



Wildlife Achievement Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America
DECEMBER 2017

President Cheri Aker 301 330-9468	First Vice President Rodger Moran 301 831-5282	Second Vice President John Porter 301 253-6390	Third Vice President Susan Bortniak 301 972-9258
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Wildlife Achievement Chapter 26430 Mullinix Mill Road Mt. Airy, Maryland 21771

Main House Phone: 301-253-2384 Web Site: <http://www.DamascusIWLA.org>

Range House Phone: 301-253-4779

CHAPTER NEWS AND EVENTS

President's Corner

December 9th we had our Holiday Cookie Bake and Social. The members and their families baked a variety of cookies:

- White Chocolate Chips w/cranberries,
- Lemon Lime Basil Shortbread,
- Chocolate Chip Chocolate,
- Sugar,
- M&M,
- Rice Krispie Treats,
- Peanut Butter Blossoms,
- Toasted Marshmallows Brownie Krinkles cookies.

The children – two to four years old all enjoyed decorating the Sugar cookies! Members will have the opportunity to enjoy the cookies for themselves! Cookies – for a small donation will be available at our December Membership Meeting and Holiday Party this coming Wednesday – December 13, 2017.

During the Holiday Cookie event we enjoyed the musical talents of Steve Lefebvre and Jeffrey Deschamps. Steve and Jeffrey were practicing Holiday Songs for your entertainment during the upcoming Membership Meeting/Holiday Party! Hope to see you there!

First Vice President Roger Moran announced his fundraising plans for our Land Fund Drive. His first initiative will be an ongoing 50/50 at our membership meetings. Half of the proceeds will go to the lucky winner and the other half towards the Land Fund Donation Drive.

Tickets for the Wild-Game Dinner and Auction – scheduled Saturday January 27th – are on sale for \$20 each. Seating is limited – tickets are first come – first served. Tickets can be purchased at the Shotgun House and during the Membership Meetings.

Just a few reminders:

- Please remember the WAC speed limit is 15 mph. Take extra caution while driving near the Shotgun House.
- Maintenance Day for Ground and Ranges - Sunday December 19th 9:00 am.
 - Ranges Closed until Noon
 - New Members receive work credit – please remember to sign-in.
- Club and Range Orientation – Sunday December 19th – 9:30 a.m. – Upper Hall

Take Care!
Cherie Aker

Conservation (Meo Curtis)

MNCPPC Forest Conservation Program. At the general membership meeting on Wednesday November 15, our featured speaker was Katherine Nelson, Planner Coordinator with Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC). She provided an overview about the MNCPPC efforts to preserve and restore the County’s forested areas and how volunteer groups like our Chapter are helping with partnership projects such as those at Reddy Branch and Rachel Carson Parks. Katherine's presentation is available on the Conservation Committee webpage at: https://wacconservation.files.wordpress.com/2017/12/nelson-izaak-walton-league-2017_1115-compressed.pdf

At the Reddy Branch-Brookeville site, the reforestation goal is to add buffer plantings on Montgomery County parkland over five acres to protect about 1,700 linear feet of stream. The first plantings took place in 2008 and included the Chapter, local schools, and the Soil Conservation District. In 2015, we began removing cages from trees that had finally grown tall enough to survive deer rub and deer browse.

At the Rachel Carson Park site, the goal for the immediate future is to reforest the area closest to the river which is the lower flatland area prone to some flooding. We began work in this area in spring 2015. There have been a few setbacks due to significant flooding and overgrowth but the area is definitely showing improvement!

Thanks From the Department of Parks

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

- The continued deer protection repair/upkeep that IWL volunteers have done over the past few years at Reddy Branch is critical, and we thank you all so much for your dedication! We really **couldn't** get it done without you!
- As I think you could tell at our field meeting last week, I am so very impressed with the general overall condition of the site at Rachel Carson!
- The work you and the volunteers do at these FIL sites is just so SO important! These sites would definitely not be what they are today without your dedicated maintenance work over the years...
- Again thanks to you!, and please do convey my appreciation to the volunteers!

Carole Bergman, Forest Ecologist

Thank you to everyone for all of their hard work.
Kevin VanScoyk, Park Manager

I want to commend the men and women of the Damascus Isaac Walton League for their commitment to preserving open spaces. I observed nothing but eager, attentive, and hardworking folks in the field Saturday. I know that environmental stewardship is at the very heart of your organization. There is no stronger evidence for it than to see the willing hearts and dirty hands at work at the Rachel Carson Conservation Park! We couldn't ask for better partners.

