

VHEADLINES



A quarterly Newsletter of the Virginia Hunter Education Association

Letter from the President

By "Hank" Tomlinson, President

It is almost uncanny how time flies when you are having fun. It is hard to believe that I was elected Association president two years ago. Here we are facing Advanced Training in the coming days only to go dormant afterwards until next year when we start all over again. So that reminds me of something. This is the Advanced Training session where we learn the results of the new electronic nomination and voting procedure. Tony Carambia and I were running for the office of President, and Aaron Grimsley was running unopposed for Secretary. For sure, Aaron will be elected Secretary, but I have no clue as to how the vote will turn out for President. No matter how the election goes, I will continue to work as I always have for the improvement for students, better and easier methods for instructors, and a continuance of a good relationship between the Association and the Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries. The new coordinator, Jimmy Mootz, is doing a fine job in Region 4, and I saw an advertisement for another coordinator in Region 1. So life goes on, and I am honored and proud to have been your president for the past two years, and I will still be honored even if I am not re-elected. All of you instructors are the best people I have ever been associated with, and I am proud to have been in the same organization with you. So, no matter how it goes, we will proceed into the future together pursuing the same goals, one of which is to make the Virginia Hunter Education Program an example for other states to imitate.

Good luck, God bless, and I will see all of you at Advanced Training.....Hank Tomlinson

Inside This Issue

Letter from the President	1
A Message from the VP	1-3
Holiday Lake HE Schedule 2017	3
Regional News	3
Treasurer's Report	4
Board Bulletins	5
Secretary's Notes	6
Hunter Skills Weekends	6
VDGIF Updates	6
In Tribute	7
In Our Sights	8

A Message from the VP

By Mike Norkus, Vice President

I'm certainly not getting any younger, and the idea of toting a portable climbing stand long distances is not quite as fun as it once was! The older I get it seems more and more likely I am to purchase a couple of ladder stands. Something I can set up and leave for a season. They do have their advantages and disadvantages.

A ladder stand consists of a ladder and a platform with a seat. The platform has a contoured rear section to partially fit around a tree. The method of attachment to the tree varies: ropes, chains, ratchet straps, and cam buckle straps. The materials used for the ladder and platform/seats vary from stand to stand. There are manufactured ladder stands and homemade ladder stands. As Hunter Ed Instructors I hope you're advocating ***not*** using homemade ladder stands in the Tree Stand Safety portion of your classes.

(cont'd on page 2)

A Message from the VP

(cont'd from page 1)

Ladder Stand Safety Tips*

Manufactured Ladder Stands

Ladder Rails

- Usually lightweight round or square metal tubing with 5 to 6 foot sections.
- A good choice is rails that are wide, formed extrusions joined with extruded plates that bolt the sections together.

Ladder Rungs

- Made of lightweight tubular or extruded metal with or without ribs for additional grip.
- Rungs must be long enough to allow maneuvering with both feet on the same rung. Distance between rungs should allow comfortable climbing.

Platform and Seat

- Platform may be tubular or extruded materials that are welded or bolted together. The rear of the platform should be shaped to make maximum contact to the tree and have provision to be solidly connected to the tree. The platform should be large enough to allow for standing and maneuvering.
- The seat may be rigid or flexible materials and should be adjustable for comfort.

Homemade Ladder Stands

- These are usually made of various combinations of wood, metal, plastics, etc. Fasteners include bolts, screws, nails, ropes and welding.

Few people have the knowledge and expertise to design and build a stand of this type; therefore one must use extreme caution with these stands.

Assembly of and Erecting a Ladder Stand

Assembly

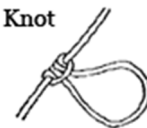
- Assemble the stand according to the manufacturer's instructions. If parts are damaged or missing contact the manufacturer. Do not make substitutions unless the manufacturer agrees that doing so will not compromise safety.

Erecting the Stand

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Select a tree of the size that will best fit the stand. Clear the area around the tree of objects that are hazards.

