

VHEADLINES



A quarterly Newsletter of the Virginia Hunter Education Association

*Wishing You and Your
Family a Very Merry
Christmas
and a
Happy New Year !*

Inside This Issue

2014 Morgan Award Presented	1-2
A Message from the VP	2
Treasurer’s Report	3
Secretary’s Notes	3
Board Bulletins	3
Holiday Lake Hunter Education Events Schedule 2016	4
Teaching Tips	4
VDGIF Updates	4
Regional News	5
In Our Sights	6



2014 Morgan Award Presented

Lee Turner, Master Hunter Education instructor from Prince William County, has been named the 2014 recipient of the Morgan Award presented on September 19, 2015 at Holiday Lake 4-H Center.

A retired US Navy Marine Engineer, Lee became an instructor in 2001. He has taught over 75 basic hunter education classes, supervised 70 live-fire events, and certified 3,050 students in basic hunter education. This involvement amounts to over 5,800 hours of hands-on interaction with youth and adults alike.

As part of the instructor community he has taken more than 40 advanced training courses. He is a member of the Muzzleloader Teaching Team, providing expert instruction to his teaching peers. He has also been a dedicated volunteer for the state-wide Youth Hunter Education Challenge since 2006.

(continued on page 2)

2014 Morgan Award Presented

(cont'd. from page 1)



Lee Turner with CPO Kristian Dougherty and members of the Morgan family

In 2014 he was the recipient of the Director's Award for 5,000 hours of service and was awarded a rifle from the Virginia Hunter Education Association.

Outside of the VDGIF program Turner helps with coordination and serves as a guide for VHEA-sponsored Veteran Hunts, assists with classes and live-fire activities for boy scouts, provides coaching for 4-H shooting workshops and competitions, and he is very active in the National Archery in the Schools Program.

He is committed to the future of hunting and the shooting sports, and is always the first to ask, "What can I help you do?" He always has a smile and a hug, and is willing and able to teach nearly every topic required of a hunter education instructor. For his dedication, knowledge, and support of hunter education, he has earned the William Dixon Morgan Memorial Award.

Portions excerpted from CPO Kristian Dougherty's recommendation / Region 4 Hunter Education Coordinator, VDGIF

A Message from the VP

By Mike Norkus, Vice President

As I sit here reflecting on our recent September Advance Training session at Holiday Lake, I couldn't help but notice that we had a lot of new faces. Then it dawned on me that we had a Basic Instructors Course being conducted simultaneously with the Advance Training session. I'd like to welcome all the new instructors to the fraternity of Hunter Ed Instructors. I hope you get connected with a teaching team in your local area soon. You'll find out just how rewarding it

is to give back to your communities, and to ensure our hunting heritage is passed on the future generations. Be enthusiastic and have fun in your classes!

I'd like to reiterate what our Virginia Hunter Education Association (VHEA) President Hank Tomlinson stated at our Saturday night meeting in the amphitheater. Take a look at the association and become a member. It's a great way to network and stay current with what's going on in the other Regions around the state. There is strength in numbers!

As our By-laws state: "The purposes for which the VHEA 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."

VHEA is working in unison with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to provide hunter education to the citizens of Virginia. Our goal in forming the association is to improve our abilities as instructors through training, equipment to aid in teaching our classes, and, as time changes, to keep Virginia's hunter education program at the forefront in the field.

Looking to the future, it is our desire to promote hunting to the next generation of hunters. We are teaching firearm safety, wildlife management, and ethical behavior to these new hunters as they enter our ranks. Together we will continue the hunting heritage in Virginia.

I invite you to join the VHEA, become part of a teaching team and let's all strive to keep our Hunter Education Program the best in the country!

Hunt hard and hunt safe >>>----- >

Regards, Mike
VP, VHEA

Treasurer's Report

By John Maher, Treasurer

A Treasurer's Report will be provided in the Spring Newsletter once the transition between the former and current Treasurer is complete.

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

Secretary's Notes

By Aaron Grimsley, Secretary

It's time to renew

your Annual or Associate memberships!

New date guidelines are in place with the adoption of the updated by-laws: "Annual dues are to be paid by April 1st of the current calendar year and are current through March 31st of the following calendar year. (Article IV, Membership, Dues)

***All Annual and Associate memberships expire on
March 31, 2016.***

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 September 18, 2015 Board and General Membership meetings have been posted on the VHEA web site, Board Meeting Minutes tab (<http://www.vahea.org/page22.html>).

Board Bulletins

Officer elections were held during the September 18, 2015 Annual Meeting. Terms will begin on January 1, 2016.

