

VHEADLINES



A quarterly Newsletter of the Virginia Hunter Education Association

Letter from the President

By "Hank" Tomlinson, President

Finally, some sunshine! Things are growing here on Clemmer Ridge, not the least of which is the excitement over upcoming events within the Association such as the election of officers, advanced training, potentially another Hunter Skills Weekend, and the list goes on.

One thing I would like to ask all Association members, and that is to participate by voting in the election of the officers coming up soon. I have always considered voting as a civic duty whether it is the election of a president or the election of a new dogcatcher. One is just as important as the other. I would also like to thank Mike Norkus and Wade White for serving as Nominating Committee, and special thanks to Wendy Hyde for all she does for the Association.

Not much more in the way of news, so I will sign off until I have the privilege of seeing all of you again.

Thanks for listening.....Hank

A Message from the VP

By Mike Norkus, Vice President

Becoming Bear Aware!

Hey folks, with a healthy black bear population, bear sightings are common throughout much of Virginia. A highly adaptable and intelligent animal, bears can live close to people. The most common food attractants are birdfeeders, garbage, and pet food; however, outdoor grills, livestock food, compost, fruit trees, and beehives will also attract bears.

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Here are some helpful hints you can bring to the attention of your Hunter Ed classes:

- What should you do if you see a bear?
Enjoy and keep a respectful distance! In most cases, the bear will move on quickly.
- If a bear is up a tree on or near your property, give it space. Do not approach, and bring your pets inside to provide the bear a clear path to leave your property. Never run from a bear.

What should you do if a bear is consuming bird seed, garbage, pet food, etc. on your property?

- The best way to encourage the bear not to return is to remove the food source.
- Do not store household trash, or anything that smells like food, in vehicles, on porches or decks.
- Keep your full or empty trash containers secured in a garage, shed or basement.
- Take your garbage to the dump frequently or if you have a trash collection service, put your trash out the morning of the pickup, not the night before.

(cont'd on Page 2)

A Message from the VP

(cont'd. from page 1)

- It is best not to put out birdfeeders between April 1 and November 1, but if you do and a bear accesses the feed, you must take down your birdfeeder for 3-4 weeks after the bear visits.
- Consider installing electric fencing, an inexpensive and extremely efficient proven deterrent to bears, around dumpsters, gardens, fruit trees, beehives, or other potential food sources.
- If addressed quickly, this situation can be resolved almost immediately after you remove the food source. Sometimes, the bear may return searching for food, but after a few failed attempts to find it, will leave your property.

What do I do if I see a bear cub on my property?

- Until April/May, sows with cubs are typically in dens. Most small bears people see in early spring are not actual "baby bears" but yearlings (>12 months old). They do not need their mothers to survive.
- Once females leave their dens with 4 to 5-month-old cubs, they will typically travel in close groups unless something makes the female nervous. If you see a very small cub, do not try to remove it from the area or "save it." When sensing danger, a female bear will typically send her cub(s) up a tree and leave the area. In such cases, the female will almost always return to gather up the cub(s) when no people or pets are around, usually after dark.

Always remember that a bear is a wild animal, and that it is detrimental to the bear, as well as illegal in Virginia, to feed a bear under any circumstances. Even allowing a bear to feed on trash or birdseed is illegal. Feeding bears may cause them to lose their natural distrust of humans, creating situations where bears may become habituated and sometimes aggressive towards people.

If you experience a bear problem after taking appropriate steps of prevention, please call the Wildlife Conflict Helpline at (855) 571-9003.

Please visit www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/bear to view videos, print a brochure, read more about bears in Virginia, and view other useful links to bear information.*

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

Regards, Mike
VP, VAHEA

*Adapted from the DGIF web site.

Secretary's Notes

By Aaron Grimsley, Secretary

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

Hello everyone,

I hope everyone had a safe, fun spring. The minutes from the March meeting will be posted in August. The State Corporation Commission report has been filed and paid. I am still taking annual and lifetime dues. If anyone is planning on having an event where the support of the Association or VDGIIF is needed, I can start sending the request forms in as of July 1. At this time I have no further information on the Life Membership cards. We could use more participants at Hunter Skills Weekends if instructors could pass on the word it would be greatly appreciated. I hope to see everyone in September. Have a great summer.

Best,

Aaron

Board Bulletins

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

Treasurer's Report

By John Maher, Treasurer

The Treasurers Report is evolving to provide more transparency.

