



JANUARY 2007

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CHAPTER NEWS, EVENTS AND ARTICLES

Newsletter Changes

Starting with the June 2007 newsletter, we will publish the newsletter primarily online. If you would like to continue receiving the printed newsletter, you need to write to Joe Gick

16601 Cavalry Drive
Rockville, MD 20853-1219

Let Joe know that you would like to receive the newsletter by post. The last paper copy you will receive will be the May 2007 edition unless you notify Joe.

Membership Meeting

In addition to the Wild Game Dinner, we will have a regular membership meeting on January 24, 2007. We will swear in our newest members and enjoy a FREE dinner. Carole Bergmann a Forest Ecologist with MNCPPC will talk on controlling invasive plants. Carole 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. Come join in the camaraderie, meet other chapter members, and enjoy a meal. Family and friends are also welcome.

Well and Septic Workshop (Michelle Chesnut)

Don't forget, 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.

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

Grasscycling (Michelle Chesnut)

One way that everyone who has a lawn can help to improve the environment is to use a set of techniques called "grasscycling". Grasscycling combines proper mowing, watering, feeding and maintenance to create a healthy lawn while minimizing negative environmental effects.

The first step in grasscycling is to mow only when the lawn needs it and leave the grass clippings on the lawn. By leaving the clippings on the lawn, you recycle the nutrients. Just think of it – no more bagging. Okay, so where is the catch. The catch is that you have to mow whenever your grass is one to one and a half inches taller than optimal and that may mean mowing every 4 or 5 days. When you mow a lawn to this optimal height, it can resist disease and shade out weeds. The optimal grass height depends on the type of grass you have. You can find information about your type of grass at the Cooperative Extension Service 301-590-9638.

In addition to mowing to the proper height for your grass type, you should mow when the grass is dry and keep the mower blades sharp. It is not necessary to buy mulching mower blades if you mow frequently based on the height of the grass.

Another aspect of the grasscycling strategy is proper watering. Under-watering lawns does not promote a healthy and deep root structure for your lawn, while over-watering promotes rapid growth (and more mowing) and encourages fungal growth. Water only when the grass shows signs of dryness and then water appropriately. It may take up to 1 inch of water every 5 to 7 days during the hot, dry summer. If possible, water in the morning. Watering at mid-day can burn your lawn and more water is lost to evaporation. Watering at night can also promote fungal growth.

When you recycle the nutrients from the lawn back onto the lawn, you can cut down on the amount of fertilizer you use. In order to determine exactly what your lawn needs, spend \$5 on a soil testing kit. Then apply only the fertilizer your lawn needs. The best time to fertilize in this area is in the fall. Using only the amount of fertilizer that your lawn can use will save you money and save the Chesapeake Bay from receiving those nutrients your lawn did not use.

For more information on grasscycling and many other environmental topics for the home go to the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, web site. <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/deptmpl.asp?url=/content/dep/index.asp>

This is an incredible resource for finding out how to reduce your environmental footprint. The information in this article comes primarily from the Grasscycling Guidelines publication available at

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/deptmpl.asp?url=/content/dep/Grasscycling/guide.asp>

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) 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 George Silva (jgs49@starpower.net). 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) 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 25 tickets left as of the January Board of Directors meeting.

Wild Game Dinner Auction

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. 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)

I hope everyone had a Happy New Year. I, personally, am a little on the cranky side. I spent over 12 hours on New Years Day on an IWLA task that should not have been necessary. I did it preparing a second billing for the 250 members who failed to renew their membership on time. Everyone got his or her original bill in mid October. That was 10 weeks before your membership expired on 12/31/06. Thanks to the majority of you who renewed on time. Those of you who didn't have cost the club \$97.50 in postage that should never have been spent. If this were your mortgage payment, you would be sitting on the curb with your furniture right now.

If I have not received your payment by 01/31/07, you will be assessed an additional \$40 fee to renew. Remember, it still takes a few weeks to process everything after I receive it. There is no way to get your membership or range card immediately after sending a check.
RANGE ACCESS CARDS

You need to be wearing your 2007 Range Access Cards. As a courtesy due to extended processing time, we will honor the 2006 card Through January 31. As of February 1, the only card allowed is the Green and Yellow one that says *RANGE ACCESS 2007*. This will be strictly enforced.

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)

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 three months to obtain your Range Approval card if you are not already in compliance.

Committee Reports

NEW MEMBERS December 2006 (Joe Gick)

Please welcome the following new members to our chapter.
Scott Gavel sponsored by Bob Mabie
Michael Harold Smith and Tom Tauscher sponsored by Bill Schneider
Mark Couillard II sponsored by Bob Schneider
Brett Jackson sponsored by Joe Gick
Ezzat Grant sponsored by Josh Jonas
Seamus Webb sponsored by Michael Webb
Robert Permisohn sponsored by Red Gambrell
Thomas Cindric sponsored by Rick Clearwater
Ming Chow sponsored by Stephan Goldner

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 have achieved full membership

status by completing 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.** Additionally the following **4** probationary members for **December** have graduated to full membership status: **Jacob Sweeney, Carlos Rivera-Silva, Ronald David and Chris Reposa.**

Chapter maintenance: November

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.

