

VHEADLINES



A quarterly Newsletter of the Virginia Hunter Education Association

Letter from the President

Hello to all members of the Virginia Hunter Education Association,

First I would like to thank Wendy Hyde for agreeing to compile this first quarterly newsletter. It is time that information about your association gets to everyone and not just the ones who make it to Holiday Lake. Our membership meetings are held at each Advanced Training on Friday night. There is also a board meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Friday prior to the membership meeting. Anyone interested may attend the board meeting or present new business for consideration.

This year the “big event” was Hunter Skills Weekend in May. We had 60 adults and children attend and comments were very positive with many saying they were coming back. The second weekend will be in late August. Thanks to DGIF, Holiday Lake, and the instructors who make this a very exciting weekend for the participants. Hopefully many of these people will become hunters. We have also gotten requests for information on becoming an instructor. This was our 5th Hunter Skills Weekend and hopefully we can continue this program for some time to come. There are several groups planning both youth and veteran hunts in the fall. There is always a need for help with these events and it is a very rewarding experience. I encourage you to become involved when possible.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions and concerns you may have.

Vernie Kennedy
President

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Morgan Award Presented

On March 31, 2012, Buchanan County native Roger Keene of Oakwood received the annual William Dixon Morgan Memorial Award for his contributions in hunter safety. The award was presented to Mr. Keene at Holiday Lake 4-H Center in Appomattox, by Officer Jeff Pease, Hunter Education Coordinator for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Roger Keene has been a faithful and reliable contributor to the Hunter Education Program since 1994, instructing over 2,000 students and logging over 2,000 hours in the instruction of new hunters.

According to Officer Pease, “Roger is a tremendous asset to our program. He is very passionate about safe and ethical hunting and is able to convey this passion to his students in a very charismatic way. Roger is the guy you want to have on your team. It is an honor to work with him.”

(See Morgan Award, Page 2)

Morgan Award Presented

(continued from Page 1)

Roger regularly makes the five hour (one way) trek to Holiday Lake 4-H Center to teach fellow instructors archery hunting skills and safety at Advanced Training Events that the department holds for volunteer Hunter Education Instructors. Roger has volunteered to assist in the Youth Hunter Education Challenge at Holiday Lake since 2006. The Hunter Education Challenge draws young hunters from across the state to compete in this annual event. Roger recognizes the increased popularity with the use of crossbows and has volunteered to work with Hunter Education staff to develop a crossbow hunting class for advanced training events. He is also currently working with department personnel to plan several youth rabbit hunts in Southwest, Virginia to promote youth involvement in the sport of hunting.

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. Congratulations Mr. Keene on a job well done!



Board Bulletins

MINUTES: To view the minutes from the Board of Directors' March 29, 2012 meeting, visit the VHEA web site (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:

Vernie Kennedy, President	vern_k@msn.com
Rob Zepp, Vice President	rlz1951@gmail.com
Wade White, Treasurer	teamfse1@aol.com
Ralph Graybill, Secretary	rgraybill@cox.net

Regional Directors:

Region 1:	Mike Norkus bowhuntinmike@comcast.net
Region 2:	George "Spud" Almond galmond@jejamerson.com
Region 3:	George Steele mariahkelli@verizon.net
Region 4:	John Dunne keezle1108@verizon.net
Region 5:	Jesse Ebron jebtron@sms.com

This Just In.....

- ⊕ Life Members will soon be receiving permanent, plastic membership cards, and rockers will be available.
- ⊕ A new Liability and Publicity Release is available for any hunts sanctioned by VHEA. Contact a Board Member or Officer to obtain a copy.
- ⊕ VHEA has donated a tree stand to the Hunter Safety Team. A raffle for the stand will be held at the Virginia Outdoor Sportsman Show in Richmond on August 10, 11, and 12, 2012.
- ⊕ Region 4 Director John Dunne's term will end this year and he will not be running for re-election. An election will be held at the next Advanced Training (September 14, 15, and 16, 2012) to fill the vacancy.
- ⊕ The positions of President, Secretary, Region 2 and Region 4 Director are up for re-election in September.

