

VHEADLINES



A quarterly Newsletter of the Virginia Hunter Education Association



*Wishing you
Merry Christmas
And Happy New Year!*

*Vernie Kennedy
President*

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A Message from The VP

Thanks to all those whose vote of confidence I received in the recent VHEA elections. I am truly honored to be elected as the second Vice President of the Virginia Hunter Education Association. I know that I have some big shoes to fill since Rob Zepp's departure. Echoing Vernie's thanks to Robb for his service since the VHEA's inception, thank you Rob for all your hard work with the Association. As the new VP for the Association, I know that my job description in our By-Laws state that I 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. In addition to those stated duties, it is my intent is to be more proactive and to help expand our Association. I will focus on two main areas.

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A Message from the VP

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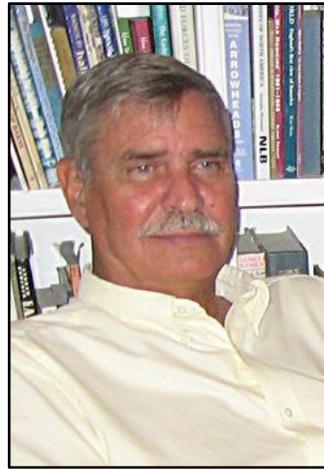
First, we need to start within our own ranks. We need to actively recruit new members to our Association. We need to educate our fellow Hunter Education Instructors on what our Association is all about. As active members, we need to be more proactive in our recruitment, be knowledgeable about what the Association stands for. Based on our By-Laws: The purposes for which the Association is organized are to form an association of persons interested in promoting Hunter Education by providing a medium for the exchange of views and experiences; to foster cooperation between the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Hunter Education Instructors, and the Hunter Education Association; to constantly strive to enhance Hunter Education Programs and instructors; to cultivate the characteristics of honesty, self-discipline, self-reliance, mutual consideration, essentials of good sportsmanship, and good citizenship; to promote programs to prevent hunting accidents and hunting-related accidents; to uphold the image of hunting both as a legitimate tool of wildlife management and a recreational sport throughout Virginia and beyond; and to affect the presentation and dissemination of the purpose and goals. I consider part of my job as helping to jump start the recruiting of new members. I will be talking with the Region Directors to see what ideas they have for actively recruiting new members, not only in their respective Regions but across the state. This is a "Team" effort!

Secondly, I think we need to ensure we are a unified Association. We need to build both internal and external relationships in order to push forth our agenda. Not only promote safe, ethical hunting and the mediums for delivering them as stated above, but also to start recruiting new hunters into our great sport. If anyone has any ideas on how to help our recruitment efforts or if you have something you need to bring to the attention of the Association Board or Officers, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time. I'd be happy to voice your ideas to the Board. Let's work together to help make our Association even better! Thanks again, and I look forward to serving as your VHEA Vice President.

Mike Norkus

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

In Tribute



James David Stern, Jr.

January 6, 1945 - September 21, 2013

Region 1

David, husband of Nancy Norris Stern and a resident of Belle Haven, VA, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family Saturday, September 21, 2013. A native of Yardley, PA, he was the son of the late James David Stern, Sr. and the late Edythe Overbeck Stern. After moving to the Eastern Shore he was employed by Zieger & Son's for thirteen years and then he was Manager of The Robert S. Bloxom Eastern Shore Agricultural Complex until his recent retirement. He was an avid hunter and fisherman and proudly served as volunteer coordinator of The Eastern Shore Hunter Safety Education Program. He became an instructor in 1995 and earned Master rank in 2002. He volunteered 1,721 hours and certified 1,664 students.

Judith Joyce Bergloff

August 18, 1957 - October 16, 2013

Region 2

Judith Joyce Bergloff passed away suddenly at her home on Wednesday, October 16, 2013. She was born on August 18, 1956 to Joyce Bergloff and the late Edwin Bergloff.

Judy graduated from Cave Spring High School in 1974, and then served four years in the United States Coast Guard. She attended the University of Central Florida, earning a degree in civil engineering. She recently completed her Bachelor's Degree in IT at National College of Roanoke.

