



DECEMBER 2007

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CHAPTER NEWS, EVENTS AND ARTICLES

DUES INCREASE FOR 2008 (Joe Gick)

For any members joining after January 1, 2008, there will be an increase of \$20 in the yearly dues (to \$130 per year) and an increase in the one time initiation fee of \$20 when joining. These costs will not affect current members until you renew for 2009. We have kept the costs the same for many years, and kept dipping into our reserve fund to do so. Increasing insurance, energy, and supply costs make this impossible. Our dues only cover about one third of what it costs to run the chapter. We REALLY need your participation at our BBQ's and similar events to bring in additional revenue and to offset future increases.

To help put things in perspective, if you go to Starbucks just one time each week for a year and buy a Grande Latte, it will cost you over \$221.00. That is 70% more than what it costs to be a member of our club - a real deal!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Steve Lefebvre)

For many of us, the cold is setting in but our hearts are warming up for the holidays. Come to the club with your family and cut your own Christmas tree, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. any Saturday or Sunday in December. And, if you are around the club on any Saturday, stop by and warm up at the blacksmiths forge. It is a great place to observe blacksmiths pound out works of art as well as catch up on current events and discuss important issues. Also, plan to join us for fun and merriment at the following upcoming events:

Wednesday, December 19, 2007 - General Membership Meeting - Italian Dinner and Holiday Party - social hour at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7:30 p.m. and membership meeting at 8:00 p.m. Don't forget to bring a dessert for everyone to share.

Wednesday, January 23, 2008 - General Membership Meeting - Pizza Night - social hour at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7:30 p.m. and membership meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 26, 2008 - Wild Game Dinner and Auction - 5:00 auction and 7:30 dinner - We still need donations of food items and auction items (but no exercise or old computer equipment). Contact Rich Fried at 301-253-2789.

From all of your elected representatives on the Board of Directors, we wish you and yours a happy and safe holiday season.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING - DECEMBER CHRISTMAS PARTY

In addition to our scheduled dinner on Wednesday, December 19, we are asking everyone attending to bring some cookies or your favorite Holiday Dessert to share with everyone.

NEST BOX WORKSHOP (Jeff Deschamps)

The first event for 2008 will be the Nest box Workshop. In the past, we have held the workshop on a weekday evening. In order to accommodate people that have been unable to attend during the week, we will hold the workshop on Saturday, January 12, at 7:30 pm. This is a popular event for kids as after a short presentation each family gets to assemble their own nest box. To register or get more information on this event contact Bill Ladd (301-482-1128).

THE HOLIDAY SEASON, HERE ONCE AGAIN (Greg Talimini)

Once again, the holidays are upon us. We take time to give thanks for our blessings, we spend time with family and friends, take time to worship in our own ways, maybe exchange gifts and then on to celebrate the New Year.

In addition to our normal holiday festivities, we should take time to thank those who are not able to be home with their families because they are away protecting our freedoms. Let them know we appreciate their service. Take the time to show your support to our active military personnel and our veterans. They have given us so much. If you would like the opportunity to say thank you to our service women and men, go to www.letsSaythanks.com. This web site will let you pick out a card and send it to a service person in Iraq at no charge; you can pick out the card but not the recipient.

WILD GAME DINNER AUCTION (Chuck Limparris)

Do you have your Tickets Yet! It's almost time once again for the annual Wild Game Dinner and Auction. This year we will be holding the event on Saturday, 26 January 2008. You may view auction items starting at 3:00pm with silent auctions and a few early bird items starting at 5:00pm. Tickets are on sale now at the Dinner Meetings. Don't delay as this event always sells out!

Once again, the auction will include the several weeks at Port Largo Villas Resort in Key Largo, Florida. You can view additional information about the facility online at their website, www.PortLargoVillas.Org. The weeks run Friday-to-Friday with Check-In at 4:00pm and Checkout at 10:00am.

These weeks have been very popular in the past and many of the auction winners have been repeats from prior years. The dates for the weeks available at the auction this year are as follows.

