



Wildlife Achievement Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America

JUNE 2015

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CHAPTER NEWS, EVENTS AND ARTICLES

Conservation (Meo Curtis)

Conservation Speaker May 27th Member Meeting

Eddie Franceschi, recently hired as the WSSC Patuxent Watershed Manager, was the invited speaker this month. He met with members of the Conservation Committee prior to the General Membership meeting to discuss ideas for partnership projects with the Chapter. He would like in particular to work with community groups to enhance public outreach and involvement in ways to protect the regional drinking water supply reservoirs and their watersheds. With the many events and numerous visitors at the Chapter, with the Chapter lands draining directly to the Upper Patuxent River and so to the Triadelphia Reservoir, and given the League's environmental conservation and education goals, there would be mutual benefits to expanding our Chapter partnership with WSSC. The Conservation Committee will be following up with a list of potential projects. Any member who has ideas for conservation-related activities on the WSSC reservoirs and watershed lands should forward them to Meo Curtis at meosotis58@verizon.net.

Eddie is currently speaking at community group meetings about the Brighton Dam rehabilitation program which will begin in December of this year and is anticipated to last at least two years. The project will require closure of access to the trails and boat ramps during construction. Managed hunts and volunteer projects will continue. The planned repairs to the 70 year old Brighton Dam will assure its structural integrity for years to come.

During the closure, WSSC will be improving boat launch and trail conditions in problem areas of the Triadelphia reservoir lands. Eddie also talked about improvements and modifications being made now on the public use areas of the Rocky Gorge Reservoir, in anticipation of an increase in visitors while the upper reservoir areas are closed. He brought with him updated maps for the two WSSC reservoir lands showing access and activity areas.

Updates on the Brighton Dam Rehabilitation Project can be found online at www.wsscwater.com/brighton or by calling 301-206-4386.

Brookeville Reddy Branch Site Maintenance-Saturday May 9

We had a great crew of 16 to work at our Brookeville Reddy Branch reforestation site. There were two major tasks for the workday: 1) replace flexible plastic cages with metal cages for better protection against deer rub and 2) eliminate as many invasive bradford pears and vines as possible. The workers attacked with gusto over the next two hours. Those who worked on the invasives rapidly realized how this routine maintenance is crucial to the long-term success of reforestation projects. The non-native trees produce more seedlings and outcompete the native trees for space while the vines, in particular oriental bittersweet and non-native honeysuckle, overwhelm the young trees with overgrowth.

Katherine Nelson from Maryland National Park and Planning Commission complimented our Chapter as the hardest and most consistent workers they have helping out with the County's reforestation projects at this site

and also at the Rachel Conservation Park (see May 2015 newsletter article). I agree that our Chapter members have been terrific in helping with these long-term projects, in rain and cold and heat, and despite poison ivy and ticks! The final products are beautiful buffers that filter runoff and provide shade to the stream and food and shelter for wildlife for generations to come.

Upcoming Conservation Activities

Sunday June 28th (Member Work Day) Meet at the green maintenance shed.

Adopt A Road 9 a.m. to noon. 8 to 16 workers needed. Pre-register with Judy Riley at j2_iwla-wac@verizon.net or 301-980-4057.

Gardens Maintenance Meet at 8:30 a.m. Contact Meo Curtis at meosotis58@verizon.net if interested. Chapter provides gloves, tools, and water.



Father and daughter team. Get them started young (*Deschamps*)



The group at Reddy Branch (*Deschamps*)



All green stuff is not equal...the vines must go! (*Deschamps*)

Patuxent Hiker Biker Trail (Bob Cooley)

The June 20th Patuxent Trail Project Kick-off has been postponed. Details to follow as they develop.

RIFLE AND PISTOL / RANGE SAFETY OFFICER (RSO) UPDATE (Jesse-Thomas Lim)

A short presentation on the **NRA Refuse To Be a Victim** program will be presented at the WAC general membership meeting on Wednesday, June 24, 2015. The general meeting starts at 7:30 PM. Your family and friends are cordially invited to attend the NRA Refuse to be a Victim presentation hosted by Jesse Lim, Chairman of the WAC Rifle and Pistol (R/P) Committee.

NRA Refuse To Be A Victim overview:

Recent FBI statistics indicate that every 23.9 seconds, someone becomes the victim of a violent crime. That's 3,615 Americans who are murdered, raped, robbed or assaulted every single day. The single most important step you can take is to refuse to become one of those victims. NRA Refuse to be a Victim seminars teach men and women safety tips and techniques for maintaining home, phone, automobile, cyber and physical security.

For additional information, please visit: <http://home.nra.org/home/video/refuse-to-be-a-victim>

Important! It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO READ AND KNOW ALL WAC Rifle/Pistol range safety, conduct and rules!

The rules are available on our website and posted at the ranges as well.