VHEA Officers:

President Hank Tomlinson
chickadee1@mgwnet.com

Vice President Mike Norkus
bowhuntingmike@comcast.net

Treasurer* John Maher
jmaher56@verizon.net

Secretary Aaron Grimsley
huntedr@yahoo.com

Regional Directors:

Region 1 JC Gaitley, III
survivalguy@cox.net

Region 2 Wade White
teamfse1@aol.com

Region 3 Vacant

Region 4 Karen Cash
kcash1966@gmail.com

At Large Jesse Ebron
jebtron@sms.com

The next meetings are scheduled for April 1, 2016 (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

*The term for Treasurer began immediately after the September 18 election.

NEW on the web site:

- The newly-adopted By-Laws
- Updated map and list of Regions, Counties and Cities
- Updated information on the DGIF Hunter Education self-study requirements beginning on 1/1/16

Holiday Lake Hunter Education Events Schedule 2016

April 1-3	Advanced Training
April 22-24	Hunter Skills Weekend
May 6-8	Youth Hunter Ed Challenge
To Be Announced	Hunter Skills Weekend
September 16-18	Advanced Training

Teaching Tips Resources

On-line course familiarity:

Starting January 1, 2016, all hunter education students will be required to obtain a Today's Hunter student manual by one of the three methods listed on the VDGIF web site. *This will be the only acceptable option for completing the self-study portion of the curriculum.* Students will fill out the Chapter Review Exercises in the back of the manual (4 pages total) and are required to bring them to class. Instructors will verify that the student has successfully completed the self-study. Students will only be certified if they present the completed Chapter Review Exercises to an instructor.

Be prepared! Visit the link below and download the free PDF study guide, get familiar with what the students are required to do, and complete the worksheets yourself.

<http://bookstore.kalkomey.com/products/todays-hunter-in-virginia-pdf>

HE Tools:

Hunter Education Tools is a free, downloadable program offered by HUNTERcourse.com. The interactive format that includes videos and pop-ups covers a variety of hunter education topics. This is a useful tool for classroom use, or to recommend as a "refresher course" for students of all ages. HE Tools is available to anyone at <http://www.huntercourse.com/hetools/> for FREE! It also features a free treestand safety course.

VDGIF Updates

Paperwork is changing! VDGIF implemented new instructor data sheets effective October 1, 2015. Since Hunter Education is primarily funded through federal Pittman-Robertson money, the government requires an audit of the spending every five (5) years. These changes are necessary so the DGIF can remain in good standing to receive federal funds.

How does it work?

- Each instructor is required to complete his or her own record. In addition to documenting hours, mileage, class location, FIPS codes, activity codes, and course types just like the old forms, the course ID number and the instructor's contribution to the course (sections taught, set-up, preparation, meetings and the like) must be included.
- Mileage documentation now includes listing a specific starting point and ending point, as well as the number of miles.
- The course ID number is assigned when the class is set-up on the kalkomey site, and the Lead Instructor should be able to provide it.
- The completed sheet must be reviewed and signed by the Lead Instructor.
- The individual forms may be submitted to the appropriate VDGIF Regional Coordinator in a "batch" by the Lead Instructor (much like using the old group Training and Activity Data form). Remember, even though the state office address is on the forms, they should all be sent to the Regional Coordinator.

The old sheets are no longer used or accepted.

To ensure continued delivery of

vHEADLINES

contact Editor Wendy Hyde at

vheadlines@gmail.com with corrections to
your e-mail address.

Regional News

Region 1

On October 29th, Region 1 Director Ken Carter, with assistance from VDGIF Regional Coordinator Ray Philbates, presented an in-depth field session on tree stand safety and hunter ethics to the South Chesterfield Chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). This is the second year the FCA group has requested program assistance.

The Fellowship of Christians Athletes is expanding its program from the conventional “huddles” for athletes in middle and high school, to include an outdoor based format for youth involved in hunting, fishing, and other outdoor pursuits. The meeting in south Chesterfield is a dinner meeting where the youth and their parents all participate.

This may prove to be a great venue for VHEA to expand its educational efforts also. All interested participants should contact a local representative of FCA and work toward an outdoor program in your area.

Ken Carter

To all Region 1 members:

My name is J.C. Gaitley and I am the new director for Region 1 and I need for everyone to let me know of your events so I can get them in future issues of our quarterly newsletter.

If you need to contact me please do by phone or email: survivalguy@cox.net or 757-635-4171.

J.C. Gaitley
Be Safe

Region 2

The Bedford County Youth Deer Hunts for 2015 were approved by the Bedford County Industrial Development Authority on Oct. 13 and the hunt dates were set for a Nov. 21 Rifle hunt and a Dec. 12 Muzzle Loader hunt. The first hunt went very well with 10 participants. All hunters had deer come in sight, including several nice Bucks, but unfortunately most did not enter into the predetermined safe shooting zone so no deer were harvested.

