



Wildlife Gazette
Wildlife Achievement Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America
February 2026

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CHAPTER NEWS AND EVENTS

“Winter is on my head, but eternal spring is in my heart.” – Victor Hugo

“A late winter’s thaw feels like a whispered promise.” – Lang Leav

Winter has arrived, bringing cold weather that has affected our communities. Please be cautious when driving or shoveling snow. I’d like to thank all our members who helped keep our chapter’s road and parking lot safe. Right now, the range roads are extremely icy and dangerous, but we hope to reopen them later this week.

Rescheduled: 2026 Wild Game Dinner & Auction

The event is now set for Saturday, March 21st, due to past poor January weather affecting attendance. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased at the Shotgun House or upcoming membership meetings. If you have Wild Game to donate, please contact Randy Mckenzie to deliver to the Kitchen.

If you would like to donate items that are new, gently used, or in excellent condition for our auction, please deliver them to our downstairs hall. Kindly note that we do not accept computers or exercise equipment.

Volunteers are needed for setup and kitchen help on March 20th, auction and administrative tasks on

March 21st, and clean-up on March 22nd. Please confirm your availability. Sign-in is required for work credit.

Our February Membership Meeting is Wednesday, March 25th.

Chapter & Grounds Maintenance is scheduled for Saturday, February 14 at 9:00 am. We’re always looking for volunteers. To receive work credit, please remember to sign in at the Green Shed. Maintenance for the Rifle and Pistol ranges is set for Sunday, February 22nd; sign-in will take place at the Rifle Range. Skeet and Trap maintenance will also occur on Sunday, February 22nd, with sign-in at the green maintenance shed.

The **Stop the Bleed Class** will be held on Sunday, February 15th, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Participation in this course is highly recommended as it provides critical skills that may save lives. Please note that there is an associated fee and pre-registration is required. The designated points of contact for this event, as well as all other events, are available on the WAC calendar.

We extend our gratitude to the 2025 member volunteers for their dedication and service to WAC. Members are encouraged to submit nominations

recognizing individuals who have demonstrated outstanding service and commitment to our chapter committees, social activities, and special projects. WAC Chapter, Maryland State, and National awards are available. Each nomination form explains criteria and submission. Please review and nominate an outstanding member.

WAC Awards -

<http://www.damascusiwla.org/#awards>

WAC COMMITTEE REPORT

Boy Scouts – During the March BOD meeting, we will introduce Mary Phillips as the new Boy Scout Organization Representative, taking over from John Hartwell. WAC sincerely thanks John for his dedicated leadership in our Chapter's Boy Scout program. Thank you, John, for your outstanding service.

Conservation – Opportunity to earn Work Credit – Please remember to sign-in.

- Friday, March 6th – Chapter Grounds invasive management 9:00 am – 11:30 am

Deer Feeder and Bird Feeders are installed on Chapter Grounds.

Cowboy Action Shoot – Saturday, March 14th 8:00 am – 4:00 pm – Observers are welcome!

Cowboy Clinic – Scheduled Sunday, April 19th – see calendar for more information

Hall Rental – Private Events scheduled for upper hall – February 21st 3-9 & April 12th 3-6

House & Grounds –

- Chapter Driveway and Parking Lot has been treated to ensure our members' safety
- Chapter & Grounds Maintenance Day Saturday, February 14. 9:00 am.

Rifle & Pistol

- Members are provided with two red visitor badges and must be visibly worn at all times. Members are responsible for the actions of their visitor(s) on range. All members and visitors are required to sign in and out each range visit.
- **Stop the Bleed Class** – Sunday, February 15th 9:00 am – 1:00 pm and Sunday, March

Maryland State Division Awards -

<https://www.marylandiwla.org/division-awards>

IWLA National Awards - <https://iwla.org/awards/>
The WAC 2026 calendar includes classes, events, projects, and volunteer opportunities for all interests.

I hope to see you soon. Until then, take care and stay warm!

Cherie Aker

1st 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Pre-registration required. (\$)

- **Handgun Cleaning Course** – Sunday, March 8th 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. (\$)
- **Rifle Pistol Range Clean Up** – Sunday, February 22nd 9:00 am. Sign in at Rifle Range. (Volunteers earn work credit.)
- **Basic Pistol Class** – open to members, family and friends. (\$) Pistol range closed during the range portion of this event from Noon to 4pm.
- **Polar Bear Rifle Match** – Saturday 21st (Rifle Range Closed during event. For more information regarding this event please see our WAC calendar.

Save Our Streams – Sunday, February 15th Noon to 4pm. Please see WAC calendar for registration and POC information.

Skeet & Trap – Shotgun 5 Stand Winter Schedule available on our WAC calendar. Skeet & Trap maintenance Sunday, February 22nd 9:00 am. Sign-in at Green Maintenance Shed

Wild Game Dinner & Auction – Saturday, March 21st. Interested in volunteering? Please contact Paul Turska or Cherie Aker. Volunteers needed for setup (3/20) and event coverage (3/21). POC listed on WAC Website. Tickets are available for \$35 during Membership Meetings and at the Shotgun House.

