

VHEADLINES



A quarterly Newsletter of the Virginia Hunter Education Association

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Secretary's Notes

By Aaron Grimsley, Secretary

REMEMBER... All Annual and Associate memberships expired on January 1, 2015.

To join or renew, go to www.vahea.org, print the Membership and Renewal Form and mail it, along with your check, to the address printed at the bottom of the form.

Membership options and costs are:

Regular (1-year) -	\$ 25.00
Associate -	\$ 15.00
Life -	\$150.00

Letter from the President

By "Hank" Tomlinson, President

September is going to be an important month with Advanced Training going on. There are also several important issues to be discussed and voted on by the membership. Since we have reduced the number of times the membership can be together as a group, the agenda must be streamlined and actions completed without unnecessary delay and discussion. There is some grant money available from the eStore that DGIF operates, and I am applying to see if we can garner some financial assistance for events for Skills Weekend. Hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Hank

- The minutes from the March 27, 2015 Board and General Membership meetings have been posted on the VHEA web site, Board Meeting Minutes tab (<http://www.vahea.org/page22.html>).
- DGIF support for the March 2016 Hunter Skills Weekend has been approved.
- The annual forms required by the State Corporation Commission have been filled out and mailed in.
- **IMPORTANT** – everyone who joined VHEA as a Life Member during 2012, 2013 or 2014 needs to e-mail me at huntedr@yahoo.com to confirm your membership.

Have a safe hunting season and happy holidays,

Aaron

A Message from the VP

By Mike Norkus, Vice President

Greetings, hope everyone has been staying cool with all the heat we've had this summer and gearing up for the upcoming deer season!

While giving his opening remarks during our Hunter Education Awards banquet here in Region 1 our DGIF Recreational Safety Coordinator, Ray Philbates brought up some very disturbing statistics from this year's Hunter Education Challenge at Holiday Lake 4-H Center. For those that are not familiar, this is an annual event where 4-H teams from around the state come to the Holiday Lake 4-H Center to compete in several events (Archery 3-D Course, Rifle Range, Shotgun, and Outdoor Skills Trail Event). This year we had 117 participants. Ray is in charge of the Outdoor Skills Trail Event; it consisted of a field compass course and short hunter education trail:

On the compass course, each competitor must use a compass and pacing to locate predetermined points in the field. The distance between points and the compass bearings will vary. The competitors are accompanied by an event official who scores the competitor according to the accuracy of both the compass bearing and the distance paced to each point.

The trail portion consists of a short hunter safety trail. As the competitor arrives at each of the five stations, he/she is presented with a scenario that may include a safety/legal/ethical dilemma based on Virginia law and the Virginia Hunter Education Course. Competitors will be scored on how they respond to each situation.

The following are some of the scenarios from the trail portion and the results that were noted. These results were quite shocking to me!

Fence Crossing:

"17" did not practice safe muzzle control.

"43" did not verify if the firearm was unloaded – never opened the chamber.

Ray had a single glove on the gun rack - Some used their hat to protect the muzzle; some used the glove. A few used the glove to hold down the fence to step over!!

"0" mentioned the POSTED – NO TRESPASSING – NO HUNTING – NO FISHING - sign.

Turkey Hunting Scenario:

There was a 3D turkey in full strut in plain view. A hen was off to the side. The competitor was hunting with a shotgun. However, there was a turkey hunter in the background - in the shot path of the gobbler. He was the approximate size of a 240-pound hunter, camo coveralls, blaze orange hat under a bug net. The hunter was sitting on the ground against a large tree, facing the gobbler. Arms clearly visible outside of tree outline. He was about 12 yards behind the 3D target.

ONLY (6) participants identified the presence of the hunter!!!!

Some did not take the shot because they thought it may hit the hen, were not sure of the backstop, etc... The hunter would have been shot over 100 times out of 117 participants.

Squirrel Hunting Scenario:

Using a .22 rifle while squirrel hinting, walk up on a beaver pond with ducks on the water. Ducks are in season. You have a Federal and State stamp, and a HIP number. What would you do?

Vast majority did not shoot – ricochet off water, do not hunt ducks with a rifle, lead shot, unethical to shoot a duck on the water – one did not shoot because he was afraid it would be a wounded bird. Wanted a bigger rifle! Very few took the shot.

Also keep in mind that some of the participants were non-hunters but all are required to have completed a Basic Hunter Safety Course prior to competing.