Judy was an avid sportswoman who enjoyed hunting, hiking, karate and NASCAR. She did volunteer work for Hunters for the Hungry and National Wild Turkey Federation. Judy was an instructor for the Virginia Hunter Education Program and the Girl Scouts. She was a life-long donor and supporter of the American Red Cross. She became an instructor in 2000, and earned Master rank in 2005. She volunteered 1,797 hours and certified 2,432 students.

They will both be greatly missed.

Fall Highlights

5th Annual VHEA / NORVA Veteran's Hunt



NORVA Rod and Gun Club in Frederick County hosted the hunt the weekend of October 12, 2013 and it was co-sponsored by the Virginia Hunter Education Association. The Star Tannery community provided an extensive helping hand again.

The prevailing theme this year was a four letter word: "RAIN". Blinds were placed in the rain and crossbow orientation and hunting were all done in the rain. The veterans arrived midday on Friday and as small groups gathered, John Dunne did a Parker crossbow orientation and safety talk then each veteran chose and zeroed a crossbow. Friday evening a hunting license purchase trip was made and hunting laws were reviewed. A gift bag with hunting accessories was provided by the VAHEA and DGIF for the veterans. The participants were partnered with their guides and everyone enjoyed pizza dinner.

During the morning hunt Dustin Snel harvested a small buck. Most of the other hunters saw deer but were unable to get a shot. A backpack of hunting accessories was presented to the veterans from NORVA and Addison Hurst during the lunch break.

Saturday afternoon the veterans returned to their blinds and James Hodsden harvested a doe. One other shot was missed. Again nearly everyone saw deer.

Saturday nights the steak dinner was followed by a drawing for the Parker crossbow donated by the VAHEA which was won by Wade Span.

Sunday morning the group was treated to a breakfast provided by the Star Tannery Community then a drawing was held for the Parker crossbow that was raffled off as a fund raiser. Bob Cash was the winner. Bob Immediately said put the veteran's name in a hat and let one of them win it. Tanos Chaves was the lucky winner.

After breakfast the hunters and assistants returned to the NORVA and the winner's crossbows were assembled and zeroed. The deer were butchered and packed in coolers for the 2 lucky hunters to take home.



This was the best hunt of the five we've done and was a success because of the efforts of a lot of people. Lee Turner put a lot of effort and time into coordination of the facilities and the food. Aaron Mitchell contacted local folks for property to hunt and arranged for blind placement. Parker Bows provided crossbows, bolts and broadheads. Thanks to the following for help with various parts of this hunt: Gary Holderman, Ken Stalarski, Steve Simon, Jesse Ebron, T.J., Doug McFarlane, Roscoe Fulkerson, Buddy Baker, Bob and Karen Cash and Autumn Mitchell. Special thanks to Janet and Ralph Lowery, Aaron and Brenda Mitchell Sr. and Aaron and Candy Mitchell Jr. for allowing us to hunt on their properties.

Submitted by John Dunne



Fall Highlights

New Kent Youth Hunt November 23, 2013

The VHEA sponsored event had 11 youngsters eager to begin the day's activities. We had drivers with deer hounds working the site after the youths were on stand. We jumped four deer but they all evaded the 11 stands. Most youngsters saw turkeys and small game and several were close to the deer but no shots. After lunch 8 of the youth elected to squirrel hunt with several shots and one harvested. All had a great day in the woods.

Submitted by Henry McBurney

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

AND

Be sure to check out the recently updated Association
web site! There are new pages, lots of photos and links,
and some great deals for instructors.