DAMASCUS WILDLIFE RANGERS NEW COWBOY SHOOTER CLINIC

The next new cowboy shooter clinic, at Damascus, will be on April 19, 2026. Class size is limited to 5 shooting students (only 2 left) and seats are on a

first come, first serve basis. Pre-registration is required, no walk ins. This will be the only class given in 2026.

This class sells out often and class size is limited to 5 students. **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 7, 2025 made it happen!, JR Gomez, Annie Jean Oakley, Snapshot Sandy, Mt. Airy Undertaker, Old Baldy and Chuckaroo.

News From The Single Action Shooting Society®

This information comes from the January SASS Newsletter email...

Starting 01 January 2026, SASS has realigned the Regional Map to better reflect the current membership. They split the Mid-West Region in two creating a new region, the Plains Region, added a few States to the newly configured Mid-West Region, and have shuffled a few other States around. Ohio, who has been hosting the North-East Regional for quite some time, has been moved from the North-East Region to the Mid-West Region so those of us in the North-East Region do not presently have a Regional for 2026. But, it looks like Pennsylvania will be taking on that duty starting in 2027! I suspect we will be getting more information in the days ahead.

You can check out the new Regional Map here, 2026 Regional Map, and its accompanying Regional Chart here, 2026 Regional Chart.

Be prepared in the event of accidents or injuries.

IWLA WAC Training Committee has added **STOP THE BLEED** classes to the calendar again this year. Please come out on **Sunday February 15, 2026**, from 9 am to 1 pm and take advantage of this life saving training.

Through our **STOP THE BLEED®** course, you'll gain the ability to recognize life-threatening bleeding and intervene effectively. The person next to a bleeding victim may be the one who's most likely to save him or her. Take the course and

become empowered to make a life or death difference when a bleeding emergency occurs. STOP THE BLEED®. Save a Life! To Learn more, go to Home | Stop The Bleed.

(\$ Must Pre-register by email: wac.stopthebleed@gmail.com Attendance is limited. - Contact Dean Elliott

Conservation

(Not much going on until March so I'll keep running this)

Second Chance Wildlife Center (Barry Fleming)

As mentioned in our last newsletter, our Chapter is proud to support the Second Chance Wildlife Center, currently located in Gaithersburg and soon relocating to a new, much-improved facility in Clarksburg.

At our most recent membership meeting, we raised a \$250 donation along with several bags of towels — both of which were greatly appreciated when delivered. Going forward, we will continue to support Second Chance through collection efforts and fundraising opportunities. We hope to have a guest speaker from Second Chance at one of our future meetings.

A donation drop box will be available at meetings for items from their wish list, including:

- Newspapers (black-and-white pages only), Toilet tissue and paper towels, Postage stamps, Large bath or beach towels (no frayed edges or holes) Gift cards for Amazon, Giant, gas stations, PetSmart, Staples, or Office Depot, Home Depot or Lowe's

Some Fast Facts about Second Chance Wildlife Center

- Founded in 1995, celebrating 30th anniversary this year!
- Admitted 2700+ patients (110+ species) in 2024
- Small Clinic Staff of 9
- Volunteers and college interns assist with many daily chores and wildlife care
- New facility will offer state of the art care
- SCWC never charges individuals for services
- Average expense per patient in 2023 was \$239

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Please use any contacts listed above for additional information or go to our website at www.DamascusIWLA.org. Please do not respond directly to this E-mail.

- Works with Federal, State and local health agencies to identify and track animal diseases that may infect humans

To learn more about the incredible work Second Chance Wildlife Center does to rescue, rehabilitate, and release local wildlife, visit www.scwc.org

Thanks to our Volunteers

If you joined the chapter on or before January 2024 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.

Michael Hancock, Eric Hoggard

Welcome Aboard

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

January Membership meeting was cancelled due to the weather.

Chapter & Grounds Maintenance Day

1/17/2026 (Chair) Paul Turska

Members and Nonmembers:

None

Probationary Members: (Regular Credit)

Bill Bonk, Sam Bonk

Stream Monitoring

1/24/2026 (Chair) John Hartwell

Cancelled

Rifle/Pistol Range Clean Up

1/24/2026 (Chair) Joe Pauley

Members and Nonmembers:

Mike Seymour, Kevin Wolfe, Dean Elliott

Probationary Members: (Regular Credit)

None

Skeet/Trap Maintenance

1/25/2026 (Chair) Mark Gay

Cancelled due to Weather

Wild Animal Feeder Project

1/31/2026 (Chair) Barry Fleming

Members and Nonmembers:

Paul Turska, Cherie Acker, Dave Anderson

Probationary Members: (Conservation Credit)

Mallory Anderson

THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA
Wildlife Achievement Chapter
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

For the latest developments in Chapter events, visit us at: <http://www.DamascusIWLA.org>

.....To know the beauty and understanding of nature and the value of wildlife, woodlands and open space; to the preservation of this heritage and to mankind's sharing in it...