

VHEADLINES



A quarterly Newsletter of the Virginia Hunter Education Association

Letter from the President

By "Hank" Tomlinson, President

Hello from the mountains of western Virginia. A lot has happened since the last newsletter. We just recently had Hunter Skills Weekend, and if you read the reviews, it was a most successful event. I also met with Bob Duncan, the Executive Director of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and we had a most productive meeting. I had met him before, but had never sat down and had a conversation with him. He is an accomplished hunter, fisherman, and all around sportsman who thinks hunter education is an important program, and I certainly felt better about the support the program receives from the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. As instructors we should always strive to look at the bright side and continue to provide a good program and curriculum for our most important assets, and those assets are the students in our classes who are the hunters of tomorrow. We cannot afford to be lax in our pursuit of providing the students the very best hunter education that we can give. I know I am "preaching to the choir", as most of you always give 110% in the classroom and in the field. I personally am impressed with the instructor performance, especially at Holiday Lake, and you guys are the ones who consistently go over the top with whatever it is that has to be done.

Speaking of going over the top, in my meeting with Bob Duncan, he pledged to make the funds available to install commercial electrical power to the shotgun and rifle ranges at Holiday Lake. John Dunne, Bryan Branch, Zach Adams, Spud Almond and I met with the engineer from Central Virginia
(continued)

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Electric Cooperative and hammered out the final installation design and other details of this project, and we hope to have it operational by Advanced Training in September. Just imagine not having to listen to a generator running, handling gasoline, being cautious with exhaust fumes, and all the things we have lived with up to the present. This will not only be a tremendous improvement, but will complete an item I promised to make happen in my campaign for Association president.

My next project will be the "Hook Up A Buddy" program, which is a concept where if you have a computer, and there are instructors in your area who don't have access to e-mail, we can be hooked up with each other and be able to stay up-to-date on the latest happenings with the Association and the hunter education program in general. I haven't worked out all the details, but hope to have a draft of a program that will work by September. That's all for now, and I hope to see you at Skills Weekend in August.

Hank

A Message from the VP

By Mike Norkus, Vice President

If you had a chance to get out and turkey hunt this season I hope you were successful. I had birds gobbling all around me the three times I got to go, but no takers this year. But there's always next year...right!

Attached to this edition of "From the VP" you'll find a copy of the proposed changes of the VHEA By-Laws. In an effort to keep the General Membership informed I've highlighted in yellow (Article III, Section 2. Term of Office and Election Process) the section that has already been voted on and approved. I've highlighted in gray proposed changes based on recommendations from the Board/General Membership meeting held at the last Advanced Training in March (Article III, Section 4, Region Directors - Alignment of the Regions/Directors; Article IV, Dues - Added in Dues due date; and Article X - By-Laws changes to be posted via quarterly newsletter for review by the general membership. The red lettering is the recommended verbiage changes. I've also corrected several grammar errors. All changes are annotated with a red line in the left hand margin. If you see a red line in the left margin with no obvious change then it was just spacing issue (took out spaces, etc.). Depending on which version of Windows you have, you may be able to see the comments in the right hand margin; if not there may be a cloud there that you can click on to see the comment. I put the comments in with date and who sent them and/or the reason for the change. I'd like to thank those that provided input and recommended changes. We think this will be a better way to keep the General Membership informed on proposed changes to the VHEA By-Laws in the future.

Hunt hard and hunt safe!

Regards, Mike
VP, VHEA

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

The minutes from the March 27, 2015 Board and General Membership meetings will be posted on the VHEA web site, Board Meeting Minutes tab (<http://www.vahea.org/page22.html>) 2 weeks before the September 18, 2015 meeting.

If you joined the VHEA as a LIFE MEMBER between 2012 and 2015, please contact me to verify your membership. E-mail me at huntered@yahoo.com.

If you have any upcoming events for which you want to request financial assistance from VDGIF, e-mail the location, date, and brief description to me at least 45 days prior to the event.

Thank you, have a nice summer, and see you in the fall!

Aaron Grimsley

To ensure continued delivery of

VHEADLINES

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

Treasurer's Report

By Dianne Cook, Treasurer

<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. Judy Bergloff Memorial		\$ 135.00	
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 jebtron@sms.com

Summer Events

Region 1

Submitted by Ken Carter

Plans are currently underway for a fall Deer Hunting Workshop to be held in conjunction with VDGIF staff on September 26th. Tentative location will be in the New Kent area. The agenda is still being developed. Volunteers are needed from the VHEA to serve as instructors for this event. We currently anticipate sessions in archery, tree stand safety, blood tracking, etc. Please respond to Ken Carter at Kenneth.carter26@verizon.net or (804) 360-7456, if you wish to help and with any subject you would like to teach and have added to the agenda.

A similar session is also being planned for turkey hunting in the early spring.

Dates to remember: August 7, 8 and 9 –
Sportsmen Show at the Richmond Racetrack.