Friday, 4 April 2008 - Friday, 11 April 2008
Friday, 11 April 2008 - Friday, 18 April 2008
Friday, 18 April 2008 - Friday, 25 April 2008
Friday, 1 August 2008 - Friday, 8 August 2008
Friday, 15 August 2008 - Friday, 22 Aug 2008
Friday, 22 August 2008 - Friday, 29 Aug 2008

The spring is an awesome time to be in the Florida Keys and for those of you who are scuba divers, lobster season starts August 6th, so the last two weeks are prime hunting season! Hope to See You There and Happy Bidding!!

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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CONSERVATION (Jeff Deschamps and Meo Curtis)

The winter months are usually a quiet time for conservation activities, it's cold, the ground is frozen, and we are thinking more about staying warm while we enjoy the brief periods of snowy weather we get in these parts. If you get lots of new tools and toys, but have old ones that still work and are still usable, consider the Montgomery County 'Use it again' guide or 'Freecycle Network'. Using these you can search for local businesses and organizations that help you get the most out of items by renting, repairing, donating or selling them used!

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/swstmpl.asp?url=/content/dpwt/solidwaste/index.asp>

During January 2008, you can enjoy an outing to the Howard County Conservancy in Woodbine if you begin to get cabin fever. Go to the Second Saturday 'Wonder Talks/Wonder Walks' January 12, 10 a.m. Insect Sounds presented by Will Hershberger. Or, enjoy an entire evening of conservation movies at the *American Conservation Film Festival on the Road*, Friday January 18 and Saturday January 19 from 6 to 10 p.m. Friday night is family night--\$25 for the whole family. These films will focus on the conservation of natural landscapes and resources from Costa Rica to Alaska, with magnificent nature photography and riveting tales of people and wildlife. Go to www.hcconservancy.org or call 410-465-8877 for more information

This is also a good time to prepare for the next growing season. Our chapter and other Montgomery

County chapters have events in January and February that can help you get ready and make you more aware of ways you can help to protect our natural resources.

According to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's (CBF) 2007 report, the bay received an unhealthy passing grade of "D." At least 52 streams flow into Great Seneca Creek, the largest watershed in Montgomery County. If you live or work in zip codes 20837, 20841, 20872, 20874, 20876, 20877, 20878, 20879, 20882 or 20887, then the rain water that comes down at your home or workplace flows into Great Seneca Creek on its way to the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay. Consider attending the Rockville Chapter's meeting on January 13, 2008 from 1:00 -3:00 pm at their chapter house (18301 Waring Station Road, Germantown). Come prepared to share your concerns, ideas and energy to help take care of our water resources. Meanwhile remember that most of our streets drain directly into a creek! Do you know where your rainwater goes? Contact Cindy Stevens (famstevens@gmail.com) or Tom Vegella (TXV@mac.com) for more information. The Conservation Committee is holding a "Rain Barrel Workshop" at 7:30 pm on Tuesday February 19. If you are interesting in building your own rain barrel and finding out what you can do to control runoff from your property this is a great opportunity. To sign up send an e-mail to Jeff Deschamps (jeff.deschamps@verizon.net) or call (301) 604-3736. Pre-registration is HIGHLY recommended as we have supplies for a limited number of rain barrels. The workshop is free to members and non-members. In past years, we have had to turn people away due to limits on space and supplies so if you are interested try to pre-register early.

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS: (Conley Phipps)

Probationary members are now required to help with four chapter events during their first two years of WAC membership. At least one project MUST be in support of Chapter Conservation efforts. 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 your name has not reached me. 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.

GRADS to FULL MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Graduated to full membership status are the following: **Jean Pierre Lacombe, Sara Lacombe, Douglas Johnson and Richard A. Bendt.** Thanks to each of you for completing your requirements. We hope that you have enjoyed the participation on the projects and interaction with fellow members and will continue to be involved.

NOVEMBER 14, 2007 General Membership Meeting Hospitality, Kitchen Staff and KP's:

President Lefebvre recognized the Hospitality Crew, Rob Hallin and Ken Lefebvre. Chief Turkey cooker Rick Fried, ably assisted by Greg Talamini, prepared the Thanksgiving meal. Additional kitchen staff included Chuck Crooks, Eddie Harren, Steve Peck, Wayne Stevens, Paul Bartock, Ralph Gerharz, Dean Zuras and Jim Pike.