Treasurer's Report

By Wade White, Treasurer

Account – Checking balance as of 5/27/2012	\$ 15,136.21
Bedford County Youth Hunts	0
John Dunne's Crossbow Hunt	\$ 1,529.18
Rob Zepp's Wounded Warrior Turkey Hunt	\$ 1,135.02
HEC- From NRA Grant	\$ 1,500.00
HSW	0
Bedford Co. HE- Milan Ashbrenner Memorial	\$ 125.89
Total allocated funds	\$ 4,290.09
General Fund	\$10,846.12
Unpaid Bills	0

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, go to the "Membership" page of the VHEA web site (www.vahea.org) and click on "Link to VAHEA Instructors Bulletin Board".

(For problems signing up or to contact the Forum Administrator, Wade White, e-mail teamfse1@aol.com and be prepared to provide your full name and HE ID number.)

Register today!

Membership Information (as of 5/27/12)

Current membership: 141

Life members: 75 *

*(74 Instructors, 1 Associate life member)

66 Annual members are paid for 2012

To join, go to VAHEA.ORG, print the membership form and mail to the address printed at the bottom along with your check.

Membership options and costs are:

Regular (1-year) - \$ 20.00

Associate - \$ 15.00

Life - \$150.00

Hunter Skills Weekend



The next Hunter Skills Weekend is coming on August 24, 25 & 26, 2012 at the Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center in Appomattox, VA.

This semi-annual event is a partnership program presented by the VHEA, the Virginia DGIF and Holiday Lake. Volunteer instructors staff the event which is open to the public for anyone ages 11 through 90+. Course offerings vary, and typically include bow hunting, live-fire firearms activities, small game hunting skills and wild game cooking as well as other hunting-related topics. Completion of a Hunter Education class is recommended, but not required.

Please visit the Holiday Lake site at www.holidaylake4h.com to view details and go to your summer classes prepared to promote this great opportunity. There is also a flyer available to print and distribute.



Summer Events

Region: 1

Bayport Hunter Skills Weekend

The purpose of this workshop is to provide Scouts eleven years of age and older skills training and information relative to hunting. The workshop will be conducted in a controlled environment with the emphasis of the workshop on the ethics of hunting and will be conducted with the safety of the participants being the primary objective of the workshop.

Registration Information: Registration is through the Colonial Virginia Council, Boy's and Girl Scouts and Bayport Scout Camp.

Dates: 8 September 2012

Location: Bayport Scout Camp, 130 Scout Trail, Jamaica, VA 23097

Contacts: Joe Hickey, BSA; Henry McBurney, VHEA

Volunteers are needed to assist with classes in deer hunting, turkey hunting, small game hunting, and shotgun.

Region: 1

New Kent Youth Hunts

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 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.

Dates: 29 September, 24 November, 29 December 2012

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

Contacts: Denny Newhouse, BSA; D.J. Delgado, Huntmaster 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 Diana Delgado. This is a one-time requirement. For those having previously completed the Scout Youth Protection Training, retaking the training is not necessary.

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.)

Look for the
"Virginia Hunter Education Association"
on

facebook

And



Us!

Other News

New Region 1 Coordinator

VDGIF and VHEA welcome Sarah Druy as the new Hunter Education Coordinator for Region 1 beginning in June of 2012. She will be working out of the Charles City Office at 3801 John Tyler Memorial Hwy, Charles City, VA 23030.

Carter Lewis Update

Regional Coordinator/CPO Crystal Weidman and VHEA President Vernie Kennedy visited Carter Lewis and his wife on Wednesday, June 13, and delivered a donation check. Carter and his wife are both doing a little better. Her tumor has shrunk about 70-80 percent, she is able to eat more, and has gained a little weight. Carter wanted to visit Holiday Lake during June's Advanced Training Session but could not get his blood pressure up enough to drive. They would like to thank everyone for their kindness.

