

VHEADLINES



A quarterly Newsletter of the Virginia Hunter Education Association

Letter from the President

By Vernie Kennedy, President

Greetings to all Association Members,

It is now almost fall and I know most instructors are busy preparing and conducting hunter ed classes. We just held our Hunter Skills Weekend. We had a good turnout for this time of year considering so many schools started early. The reviews from the participants were excellent. I want to thank the instructors who gave of their time to help. The quality of these instructors is what makes this event so effective. There is no group that has the ability to conduct this type of training like our instructors.

The last Advanced Training is coming up in the next couple of weeks. There will be a board meeting at 5:00 pm and the annual meeting will be at 7:00 pm. Elections will be for President and Secretary. Region 2 and 4 will also hold elections for their board representative.

Henry McBurney resigned as Region 1 board member. The board appointed Ken Carter to fill that position until next year when that position is up for election. I want to personally thank Ken for stepping forward to work to get things back on track in that region.

I have decided that I will not run for President again this year. There are a lot of personal matters that are keeping me busy. I ask that when the elections occur, people that want to continue building the association are elected, and not those who wish to destroy what has been built by a large group of dedicated instructors. There have been a lot of changes in Hunter Education and I fear there are going to be more. I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who have supported me in the past.

I hope you have a great hunting season!

Again thanks,

Vernie

Inside This Issue

Letter from the President	1
A Message from the VP	1-2
Treasurer's Report	2
Membership Report	2
Director's Award Presented	3
Regional Updates	3
Board Bulletins	4
Legislation Updates	4
Hunter Skills Weekends	5
In Our Sights	6

A Message from the VP

By Mike Norkus, Vice President

What's New for 2014-2015?

I'm sure most of you are well into teaching your Hunter Education Classes for the upcoming season. Just a reminder for you to mention in your classes (especially the new requirement for Blaze Orange during the Muzzleloader Season) Legislation passed in the 2014 General Assembly Session that impacts hunting and fishing:

Hunting on Sundays

Allows hunting on Sundays under the following circumstances:

- A landowner and his immediate family or a person with written permission from the landowner may hunt or kill any wild bird or wild animal, including nuisance species, on the landowner's property on Sunday.
- A person may hunt waterfowl on Sundays, subject to area restrictions established within seasons.
- The hunting activities mentioned above cannot occur within 200 yards of a house of worship.

A Message from the VP

(continued from Page 1)

- The hunting of deer or bear with a gun, firearm, or other weapon with the aid or assistance of dogs on Sunday is prohibited.
- A person may hunt raccoons until 2:00 a.m. on Sundays, but no other Sunday hunting of raccoons is permitted.

Special Fox Hunting License

Established a special license for hunting foxes on horseback with hounds but without firearms. The license exempts the licensee from the requirement that they complete a hunter education program. This license may be purchased in lieu of a basic hunting license but is not required in addition to a basic hunting license.

Annual Hunting and Fishing Licenses for Nonresident Disabled Veterans

Allows nonresident veterans who are totally and permanently disabled due to a service connected disability to purchase annual licenses to hunt or fish at a cost equal to one-quarter the fee for the state nonresident hunting or fishing license.

New Combined Archery and Crossbow License

Established a new combined license for persons hunting with a bow and arrow or a crossbow. The cost of the license is \$18 for residents and \$31 for nonresidents. There will no longer be a separate crossbow license.

Hunting With a Muzzleloading Rifle; Blaze Orange Clothing

During the special season for hunting deer with a muzzleloading rifle only, every muzzleloader deer hunter and every person accompanying a muzzleloader deer hunter shall wear a blaze orange hat (the bill or brim of the hat may be a color or design other than solid blaze orange) or blaze orange upper body clothing that is visible from 360 degrees, except when any such person is physically located in a tree stand or other stationary hunting location.

Use of Muzzleloading Pistols

Allows persons to hunt big game with muzzleloading pistols of a caliber of .45 or greater (.50 caliber or larger is recommended) where and in those seasons when the use of muzzleloading rifles is permitted.

Apprentice Hunters

Allows persons holding an apprentice hunting license to hunt unsupervised if they have successfully completed a hunter education course. Upon completion of hunter education unless otherwise required by law to be supervised as in the case of hunting on a youth/apprentice hunting day where, by Department regulation, apprentice hunters must be supervised by a licensed or an exempt licensed adult, the apprentice hunting licensee may hunt unsupervised subject to the requirements of applicable state law and regulations. You must carry proof of hunter education while hunting unsupervised.*

I hope everyone has a safe and successful hunting season.

Hunt hard and hunt safe,
Mike

*Adapted from the DGIF web site

To ensure continued delivery of

VHEADLINES

contact editor Wendy Hyde at
vheadlines@gmail.com with corrections to
your e-mail address.

Treasurer's Report

By Dianne Cook, Secretary

A current report will be provided at the September 19, 2014 meetings.

Membership Report

By Ed Krebbs, Secretary

No information regarding current membership numbers was submitted at the time of publication.

Director's Award Presented

Congratulations to VHEA lifetime members Chauncey Herring and Lee Turner!