Chapter maintenance: NOVEMBER 25, 2007

Thank you to all members who donate their time and labor to help keep the Chapter looking neat and clean. Numerous activities took place on Sunday and several members didn't specify in which activity they participated. If I have identified you as working on a particular activity and didn't get it right my apology up front but you have received credit, maybe just not the correct project.

RIFLE & PISTOL RANGE CLEAN UP: Guy Wright, Larry Emswiler, Will Cawood, Sean Cawood and Douglas Johnson.

CHESTNUT TREES: Walt Frear Jr., Andrew Abrams and Pat Abrams



Figure 1 -- David Jacobsen caring for the American chestnut trees (Photo by Steve L Lefebvre)

SKEET & TRAP RANGE CLEAN UP: Paul Turska, Jake Turska, Peter Sittner, Alan Palestine, Paul Fisher, Mark Gay, John Hallman and the usual who wish to remain un-named

WOOD SPLITTING & STACKING: Charles Limparis, Tom Lechner, Patrick DiBella, and Larry Halvorson

CHRISTMAS TREES: John Leaman, Jean Lacombe, Sara Lacombe, Tom Tarscher and Laura Bayas

Cowboy Set-up and Teardown: NOVEMBER 23 & 24, 2007

Set-up: Chuck Crooks, Paul Bluteau, Doug Hutchison, Tom Bragg, Richard Bendt, Ron Romey, Ryan Romey, Kaylan Hutchison, Patrick DiBella and John Leaman.

Teardown: Humpty Hook, California Jen, Slowpoke John, Doc Browning, Long Gun Greg, Snake Eye Skinner, Lab Logan and River Banks

**CHAPTER RANGE ORIENTATION:
NOVEMBER 25, 2007:**

Instructors of the day were Ray G. Logan and Bruce Roth. Thanks for the great job guys.

If I have failed to credit anyone or a group for voluntarily working on an event or a required work project or misspelled a name, please contact Conley Phipps @ 301-460-8528 or phippscd@hotmail.com

RANGE ORIENTATION INSTRUCTORS

The range orientation is on December 30. Barry Ephraim and Tim Urban are this month's instructors.

MEMBERSHIP (Joe Gick)

**MEMBERS WISHING TO JOIN IN
DECEMBER 2008**

Inclement weather caused us to cancel our Board of Directors meeting on Wednesday, December 5, 2008 – the meeting where prospective new members submit their application. We will accept applications at the General Membership meeting on Wednesday, December 19. Please try to come around 6:00 P.M. if you wish to submit an application.

If you sponsored a new member for December, please let them know that we will accept their application at the General Membership Meeting.

Membership Updates

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.

Do we have your email?

Because we do not distribute our newsletter via U.S. Mail unless requested, we send out a general notice when the latest one is available. We also send occasional messages of general interest that may include emergency range closings, road closings, etc. If you have never received any of these messages, we may not have your email address. In fact, we don't have this information for over 400 members. If we don't have yours, 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. If you know of any other members that are not getting these notices, please let them know that they are missing important information about our chapter.

Editor's note: This is especially important during the winter months when extreme weather causes not only range closure, but chapter grounds closure as well. Stay informed—send your email address to Joe.

ADULT AIR GUN (Phil Dean)

An enjoyable way to spend a cold, wintery Monday evening is to join with other IKES at our indoor airgun range and participate in air pistol or air rifle shooting. We begin at 6:30 PM with range setup and begin firing at 7:00 PM. We finish about 8:15 PM. We can provide air pistols or air rifles to help you get started. Contact Phillip Dean (301-865-8202) for information.

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 at 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 December 2007, starting time is 10:00 AM daily and ending time is 4:30 PM, unless some activity has preempted the range (see **"Upcoming Events Affecting Range Availability"** below).