Initial Balance	\$ 15,357.07	
Donor Advised Funds		
• Bedford County Youth Hunts	\$ 77.88	\$ 77.88
• John Dunne's Crossbow Hunt	\$ 394.76	\$ 394.76
• Roanoke Co HE- Judy Bergloff Memorial	\$ 135.00	\$ 135.00
• Bedford Co. HE- Milan Ashbrenner Memorial	\$ 221.82	\$ 221.82
• Carter Lewis Memorial	\$620.00	\$ 620.00
• VDGIF e-Store Grant	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,266.23
• Hunter Skills Weekend	\$ 1,233.77	
Total Donor Advised Funds		\$ 2,715.69
General Fund	\$ 13,907.62	
• Annual State Corporation Commission Registration	\$ 25.00/Year	\$ 25.00
• Web Services for Webpage	\$ 60.00 /Qtr.	\$ 120.00
• New Lifetime Members	\$150.00 each	\$ 300.00
• 2016 Annual Memberships	\$ 25.00 each	\$ 400.00
• Hunter Skills Weekend		\$ 341.74
• Checks	\$ 65.98	\$ 65.98
• Pending Deposit		\$ 175.00
Total General Fund		\$ 14,229.90
Total General Fund and Donor Advised Funds		\$ 16,945.59
Unpaid Bills		
• Insurance (See Note Below)	\$ 516.77	

The opening line is the initial balance.

Next are "Donor Advised Accounts". These are funds where the Donor has specified what they will be used for. The largest example is the VDGIF e-Store grant for \$2,500. \$1,233.77 of this grant was spent on the Hunter Skills Weekend. Originally, the unused portion of these funds was to be returned to VDGIF by 01 July, but the President has received permission to use the balance in support of the September Hunter Skills Weekend.

The total Donor Advised Funds are \$2,715.69

The General Fund is where most VAHEA transactions take place.

- As a non-profit Corporation in Virginia, VAHEA must register every year and this costs \$25.00
- VAHEA pays \$60.00 every three months for support of its Website.
- We have two new Lifetime Members (\$150.00 each). Currently, there are 80 Lifetime Members.
- We have 16 Annual Members (\$25.00 each)
- In addition to the VDGIF e-Store Grant, VAHEA spent \$341.74 supporting Hunter Skills weekend.
- Finally, we have the Total General Funds and the Grand Total – Donor Advised Funds and General Funds.
- After moving the Checking account for improved access, we ordered checks (\$65.98).
- Pending Deposit

Currently, we have one Unpaid Bill:

Insurance: Due 01 Jul 2016. The renewal included a statement that the insurer is not or will not be "licensed or regulated by the State Corporation Commission for issuance of surplus lines insurance in the commonwealth." The matter has been referred to the Board to determine (a) Do we need to carry this insurance; (b) if yes, continue with this policy; or (c) obtain another policy.

In Tribute



George Kelly Steele, age 66, passed away Sunday, April 17, 2016 at his residence. He was born June 23, 1949 in Sweetwater, Tennessee. He was the son of the late Homer and Mabel Steele. He was a 1968 graduate of Clintwood High School and lived most of his life in Dickenson County. He was a member of Clintwood Baptist Church, and was a retired Game Warden with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, serving Halifax, Buchanan, and Dickenson Counties. He was a former coal miner for fourteen years and a volunteer baseball coach and long-time supporter of the Clintwood Greenwave. He was preceded in death by his parents, Homer and Mabel Steele. Survivors include his wife Judy; son Michael and his wife Misty; daughter Annissa Michelle Steffey and her husband Brett; two brothers - Richard and Jack Steele; four brothers-in-law - Teddy, Sam, James and John DeLoach; one sister-in-law - Cathy Fleming and her husband Sammy; five grandchildren - Mariah Steele, Hunter Steele, Hayden Steele, Samuel Steffey, and Emma Steffey, and several nieces and nephews.

George became a hunter education instructor in July 1988 and became a master instructor in April 2004. He volunteered 2,806 hours and certified 2,749 students. Jeff Pease, VDGIF Hunter Education Coordinator, knew George for several years and had this to say about his involvement with the program: "George was a tremendous asset to the Hunter Education Program, instructing various archery classes at Advanced Trainings and leading the archery team and archery range at the Hunter Education Challenge for many years. George never knew a stranger and was always willing to give of his time to assist with Hunter Education classes or related programs. He often would travel to other counties to help teach classes in areas where instructor numbers were low. Always upbeat, always willing to help, always had a joke to tell and always had time to "chew the fat" – he will be greatly missed!"

The family requests that anyone interested in making a memorial contribution please send it to Clintwood Baptist Church, P.O. Box 710, Clintwood, VA 24228.