(continued)

Summer Events

Region 2

The second Virginia Hunter Skills Weekend will be held August 21-23 at Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center in Appomattox, VA.

Registration deadline is August 7th; the cost is \$115 per person before July 31 and \$125 per person after August 1. For ages 11 and up.

To download a printable flyer and registration form go to:
<https://holidaylake4h.com/vahunterweekend>.

Region 3

Nothing to report

Region 4

Nothing to report

Region 5

Hello all! I would say Region 5. That may change. The VHEA want to put region 5 as an at-large region. The vote will be in your hands. This is just a way for me to share my thoughts. I think it should stay the way it is (my opinion). It would be hard to run for the Board of Directors being a region at large. I feel there will be a better connection representing a region. Of course you will have a 1 ¼ Rep. per region with a director at large. I think one is going fine. Enough soap boxing! I'm here to represent Region 5 until!

Region 5 BOD
Jesse Ebron

Look for the
"Virginia Hunter Education Association" on

facebook

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 2

(As printed in the June 10 issue of The Outdoor Report)

Hunter Skills Weekend Features Variety of Courses

On May 1-3, 2015, Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center in Appomattox, VA, hosted the Virginia Hunter Skills Weekend. A large percentage of the students at this first 2015 workshop were former attendees.

The event has proven successful in its goal to introduce hunting skills, as evidenced by comments submitted on voluntary course critiques. Vernie Kennedy, Event Coordinator, and Bryan Branch, 4-H Center Director, use the feedback to plan future events and consider new course topics. They recently added classes in ammunition reloading and preserving your wild game harvest.

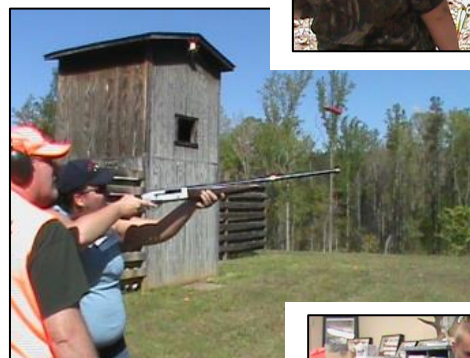
Feedback from this event included, "This was exactly what I was hoping for as an adult that did not have the luxury of growing up around hunting", and "As a newcomer to the hunting culture, I have to compliment all of the instructors on their professionalism and enthusiastic approach to teaching all levels. As the "first line of defense" in engaging a novice, they do an amazing job of increasing interest level and desire to continue learning more." And for the entirely-volunteer staff of Hunter Education instructors, that's exactly what they want to hear. The group of dedicated instructors presented 19 classes during the 1½ days that included archery, pistol, shotgun, bow hunting, bow fishing, predator hunting, skeet, survival and upland bird shooting techniques. Comments like, "I definitely will be returning to future events/workshops such as this one. I learned so much during the classes and I can't wait to put my knowledge into action" are what keeps these volunteers going. Optional evening events included demonstrations and discussions on deer skinning skills and tree stand use and safety. Participants in the waterfowl workshop painted a duck decoy to take home.

A secondary goal of the VHSW is to encourage involvement in hunting and purchasing a license. When asked, "If you have never been hunting before or are exploring a new hunting discipline (bow, muzzleloading, turkey, etc.), has this experience

convinced you to purchase a license and hunt?" nearly half of the attendants answered yes. Organizers see this as a step in the right direction toward preserving Virginia's rich hunting heritage.

Skills Weekends - a partnership program presented by the Virginia Hunter Education Association (VHEA), the Virginia DGIF and Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center - are open to anyone age 11 and up. The next Hunter Skills Weekend is August 21-23. 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. Information can also be found on the Virginia Hunter Education Association web site: www.vahea.org. Class size is limited so register early!



Teaching Tips

As we approach the “busy season” for local hunter education classes, it may be beneficial to review some fundamental classroom skills. Take the time to communicate and plan with your teaching team before class, and try to spend a few minutes after each class doing a review and wrap-up. Discuss any challenges the team faced and offer praise and constructive criticism to each other. Encourage effective, engaging presentations and make changes to improve future classes.

(Borrowed from the VDGIF Range Operations Live Fire Class Student Manual, page 10)

Instructors:

Poor grammar, clothing that is not mainstream and pulling your ear or scratching you head, etc. will definitely call attention to the instructor and not to the lesson being taught. Help fellow instructors in these areas and work as a team.

Not looking at the students while teaching. Looking at the chalkboard or the back wall is very distracting to students. Look at the students while you teach.

Instructors asking and immediately answering their own questions. This usually results in the students not raising their hands to answer questions or participating in classroom discussions.

Other instructors putting their “two cents worth” by talking unrecognized from the back of the room. Teaching should take place in the front of the student, not shouted from the back of the classroom. If another instructor has a comment, they should raise their hand and be recognized by the current teaching instructor.