- Before setting the stand against the tree attach a temporary lifeline to the platform/seat. This lifeline should be anchored at or near the ground, making it easier to raise the prussic device when making the initial climb to secure the stand to the tree.
- Have one or more people to assist raising and stabilizing the stand. After initially setting the stand against the tree, anchor a board to the ground with rods to prevent the rails from sinking into the ground. The board should have notches cut into it for the rails to sit in.
- When making the first climb to secure the platform/seat to the tree have one or more people to hold and stabilize the stand. Put on the fall arrest harness and adjust it for proper fit. Connect each end of a climbing "Y" lanyard to the chest or waist rings of the harness. Connect the middle of the "Y" lanyard to the temporary lifeline using a prussic device. Use this fall arrest system to climb up and make the necessary attachments to the tree. Now attach the main lifeline to the tree and attach the harness lanyard to the main lifeline using a prussic device. The climbing "Y" lanyard and temporary lifeline can now be removed. Adjust the lifeline to a height on tree to allow for minimum slack in the lanyard when standing. The main lifeline can remain on the tree until such time that the stand is taken down.

Prussic Knot



- When taking the stand down use the reverse procedure as outlined above.

Using the Ladder Stand

Fall Arrest System

- **Everyone must properly employ a fall arrest system from the time they leave the ground until such time as they are back on the ground.**
- A fall arrest system consists of a full body harness (parachute style) properly adjusted to fit; a life line which reaches the ground from the highest point of climb; a lanyard that attaches to the harness or is an integral part of the harness; a prussic device that connects the lanyard to the lifeline.

Inspection of Stand and Equipment

- A complete inspection must be made of the stand and all other equipment before each use.

(cont'd on page 3)

A Message from the VP

(cont'd from page 2)

Haul Lines

- Always use haul lines to raise and lower guns, bows and other equipment. **Guns should be raised and lowered unloaded, action open and the muzzle covered and pointed down.**
- Your first aid pack should be on a separate haul line so it can be pulled up only if needed while in the stand.

Do

- Be aware of the related weight load of the stand and the number of persons for which the stand is rated. Do not exceed the maximum rated loads.

Do Not

- Attempt to cock a crossbow with the stirrup and rope device while in a stand. Doing so may cause one to lose their balance resulting in a fall.

Be Sure of Your Target & Beyond!

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

Regards, Mike

VP, VHEA

*Adapted from the DGIF Web site



Holiday Lake Hunter Education Events Schedule 2017

March 31 – April 2	Advanced Training
May 5 - 7	Youth Hunter Ed Challenge
May 19 - 21	Hunter Skills Weekend
September 22 - 24	Advanced Training
To Be Announced	Hunter Skills Weekend

Regional News

Region 1

Next Level Bow Hunting Workshop
Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center
Appomattox, VA
October 21 – 23, 2016

This weekend workshop is for hunters that have their own bow equipment and treestand. Participants arrive on Friday night and get paired up with an individual guide/ instructor. Friday night they have some classes, Saturday they go to the range and shoot then go to Featherfin Wildlife Management Area and scout, then go hunt that evening. Sunday morning there is a game dressing and processing class before they go home. This is a DGIF sponsored event. For more information contact Mike Norkus at bowhuntingmike@comcast.net.

Region 2

We hope to host another Bedford Youth Deer Hunt in November and are waiting to meet with the Bedford County Industrial Development Board to request approval. If approved, we should be able to set a date by late this month or early October.

Region 3

No report submitted

Region 4

No report submitted

At Large

Hello All,

Time is flying by!! HE classes have begun. Please don't forget to mention the Hunter Skills Weekend coming up at the end of this month. Bring a few flyers. 4H Holiday Lake has them on the website. Spoke to a couple of people about new classes for the Skills Weekend. Would like to hear a few more ideas. The Skills weekend is a great place to share knowledge with new hunters.

Stay safe and have fun!
Jesse Ebron

Treasurer's Report

By John Maher, Treasurer

Part 1. Finances

There were no new expenditures or additions to the Donor-Advised Funds.

