



# NEWSLETTER



Izaak Walton League of America

Wildlife Achievement Chapter

P.O. Box 118, Damascus, MD 20872

(301) 253-2384

January-February 97 Issue

Editor: Wayne Berkebile

(301) 253-4288

## Coming Attractions

Date	Event	Time
1/18	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
1/24	Membership Meeting	6:30 pm
1/24	Airgun Shoot	7:00 pm
1/25	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
1/26	Range Orientation	10:00 am
1/26	R&P Range Maintenance	10:00 am
1/26	Archery Range Maint.	10:00 am
1/26	Super Bowl Party	4:00 pm
1/31	Airgun Shoot	7:00 pm
2/1	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
2/2	Shotgun Range Maint.	10:00 am
2/5	Board of Directors Mtg.	7:30 pm
2/7	Airgun Shoot	7:00 pm
2/8	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
2/13	Conservation Cmte. Mtg.	7:30 pm
2/14	Airgun Shoot	7:00 pm
2/15	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
2/21	Airgun Shoot	7:00 pm
2/22	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
2/23	Range Orientation	10:00 am
2/23	R&P Range Maint.	10:00 am
2/23	Archery Range Maint.	10:00 am
2/26	Membership Mtg.	6:30 pm
2/28	Airgun Shoot	7:00 pm

## Super Bowl Party

There will be an informal party at the Chapter House on **Sunday, January 26** at 4:00 pm to watch the Super Bowl. All members are invited. This will be a potluck affair, so please bring a dish and lament the fact the Steelers aren't playing!

## Factory Tour

We sent a letter to Beretta USA asking if we may take a tour of their facility in Accokeek, MD (between Waldorf and Indian Head). If they grant our request, details will be provided in a future newsletter so members can sign up, if they wish. We understand, however, that tours are only given during regular work hours; not on weekends or holidays.

## Membership Meetings

The **January** membership meeting will be on **Friday, January 24**. Cocktail hour starts at 6:30 pm and dinner starts at 7:30 pm. The menu has changed since the last newsletter! Because we've had sufficient donations, the main course will be venison!! Cost is \$6.00 per meal.

The **February** membership meeting is on **Wednesday, February 26**. Again, cocktails start at 6:30 pm and dinner at 7:30 pm. Our guest speaker will be **Tom Gaylord**, who publishes the *Airgun Letter*. Tom will discuss the types, selection, and sport use of airguns. There will be a display of airguns. You can talk to Tom informally during the cocktail hour. Dinner will feature meatloaf, potatoes, gravy, rolls, dessert, etc. Cost is \$6.00 per meal. Come meet Tom and our new members!

## New Members

The following applications for membership have been approved by the Board of Directors. Current Chapter members have the opportunity to vote to accept these individuals as new members at the next membership meeting, on **Friday, January 24**.

John Cerne, Gaithersburg, MD.

**Sponsor:** Wayne Berkebile

Kenneth Denekas, Bowie, MD.

**Sponsor:** William Guzey

Tom Hughes, Clarksburg, MD.

**Sponsor:** Vince Iacano

Tom King, Gaithersburg, MD.

**Sponsor:** Brian Pierce

Richard Phelan, Derwood, MD.

**Sponsor:** Chuck Crooks

James Pickens, III, Silver Spring, MD.

**Sponsor:** Mike Heffernan

Gene Shaw, Rockville, MD.

**Sponsor:** David Gold

Bill Thompson, Jefferson, MD

**Sponsor:** Bill Schneider

## Shotgun Range Officer Schedule

Day	Date	Names
Sat.	2/1	Nancy Humphries Weld. Humphries Rick Buckingham
Sun.	2/2	Paul Bluteau Cindy Whitehurst Ed Bennett
Sat.	2/8	Lewis Allmatt Bill Rahn Jim Malone
Sun.	2/9	Donna Needham Merrill Needham Frank Welsh
Sat.	2/15	David Fichter Wayne Sterling Ike Eisenhower
Sun.	2/16	Peter Currall Dave Gold Greg Baldwin
Sat.	2/22	Berle Cherney Bob Woodward Tom Lohm
Sun.	2/23	Mike Merollini Lee Slavin Kevin Manning

## Target Delivery

We will receive a large shipment of clay targets on Sunday, March 2, at 10:00 am. We could sure use some strong backs and willing hands to help unload the delivery truck. Please join us at the equipment shed if you can lend a hand.