Other instructors coming into the middle of the classroom and repeating what the instructor has already said. Other instructors saying something that the teaching instructor plans to say, but were not given the chance before they were interrupted.

Instructors that aren’t present for the entire class lesson shouldn’t be part of the team for that lesson plan. They should not comment unless requested by the teaching instructor. Teams should be familiar with their team members and the lesson plan.

Instructors that don’t show, show up just in time for their teaching section (without letting chief Instructor know ahead of time) or come unprepared.

Instructors should be courteous to other instructors. Unless there is an emergency, these actions should never happen. All instructors should be prepared for any of the above situations. Schedules are important and every instructor should be given an agenda of the entire class schedule from the chief instructor.

Instructors that don’t stay on schedule.

Again, Instructors should be courteous to other instructors. If your lesson plan doesn’t match what the chief instructor has planned, let him know ahead of time. Try to stay within 5 minutes of your scheduled time. A lesson plan that’s too long or too short can throw off the entire schedule for the rest of the class.

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 Wade White, the forum administrator, at teamfse1@aol.com. 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!

In Our Sights

By Wendy Hyde

Lee Turner may be small in stature, but he's got a big heart, time to volunteer, and a lifetime of skills and experiences to share. And so far he's packed a lot into his years!

Lee spent most of his young life in Jack County, Texas on his grandmother's 2,000 acre Aberdeen Angus beef cattle ranch. Lucille Gowdy, a 1-room-schoolhouse-teacher-turned-rancher, ran the operation by herself for almost 60 years, and was a huge influence on him. He has fond memories of life on the ranch, the 15-mile bus rides to school, and doing without electricity until he was 16 years old.

His grandmother was an expert on cattle breeding and taught Lee and his two sisters to show cattle. He participated in his first 4-H competition at age 6 and continued every year until he graduated from high school. He and his older sister would compete against each other, and every year Lucille would let them choose which animal they wanted to work with. He is still very close to his sister.

Lessons in shooting also came from his grandmother, and he harvested his first deer when he was 7. His hunting mentor was one of his grandmother's former students who Lee remembers was a natural outdoorsman and hunter. Lee spent much of his time outdoors and was able to hunt nearly every day.

To earn spending money he worked night shift in the oil fields starting at age 13. "(My) Dad was a driller in the fields, and I worked with my Dad. He let me work as long as it didn't interfere with my school grades." Lee graduated from Jacksboro High School and continued working in the oil fields. Changes came quickly with marriage and the birth of his sons. When a cousin decided to join the navy, Lee admits to making an overnight decision to do the same. The cousins left together the next day for basic training.

Lee served 31 years in the US Navy as a Marine Engineer and retired in 1987. His area of expertise was propulsion systems. He started out as a diesel mechanic, worked as a steam and diesel engineer, and retired with the rank of Chief Engineer. He worked on diesel and nuclear-powered submarines, then ammo ships, aircraft carriers and submarine tenders. He has travelled, "from Capetown, South Africa to Wales and everything in between. He recalls, "The most beautiful place I've ever seen was Port Antonio, Jamaica."

USC offered on-board classes through which Lee earned an associate's degree in Marine Engineering.

When retirement time came, so did decision-making time. "There wasn't work for a Marine Engineer in Jacksboro, TX, so I went to work for a government contractor fixing



new construction ships that they couldn't get to work. I did that for another 15 years. I loved my job so it wasn't a hard job." The contracting work landed him in Woodbridge, VA (Region 5) where he has lived for the last 28 years.

Now in "total" retirement, Lee enjoys trips to the Carolinas to visit his two sons, two granddaughters and grandson. He likes to snorkel, was scuba dive-certified for many years, and hunts whatever is in season whenever he can find the time.

Lee loves working with young shooters and helping them with outdoor skills. He started teaching through 4-H, and became a VDGIF hunter education instructor in 2000. He has volunteered over 5,000 hours as a DGIF instructor, and has lost track of the substantial time he's dedicated to 4-H programs over the years.

He is a Master and Advanced Muzzleloader Instructor, received the VDGIF Director's Award and was presented with a Henry rifle by the VHEA in September 2014. His 4-H certifications include Level 3 muzzleloader (allowing him to teach on national level), Level 2 rifle, hunting skills and archery. He is BSA Certified for rifle and shotgun, is an NRA Training Counselor for rifle, shotgun, pistol, all muzzleloading disciplines and is a Chief Range Safety Officer. He spends nearly 5 weeks each summer helping with 4-H shooting camps. As a member of Star Tannery Hunt Club, he helps with coordination and serves as a guide for the VHEA-sponsored Veteran Hunts every year, and helps with Boy Scout shooting events.

He has been a Life Member of the VHEA since 2009. He joined because he felt, "The goals of VHEA looked like it would help the system do more good." Lee is a fixture at DGIF and VHEA events at Holiday Lake and values the time spent there with his Hunter Ed family. And that family would say, "Lee, the feeling's mutual!"