



Wildlife Achievement Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America
APRIL 2014

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CHAPTER NEWS, EVENTS AND ARTICLES

As you may have heard, the Shotgun Committee instituted a new award that recognizes individuals who have demonstrated distinguished dedication and service to our shotgun program. The award was established in the name of Bill Rahn, who joined our chapter in 1966—a 48 year member who set the standard for receiving this honor. The first recipient of The Bill Rahn Distinguished Service Award was Jim Arnold, who's played an essential role in the maintenance and operations of our shotgun program. Mark Gay, Shotgun Chairman, presented award plaques to both Bill and Jim at the membership meeting last week.



Bill and Mark



Jim and Mark



Bill Rahn, Chuck Crooks, Mark Gay, and Jim Arnold. Can you say photo op? (photos by Berle Cherney)

Stay Informed During the General Assembly Session

At the February member meeting, Chuck Limparis (TFL) encouraged all members to follow what is happening during the 90 day General Assembly session and to speak up to your elected officials when there are any topics that you feel strongly about. A first step is knowing who they are—you get more credibility if you know the name and party affiliation of those sponsoring legislation and those voting on the issues that you think important. There is a link on our Chapter website so you can find your federal and state elected representatives: <http://www.damascusiwla.org/#Maryland Links>

For up-to-date information on State activities, including the actual bill language and fiscal impact statement, check the General Assembly web site: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/fm1st.aspx?tab=home>.

Below are a few links to websites with information on what's happening with State legislation and well worth perusing if you are interested in getting insights from a variety of perspectives.

Maryland Association of Counties (MACo). Obviously, from the perspective of how county government will be affected including state funding for schools and transportation, taxes, and new and revising laws. <http://www.mdcountries.org/> MACo provides a single unified voice for county governments throughout the state. The Association advocates for county positions before the General Assembly, the Governor and executive branch officials, and federal decision makers. For timely updates on the 2014 General Assembly Session follow MACo's blog: <http://conduitstreet.mdcountries.org/>

Maryland Chamber of Commerce: The mission of the Maryland Chamber is to support its members and advance the State of Maryland as a national and global competitive leader in economic growth and private sector job creation through its effective advocacy, high level networking and timely communications. The Maryland Chamber lobbies decision makers to promote a positive, statewide, pro-business agenda. <http://www.mdchamber.org/issues-legislation>.

Maryland League of Conservation Voters (LCV). Maryland LCV staff tracks environmental legislation as it quickly moves through the legislative session, and pass that timely information on to interested parties via an electronic weekly hotlist. This is a great resource for information on the process of legislation. How a bill becomes law, how to get involved, and tips for successful lobbying. To get on that mailing list, email info@mdlcv.org. If you just want to look at the lists, check this web link: <http://www.mdlcv.org/issues/2014-hotlists>

Conservation (Jeff Deschamps and Meo Curtis)

Finally, we've had some sunny and mild days and the spring crocuses and daffodils are blooming. I hope you are all taking advantage of the welcome change in the weather and getting outside!

National Take Back Prescription Drug Day At the 2013 National Convention, the IWLA adopted a resolution to support programs for proper disposal of unused pharmaceuticals. In addition to the potential for improper use of controlled medications, there is also the possibility of these compounds getting into our local waters with unknown impacts to aquatic life and in our drinking water sources. On Saturday April 26, there will be a number of places in the region where the public can take unused pharmaceuticals for disposal from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. To find a collection site near you, check the Drug Enforcement Agency web site at: www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/

UPCOMING CHAPTER CONSERVATION WORK EVENTS

Sunday April 26. Gardens Maintenance on member work day. Yes, time to weed, mulch, and whatever else to get the gardens looking good for the rest of the spring and summer. Meet at 10 a.m. at the large green maintenance shed. Wear sturdy shoes that you don't mind getting dirty. Gloves, some tools, and water will be available. . Contact Meo Curtis (meosotis58@verizon.net) to let me know you are going to be there.

Saturday May 10. Reddy Branch Native Tree Maintenance. This is an off-site project in Brookeville, in partnership with M-NCPPC. Gloves, hand tools, and water will be provided. Wear sturdy shoes and expect to get a bit dirty. Students will receive Community Service credits (IF you bring the necessary forms to the planting). This is a rain or shine event so please dress appropriately. Due to the limited parking, we limit the number of participants so you must confirm participation ahead of time. We shuttle from the meeting place to the work site. For more information, contact Jeffrey Deschamps jeff.deschamps@verizon.net or Jim Piatetski jimpiateski@verizon.net

REPORT ON RECENT CONSERVATION WORK EVENTS

Saturday April 5. Upper Patuxent Watershed Clean Up.