The team coaches are responsible for teaching their respective teams (several of the coaches are Hunter Ed Instructors) during the year to prepare for the following years competition. Bottom line folks is that we need to do a better job in our Hunter Education classes of educating our young folks. Please use the examples above to emphasize these safety points in your classes.

Hunt hard and hunt safe! >>>----->

Regards, Mike

VP, VHEA

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, Treasurer

The report below is from June 10, 2015. An updated report as of September 1, 2015 was not presented by the Treasurer at the time of publication. A current report will be posted in the next quarterly newsletter in December 2015.

<u>Board Meeting Treasurer Report</u>			
June 10, 2015			
Account Balance as of December 31, 2014		\$ 16,671.97	
* Earmarked Funds		\$ (2,854.68)	
General Funds		\$ 13,817.29	
Deposits:			
Memberships - February, 2015		\$ 400.00	
Memberships - March, 2015		\$ 675.00	
Memberships - March, 2015		\$ 40.00	
Donation to John Dunn's Disable Hunters, memberships		\$ 750.00	
Sub-total		\$ 15,682.29	
Bills Paid in 2014			
Total bills paid	\$ 2,847.52		
Bills Paid in 2015			
One Source Marketing		\$ (60.00)	
CIMA Volunteer Insurance		\$ (482.62)	
Wendy Hite- snacks & water HEC		\$ (157.10)	
Arron Grimsey - water		\$ (73.24)	
One Source Marketing Annual Domain		\$ (12.00)	
One Source Marketing 2nd quarter		\$ (60.00)	
Sub-total		\$ (844.96)	
Unpaid Bills			
Petty Cash		\$ 117.91	
Balance ending December 12, 2014		\$ 14,955.24	\$ 17,692.01
Earmarked Funds Breakdown			
Rob's Hunt		\$ -	
Bedford County Hunts		\$ 150.00	
John Dunn's Hunt		\$ 1,727.86	
Hunter's Skill Weekend		\$ -	
Hunter Ed. Challenge		\$ -	
Bedford County Milan Aschbrenner		\$ 221.82	
Memorial trailer funds			
Roanoke Hunter Ed.		\$ 135.00	
Judy Bergloff Memorial			
Carter Lewis Memorial Scholarship		\$ 620.00	
Total earmarked funds		\$ 2,854.68	

Board Bulletins

VHEA Officers:

President	Hank Tomlinson chickadee1@mgwnet.com
Vice President	Mike Norkus bowhuntinmike@comcast.net
Treasurer	Dianne Cook harborfest93@yahoo.com
Secretary	Aaron Grimsley huntedr@yahoo.com
Regional Directors:	
Region 1	Kenneth Carter Kenneth.carter26@verizon.net
Region 2	Wade White teamfse1@aol.com
Region 3	Ernest Wohlford ewohlford@centurylink.net
Region 4	Karen Cash kcash1966@gmail.com
Region 5	Jesse Ebron jebron@sms.com

Next General Membership Meeting and Annual Election of Officers / Regional Directors:

Friday, September 18 at 7:00 pm
Rachel F. Lawson Family Dining Center
Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center
Appomattox, VA

Positions up for election:

Vice President
Treasurer
Regional Directors for 1, 3, and 5

Vice-President: The Vice-President shall assist the President and shall report directly to the President in the performance of day-to-day duties. The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President in the President's absence, illness, removal or incapacity.

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be responsible for all accounts maintained by the Association and shall give up to date reports as required by the Board of Directors and at the annual meeting. If requested, this officer shall be provided a bond with the premium to be paid by the Association. This officer shall execute all Association checks and still have all other usual power associated with the office.

Region Directors: The Region Directors shall be elected from the membership. The Regions shall coincide with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Law Enforcement boundaries as modified from time-to-time and Region Directors shall live within the district represented. Region Directors shall be nominated and elected from the membership within respective districts. If there are no nominations from a given Region, that directorship shall be filled by the Board of Directors who may appoint any member of the Association from said region. Region Directors shall serve a two-year term. They may be re-elected. Even numbered Region Directors shall be elected on the even numbered years and off numbered Region Directors shall be elected on odd numbered years. All offices shall be filled at the Association's annual meeting. He/She shall serve as the elected VHEA representative within the district and statewide or beyond as appropriate.

