



Wildlife Achievement Chapter
Izaak Walton League of America
NOVEMBER 2019

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
---	--	--	--

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

“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter the words, but to live by them.” John F. Kennedy

I find this quote by John F. Kennedy very insightful. Not only the month of November – but all months of the year, we should honor and show appreciation for Veterans and our Active Duty men and women. Thank you to all for your service to our country and protecting our freedoms. The November General Membership Meeting we will be celebrating Thanksgiving. Please join us on November 20th for deep-fried turkey and all the trimmings! Hope to see you there!

Please check our WAC calendar for upcoming classes and events. There are also opportunities to provide your service to WAC. As always I ask members to help on the last Sunday of the month to provide a helping hand to maintain the Chapter's grounds and ranges. Sunday November 24th is our next scheduled Chapter Maintenance Day and Range Clean-Up. Please meet at the Green Shed at 9:00 a.m. for work assignments.

On the same day - Sunday November 24th - the Club and Range Orientation at 9:30 a.m. in the upper-hall is also scheduled. Please RSVP to Jean Aker by calling (301) 330-9468.

The Christmas Cookie Bake and Exchange - December 14th 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in WAC's Kitchen and Upper Hall is a great way to spend time with family. Children are welcome to attend – we will be decorating Sugar Cookies in the hall. I will be providing basic ingredients (i.e. flour, sugar, butter, and hot ovens). Please bring any special ingredients your cookie recipe requires. I'm looking forward to sampling all the cookies.

Our Annual Wild Game Dinner and Auction is scheduled Saturday January 25th. Auction items are being accepted – as well as Wild Game. Please label all donations. Wild Game also needs to be labeled with Kill Date – and placed in downstairs refrigerator/freezer. Volunteers are needed the day before for set-up, the day of the event, and the following day for clean-up. Help in the kitchen is also needed. If you are interested in volunteering – please contact me at

Cherie.Aker@gmail.com

Thank you again to all our Veterans and Active Duty Service Members!

Cherie Aker

WINTER WEATHER CLOSURES

It is time to let everyone know the procedures during winter weather events.

During snow, sleet and ice events, there is a potential that ranges or chapter events could be closed, cancelled or rescheduled.

Snow removal is done in the following order, Chapter main road and upper parking lot is first. The road to the back of the building and the skeet parking is second. The road to the airgun range is third. The road to the ranges and lower parking lot is last. Any road closures will be listed on the main header of the chapter website.

The range road is difficult to clear completely. For two wheel drive vehicles it can remain unusable while 4 wheel drive vehicles would be permitted. Much of the road does not get direct sunlight to clear the remaining snow after being plowed. We do not clear all the way to the gravel. In either case, you use the road at your own risk When we totally close the road, no one its to use it even if you have a 4 wheeled vehicle. When the road is totally closed, the gate will be made inoperable. When the road is closed to all vehicles, the range is also closed.

Event closures will be listed on the web calendar and it will be updated as conditions warrant. Event contacts must let Chuck Crooks (WildlifeRangers@aol.com) know if you have cancelled your event, so he can post it on the calendar and send a club Email to all members. During severe weather, it is possible that we may cancel all activities due to unsafe conditions. That notice will be on the main header of the web page and an Email will be sent to all members that we have a valid Email address on file. Keep in mind that those that clear the road must be able to get there and that it could take more than a day to complete the plowing. If you have a vehicle with a plow, and are willing to volunteer it and you, contact Chuck Crooks during the snow event (WildlifeRangersd@aol.com).

If you are in doubt about and event being cancelled, use the contact information on the calendar to verify the status of the event.

Conservation (Meo Curtis)

Brookeville-Reddy Branch Tree Project. Sunday October 20 was a good day for our Brookeville-Reddy Branch tree project maintenance. Most of the work was removing metal cages that protected the young trees from deer browse and deer rub. The trees are mostly big enough that it is time to remove those cages. We began with saplings and now it's a forest, providing shade, shelter, food, and oxygen and filtering pollutants in runoff to the stream.

