

VHEADLINES



A quarterly Newsletter of the Virginia Hunter Education Association

Letter from the President

Greetings from the President,

It is now early March and spring is just around the corner. The New Instructor Basic was held a week ago on a very cold weekend. I am sure we will wish for some of that cold later in the year at Holiday Lake during the summer weekends.

There is a lot to do and to look forward to in this new year of Hunter Education. We are just a few weeks away from the first Advanced Training of the year. In May we have our Association Hunter Skills Weekend and the Youth Hunter Education Challenge that involves a lot of instructors as both coaches and as volunteers running the events at the Challenge.

We have held our first class in Bedford using the new course outline. We had 86 students and about 40 instructors who helped with the class. Our Region 2 coordinator, Crystal Weidman, used this class as training for other instructors in Region 2. I want to thank all those who came, saw, and participated in this class. I think a lot of questions and concerns were addressed.

I would like to thank those who asked me to run again as your president and to those that voted for me. There have been a lot of false stories told by a small group that has apparently been accepted as truth. It is time for this childish behavior to end and all of us to continue to move forward in the hunter education program and the outreach programs of the Association.

There are several who wish to make by-law changes to the association by-laws. One I have been hearing is changing the number and lines of directors regions to match the 4 present regions. The bylaws state there are to be 5 directors from the 5 regions we had at the time to association begun. Any such changes to the by-laws must be approved by the Internal Revenue Service. This is required because we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit

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organization and we must be careful not to do something that could cost us this status. From past experience, this is a difficult and lengthy process. The other mentioned change is term limits. That is why elections are held every two years and again a by-law change goes to the IRS.

Another observed attempt to influence the election of directors was an individual going to people of other regions to secure candidates to run for the director positions of the board. These positions are supposed to be decided by members in that region only, they should not be chosen, nor should the election be influenced by someone from outside of the region.

The Association has accomplished a lot due to the hard work of the officers and the board as well as members who have been willing to work for the common good of the Association and not for personal praise. I hope and pray that a small group is not allowed to destroy what has been accomplished.

Vernie Kennedy
President

Winter Highlights

Director's Award

During the year of 2012, we had two instructors reach the milestone of 5,000 hours of volunteer service to the Hunter Education Program. These two instructors are Monte Brackenridge and Angie Leigh. As pointed out at the award ceremony, 5,000 hours is equal to working a full time job for 2 ½ years. This award was presented in January at the Board of Director's Meeting in Richmond. The award consists of a plaque from the Department and a Henry Golden Boy Rifle from the Association. George "Spud" Almond represented the Association at this ceremony.

Congratulations to Monte and Angie for reaching this level.

Bedford Youth Muzzleloader Hunt

Six youth attended a deer hunt held three days before Christmas 2012. In spite of considerable community interest, holiday events and the cold, windy weather had an impact on attendance. Everyone saw deer and had opportunities to shoot; one deer was harvested by a female participant. Thanks go to all the instructors that helped make this a successful day.

Holiday Lake Hunter Education Events Schedule 2013

March 1-3	Basic Instructor Workshop
April 5-7	Advanced Training
May 3-5	Hunter Skills Weekend
May 17-19	Youth Hunter Ed Challenge
June 7-9	Advanced Training
July 26-28	Basic Instructor Workshop
August 23-25	Hunter Skills Weekend
September 20-22	Advanced Training

Hunter Skills Weekends



This year's first Hunter Skills Weekend is coming up on May 3-5. Remember to promote this in your Hunter Education classes and post a flyer in public places (guns shops, sporting goods stores, etc.). Ask the store manager for permission to post a flyer (available on the Holiday Lake site at www.holidaylake4h.com). Spaces are still available.

Class offerings include:

- Bow Hunting Basics
- Bow Tuning
- Muzzleloading Basics
- ~~Rifle Basics~~ FULL
- Rifle Advanced
- Shotgun Basics
- ~~Pistol Basics~~ FULL
- ~~Skeet~~ FULL
- ~~Trap~~ FULL
- GPS in the Great Outdoors
- Recovery of Wounded Game
- Wilderness Survival
- Bow Fishing Basics
- Wild Game Cooking
- Survival
- Small Game Hunting Skills
- Turkey Hunting Skills
- Tree Stand Safety
- Hunter Education Course

Together we can make these events a success!