Donor Advised Funds	Summer	Fall
Summer 2016 Balance		\$2,715.55
• 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 Hunter Skills Weekend	\$2,500.00 \$1233.91	\$1,266.09
Total: Donor-Advised Funds	\$2,715.55	\$2,715.55
General Fund		
• Total General Fund	\$13,907.62	\$14,229.90
• Annual State Corporation Commission Registration	\$25.00 (2015)	\$25.00 (2016)
• Web Services (60.00 Qtr)	120.00	\$120.00
• Virginia SCC		2.00
• New Members (Lifetime @ \$150.00)	\$300.00	
• Members (Annual @ \$25.00)	\$400.00	
• Hunter Skills Weekend	\$341.74	
• Checks	\$65.98	
• Hunter Skills Weekend 2015		\$800.00
• Pending Deposit	(\$175.00)	
• CIMA Insurance		\$357.87
Total General Fund	\$14,229.90	12,925.03
Total General Fund & Donor-Advised Funds	\$16945.45	\$15640.58
Unpaid Bills		
CIMA Insurance	\$516.77	

Part 2. Transparency

It is my intention to promote transparency, especially in regard to actions between Board meetings. Each Treasurer's Report will be a continuation from the last Report.

Following the March meeting, there were considerable, sometimes contentious, discussions regarding renewal of the CIMA insurance. These discussions expanded to include if insurance was required and, if yes, what kind of insurance. Other related issues included the VAHEA Hunt Rules vs. VGIF Hunt Rules, and insurance coverage for events not approved by VGIF nor covered by CIMA Insurance (i.e. teaching handguns at Hunter Skills Weekend).

With two meetings per year, it is clear that there will be issues the Board needs to act on between meetings. However, I saw no evidence of a procedure to document these actions including identification of the issues, preserving the information provided to the Board, which Board members did/did not participate, and the vote.

To my knowledge, none of this was recorded, though much was done via e-mail and some likely conducted by phone. I have submitted a draft process to the President for recording Board actions between meetings.

To ensure continued delivery of

vHEADLINES

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

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 jebron@sms.com

Next General Membership Meeting and Election of Regional Directors:

Friday, September 16, 2016 (during Advanced Training weekend) at
Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center, Appomattox, VA
Board Meeting is from 4:00 – 6:00 pm
Membership Meeting starts at 7:00 pm

Election results for the offices of President and Secretary will be announced at the meeting, and Regional Directors will be chosen for Regions 2 and 4 during the General Membership meeting. Selection process and responsibilities for a Regional Director are located in Article III, Section 4 of the By-Laws and are printed in the column to the right.

Region Directors: The Region Directors (RD) shall be elected from the membership. The Regions shall coincide with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Law Enforcement boundaries as modified from time-to-time and Region Directors shall live within the district represented. (Where Regions are modified based on boundary realignment by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, one Region will remain designated by the VHEA as an “At Large” Region in order to maintain an odd number of Regions for Board voting purposes). Region Directors shall be nominated and elected from the membership within respective districts to include the designated “at large” regional district. If there are no nominations from a given Region to include the “at large Region,” that directorship shall be filled by the Board of Directors who may appoint any member of the Association from said region. Region Directors shall serve a two-year term. They may be re-elected. Even numbered Region Directors shall be elected on the even numbered years and odd numbered and “at Large” Region Director shall be elected on odd numbered years. All offices shall be filled at the Association’s annual meeting. He/She shall serve as the elected VHEA representative within the district and statewide or beyond as appropriate.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES: Attends VHEA statewide meetings and Regional events (example: at scheduled DGIF Advance Training events or as required). Presents written and oral reports of progress, events attended and needs at all board meetings. Notifies the President when unable to attend board meetings and provides a written report to be delivered by a co-director or another representative. Presides over a minimum of 2 district VHEA meetings per year. Serves as a role model to other instructors. Works with VHEA committees. Represents VHEA at meetings of other conservation related organizations (i.e.; IHEA, NRA, NWTF, RMEF, QU, DU, local sport clubs, etc...) Notifies the President when unable to continue service so a replacement may be appointed.

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

Secretary's Notes

By Aaron Grimsley, Secretary

I hope everyone had a fun and safe summer and is looking forward to fall, cooler weather and hunting season. At this time all reports have been filed. Hunter Skills Weekend request form was submitted to D.G.I.F. and approved. If anyone needs support from V.H.E.A. or D.G.I.F. for a youth hunt or a wounded warrior hunt, please let me know so I can submit a request form. As always I'm accepting membership applications and dues. I look forward to seeing as many members as possible at the September advanced training. For those members I won't see, I wish you a safe and successful hunting season.

