



www.virginiabearhunters.org

Dedicated to the preservation of hunting bear with dogs
and to sound wildlife management principles

MEETING NOTICE

The next membership meeting of the Virginia Bear Hunters Association will be held around 1 p.m. on Saturday, October 15, 2016 during the Fall Field Trial. This will be a short business meeting during a break in field trial events.

FALL FIELD TRIAL

Our Fall Field Trial will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 15th in Nelson County at the farm of Carl and Debi Coffey (1855 Dickie Rd, Roseland, VA 22967). Details and directions are on the last page of this newsletter, and that page can be posted in your community to help us get the word out.

Message from David Steger, President

I hope everyone has had a productive training season despite the heat. We all know the extra care our dogs need when they're running in high heat and humidity, and VBHA will continue to campaign for a training season in better weather. I hope you've been able to run bear out of farmers' corn fields to help reduce the number of kill permits being given out. Hopefully your dogs are tuned for Youth Day on October 8th – another good opportunity to start from corn fields! Fill your trucks with young people to join in and continue family traditions, or start new ones.

Remember every time you're out with your bear dogs to be courteous to other hunters and landowners and use the Right to Retrieve in the manner it is intended. The perception that non-hound hunters have about us will likely determine the future of our sport.

While your dogs are honed up, load them up and bring them to our Fall Field Trial on October 15th. We always have a good crowd at Carl Coffey's and look forward to getting together before we all spread out for serious "food gathering," then our December bear season.

I want to send my sincere appreciation to all those who have helped me during my VBHA Presidency. You know who you are and that I couldn't have done it without you. I'm confident that the new VBHA leadership will continue to take our organization forward. I'll be around to help, give advice, and encourage, and I hope many of you will do the same.

Most important – GET OUT AND VOTE ON NOVEMBER 8TH.

2016 VBHA Election

David Steger and Wayne Ball served as this year’s Nominating Committee and presented a slate of officers to the membership at the Tazewell meeting in July. One additional nomination was made at that meeting and ballots were mailed to the membership in mid-August, presenting only the contested position for a vote. Your officers and directors for the next two years are shown below. They will assume office during the October meeting and will serve for the next two years.

VBHA Executive Board 2017-18

President	Richard Sprinkle	Buchanan	540-254-2578
Vice President	Steve Nicely	Clifton Forge	540-862-5110
Secretary	Hunter Thrasher	Buchanan	540-598-6169
Treasurer	Scott McGlothlin	Hardy	276-873-6059
Advisory Director	David Steger	Catawba	540-384-6506
Region 1 Director*	Barney Bolter	Kenbridge	434-247-9608
Region 2 Directors	Wayne Hensley	Bedford	540-586-8242
	Charles Montgomery	Buchanan	540-254-2048
	Clint Steger	Catawba	540-392-2247
Region 3 Directors To be determined	<i>Steve Alley</i>	<i>New Castle</i>	← Ballots were mailed to members to select 3 of these 4 candidates for Director of Region 3. Election results will be announced at the October meeting.
	<i>Henry Bishop</i>	<i>Blacksburg</i>	
	<i>Lacie Hale</i>	<i>North Tazewell</i>	
	<i>Allen Pennington</i>	<i>Rural Retreat</i>	
Region 4 Directors	Dennis Brinkley	Millboro	540-968-0358
	Andrew Gilliam	Williamsville	540-925-2438
	Al Heil	Culpeper	540-718-7781

*Region 1 also includes out-of-state members.



VBHA’S 2016 RAFFLE

We are raffling a Garmin Alpha 100 with TT15 collar, to be drawn at our Fall Field Trial. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10 and may be purchased at the Field Trial or from any officer or director.

VDGIF Regulation Change Cycle

We'll start working with DGIF Biologists this fall to negotiate proposed hunting regulation changes for this cycle (changes would be effective July 1, 2017). The VBHA Board has been talking and listening to our membership and we have a few things on our list. Your 15-member VBHA Board will meet to prioritize our wish list before we start meeting with VDGIF Biologists and Staff. So, make sure your directors hear your suggestions and understand what you are asking for and why you think it is a winnable request. We may also need to defend or support proposals made by other groups. VBHA will alert members to decisions, comment periods, deadlines, etc.

50th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE ITEMS

We have acquired some really nice blowing horns to commemorate VBHA's 50th anniversary in 2017. The horns were first offered for sale at the Tazewell meeting in July. They were very well received by VBHA members, and we will bring them to our October meeting and field trial. Prices are \$35 or \$40, depending on size.

Silver Stag has designed some very nice knives to commemorate our 50th anniversary. The 7 1/2 inch skinning knife has a stag handle and a D2 tool steel blade. The handle is engraved with "1967 – VBHA – 2017" and the blade has the VBHA logo and 50th anniversary banner, making it a unique, personal collectible knife. It comes with a handmade leather pouch sheath that can be worn vertically or horizontally, and a hardwood presentation box. A limited number of these knives will be produced, and they are available only to VBHA members for \$150.00. We plan to have the first batch at the October Field Trial and we will also take reservations for additional knives.