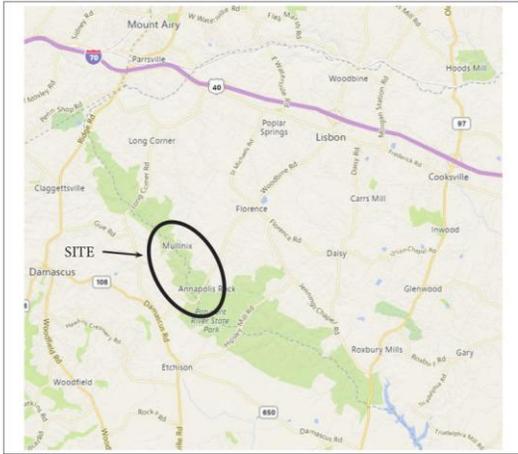


Watershed Clean Up. We had a little bit of 'mizzle' during our Fall Watershed Clean up on Saturday October 26. Thanks to the other 19 folks who helped out, including six Patuxent-Potomac Trout Unlimited members. Along Mullinix Mill Road from Damascus Road, once again, there were many plastic bottles containing used chewing tobacco and many small liquor bottles. Total haul: about 28 contractor bags of litter (mostly recyclable bottles and cans), a chest without drawers, a car tire, and miscellaneous items too large or awkward for bags. We look forward to the day when there is nothing to pick up from our roadsides! (Picture next page)



Patuxent River Trail Project (PRTP). It has been a long process to get here, but during late September we got great news for the PRTP to make that trail system more usable and more environmentally sustainable. For many years, the Maryland Off-road Road Enthusiasts (MORE) have been working with Maryland DNR for trail improvements. They have now received all the needed trail permits and have final approval to begin construction in the upstream Phase 1 area! The map shows showing the location of the project area, with the Phase 1 section including area adjacent to the Chapter's property. This includes the first seven miles of what will eventually be 25-plus miles of multi-use trail.

The kickoff project took place on Saturday, October 5 and Chapter Vice-President Rodger Moran was present to help out. In two workdays so far, volunteers have built about one-third mile with only five to eight people each day. The work is now switching to Sundays because of hunting seasons. Next work day is scheduled for Sunday November 17. More information about the project is at: <https://www.facebook.com/paxriversp/>



Vicinity Map

Save Our Streams (SOS) Monitoring. Sunday November 3 was a gorgeous fall day and great for monitoring the Upper Patuxent River at Mullinix Mill Road. Water quality good to excellent as it has been since our Chapter's first SOS monitoring at this site in July 2017. Thanks to Tim Goodfellow and Bill McFarland (group photo!) from the Audubon Naturalist Society for helping out.



WSSC Water staff for a day of tree maintenance at our Triadelphia Recreation Area.

We are looking for volunteers who don't mind walking through tall grass and winter temps to take care of a few hundred trees in need of some TLC. This is a great opportunity for anyone who wants to get in some mid-day steps, fresh air and help our watershed thrive.

During the event volunteers will be removing the tree tubes that protected these trees from deer when they were young. Now at 5 years old they are tall enough and strong enough to withstand the deer but need our help to remove the plastic which could hinder their growth.

This event is recommended for people who are able to bend over as well as stand and walk on uneven ground for a long period of time. Children 10 and older are permitted as long as a guardian stays with them.

We will provide all necessary training and materials just come dressed in layers, sturdy boots or sneakers and a warm hat and jacket.

This event requires registration at the link below. If you sign up, please enter WAC after your name so we can verify participation.

<https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/20f0a48a9af28a0f58-triadelphia>

Shotgun Range Schedule (Steve Olsen)

December, 2019

Sun 12/1	Mark Gay, Dan Cimborra
Sat 12/7	Mash Esfanaji, Mary Esfanaji
Sun 12/8	George King, Gary Giambalvo
Sat 12/14	Arden Young, Alfred Cross
Sun 12/15	Maj Tavakoli, Mike Webb
Sat 12/21	Jeff Tokar, Bob Cumberland
Sun 12/22	Dave Anderson, Rodger Moran
Sat 12/28	Adam & Kim Buynak
Sun 12/29	Dave Stevenson, Jay DeVan

Rifle/Pistol Committee (Hans Varmer)

Basics / Skill

Last month we highlighted Knowledge as the first of three items forming the foundation of the NRA Basic Rifle and Pistol Classes. This month we emphasize Skill. I found this quote by Ankit Sahay: “Without sharpening your weapon; standing on the battlefield would not increase your chance of winning.” You can’t acquire skills the classroom – the classroom can only instruct you on how to acquire skills when you go to the range. And in the shooting sports that means hundreds, if not thousands of rounds.

Sadly, many people reach a kind of plateau of skill beyond which they never seem to advance. To help you grow in skill we are encouraging you to take the **Winchester Pistol Marksmanship Qualification**.