To ensure continued delivery of **vHEADLINES** contact editor Wendy Hyde at vheadlines@gmail.com with corrections to your e-mail address.

Board Bulletins

VHEA Officers:

Vernie Kennedy, President verniedk@msn.com
Rob Zepp, Vice President rlz1951@gmail.com
Wade White, Treasurer teamfse1@aol.com
Ed Crebbs, Secretary edcrebbs@yahoo.com

Regional Directors:

Region 1: Mike Norkus
 bowhuntingmike@comcast.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

Meeting Schedule

Board Meeting

Friday, April 5 at 5:00 pm
Meeting Room above Rachel F. Lawson
Family Dining Center
Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center,
Appomattox, VA

Open to all VHEA members. If you have a matter you would like added to the agenda, the Board must be notified no later than Friday, March 29. Send an e-mail to both President Vernie Kennedy and Secretary Ed Crebbs. Contact information is above.

General Membership Meeting

Friday, April 5 at 7:00 pm
Rachel F. Lawson Family Dining Center,
Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center,
Appomattox, VA

Treasurer's Report

By Wade White, Treasurer

Account - Checking balance as of 02/24/2013	\$ 13,264.32
Bedford County Youth Hunts	0
John Dunne's Crossbow Hunt	\$ 1,004.26
Rob Zepp's Wounded Warrior Turkey Hunt	0
HEC	0
HSW	0
Bedford Co. HE- Milan Ashbrenner Memorial	\$ 93.42
Total allocated funds	\$ 1,197.68
General Fund	\$ 12,066.64
Unpaid Bills	0
Petty Cash	\$ 75.00



Membership Information

Annual memberships begin on January 1. To renew or sign up for a new membership:

1. Go to VAHEA.org, print the membership form and mail to the address printed at the bottom along with your check, or
2. See the Secretary or Treasurer after the General Membership Meeting on Friday, April 5 to complete the enrollment process.

Membership options and costs are:

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

Spring Events

Region 1

Northern Neck Youth Turkey Hunt

The goal of this hunt is to provide safe, ethical and rewarding turkey hunting opportunities for the youth of the Northern Neck area of Virginia. This hunt shall be conducted under tightly controlled and managed circumstances in a safe and ethical manner consistent with all state regulations. Safety is paramount!

Registration Information: Age limit 10 – 15, selected randomly out of Hunter Education classes or awarded. Successful completion of Hunter Education required.

Date: April 20, 2013

Location: Virginia Wildlife Federation's Fulfillment Farms, Albemarle County, VA

Contact: Huntmaster Rick Wilks, 540-775-4625, E-mail: rbwilks@crosslinks.net

Parties to the hunt: VDGIF, VHEA, Virginia Wildlife Federation, Virginia Deer Hunter's Association, National Wild Turkey Federation

Special Announcements:

1. All parents/guardians will sign a liability and publicity waiver prior to their children being allowed to hunt.
2. There will be a safety brief prior to the hunt that all must attend. After the hunt a turkey hunting seminar will be conducted.
3. The hunt will be conducted "2 deep" with all instructor/guides being Hunter Education Instructors, DGIF personnel or qualified personnel from sponsoring organizations. The observer (parent/guardian/mentor) shall remain in sight of the hunter/guide at all times. The instructor/guide has the final authority while hunting and in the blind – NO Exceptions!
4. This hunt will be a spring turkey hunt conducted in accordance with all DGIF rules/regulations/laws.
5. Shotguns only; all hunters are strongly encouraged to pattern their gun on a turkey target before the hunt to ensure they know their effective range.
6. Hunting will be conducted primarily from ground blinds.
7. Two way communications will be established between all instructors/guides and the hunt master if possible.
8. A light breakfast and a lunch will be provided.
9. No alcoholic beverages will be permitted on the farm nor consumed during the hunt.

Weather Cancellation: If required all hunt parties will be contacted prior to the hunt if weather forces its cancellation. During the hunt this will only be done in an emergency.

Volunteers needed: If you'd like to volunteer to help with calling, setup, etc., contact Rick Wilks (contact info. above).

Region 1

New Kent Forestry Center Youth Turkey Hunt

The goal of this Youth Hunt Management Plan is to provide safe, ethical and rewarding hunting opportunities for Venturing Scouts from The Boy Scouts of America, Colonial Virginia and Heart of Virginia Councils. This Youth Hunt shall be conducted under tightly controlled and managed circumstances in a safe and ethical manner consistent with all applicable policies and procedures and the safety of all participants shall be its primary purpose.

