

VHEADLINES



A quarterly Newsletter of the Virginia Hunter Education Association

Letter from the President

Greetings Association Members,

It is already June and it seems to me the year just started. I hear as we get older time seems to fly and I am starting to believe that is true. I hope this letter finds everyone well and getting ready for the upcoming Hunter Education classes and then the fall hunting seasons.

The date is approaching fast for the start of the new course. We have done one and it was used by our coordinator as a training session for other teaching teams. This course will require instructor discipline to cover the material well in the limited time, so we must stay on topic.

There were several youth turkey hunts this spring that were sponsored in part by the Association. These were successful regardless of harvest success. We must always remember it is hunting not harvesting. I would like to personally thank all the instructors who volunteered their time at these hunts.

At the April Advanced Training we received the resignation of our Vice President, Rob Zepp. I would like to thank him for his time and efforts with the Association and the wounded warrior turkey hunts he and others did in Suffolk. These men always enjoyed and appreciated what Rob did for them at those hunts. He has served as Vice President since the VHEA began and has done a lot for the organization as well as instructors from across the state at basic and advanced training. He cannot be thanked enough for all he has done for the hunter education program in Virginia.

At the April Advanced Training the board of the Association voted to help a fellow instructor in his time of need. The total money raised was \$1,000.00 for Carter Lewis and his wife. She has battled cancer for several years and Carter stood by her during this time as well as had many health problems of his own. I want to thank all who donated for this cause. It is with sadness that I must report that Rena lost her battle with cancer. Crystal Weidman and I attended the funeral service and were asked to serve as honorary pallbearers. We were both humbled and honored to be

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asked to serve in this capacity. Carter wishes to thank his family of fellow instructors for their care, concerns and generosity in his and Rena's time of need.

I have just learned that Carter has gone through a heart procedure since his wife's death and is feeling it has helped. Carter still needs your concerns and prayers.

The Association held Hunter Skills Weekend the first of May. There were 60 participants that attended, and evaluations were very positive. This was the 7th weekend and the total attendance for all these events is 475. We have another scheduled for the end of August. I hope all instructors will advertise this at their classes. Our information proves that many learn of this event when they attend a hunter education class. These weekends are a cooperative project of the Virginia Hunter Education Association, The Holiday Lake 4H Center and the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. DGIF has paid for the instructors lodging and meals. This has made it possible to keep the cost down for participants. Thank you to DGIF for this support in the past, and we look forward to your ongoing support for this worthy project as we continue to promote hunting and recruit new hunters that will be our future.

Hope to see you all at future events,

Vernie

Board Bulletins

VHEA Officers

Vernie Kennedy, President vernie_k@msn.com
 Vice President Vacant
 Wade White, Treasurer teamfse1@aol.com
 Ed Crebbs, Secretary edcrebbs@yahoo.com

Regional Directors and Assistant Directors

Region 1

Director: Mike Norkus
 bowhuntinmike@comcast.net
 Assistants: (1) Anthony Carambia
 cartony9@cox.net
 (2) Angie Leigh
 Angie.leigh@dgif.virginia.gov

Region 2

Director: George "Spud" Almond
 galmond@jejamerson.com
 Assistants: None

Region 3

Director: Mike Cantrell
 Timothy.cantrell@vdot.virginia.gov
 Assistants: None

Region 4

Director: Jason Miller
 treedblackbear@yahoo.com
 Assistant: Randy Hill
 rhill@idmtrucking.com

Region 5

Director: Jesse Ebron
 jebron@sms.com
 Assistants: (1) Aaron Grimsley
 huntedr@yahoo.com
 (2) Glenn S. Waleska
 gw2841@att.com

***Assistants are needed in Regions 2, 3 and 4.
 If you are interested in helping please
 contact the Regional Director.***

Membership Information

To renew or sign up for a new membership 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

