

VHEADLINES



A quarterly Newsletter of the Virginia Hunter Education Association

Letter from the President

By Vernie Kennedy, President

Hello to everyone,

I hope everyone is having a great year. Time seems to fly. It is hard to believe the year is half over. Many have already had hunter education classes and we will all soon be planning the fall classes.

We held Hunter Skills Weekend in May at Holiday Lake. It was a huge success. We had 65 participants and they were very complementary of the instructors, classes offered and the other activities in which they could participate. I want to take this opportunity to thank Brian and the staff at Holiday Lake, the instructors who give their time and DGIF who has always paid the fees for instructors and provided equipment. Without everyone's team work it would not be as cheap for the participants and many could not come. We need to recruit and pass on our hunting heritage.

The second Hunter Skills Weekend is coming up in August. I hope all will advertise this at their classes. It is nice to have a large attendance and August is tough because summer is coming to an end and many kids are already back in school.

There are other Association events planned for the late summer and fall. I hope you can help when the opportunity presents itself. Many of these events are planned and conducted not by the officers and board but by individual instructors who take the time to plan and organize these events. The Association is what you make it.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Holiday Lake at Advanced Training.

Vernie

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A Message from the VP

By Mike Norkus, Vice President

Hunter Recruitment:

Just in case you haven't heard, on March 5, 2014, Governor Terry McAuliffe signed into law Hunting on Sundays. The new law allows hunting on Sundays under certain circumstances. A person may hunt waterfowl, subject to restrictions imposed by the Director of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and a landowner and his immediate family or a person with written permission from the landowner (make sure to highlight this in your Hunter Ed Classes) may hunt or kill any wild bird or wild animal, including nuisance species, on the landowner's property. However, the aforementioned hunting activities cannot occur within 200 yards of a house of worship and prohibits the hunting of deer or bear with a gun, firearm, or other weapon with the aid or assistance of dogs on Sunday.

The Department is currently developing regulation amendments resulting from the new Sunday hunting legislation that was presented to the Board of directors at their April 8th board meeting and will be again at their June 10th meeting.

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A Message from the VP

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Final seasons and dates will be posted on the Department's website July 1st, as well as in the new 2014–2015 Hunting and Trapping in Virginia Guides available statewide on August 1st.*

With the declining numbers of hunters, we now have additional hunting opportunity, there's no reason why we as hunters can't help preserve the tradition of hunting by introducing a new hunter into our sport. It doesn't take much to be a mentor to a young person or an adult for that matter to bring them into the hunting fraternity. Here are a few tips for mentoring new hunters:

"It Takes a Hunter to Make a Hunter"*

- Help new hunters prepare. Get them excited by sighting in or patterning firearms, selecting equipment, planning hunts, and fine tuning their hunting skills.
- Make sure they have adequate clothing for the weather.
- Make sure the gun or bow is appropriate for the novice's size and skill level (properly sized and fitted).
- Do not focus on killing an animal. Instead, stress enjoyment of the hunt.
- Keep hunts to reasonable length according to age. Take reasonable bathroom breaks. (If hunting from a blind or stand, let younger hunters bring a portable video game, etc to help them entertained). Be conscious of uncomfortable weather. If you insist that you both stay in the treestand all day, in freezing weather with strong winds, it will likely be the last time the novice goes hunting.
- It is your responsibility to keep them safe. Make sure everyone follows firearm and treestand safety rules, to include properly sized safety harnesses.
- Safety also includes boats if they are used.
- When the new hunter is very inexperienced, it's best for the two of you to carry only one firearm. It's safer, and your focus should be on the novice. If both of you will shoot, then take turns (the novice should get the first shot, of course).

Follow these few simple rules and you've helped to preserve our tradition and sport.

Hunt Hard and Hunt Safe!

Mike

*Adapted from the DGIF Web site.

Legislation Updates

Approved by Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe on April 4, 2014, and becoming effective July 1, 2014:

CHAPTER 560

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered **22.1-204.2**, relating to after-school hunter safety education programs for students in grades seven through 12.

[H 307]

Approved April 4, 2014

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered **22.1-204.2** as follows:

§ **22.1-204.2**. Hunter safety education programs for students in grades seven through 12.

A. Local school boards may provide after-school hunter safety education programs for students in the school division in grades seven through 12. Each student shall bear the cost of participating in such programs. Local school boards shall display information on its after-school hunter safety education programs in each school and distribute information to the parents of each student in the school division in grades seven through 12.

B. The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries shall establish a uniform curriculum for such hunter safety education programs. Each such program shall be taught by a hunter safety instructor certified pursuant to § **29.1-300.2**.

