

VHEADLINES



A quarterly Newsletter of the Virginia Hunter Education Association

Wendy Hyde, Editor

Letter from the President

By Tony Carambia, President

Fellow instructors and members of the Virginia Hunter Education Association,

We begin another year of our association. I would like for us all to take an active role. It is our job to keep this association moving forward into the future. We all need to try to come up with ideas and actions to help us bring safe and valuable training to the youth of Virginia. We need to help everyone who wants to, enjoy the outdoors, be safe and hunt with the intention of always trying to do what is right for us all.

I want to be able to count on you to help me be a president that can guide our organization in all our goals and interests. We need each other to grow in numbers, support our members that put on hunts for our disabled Veterans, that put on hunts for our young hunters, and help others that have a desire to do the same.

I look forward to hearing all your ideas and concerns, and helping make this organization grow. Thank you all for your help in the past and the future. I do hope you all had a great hunting season with your family and friends.

Very Respectfully,

Anthony (Tony) Carambia
President, VHEA

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A Message from the VP

By Mike Norkus, Vice President

As I sit here just getting over the effects of the flu bug that's going around (thanks to this crazy weather we've been having) I can't help the excitement that's building in anticipation of the upcoming "Spring Gobbler" season. That in itself makes me feel a lot better!! Hopefully y'all didn't catch the bug, if you did I feel your pain, it's not pleasant.

Looking ahead to some quality time in the turkey woods brings on another hunting season. Fresh air, new life in the woods, new growth and warmer weather are something special to look forward to.

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A Message from the VP

(continued from page 1)

Just a couple of reminders to those of you that may be hitting the Turkey woods to bag that big gobbler this year.

1. Before heading out to the woods, check all your gear, firearms, bow, hunting clothes, blinds, decoys, calls, etc. to ensure all are operational and safe to use.
2. Please wear blaze orange going into and out of the turkey woods, and be visible to other hunters, especially if you are hunting public lands. It's not a law that you have to, but wearing it is highly recommended when you're going into and out of the woods.
3. If you hunt with decoys, try to position your decoys in a manner that if another hunter should approach, you are not in the direct line of fire.
4. Be extremely careful if you use a "Gobbler" call. Shaking the call creates movement, and not only attracts Gobblers, but also attracts other hunters, especially on public land where they may be running and gunning, a technique often used by turkey hunters to locate turkeys.
5. Should another hunter approach you while you're hunting, sit still, do not move and call out to the other hunter to let them know you're hunting...do not move! We've all heard the stories of hunters being shot by other hunters that just shot at movement, and didn't identify their target or beyond.
6. If you do harvest a bird, place it in a blaze orange bag or wrap it with some sort of blaze orange cloth or sash to carry it out of the woods.

Please be sure to hit these highlights for your students in your Hunter Ed classes. Good luck in the turkey woods this season!

Hunt hard and hunt safe! >>>----->
Mike
VP, VHEA

Board Bulletins

VHEA Officers:

President	Anthony Carambia cartony9@cox.net
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	Talley Cook talleycook43@gmail.com
Region 3	Charlie Wood rodeo5022@gmail.com
Region 4	Robert Fuller vheareg4@yahoo.com
At Large	Jesse Ebron jebron@sms.com

The minutes from the September 16, 2016 General Membership Meeting are posted on the website: www.vahea.org/board-meeting-minutes/

The Board is proposing several changes to the by-laws. The proposed changes will be sent to members via email along with this Newsletter, posted to the web site for review, and will be discussed and voted on, as appropriate, during the board and general membership meetings on March 31, 2017.

The next meetings are scheduled for March 31, 2017, (during Advanced Training weekend) at Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center, Appomattox, VA.
Board Meeting starts at 4:00 pm
Membership Meeting starts at 7:00 pm

Secretary's Notes

By Aaron Grimsley, Secretary

Hello everyone,

I hope everyone is doing well. As spring is upon us it is time for membership renewals. Only members in good standing as of July 1, 2017, will be allowed to vote at the next election.

The request form for Hunter Skills Weekend has been submitted to VDGIF. If anyone is planning on a spring or summer event and needs the help of VHEA or VDGIF please let me know so I can send in the request forms.

It is important that all our members try to recruit new members and to come up with ways of raising funds to keep our association going. Thank you for your help.

Best,

Aaron Grimsley
Secretary

Membership Information

*All Annual and Associate memberships expire on
March 31, 2017.*

Join or renew online!

Go to <http://vahea.org/membership/> and look for these options:



Click on this box to see membership options and pay using a Visa, MasterCard or American Express card.



Click on this box to download and print a Membership and Renewal Form and mail it, along with a check, to the address printed at the bottom of the form.

Membership Forms will also be available at Holiday Lake 4-H Center during Advanced Training on March 31 and April 1. (If you plan on renewing in person, please be prepared to pay by cash or check.)