## Rifle and Pistol Range Report

**Range Improvement Plans** - The MD Department of Natural Resources granted us \$420 for materials for range improvements during 1997. The projects include:

### Pistol Range

- Grade our current grass-covered "handicap access" driveway and build up a gravel base to permit trouble-free access during wet weather.
- Replace the leaking roof over the covered shooting area.

### Rifle Range

- Improve the gravel base for the path from the parking area to the shooting area, adding drains and barriers to prevent washout from surface water during heavy rains.
- Grade and build a gravel-based ramp from the path to the handicapped shooting position, so wheelchair users may avoid the stairway. This includes burying a drain pipe which currently crosses the path of the proposed ramp.
- Build a stairway or ramp so less agile shooters may descend from the firing line to the range to change targets.

**Roofing Experience?** - Work on most range improvements can be done during our monthly range maintenance sessions. However, the roofing job will require a long day or two. Is there an experienced roofer among our members who is willing to coordinate that project? If so, call **Ray Shaver** on (301) 926-0465.

**Tractor Driver Training** - We frequently need an experienced driver for our Minneapolis-Moline tractor. For safety's sake, a training session is being planned for the Moline, and possibly other equipment, some time this spring, probably early March. If you are interested in learning to handle the Moline, or to demonstrate your existing skill, please call **Ray Shaver** at the number listed above.

**December Cleanup** - Ever throw a party and have no one show up? That's what happened at the rifle/pistol range cleanup on December 22. The only person attending was the chairperson for the event, Ray Shaver. We hope the lack of attendance was the result of a late-arriving newsletter which belatedly announced the cleanup date.

**January Cleanup** - Rifle and pistol range maintenance is scheduled for 10 a.m. on **Sunday, January 26**. Ray Shaver will oversee the process. Meet him at the equipment shed. This is a good way for new members to satisfy their work requirement. The work is normally finished by noon.

**Metal Target Repairs** - **Mike Lamberson** did a great job repairing one of our vandalized metal targets. We still need to repair another vandalized target and several which were shot-up legitimately during the Sportsman's Team Challenge. Any welders willing to donate their labor for the repairs should call **Ray Shaver** (see number listed earlier). Our Chapter will pay for needed materials.

**Handgun Shooters** - A basic shooting safety rule is to "know your target and what is beyond." Too frequently, we find pistol target frames arranged so that one is directly behind another. Our frames and target backers get plenty of normal wear and tear. Don't add to their early destruction with secondary hits. Please make sure there is only one target in your line of fire.

## Airgun Activities

We have started the adult indoor airgun (air rifle and air pistol) shoots on Friday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in the bottom floor of the Chapter House. To enter, park by the shotgun range and come in through the Rathskeller. If you are an "airgunner" or would like to start shooting airguns, come on out on any Friday evening. Guns and instruction are available. A

\$1.00 fee is collected to pay for targets and other supplies. For information, call **Phil Dean**, at (301) 831-9325, or **Tom Gaylord**, at (410) 730-5496.

## Raffle Winner

The winner of the Damascus Air Rifle Club raffle for the Daisy target air pistol was **Tom Mihara**. Tom is a chapter member and his son, Blake, is a member of the junior air rifle club. Thanks to all who supported this fund raiser by purchasing a raffle ticket!

## Christmas Tree Sales A Success

We earned a net profit of \$1,501 from the sale of Christmas trees and wreaths during December. That is our best profit in five years! Our co-chairs, **Merle Keesler and Dave Anderson**, supervised the sales every weekend for three weeks. Their sales assistants were: **Bob Mabie; Paul Jackson and Ray Shaver**, our "Wreathmen;" **Doris Sommer ("Wreathlady")**; **Al, Nicholas, and Cole Hrast**; and **Wayne Berkebile**. Thanks to all!

We also thank our really hard-working, sweaty tree trimmers/foresters. They were: **Rick Fera; Tim McDougle; Lou and Lou, Jr. Mariast; Donna and Merrill Needham; Tom and Tre Carr; Dave Wright; Charles Walker; Al Pressman; Kwang Kim; Joe Gilpin; Norman See; Jon Kwon; Charles Welsh; Kevin Manning; Dave Fichter; Charles Walker; and John Aldridge**. If we missed someone, please accept our apologies.

We should have a great field of 6 foot trees next year. But, we need to give attention to the seedlings planted behind the ranges over the past two years.