As cited on Virginia's Legislative Information system at <http://lis.virginia.gov/>



Hunter Skills Weekend

From *The Outdoor Report*, May 28, 2014 issue:

On May 2-4, 2014, Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center in Appomattox, VA, hosted the first of two Virginia Hunter Skills Weekends for 2014. Volunteer Hunter Education instructors from across Virginia presented classes to sixty-five individuals, couples, groups of friends and entire families - and almost half the participants were first-time attendees. Ideal weather made the weekend's outdoor activities enjoyable for all.

Class topics included archery, basic rifle, pistol, shotgun and muzzleloading, bow hunting, bow fishing, hunting skills for deer, turkey and small game, predator hunting, recovery of wounded game, skeet, survival and upland bird shooting techniques. Optional evening events included tree stand use and safety, trapping, mounting scopes on rifles and a waterfowl workshop where participants got to paint a duck decoy. A live-fire air rifle range was set-up in the outdoor pavilion and a Laser Shot game offered indoor fun.

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. It's not uncommon to see three generations in one family taking classes together. Many participants come every time the event is offered and bring with them new attendees. This word of mouth recommendation is encouraging to the organizers, who provide an opportunity at the close of each event for feedback and requests. Vernie Kennedy, President of the VHEA, and Bryan Branch, Center Director for the 4-H facility, use the feedback to plan future events and consider new course topics. When asked what they liked most about the workshops, one recent participant commented, "There is so much hands-on learning. That's the best part. Courses structured with lots of practice are the best!" Another attendee shared, "I have a son that wants to learn to hunt, but I don't have the knowledge or skills to pass to him. This is a great program to help give him the knowledge and skills to get started."

Course descriptions and registration information are available on the Holiday Lake 4- web site (www.holidaylake4h.com).



The next Hunter Skills Weekend is August 22-24. Remember to promote this in your Hunter Education classes and post a flyer in public places (guns shops, sporting goods stores, etc.). Ask the store manager for permission to post a flyer. Spaces are still available.

Class offerings include:

- Bow Hunting (Basic and Advanced)
- Muzzleloading Basics
- Rifle Basics
- Pistol Basics
- Advanced Pistol
- Shotgun Basics
- Skeet
- Recovery of Wounded Game
- Wilderness Survival
- Wild Game Cooking
- Survival
- Small Game Hunting Skills
- Upland Game Bird Shooting Skills
- Turkey Hunting Skills
- Deer Hunting Skills
- Tree Stand Safety

Board Bulletins

VHEA Officers:

President	Vernie Kennedy vern_k@msn.com
Vice President	Mike Norkus bowhantinmike@comcast.net
Treasurer	Dianne Cook harborfest93@yahoo.com
Secretary	Ed Crebbs ed.crebbs.1949@gmail.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 jebron@sms.com

- ★ Assistants are needed in Regions 2, 3 and 4. If you are interested in helping please contact the Regional Director.
- ★ Topics or issues to be added to the next Board Meeting's agenda must be submitted through the Regional Directors.

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

Treasurer's Report

By Dianne Cook, Treasurer

Account Balance as of January 1, 2014	\$ 12,674.49
• Earmarked Funds	-\$ 2,154.68
General Funds	\$ 10,519.81
Deposits	
Memberships - 1	\$ 785.00
Carter Lewis Memorial Scholarship	\$ 620.00
John & Mary Camp Foundation	\$ 1,000.00
Sub-total	\$ 12,924.81
Bills Paid	
Accountant	-\$ 400.00
Checks	-\$ 19.15
One Source Marketing	-\$ 60.00
Henry Rifles (Chauncey Herring and Lee Turner)	\$ 720.00
Supplies (envelopes)	\$ 5.38
Insurance	\$ 465.65
State Corp. Annual Fee	\$ 25.00
Skills Weekend (May 2-4, 2014)	\$ 270.80
Miscellaneous	\$ 15.00
Sub-total	\$ 10,883.83
Unpaid Bills	
Petty Cash	\$ 117.91
Balance ending June 18, 2014	\$ 11,061.74

Membership Report

By Ed Krebbs, Secretary

No information regarding current membership numbers was submitted at the time of publication.

To renew or sign up for a new membership:

1. Go to VAHEA.org, print the membership form and mail to the address printed at the bottom along with your check, or
2. See the Secretary or Treasurer after the General Membership Meeting on Friday, March 28 to complete the enrollment process.

Membership options and costs are:

Regular (1-year) -	\$ 20.00
Associate -	\$ 15.00
Life -	\$150.00

Regional Updates

Region 1

Name: 2014 VHEA/BSA/DGIF Hunter Skills Workshop.

Details: To provide youths 11 years of age and older skills training and information relative to hunting. Cost is \$15.00 per participant.

Registration Information: Visit www.cvcboyscout.org or contact Denny Newhouse @ dnewhouse@cox.net

Date: Saturday August 16th, 2014

Where: Bayport Scout Camp, Jamaica, VA.

Contacts: Listed above.

Region 2

Nothing reported in Region 2.

Region 3

Nothing reported in Region 3.