Other Opportunities

In Region 4, Fairfax Wildlife Club is ending their 2016 Turkey Shoot season with a benefit event on Saturday, April 1.

The Fairfax Wildlife Club (FWC) annually hosts Turkey Shoots from September through April with the proceeds benefitting wildlife conservation activities and the community. The funds received from this year's final shoot will be donated to help with medical expenses for Jeff Pease, DGIF Region 3 Recreational Education Coordinator. Jeff served 20+ years as a Conservation Police Officer and has been engaged in Hunter Education throughout his career. Jeff was severely injured in a vehicle accident in January and is recuperating at home. The Club is located at 4202 Ringwood Road, Nokesville, VA 20181. The event starts at 2:00 pm, runs until 11:00 pm, and each shot is \$5.00. Ammunition is provided by the club.

A "turkey shoot" is a shooting contest where a variety of fresh and frozen meat packages are awarded as prizes. Shooters pay per shot fired and use shotguns aimed at paper targets about 25-35 yards away. The contestant with a hole closest to the center of his target wins a prize. This is a fun event for all ages of shooting enthusiasts or novices alike.

This is the same weekend that many of you will be at Holiday Lake for Advanced Training. There will be a collection box on the registration table all weekend for anyone that wants to contribute. Cash and checks will be accepted. All donations are tax-deductible.

	John Smith 555 Your St. Your Town 54321	DATE April 1, 2017
PAY TO Fairfax Wildlife Club		XXX.XX
XXX Dollars and XX/00 cents		
MEMO Jeff Pease Fundraiser		John Smith
1234 5678 9876 543210		

This event is being organized and executed solely by the members of Fairfax Wildlife Club. VHEA is not an official partner for any portion of the event.

Treasurer's Report

By John Maher, Treasurer

In talking with the IRS, I determined that the VAHEA Fiscal Year is the same as the Calendar Year – January through December – and we can file any time after 1 January but before 15 May for the previous year. I did not file for 2015 (no penalty) and filed for 2016. This is an opportunity to provide the transparency I promised in the form of an Annual Financial Report listing all the transactions for the previous year (e.g., 01 January 2016 through 31 December 2016).

Annual Financial Summary. The account was opened with a Cashier's Check from the previous Treasurer for \$15357.07. The Beginning Subtotal for Donor-Advised Accounts (\$1449.46) and for General Funds (\$11407.61) depict the allocation these funds. We have a balance of \$213.09 from the VDGIF HSW Grant that is awaiting disposition. The Dues total includes one input (2017 dues) on line and there is a \$1.23 charge for this service.

		Credits	Debits	
Total Beginning Balance				\$15357.07
<i>Donor-Advised Funds</i>				
Beginning Subtotal	\$1449.46			
Judy Bergloff Memorial	\$135.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$135.00
Carter Lewis Memorial	\$620.00	\$200.00		\$820.00
Bedford County HE	\$221.82	\$0.00		\$221.82
Bedford County Hunts	\$77.88	\$0.00		\$77.88
John Dunn Hunt	\$394.76	\$0.00		\$394.76
Hunter Ed Challenge	\$0.0	\$0.00		\$0.00
VDGIF HSW Grant		\$2,500		
Spring			\$1233.91	
Fall			\$1053.00	\$213/09
Ending Subtotal	\$1862.55			
<i>Change</i>	<i>\$413.09</i>			
<i>General Funds</i>				
Beginning Subtotal	\$13907.61			
Banking (Checks)			\$65.98	
VA SCC (Charter)			\$2.00	
Annual Registration 2015			\$25.00	
Annual Registration 2016			\$25.00	
Insurance			357.87	
Dues		698.97		
Web Page			\$240.00	
			\$18.00	
Donations		\$100.00		
HSW Lodging (Fall '15)			\$800.00	
HSW Inst Mat (Spring '16)			\$55.44	
			\$76.13	
			\$210.17	
Laptop Computer			\$201.39	
Ending Subtotal	12729.60			
<i>Change</i>	<i>-\$1173.01</i>			
Total Ending Balance				\$14592.15
<i>Change</i>				<i>-\$764.92</i>

Regional News

Region 1

Please notify me of any upcoming events so I can report them and, if needed, speak on your behalf at the next meeting.

JC Gaitley, III

Region 2

**Virginia Hunter Skills Weekend
May 19-21, 2017
Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center,
Appomattox, VA**

Enrollment has been light for the past several events. Please continue to promote this event in your late March, April and early May classes – there are still openings!

Class offerings include: Basic Bowhunting, Rifle, Pistol and Shotgun, Muzzleloading, Big Game Rifle, Introduction to Firearms, Skeet, Trap, Recovery of Wounded Game, Wild Game Cooking, IBEP Archery, Predator Hunting, Hunting with a Pistol, Turkey Hunting, Ammunition Reloading, Long-range Rifle Shooting, Upland Game Bird Shooting Skills, Deer Hunting Skills, and Small Game Hunting Skills.