Treasurer's Report

By Wade White, Treasurer

Account - Checking balance as of 06/03/2013	\$ 13,860.85
Bedford County Youth Hunts	0
John Dunne's Crossbow Hunt	\$ 1,689.26
Rob Zepp's Wounded Warrior Turkey Hunt	0
HEC	0
HSW	0
Bedford Co. HE- Milan Ashbrenner Memorial	\$ 193.42
Total allocated funds	\$ 1,882.68
General Fund	\$ 11,978.17
Unpaid Bills	0
Petty Cash	\$ 175.00

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

Spring Highlights

Virginia Hunter Skills Weekend

(As printed in the Outdoor Report, May 22, 2013 issue)

On May 3-5, Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center in Appomattox, VA, hosted the first of two Virginia Hunter Skills Weekends for 2013. Individuals, couples, groups of friends and entire families comprised the sixty participants ranging in age from 11 through grandparents.

Scheduled class topics from A-Z covered archery, basic shotgun, rifle and pistol, bow hunting, bow fishing, muzzleloading, recovery of wounded game, skeet and trap shooting, small game hunting skills, trapping, turkey hunting and wild game cooking. The weather was ideal for the outdoor activities and provided just enough chill in the air to make the nightly campfires and s'mores enjoyable.

Just-for-fun evening events included a LaserShot game and a classic John Wayne movie in the outdoor Amphitheater complete with popcorn. Optional seminars rounded out the experience with opportunities to build a wood duck box, learn and practice to safely use a tree stand, or pick up some gun cleaning techniques.

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. Participants' feedback on the event included, "Amazing instruction, the knowledge base was incredible and it seems that all the instructors want to pass on all of their knowledge in a safe and enjoyable manner to all who wish to learn", "Had a lot of shooting time, kids had a great time as well, held their interest", and "This was my 1st time and I thought this was a great weekend. I learned a lot and everyone was super friendly."

The next Skills Weekend is August 23-25, 2013. Course descriptions and registration information will be available on the Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center web site: www.holidaylake4h.com or by calling Holiday Lake at (434) 248-5444. Class size is limited so register early!

NOTE: A flyer for this event is included as page 6 of this newsletter. Please print and distribute throughout your community and in your hunter education classes.



Participants practiced skeet shooting skills and successfully retrieved simulated fish targets in the bowfishing class. Survival students built a debris hut.



New Kent Forestry Center Youth Turkey Hunt April 20, 2013

The group safely conducted a youth turkey hunt at the New Kent Forestry Center facility. The Scouts had five signed up but only three showed. There were five DGIF Hunter Education volunteers there to help take out the hunters. Although no shots were fired, turkeys were seen and heard, but apparently the weather from the night before and early that morning had them all off of their schedule. (One of the groups flushed a couple from a tree at mid-morning!) The kids all seemed to enjoy themselves, anyway.

DGIF volunteers who assisted during the hunt were Henry McBurney, Tony Carambia, William Bush, Greg Hanson and Denny Newhouse who was dual-hatted as a DGIF volunteer and the BSA representative.

Spring Highlights

(continued)

Northern Neck Youth Turkey Hunt April 20, 2013

The hunt was conducted at the Virginia Wildlife Foundation's Fulfillment Farms on 20 Apr 13. Tom Morris, manager at the Farm, was very helpful in setting up this hunt and it was very much appreciated. The Farm definitely has a lot of turkeys but they won this round. The weather did not cooperate and the area had severe thunderstorms and power outages the night before the hunt. Watermarks Camp graciously hosted the hunters and their parents despite being without power because of downed trees, etc.

The youth participating in the hunt were selected from Hunter Education classes by draw. They were - Hayden Hancock, Zachery Behrens, Hunter Stuczynski, Gregory Kaczor, Kendal Rhodes and Courtney Buzby. Each of them received turkey hunting gear packages from Bass Pro, Dick's, Gander Mountain and Green Top. They were greatly appreciated by each of the participants!