Fundraisers held during the March and June Advanced Training sessions combined with a contribution from the VHEA yielded a donation of \$1,621.00. Thanks to all for your contributions!

In Our Sights

By Wendy Hyde

VHEA Life Member # 1 – M.P. Jones

The honor of being VHEA's first Life member goes to Michael Paul Jones. M.P. – as he prefers to be called – lives in Orlean (Fauquier County, Region 4) with his wife, B.J. He has four children, one of which is a hunter.

M.P. was born in Washington, DC and raised in Northern Virginia just outside of Falls Church. His father hunted out of necessity to feed M.P., his older brother and mother. His first memories of shooting began at the age of 6 when his father introduced him to a Browning .22 semi-automatic and they began their annual trip to his father's home place in West Virginia. Although both boys were offered the opportunity to hunt, M.P. was the only one to pursue the interest. Learning squirrel and deer hunting began at age 12 - along with the lesson of patience. M. P. waited 10 years before he would harvest his first deer. His skills expanded into muzzleloader deer hunting which is now his favorite. He began with a side hammer and eventually switched to Thompson Encore in-lines in both .45 and .50 calibers. He also enjoys archery and turkey hunting and finds the latter most challenging. Since that first deer at age 22, he has harvested over one hundred deer, several turkeys, and two black bear.

At age 19 M.P. started a career as a Fire Fighter with Fairfax County and progressed to an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and a Cardiac Care Technician (CCT). Retirement came in 1986 after 17 years of service then a second career working for the Fauquier County School system. When he is not working, keeping up with home renovation projects and teaching Hunter Education he enjoys travel and photography. He is a Boating Safety and International Bowhunter Education Program (IBEP) instructor, and is Red Cross CPR/AED certified.

Life changed drastically for M.P. on November 11, 2003, when he fell 16 feet from a tree stand onto a blown down tree. Another hunter found him and retrieved M.P.'s cell phone which M.P. used to dial 911. Local rescue personnel responded and he was then airlifted to UVA Medical Center by Fairfax County Emergency Services. He spent nine days in the trauma unit with a pelvis fractured in five places and a damaged right hand. During the five months rehabilitating in a home hospital bed he had to re-learn how to walk and use his right hand. He admits he failed to follow Rule No. 1 of tree stand safety – he was not wearing a harness and was not tethered to the tree. When he got his first hunting license as a young boy, Hunter Education was not required, so he did not have the benefit of the curriculum's tree stand safety training.



M.P. Jones, top row, far right with family members and a Guide Program participant.

The recovery period provided countless hours to reflect on the accident and what it meant to survive. His faith in the Lord led him to understand he was alive so he could teach and help others to not make the same mistake. Injuries as severe as his affect the survivor physically, emotionally, financially and mentally. He shared, "When you have an accident, your family has the accident with you – you are no longer the provider and become a burden to them." These revelations led him to becoming a Hunter Education instructor in 2005. His personal goal is to educate as many people as possible about tree stand safety.

He has shared his love of hunting by introducing two young men ages 12 and 14 to the activity through the VDGIF Guide Program. He has committed enough volunteer instructor hours to the Virginia Hunter Education program to earn both Senior and Master levels. For him, the most rewarding part of this involvement is "knowing I have an impact on the students' lives regarding hunter safety."

M.P. is no stranger to commitment - he is also a life member of the NRA, International Hunter Education Association, and the Virginia Shooting Sports Association. When asked why he became a Life Member of VHEA, he replied, "I believe in any organization the power lies in the members. The more long-term commitments you have the stronger it makes the organization."

When asked what he enjoys the most about his involvement in Hunter Education he shared, "I enjoy the process of transferring knowledge with other hunters so that when they hunt they come home the same way they left. I want hunting to be safe and fun. If it's not fun, we won't have the next generation continue the activity of hunting."

Well said, M.P.