You may be interested to know that Christmas tree sales was the catalyst

which allowed us to burn our mortgage ten years ago. We would like to continue this program since it helps fund Chapter activities. We are tentatively planning work details for **March 15** and **June 7**. Precise dates and times for these and other work details will be published in future newsletters.

## Christmas Party Follow-up

A lot of work went into our December Membership Meeting/Christmas Party. It was a fun-filled afternoon with plenty of food, gifts, and fun for the kids!

Thanks go out to Santa Claus, Junior Elf, and Senior Elf. They bore striking resemblances to **John Leaman**, his daughter **Necedah**, and **Naomi Sapir**, respectively. They brought lots of smiles to the faces of the kids.

The Rathskeller was made more festive by the creative touches of **Joe and Dolores Gick** and **Doris Sommer**. They made delicious sandwiches, cookies, and "goody-filled" stockings for the kids and decorated the tree.

For those of you who missed this event, we hope you will mark your calendar for next year. We were able to donate two bags of toys to needy youngsters. The toys were the price of admission to the party.

Our sincerest thanks to the members who gave their time to make this a memorable event.

## Conservation Committee Report

Our Conservation Committee is off to a great start for 1997! Our first project is to build bluebird boxes and erect a bluebird trail in conjunction with a St. Anne's Episcopal Church Youth Group. We've had a great turnout of volunteers and the bluebird boxes are under construction. Installation will occur in February.

**Merrill and Donna Needham** have been working on cleaning up the Patuxent River; but, they have carried the load alone for too long. They proposed to the Board of Directors that we adopt that portion of the river near our Chapter property. The Board enthusiastically adopted their proposal. We have scheduled the first of three river cleanups for April 5.

These cleanups will be done under the Adopt-A-River Program and in cooperation with Patuxent River State Park.

The Adopt-A-Road program is headed up by **Al Hrast and his children**. Dates have been established for these events.

The Conservation Committee lacks the members needed to meet our commitments. As a Chapter, we have a wealth of talent and energy, so we would like folks to volunteer for conservation activities. We need you to serve with us to propose, plan, supervise, and carry out field projects. The size of the project is unimportant: what is important is that we carry them out. Serving on the Conservation Committee is fun, satisfying, and a great source of personal and Chapter pride. Please make a commitment to our conservation activities and make a difference. Conservation Committee meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Chapter House. Call Bill Kelly at (301) 253-5009 and get in on this team!

## Recycling Report

We ended 1996 with a net profit of \$378.00 from the sale of aluminum and copper. Aluminum prices have dropped over the past six months, so we didn't make our goal of \$500.00. Thanks to everyone who contributed to our recycling effort.

## From the Old Recycler

Did you know that catalytic converters on cars are lined with platinum, a rare metal worth more than gold? The catalytic converter converts harmful emissions into water vapor and carbon dioxide. Catalytic converters in late model cars are expected to last at least 80,000 miles. By law, gas tanks on junked cars must be removed to allow easy access for removing the converters. The converters are then

sent to recycling companies in Tennessee and California to reclaim the platinum. According to *National Geographic*, 10% of the U.S. supply of platinum comes from this recycling effort.

## Road Conditions

We are notifying everyone of our new policy for snow plowing the roads on Chapter grounds. In the past, the plow blade was set to remove the snow down to the surface of the road. This has led to gravel and dirt being pushed to the edges of the roads. When the snow melts, severe rutting and erosion of the roadbed has occurred. In the future, the blade will be set to leave a small amount of snow (about 1/2 inch) on top of the road surface. In this way the rutting, erosion, and cost of gravel replacement can be avoided. Please be aware that a thin layer of snow may be in place on our roads. So please, drive carefully.

## Chapter History Project

On June 1, 1997, our Chapter will turn 60. A number of special events are being planned to commemorate our founding. One project is to publish a history of our Chapter. We would like to locate old photographs of club activities, our members and directors, and club grounds. We will also interview some of our senior members so they can share their memories of the "good (or bad) old days." If anyone has photos or stories to share, please, please, please, call **Wayne Berkebile** at (301) 253-4288. Similarly, we would appreciate the assistance of anyone willing to help on this project.

## Editor's Column

The most religious season of the year is over. Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanza have come and gone. Like many of us, I went to church on

Christmas Eve. I watched the liturgical dancers, listened to the choir, heard the Christmas story and the sermon, and prayed along with the others.

