



NEWSLETTER



Izaak Walton League of America
Wildlife Achievement Club Chapter
P.O. Box 118, Damascus, MD 20872
(301) 253-2384

April-May 97 Issue

Editor: Wayne Berkebile
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Coming Attractions

Date	Event	Time
4/18	Airgun Shoot	7:30 pm
4/19	Chapter Mil. Rifle Shoot	9:00 am
4/19	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
4/20	DNR Instructor Trng.	8:30 am
4/23	Membership Meeting	7:30 pm
4/25	Airgun Shoot	7:30 pm
4/26	NRA Basic Pistol Class	9:00 am
4/26	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
4/27	NRA Basic Pistol Class	9:00 am
4/27	Range Orientation	10:00 am
4/27	R&P Range Maintenance	10:00 am
4/27	Archery Range Maint.	10:00 am
5/2	Airgun Shoot	7:30 pm
5/3	Seneca Valley Shoot	8:00 am
5/3	Turkey Shoot	6:30 pm
5/4	Shotgun Range Maint.	10:00 am
5/7	Board of Directors Mtg.	7:30 pm
5/8	Conservation Comm. Mtg.	7:30 pm
5/9	Airgun Shoot	7:30 pm
5/10	Airgun Field Target Match	9:00 am
5/13	Bowhunter Education	6:00 pm
5/15	Bowhunter Education	6:00 pm
5/16	Airgun Shoot	7:30 pm
5/17	Chapter Cleanup Day	
5/17	Bowhunter Education	9:00 am
5/18	R&P Range Maintenance	10:00 am
5/18	Archery Range Maint.	10:00 am
5/23	Airgun Shoot	7:30 pm
5/28	Membership Meeting	7:30 pm
5/30	Airgun Shoot	7:30 pm

Beretta Factory Tour

A few months ago, I reported that we had asked Beretta to allow us to tour their manufacturing facility. Beretta has responded that they are currently constructing new facilities and tours are not being conducted. They will allow us to tour their facility when construction is completed in 1998. We will submit another request early next year.

General Membership Meetings

The April Membership Meeting will be on **Wednesday, April 23**. Our guest speaker will be Mr. **Bill Offutt**, of the Montgomery County Historical Society, who will discuss Montgomery County history, from the first settlers to about World War II. This is a dinner meeting with social hour at 6:30 pm and dinner at 7:30 pm. Cost is \$6.00. Dinner will be barbecue sandwiches and fixin's.

The May Membership Meeting is on **Wednesday, May 28**, at 7:30 pm with cocktail hour at 6:30 pm. As above, this is a dinner meeting. We're not yet sure what will be on the menu. Our guest speaker will be a charter fishing boat captain. He will discuss chartering a boat for fishing the Chesapeake Bay, best seasons, and equipment. We hope this will be of interest to our members who fish or just want to enjoy our Bay.

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 **Wednesday, April 23**.

Mike Blumenthal, Silver Spring, MD.

Sponsor: Bob Schneider

Jim Buras, Damascus, MD.

Sponsor: Wayne Berkebile

Ellen Greenfield, Germantown, MD.
Sponsor: Bob Mabie

Joseph McManus, Eldersburg, MD.
Sponsor: Bob Mabie

Thomas Mills, Brookefield, MD.
Sponsor: Lewis Allnutt

Richard Murphy, Rockville, MD
Sponsor: Ted Hiers

Robert Peeler, Laytonsville, MD.
Sponsor: Archie Cheng

John Sorna, Ijamsville, MD.
Sponsor: Bob Mabie

May Shotgun Range Officer Schedule

Day	Date	Names
Sat.	5/3	Nancy Humphries Weldon Humphries
Sun.	5/4	Paul Bluteau Cindy Whitehurst
Sat.	5/10	Lewis Allnutt Bill Rahn
Sun.	5/11	Donna Needham Merrill Needham Frank Welsh
Sat.	5/17	David Fichter Ike Eisenhower Rick Buckingham
Sun.	5/18	Peter Currall Dave Gold Greg Baldwin
Sat.	5/24	Berle Cherney Tom Lohm
Sun.	5/25	Mike Merollini Lee Slavin Kevin Manning
Sat.	5/31	Paul Hancock Mac McCollum

Skeet and Trap Notes

The Skeet and Trap Ranges will be open on Wednesday evenings starting **May 7**. Ranges will be open from 4:00 pm until dark, weather permitting.

We need several new range officers. If you can volunteer five hours on Saturdays or Sundays, you will help us keep the ranges open during regular hours.

Our newest set of Skeet machines was installed on April 1. Thanks to **Kevin Manning and Ed Bennett** for their dedication in working on such short notice.

Raffle tickets for a stainless steel Ruger 10/22 are on sale at the Skeet/Trap House on Wednesdays and weekends. They cost \$2.00 each or three for \$5.00.

Rifle and Pistol Range Report

If you are new to the Chapter, be aware that the co-chairmen of the Rifle and Pistol Committee are **Phil Dean**, (301) 831-9325, and **Ray Shaver**, (301) 926-0465. Don't hesitate to contact either of them with your questions or suggestions.