In recognition of their 5,000+ hours as a volunteer instructor for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the VHEA awarded each with a custom-engraved Henry rifle. The presentation was held on June 27, 2014 in front of an audience of their fellow instructors at Holiday Lake 4-H Center near Appomattox, VA. Representatives from the VDGIF were there to present a commemorative plaque. Gentlemen, thank you for your commitment to hunter safety!

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 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!

Regional Updates

Region 1

There will be a wide variety of youth and apprentice hunter events available in Region 1 this fall. Most are sponsored by VDGIF and/or the Virginia Department of Forestry.

The New Kent Forestry Center will sponsor two youth waterfowl hunts on the designated federal youth days (October 25, 2015 and January 31, 2015) and an Apprentice Hunter event on the opening day of the early segment of Waterfowl Season (October 10, 2014). The Center will also sponsor Apprentice hunter workshops and events for deer hunting. An archery/crossbow workshop will be held on November 8, 2014 with a hunt later that day and from Nov 10 to 14. A Managed Deer Firearm workshop and hunt is planned for December 27, 2014 is planned.

A special Youth Hunter Archery/Crossbow workshop and hunt is also planned at York River State Park, with the workshop on November 1 and the hunt later that day and on November 3 to November 7. Sign up for these events must be completed by September 26, 2014 through the Quota Hunt registration process on the VDGIF website.

Region 2

Jackson Landers has resigned, and on August 29, 2014, VDGIF announced that Zach Adams will assume the position of Region 2 Hunter Education Coordinator. Zach transferred to Hunter Education after 10 years as a CPO in Campbell County.

Region 3

Nothing reported in Region 3.

Region 4

Nothing reported in Region 4.

Region 5

Nothing reported in Region 5.

Hunter Skills Weekends

On August 24-26, Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center in Appomattox, VA, hosted the second Virginia Hunter Skills Weekend (VHSW) of 2014. The fifty-two participants came from as far away as Washington, DC and North Carolina to take advantage of the diverse workshops.

Class topics included archery, basic shotgun, rifle, pistol and muzzleloading, bow hunting, game processing, recovery of wounded game, skeet shooting, small game and turkey hunting skills and wild game cooking. Based on previous attendees' feedback, new classes were offered in ammunition reloading, predator hunting and advanced shooting skills in both rifle and pistol. Optional seminars rounded out the experience with opportunities to make a decoy from a buoy and learning to safely use a tree stand.

VHSW is a partnership program presented by the Virginia Hunter Education Association, the Virginia DGIF and Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center. It is staffed by volunteer Hunter Education Instructors from across Virginia. The goal of the program is to make information about hunting-related topics available in a safe, family-friendly, fun environment. The organizers and staff are committed to sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm to promote smart, safe, ethical hunting practices for future generations.



2015 Hunter Skills Weekends:

May 1-3
and
August 21-23

Put them on your calendar!

Let's get folks looking at the "Virginia Hunter Education Association" on

facebook

PLEASE

Invite all your friends to "LIKE" us. Try this:

"All my friends and friends-of-friends who have any interest in hunting - please take a minute to visit the Virginia Hunter Education Association's FB page and "like" it. And if you're already an instructor - DO IT!! "

Let's see how many LIKES we can get before the next newsletter!

One attendee noted, "The greatest value of this program is its intellectual/emotional accessibility by a non-hunter. It allows an entry threshold that is attainable within an enterprise that can be intimidating to those with no hunting background. This is a positive testament to the personal character, confidence and genuine friendliness of the instructors and leaders."

As for the content and hands-on experience, comments included, "The instruction was both helpful and fun-It was great to have an opportunity to get a lot of practice under expert supervision" and "Recovery of Wounded Game & Deer Hunting Skills are great intro courses, all instructors were very willing to take time to help." A student in the turkey hunting skills class expressed exactly what the instructors hope to hear, "(The instructors) were awesome. They really got my attention on the safety issues that I would not have figured out on my own. I look forward to giving it a go."

Organizers are encouraged by the number of participants coming for the first time, many of whom came as a result of word-of-mouth recommendations. With reviews like, "Everyone was extremely kind, friendly and accommodating. It was an amazing weekend and exceeded my expectations, I will definitely be back and will bring an even larger group", VHEA and Holiday Lake 4-H hope to keep up the positive momentum for years to come.

Board Bulletins

The board would like to welcome Ken Carter as the new Region 1 Director. The position was declared vacant after Henry McBurney's resignation in June. Ken was elected by a unanimous vote.

VHEA Officers:

President	Vernie Kennedy vernier_k@msn.com
Vice President	Mike Norkus bowhuntinmike@comcast.net
Treasurer	Dianne Cook harborfest93@yahoo.com
Secretary	Ed Crebbs ed.crebbs.1949@gmail.com
Regional Directors:	
Region 1	Kenneth Carter Kenneth.carter26@verizon.net
Region 2	George "Spud" Almond galmond@jejamerson.com
Region 3	Earnest Wohlford ewohlford@centurylink.net
Region 4	Jason Miller treedblackbear@yahoo.com
Region 5	Jesse Ebron jebron@sms.com

- ★ Officer elections for the President and Secretary positions will be held at the general membership meeting on Friday, September 21, 2014 at Holiday Lake 4-H Center. Members must be present **and be a current member** in order to vote. No new membership applications will be accepted until after the election is completed.
- ★ Topics or issues to be added to the next Board Meeting's agenda must be submitted through the Regional Directors.