Region 4

Nothing reported in Region 4.

Region 5

Hello Region 5 members,

Hope everyone is staying cool and dry. No new news. Say that 5 times fast! We do have the Hunter Skill weekend coming up. Let everyone in your Hunter Ed classes know.

Stay safe!

Jesse Ebron

Region 5

The second annual Hunter Education Instructor Hunt was held March 9, 2014 at Rose Hill Game Preserve located at 19202 Batna Road in Culpeper, VA 22701. Thirteen men and women from region 5 took time to visit and hunt with fellow instructors. A warm-up session of sporting clays was offered, however, nobody wanted to shoot for fear of others laughing at them! In the field, most of the participants had success and took home either pheasants, quail and/or partridge. Instructor Steve Barry brought his 8 year old daughter Lauren to watch the hunt. She enjoyed the time with her dad and hopes in the near future she can partake in the hunt.

Organizers Victor Sotelo and Leonard Hart hope to have a bigger and better hunt next year. They encourage all region 5 instructors to, "Come join us!"



In Our Sights

By Wendy Hyde

VHEA Life Member – Yvonne N. Pennell

Talking with Yvonne Pennell is like talking to an old friend, even if you've just met. This gracious lady from Virginia's Eastern Shore is enthusiastic, dedicated and loves being an instructor!

Yvonne, a life-long resident of Accomack County in VDGIF's Region 1, grew up a few miles outside the town of Accomac where she spent a lot of time at her grandparent's small farm. Her mother was badly burned when Yvonne was an infant so she was raised by an aunt. Her older brother lived with their grandparents, and even though they lived separately they were close thanks to the time spent together at the farm. She enjoyed playing in the corn fields, helping with canning, and remembers the first thing she ever drove was her grandfather's tractor. There was also mischief - she recalls, "My brother always got me to do things he didn't want to do!" (Her brother is now a minister.) Yvonne was a Girl Scout, enjoyed being outdoors and going anywhere with her uncle who did a lot of travelling. Her love for the outdoors remained with her and now she likes bird watching, fishing, gardening and listening to the sounds of nature. Music was a big part of her life and she can read music and play by ear. She also sings and served as the organist at the Metompkin Baptist Church in Parksley, VA and will assist others at various churches, when needed.

Yvonne graduated from Mary N. Smith High School and attended University of Richmond and Baltimore Junior College, earning an associate degree in Business Administration. She was a secretary at Eastern Shore Community College for six years then started a job as Executive Secretary to the County Administrator, later became Deputy Clerk to the Accomack County Board of Supervisors, is currently serving in the capacity as Records/FOIA Officer and has worked for the County for 30 years. She enjoys working and has no plans for retirement.

Husband Wade is a retired police officer and started a second career as a Convenience Center Attendant. They live in Bloxom where they raised two daughters and now enjoy visits from their four grandchildren. When she and Wade married he was a deer hunter. Yvonne was curious about why he liked it so the following season she went with him. She enjoyed what was happening and decided to take a hunter education class. The second year they sat in separate parts of the woods and she harvested her first deer on opening day with a rifle. When she started hunting alone the third year, Wade "realized he'd created a monster".

Now she deer hunts from a tree stand and squirrel hunts. She enjoys watching the world wake up and seeing the wildlife around her. She states, "There's just something about the woods."



The hunter education class made a positive impression on Yvonne and is the main reason she became an instructor. She shares, "When I took the hunter ed course I was so impressed with the instructors. I was mesmerized. I thought it was awesome." Keith Boyd, one of the instructors, was the Project Coordinator of the Eastern Shore Resource Conservation and Development Council, and she saw him occasionally at work. Yvonne talked to him about enjoying the class and said she wanted an opportunity to give back. Keith recommended her for a teaching position and she is grateful to him for getting her started. She also credits her mentor James Stern for whom she had a great deal of respect. She declares, "The other instructors welcomed me with open arms. It's a wonderful experience. I look forward to teaching and it's a stress relief." She considers her fellow instructors family and appreciates their team mentality. Her favorite topics to teach are survival and ethics. She strives to get the "right from wrong" message across to the kids and taps into community businesses for donations so they have something to take home.

Her first experience at Holiday Lake was attending a VDGIF Outdoor Education Mother/Daughter event. (She laughs about the fact that she was the mother and her friend was the daughter!) Wade calls Holiday Lake "Critter College". Yvonne is a Master Instructor and part of the Advanced Training instructor team for the teaching skills classes. When asked why she became a life member of VHEA, Yvonne responded, "I have been caring for my mother who recently passed away. I am now in a position to become a bit more active than I have been. I am hoping to work with local instructors to start hosting new events and 'put Accomack County on the map.' I also want to help with more association events."

A no-nonsense lady with a big heart, Yvonne states very simply, "I want to give back what was given to me. That's my bottom line. I love what I do."