



MARCH 2007

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CHAPTER NEWS, EVENTS AND ARTICLES

Newsletter (Michelle Chesnut)

Attention all members – if you have an event that you want to advertise in the newsletter and that event is in the first two weeks of the month, you need to get your event into the preceding month's newsletter. Although I make every attempt at publishing the newsletter in a timely fashion, I do not start it until after the Board of Directors meeting on the first Wednesday of the month. It does not hurt to advertise well in advance or multiple times.

Newsletter Changes

Starting with the June 2007 newsletter, we will publish the newsletter primarily online. If you would like to continue receiving the printed newsletter, you need to write to Joe Gick

16601 Cavalry Drive
Rockville, MD 20853-1219

Let Joe know that you would like to receive the newsletter by post. The last paper copy you will receive will be the May 2007 edition unless you notify Joe.

Membership Meeting

This month's meeting is Wednesday, March 28. Social hour starts at 6:30 pm. Dave Jacobson has asked Kathy Marmot of the American Chestnut Foundation, to talk about efforts to restore the American chestnut. This is an important topic for our chapter because we are planning to participate in the American chestnut restoration by planting an orchard on our property.

Please join with your fellow chapter members for camaraderie and a fine meal. This month is corned-beef and cabbage – yum.

Membership Renewals for 2007 (Joe Gick)

Renewal time for 2007 has officially come and gone. As we have told you many times, your membership for 2006 ended on 12/31/06. The month grace period ended on 01/31/07. If you wish to stay a member in our club, you have to pay your back dues plus an additional \$40 late fee. If you do not do this and want to come back into the club, you cannot rejoin until January 2008 or later at which time we will charge you yearly dues plus a \$40 initiation fee (or whatever fees are in effect at that time.)

Additionally, we will consider you to be a new member and will be probationary for two years under our new rules.

Do we have your e-mail? (Joe Gick)

Recently, the club grounds were closed to all entry for over a week. We sent an e-mail notice to all of the members that we had on file. If you did not get this message, then we do not have your e-mail address. In fact, we don't have this information for over 400 members. Please send it today to Joe.Gick@Verizon.net. We promise to protect it and never sell or distribute it. We will only use it to inform you of what is happening that is of general interest.

Change of Address (Joe Gick)

Please notify Joe Gick our Membership Secretary of all changes of address, phone number, or e-mail. If you move and don't tell us, your forwarding order will probably expire and you will not get a renewal bill. Please keep your record up to date. Send a message to Joe.Gick@Verizon.net or Joe Gick, 16601 Cavalry Dr, Rockville MD 20853.

Winter Woes (Conley Phipps)

The snow/sleet/freezing rain of last week took its toll big time on the Chapter facilities. The shear weight of the mixture tore 150 plus feet of gutter from the Green Shed. We will replace the gutters and install additional snow management devices to the tune of about a thousand dollars. If that wasn't enough, as the melt began the shed was flooded from run-off from the frozen ground. For two days, the melt washed into the shed wreaking havoc on supplies.



Figure 1-Ice (Photo by Tony Evans)

Over many years, the French drain system that was built into the shed floor to handle such run-off has become

blocked by silt and just won't do the job ... sounds like a spring project. On Wednesday 21st of February Tommy Riley, Guy Wright and Chuck Crooks pumped water with a small sump to the tune of over two thousand gallons of water. While the pump did its job, it too suffered a calamity and disintegrated the impeller. Off to the store to purchase another pump and back on the job – this time finishing the job, or so they thought. On Thursday it had to be done all over again as the continuing melt flooded the shed again. This time Tommy and I manned the pump, chopped ice and attempted to keep supplies from sustaining further damage.

While the pump did its job, Guy, Tommy and Chuck plowed much of the Chapter roadways and parking areas but with the hard freeze, our equipment just couldn't handle the job. One of our neighbors and Chapter members Josh Jones brought in his ATV with a front plow and managed to plow the Rifle Range Road but even with that the road still remains impassable as melt and refreezing has made it somewhat of a skating rink.

On Friday Tommy pumped Trap House #2 out, as it had almost two feet of water inside and threatened to do serious damage to our machines. On Saturday, a hardy group of shooters managed to shovel and chop their way through the ice and muck and opened two fields. Thanks to "Jay" Jeffries, Mark Gay, Mark Lawson and all the others who pitched in.

The regular Maintenance Day activities scheduled for Sunday 25 February were cancelled due to, you guessed it, another winter storm.