Registration: Closed - this event is for Boy and Girl Scouts of the Colonial Virginia and Heart of Virginia Councils.

Date: April 20, 2013

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

Contacts: Dennis "Denny" Newhouse, Huntmaster, VDGIF Senior HE Instructor, E-mail: dnewhouse6@cox.net, cell #: 757-503-0865 AND Henry McBurney, Assistant Huntmaster, VDGIF Master HE Instructor, E-mail: h-smcburney@charter.net, cell #: 757-897-9681

Special Announcements:

1. Prior to hunting the youth hunter must have turned in the completed VHEA Liability Waiver form.
2. 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 Diana Delgado. This Scout Youth Protection Training is good for a two year period so those who completed it last year for the New Kent BSA event will not have to re-take it this year.

All Youth Hunters must log in (upon arrival) and out (prior to departure) of the New Kent Forestry Center hunter log book. The instructor/guide has the final authority while hunting and in the blind – NO Exceptions!

Volunteers needed: If you'd like to volunteer to help with calling, set-up, etc. contact either person listed above.

Other Announcements

A Word About The Director's Award

It seems that some people thrive on spreading misinformation. Some time prior to November 14, 2012, an instructor called the Colonel at VDGIF Richmond Headquarters claiming I was trying to block an instructor from receiving the Director's Award Rifle. This could not be farther from the truth. I am writing a time line for the events leading up to the awarding of the Henry Rifle.

- Approached by Monte in June informing me that he and Angie had reached 5,000 hours
- Announced to the Association Board in June of this possibility
- Received confirmation from David Dodson on July 2 that these two were eligible
- Contacted Henry and got prices. On July 18 sent Angie and Monte the prices for the Henry Golden Boy .22 LR and the upgrade to the .17 HMR. (NOTE: VHEA awards a .22 at no cost to the recipients. If they prefer a different caliber, the recipient pays only the difference in cost.)
- At July Basic Instructor Workshop, Wade received payment from Angie and Monte to purchase the upgrade to the .17 HMR's
- Firearms were ordered in August and billed to my personal credit card on September 12
- Firearms were received at Morehead's Gun Shop on October 3
- I picked up the receiver covers on October 10
- I delivered both receiver covers to the engraver on October 16
- Engraver notified me on November 2 that the receivers were ready
- I picked up the receivers from the engraver on November 7
- Received a call from David Dodson informing me of the phone call to the Colonel
- Returned receivers to Morehead's Gun Shop on November 16
- David set the date for the presentation at the January board meeting
- Monte and Angie completed FFL paperwork and picked up the rifles on December 1

These types of false rumors have been spread 3 years by a small group of disgruntled instructors. I have taken the high road and remained quiet in the past. I am fed up with this childish behavior and am now glad to discuss this type of gossip with anyone who cares about the truth.

Your President,
Vernie

Region 5 Feedback Request

Hello Region 5,

This is Jesse Ebron your representative for the VAHEA. In the last newsletter I spoke of a Region 5 picnic. I had only one reply (thanks Barbara). Well, I'm open for any suggestions on things to do - let's hear 'em folks! Things are starting to get pretty busy for Hunter Ed. Region 5 does not have any planned hunts for the near future, but we are looking to help anyone wanting to plan one. If you have an ideas let's talk about it!

Now! About the VAHEA, I would like to say I don't have anybody trying to bang my doors down looking to help the Association. We can't help you unless you tell us how. I will be at the first Advanced Training at Holiday Lake if you need to reach me.

Take Care and Stay Safe!
Jesse Ebron

VHEA Instructor Forum Update

Hello all,

Over the course of the last year I have been receiving e-mails from the Forum registration every time a new user tries to register. These e-mails range in number from as few as 15 to as many as 60 per day, every day. That adds up to an average of 16 thousand e-mails per year. In order to ensure all valid requests for registration are activated I have to open all requests to verify the user's identity. Out of all requests we received, only 60 have been from actual Instructors wishing to join the Forum, the remainder are from a wide variety of spammers, phishers and hackers. In an effort to eliminate these "bogus" registration attempts and the hours of wasted time I have disabled user registration on the Forum. Instructors can still join the Forum but will have to contact me directly. New users will need to provide their name, address, e-mail address, instructor ID #, and requested user name and they will be provided a temporary password for access. E-mail requests to Forum Administration teamfse1@aol.com and use "Forum Request" in the topic line.