Each youth and his or her parent/guardian were guided by highly qualified turkey hunters/hunter educators. Buddy Fines, Patrick Fines, Bill Newman, Steve Purks, Chris McCall and Mike Redgrave were the guides for the hunt. I want to sincerely thank each of them for their time and effort in supporting this hunt.

After a quick breakfast of pastries and coffee at 0500, the hunters were taken to their blinds to await the dawn. The morning was cold but clear and the birds were there but not very vocal. As the morning warmed the birds started to gobble and the anticipation mounted. All of the youth heard birds and most got a chance to work gobblers but no shots were taken though some came very close. As Rick tells all of his beginner turkey hunters, the hunt is a success if you get a chance to work a turkey - the shot is the icing on the cake. After the hunt ended at 1200 [VA has half day hunting for the first part of the season], all of the hunters were picked up and returned to camp for a hot lunch and exchange of stories. The group then conducted a turkey shoot which was won by Kendal Rhodes and she appreciated her turkey decoy donated by Gander Mountain.

The hunt terminated at 3:00pm and everyone headed for their homes. Hopefully everyone enjoyed this first Virginia Invitational Youth turkey Hunt and we are starting to plan for next year's.

Summer Events

Region: 1

Bayport Hunting Skills Workshop

Coordination is well underway with Mr. Henry McBurney for the Bayport Hunting Skills Workshop scheduled for the Bayport Scout Center on the 24th of August.

This event is jointly sponsored in conjunction with the DGIF, VHEA and the BSA Colonial Council. The focus of the Hunter Skills Workshop will be safety, ethics and basic hunting skills.

If any of you have any suggestions or would like to volunteer to help out for future hunts please contact Henry McBurney at: hsmcburney@charter.net.



Regional News

Greetings Region 5!

It's Jesse Ebron, your Director. First I would like to say thank you for all your support of the Hunter Skills Weekend. We had a very strong showing of folks from the region 5 area. Most participants said they were given information at their Hunters Ed class. That is a great place to get more people involved, so keep up the good work. If you have any ideas on different classes we can offer at the Hunters Skill event please let me know. I would also like to try and put together a few small events in region 5. If you have any thoughts? Let's talk!

Thank you,

Jesse Ebron

In Our Sights

By Wendy Hyde

VHEA Life Member - Tony Carambia

After decades of service in the US Navy, Tony Carambia has “re-enlisted” as a volunteer Hunter Education Instructor with the VDGIF in Region 1 (Hampton).

Born and raised in rural Rome, New York, Anthony “Tony” Carambia was the middle child between two older brothers and two younger sisters. His father worked as a master mason and travelled frequently. Tony’s brothers were both drafted which left him as the oldest male child at home, so he took on the responsibilities of the family. After Tony’s father bought him a new shotgun he started hunting. Tony recalls he would get home from school and, “my mother would tell me we needed something to eat so I would go out and get something. I learned on my own; I was self-taught.”

Tony received his draft letter for the Army in 1968 before he turned 18, but wanted to go into the Navy. He went to the Navy recruiter on Friday and left for boot camp three days later. He traveled extensively during his military career which began with two tours in Vietnam and concluded with duty in Desert Storm/Desert Shield. Tony has been around the world three times during his 19 years at sea and has been in every ocean or sea except the Black Sea. He served in Yemen, Haiti, Somalia, Iran and Iraq, and spent seven years in Bahrain, Abu Dabi and Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. He used his skills as a steam plant engineer on board destroyers, amphibious carriers and aircraft carriers. As a Chief Engineer he was also responsible for inspections, damage control and fire-fighting, and was involved in conducting the Damage Control Inspection of the USS Stark when she was hit with two missiles and the USS Roberts when she was hit with a mine. He proudly declares, “My favorite place in the world is the US. I have been to many places that are supposed to be great and the contrast between wealth and poverty is so stark it is unsettling. We provided a lot of humanitarian duty - building bathrooms, hospitals, repairing orphanages, etc. The guys would chip in money to buy the supplies, and it felt good to help and see something that made a difference.”