VDGIF Updates

New Region 4 Coordinator Announced:

Jimmy Mootz has been named as the Region 4 Hunter Education Coordinator and began his new job on May 25, 2016.

Jimmy describes himself as a lifelong sportsman and conservationist. He makes his home in Powhatan County where his family has lived for generations. Jimmy brings to the R-IV position 13 years of experience with DGIF and nearly 4,000 hours in the Hunter Education Program, most of which has been devoted to live fire H/Ed activities including shooting clinics and hunting workshops.

Jimmy has 30 years of successful experience in leadership, training, education and volunteer management. He is passionate about helping others succeed in life and afield and has devoted much of his life to that goal. Jimmy is a certified instructor with: 4-H Shooting Sports, Archery Trade Association, National Archery in the Schools Program, National Rifle Association, National Sporting Clays Association, and the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries.

In his spare time Jimmy enjoys spending time with his wife Deanna, and his son John. He also enjoys working on the family farm, guiding hunts, and coaching competitive shooters.

Contact Info:

Mailing address:	DGIF R-4 Hunter Ed PO Box 90778 Henrico, VA 23228
Email:	Jimmy.Mootz@dgif.virginia.gov
Phone:	804-367-1000 (Office) TBA (Mobile)

To ensure continued delivery of

vHEADLINES

contact Editor Wendy Hyde at

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

2016 Election

Regional Directors for 2 & 4 will be elected during the September 16, 2016 meeting and results of the officer election will be announced.

VHEA By-Laws pertaining to election process:

SECTION 2. Term of Office and Election Process:

- (A) Each Officer shall hold office for a period of two years and until his or her successor shall have been duly elected and shall be and remain qualified for their term of office.
- (B) The Term of Office shall begin January 1 following the election. The offices of President and Secretary shall be elected in even years. The offices of Vice-President and Treasurer shall be elected in odd years.
- (C) The process of election of officers will proceed according to the following schedule:
- i. The Board will appoint a Nomination/Election Committee of one (1) Regional Board member and one (1) elected officer (not running for office that year) by the first scheduled Board meeting of the year normally in conjunction with an Advanced Training Weekend (normally in March). Notice to all members of the offices to be filled, Nomination/Election Committee members and due date for nominations to be received, will be communicated to all members at the spring informational meeting held in conjunction with an Advanced Training weekend, by email, and posted to the website by May 1.
 - ii. The Nomination/Election Committee will qualify (member is good standing) all nominees and report to the Board a list of candidates for each open office by July 1.
 - iii. The Nomination/Election Committee will announce the slate of candidates and voting process to the entire membership in good standing (dues paid and life members) by email, written letter (if so indicated by the member) and posted to the website by August 1.
 - iv. The election will be held from August 1 to August 31 by mail-in ballot or by email. The election is open to all currently active members and life members as of July 1 of the same calendar year. Any ballot post marked after August 31, or any email submitted date stamped after August 31 will not be counted.
 - v. The Nomination/Election committee will count the ballots and announce the results of the election at the annual meeting of the Association.

Candidate Summary

Henry "Hank" Tomlinson

Candidate for: President
Current office held: President

Hank is a lifetime member of VHEA from Region 4. He is retired from the Air Force as a Senior Master Sergeant, having worked as a Vehicle Maintenance Manager. He works part-time as a Wildlife Disease Technician with the Conservation Management Institute of Va. Tech, and his services are contracted to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

He grew up in North Tazewell, Virginia and is now a resident of western Augusta County where he and his wife, Dee, live with their four dogs. He and Dee enjoy spending time with their large blended family, having between them nine children, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Hank enjoys woodworking, glass engraving, fishing, and hunting deer and turkey.

A hunter education instructor since 2009, Hank is a Master instructor with approximately 2500 hours in the classroom. He is involved in as a member of two Masonic Lodges, Stonewall Rifle and Pistol Club, and helps with JAKES range events through the NWTF. He is a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Churchville, VA., where he serves as a Lay Minister. Hank also conducts Sunday morning worship during weekend activities at Holiday Lake.

Hank has served as President of the Virginia Hunter Education Association for the past two years. His goals for the Association are:

1. Continue to insure that the Association leadership operates transparently.
2. Insure the Association supports all instructors.
3. Insure instructors are kept informed.
4. Support all existing programs at Holiday Lake.
5. Continue to pursue installation of commercial power to the shotgun and rifle ranges.
6. Continue to maintain the following priorities in all decisions and activities:
 - a. The students are the first consideration
 - b. The instructors are the second consideration
 - c. Everything else is the third consideration
7. Last but not least, I will always adhere to the instructor's creed spelled out in the VHEA by-laws in Article 9, Section 1, Paragraph 2.