Look for the
"Virginia Hunter Education Association" on



OR

Visit the VHEA web site at www.vahea.org

Go to the "LINKS" page and click on the Facebook logo to be directed to our page

Regional Updates

Region 1

Nothing to report

Region 2

August Hunter Skills Weekend

HSW was held Aug. 21-23 at HL4H. We had a light turnout with only 22 participants but still consider it to have been a huge success. From the comments of participants; "Very, very informative"; "We will take others (classes) in years to come"; "Volunteers are awesome, to take so much time to work for this is fantastic..."

We are considering changing the date for the fall event to move it farther from the opening of the school year for many areas. The very first HSW was held in the month of October and was a huge success.

Thanks to all Instructors that helped make this HSW a success.

Wade White



Region 3

Nothing to report

Region 4

No report submitted



Region 5

Hello Region 5 and all others members,

Hope to see all of you at this coming advanced training. There will be important issues to talk about and every voice counts! Hunting season has just begun. So get out there and have fun and be safe!

Jesse Ebron

Upcoming Fall Events

Region 1

Volunteers still needed - I am still in need of instructors who would like to help and help staff a series of Workshops around area one, this fall, next spring and especially next fall when we plan several of these events. I also am looking for instructors who are willing to serve as mentors to hunt with and supervise on several hunts for youth and Apprentice hunters (maybe older).

Please contact me at (804) 382-2982 (cell) or email at kenneth.carter26@verizon.net

Region 2

We are once again going to request permission from the Bedford Co. Industrial Development Authority to host the two Youth Deer Hunts in New London. If approved these hunts will occur on November 7, 2015 and November 21, 2015. These hunts are open



to youth ages 12 to 15 and a Hunter Education Certificate is required. The youth must be accompanied by a licensed adult and will be hunted from a ground blind

supervised by a Hunter Education Instructor. If anyone is interested in helping with these events or has a youth that would like to participate contact Vernie Kennedy, vernie_k@msn.com or Wade White, teamfse1@aol.com for more information.

Region 3

Nothing to report

Region 4

No report submitted

Region 5

Nothing to report

Teaching Tips

A great lesson plan becomes difficult to execute when there are classroom distractions. Here's a list of some of common distractions and tips to minimize them:

In General:

Make it clear that class disturbance of any kind is unacceptable. This includes: coming in late, sleeping, reading newspapers, text-messaging, talking, etc. These activities disturb others and undermine the courtesy in the classroom. Deal with these disruptions first through non-verbal cues; catching their eye to let them know you recognize that they are not engaged in the class. If this doesn't work, you may want to direct a question their way or speak to them during a break. Do not ignore these students for to do so only encourages others to join in this kind of behavior.

Take action early on. Take swift and firm action early on, before your authority is compromised. Being able to identify problems before they escalate will help you to maintain control of the class. The basic rule is not to embarrass the student in class. Embarrassment does little to help change a student's behavior and may affect the other students as well. Speak to students individually during a break and ask them to adjust their behavior.

Environmental:

- **Seating arrangement** - The seating arrangement should focus the student's attention toward the teacher. Students likely won't see the seating arrangement as a classroom management tool, but distractions will be minimized. Allow for each student to clearly view the front of the room. The arrangement should be sufficient for the number of students attending. It should be comfortable, flexible, and provide mobility for the teachers
- **Cell phones** - State your rules clearly at the beginning of class - allow no exceptions
- **Lighting** - Move about the room throughout the day and check the presentation area from the student's view. Is there a glare from the sun? Is one corner too dim? Don't have blinds on the window?
- **Display / Presentation Area** - Make sure there is sufficient space to conduct demonstrations and hands-on activities

- **Weather and Temperature Control** - Have a back-up plan if the weather will be rainy or excessively hot or cold. This may include arranging for an alternate location or providing access to hot or cold beverages.
- **Outside noises or visual distractions** - Although you will likely have no control over outside noises or activities, they are potential lesson-breakers

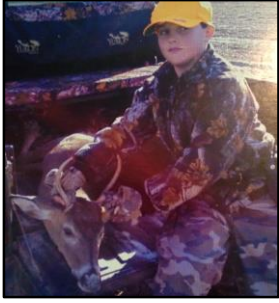

Students:

- **Traffic** - State your rules about tardiness and early departures. Consider the set-up of your room in relation to the door. If you can, allow a clear path on one side for a smooth exit (e.g. for trips to the restroom).
- **Physical behavior** - Tapping a pencil, fidgeting, coughing, sneezing and other sounds can distract everyone. Find an opportunity during a break to ask the student to refrain, or ask the student to move to a seat nearer to the back of the seating area to minimize the effect.
- **Talking and off-task talking** - Talking is perhaps one of the most common distractions in a classroom. When a student talks to another during a presentation, they are distracting all the other students around them. When speaking out of turn, students can miss vital information and instructions, which can have a chain-reaction effect. Once a student misses information, they may ask their neighbor what they have missed, which can cause more talking and confusion.
- **Sidetracking discussions** - Keep an eye on students who commonly side-track a discussion, not responding to the topic at hand, moving the class away from the intended content. This student may relate long personal stories which do not have meaning to the topic at hand. Learn to bring these students back on-topic so the rest of the class doesn't tune-out.
- **Students who dominate a discussion** - Recognize that one student dominating a discussion may be a distraction. Class discussion is a great engagement tool, but the other students will tune-out if they feel the discussion is just between an instructor and one or two other students. If somebody monopolizes a discussion, acknowledge the value of their viewpoints and invite them to discuss their views with the instructors during a break. An alternative is to ask for other class members for their perspectives on the topic.

In Our Sights

By Wendy Hyde

In this issue, we take a look at the future of hunter education in Virginia. Here are a few questions and answers from two of the young people from Region 1 involved in the VDGIIF's Youth Instructor Program, as well as feedback from their Instructor Mentors. My thanks to these teens and their parents for allowing us to learn a little about them!

Name:	Zach Perkinson		Nathaniel Carpenter	
In what city or county do you live?	Colonial Heights		Suffolk	
How old are you?	14		14	
How many brothers and sisters do you have?	I have an older sister.		None	
How did your interest in hunting and the outdoors begin?	My papaw got me interested in hunting when I was 5. He likes to hunt and I enjoy it also.		My Dad and best friend grew up hunting and I wanted to try it.	
What is your favorite game to hunt and why?	My favorite game to hunt is deer and rabbits. When I first started to hunt it was deer and I like to hunt deer and rabbits because I go with friends and my papaw and we always have a good time.		Turkey because calling and watching them come in is amazing.	
What equipment do you like to hunt with and why?	I have a bow, 2 shotguns and a muzzleloader. I enjoy hunting with all of them. They are each different and I like hunting in different ways.		Archery the most because it is more of a challenge.	
Why did you want to become a youth instructor?	My papaw is an instructor and I would always go to the classes with him and help out so when I became old enough I applied to be an instructor.		I was always interested in teaching people about hunting and the outdoors.	
How long have you been a youth instructor?	I have been an instructor since April 2015.		7 months	
What do you like about being a youth instructor?	I like helping out in the classes and teaching others new things.		Getting to meet a bunch of great people.	
What activities besides hunting do you enjoy?	I like to fish, video games and I also play baseball.		Baseball, basketball and fishing.	
What are your goals for a career or continuing education?	I enjoy tech ed and want to go to college to be an engineer.		I plan on doing this for the rest of my life.	
And from their Mentors:	John Robertson		Robert Carpenter (Mentor and Father)	
What is your student's greatest asset and how have you seen it demonstrated in the classroom?	Zack's enthusiasm to help. You do not have to ask him to help, he always asks, what he can do to help. He is always there to help demonstrate a technique or hunting situation. Zack is a quick learner and has no problem helping out in front of a crowd. He is a very personable young man.		Nathaniel is very enthusiastic about hunting safety. Even though he has only been hunting for a couple of years, he is safe in everything he does while hunting. When he is in the classroom, he extends this safety to all the students and instructors he meets and interacts with. He is a very outgoing individual and all of my fellow instructors I teach with praise him consistently for what he contributes to all of the classes. He is willing to get involved in all aspects of the Hunter Education Program.	
What have you learned from your youth instructor?	That the passion to hunt and to be safe while doing so is not just a passion and concern of instructors and parents. It is a concept that our youth, our sons and daughters also feel and understand. Having Zack there to help has also shown me that we have not lost our youth to the "gaming world" we just need to give them something worthwhile to focus on.		Watching how he carries himself and interacts with students and instructors makes me realize that the Youth Instructor program is an outstanding program. Students his age can relate more to what he has to contribute to the material being taught.	