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

If you have any questions, please contact Jesse Lim via cell at 240-832-0354 or email alphashooter@usa.com .

The WAC Range Safety Officer (RSO) Committee would like to highlight the following safety rule:

“Safety Rule 17. Firearms which are not in use shall be stored appropriately behind the shooting position. Firearms stored in the range racks shall be unloaded with action open, chamber empty, magazine removed, and safety on if available.”

This means the shooter may only have one firearm on the shooting line at a time. All others are to appropriately stored behind the shooting position.

Additional safe gun handling rules that should be practiced every time one is shooting:

Watch where you point the muzzle of the FIREARM (muzzle control). Control the direction of your firearm's muzzle **at all times** by pointing it in a safe direction. This means:

- Always keep the firearm’s muzzle pointed in a safe direction. A “safe direction” means that the gun is pointed so that even if an accidental discharge occurred, it would NOT result in injury. Pointed downrange at all time and muzzle-up when removing from bench for proper storage.
- Always keep your finger off the trigger until you actually intend to shoot. When handling a gun, rest your finger outside the trigger guard or along the side of the gun. Don’t touch the trigger until you are actually ready to fire.
- Firearms should be unloaded when not actually in use. Whenever you pick up a gun, such as when removing it from or returning it to storage, remember to point it in a safe direction and make sure it is unloaded.
- Be sure you know how your firearm operates: read the manual on your firearm, know how to safely open and close the action of the firearm and know how to safely remove any ammunition from the firearm and its magazine.
- Know your target and what’s beyond it.

CONDUCT Rule# 18 . We will conduct a strict audit and observe any member using the rifle and pistol ranges for prohibited training and certification activity outside of the WAC sanctioned training programs.

“Rule# 18. No member may use our ranges for commercial training purposes. Using any WAC firearms range for financial gain, personal or otherwise, jeopardizes our charitable organization status and is a major conduct violation of our range rules. Anyone found to be in violation of this rule will have his or her range privileges suspended pending investigation by the Rifle and Pistol Range Safety Officer Committee, which will present its findings to the Board of Directors for their action.”

If at any time you are approached by or observe anyone at WAC conducting individual training for a fee on our rifle or pistol ranges, have any questions about the R/P rules, or have concerns about member conduct on the R/P ranges, do not hesitate to contact Jesse Lim.

RSO Tips and Pointers: Sighting in a rifle / carbine (50 yards) or handgun (15 yards) with open sights.

Rifles and handguns with open sights are more difficult to sight-in than those with scopes. In many cases, sighting adjustments are made with the rear sight. Consider a situation where the bullet group prints too high or too low. That can be corrected by moving the rear sight in the same direction you want the bullet group to go. If the bullet group is too high, lower the rear sight. If the group is too low, then raise the rear sight.

If your bullets punch too far to the left of the bull's-eye, then move the rear sight to the right. If the point of impact is too far to the right, then move the rear sight to the left. The rule is the same for both vertical and lateral adjustments. Just move the rear sight in the same direction you want to move the point of impact.

The magnitude of adjustment depends on the gun, barrel length, caliber, target distance, bullet weight/shape and powder charge. Remember that your gun will print different with changes in hand-loads or manufactured ammunition. Muzzleloaders are especially sensitive to changes in bullet design and powder charge.

If the paper appears too peppered with buckshot, the most common cause is shooter error, which is caused by unsteadiness, flinching, improper sight picture or poor positioning. In a smaller percentage of cases, the gun may be a poor shooter or the ammo may not be a good match with the gun.

It's helpful to use a bench rest sighting when sighting in a rifle or sandbags for a handgun. Use the same ammunition on the range as will be used in the field. Be mindful of wind and shooter fatigue. Then watch your groups shrink and your satisfaction grow.

Credits: Information collected from [gun blogger](#), DEC 6 2012

IWLA WAC NRA Basic Pistol Training Class Update – Wendy Smith

The next offering of the NRA Basic Pistol training class will be in September/October, 2015. Please watch for WAC special email announcements and the August newsletter announcing the registration date. Pre-registrations cannot be accommodated at this time. Minors (age 12 and up) must be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian the entire time.

WALK-INS TO THE CLASS ARE NOT PERMITTED AT ANY TIME, due to NRA registration requirements,

Students must register in advance once registration is opened, as materials are ordered specifically for the class size and for student-to-instructor ratios. Classes fill up fast, don't delay registration if you are committed to taking the class. As well, we do ask that registrants kindly honor their commitment to both days of the class, as often times we have to turn away people on the wait-list and cannot fill their spots on short notice.

SAFETY THOUGHTS

Coming to the club, although enjoyable, may be one of the most dangerous situations you will be faced with throughout your week. Do not let a good time end with a mishap. Be alert of your surroundings, watch for the unexpected, and think about being safe. Of course, always have a great time.