We got a terrific turn out on a beautiful spring day. About 60 participants total, including Jay Sheppard and volunteers from Trout Unlimited and Rob Lang and volunteers from Camp Waredeca at Howard Chapel Rd and Rte. 650.. We cleared litter and other materials from near the source of the Patuxent River at Windsor Forest Rd. down to Howard Chapel Rd. just south of Camp Waredeca. We had members of Trout Unlimited who actually waded in the Patuxent River to get trash from the river and the streamsides. Along with a valiant crew of Chapter members, they wrestled a truck cap out of the river up to Long Corner Rd. for pick up by DNR. In total, we picked up 35 contractor bags of trash, along with 3 tires, a full room equivalent of used linoleum flooring, miscellaneous wood and masonry debris, 3 realtor signs, and about 20 quarts of household hazardous waste like paint, paint thinner, other solvents, and a variety of cleaning agents.

Special appreciation to Bill Ladd, Jim Piatetski, and Rich Fried who used their own vehicles to coordinate in the field and get the trash moved from point A to point B; to Jeff Deschamps for all duties as assigned; and Jose Scoseria for a terrific lunch. Also, to Judy Riley for roaming with me and taking some action photos from all the hard workers in the field.

And once again, thanks to Alan Zlotowski from DNR for his truck and hard work and to the Montgomery County Highway Services who make sure that what we pick up goes for proper disposal.

Just in case you wonder where all the litter that we don't pick up goes: Although it's extremely unlikely that any litter from the Damascus roadsides gets to the Atlantic Ocean, litter is a Global Problem. Concerns about the amount of accumulating debris in our oceans began with observations over 20 years ago in the North Pacific. More recent data is documenting similar areas of accumulation in the North Atlantic. Just as the weather moves across the planet, so do the waters of the oceans. And carried along with those currents are tons and tons of debris and just plain trash. In 2011, EPA published a summary of information available about amount and sources of marine debris in the North Pacific www.epa.gov/region9/marine-debris/pdf/MarineDebris-NPacFinalAprvd.pdf. That data indicated much of the debris came from 'land-based' sources, that is not from illegal or accidental dumping at sea. There are no huge 'garbage patches' of accumulated floatables in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, but rather large areas of open ocean with thousands of mostly small pieces of plastic and other material that pose significant threats to marine birds, fish, and mammals who may mistake these 'lures' for food.

While in office, President George Bush created four marine national monuments in the Pacific including the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, the largest protected marine area in the world and the largest single conservation area in American history. Also known as the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, this protected area includes a chain of islands scattered across 1,200 miles of the Pacific Ocean. You'd think these areas would be pretty remote and far from impacts of our urban and suburban environments.

Unfortunately, that is not the case—huge amounts of material, including lost fishing nets and all sorts of mainly plastic floatables, are accumulating on the shores of those 'pristine' beaches.

When the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands National Monument was designated, former First Lady Laura Bush captured the issue:

Unfortunately, I also saw the marine debris that threatens the existence of these albatross and other animals that are there. From plastic toys to discarded computer monitors, trash is carried by currents from all over the world. Midway's beaches collect derelict fishing gear from China, medicine bottles from the mainland United States, cigarette lighters from all over the world. This debris then finds its way into the birds' stomachs, killing thousands of birds every year.

And we did, more than once, as we walked around yesterday, see the carcass of a little bird. And you could open it up and see all this plastic, because the adult albatross fish on the waters, they skim the waters for squid, and because this plastic floats, they pick it up and then feed it to their babies.

People everywhere have a responsibility to be good stewards of our environment, because the trash we throw in our neighborhood gutter can devastate rare wildlife half a world away.



A nice turnout on a gorgeous day. Meo briefing the troops.



It's amazing .You never know what you might find.



The result of the effort .

