



Wildlife Gazette
Wildlife Achievement Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America
March 2025

President	First Vice President	Second Vice President	Third Vice President
Cherie Aker 301 330-9468	Joe Pauley 301 452-6606	Rodger Moran 240 586-3365	Kevin Wolf 301 385-3509
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

Presidents' Message March 2025

"Volunteers are not paid – Not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless"

Maryland State Division and IWLA National Awards are now available online. Recognize a member, individual, or external organization that has made a significant contribution to our Chapter. The awards are in recognition of work done in 2024. The nomination form outlines the eligibility criteria for each award. I'm encouraging you to submit an award nomination, recognizing the invaluable contributions of our volunteers who greatly enhance the excellence of our chapter. IWLA National Awards – Deadline June 1st

[Awards](#)

Maryland State Division Awards – Deadline – May 15th

[Maryland Division IWLA - Division Awards](#)

If you are interested in volunteering your time and energy, please take a look at the online calendar. We can use your help! Chapter & Grounds Maintenance is scheduled for Saturday, March 15th

at 9:00 am. Please meet at the Green Equipment Shed and remember to sign-in to receive work credit.

Our next membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 26th. Seed Swap will be at the meeting. Come join us – be involved in our WAC community. Social begins at 6:30 pm, followed by the meeting at 7:30 pm.

I hope to see you there. Until then, take care!
Cherie Aker

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Our Member Focus this month is for **Ed Mondonedo**.

Our Air Rifle Youth Program at our Wildlife Achievement Chapter is outstanding. The program delivers effective youth mentoring and skill development. Ed serves as the Junior Air Rifle Chairperson, leading a team of 12 coaches and 3 parent coaches. Six of the coaches are former junior shooters. Five out of the twelve coaches have dedicated over fifteen years to the Air Rifle Youth program. It is noteworthy that two of those coaches have 25 years of experience with the

program. Ed Mondonede's leadership inspires the coaches' dedication. Thank you, Ed, for your contributions to the program and the children. We appreciate you!

NEW COWBOY SHOOTER CLINIC AT DAMASCUS IWLA

The next new cowboy shooter clinic, at Damascus, will be on April 6th, 2025. Class size is limited to 15 shooting students and seats are on a first come, first serve basis. Pre-registration is required, no walk ins.

This class sells out often and class size is limited. Applications must be mailed with class registration fee in order to guarantee your reservation. If, after registering, you cannot make the class, please let us know so we can make your seat available.

You can fill out the application while viewing it on your PC and then print it. You can make yourself a copy and I will be able to read the one you send me! APPLICATION HERE

The purpose of the clinics is to introduce the sport to potential enthusiasts who'd like to give it a try 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, that can be a little intimidating if you're new at it.

SAFETY and fun are the real focus of the sport, and we'd like to be sure everyone gets off to the right start. Students will learn how the game is played, 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's 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 real

cowboy hoglegs, a 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 unassisted loading of revolvers, rifles and shotguns. If you do not have experience, you can take the classroom portion but, you can only observe the live fire portion. For additional information contact Chuckaroo 301-831-9666. You will be required to complete a waiver that includes your experience competency in order to participate in the shooting portion. Having fired a gun sometime in your life, is not sufficient experience with firearms in order to participate in the live fire portion of the class.

Many thanks to Atlantic Guns for again providing all of the clinic ammo! Clinic volunteers on September 8, 2024 made it happen!, JR Gomez, Annie Jean Oakley, Tom Toben, Snapshot Sandy, Mt. Airy Undertaker, Lightning Rider, Short Toed Steve, old Baldy, Maureen Holland and Chuck Crooks.

Joel Gross, Range Officer Emeritus

Following 26 years serving as a Shotgun Range Officer, Joel Gross has decided it's time to step away. Joel joined the Chapter in 1984, and elected to become a Range Officer in 1999. Since that time, he has guided numerous new shooters on the safety, etiquette, and nuances of shooting skeet. In addition, he handled the daily business of the shotgun house. We will miss his big smile and calm demeanor on a regular basis, but hope he will stop by on occasion to check in.

In appreciation for his dedication to the Chapter, Joel is the first to be granted the Range Officer Emeritus title. This will not increase his volunteer pay, but will continue to provide him with the benefits of being a Range Officer. On behalf of all the WAC Shotgun shooters, thank you Joel!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Archery – Open House – April 19th
10am to Noon
- Boy Scouts - Blue and Gold Banquet
was successful – February 21st
- Conservation
 - Garden Maintenance –
Committee Chairperson position
vacant – position will be filled
soon. Seed Swap scheduled
March Membership Meeting
March 26th.
 - Watershed Clean-Up – Saturday
March 29th 9:30 am. Meet at
Green Shed. Please see the
chapter calendar for registration
and event information.
- Cowboy Shoot – New Cowboy Shooter
Clinic – Sunday, April 6th – Space is
Limited – Pre-registration is required.
Applications must be mailed with a \$5
class registration fee.
 - Clinic Application -
CLINIC2025.pdf
- Green Energy – Lights replaced –
Lower Level of Chapter House. Next
meeting scheduled for Wednesday
March 19th 7pm
- Hall Rentals – Hall Rental Agreement
revision under review
- Rifle/Pistol – 8 Range Safety Officers
completed USCCA Instructor Course.
- Save Our Streams – Sunday, March 16th
Noon to 4pm

