

# VHEADLINES



A quarterly Newsletter of the Virginia Hunter Education Association

## Letter from the President

Greetings to VHEA members,

I hope this note finds everyone well and looking forward to the fall hunting seasons. I know most of us still have Hunter Education Classes left. Another year has been completed at Holiday Lake. The last Advanced Training was held this past weekend.

On Friday night the VHEA annual meeting was held. Elections were held for Vice President, Treasurer, and Directors in regions 1, 3, and 5. The new Vice President is Mike Norkus and the new Treasurer is Dianne Cook. Many of you already know that Rob Zepp resigned as Vice President and later in the spring resigned as a Hunter Education Instructor. I would like to wish Rob well and assure him that he will be missed both locally and at Holiday Lake. I believe at one time or another each of us has taken one of the classes he has taught. We will miss you. Wade White has served as Treasurer for the past two years but decided not to seek re-election. I would like to thank him for his service and dedication to the association. In Region 1, Henry McBurney was elected Director filling the seat Mike Norkus held for the past two years. Mike Cantrell decided not to seek re-election in Region 3 and Earnest Wohlford was selected for that seat. In Region 5, Jesse Ebron was re-elected to the board. I would like to thank all who have worked hard to build the association.

The web site is being updated by Wendy Hyde. I think you will find it much more up to date in the future. Look for the scheduled hunts that the association is sponsoring and volunteer to help if you can.

I wish everyone a safe and successful fall season and hopefully see you next year.

Vernie Kennedy  
President

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## 2012 Morgan Award Presented



Russ Lewis has been named the 2012 recipient of the Morgan Award, presented on September 20, 2013 at Holiday Lake 4-H Center. He has volunteered more than 3,000 hours and taught over 2,700 students during his tenure as an instructor. In 2003 he became certified in range operations and since then has served as an instructor on both the shotgun and black powder

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## Morgan Award

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ranges at Advanced Training sessions joined and has been given such an important role attests to the manner in which he conducts himself in the classroom and on the range.

In 2005 he earned Master Instructor. Russ and service dog Mandy are constant fixtures at the Hunter Education Championships as well as the Basic Instructor Workshops. As a survival instructor, Russ often goes beyond the basics and tests instructors' survival skills in class. Russ recently joined the black powder team and serves as the lead range safety officer. The fact that Russ just joined and has been given such an important role attests to the manner in which he conducts himself in the classroom and on the range. In addition, he teaches at youth workshops and events, hosts youth deer and waterfowl hunts in Sussex and Surry counties and helps with other events throughout the region. He is a DGIF Boating Safety Instructor and a 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor.

Russ serves as the coordinator for Sussex County and leads at least 5 basic hunter education classes every year. His classes are so popular that many students will travel from other parts of the state to attend. During his tenure, he has taught multiple generations of the same family; adults that took Russ's class for their own certification have brought their children and grandchildren to his classes. The fact that students travel from all over and willingly re-attend his class speaks volumes about Russ' teaching style.

When new instructors become involved in the program, Russ takes it upon himself to help guide them to become better instructors. As a result, Russ has assisted several to become great instructors and a few have now taken over as county coordinators for their areas.

For all his years of service and dedication, Russ Lewis is more than deserving of the Morgan Award. He is constantly striving to improve the program through events and trainings. He embodies all that is great about our volunteer instructors!

Excerpted from CPO Sarah Druy's recommendation / Region 1 Hunter Education Coordinator, VDGIF

*The Morgan award was established in 1985 by the Morgan family after the untimely death of William Dixon Morgan on November 22, 1983, when another hunter failed to identify his target before shooting. The award is presented each year to a hunter education volunteer who best exemplifies the spirit of commitment to hunter safety in Virginia.*

## Summer Highlights

### 2013 Bayport Hunter Skills Workshop

August 25, 2013

Submitted by Mike Norkus, Region 1

This year's event was an overwhelming success. Paid participants; 41 youth & 4 adults. Approximately 18 parents attended some or all of the classes with their youngsters but did not participate in the shooting sports. Of the 41 youngsters attending 37 had never hunted. Of the four adults attending only one had previously hunted. This made us all feel positive as the workshop was designed to appeal to this group. Many indicated they were now going to locate a hunter education class and begin the process of joining the hunting fraternity. Hopefully this workshop was the deciding or a contributing factor in this decision making process. Only time will tell!