Pigtail Recreation Area Tree Maintenance – March 15, 2014

About 40 volunteers, including chapter members, girl scouts and their chaperones, and students came out on Saturday March 15 to help out with the **Tree Maintenance Project** in the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission's (WSSC) Pig Tail Recreation area. We were surprised to find a large tree down across the access road to the planting area... and all the trees we were going to plant were on the wrong side of the downed tree. Like an army of ants the volunteers began carrying the trees, tools, wire, and rebar up the hill to the planting area. Before someone could return with a chain saw to clear the access road everything was moved and we were ready to start work. Everyone pitched in and we planted these additional native trees and shrubs on this site, caged the new plantings to protect them from deer browse, and cleared invasive plants from prior plantings. All of this would not have been possible without the hard work of our volunteers, especially Roger Moran who stopped by the chapter to pick up the tools and supplies we need for the project. This was not the first time we have visited WSSC's Pig Tail area, our partnership with WSSC goes back to when and



The last Pigtail planting event



Bob Ryan and daughters....getting them started outdoors at an early age.



We're changing the landscape to help filter our drinking water.

Skeet and Trap (Bob Cooley)

IWLA SHOTGUN RANGE ROSTER 2014

May 2014

Sat	5/3	Tim Mulreany, Gary Green
Sun	5/4	Steve Rowcroft, Stephen Meyers
Wed	5/7	Berle Cherney, Ed Shifflet
Sat	5/10	Jim Arnold, Kieth Kosian
Sun	5/11	Hank Williams, Mike Webb
Wed	5/14	Frank Bis, Ron Roberson
Sat	5/17	Mike Bowen, Roman Drews
Sun	5/18	Joel Gross, John Davis
Wed	5/21	Jay Jeffrey, Carl McMahon
Sat	5/24	Robin Dixon, Glenn Hubert
Sun	5/25	Bob Poth, Dave Stevenson
Wed	5/28	Brian Van Winkle, Bob Woodward
Sat	5/31	Bob Reynolds, Arden Young

Substitutes:

Mash Esfanaji, Mary Esfanaji, Tony Hess, Mark Gay, Paul Fisher, Greg Myers, Ron Roberson, George King, Gary Giambalvo, Bob Cooley, Gerhard Bartsch, Jay DeVan, Charlie Weaver, Jim Crowell, Maj Tavakoli, Murray Welsh, Steve Olsen, Debbi Perry, Jeff Greenhut, Paul Turska, Jake Turska

Rifle and pistol (WAC Range Safety Officer Committee,) - Jesse Lim

Important! Read and know our WAC R/P range's safety conduct and rules

<http://www.damascusiwla.org/RiflePistolRules.html>

Please take the time to read and understand the Rifle and Pistol Range Rules!

Empty chamber indicators have been placed at the ranges as a CONVENIENCE AND COURTESY to our chapter members. Please feel free to use them as you see fit, but please, only take what you actually need to use.



If at any time you have any questions about the R/P rules, concerns about member conduct on the R/P ranges, do not hesitate to contact Jesse Lim at alphashooter@usa.com or cell 240-832-0354.

NRA Training – Wendy Smith:

We lucked out being able to host the third annual NRA Basic Rifle class which was completed on March 15, 2014. Mother Nature had us on edge until the last minute with what seemed like weekly storms and the chapter-wide range closures. While the grounds were still sloppy and muddy, it was sunny and temps in the low 60s. We hosted a great class of 16 enthusiastic students. A special thank you to Jesse Lim, Gregg McDonald, John Mullaney, Rick Thornley, Jean Aker, Peter Ott, Al Goldschmidts and Suzy Floyd for their support with the class.



Our next class will be NRA Basic Pistol on the afternoon of May 3rd and all day May 18th. Registration will begin on/about April 7th and watch for a special WAC announcement indicating registration is open. This class will cost \$50 to cover materials, and one must attend the first day to attend the second day. This class will **NOT** satisfy the Maryland HQL license requirement. Do not delay in registering once it is open, classes fill up very fast and class size is limited to no more than 20 students on a first-come, first-served basis. **WALK-INS ARE NOT PERMITTED.**

The last two Basic Pistol classes of the year are scheduled in early and late fall. More information will be sent as we get closer to those dates.

Thank you to our dedicated volunteer team of WAC RSO / NRA certified instructors who provide these training opportunities to the WAC membership. A lot goes in to hosting these classes, and most all of the instructors

have full time jobs and significant family obligations. Your sacrifice, dedication and time instructing is greatly appreciated! Thank you!