Contrary to last month's report, the gears of progress don't grind so slowly after all. Before the March newsletter reached your home, **Mac McCollum** had arranged a delivery of rock and gravel, and personally spread several tons of it over the range road. Work continues to smooth things out, but the road is considerably improved. Thanks Mac!

If you like a challenge, join us for a monthly Rifle/Pistol Range cleanup. The challenge in March was removing stumps from a cleared area at the 50 yard line of the Rifle Range. Everyone involved in that session knows he/she labored for a worthy cause! But don't despair, we're not done yet!! Luckily, most range maintenance work is not so physically demanding. If you can rake, pick up trash, or repaint target holders, we can use your help. The next Rifle/Pistol Range maintenance session is at 10 am on **Sunday, April 27**. Meet **Ray Shaver** at the equipment shed.

Thanks to the following Ikes and guests who participated in the March maintenance

session: **Greg Baldwin, Erik Costa, Ray Logan, the McNeal family, Robert Panico, Richard Phelan, Alan Pressman, Larry Rollins, Ray Shaver, and Timothy Trout**. Many thanks also to **Candice Phelan** for providing fresh-baked muffins for the crew. See the bennies you get?

All the metal targets we placed on the pistol range for use by our members have disappeared!! If you know what happened to them, call **Ray Shaver**, (301) 926-0465.

When cleaning out your garage or basement this spring, please remember that we use scrap plywood for target backers. We need 1/2" or thicker plywood which can be cut into 2'x2" or 2'x4" pieces. Drop plywood off at the equipment shed during a range maintenance session, or call Ray Shaver to arrange to receive it at a more convenient time.

Tractor Training

We trained nine new Moline tractor operators on March 23. Thanks to **Joe Gick, Bill Jenkins, Jr., Ray Logan, Bob Mabie, Kevin Manning, Dave McNeal, Jr., Alan Pressman, Larry Rollins, Robert Ryon, and Ray Shaver** for taking on this responsibility.

Help Wanted

Georgia Townsend is looking for people to help her out. First, she usually sells coffee and donuts at the Seneca Valley shoots. This is primarily to preserve our reputation as good hosts but it also helps us raise a few dollars. Georgia can not attend all the matches, so she needs someone to help with the food concession. Seneca Valley matches are scheduled for May 3, June 7, July 12, and September 6.

Second, Georgia is also representing our Chapter at a conservation exhibit at Patapsco State Park on **April 26**

from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. She could use some help in setting up and manning this exhibit.

Finally, she is looking for someone to help in the kitchen on membership meeting nights. That special someone would prepare vegetables and other menu items.

If you can help out, please call **Georgia** at (301) 588-8335.

Conservation Notes

The Adopt-A-River cleanup of the Patuxent River on April 5 went extremely well. Ten Chapter members, including **Ari Sapir; Mac McCollum; Joe Carinci, Phil Grille and Phil Grille, Jr.; Bill and Rory Kelly; Ray Logan; Steve Cowan; John Skillings; and Alan McIlverde**; assisted. In addition, eight representatives from the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC), Montgomery County Office of the Environment, and Seneca Valley State Park supported the effort. The WSSC sent a film crew to record our work in a video tape on protecting the Washington area watershed. Approximately three tons of trash, such as old tires and auto parts, were removed from the area between Mullinix Mill and Long Corner Roads. To all who participated: **Thank You!!**

Christmas Tree Work

The work detail on March 15 was very successful. Our master foresters, **Merle Keesler, Dave Anderson, Bob Mabie, Rick Fera, and Al Pressman** were joined by **Tom Hess, John Skillings, Al Reckline, Dave Tyler, Carl Wagner, Dave Wright, Ahmad Kassae, John Leaman, and Cecil Hensley**. They cleared a lot of brush, which will help the trees grow better and provide greater access to trimming crews. We especially thank **Dave Wright** who is moving to PA after 5 years as a member of our Chapter.

Filing Cabinets Wanted

If anyone has 3-5 drawer filing cabinets or lockable bookshelves (barrister-type) they want to get rid of, we sure could use them. Our office at the Chapter House is being over run with files and we'd like to bring some order out of the chaos. Call **Bill Kelly**, (301) 253-5009, if you can donate any of these items or know where we can get them inexpensively.

60th Anniversary Events

A special event commemorating our 60th anniversary will be held on **Saturday, June 21**. There will be a catered barbecue picnic, dedication ceremonies, special speakers, and a dance in the Chapter House. We decided to have it catered to allow us all to enjoy the day. **Chuck Crooks**, our 2nd Vice President, will be our DJ during the evening and play those golden oldies for us. This is our only planned social event this summer, so we would like a really good turn out.

We are very, very fortunate to have our Chapter. It didn't just happen. Those who came before us worked incredibly hard to provide the grounds and facilities we enjoy today. Some of our current members worked ceaselessly throughout the 1970s and 80s to save our Chapter from bankruptcy and extinction. They fought, and won, legal battles to allow shooting on our property; they held bingo games, raffles, barbecues, turkey shoots, flea markets, steam shows, etc. to raise mortgage money; and they built the ranges and other structures now in use. Money was so tight in 1977, the membership had a special meeting to decide if our facility should be sold and the Club moved to a much smaller site. It would be nice to set aside a day to remember and honor our past members and activities and renew our commitment to the next 60 years.