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## 2013 Bayport Hunter Skills Workshop

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The staff at Bayport Scout Reservation did a stellar job of taking care of all DGIF volunteers and managing the event schedule. Kudos to Kelly Allan and all involved.

We have asked the BSA Colonial Council to reserve the August 23rd for a similar event for next year.

I wish to offer that all DGIF volunteers did an outstanding job with much leadership and creativity showing through. It is a credit to the many years of training and dedication to this fraternity that we all hold dear.



## Virginia Hunter Skills Weekend



On August 23-25, Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center in Appomattox, VA, hosted the second Virginia Hunter Skills Weekend for 2013. Individuals, couples, groups of friends and entire families comprised the forty-seven participants.

Optional evening events included a waterfowl workshop on how to make a decoy from a buoy, learning and practicing to safely use a tree stand and a class on where to find places to hunt. A live-fire air rifle range was set-up in the outdoor pavilion and a Laser Shot game offered indoor fun.

When asked what they liked about the classes, students shared, "It's hard to choose one thing, but I enjoyed the focus on having adults and kids working together." Skills Weekends are open to anyone age 11 and up, and it's not uncommon to see three generations in one family taking classes together. As for the content and hands-on experience, comments included, "Bow hunting & Bow fishing were great. Excellent instruction & fun shooting 3D targets" and, "Faculty at the Shotgun was extremely helpful, especially since I had no idea what I was doing."

One student summarized it perfectly; "The program provides a great opportunity to experience new disciplines at a very low cost and aid in the decision process to purchase your own equipment."

Dates have already been set for the 2014 Hunter Skills Weekends: May 2-4 and August 22-24, 2014. Please visit the Holiday Lake site at [www.holidaylake4h.com](http://www.holidaylake4h.com) as those dates approach and take the information to your spring classes!

Look for the  
"Virginia Hunter Education Association" on

**facebook**

OR

Visit the VHEA web site at [www.vahea.org](http://www.vahea.org)  
Go to the "LINKS" page and click on the Facebook  
logo to be directed to our page

AND

Be sure to check out the recently updated  
Association web site! Just a few final touches  
remain, so visit the site soon.

## Board Bulletins

**MINUTES:** To view the minutes from the Board of Directors' September 20, 2013 meeting, visit the VHEA web site ([www.vahea.org](http://www.vahea.org)). On the Home page, left column, click on "Board Meeting Minutes" at the bottom of the list. When the new page opens, just click on the one you want to read.

### VHEA Officers:

President Vernie Kennedy  
 vernie\_k@msn.com  
 Vice President Mike Norkus  
 bowhuntinmike@comcast.net  
 Treasurer Wade White  
 teamfse1@aol.com  
 Secretary Ed Crebbs  
 edcrebbs@yahoo.com

### Regional Directors:

Region 1 Henry McBurney  
 h-smcburney@charter.net  
 Region 2 George "Spud" Almond  
 galmond@jejamerson.com  
 Region 3 Mike Cantrell  
 Timothy.cantrell@vdot.virginia.gov  
 Region 4 Jason Miller  
 treedblackbear@yahoo.com  
 Region 5 Jesse Ebron  
 jebron@sms.com

## Election Results

Officer elections were held during the September 20, 2013 Annual Meeting. Terms will begin on January 1, 2014.

### Officers

Vice President: Mike Norkus\*  
 Treasurer: Dianne Cook

### Regional Director updates

Region 1: Henry McBurney \*\*  
 Region 3: Earnest Wohlford  
 Region 5: Jesse Ebron  
 (re-elected)

\* The term for Vice President began immediately as the office was vacant.

\*\* Region 1 Director term began immediately as a result of Mike Norkus' election to Vice President.

## Membership Information

To join, go to [www.vahea.org](http://www.vahea.org), print the membership form and mail to the address printed at the bottom along with your check. Annual memberships run January 1 through December 31.