WORK ACTIVITY RECORDING

Probationary members have a work requirement. Most understand that. But, there is some confusion as to how that work requirement is fulfilled. New members must help with a minimum of two projects in each of their first two years of membership. Failure to do so will prevent a renewal of your membership the following year (you could be charged an additional registration fee in order to renew). When you work on a project you are required to be there for the entire project. You are expected to arrive on time for the project. If you leave early you will not get credit for the project.

In year one of your membership, you are required to work on a minimum of two projects. One of which must be a conservation based project. The second project can be any club project including another conservation event.

In year two, you are required to work on a minimum of two projects. One of which must be a conservation based project. The second project can be any club project including another conservation event.

You cannot work additional projects in year one and have them carried over to year two. The work requirement is set up to span two years with the hope that members will find projects they are interested in and want to support after they have completed their probation.

All projects will have a signup sheet. FIND IT. If you do not sign the sheet we do not mark you as there. It is your responsibility to sign in for proper credit. If you are a probationary member, be sure to check the box that says you are probationary, otherwise it will not be recorded.

Each monthly newsletter will show the credit given, by project, and who was there. Check to see if your name is listed. It is possible your name was not legible.

Mistakes can happen. When they do we want to correct them as soon as possible. Check the newsletter after volunteering and report any error as soon as possible. Our newsletters are archived back to 2005.

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Congratulations

The following probationary members have successfully completed their probation and are now graduated to Full Member status.

Richard A. Young
Tom Ondulich
Jon R. May
Glenn Miller
Thomas E. Nicewarner

Conservation Work Day

March 15 (Pigtail tree maintenance)

Members, Family and Nonmembers:

Karl Krchma, Ethan Hoffman, Kim Knox, Adrian Roberts, Kevin Roberts, Matthew Pitman, Emily Ryan, Lily Ryan, Kathleen Hurley, Erin Hurley, Gregory Brodsky, Katie Brodsky, Kety Dunbar, Sam Young, Meo Curtis, Jeff Deschamps and nine young ladies from Girl Scout Troop 84.

Probationary Members: (conservation credit)

Gene Lew, Adrian Jackman, Paul Hoffman, Rodger Moran, Joe Donoghue, Steve Kordell, Jimmy Lessig, Jim Lessig, Steve Sweeney, Kevin Roberts, David Pitman, Bob Ryan, Michael Howerton, Barry Fleming, Connor Walsleben and Arden Young.

Membership Dinner

March 26 (kitchen work)

Probationary Members: (regular credit)

Chris Regnier, Varria Braxton and Magnum Vassell.

Chapter Maintenance Day

March 30 (Pistol/ Rifle/Shotgun)

Members, Family and Nonmembers:

Al Goldschmidts, Guy Wright, John Leaman, Barb Crooks, Chuck Crooks, Rich A. DeRiso, Rich D. DeRiso and Brendon D. DeRiso.

Probationary Members: (regular credit)

Nick Hewitt, Billy Ramos, Janice Lisee, Ed Lisee and Rodger Moran.

If you volunteered for an activity in the past month or so and your name does not appear in this issue of the newsletter or you are incorrectly listed, please send an email with your information to: nicolasgiu@yahoo.com

A reminder to our probationary members:

If you are not sure as to your work status, please email me at nicolasgiu@yahoo.com and I will get back to you in short order. No need for a lengthy email, just put the word Status and your name in the subject line and I'll do the rest.

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Nick Giuliano

Due to the poor legibility of a number of names, I am forced to guesstimate these names. This Thank You list of volunteers is made up of Full Members, Probationary Members and Non-members so my guess could be wrong. If you are working towards getting credit please give me a legible name.

Editor's note: It will make my life much simpler if future submissions are in 12 point New Times Roman font and in Word format.

I thank you for your consideration.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS (Jim Piateski jimpiateski@verizon.net)

Thanks to Nicolas Giuliano for mailing the printed version of the newsletter every month. Thanks to Chuck Crooks, Meo Curtis, Jeff Deschamps, Berle Cherney Bob Cooley, Wendy Smith and Jesse Lim for their contributions to this newsletter. Thanks to Chuck Crooks for posting the newsletter on the web in such a timely fashion.

If anyone has an article, picture or topic, which they wish to have included in future newsletters, send to Jim Piateski at jimpiateski@verizon.net and include some contact info in case there are questions. If you have photographs of chapter events that you would like to share with the membership in the on-line newsletter, please send them to Jim Piateski at the above email address. Please include the names of those pictured as well as the date and name of the event.

If you would like to receive a printed newsletter, write to :

Judy Riley

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