Beginner, Novice Reloading Class (Conley Phipps)
Despite weather woes, we held the Beginner/Novice Reloading Class on Saturday 24 February. All things considered, we had a reasonable turnout for a "first time event". We discussed a lot of information on reloading and safety procedures. Attendee and member Jim Rush won the MEC reloader that we gave as a door prize.

In the near future an announcement will be in the Newsletter, both hardcopy and Internet version, regarding an Advanced Reloading Class for the Bench enthusiast. Tentatively Jose Scoseria and Jim Rush have expressed a desire to teach the Advanced Reloading Class. Please watch for the announcement.

A special thanks to Michael Fleisher, Chuck Crooks and Joel Gross for teaching the Beginner/Novice classes in rifle, cowboy and shot shell reloading. Thanks guys!

Chapter Air Pistol Championship Match (Phil Dean)
We will be hosting the chapter's air pistol championship match on Monday evenings, April 9 and April 16. You may shoot on either of the evenings whichever best fits your schedule. Target setup will be at 6:30 PM and the firing will begin at 7:00 PM. The course of fire will be 60 shots (12 targets of 5 shots each) on the NRA B-40 10 meter target using the appropriate NRA match rules. For additional information, contact Phillip Dean (301-865-8202).

Changes in Range Access Rules (Joe Gick)

As of April 1, 2007, every member who shoots on ***any range***, including the rifle range, pistol ranges, outdoor air rifle range, the archery range, and the skeet/trap ranges, must be visibly wearing a Range Access card. If you do not have one, you must attend a Range Orientation class, held at 10:00 A.M. on the last Sunday of the month. (Check the online calendar at www.damascusIWLA.org)

The only exception to wearing a Range Access card is if you are shooting in an event where non-members are invited that are not specific guests of members under current Chapter Rules. Such events include Cowboy Action Shoots, Seneca Valley Matches, Breaking Clay to Save the Bay, etc.

This is the last month to obtain your Range Access card so that you do not have an interruption in range access.

New Cowboy Shooter Clinic (Chuck Crooks)

We will hold the next New Cowboy Shooter Clinic, at our IWLA-WAC Chapter, on Saturday, March 31, 2007. There will be two sessions. The first class starts at 8:00 AM and a second class at 12:00 PM. This will be the first of two clinics in 2007. Class size is limited, and seats are on a first come, first served basis. You can view the **APPLICATION** on the web, fill it out on line and print a copy from your PC. If you cannot wait for the clinic, please contact **Chuckaroo** for alternative options.

The purpose of the clinics is to introduce the sport to potential enthusiasts who would like to try it without "the whole world watching." Though playing the game under the watchful eye of the Range Officers and their timer is part of the fun, it can be a little intimidating if you're new at it. SAFETY and fun are the real focus of the sport, and we would like to be sure everyone gets off to the right start. Students will learn how we play the game, 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 is 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 a real cowboy scenario or two using the ol' hoglegs, 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 the loading of revolvers, rifles and shotguns. For additional information, contact **Chuckaroo** (WildlifeRangers@aol.com) 301-831-9666.

Upcoming Roasts (Steve Lefebvre 301 482-1898)

In support of our conservation committee programs, we will be holding two outdoor festivals during 2007: the Annual Spring Bull Roast on Saturday, May 12, and the Annual Fall Pig Roast on Saturday, September 29. There will be plenty of outdoor activities

including crafts demonstrations and other exhibitors, a clown and games for the kids, open pit barbecue food and beverages, and live entertainment. Tickets are available at a 25% discount at all membership meetings. Mark your calendars to reserve those dates. For more information, contact Steve Lefebvre at (301) 482-1898.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Conservation (Meo Curtis)

The Conservation Committee is sponsoring a number of activities this month, some re-scheduled due to the February Freeze. Check the Conservation Committee web page <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzeo63qr/index.html> for additional details. Hope to see you at one or more of these activities.

March 10. Saturday. Lower Haulings Tree Planting on Brighton Dam Road. 9 a.m. until 200 trees are planted. Jeff Deschamps at 301-604-3736 or jeff.deschamps@verizon.net Qualifies as a conservation work credit.

March 13. Tuesday. Build a Nest Box and learn how to attract birds! 7:30 p.m. at the Chapter. Bill Ladd. 301-482-1128.

March 21. Wednesday. 'Make and Take' Rain Barrel Workshop. Conserve water and control runoff from your yard. 7:30 p.m. at the Chapter. Jeff Deschamps at 301-604-3736 or jeff.deschamps@verizon.net. Special thanks to Bill Gazdik for leading the barrel preparation!