Candidate Summary

Anthony "Tony" Carambia

Candidate for: President
Current office held: None

Tony is a life member of VHEA from Region 1. He is retired from the Navy as a Lieutenant Commander, having served over 27 years, primarily as a Chief Engineer onboard destroyers and aircraft carriers. He is a Vietnam and Desert Storm/Desert Shield veteran and has a degree in Political Science from Christopher Newport College.

He grew up in Rome, New York and has lived in Hampton, Virginia for 33 years. He and his wife, Bonnie, have two sons, one daughter, and seven grandsons. They are in the process of building a new home, and Tony's ability to do construction work and small engine repair keeps him busy with friends and neighbors. He is the Vice President of the Edgehill Hunt Club as well as a member of the Eastern Virginia Beagle Club, the Knights of Columbus, Fleet Reserve Association, the Italian-American Club and the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Hampton. He enjoys rabbit hunting with beagles, hunts deer and turkey, and especially enjoys taking his grandchildren along.

Tony has been teaching hunter education for nine years and is both a Master Hunter Ed and Boating Safety Instructor. He joined the VHEA as a Life Member because he thought it was the right thing to do.

Tony's goals for the Association are:

1. Better Advertising of the VHEA to solicit more monies for Wounded Service Member Hunts
2. Conduct more public training events at Holiday Lake
3. Better communications with the VHEA membership to solicit their ideas
4. Encourage more Hunter Ed Instructors to join VHEA

Candidate Summary

Aaron Grimsley

Candidate for: Secretary
Current office held: Secretary

Aaron is a life member of VHEA from Region 4. He is a Journeyman carpenter with Brunswick Woodworking in Brunswick, MD, where he has worked for over 30 years. In the evenings and weekends he is a hunt guide for Shady Grove Shooting Preserve in Remington, Virginia.

He grew up in and around Manassas, Virginia, and now he and his girlfriend, Diane Carroll, live in Bealeton with their two hunting dogs. He is a member of the Fairfax Wildlife Club and has served on both the board and held officer positions. He is also a committee member with both the Prince William Ducks Unlimited Chapter and the Delta Waterfowl Fredericksburg Chapter, a member of the Virginia Trappers Association, and volunteers for the Remington Volunteer Fire Department and several other local organizations.

Aaron has been teaching hunter education since 2007 and has volunteered over 2,000 hours to the program. He is a Master instructor and a member of the Range Operations Teaching Team for Advanced Training. He enjoys upland bird, turkey and deer hunting, fishing and mountain biking.

Aaron has served as Secretary for the past two years. His goals for the Association are:

1. Streamline Annual and Life Membership Tracking
2. Organize Request Forms
3. Track State Corporation Commission Forms
4. Track Tax and Insurance Forms

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 News

Region 1

Region 1 members - please let me know if you want our help or have something you want to submit to the Association for consideration!

Waiting to hear from you –

JC Gaitley III

Region 2

No report submitted

Region 3

No report submitted

Region 4

Nothing to report

At Large

Hello VHEA Members,

Hope all is well. I would like to bring up an issue. The VHEA really needs some volunteers to start up some fund raisers. We are only as strong as our members. I always hear “What can the assoc. do for me?” Well! We can help you get volunteers for events, help with promotions, and there are always the TAX write offs! At the beginning I had always asked for people to come up with ideas for the Hunter Skills Weekends. I’ve only had a few takers. I know there are a many instructors out there with a lot to offer! I would love to hear some of your Ideas. One idea: maybe do a silent auction at the advanced training swap meet. I know we all have stuff that someone else really needs. Would anyone like to take on this challenge?

Thanks,

Jesse Ebron

Promoting Skills Weekends

It’s not too soon to start promoting the Fall Virginia Hunter Skills Weekends in your hunter education classes. The next event is September 30 – October 2.

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. How?

1. Make flyers available to students: Download from: <https://holidaylake4h.com/vahunterweekend>
2. Show a video during registration and lunch breaks. A promotional video (about 3 minutes long) is downloadable through the home page of the web site. Simply go to www.vahea.org, click on the movie box, then right-click to open a box with a “Save Video As” option.



Class options include:

- Air Rifle Hunting
- Big Game Rifles
- Bow Hunting, basic and advanced
- Bow Fishing
- Deer Hunting Skills
- Game Processing
- Hunting with a Pistol
- Muzzleloading
- Pistol, basic
- Predator Hunting
- Preserving Your Wild Game Harvest
- Reloading Ammunition
- Rifle, basic
- Shotgun, basic
- Skeet
- Small Game Hunting Skills
- Squirrel Hunt (an actual hunt!)
- Survival
- Turkey Hunting Skills
- Upland Game Bird Shooting Skills
- Wild Game Cooking

Together we can make these events a success!