Tickets will go on sale in May. Watch for further details in the next newsletter.

Hunting Raffle

The Board of Directors has approved a plan to allow limited hunting on Chapter property. A raffle will be held so interested members have an equal chance to hunt. Shotgun, black powder, and archery hunts will be allowed. Hunters must have a MD hunting license, adhere to all state hunting regulations, and

abide by Club-imposed safety regulations. Additional information will be published in future newsletters.

Results of Board Meeting

On March 22, the Board of Directors had a retreat at the IWLA National Headquarters to discuss the future of our Club. The central issue was to define who we are as a Club.

Our purpose is to conserve and protect our natural resources; however, we are drifting away from that purpose. Most of our members join to shoot, I know I did. But the emphasis on shooting has an unfortunate consequence: lowered support for conservation activities. For example, on April 5, we got about 40 shooters at the Seneca Valley Match but only 10 members at the Patuxent River Cleanup. As **Ted Hiers** says, shooting at our facility is a side benefit of membership, not the mission of our Club. Yet it is the shooting that pays the bills.

We must rededicate ourselves to conservation. It seems to the Board that shooters are natural conservationists. Their purchases of arms and ammunition pay for wildlife programs, hunters were the first to recognize the need for conservation, and, deep inside, every shooter enjoys wild things and wild places.

The Board decided to revitalize our conservation programs. We are going to have more conservation activities, join forces with like-minded groups, and get more speakers on conservation problems. We are also asking all our members to become involved in our conservation programs. But we do not intend to ignore shooters. For example, we have an exciting list of future speakers on shooting topics for the monthly membership meetings.

We are also concerned about the absence of females and kids at our events. We are losing the battle to get our families involved in our programs. TV and computers are negatively affecting our ability to draw kids to our events. **Phil Dean** has done a wonderful job with the Youth Airgun Program, but it is not enough. And women are seldom seen. The Board also committed itself to developing more activities to involve our kids and wives in the outdoors and what we do.

Enclosed is a member survey to help us determine the level of interest in various activities. Please complete it and return it to us. Postage is paid. Thanks!

Editor's Column

This month our guest speaker, **Bill Offutt**, will talk about the rich history of Montgomery County. I thought this would be a good time to include something about our local history.

I'm sure you know that a significant battle of the Civil War was fought along the Monocacy River in Frederick County in July 1864. The I-270 and Route 355 bridges over the Monocacy are in the center of the battlefield. Although the Union lost the battle, they delayed Confederate forces under General Jubal Early, who were intent on taking Washington, D. C. Union reinforcements from Petersburg were literally filing into fortifications in Silver Spring as the Confederates were attacking. The Union forces successfully beat off the attacks.

Many Union soldiers were captured after the battle. They were marched south, down Route 355, then known as the Georgetown Pike, through Urbana, Hyattstown, and Clarksburg. The sun was hot, the road was dusty, and the captives didn't know where they were or where they were going. Behind them, smoke and fire rose from fields set ablaze from gunfire and their friends were left dead or wounded on the battlefield.

Many of the dead had been stripped naked by Confederates desperate for clothing and shoes. One prisoner, Alfred Roe of the Ninth New York Heavy Artillery, wrote of the dismal march southward:

"Marching in any way under a July sun in the Southern States is not particularly pleasant... It soon became obvious, however, that we had more friends than our guards had. It was a very common thing to find tubs of water newly drawn placed by the roadside to satisfy the tormenting thirst engendered by the excessive heat... Our first halt was at a pleasant little village called Urbana, where a kind citizen, perhaps Columbus Windsor by name, of strong Union sympathies, sets out several barrels of sweet crackers for our comfort and bid us help

ourselves. Many intervening years have not wholly effaced the regret that was mine over my inability to get what I deemed was my share of those toothsome morsels, nor my admiration for the man who thus remembered those in bonds... The country through which we were marching seemed a veritable paradise...

Our forward movement is unfraught with special interest until we pass through the hamlet of Clarksburg. Near the outskirts of the village, an aged man is sitting at an open window, the house being very near the street. An elderly lady, apparently his wife, is leaning past him with hands extended upon the window sill. So dust begrimed are we that I do not wonder at her long mistaking us for a part of the Rebel

throng which all day had been passing her door. Suddenly light dawns upon her, and raising her hands with an astonished tone, she exclaims: 'Why those are our men!' At once I eagerly ask, 'Who are our men?' 'Why, Union men, of course.' Utterly regardless of the laws supposed to govern prisoners, we forgot our situation and cheered. But the nearest guard, not liking such demonstrations thrust his bayonet through the window and thus drove from sight the good old dame who seemed to us for the nonce another Barbara Fritchie...."

Above passage taken from *Fighting for Time: The Battle of Monocacy*, by Glenn H. Worthington, published by Burd Street Press, Shippensburg, PA, 1985, pp. 246-248.