Thank you,

Wade White
Forum Administrator

In Our Sights

By Wendy Hyde

VHEA Life Member – Arthur L. Buikema, Jr.

The VDGIF Hunter Education Instructor community is privileged to have within its ranks a true celebrity from Virginia's higher education profession. Arthur L. Buikema, Jr. is a Senior HE Instructor "closing in on Master" and an Alumni Distinguished Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg (Region 3 – Montgomery County).

Teaching seems to be in his blood - Art has instructed at the college level for 45 years, became a HE instructor in 2004 and is an NRA Instructor in 5 different courses. As a father to 5 boys and 6 girls, there was a lot of teaching going on at home, too.

He grew up with two brothers on a hog and grain farm in Beecher, IL and attributes his interest in ecology to these beginnings. Art hated farm chores but enjoyed working with the animals and was active in 4-H and FFA. As a young boy Art would carry a Winchester Model 41 410 and tag along with one of his visiting uncles on rabbit and pheasant hunts.

Neither of his parents had a high school education, and for Art learning was a challenge – he was dyslexic and no one knew it. As a teenager he spent his summers doing construction work and had a career as a union heavy equipment operator planned when a country pastor dared him to go to college. Art reluctantly agreed to try for one semester; the summer jobs paid for tuition. Four years later he graduated from Elmhurst College in Elmhurst, IL with a Bachelor of Science degree. Opportunities to study and teach ecology courses began after grad school at the University of Kansas, and included ecology courses near Ely, MN, in the Everglades National Park and in several foreign countries. His career at VT began in 1971. As a faculty member and Senior Fulbright scholar, he has traveled around the world developing and teaching courses in environmental biology and environmental education. He credits the interest in teaching to having a great HS biology teacher and good mentors throughout his college experience. His creativity in the classroom came from having to find different ways to learn. Art figured out he was dyslexic while having his own children tested and realized "I do that"! This combination of a love of teaching, "outside of the box" methods, and a passion for the environment has been recognized and appreciated by his students and teaching peers – he has earned every teaching award bestowed by Virginia Tech.

He recalls, "When I left for college I gave my firearms to my brother and it was not until 2004 when I was co-teaching in South Africa, my colleague asked if I would like to go on a hunting safari with some other colleagues.

Since I had a nice camera, I said yes. As I was following one of the hunters (a Virginia DGIF instructor) I began to wonder if I could still hit a target. So I bought a .22 LR rifle and found out that I could. My friend then suggested that I join the Shawnee Shooting Sports Club and become an NRA Instructor. Of course, he also suggested that I might enjoy becoming a DGIF instructor. Since I was already hooked on teaching young people I said yes and I have absolutely no regrets. For the past 2 years, I have joined the youth hunts in Bedford County and enjoyed working with youth and their mentors to develop safe hunting skills. I will be taking one of my grandsons to his first bird hunt in March and I am looking forward to the opportunity." One son shares Art's interest in hunting and their first father-son trip to Africa is planned for this year. His favorite type of hunting is African wild game and occasionally pheasant, quail and chukar in Virginia.



Art with a Black Wildebeest in 2012

He became a Hunter Education instructor because he really enjoys teaching. Art joined VHEA and IHEA because he believes strongly that we need to educate the next generation of safe, ethical and conservation minded hunters. After attending Advanced Training sessions and getting to know more instructors, he was impressed by their desire to teach firearms safety, ethics and conservation and wanted to be a part of that effort. The VHEA and DGIF give him the opportunity to teach new students and he is amazed at how many young girls are taking the classes. Two years ago Art started a program at Virginia Tech to recruit young DGIF instructors. Two students completed their certification last year, and about 5 students (3 of them female) will begin their certification program this coming summer.

At age 71, Art still enjoys learning – he and wife Alison Galway are attending the May Hunter Skills Weekend. Gourmet cooking, flower and spice gardening and travel are among his other favorite activities. He feels his involvement with HE is rewarding and meeting the people that take the classes at Holiday Lake is fun. He appreciates their knowledge, ethics, and passion for what they do. His only regret – he did not find out about this when he was younger!