Shotgun Range Roster (Bob Cooley)

July 2015

Wed 7/1 Berle Cherney, Ed Shifflet
Sat 7/4 Tim Mulreany, Gary Green
Sun 7/5 Stephen Meyers, Jeremy Dvorak
Wed 7/8 Frank Bis, Ron Roberson
Sat 7/11 Jim Arnold, Keith Kosian
Sun 7/12 Hank Williams, Mike Webb,
Wed 7/15 Jay Jeffrey, Carl McMahan
Sat 7/18 Bill Murphy, Roman Drews
Sun 7/19 Joel Gross, Gerhard Bartsch
Wed 7/22 Brian Van Winkle, Bob Woodward
Sat 7/25 Robin Dixon, Glenn Hubert
Sun 7/26 Bob Poth, Dave Stevenson
Wed 7/29 Debbi Perry, Gerhard Bartsch

Substitutes:

Mash Esfanaji, Mary Esfanaji, Steve Rowcroft, Tony Hess, Mark Gay, Ed Gilpin, Bob Cooley, Paul Fisher, Greg Myers, Roman Drews, Bill Murphy, Murray Welsh, Steve Olsen, Paul Turska, Jake Turska, Bob Cumberland, Ed Gilpin, George King, Gary Giambalvo, Jim Crowell, Maj Tavakoli, Bob Reynolds, Arden Young, Jay DeVan

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

A reminder to our members

If you joined the chapter on or before **June 2013** and you have not seen your name listed in any issue of the newsletter as being graduated to full member status, you are still on probation.

If you need a work status update, email Nick at nicolasgiu@yahoo.com

Congratulations

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

Christopher D. Toscano Mark North
Thomas J. Monahan Nicholas E. Hrabak
Dale Hrabak Erik Hill
Joe Freeman Gary J. Cooper
Joseph H. Deffenbaugh Jr. Grant Brumpton
Robert Reynolds Jeffrey Phillips

Brookeville Tree Work

May 5

Members, Family and Nonmembers:

Ed Lisee, Janice Lisee, Tess Perez, Jim Piatieski,
Meo Curtis, Jeff Deschamps and Katherine Nelson

Probationary Members: (Conservation credit)

Patrick Hagood, Erik Havens, Scott Henderson,
Nick Hewitt, Dave Lane, Manuel Perez,
Scott LeVora, Bill Nicholas and Barry Fleming

Archery Class Assistant

May 9 and 16

Probationary Member: (Regular credit)

John Porter

Cowboy Set-Up

May 22

Members, Family and Nonmembers:

Chuck Crooks, Barb Crooks, Carlos Pena, Marilyn Pena, Chris Nelson, Paul Bluteau, Tom Ouellette, Kenneth
P. Reichard and Mark McKeivitt

Probationary Members: (Regular credit)

Jeffrey Phillips, Ted Boone, Michael Kerr, Paul Quattrociocchi, Jerry Klinger and Ken Reichard

Membership Dinner (Kitchen Duties)

May 27

Probationary Members: (Regular credit)

John Porter and Adrian Jackman

Chapter Maintenance Day

May 31

Range Maintenance (Shot Gun/Rifle/Pistol)

May 31

Members, Family and Nonmembers:

Al Goldschmidts, Paul Largent, James Nail, Billy Ramos, Jack Foley, LB Givens, Lance Kennedy, Arden
Young, James Borum, Jay DeVan, Mark McKeivitt, Howard Goldberg, S. Meyers and Carl Newcomer

Probationary Members: (Regular credit)

Tom Willats, Larry Ritzmann, Matthew Newcomer, Megan Newcomer, Alex Bush, Steven Linberg, Matthew
Konas, David Kile, Jack Foley, Richard Lowery, Donna Largent, Bob Mascaro, Lynn Mascaro and Brian
Givens

Working the Green Shed

Guy Wright, Chuck Crooks and John Leaman

Conservation work

Members, Family and Nonmembers:

Jeff Deschamps and Meo Curtis

Probationary Members: (Conservation credit)
Jeffrey Phillips, John Kinzer and Barry Fleming

A reminder to our members

If you volunteered for an activity in the past month and your name does not appear in this issue of the newsletter or you are incorrectly listed or you need a reminder as to your work history please email me at nicolasgiu@yahoo.com.

PROBATIONARY MEMBERS!

IF YOU JOINED IN 2012 OR BEFORE

CHECK YOUR WORK STATUS

RENEWAL TIME **IS HERE** AVOID THE

\$60 PENALTY

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.

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 Times New 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 and tracking volunteer hours. Thanks to Meo Curtis, Jeff Deschamps, Bob Cooley, Jesse Lim and Wendy Smith, for their contributions to this newsletter. Thanks to Chuck Crooks for posting and contributing to 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:

Tim Garrity
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Olney, MD 20830-1630