Chapter maintenance: December

Peter Sittner, Paul Turska, Conley Phipps, Chris Reposa, Jason Lechey, Brandon Kinikin and Tim Mulreany.

Christmas Tree Sales: December

John Leaman, Jacob Sweeney, Marlowe Leafy, Ron David, Nancy Thrash, Andrew David, Jillion David, Jeff Deschamps, Meo Curtis, Ray Logan, Evan Cohen, Tom Ouellette, Jim Piatieski and Hank Van Deursen.

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.

If I have failed to credit anyone for a required work project, please contact Conley Phipps @ 301-460-8528 or phippscd@hotmail.com.

CONSERVATION (Bill Ladd and Meo Curtis)

The Conservation Committee has scheduled talks, workshops, and other activities throughout 2007. The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday February 7 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, 301-604-3736) or Bill Ladd at 301-482-1128 to talk about it.

The conservation committee is holding a birdhouse/ nest box workshop at the Wildlife Achievement Chapter on Tuesday, February 13, 2007 at 7:30 P.M. This is a great activity for the kids.

We will provide various types of nest box kit free of charge to those attending. All kits are pre-cut, pre-drilled and ready to assemble. Once you build and install them, these boxes will provide needed breeding sites for many cavity-nesting birds. Cavity-nesting birds include blue birds (not blue jays), tree swallows, wrens and chickadees. The birds are fun to watch as they check out the new housing and then raise their young.

Bring a hammer and Phillips screwdriver if you have them, although there will be a limited supply of hand tools available. Oh, and bring the kids as well!

Adult Air Pistol Shooting (Phil Dean)

Start your new year out by participating in the Adult Air Pistol Program on Monday evenings. This is informal air pistol match shooting at 10 meters in the downstairs indoor airgun range. Target set-up begins at 6:30 PM with shooting starting at about 7:00 PM. There are several air pistols available for your use if you do not have one. This is a good way to develop handgun-shooting skills and / or maintain your pistol shooting proficiency during the season when it is usually too cold to shoot outside. Call Phil Dean (301-865-8202) for more info.



Figure 1 -- The airgun crew getting ready to shoot. Photo by Michelle Chesnut



Figure 2 -- Phil Dean enjoying the post airgun shooting camaraderie. Libations make the scores more palatable. Photo by Michelle Chesnut

Rifle and Pistol Range Report

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 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 January 2007, starting time is 10:00 AM daily and ending time is 5:00 PM, unless some activity has preempted the range (**see "Upcoming Events Affecting Range Availability" below**).

NEW ITEMS

Plywood Donations Your donations of plywood for use as target backers on the rifle and pistol ranges are always welcome. For backers, the plywood should be 1/2 inch or thicker and either pre-cut or capable of being cut into pieces 2'x2' (pistol range) or 2'x4' (rifle range). Please help keep the WAC looking good by dropping off your donations by the sliding door on the back side of the green equipment shed; that is, at the side nearest the chapter house. Thanks

Your Mother Doesn't Live Here: Okay, I admit it's still a trite phrase, but I think you get the point. You are expected to pick up after yourself on the WAC ranges. Someone has to deal with all the empty cartridge cases ejected from your firearm, and that someone should be you. Yes, if we have a large number of volunteers working on a site maintenance day, we sometimes assign someone to rake or sweep up empty cartridges, but we often have more pressing projects to complete. There are brooms, rakes and dustpans available on the ranges. Please use them, and help to keep our ranges clean and pleasant places where you would not hesitate to bring your mother to visit or shoot

Live Ammo: It is far too easy to find live ammunition dropped or discarded in inappropriate places on the rifle and pistol ranges. The only place to discard ammunition on those ranges is in the misfire containers, although we would prefer that you take it with you. Thanks.

Rapid-Fire: Sure, we know that it's fun to occasionally shoot a firearm as fast as you can pull the trigger. But, please remember that, even when you are alone on the range, we have neighbors and they are definitely sensitive to the sound coming from our ranges, especially "rapid fire." We have been working hard over the past five years to develop a good working relationship with our neighbors, following a formal noise complaint that they made to the county. Although sound measurements show we are within legal limits, the county government takes any complaints very seriously and keeping the ranges open can become both difficult and expensive. Since rapid fire shooting remains controversial and we don't have a rule forbidding it on the rifle and pistol ranges, we depend

upon our members to be sensitive to this issue. If each shot you fire is truly aimed, you are probably firing at a reasonable speed. If you are still firing as fast as you can pull the trigger, maybe the target is too close. If someone asks you to slow down, please do so without an argument. Slower shooting is better than no shooting at all.