Best,
Aaron Grimsley

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

Minutes from the April 1, 2016 General Membership Meeting have been posted to the web site:
<http://vahea.org/board-meeting-minutes/>

Hunter Skills Weekends

Coming up on 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.

Please continue to make flyers available and suggest this event to your classes.

VDGIF Updates

Region 1 Coordinator To Change:

Ray Philbates has resigned as Outdoor Education Coordinator for Region 1. Until a replacement is announced, please direct all hunter education related questions to:

David Dodson, david.dodson@dgif.virginia.gov, or
Mindy Tucker, mindy.tucker@dgif.virginia.gov.

New "Go Outdoors Virginia" web portal / phone



On the web site

Smartphone App Icon



The old HuntFishVa app has gotten a big facelift and has some important new features you'll want to share with your students:

Beginning July 1, 2016, everyone is required to create a Customer Account in order to purchase a license. Through the portal and phone app you'll be able to:

- Build a license history – allowing you to view current and past licenses
- Purchase, print or reprint a license
- Obtain a HIP Permit (no more writing a number on your license)
- Complete watercraft registrations and renewals
- Donate to DGIF Conservation Funds
- Purchase DGIF products

And coming soon – the ability to check game through the portal!

In Tribute



Jerry Ray Ward, Jr., 54, passed away Saturday, August 13, 2016, at Riverside Walter Reed Hospital in Gloucester, VA.

There are many wonderful aspects of Jerry's life, and many ways he touched our lives. Jerry was an outdoors man, who enjoyed hunting and fishing, and was a member of the Triangle Hunt Club. He taught hunter safety and took much pride in teaching all ages how to be safe in hunting. He was a certified electrician by trade and retired from the Electrician's Local Union. He will be remembered as a wonderful husband, father, son, brother, grandfather and friend. He lives on in our memories and what we have become because of him.

He is survived by his wife, Marian R. Ward; daughter, Miki West; son, Jason Ward (Yevette); parents, Jerry and Bertha Ward; sister, Tammy A. Ward; and grandson, Caleb Patton.

Jerry was a resident of Saluda, VA in Region 1, and became a hunter education instructor in 2010. He earned Master Instructor status in 2014 and contributed 1,212 hours. He volunteered for the Scholastic Shooting Sports Program events and was a member of the Muzzleloader Team for instructor Advanced Training. He certified 1,925 students and was a familiar presence at nearly every Advanced Training weekend for the past six years.

A memorial service was held August 17, 2016 at Hogg Funeral Home, Gloucester Point. Contributions to assist the family with funeral expenses can be made through <https://www.gofundme.com/2jwn4tpy>



Festus Burrell James, 95, of Warrenton, passed away on Aug. 6, 2016.

He was born July 24, 1921, in Clarksburg, WV, the only child of the late Charles Burrell James and Viola Ethel Cox James. He was preceded in death by his wife of 42 years, June Garden Burroughs James.

He graduated from Washington Irving High School in Clarksburg in 1939 then worked for a lumber company before enlisting in the Navy during World War II. Assigned to the Naval Research Laboratory, he attended radio classes and taught for some months before being assigned to destroyer duty.

On discharge from the Navy, he worked as a civilian for the Navy Department as an electrical engineer at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, Washington D.C., and was instrumental in developing the proximity fuse for bombs, including the nuclear bomb, while working for the Department of the Army. While working full-time, he completed a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from George Washington University. He retired after more than 30 years in the government.

After retirement, he worked as a substitute teacher in Fauquier County, teaching high school math and science. He also worked with the 4-H and volunteered at the Warrenton Adult Day Healthcare Center. Mr. James was a member of Warrenton Presbyterian Church and a past master of the Mt. Carmel Masonic Lodge 133 and a member of The Scottish Rite.

Festus became a hunter education instructor in 1986, volunteered 663 hours and certified 1,655 students. He received his VDGIF 25-year pin for volunteer service in 2011.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Warrenton Adult Day Healthcare Center, 430 East Shirley Ave., Warrenton, VA 20186.