I don't go to church as often as I should; but, I have the greatest respect for those who do. I wish I could find the sense of fellowship that others seem to find in church. I sometimes go to church, here in Damascus, with my wife, who is devoutly religious. I admit, though, that I don't like organized church services. I guess I just don't feel very *religious* in church. In fact, I feel more *religious* when I walk out of the church and mount the knoll behind. From there, I can look out over the "pleasant plains of Damascus" to the rolling hills and tree lines beyond.

My personal feelings are expressed perfectly in the novel *The Pathfinder* by James Fenimore Cooper. In one particular scene, Pathfinder (also known as Deerslayer, Hawkeye, and Leatherstocking in other novels by Cooper) is at Fort Oswego on the New York shore of Lake Ontario during the French and Indian War. Pathfinder accompanied some British troops who were assigned to the fort. While standing on the ramparts of the fort one evening, they engage in a religious discussion. Pathfinder says:

"...It is not easy to dwell always in the presence of God and not feel the power of His goodness. I have attended church-sarvice in the garrisons, and tried hard, as becomes

a good soldier, to join in the prayers...and so I have endeavored to worship garrison-fashion, but never could raise within me the solemn feelings and true affection that I feel when I am alone with God in the forest. There I seem to stand face to face with my Master: all around me is fresh and beautiful, as it came from His hand: and there is no nicety or doctrine to chill the feelings. No, no; the woods are the true temple after all, for there the thoughts are free to mount higher even than the clouds."

Quoted from *The Pathfinder*, by James Fenimore Cooper. Published by John W. Lovell Company, New York, undated, p. 98.

# IWLA - Wildlife Achievement Chapter

## 1997 Calendar of Events

### January

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### March

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### April

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### June

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### January

- 4 6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 5 10:00 AM Skeet & Trap Maintenance
- 8 7:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting
- 9 7:30 PM Conservation Committee Meeting
- 11 6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 18 6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 24 7:30 PM Membership Meeting
- 25 8:30 AM IWLA State Division Meeting  
6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 26 10:00 AM Range Orientation - Rifle, Pistol,  
Archery Range Maintenance  
4:00 PM Super Bowl Party

### February

- 1 6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 2 10:00 AM Skeet & Trap Maintenance
- 5 7:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting
- 8 6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 13 7:30 PM Conservation Committee Meeting
- 15 6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 22 6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 23 10:00 AM Range Orientation - Rifle, Pistol,  
Archery Range Maintenance
- 26 7:30 PM Membership Meeting

### March

- 1 6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 2 10:00 AM Skeet & Trap Maintenance
- 5 7:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting
- 8 6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 13 7:30 PM Conservation Committee Meeting
- 15 9:00 AM Air Rifle Field Target Match  
6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 16 8:30 AM IWLA State Division Meeting
- 22 9:00 AM Adopt-A-Road  
6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 23 10:00 AM Range Orientation - Rifle, Pistol,  
Archery Range Maintenance
- 26 7:30 PM Membership Meeting
- 29 6:30 PM Turkey Shoot

### April

- 2 7:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting
- 5 8:00 AM Seneca Valley Rifle Match  
8:30 AM Adopt-a-River  
6:30 PM Turkey Shoot

### April

- 6 10:00 AM Skeet & Trap Maintenance
- 10 7:30 PM Conservation Committee Meeting
- 12 9:00 AM Air Rifle NRA JR Sectional  
6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 13 9:00 AM Air Rifle NRA JR Sectional
- 19 9:00 AM Chapter Military Rifle Shoot  
6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 20 8:30 AM DNR Instructor Training
- 23 7:30 PM Membership Meeting
- 26 9:00 AM NRA Class - Basic Pistol  
6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 27 9:00 AM NRA Class - Basic Pistol  
10:00 AM Range Orientation - Rifle, Pistol,  
Archery Range Maintenance

### May

- 3 8:00 AM Seneca Valley Rifle Match  
6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 4 10:00 AM Skeet & Trap Maintenance
- 7 7:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting
- 8 7:30 PM Conservation Committee Meeting
- 10 9:00 AM Air Rifle Field Target Match
- 17 8:30 AM Chapter Maintenance Day
- 18 10:00 AM Range Orientation - Rifle, Pistol,  
Archery Range Maintenance
- 28 7:30 PM Membership Meeting