Membership options and costs are:

Regular (1-year) - \$ 20.00  
 Associate - \$ 15.00  
 Life - \$150.00

## Holiday Lake Hunter Education Events Schedule 2014

Feb. 28-March 2	Basic Instructor Workshop
March 28-30	Advanced Training
May 2-4	Hunter Skills Weekend
May 16-18	Youth Hunter Ed Challenge
June 27-29	Advanced Training
July 25-27	Basic Instructor Workshop
August 22-24	Hunter Skills Weekend
September 19-21	Advanced Training

## Treasurer's Report

By Wade White, Treasurer

<b>Account - Checking balance as of 9/20/2013</b>	<b>\$ 12,686.52</b>
Bedford County Youth Hunts	0
John Dunne's Crossbow Hunt	\$ 1,027.86
Rob Zepp's Wounded Warrior Turkey Hunt	0
HEC	0
HSW	0
Bedford Co. HE- Milan Ashbrenner Memorial	\$ 171.07
<b>Total allocated funds</b>	<b>\$ 1,198.93</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$ 11,487.59</b>
<b>Unpaid Bills</b>	0
<b>Petty Cash</b>	<b>\$ 175.00</b>

## Fall Events

### Bedford Youth Hunts (Region 2)

VHEA will once again host two youth hunts in the Bedford area in this season, making them the eleventh and twelfth such events in the last 6 years. The muzzleloader hunt is Saturday, November 9, and the general firearms hunt is Saturday, November 23. These events create opportunities for a 12-15 year old, accompanied by a parent or guardian, to experience a full-day guided deer hunt under the constant supervision of an experienced hunter education instructor. Contact Vernie Kennedy for more information.

### New Kent Youth Hunt (Region 1)

The goal of this Youth Hunt is to provide safe, ethical and rewarding hunting opportunities for Venturing Scouts from The Boy Scouts of America. This is an opportunity for youths age 12 and over to hunt either deer or squirrel from assigned stands or clearly defined areas. This Youth Hunt shall be conducted under tightly controlled and managed circumstances in a safe and ethical manner consistent with all applicable policies, procedures and state regulations and the safety of all participants shall be its primary purpose.

Registration Information: Registration is through the Colonial Virginia Council Boy's and Girl Scouts

Date: Saturday, November 23, 2013

Location: New Kent Forestry Center, 11301 Pocahontas Trail, Providence Forge, VA 13140

Contacts: Denny Newhouse, dnewhouse6@cox.net (BSA Youth Hunt Director); Mark Wenger, swfl1951@gmail.com (Hunt Master) and Henry McBurney (VHEA)

Special Announcements: All volunteers must have completed the Scout "Youth Protection Training" offered on line at <http://myscouting.scouting.org>. This is an on-line training course that takes 20 to 30 minutes. The certificate will be kept on file with the Boy Scouts of America, Colonial Council. Volunteers shall print out the completed certificate and bring the large copy to Denny Newhouse or Mark Wenger. Several volunteers are needed to assist scouts to the hunting stand site, sit with the scout while in the stand and escort them back at the conclusion of the hunts. (This is necessary in order to conform to the two deep rule.) To volunteer contact Denny Newhouse or Mark Wenger at the e-mail addresses above.

To ensure continued delivery of **VHEADLINES** contact editor Wendy Hyde at [vheadlines@gmail.com](mailto:vheadlines@gmail.com) with corrections to your e-mail address.

### Check out the VHEA Instructor's online forum

Developed by the VHEA specifically for connecting with *Virginia* Hunter Education Instructors, it's a great way to voice opinions, discuss ideas, solve problems and otherwise communicate with your local teaching peers.

To get started contact the forum administrator at [teamfse1@aol.com](mailto:teamfse1@aol.com) and provide your full name, Instructor ID # and desired user name. Your account will be set up for you and a temporary login will be sent to you.