Treasurer's Report

By Wade White, Treasurer

Account-Checking balance as of 12/10/2013	\$ 12,705.27
Bedford County Youth Hunts	\$ 150.00
John Dunne's Crossbow Hunt	\$ 1,027.86
Roanoke Co HE- Judy Bergloff Memorial	\$ 100.00
Bedford Co. HE- Milan Ashbrenner Memorial	\$ 221.82
Total allocated funds	\$ 1,499.68
General Fund	\$ 11,205.59
Unpaid Bills	
Petty Cash	\$ 175.00

Board Bulletins

VHEA Officers effective January 2014:

- President: Vernie Kennedy
vern_k@msn.com
- Vice President: Mike Norkus
bowhuntinmike@comcast.net
- Treasurer: Dianne Cook
harborfest93@gmail.com
- Secretary: Ed Crebbs
edcrebbs@yahoo.com

Regional Directors:

- Region 1: Henry McBurney
h-smcburney@charter.net
- Region 2: George "Spud" Almond
galmond@jejamerson.com
- Region 3: Earnest Wohlford
ewohlford@centurylink.net
- Region 4: Jason Miller
treedblackbear@yahoo.com
- Region 5: Jesse Ebron
jebtron@sms.com

- ★ Assistants are needed in Regions 2, 3 and 4. If you are interested in helping please contact the Regional Director.
- ★ All events sponsored or associated with the VHEA must be reviewed and approved by either a Regional Director or the Board of Directors. If you have an idea or need approval for an event **start by contacting your Regional Director.**
- ★ The next meetings are scheduled for March 28, 2014 (during Advanced Training weekend) at Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center, Appomattox, VA.
Board Meeting starts at 5:00 pm
Membership Meeting starts at 7:00 pm

Membership Information

(as of 12/15/2013)*

2013 Summary: 142 Total Members
(includes 92 Life Members)

2014 to-date: 100 Total Members
(7 annual membership renewals and
93 Life Members)

REMEMBER... All Annual and Associate memberships expire on January 1, 2014.

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) -	\$ 20.00
Associate -	\$ 15.00
Life -	\$150.00

* Submitted by Wade White, Treasurer

Winter Events

Region: 1

New Kent Youth Hunt

Details: Open to youth ages 11 and older. A morning deer hunt will be followed by a squirrel hunt in the afternoon.

Date: December 28, 2013

Cost: None

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

Contact: Denny Newhouse at dnewhous6@cox.net

Registration Information: Pre-registration is required. Contact Denny Newhouse (address above) or via the Virginia Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries web site.

Volunteers needed: If you'd like to volunteer to help mentor the youth or move a tree stand contact Mark Wenger at swfl1951@gmail.com.

Additional information is available from
Region 1 Director Henry McBurney at
h-smcburney@charter.net

Promoting Skills Weekends



It's not too soon to start promoting the 2014 Virginia Hunter Skills Weekends in your hunter education classes. This year's events are scheduled for May 2-4 and August 22-24. Print the attached flyer (the last page of this newsletter), make copies and talk about the events at every class you teach.

Post a flyer in a public place. Many grocery stores, gyms, and retail stores offer bulletin boards for public events. Ask the store manager for permission to post a flyer.

Skills Weekends provide hunters and outdoorspeople ages 11-90+ a great chance to learn hands-on a variety of hunting related skills. The VHEA's goal is to have every class full for every event, and it needs the help of instructors state-wide to promote these valuable learning opportunities.

Together we can make these events a success!

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 the forum administrator at teamfse1@aol.com and 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

VHEA Life Member – Jesse Ebron

Many instructors start teaching hunter education to give back what they have learned from another person. Jesse Ebron's reasons are much the same, but he had a much earlier start than many of his peers. He was born and raised fishing and hunting with his father in Bridgeport, CT. He credits his father for his solid foundation in ethics and on the fundamental principle that what you know you share with others. He was taught the ethical standards of shot placement, making a clean kill, and more as part of his early training. He learned about teaching by his father's example - he would invite almost everyone they met to go fishing, hunting, and camping with his family.

As a young boy he learned upland game, deer and small game hunting, and fishing. He and his two sisters (he's a middle child) liked hunting for the table fare. Everyone in the family ate and enjoyed the bounty. Starting at the age of five, Jesse had the responsibility of training coon hounds and beagles. Kennel upkeep and obedience training was his primary chore throughout his childhood.



Jesse's diverse shooting skills developed and he started competing when he was 17. He was nationally-ranked in sporting clays and an A Class shooter in IPSC. In speed shooting competitions with pistol, rifle, and shotgun, he broke the world record twice with the shotgun. He currently shoots muzzleloader, long range muzzleloader, and black powder cartridge rifle silhouette shooting (which he competes in). He enjoys both big and small game hunting and states that, "I have no particular favorite; I like them all." He has added archery to his outdoor skills, and prefers traditional archery equipment for shooting and hunting.