March 25. Sunday. Garden Maintenance Day. Help spruce up the chapter grounds for spring. 10 a.m. at the Chapter. Bill Ladd 301-482-1128. This is the monthly work day and helping out with the gardens and grounds will count toward the conservation work credit.

Time for spring clean ups!

The snow is melting and that means we can see the trash and litter along our roadsides and streams pretty clearly these days.

This year, the Chapter will be sponsoring its annual Upper Patuxent watershed clean-up on Saturday April 7th. Meet at the maintenance shed at 9 a.m. This counts as a conservation work credit for probationary members and can also be counted for Student Service Learning credits if the paperwork is brought on that day.

Anyone who has helped in one of our clean ups and adopt-a-road events has noticed the significant amount of cans and bottles. Most of these can be EASILY recycled through curbside pickup and yet some people don't want to make that simple effort. Eleven other states have created incentives via fee redemption programs (i.e. 'bottle bills) in tandem with mandatory recycling and been

successful in reducing the amount of cans and bottles in roadside and stream litter.

This year, the Maryland State legislature may consider a 'Bottle Bill'. Key elements of proposed House Bill 839 (HB839) include requiring the State to pay a handling fee and refund value to a redemption center and requiring each county to open at least one redemption center. The solid waste agencies of at least some local governments are concerned that the refund system may affect revenues generated from the existing recycling contracts. Each locality, however, may set up a redemption center at the local transfer station or landfill and thereby recoup any loss of revenue from beverage containers diverted from the municipal recycling pick up.

HB839 has been assigned to the Environmental Matters Committee, chair Maggie McIntosh and co-chair James E. Malone, Jr. Check out the bill at <http://mlis.state.md.us/2007rs/billfile/HB0839.htm>. If you think this bill will create a successful incentive program and reduce litter, write or send e-mails to the members of the Environmental Matters Committee and to your delegates to encourage support.

If you can't help on our watershed cleanup, there are many other opportunities in the region.

* Potomac River Watershed Cleanup, sponsored by the Alice Ferguson Foundation, Saturday March 31 and Sunday April 1. Help cleanup up your local parks and the Potomac River. Last year volunteers contributed over 2,000 hours of work. www.PotomacCleanup.org.

* Patuxent River Watershed Cleanup. Saturday April 14. Many sites throughout the Patuxent Watershed. www.cleanpatuxent.org.

* Project Clean Stream. Saturday April 14. 9 a.m.-Noon. Central/Eastern MD, various sites. An annual event that drew over 2,500 volunteers in 2006! Lend a hand to clean up local streams and shoreline. Contact Kate Dowling, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. 410- 377-6270

* Anacostia River Earth Day Cleanup, sponsored by the Anacostia Watershed Society, Saturday April 21. Celebrate Earth Day by cleaning up along our local streams and keeping trash out of the Anacostia River. 8:30AM - 12:00PM, clean up. 12:00PM - 2:00PM:- Celebration Rally at the Bladensburg Waterfront Park including live entertainment, food and drinks. Call 301-699-6204 or info@anacostiaws.org to volunteer.

Thanks To Our Volunteers: (Conley Phipps)

Probationary members are required to help with two chapter events during their first year of WAC membership. As of **MARCH** that requirement will change to **FOUR PROJECTS** over **TWO YEARS**. **As of now, at least one of those events each year must be a conservation activity.** If you are a probationary member, and don't see your name in the newsletter after helping out with an event, it would be prudent to contact the

person who ran the event and find out why. Additionally be sure to have that activity person notify me of this fact. Following are the names from the sign-up sheets for several recent events. Thanks to all. The following probationary member graduated to full membership status as having completed his required projects: **Gary Green**.

February General Membership Meeting Kitchen Staff and KP's: Chef Jorge Silva; Servers Joe Carinci, Jose Tassara; KP Duty Tim Good, and Gary Green.

Chapter maintenance: MARCH 3 & 4, 2007

Josh Jonas, Tom Riley, Guy Wright, Jon J. Metrey, David Jacobson, Gary Green, Paul Turska, Jake Turska, Conley Phipps, Tim Mulreany, Mark Gay and Ray Gottlieb.

Wild Game Dinner additional support: Frank Lavorata and Paolo Amedeo

Also thanks to those that have brought empty "shot bags" to the Range House so they can be recycled as "rest bags" for the rifle and pistol bench shooters.

If I have failed to credit anyone for a required work project, please contact Conley Phipps @ 301-460-8528 or phippscd@hotmail.com.

New Members (Joe Gick)

Please welcome the following new members to our chapter.