**Register today!**

## This Just In.....

- President Vernie Kennedy received this e-mail update on September 26 regarding a recent VHEA donation to the Gamble family:

"The check from the VHEA was presented to the Gamble family today. Wythe County Hunter Education Instructor Jimmy Buchanan accompanied me for the presentation. The Gamble family was overjoyed at the generosity. It was an emotional experience for all. It has been a very rough road for them with obstacles that still need to be overcome. Halle continues to improve and gain strength – her treatments have recently finished and her blood work looks good! Thank you VHEA for your support and generosity!!!! Halle's mom Traci expressed concern over not helping with Hunter Education Classes this Fall – we reassured her that I would keep them on the active list and to return when things calmed down a bit. Now that's dedication!!!!!!!!!!!! Thanks again for the support!

Jeff Pease / Hunter Education Coordinator"

- Starting October 1, 2013, the VDGIF is offering an on-line only Hunter Education course for Virginia residents 18 years and older. For more information contact David Dodson or your Regional Coordinator.

## In Our Sights

By Wendy Hyde

VHEA Life Member – Joanna Dunevant



It seems that Joanna Dunevant has always been an outdoors woman. Since childhood she has been involved in camping and boating, and as she matured her interests expanded. Joanna is now a Master Hunter Education instructor in Buckingham County and has been active in the program since 2006.

She started out as a participant in the Becoming an Outdoors Woman and Mother-Daughter Outdoors Weekends. She took every course she could and still wanted to stay involved. In order to be an instructor she had to take basic Hunter Education. She is a seasoned instructor specializing in Map & Compass, First Aid, Survival and Classroom Presentation (at Advanced Training sessions). Since her interest lies primarily in these outdoor skills Joanna has not added hunting to her skill set, noting that she has met two other instructors with whom she has this in common. She was the first instructor to participate in the Youth Instructor program mentoring Cody Giffin, now 18 years old and attending college outside Virginia. She feels privileged to have started teaching with Ed and Charlene Crebbs, learning from their experience. She credits them for the organization techniques she uses in her own classes in Buckingham County where she is the County Coordinator. Joanna teaches with fellow instructor Roy Hutchinson's Wilderness Discovery organization and at Holiday Lake 4-H assisting with the Women's Outdoor Weekends.

As an ACA Level 2 Coastal Kayak Instructor, Joanna has begun volunteering with Heroes on the Water, an organization that takes disabled veterans on kayak

fishing trips. Kayaking is one of her favorite activities along with fishing, shooting, reading and camping. She admits that in recent years she has graduated to "lamping" – a friends-and-family term for "luxury camping" in a camper instead of a tent. Outdoor cooking using dutch ovens or making something special on the grill is an enjoyable part of her camping trips.

Joanna and her 2 sisters grew up in Fairfax County where she graduated from Robinson Secondary School. As a teenager she worked as a Life Guard recalling that it was, "the best job I ever had." She has always been interested in the medical field and in helping people so after attending Longwood College for a year she enrolled in a hospital-based nursing program. Joanna became a Registered Nurse in 1979 and moved to the Farmville area in 1986 after accepting a job offer. Joanna met husband Roger on a blind date – her first and last - and they have been married since 1989. She earned her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from the Medical College of Virginia in 1992 and 1995, respectively. After working in hospitals and for hospice she started a job with Home Recovery-Home Aid performing patient assessments, and providing patient teaching regarding medications, disease management, wound care and IV therapy.

She credits her husband for her involvement in Hunter Education. Roger, claiming that she was a city girl, recommended she take her first class on wilderness survival at a Wilderness Survival Weekend for Women he saw listed in Virginia Wildlife magazine. She has learned a lot about being in the outdoors through various VDGIF programs but, "does her hunting at Food Lion or Sam's Club." Roger owns a timber harvesting company that does selective harvesting for sale to paper mills. Her family has grown to include 7 nieces and nephews who all remain in northern Virginia.

In the Hunter Ed classroom she is excited to see an increase in the number of female students and thinks that interacting with a woman instructor makes them more comfortable. Joanna gets satisfaction out of talking with the students and their parents, listening to their comments and seeing families participating together in outdoor activities. She joined VHEA as a life member because it sounded like the association would be able to assist instructors in ways the VDGIF was not able to. Joanna Dunevant's dedication to outdoor education is unwavering!