Region 3

No report submitted

Region 4

Hello fellow Region 4 instructors, as the new Region 4 Director, I thank you for allowing me to represent you and look forward to a productive two years to come.

Rob Fuller
vheareg4@yahoo.com



From Ben Unruh, Region 4:

We launched 2017 with a successful Basic Hunter Ed class and I snapped a couple pictures of our volunteer instructors, Sean Clarkeson and Bob Grubbs, taking to the podium to educate 22 students on the safe use of tree stands.

At Large

Hello All,

Spring is near! Gobble Gobble! Hope you are all set for the spring hunting season? Hope to see you at the next Advanced Training. Remember to mention the Hunters Skills Weekend in your classes.

Last thing - I want to mention something about T.A.B. I have asked about it in some of the classes and only a few students knew this acronym:
T = Treat every firearm as if it were loaded
A = Always point the firearm in a safe direction
B = Be sure of your target and what's beyond it

Be Safe and Have Fun!
Jesse Ebron

Has your contact information changed?

To ensure continued delivery of **vHEADLINES**

Send your name and email address to vheadlines@gmail.com

In Our Sights

By Wendy Hyde

VHEA Life Member - George "Spud" Almond

Everyone knows him as Spud. He's not sure why or when his mother started calling him that as a young boy, but it stuck. And even though he's grown up, he's never outgrown the nickname. George Almond doesn't seem to mind.

Born and raised in Appomattox County, VA, he still lives in Pamplin, only a few miles from his childhood home. Spud was an only child and spent a lot of time with his Dad who drove a delivery truck for J.E. Jamerson and Sons. He says, "I used to ride around with my father and hang around construction sites. We used to go to Holiday Lake to swim in the lake. My mom and dad both worked." He appreciates the fact that he and his family have stayed close to the same area for so long. That's a rarity these days.

He graduated from Appomattox County High School in 1967, where he and Audrey Inge started dating halfway through; they've been a couple ever since. They built their home on the family farm after they married in 1968. Spud's first career was not unlike his father's; he worked during high school hauling milk and doing "a little bit of everything" for the company. He stayed on after graduation, then the draft board wanted him in the Army. Spud enlisted so he could decide where he wanted to be - the Navy Seabees (the construction arm of the US Navy). He served for 2 years, 2 months doing 2 tours in Vietnam and when he was offered the early out he took it. Home base was in Gulfport, MS and while he was overseas Audrey lived between his and her parents' homes. Forty-nine years later they are still together and now enjoying the company of their son, daughter, grandson, and granddaughter. Like Audrey and Spud, their children have remained close to home; his son and daughter-in-law's family are 15 minutes away and his daughter is nearby in Richmond.

After returning home from the Navy he worked for 18 years at a textile company in its transportation and maintenance division. When they went out of business he started a second career with J.E. Jamerson and Sons where he's been for over 27 years. Now semi-retired, George works a few days a week for Jamerson's building supply division as the safety and equipment coordinator. He is responsible for safety training, equipment inspections, managing OSHA compliance, working with insurance companies, and performing risk management.

The high school years also introduced Spud to another life-long love - hunting. He recalls, "Audrey's Dad was an avid rabbit hunter, had beagles, all that stuff. Audrey's father introduced me to hunting."

Audrey never got involved, but once their family grew Spud shared the activity with his son and occasionally some cousins. Both their children were active in the 4-H Shooting Sports Program.

Spud's involvement with hunter education started after he and his son took the class together in 1989. Appomattox was looking for instructors, he already knew a few, and got involved with Mike Ashworth, the Region 2 Coordinator. He says, "I could see the good in it and the idea. Classes were longer and you could spend more time with the students. That was the fun part of the class - to get young people started." He went on to teach muzzleloader for many years as part of Advanced Training (AT) with Mike, Austin Keith, and Mike O'Toole. When Outdoor Ed started the Instructor Developmental Team he began teaching map and compass. He now teaches AT as part of the Shotgun Team. He is a Master Instructor and was honored with the VDGIF Morgan Award in 2007.



His involvement with the 4-H program began about the same time when a local agent asked him to help get the Appomattox 4-H Shooting Education Club started. He estimates the club now has 30-40 kids participating and is proud to share that lots of the kids have come back to be instructors.

Spud was a charter member of VHEA, seeing that it was a way of letting instructors do something outside of VDGIF and serving as a vehicle for taking donations to assist instructors.

In his own words, we see why he has remained a dedicated instructor for almost 28 years. "I enjoy teaching, being able to transfer something to people and see them enjoy doing something new. Seeing their interest piqued, seeing them go do something new, that's the reward in it. Seeing somebody 10-15 years later and they remember seeing you in class. The best is when you run into parents or grandparents and they say they are doing something different because their child who took the class tells them they need to be doing it different or more safely." That's what it's all about.