Thanks to Douglas Johnson, Walt Frear, Jr., Larry Emswiler, and Will Cawood and his Son Sean

Cawood for their help with range cleanup on our November Maintenance Day.

I also thank Al Goldschmidts for his HUGE donation of pre-cut pistol backers for our pistol ranges. Al continues to come through big for our rifle and pistol needs.

REMINDERS

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.

Pistol Target Backers should be replaced only when there is absolutely nothing for a new target to be stapled to. A good rule of thumb is when you can easily remove the wooden target backer and fold it in half, it should be replaced.

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

Up-Coming Events Affecting Range Availability:

Bowling Pin Shoot – Saturday December 8, 2007 from 9:00AM to 2:00PM on Pistol Range 1. Pistol Range 1 will be closed during this time. For additional information, you can contact Jesse Lim via e-mail at jlim@phillips.com or telephone 301-540-0860 (evenings only please).

.22 Fun Shoot, – Saturday December 15, 2007 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM (Rifle Range Closed During Event) - Contact Jesse Lim 301-540-0860

Christmas – Tuesday December 25, 2007. **All Ranges Are Closed.**

Practical Defense Match – Saturday January 12, 2008 from 9:00AM to 2:00PM on Pistol Range 1. Pistol Range 1 will be closed during this time. For additional information, you can contact Jesse Lim via e-mail at jlim@phillips.com or telephone 301-540-0860 (evenings only please).

Junior Rifle Practice – Saturday January 12, 2008 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM - Contact Tom Malarkey 240-246-6941 (Covered pistol range closed during event)

IWLA RANGE ROSTER (Bill Rahn)

December 2007

Please say thank you to Robert Cooley, Ryan Cooley, Tim Mulreany, Paul Turska, Jake Turska, Mark Gay Dave Fichter, George Fichter, Ron Roberson, Paul Fisher, Mike Webb, Seamus Webb, Randy Stewart and Evan Stewart for staffing the Skeet and Trap ranges earlier in December.

Sat 12/15 Peter Currall, Ira Wein, Dave Gold, Mike Bowen

Sun 12/16 Jim & Judy Crowell, Bob Case, Chris Reposa

Sat 12/22 Red Gambrell, Richard Zabell, Tony Evans, Gary Green

Sun 12/23 Rob Van Tassell, Frank Saenz, Joel Gross,

Sat 12/29 Alan Palestine, Heather Barber, Charles Weaver, Bill Rahn

Sun 12/30 Jason Ledney, Brandon Kinikin, Peter Sittner

January 2008

Sat 1/5 Tim Mulreany, Ryan Cooley, Robert Cooley, Robert Jeffery

Sun 1/6 Mark Gay, Bob Case, Paul Turska, Jake Turska, Martin Cherry

Sat 1/12 Paul Fisher, Ron Roberson, George Fichter, Dave Fichter

Sun 1/13 Randy & Evan Stewart, Seamus Webb, Mike Webb

Sat 1/19 Mike Bowen, Dave Gold, Ira Wein, Alan Palestine, Heather Barber

Sun 1/20 Chris Reposa, Jim & Judy Crowell, Peter Sittner

Sat 1/26 Gary Green, Tony Evans, Richard Zabell, Red Gambrell

Sun 1/27 Frank Saenz, Rob Van Tassell, Jason Ledney, Brandon Kinikin

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS (Michelle Chesnut smc_geek@msn.com)

Thanks to Meo Curtis, Jeff Deschamps, Steve Lefebvre, Ray Logan, Guy Wright, Joe Gick, Phil Dean, Chuck Limparis, Bill Rahn and Greg Talimini for their contributions to this newsletter. Thanks to Steve Lefebvre for this month's only photo.

A special thanks to Chuck Crooks for his patience with the editor and his work on publishing the newsletter on-line.

Thanks also to Conley Phipps for managing and collating the lists of participants in chapter activities.

If anyone has an article, picture or topic, which they wish to have included in future newsletters, send them to Michelle Chesnut at the above email address and include some contact info in case there are questions. If possible, please send them in an attached Word document.

If you would like to receive a printed newsletter, write to
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