Your Guide to 2025 Firearms Training at WAC (Mindy Goldsborough)

There is an array of firearms safety and education programs that are available to WAC members as well as family and friends of members. These all-day classes have both classroom and range portions and are excellent for both newer shooters as well as those of us interested in brushing up on skills.

Some of the classes have prerequisites - so this is the perfect time of year to do some advanced planning so you don't miss out on a class you'd like to take.

The classes are given by certified instructors who also happen to be fellow WAC members that volunteer their time to this program. The cost for each class is \$150, all of which goes to our Chapter.

Below is a brief description of the classes, if you have additional questions, or are interested in registering for a class e-mail wacedu@iwlwac.org

Basic Pistol - reviews types of handguns, their mechanics, safety topics, ammunition, shooting positions and mechanics, storage, transportation and maintenance of handguns, and more. This class satisfies the training requirement to obtain a MD HQL (handgun qualification license) which is needed to purchase a handgun in MD. This class is the prerequisite for the MD Wear and Carry and Personal Protection in the Home (PPIH) classes. , MAY 31, SEPTEMBER 30

MD Wear & Carry - Prerequisite passing Basic Pistol within the last year. This class is for both new MD W&C licenses and those needing to renew existing MD licenses (renewal participants have no prerequisite

requirement). The class covers methods to avoid the use of deadly force, physiological reactions to the stress of an encounter, what is and is not legal, how to deal with the aftermath of an encounter and other relevant topics. MARCH 29, JUNE 21, OCTOBER 4

Personal Protection Inside the Home (PPIH) - Prerequisite passing Basic Pistol within the last year. Learn about ways to protect yourself, your family, and your home. The class covers developing protection plans, defensive shooting, selection of home defense firearms, and relevant legal topics. MAY 10, AUGUST 10

Personal Protection Outside the Home (PPOH) - Prerequisite PPIH within the last year. Learn about the stages of awareness and how to use them for ensuring your personal safety, how to select carry handguns and holsters, proper draw techniques, and legal topics are part of the curriculum. OCTOBER 12

Basic Rifle - reviews types of rifles and their mechanics, safety topics, ammunition, shooting mechanics and positions, storage, transportation, and maintenance of rifles and more. NOVEMBER 16

Other training opportunities for members, family, and friends are the Stop The Bleed Classes - this hand-on training can be a life-saving addition to your safety knowledge. The next class is being held on Sunday, March 2nd, 9 AM - 1 PM, cost is \$30.00. Use the link on the website to register.

As always, check the WAC calendar for updates.

Thanks to our Volunteers

If you joined the chapter on or before February 2023 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 Forrest at **fpnthree@gmail.com** and you will receive an email of your work history on record.

The following probationary members have completed their required volunteer projects and will become a full member after their two year anniversary date.

None this month

Congratulations to our new Full Members

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

Maureen Holland

Welcome Aboard

The following individuals were sworn in at the February Membership Meeting and are now considered probationary members until they have passed their 2 year anniversary and have completed the required 4 work credits.

James Coffman, Patrick Devlin, John Devlin Jr., William Erskine, Victor Segura, Gargi Joshi

Stream Monitoring

2/15/2025 (Chair) John Hartwell

Members and Nonmembers:

None

Probationary Members: (Conservation Credit)

George Rachis

Chapter Maintenance Day

2/15/2025 (Chair) Paul Turska

Members and Nonmembers:

John Hartwell, John Porter

Probationary Members: (Regular Credit)

Michael Hancock, Karey Kimmel, Marcel Moone, Andy Weir, Ally Babay

Rifle, Pistol and Shotgun Range Clean Up

2/23/2025 (Chair) Al Goldschmidts/Mark Gay

Members and Nonmembers:

Joe Pauley, Kevin Wolf, Dean Elliott, Robert Vendemmia, Tom Oullette, Ronnie Hoggard, S. Meyers, G. Bartsch, Brooke Jeu

Probationary Members: (Regular Credit)

Jim Smith, Vadium Startsev, Joe May, Michael Brol, Ally Babay

Thanks to Jim Piateski for mailing the printed version of the newsletter every month and Forrest Neal for tracking volunteer hours. Thanks to Chuck Crooks, Mindy Goldsborough, Cherie Aker, and Ed Mondoneda for their contributions to this newsletter. 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:

IzaakwaltonWAC@aol.com

Chuck Crooks
Membership Secretary
3147 Pheasant Run
Ijamsville, MD 21754-8919