### June

- 1 8:30 AM DNR Range Officer Training  
10:00 AM Skeet & Trap Maintenance
- 4 7:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting
- 7 8:00 AM Seneca Valley Rifle Match  
6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 12 7:30 PM Conservation Committee Meeting
- 20 IWLA State Convention
- 21 9:00 AM Adopt-A-Road  
IWLA State Convention
- 25 7:30 PM Membership Meeting
- 28 8:00 AM NRA Class - Personal Protection  
9:00 AM Chapter .22 Sporter Shoot
- 29 8:00 AM NRA Class - Personal Protection  
10:00 AM Range Orientation - Rifle, Pistol,  
Archery Range Maintenance

### July

- 2 7:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting
- 5 6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 6 10:00 AM Skeet & Trap Maintenance

### July

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### September

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### October

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# IWLA - Wildlife Achievement Chapter

## 1997 Calendar of Events

### January

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### July

- 10 7:30 PM Conservation Committee Meeting
- 12 8:00 AM Seneca Valley Rifle Match
- 23 7:30 PM Membership Meeting  
Nominations from Members
- 26 9:00 AM Air Rifle Field Target Match
- 27 10:00 AM Range Orientation - Rifle, Pistol,  
Archery Range Maintenance

### August

- 2 8:00 AM Seneca Valley Rifle Match  
6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 3 10:00 AM Skeet & Trap Maintenance
- 6 7:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting
- 14 7:30 PM Conservation Committee Meeting
- 16 9:00 AM Adopt-A-Road
- 23 9:00 AM NRA Class - Basic Pistol
- 24 9:00 AM NRA Class - Basic Pistol  
10:00 AM Range Orientation - Rifle, Pistol,  
Archery Range Maintenance
- 27 7:30 PM Membership Meeting  
Election of Officers

### September

- 3 7:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting
- 6 8:00 AM Seneca Valley Rifle Match  
6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 7 10:00 AM Skeet & Trap Maintenance
- 11 7:30 PM Conservation Committee Meeting
- 12 7:00 PM Hunter Safety 1st Session
- 13 9:00 AM Air Rifle Field Target Match  
6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 19 7:00 PM Hunter Safety 2nd Session
- 20 9:00 AM Hunter Safety 3rd Session  
6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 21 8:30 AM IWLA State Division Meeting
- 26 7:00 PM Installation Dinner  
7:30 PM Membership Meeting
- 27 9:00 AM Chapter Black Powder Shoot  
6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 28 10:00 AM Range Orientation - Rifle, Pistol,  
Archery Range Maintenance

### October

- 3 8:00 AM Sportman's Team Challenge
- 4 8:00 AM Sportman's Team Challenge  
6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 5 8:00 AM Sportman's Team Challenge
- 8 7:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting

### October

- 9 7:30 PM Conservation Committee Meeting
- 11 6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 17 7:00 PM Hunter Safety 1st Session
- 18 9:00 AM Air Rifle Field Target Match  
6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 22 7:30 PM Membership Meeting
- 24 7:00 PM Hunter Safety 2nd Session
- 25 9:00 AM Hunter Safety 3rd Session  
6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 26 10:00 AM Range Orientation - Rifle, Pistol,  
Archery Range Maintenance
- 1 November 9:00 AM Adopt-A-Road  
9:00 AM Chapter Sight-In Days  
6:30 PM Turkey Shoot

### November

- 2 10:00 AM Skeet & Trap Maintenance
- 5 7:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting
- 8 6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 13 7:30 PM Conservation Committee Meeting
- 14 7:00 PM Hunter Safety 1st Session
- 15 9:00 AM Air Rifle Field Target Match  
6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 19 7:30 PM Membership Meeting
- 21 7:00 PM Hunter Safety 2nd Session
- 22 9:00 AM Hunter Safety 3rd Session  
6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 30 10:00 AM Range Orientation - Rifle, Pistol,  
Archery Range Maintenance

### December

- 3 7:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting
- 6 9:00 AM Christmas Tree Sales  
6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 7 9:00 AM Christmas Tree Sales  
10:00 AM Skeet & Trap Maintenance
- 11 7:30 PM Conservation Committee Meeting
- 13 9:00 AM Christmas Tree Sales  
6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 14 9:00 AM Christmas Tree Sales  
1:00 PM Christmas Party  
1:00 PM Membership Meeting
- 20 9:00 AM Christmas Tree Sales  
6:30 PM Turkey Shoot
- 21 9:00 AM Christmas Tree Sales  
10:00 AM Range Orientation - Rifle, Pistol,  
Archery Range Maintenance

### July

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### February

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### March

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### April

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30	31					

### May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

### June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					