This is the second in a series of "Meet the Officers" interviews in which we get acquainted with the current Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

In Our Sights

By Wendy Hyde

VHEA Life Member – Aaron Grimsley



If dictionaries had pictures (some do), then Aaron Grimsley's photo would be the one beside the word "volunteer". A seemingly tireless individual, he donates his spare time among more organizations than any two or three people combined. A member Fairfax Wildlife Club for over sixteen years, he has served as a board member and president. He helps with

turkey shoots and chairs the event committee for the annual kids fishing derby and oyster roasts. He is a committee member with both the Prince William Ducks Unlimited Chapter and the Delta Waterfowl Fredericksburg Chapter. Throw in his previous work with the Leesylvania DU chapter and the tally is over 30 years. Then there's the Virginia Trappers Association, cooking for fundraisers for the Remington Volunteer Fire Department (2,000 hamburgers in one night?), running the rifle ranges for Quail Wildlife Upland Federation (formerly Quail Unlimited), and helping the Round Elementary School PTA with fundraisers. It's a wonder he has any time to sleep.

Aaron's family has been in northern Virginia for generations. Born and raised in Bealeton, he started hunting at age four with his cousin Butch, carrying a BB rifle then progressing up to a .22 short cat rifle at age five when he started squirrel hunting. His grandparents played a big part in his childhood and he recalls spending a lot of time on their farm in Orlean. His uncle and grandfather raised coon dogs, hunted coons, and ran trap lines, which is where Aaron's interest in trapping began. His grandmother bred peacocks and worked as the head chef at Airlie Plantation. When Aaron was six his grandfather passed away. Shortly after, Curtis Shockley, a local eye doctor and avid hunter, took him "under his wing" and introduced him to all sorts of hunting opportunities. He got his first deer at age nine and his first 8-point buck at fourteen. He could not have imagined what an impact the introduction to bird hunting and bird dogs would end up being for him. At age fourteen he started guiding bird hunts at Shockley Shooting Preserve in Bristersburg, VA, and still guides there occasionally.

In 1985 he graduated from Osbourne Park High School and went to work for International Development, Inc. in Rosslyn, VA, where he started an apprenticeship program with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America. Earning the title of Journeyman typically takes five years but Aaron achieved it in just one. He recalls, "I had two old guys that were grouchy and pushed me through everything." After that he hired on with Brunswick Woodworking in Brunswick, MD, where he's been for over 30 years. In the evenings and weekends he is a hunt guide for Shady Grove Shooting Preserve in Remington, Virginia. He enjoys turkey and deer hunting with both firearms and bows, upland bird hunting, mountain biking, and "fishing for everything from bluegill to blue marlin".

Seven years ago he moved back to Bealeton where he and his girlfriend, Diane Carroll, live with their hunting dogs – two hard-working German Wirehaired Pointers, Shiloh and Gunner, and the new puppy Mercedes. According to Diane, the dogs "eat better than I do" – which says something coming from a great cook who's also the Cafeteria Manager of Round Elementary School in Manassas, VA. Aaron has one daughter age 18, Hunter Erin, a sister, two step-sisters, and a step-brother.

After spending time hunting with three game wardens and a VDGIF board member and helping out with hunter ed classes for several years he was asked to go through the instructor certification program. He has "officially" been teaching hunter education since 2007, is a Master instructor and has volunteered over 2,000 hours to the program. His favorite topic to teach is ethics "because I think it's very important to hunting and the future of hunting." He is the VDGIF HE Coordinator for Fauquier County in Region 4. As a Certified Trapping instructor he teaches at Advanced Training sessions, is a member of the Range Operations Teaching Team, and teaches turkey hunting, skeet, trap, upland game bird hunting classes, and occasionally small game hunting, at Virginia Hunter Skills Weekends.

Aaron feels that the VHEA has great potential. "I felt like it was a great opportunity to further our teaching skills and gain equipment that the Department couldn't. And do events like wounded vet and youth hunts. I was a charter member, am a life member. I had a lot of faith in the founding members of the association." Aaron is currently the Secretary of VHEA and is hoping to be re-elected to that role in this September's officer elections.

Aaron's dedication is undeniable, and when he says, "I really enjoy teaching youth the sport and making them feel more confident in themselves", there's no doubt he'll put in the time and effort to make it happen.