This is a skill building program in which a course of fire takes you from beginning levels and advances through intermediate and expert levels. Everyone who has recently attended a WAC

Basic Pistol or Rifle course has received a copy of the Winchester Marksmanship Qualification. And everyone who passed the course obtained the “Basic Practical” designation. From there you would go for “Pro-Marksman. Here you would shoot 10 rounds on paper plates at 15 feet (5 Yards) from a benchrest position. To progress in skill to “Marksman” you would shoot 10 rounds on paper plates at 15 feet, but from a standing 2-hand position. Each level gets progressively harder, but that’s what it takes to develop you skills.

Please note recent additions to the calendar:
Utah Conceal Carry on Saturday, December 8
Personal Protection In The Home, Sunday, December 7

RANGE SAFETY (Chuck Crooks)

The club has had security cameras in place for about 6 years. The cameras became necessary after some property thefts and general safety concerns.

Range rules are established for a reason. They are designed to protect the safety of all members, their guests, our neighbors and our property. For these reasons, we take range violations very seriously. No matter how trivial you might think a rule is, there is a basis for safety that must be adhered to.

All range safety rules are accessible from our web site's main menu under the Rifle and Pistol Safety Rules link or you can take this direct link
<http://www.damascusiwl.org/RiflePistolRules.html>

Recently there has been a series of range rule violations including; shooting from a holster at a non-sanctioned event, failure to display range cards for members and their guests, shooting from the hip, shooting beyond the posted hours, failure to wear safety glasses, failure to write a guests name on the sign in log, using rifle caliber firearms on the pistol ranges and having more than one firearm on the firing line at the same time.

Initial violations (handled by the rifle and pistol committee) can be a warning and/or suspension from the ranges until you retake the range safety course. Serious violations may be reviewed by the board of directors for disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the club.

As you know, firearm ranges are always on the radar, especially in our area. Therefore we make our rules and the safety of our members and guests a priority.

As range officers, you are asked to report known violations to the rifle and pistol chairman.

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

If you joined the chapter on or before **November 2017** 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.

**James Rolfes
Robert K. Johnson**

Brookeville Tree Work

10/13/2019

Members:

Jeff Deschamps, Meo Curtis and Jim Piatieski

Probationary Members: (Conservation Credit)

Eric Dankewicz, Glenn Wasik, John Fineran,
Kevin Wittenberger, Peter Wagner and Tan Ser

BOD Shoot

10/13/2019

Members:

Chuck Crooks, George Hughes and Steve Elko

Rachel Carson Park (fifth year at this Site)

10/20/2019

Members, Family, and Nonmembers:

Barry Fleming, Steve Meyer, Sid Everhart and
Wandelene Smith Everhart

Park Employees:

Kathern Nelson and Kristen Taddei

Probationary Members: (Conservation Credit)

Albert Srebnick, Eric Dankewicz, Kevin Wolf,
John Matt Kenyon, Tan Ser, Robert Johnson,
James Markham and Jan Lewandrowski

Cops and Cowboys (Set-up)

10/25/2019

Members, Family, and Nonmembers:

Chuck Limparis, Chuck Crooks, Richard Bendt,
George Hughes, Frank D. Early. Jim Piatieski,

Paul Bluteau and Old Baldy
Probationary Members:(Regular Credit)
Kenneth Milcetic, Devin Mayer, Neil Burkinshaw.

Watershed Clean Up

10/26/2019

Members, Family, and Nonmembers:

Sid Everhart, Wandelene Everhart, Marti Wade,
Bob Kaiser, Ron Kenrick, Steve Meyer, Bill Ladd,
Robert Simpson, Dennis Tirpak, Alan Burrows,
Lee Canby, Ellen Fineran, Doug Goodin, Meo
Curtis, Jeff Deschamps and Jim Piateski

Probationary Members: (Conservation Credit)

Frank Corn, Ken Milcetic, Albert Srebnick and
John Fineran

Range Maintenance Day

10/27/2019

Members: Chuck Crooks, Al Goldschmidts,
Joe Pauley and Guy wright

Probationary Members:(Regular Credit)

Sean Kirk and Kevin Wolf

Membership Renewals Support

10/27/2019

Members: Chuck Crooks and Jesse Lim

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, Hans Varmer, Meo Curtis and Steve Olsen 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 to:

Tim Garrity
PO 1630
Olney, MD 20830
membership@iwlawac.org