbags on Pistol Range 1:** Occasionally some of you use the sandbags that reside on the covered pistol range as supports on the tables of pistol range 1 – and that is okay. However, please move the bags back to the covered pistol range before you leave. I have found several sandbags left on pistol range 1 after it rained. The sandbags take forever to dry out. Since our supply of sandbags is finite, please take good care of them

**Up-Coming Events Affecting Range Availability:**

**Bowling Pin Shoot** on Saturday December 9, 2006 from 9:00AM to 2:00PM on Pistol Range 1. **(Please note that participants will meet at 9:30 AM in the Rathskeller for registration; don't go directly to the range).** Pistol Range 1 will be closed during this time. For additional information, you can contact Jesse Lim via e-mail at [jlim@phillips.com](mailto:jlim@phillips.com) or telephone 301-540-0860 (evenings only please).

**Practical Defense Match** on Saturday January 13, 2007 from 9:00AM to 2:00PM on Pistol Range 1. **(Please note that participants will meet at 9:30 AM in the Rathskeller for registration; don't go directly to the range).** Pistol Range 1 will be closed during this time.

For additional information, you can contact Jesse Lim via e-mail at [jlim@phillips.com](mailto:jlim@phillips.com) or telephone 301-540-0860 (evenings only please).

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 he has questions.

**Skeet and Trap Range Report** (Paul Turska 301-253-2059)

We are going to plant trees December 17 around skeet and trap ranges, contact Paul Turska at 301-253-2059 for details. The tree will make the area around the skeet ranges more attractive and this work on the ranges will count as a conservation project for new members.

In addition, skeet and trap will be holding our first fun shoot on Dec. 30, 12:00-3:00. There will be plenty of food and friends. Fun shoot will be open to all IWLA members and we encourage all to show up. There are club shotguns that you may use if you do not have your own. In addition, many friendly people would likely be willing to show you how to shoot so do not let lack of equipment or experience stop you from enjoying this event. Any questions, contact Jay at 301-943-2113

Thanks to all those that showed up for the Sunday cleanup day at the Skeet Range. We had a lot of folks show and they all worked very hard. Martin Cheery, Peter Sittner, Brandon Kinikin, Jake Turska, Mark Gay, Mark Lawson. Many hands make the work lighter.

Contact Paul Turska at 301-253-2059 for skeet range Officer Roster for Dec 2006.

***NEXT SITE MAINTENANCE:*** We will be doing the next monthly maintenance of WAC ranges, Christmas trees, house and grounds from **9:30 AM until 1 PM on Sunday, December 17**. Please report to the maintenance coordinator at the green equipment shed for an assignment. This is a great opportunity to get to know the other Chapter members and help to keep the Wildlife Achievement chapter the best in the league.



**Figure 2 --** Brandon Kinikin explains and demonstrates the fine points of basic earth moving to Jason Ledvey

**Wildlife Achievement Chapter Ham Radio** (Hank Van Deursen)

The WAC amateur station, KB3NIB, now has a VHF (very high frequency) antenna installed. We made contact with Henry (K2BFY) through the Bluemont, VA repeater (located 50 miles west of Washington, DC on a 1600-foot mountain).

We have made arrangements for the loan of a complete high frequency, 100-watt, single-sideband, amplitude modulated, and CW (code) station. As soon as we install the HF antennas, we will be able to use the chapter's ham station to talk to stations in far away place such as Europe and Hawaii.

We are very excited about this growing club within our chapter. If you have ever wondered about ham radio, this is your chance to come and learn. Once Nick Limparis gets a break from college, he will be setting up an email account for the ham radio club. The new email address will be [HamRadio@damascusIwLA.org](mailto:HamRadio@damascusIwLA.org).

**Blacksmith** Committee (Dick Smith [rsmith@lofstrand.com](mailto:rsmith@lofstrand.com))

The Blacksmith Committee is holding instructional sessions at the pole barn each Saturday from approximately 9 A.M. until 3 P.M. All interested WAC members are invited to attend and learn something about pounding hot iron and steel. Legend has it that once a person does so they become hooked for life. We start beginners out with lessons in drawing a point, fashioning "S" hooks and making nails in the way that they were forged during early colonial days. Nick Limparis has progressed to the point where he is working on a barbecue fork and Bob Rounds, Hank Van Drusen, Tom Ouellette and John Leaman have made nails and "S" hooks. We were assisted recently during one of our Saturday meetings by Geroge Anderton, a fellow member and officer of the Blacksmith Guild of the Potomac. He has been teaching beginning and intermediate blacksmithing for more than ten years and may join our group as a permanent instructor.



**Figure 3 -- Dick Smith**

We recently purchased about 750 pounds of bituminous coal from the Blacksmith Guild of Central Maryland for the Committee's use. The coal is converted in the forge to

coke, the material we actually forge with. It is kept wet to prevent it from burning, and is thereby roasted to remove oil and tar, that would corrupt the steel if it were to be used directly. Of course, when a smith is starting their first fire it is necessary to burn some coal in order to start the coking process. A pure coke fire is capable of producing heat in excess of 2500 degrees Fahrenheit that is sufficient to melt steel.

It is at about 2200 degrees that steel can be welded in the forge. In some countries where coal is not readily available, charcoal is still used. Coal is, however, much cheaper and works just as well.

### **Newsletter Contributions**

Thanks to Conley Phipps, Meo Curtis, Jeff Deschamps, David and Jen Jacobsen, Joe Gick, Chuck Crooks, Phil Dean, Rich Fried, Paul Turska, Hank Van Deursen, Tom Ouellette, John Walter, Guy Wright, Steve Lefebvre, Dick Smith, Chuck Limparis and Michelle Chesnut for their contributions to this months newsletter.

Thanks also to Tony Evans for the great photographs.

We welcome articles or ideas for articles that you think would be of interest to the membership. Topics can include, but are not limited to conservation, shooting, hunting or other outdoor pursuits. If anyone has any items to include in future newsletters, send them to Michelle Chesnut at [smc\\_geek@msn.com](mailto:smc_geek@msn.com). Include contact info in case additional clarification is necessary.

You can find our chapter calendar at [www.damascusiwla.org](http://www.damascusiwla.org).



**Figure 4 -- This is Jullian David with a wreath that She made. Her parents look on**



**Figure 5 -- Jeff secures a tree to another satisfied customers SUV as Meo lends a hand.**