Wade White



Guides and Participants pose for a group photo during the November 21, 2015 Youth Deer Hunt



Region 3

Nothing to report.

Region 4

No report submitted.

At-Large

Hello Members,

Hope you are having a productive hunting season. The year is ending and I'm looking forward to the New Year. Thank you for your votes!

I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Jesse Ebron

In Our Sights

By Wendy Hyde
VHEA Life Member Barbara Mitchell

If it's true that some people are born to be in the outdoors then Barbara Mitchell is one of them! Born into a family that has camped, fished, or hunted for the past 4 generations, her first camping trip was at the tender age of 6 months. Almost every weekend during the spring and fall her mother, father, brother Jeff and she would venture out from their home just 3 miles outside the Washington, DC beltway. Time in the tent trailer became a way of life. Her mother, "was an excellent shot! Dad was a bow hunter, quail hunter and angler. Granddad did it ALL."

She recalls her grandfather, a machinist, relied on hunting and fishing to feed his four children when his job didn't pay enough. Her grandmother used to babysit her. She states, "Although I've been around hunting all my life, I didn't get interested in participating until I married Robert in 1988. I didn't actually try it until the late 1990s." Her maiden name is Dove, and ironically now, her favorite type of hunting is dove. With a great sense of humor she declares, "Dad accuses me of some underlying hatred for my family...?"

She was a Girl Scout for ten years, and graduated from Parkdale Senior High in Riverdale, MD. Her father worked for the DC government; her mother was a stay-at-home mom and ran the office for the family-owned electrical business. Barbara worked for the family for a year after high school, then for an attorney and the US Department of Commerce before moving to Ashland, VA at age 21. Her 30-year tenure with Hanover County began in 1986 when she was hired as a secretary for public utilities. She has held a variety of positions and has a long resume of knowledge and skills obtained through on-the-job training. She moved up through the ranks and is now a Utility Superintendent for two small wastewater plants and supervises 5 staff members. Barbara holds a Class I Wastewater Treatment Operator License and a Class I Water Treatment Operator License (the highest level in VA). She enjoys her work, stating, "Working at the water plant was boring (it was all chemistry and I didn't like it!) I moved to the waste water plant and enjoyed it more. It's different because you're watching for living organisms and trying to keep optimum levels of nutrients so they can do the cleaning and filtering efficiently. I enjoy the biology part of the job. What I do is a lot like babysitting, but with microorganisms!"

Robert worked for Hanover County as a mechanic and used to fix her truck when she was a meter reader.

Within a week after bumping into him at a local club, he called asking for a date. Now married 27 years, they live on the 200+-acre Mitchell family farm in Frog Level (a no-traffic-light town near Ruther Glen, VA) with their son Robert, a college student, and Lucy the black lab. Their daughter April lives in Richmond. Husband Robert, a "local boy in Frog Level for generations", is retired and recently ended a 38-year stint as a volunteer firefighter. His new career is running his own vehicle repair business.

She became a Hunter Education instructor in 2004. "After attending many Becoming an Outdoors Woman weekends with VDGIF and in NC as a participant, I ran out of classes to take and was asked about being an instructor. HE Basic training was required to be an Outdoor Ed instructor at the time I decided to do it. I wanted to share my passion for the outdoors with others." Being around hunters "brought back memories of doing stuff with my dad and grandfather."

Being a woman of many interests, she enjoys muzzleloader season for deer as well as, "shooting of all kinds (sporting clays/skeet, archery, crossbow, muzzleloader, rifle, pistol), ATV-ing, fishing, reading, kayaking, crafts of all kinds, dancing (when no one is



watching), going to festivals & concerts with the girls, and leisurely strolls preferably through the woods." She is a volunteer with the Frog Level Volunteer Fire Auxiliary, a Level 2 American Canoe Association Kayak Instructor and a Virginia Rural Water Association member.

As for skills, she modestly admits, "I can read upside down & backwards...lol; I can still type 80+ wpm- and sometimes the computer screen can't keep up....lol!"

Being a member of other organizations, she understands the need for an orderly way to get things done. Seeing that at higher levels, organized groups tend to get more recognition than others, she decided to join VHEA as a Life Member.

Barbara learned how to dance standing on her grandmother's feet to music from the 40's. Now she dances randomly with the dog or her daughter. She also confessed that finding a picture of her without a silly hat on was going to be a challenge. It's no surprise then, to hear her admit, "I still don't know what I want to do when I grow up :)"