Legislation Updates

Regarding HB 307 Hunter safety education; after-school programs for students in grades 7 through 12:

Approved by Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe on April 4, 2014, and became effective July 1, 2014:

CHAPTER 560

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered [22.1-204.2](#), relating to after-school hunter safety education programs for students in grades seven through 12.

[H 307]

Approved April 4, 2014

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered [22.1-204.2](#) as follows:

§ [22.1-204.2](#). *Hunter safety education programs for students in grades seven through 12.*

A. Local school boards may provide after-school hunter safety education programs for students in the school division in grades seven through 12. Each student shall bear the cost of participating in such programs. Local school boards shall display information on its after-school hunter safety education programs in each school and distribute information to the parents of each student in the school division in grades seven through 12.

B. The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries shall establish a uniform curriculum for such hunter safety education programs. Each such program shall be taught by a hunter safety instructor certified pursuant to § [29.1-300.2](#).

As cited on Virginia's Legislative Information system at <http://lis.virginia.gov/>

In Our Sights

By Wendy Hyde

VHEA Life Member – Chauncey Herring

Chauncey Herring says he gets enjoyment from the time he steps in the hunter education classroom until his last presentation - ethics. And over the years he's stepped into plenty of classrooms!

This veteran instructor was recently recognized for his years of dedication to hunter education when the VHEA presented him with an engraved Henry Big Boy rifle. He also received a plaque from the VDGIF for the 5,000 Hour Volunteer Award.



Chauncey started out as a volunteer instructor in New Jersey around 1970 and has over 1,700 hours on record (in reality the number is much higher.) He taught there until he moved to Glouster, VA in 2000.

He is now a Master Instructor in Virginia and was the team leader on the Muzzleloader Advanced Training Team. Now in "semi-retirement" with hunter education, he still teaches in Region 1 but has stepped down from advanced training activities. In addition to teaching hunter education, Chauncey is an NRA Instructor in Muzzleloading, Rifle, Shotgun and Home Firearms Safety, a certified instructor in Muzzleloading and Archery with 4-H, and an Archery in the Schools instructor.

He grew up in Greensboro, NC as the youngest of three boys. His father was a hunter and fisherman and got him involved in hunting around age ten. Chauncey attended college at A & T College in Greensboro from 1949-50, where he met Phyllis who would later become his wife. He was unhappy with school so he joined the army and served from 1950-1954, during which he was stationed in Alaska for two years in an anti-aircraft battalion. He and Phyllis reconnected and married in 1955 shortly after he got out of the army. They have three children, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

After the army Chauncey decided he wanted to get involved in electronics. He attended the RCA Institute in NY for 2 ½ years then took a job in Trenton, NJ. His experience led him into aerospace electronics and he eventually went to work for AT&T Research Center in Princeton, NJ designing and developing circuit board testing equipment. He retired in 2000 after 28 ½ years. He and Phyllis decided that Jersey was an expensive state to live in and they didn't want to retire where the cost of living was so high. She narrowed the location to Virginia, and he chose Glouster. According to Chauncey, this is a *true* retirement – no second job for him! Instead, Chauncey visits schools and community groups to deliver talks on subjects surrounding the US Color Troops, a regiment of black soldiers that fought in the Civil War. His interest began as a young man when he worked helping with light hauling. While cleaning out an attic he found an 1864 Civil War rifle and researched it. Later a friend had another gun they researched together and in the process they found a Civil War roundtable group that wanted Chauncey to put his gun in the Trenton museum. Through the group he learned about the US Color Troops. Some of the group's members took part in reenactments and they got involved as well. Chauncey became a historian, taking on the character of Thomas Morris Chester, the only black newspaper correspondent during the Civil War. He still attends reenactments with the group The Voices of Freedom.

His interest in hunting was renewed after he got out of the army and a friend got him involved in hunting and fishing in NJ. Phyllis was willing to prepare and eat the game Chauncey brought home. As for the children, neither of their two daughters was interested in hunting but they were willing to eat the meat. Fishing was a special activity for Chauncey and his son, who became a vegetarian when he was a teenager. Chauncey recalls, "He didn't eat red meat but ate fish so we fished together." They also enjoyed shooting clay targets together. Chauncey's favorite type of hunting is upland game, although he states there is not much opportunity because the habitat isn't there.

Chauncey was a founding member of the VHEA, citing that the need for an organization to support the instructors was his primary reason for getting involved. He stays involved in teaching because in addition to enjoying the interaction with his fellow instructors and the public, he, "Enjoys seeing the students facial expressions when we talk about ethics and see the importance of having an ethical life. My strongest feelings are about ethics." His friends and fellow instructors would agree that he practices what he teaches.

Thank you, Chauncey.