Music was also a big part of Jesse's life from an early age. He sang in chorus and choir; confessing that he harmonized in the background when he wasn't supposed to. When he had to take a music test to see if he was qualified to play an instrument, he failed three years in a row! Eventually he started playing the saxophone, which he disliked, but his father liked the

sax better and wouldn't pay for a trumpet. He earned fishing gear by learning to play music his father chose; if he mastered the song, he got the rod, reel, or whatever he wanted next. His talent led to involvement in several R & B bands starting at age 14, playing sax, drums, and piano and also performing some vocals. He graduated from high school with three years of dual enrollment college credits through a music and arts program. He began studying music education at the University of Bridgeport at age 15. After college he worked as a Warehouse Supervisor at Eastern Bag and Paper in CT. He started writing music in his early 20's and soon music became a second career - for almost 10 years Jesse was a professional record producer.

In the early 1990's Jesse's girlfriend, Lisa, worked for the IRS in Connecticut, was promoted and transferred to Virginia. He followed her to Virginia where they married in 1994. His music work required extensive coast-to-coast travel. After discussing family plans and his desire to stay close to home to be a father, he decided it was time for a career change. Starting in 1995 Jesse stayed home to "be Mr. Mom" to Jesse III (now age 18) for two years, and daughter Jazlyn was born (now age 16). Jazlyn is continuing the teaching tradition as one of 12 youth hunter education instructors in the state. Jesse is the Warehouse Manager for SMS Data Products Group, Inc. and the family lives in Manassas, VA.

If you were to meet Jesse today, you would never know he was a shy young man. He says that his involvement in the music industry forced him out of his shell. His outgoing, friendly, and frequently funny demeanor comes through when he teaches. He volunteered as a hunter education instructor in Connecticut for nearly 18 years and started teaching in Virginia in 1995. He has dedicated thousands of hours to teaching and is currently a Master Instructor, or as he says, "a fifth degree black belt". His list of certifications include: archery instructor through NASP (level 2) and NAA (level 1), NRA Training Counselor in almost every shooting discipline, and Red Cross First Aid / CPR. Additionally, he is a Life member of the NRA, USPSA and NSSA-NSSA.

He is a Charter and Life Member of VHEA and has served as Region 5 Director since the association was established in 2007. Jesse and several other instructors were approached by Sgt. David Dodson asking them to consider forming a 501(c)3 organization as a vehicle for managing outside donations. Jesse had a strong influence in founding the association and continues to be a positive influence on hunter education and its students.

Virginia Hunter Skills Weekend May 2-4, 2014

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:

- Bow Hunting, Basics & Advanced
- Muzzleloading Basics
- Rifle Basics
- Shotgun Basics
- Pistol Basics
- Skeet
- Predator Hunting
- Wilderness Survival
- Bow Fishing Basics
- Recovery of Wounded Game
- Game Management and Food Plots
- Wild Game Cooking
- Trail Cameras
- Small Game Hunting Skills
- Turkey Hunting Skills
- Upland Game Bird Shooting Skills
- Deer Hunting Skills



Cost:

Early Bird: \$110.00 (Registration and payment must be received by April 11, 2013)

Regular Price: \$120.00 (Registration and payment received after April 11, 2013)

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

Please register by: April 18, 2014

Refund Policy: Full Refund by April 18, 2013

1/2 before April 25, 2013

Nonrefundable after April 25, 2013

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

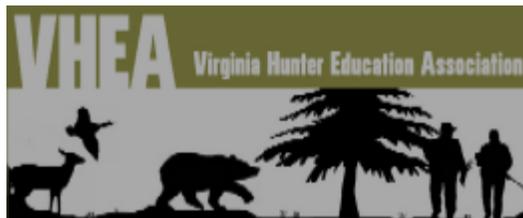
Rustic but comfortable bunk style lodging.

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.



www.dgif.va.gov



www.vahea.org



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