Phillip Parker-Walker and Corey F Leach sponsored by Bill Schneider

Patrick Brice sponsored by Bob Schneider

Nolen F Roberson sponsored by Brandon Kinikin

Bill Pavan, Bill Stansell, David M Huott, Scott Davis,

Steven L Myers sponsored by Joe Gick

Daniel J Schmidt sponsored by Peter Mell

Glenn Clark and James S Wimbish sponsored by Phil Poulin

Andy Abrams and Patrick Abrams sponsored by Walter Frear

Marco A Mattucci sponsored by Wayne Sterling

Traditional Archery (Tom Oullette)

Beginning with the start of daylight savings time the Traditional Archery Club will be meeting on Wednesday's at the archery range around 6:00 PM. Dust off your stick bow and join us to fling arrows.

Rifle and Pistol Range Report (Guy Wright)

INFORMATION: For more information about any rifle or pistol range activities mentioned in this article, contact Guy Wright, by e-mail, at guywright@verizon.net or telephone 301-253-4604(home) or 301-775-3741(cell).

SHOOTING HOURS: Permitted rifle and pistol range shooting hours are posted on the box, which contains the range sign-in register, as well as above the range entry card reader. For March 2007, starting time is 10:00 AM daily and ending time is 6:00 PM, unless some activity has pre-empted the range (**see "Upcoming Events Affecting Range Availability" below**).

NEW ITEMS

I've Seen Snow and I've Seen Ice: Well the short month of February turned out to be "payback" time for the mild weather we had during December and January. The Club was closed for the first time in its history because of 5"-6" of sleet and freezing rain that promptly froze solid the next night, taking down more than sixty white pine branches around the club. The range road has been closed for more than two weeks despite the efforts of Josh Jonas (thanks Josh!) to push slush off the road and range parking area so that the sun can get to the ice beneath. Now, as I write, WeatherBug has just warned me of a flash flood warning. Looks like March is truly coming in like a lion. Hopefully with some strong sun and above freezing nights, the range road will thaw enough on it's steepest parts to reopen soon.

REMINDERS

Plywood Donations Your donations of plywood for use as target backers on the rifle and pistol ranges are always welcome. For backers, the plywood should be 1/2 inch or thicker and either pre-cut or capable of being cut into pieces 2'x2' (pistol range) or 2'x4' (rifle range). Please help keep the WAC looking good by dropping off your donations by the sliding door on the back side of the green equipment shed; that is, at the side nearest the chapter house. Thanks

Rifle and Pistol Range Rules: The rules governing Rifle and Pistol Range safety, conduct, permissible firearms, and violation policy are posted at the covered pistol range, the covered rifle range, the notice board between the pistol ranges, the notice board at the path leading to the covered rifle range, on the chapter WEB site (damascusiwla.org) and in MS Word format from me via email, when requested. Sometimes questions come up. Though our bylaws indicate that you can call any Board of Directors member about these rules, you will be better served to start with the folks closest to them, i.e., range orientation instructors or the committee chairman.

Range Sign-In Information Change: All members must write the member number shown on their range badge in the area provided next to their name. Please write legibly.

Up-Coming Events Affecting Range Availability:

Military Fun Rifle Shoot on Saturday March 10, 2007 from 10:00AM to 1:00PM on the Rifle Range. The Rifle Range will be closed during this time. For additional information, you can contact Jose Tassara at 301-431-2799.

Practical Defense Match on Saturday March 17, 2007 from 9:00AM to 2:00PM on Pistol Range 1. **(Please note that participants will meet at 9:30 AM in the Rathskeller for registration; don't go directly to the range).** Pistol Range 1 will be closed during this time. For additional information, you can contact Jesse Lim via e-mail at jlím@phillips.com or telephone 301-540-0860 (evenings only please).

Cowboy Action Setup on Friday March 23, 2007. Rifle and Pistol Ranges will be closed beginning at 1:00PM.

Cowboy Action Shoot on Saturday March 24, 2007 from 8:00AM to 3:30PM. Rifle and Pistol Ranges will be closed during this time.

Seneca Valley HP Match on Saturday April 7, 2007 from 8:30AM to 2:00PM. Rifle Range is closed.

Bowling Pin Shoot on Saturday April 14, 2007 from 9:00AM to 2:00PM on Pistol Range 1. **(Please note that participants will meet at 9:30 AM in the Rathskeller for registration; don't go directly to the range).** Pistol Range 1 will be closed during this time. For additional information, you can contact Jesse Lim via e-mail at jjlim@phillips.com or telephone 301-540-0860 (evenings only please).

Cowboy Action Setup on Friday April 27, 2007. Rifle and Pistol Ranges will be closed beginning at 1:00PM.