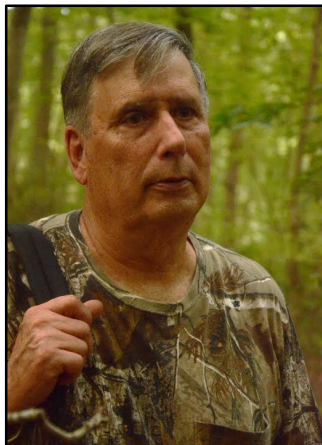
This is the last in a series of “Meet the Officers” interviews in which we get acquainted with the current Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

In Our Sights

By Wendy Hyde
John Maher

John Maher – without a doubt – has a Type A personality. He admittedly has a temperament characterized by ambition, drive, and a need for challenge – traits that at times may “ruffle a few feathers”. And he’s OK with that because underneath it all, John simply has a desire to effect positive change in whatever he’s involved with. He is currently serving as Treasurer of the Virginia Hunter Education Association through December of 2017. John decided to run for Treasurer so he could contribute to improving the organization, its voting opportunities, and documenting its processes of conducting business. He became a hunter education instructor after joining the Prince William Chapter of the Izaak Walton

League of America (PWIWLA) and learning that they did not have a hunter education program because no one was willing to “take the lead” on it. John volunteered, but first had to restore relations between PWIWLA and VDGIF.



He has been teaching hunter education for four years and is currently a Master instructor and National Bowhunting Education Foundation certified bowhunting instructor. The chapter now offers Basic Hunter Education and International Bowhunter Education Program (IBEP) courses year-round. John also sits on the Prince William Chapter’s Board of Directors. His interest in bowhunting expanded to include wildlife management and conservation while he was working with the Fairfax County Deer Management Archery Program where he has been a Team Leader for five years.

Growing up in east Texas outside Tyler, he hunted small game and quail, fished in farm ponds, and recalls, “I actually rode my bike down a major highway with a fishing rod or .22 rifle over the handlebars.” None of his parents, three younger brothers or sister shared that interest, and it wasn’t until junior high school that he found a like-minded friend and they began learning the skills together.

John graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in 1962 then headed to college in Texas to study architecture and art. He met his wife, Jamine, and they married in 1966. Lack of discipline led to loss of his college deferment and John enlisted for a four-year stint in the Navy as a radioman with assignments in Adak, Alaska then Guam. Having acquired self-discipline, he headed back to school at the University of Arkansas at Monticello where he earned a BA in English. True to the Type A personality, he made the decision to go back because he missed the challenges he found in the Navy. He resumed his 23-year Navy career reporting to Aviation Officer Candidate School in January 1974. As a Naval Flight Officer he served as Navigator, Airborne Communications Officer, and Mission Commander in EC-130s. His flying tours took him around the North Atlantic basin communicating with submarines. Other assignments included two tours on the Naval Operations Staff in the Pentagon, Communications Department Head on the carrier *USS Independence (CV-62)*, and Executive Officer of Naval Communications Station, San Diego. During most of his career he was based out of Naval Air Station Patuxent River, MD, Washington, DC, and Norfolk, VA. He and Jamine settled in Prince William County (Region 4) in 1990 when he started his final assignment at the Pentagon. After retiring from the Navy he worked as a defense contractor for seventeen years, retiring in 2010.

With no deer management program in Prince William County, John founded and served as the first Executive Director of Lake Ridge Deer Management and Conservation, Inc., to restore the environmental health of his Home Owners’ Association’s 1,200 acres of common grounds. The program cleans up trash, removes invasive plants, and restores native species as well as a VDGIF Deer Management Assistance Program to reduce the whitetail deer population. He is currently Director of Administration and continues to work for a county-wide program. Not surprising, his favorite type of hunting is urban archery, and since no one else in his family hunts or eats venison, he usually donates his harvest to others or Hunters for the Hungry.

John and Jamine have one daughter, Tina, a son-in-law, Wes, and two grandchildren, Shelby and Tyler. He enjoys family time, the internet, and things that can be done outside – “wildlife management, conservation, and photography.”

“I learn the most from those who disagree with me, even if it just expands my perspective. And the more I learn, the less I know.”