Range Road Closures: Winter arrived officially between December 21 and December 22, and with it comes the likelihood of snow and ice accumulation on the rifle/pistol range road. If the road becomes impassable or overly soft due to heavy precipitation, it may be closed even though the ranges remain open for use. In such cases, a sign explaining the closure will be posted at the box containing the range sign-in register, and the gate will be locked closed. Please watch for and comply with such notices. If the sign indicates that the road is closed but the ranges are open, you may walk to the ranges. However, even if you have an off-the-road vehicle that might make it through snow-covered fields, **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DRIVE TO THE RIFLE AND PISTOL RANGES WHEN THE RANGE ROAD IS CLOSED!**

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 (damascusiwa.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.

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.

Up-Coming Events Affecting Range Availability:

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 jljm@phillips.com or telephone 301-540-0860 (evenings only please).

Bowling Pin Shoot on Saturday February 17, 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 jljm@phillips.com or telephone 301-540-0860 (evenings only please).

If anyone has any topics or items concerning the rifle and pistol ranges that they wish to include in future newsletters, send them to Guy Wright at guywright@verizon.net and include some contact info in case I have questions.

Skeet and Trap Range Report (Paul Turska)

The Skeet & Trap Fun Shoot was a huge success. Thank you to Jay Jeffrey for all his hard work and planning, as well as, Martin Cherry, Mark Gay, Debbie Perry, John Waters, Conley Phipps, Tony Evans, and Randy Stewart. We also would like to thank our sponsors who contributed the prizes, Maj Tavakol, Steve Myers and Bill Murphy. I apologize for anyone's name that I may have not mentioned. We have four more Fun Shoots planned for 2007 with dates to be determined.



Figure 3 -- Merry Klinefelter after making a terrific shot at the fun shoot. Photo by Tony Evans



Figure 4 – Debbie Perry keeping score. Photo by Tony Evans



Figure 5 -- Bill Rahn makes the shot. Photo by Tony Evans

All skeet and trap range officers that use the skeet and trap ranges outside of the normal range hours are required to sign in. The sign-in sheet is on the outside of the chapter building on the wall that faces the trap and skeet ranges. In addition to your name, time in and time out, you must also provide your IWLA member number. If you have guests, you must sign them in also. Shooting hours on the trap and skeet ranges are limited to the same hours as for the rifle and pistol ranges.

The new rules concerning the range-approved badges that take effect on April 1, 2007 will affect everyone using the skeet and trap ranges. If you have not taken the range-safety course and received your range approval badge, you have until then to take the course. We offer the range safety class on January 28, 2007 at 10:00 am and on the last Sunday of each month. Please plan accordingly so that you may continue to enjoy our ranges.

It is imperative that all current Skeet & Trap Range Officers email me with your current email address and phone numbers so that we have current contact information to have Range Officers ID's made. Contact Paul Turska at turska77@netscape.net.

Trap and Skeet range roster

JANUARY 2007

Sat 1/6 Tim Mulreany, Ryan Cooley, Bob Cooley, Scott Wood

Sun 1/7 Mark Gay, Paul Turska, Jake Turska

Sat 1/13 Ron Robeson, Paul Fisher, George Fichter, Dave Fichter

Sun 1/14 Chris Reposa, Randy Stewart, Evan Stewart, Mike Webb

Sat 1/20 Dave Gold, Ira Wein, Peter Currall, Tom Moore

Sun 1/21 Bob Case, Jim & Judy Crowell, Brandon Kinikin, Jason Ledney

Sat 1/27 Tony Evans, Richard Zabell, Red Gambrell, Charles Weaver

Sun 1/28 Rob Van Tassell, Frank Saenz, Peter Sittner, Joel Gross

FEBRUARY 2007

Sat 2/3 Scott Wood, Tim Mulreany, Bob Cooley, Ryan Cooley

Sun 2/4 Mark Gay, Bob Case, Paul Turska, Jake Turska

Sat 2/10 George Fichter, Dave Fitcher, Ron Robeson, Paul Fisher

Sun 2/11 Randy Stewart, Evan Stewart, Chris Reposa, Mike Webb

Sat 2/17 Tom Moore, Peter Currall, Ira Wein, Dave Gold

Sun 2/18 Brandon Kinikin, Jason Ledney, Jim & Judy Crowell

Sat 2/24 Richard Zabell, Charles Weaver, Tony Evans, Red Gambrell

Sun 2/25 Frank Saenz, Rob Van Tassell, Peter Sittner, Joel Gross

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, January 28**. 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.

Photographs for the Web edition

If you are organizing an event and would like to have Tony Evans take photographs, please contact Michelle Chesnut at smc_geek@msn.com and we will arrange for Tony to attend.

Newsletter Contributions

Thanks to Bill Ladd, Joe Gick, Chuck Crooks, Phil Dean, Rich Fried, Paul Turska, Guy Wright, Steve Lefebvre, Chuck Limparis and Michelle Chesnut for their contributions to this month's newsletter.

Thanks to Tony Evans for providing the wonderful pictures.

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. Include contact info in case additional clarification is necessary.

You can find our chapter calendar at www.damascusiwla.org.



Figure 6 -- Sunset photo by Tony Evans