Cowboy Action Shoot on Saturday April 28, 2007 from 8:00AM to 3:30PM. Rifle and Pistol Ranges will be closed during this time.

If anyone has any topics or items they wish to include in future newsletters, send them to Guy Wright at the listed email address and include some contact info in case there are questions.

Save Our Stream – SOS (Michelle Chesnut)
(Photos by Michelle Chesnut)



Figure 2 - Dragonfly larvae

The Stream Waders and SOS workshops were a huge success. There were more than 80 volunteer stream waders at the March 3 event. These volunteers are now prepared to collect stream samples from Maryland watersheds. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources uses the data from the samples to help Maryland state, county and local governments as well as watershed groups plan for improvements to our streams

by determining where water quality is impaired. Without the stream waders, DNR could not sample as many watersheds; they do not have the funding for such a large project.



Figure 3 - Kami Watson-Ferguson talks about the macroinvertebrates.



Figure 4 - Leah Miller demonstrates the SOS method
Our National IWLA office trained more than 30 people to use the IWLA SOS protocol for stream sampling. The SOS protocol allows you to determine, streamside, the quality of the streams that concern you. Neighborhood groups have used the SOS methods to catch pollution events in their neighborhood streams. Additionally, it is a great way to teach children about the importance of water quality.



Figure 5 - One of the many macroinvertebrate we found.

If anyone is interested in learning this method or starting an SOS sampling, please contact Michelle Chesnut at smc_geek@msn.com or 301-831-0237.

Range Orientation (Ray Logan)

Another effect of the weather woes was that we had to cancel the range orientation class on February 25. We had a make-up class on March 4.

Thank you to Signature Cigar for allowing a new member to take the range class at their store.

Trap and Skeet (Paul Turska turska77@netscape.net or 301-252-7011)

Beginning March 14 and continuing throughout the summer, the Trap and Skeet ranges are open on Wednesdays from 2:00 until 7:00 pm.

On Saturday, March 17, from noon until 4:00 pm, we are hosting a Trap and Skeet Fun Shoot. This is a great opportunity to enjoy trap and skeet with other Ikes. If you are a novice or if you have never shot trap and skeet, there will be many people willing to help you get started with this fun and skillful sport. The chapter also has a few shotguns that you may use if you do not have one of your own.

Anytime you are shooting trap and skeet, say thank you to the many volunteer range officers that make it possible. You will notice that the same names are on this list month after month and all of them deserve your appreciation.



Figure 6 - What to do on a snowy day. (Photo by Tony Evans)

IWLA RANGE ROSTER 2006 (Bill Rahn)

MARCH 2006

- Sat 3/11 Carl McMahon, Rob Taylor, " The Fichter Gang "
- Sun 3/12 Martin Cherry, Randy & Evan Stewart, Michael Fleisher
- Sat 3/18 Mike Webb, Mike Bowen, Ira Wein, Dave Gold ,Peter Currall
- Sun 3/19 Tim Olsen, Robert Case, Jim & Judy Crowell
- Sat 3/25 Paul Fisher, Red Gambrell, Richard Zabell, Tony Evans

APRIL 2006

- Sat 4/1 Charlie Weaver, Bill Rahn, Rob Taylor, Carl McMahon
- Sun 4/2 Steve Hunt, Ronnie Gravitt, Ryan Cooley, Bob Cooley
- Sat 4/8 " The Fichter Gang "
- Sun 4/9 Paul Turska, Jake Turska, Tim Mulreany
- Sat 4/15 Peter Currall, Ira Wein, Dave Gold
- Sun 4/16 Jim & Judy Crowell, Robert Case, Martin Cherry
- Sat 4/22 Tony Evans, Paul Fisher, Red Gambrell
- Sun 4/23 Joel Gross, Peter Sittner, Tim Olsen
- Sat 4/29 Mike Bowen, Mike Webb, Richard Zabell
- Sun 4/30 Rob Van Tassell, Frank Saenz, Randy & Evan Stewart

Newsletter Contributions (Michelle Chesnut smc_geek@msn.com)

Thanks to Meo Curtis, Bill Rahn, Phil Dean, Conley Phipps, Guy Wright, Chuck Crooks, Joe Gick, Paul Turska, Steve Lefebvre, Ray Logan, Tom Ouellette and Michelle Chesnut for their contributions to this newsletter. Tony Evans and Michelle Chesnut took photos in the web version.

If anyone has any topics or items they wish to include in future newsletters, send them to Michelle Chesnut at the above email address and include some contact info in case there are questions.