Mike Sharp, Forest Conservation Inspector

Thanks for sharing, Katherine! Those trees look great!
And thanks to the IWL!!!!

Lynn Vismara, Volunteer Coordinator

We really appreciate all the work done at this location by the volunteers.
Doug Ludwig, Division Chief,
Northern Parks Division

Again, please express my thanks to the IWL volunteers for this very worthwhile project. We all appreciate it very much!

Jimmy Mendoza, Park Manager

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Rain Barrel Sales. If you would like a Rain Barrel to capture and store rooftop runoff, we have a limited number of barrels left available at our cost, \$60. This includes all parts needed for connection to your downspout. The remaining barrels will ONLY BE AVAILABLE for pick up at General Membership or Board of Directors meetings. First come, first served. To find out about availability, contact Jeff Deschamps at jeff.deschamps@verizon.net.

Other Conservation News

Update: Patuxent River State Park trail system. Almost two years ago on February 27, 2014, members of MidAtlantic Off Road Enthusiasts (MORE) and Trail Riders of Today (TROT, a local equestrian group) met with Dave Powell and Dan Hudson of MD Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to discuss a potential trail system in the upstream portion of the Patuxent Reservoir State Park. A couple months later, MORE, along with a donation from the Montgomery County Road Runners Club (MCRRC), hired Jeremy Wimpey of Applied Trails Research to conduct an assessment of the landscape and existing informal trails in PRSP, and a concept for a redeveloped trail system. Our Chapter hosted a public meeting on June 12, 2014 to share the report and gather feedback. Over 35 people were there to hear about plans for the park and offer their suggestions and concerns. Among the most significant concerns were finding resources for trail improvement and that better trails would result in greater numbers of users and possibly greater number of conflicts among users. The final report can be found here: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B1XVin4UbEMqOVQwdm9NYmd6TjA>

MORE has been focusing their efforts since then on Phase 1 of the project, which will be the first 8 miles of trail between Mullinix Mill Road and Route 94 (Woodbine Road/Annapolis Rock Road). They have walked the land with Dave Powell and Dan Hudson along with other DNR staff and with staff from MD Dept of Environment (MDE). They procured official bridge designs from a Maryland engineering firm based on United States Forest Service standard bridges. They have flagged corridor areas and captured GPS readings. And Dan Hudson has been putting all the GPS tracks together, making maps, and creating the permit applications for MDE.

To date, they have raised over \$100k in funds, mostly from Recreational Trails Program grants, but also through donations from other groups including the Montgomery County Road Runners Club and businesses including Wells Fargo Bank. And now they are thrilled to be a part of the International Mountain Bike Association's Dig In campaign! This campaign supports 500 miles of new trails, the maintenance of 140 miles of existing trails, 10 new bike parks and/or pumptracks and four trails that will specifically serve the growth of National Interscholastic Cycling Association high school mountain bike racing.

They expect to get final approval to start building trail in the spring of 2018 and are hoping to start corridor clearing before leaf-out in April. To receive project updates and event notifications, be sure to like the Patuxent project page at <https://www.facebook.com/paxriversp/>. When MORE starts the volunteer work, Steve Cover and Tom Newton will be contacting everyone again, asking for help.

Have a Green Christmas. And no, I don't mean turn into a Grinch or Gordon Gekko—just practice a little more earth-friendly buying and wrapping. Instead of dust collectors, consider gift certificates so the recipient can enjoy new or repeat experiences, whether to movies or plays or concerts or paint ball sessions or gym visits. If you know your recipient's food and liquid refreshment tastes, indulge them! And always remember to *Reduce, Reuse and Recycle*:

- Shop for gifts made from recycled or reused materials
- For those with talent and time, consider unique home-made or home-cooked gifts.
- Shop at vintage shops, consignment or antique stores.
- Consider gifts that help reduce waste in the future, like nice insulated water bottles, travel coffee mugs, or thermal lunch bags.
- Give a starter kit that could lead to a long-term hobby such as home-brewing or breadmaking.
- Give lower utility bills. Buy someone an energy audit, ENERGY STAR appliances or if buying new tech stuff, choose those with lower energy use.
- Make the gift wrap part of the gift or use reusable bags.