Tony did other things while in the Navy – he married, started a family and completed college. He met his wife Bonnie in Long Beach, CA while on liberty and he knew the day they met she was “the one”. He turned 21 on Nov. 8, they married on Nov. 11, and she turned 18 on Nov. 14 - all in the same year. After the Navy moved him back and forth between California and Norfolk several times he decided it was best for Bonnie and their three young children to have a more permanent home. They settled in Hampton where they have lived for 33 years. They recently celebrated their 42nd anniversary and have nine grandchildren (seven boys and two girls).

One of his longer temporary duty assignments was in the Completion Degree Program. He graduated from Christopher Newport College with a bachelor's degree in Political Science – which he completed in only 16 months.

When he was home he got his two sons and his daughter involved in hunting, and both boys continued to develop their skill and interest in it. Tony now shares the activity with his seven grandsons ages 8, 9, 10 and 14. He enjoys rabbit hunting with beagles, hunts deer and turkey, and especially enjoys taking his grandchildren along. When the boys started asking a lot of questions he wanted to give them the right answers so he decided to get involved in Hunter Education. He says, “They like shooting, going into the woods, hunting with the dogs and staying at the ‘camp’ with ‘Grandfather’.” When it comes to cooking the game Tony gets the job; the kids will eat it, but his wife declines.



He retired in 1995 with the rank of Lieutenant Commander after 27 years, 6 months and 1 day of service to our country. Tony’s skill at construction work and his ability to work on small engines has not gone unnoticed by his friends and neighbors. He comments that, “whenever anybody needs something fixed they bring it to me.” He is an active member of the Edgemoor Hunt Club in Gloucester and the Eastern Virginia Beagle Club in Chesapeake. He is involved in the Italian-American Club and the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Hampton, and maintains memberships in the American Legion, the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), Tin Can Sailors and Disabled American Veterans.

Tony has been teaching for 6 years, is both a Master Hunter Ed and Boating Safety Instructor, and is CPR Certified. He likes seeing young people get involved. He especially enjoys events at Holiday Lake and says, “I haven’t met anybody at Holiday Lake I don’t like. I like their values and the way they think. I always learn something, and have taken every class at least a few times.” He joined the VHEA as a Life Member because he thought it was the right thing to do. He likes the organization's goals and wants to do whatever he can to support it.

Tony Carambia's dedication to his country, his family and the Hunter Education program prove what an asset he is to all.

Virginia Hunter Skills Weekend August 23-25, 2013

Want to learn new hunting skills or hone the ones you have?
Looking for expert instruction?
Then this is the workshop for you!

Ages 11-90+

children under 18 must attend with parent
(Hunter Education class is a plus but is not required)

Class Selections:

- Hunter Education Course
- Bow Hunting Basics
- Muzzleloading Basics
- Rifle, Basic & Advanced
- Shotgun Basics
- Pistol Basics
- Skeet
- Trap
- Survival
- Bow Fishing Basics
- Game Processing
- Wild Game Cooking



- Small Game Hunting Skills
- Turkey Hunting Skills
- Waterfowl Hunting Skills
- Deer Hunting Skills

Cost:

Early Bird: \$110.00 (Registration and payment must be received by August 2, 2013)

Regular Price: \$120.00 (Registration and payment received after August 2, 2013)

Covers meals Friday Dinner-Sunday Lunch, lodging and all instruction

Please register by: August 9, 2013

Refund Policy: Full Refund up to August 9, 2013; 1/2 Refund up to August 16, 2013
Nonrefundable after August 16, 2013

Location: **Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center, Appomattox, VA 24522**

Rustic but comfortable bunk style lodging.

Please bring your own linens, pillow and toiletries.

A health form, a list of items to bring, and other information will be sent as soon as your registration form has been received.

A Partnership Program Presented By:



vahea.org



Holiday Lake 4-H Center
Holidaylake4h.com



dgif.virginia.gov