Most of all be generous with and enjoy time for family, friends, and to those who may need a little extra help this season. More ideas on how to Gift Greener are at:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep/gift-greener.html>. HO HO HO!

Shotgun Range Roster (Steve Olsen)

January 2018

Sat	1/6	Tim Mulreany, Gary Green
Sun	1/7	Stephen Meyers, Larry Buck
Sat	1/13	Jim Arnold, Roman Drews, Keith Kosian
Sun	1/14	Hank Williams, Jeremy Dvorak
Sat	1/20	Bob Shelley, Jim Shay
Sun	1/21	Paul and Jake Turska
Sat	1/27	Murray Welsh, Doug Chapman
Sun	1/28	Dave Stevenson, Bob Poth

Substitutes: Gerhard Bartsch, Berle Cherney, Dan Ciambora, Jim Crowell, Bob Cumberland, Mash Esfanaji, Mary Esfanaji, Paul Fisher, Mark Gay, Gary Giambalvo, Joel Gross, Jay Jeffrey, George King, Mark Lawson, Charlie Mello, Rodger Moran, Steve Olsen, Debbi Perry, Jim Shay, Ed Shifflett, Frank Bis, Maj Tavakoli, Jeff Tokar, Arden Young,

WAC Range Safety Officer Committee, Rifle and Pistol October Update – (John Porter)

Rifle and pistol upcoming events:

Monday December 25, 2016 ALL RANGES CLOSED

Saturday Jan. 6 Practical Defense Match 1:00PM - 4:00PM Uncovered Pistol Range.

Saturday Jan. 20 Mandatory RSO meeting 8:00AM - 10:00AM Upstairs Chapter Hall.

Saturday Jan. 20 Practical Defense Holster Clinic 10:30AM - 12:00PM Downstairs Rathskeller

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

A REMINDER TO OUR MEMBERS

If you joined the chapter on or before **December 2015** 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 are not sure as to your status, email Nick at nicolasgiu@yahoo.com and you will receive an email of your work history on record.

CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR NEW FULL MEMBERS

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

John T. Kent
Michael John Wonsala
Alan L. Burrows
Craig Anthony Hanson
Paul Ben-Ari Hudes

Pigtail Recreation Area

10/22/2017

Members, Family, and Nonmembers:

Ken Milletich, Leslie Harrelson, Meo Curtis,
Jodi Heming-Powell, Jeff Deschamps and
Jim Piateski

Probationary Members: (Conservation)

Michael Kaufmann, Giancarlo Caraballo,
Ron Stine and Brian Varine

Chapter Maintenance Day (Range related work)

11/12/2017

Members, Family, and Nonmembers:

Al Goldschmidt, Joe Pauley, Guy Wright,
Lee Cascio, Hans Varmer, Candy Varmer,
John Mc Carraher and Joe Smith

Probationary Members: (Regular Credit)

Frank Mastraccio, Kyle Harry, Adam Dube,
and Ivy Huang

Probationary Members: (Conservation)
Kevin Lee, Jeffrey T. Raines, John Kent,
Mike Wonsala and Justin Fleck

Cowboy Set Up

11/24/2017

Members, Family, and Nonmembers:

Chuck Crooks, Lee Trunnell, Jan Paper,
Mary Esfanaji and Paul Bluteau

Probationary Members: (Regular Credit)

John Cross, Robert Shelley, Ian Rolfes,
Dan Cimborra, Damon Sui, Gabriel Mendez
and Armando Martinez

Rachel Carson Reforestation

11/26/2017

Members, Family, and Nonmembers:

Barry Fleming, Jacob Hurley and Karl Plitt

Probationary Members: (Conservation)

David Hurley, Michael Polcsa and Eva Waaks

Taking and editing photos of Chapter events:

11/12/2017 and 12/2/2017

Probationary Member: (Regular Credit)

Kevin Lee

Nov 12, 2017 range clean up

<https://www.flickr.com/gp/157797248@N03/0zX2Uu>

Nov 12, 2017 Christmas tree maintenance

<https://www.flickr.com/gp/157797248@N03/708861>

Dec 2, 2017 bowling pin shoot

<https://www.flickr.com/gp/157797248@N03/ex3S8f>

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 Cherie Aker, Steve Olsen, Meo Curtis, John Porter and Kevin Lee 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 Piatetski 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

PO 1630

Olney, MD 20830

membership@iwlawac.org