3rd QUARTER MEETING AND AUCTION

We had a great 3rd quarter meeting, annual auction and picnic hosted by the Thompson Valley Bear Hunters on July 30th in Tazewell. The meeting room was full during the informative meeting that also included Hall of Fame inductions. Instead of our usual auctioneer-type sale of new and donated items, we displayed merchandise that had been donated by Double U Hunting Supply – t-shirts, hoodies, dog collars, dog leads, books, antenna, even a Garmin TT-15 track and train collar. Buyers had purchased "tickets" and took chances on items by placing tickets in the bag next to the items they were interested in winning. After our membership meeting, winning numbers were drawn for each item. I think we all enjoyed this type of auction, especially Trisha Walke who won numerous drawings! Trisha had been awarded a Youth trophy earlier this year and she also won our 2015 Big Bear contest. Following the Chinese auction drawings, Trisha also won our 50/50 drawing in Tazewell. She donated her share of the money back to the VBHA treasury. With youth like this in our organization, our sport is sure to continue for the next generations.

After the auction, we opened the trailer and let those present see and hear our new mechanical bear. By then, the dinner bell was ringing and we all enjoyed a wonderful picnic supper along with conversation and fellowship. Many, many thanks to the guys who spent most of the day cooking the bear and pork and to all the fantastic country cooks who brought the desserts and side dishes.

VBHA HALL OF FAME NOMINATION

After the 2nd quarter newsletter was mailed, but before the meeting in Tazewell on July 30th, we received Hall of Fame nominations from the Joan Thompson on behalf of the Thompson Valley Hunt Club and from Lacie Hale. We inducted these individuals during the July meeting since they were all from the Tazewell area.

This is the nomination letter we received from Joan Thompson:

As I read the latest VBHA newsletter, I realized that we hadn't completed our duties in recognizing the passing of two instrumental VBHA members in the Tazewell area. Our family and the VBHA family lost two lifetime members who were both loved and who touched the lives of so many of the new and old bear hunters in our area and beyond. In 2015 within a matter of days, we lost these 2 very special people.

Maggie Phillips was a mainstay in our bear hunting community. Her endless hours of work in the community and supporting the sport can never be replaced. If a hunting group needed anything, everyone knew they could count on Maggie to aid in finding lost dogs, notify a veterinarian of injured animals on the way, opening her door to tired and hungry hunters or providing that endless smile that warmed the hearts of all she encountered. Maggie knew no strangers and provided all who encountered her along the way with endless special memories. I ask that we provide the recognition so well deserved to her and her family by placing her into the VBHA Hall of Fame.

Next, my late husband, Jack H. Thompson who passed away just days after Maggie. Jack was well-known and loved throughout our bear hunting community. Over the years of traveling into Canada, Montana, Idaho, North Carolina, and Virginia, he made friends and shared memories with all. Jack's biggest obstacle came when he lost his best friend and hunting partner, Dahmon Ball. As he continued forward, his health started failing and as his pack of dogs dwindled, so did he. He did continue to be an advocate in legislation for all hunters to the end. He was dedicated to all bear hunters and cougar hunters out west. I never knew how many would be for breakfast or how many young hunters I would find asleep in our basement after being out most of the night retrieving dogs. Those memories are precious to me and to those that were just learning about the dedication of becoming a true sportsman. I would consider it an honor for you to include my husband in the VBHA Hall of Fame. For the countless hours that he and Dahmon Ball spent working with the Game Commission, the Houndsmen Association, and endless meetings with political figures in support of the VBHA, I feel he should be recognized by becoming one of the icons placed into your Hall of Fame.

This is the nomination letter we received from Lacie Hale:

We need to publicly recognize Wayne Ball and add his name to the VBHA Hall of Fame. Wayne has been a devoted bear hunter all his life, and is all the time taking kids and new hunters bear hunting. He comes from a bear hunting family and it is clear that bear hunting is his passion. One time his boss was talking to him about a pay raise and Wayne said he would sooner have more time off to bear hunt.

Wayne was instrumental in starting the SW VA Bear Hunters Association and he has worked exceptionally hard for the VBHA since the SW VA association went state-wide. Wayne almost always has the longest drive, but he never misses a VBHA meeting or event. He often drives to Richmond to speak to the DGIF or legislators on behalf of bear hunters. He knows most bear hunters in his area and always rallies them to support legislation and regulation changes that affect them.

I can't think of anyone who more deserves to be in the VBHA Hall of Fame.



FALL FIELD TRIAL
OCTOBER 15, 2016 — 10 A.M.
NELSON COUNTY
1855 DICKIE RD, ROSELAND, VA 22967

Bear Bay - Bear Treeing Contest - Dash Race

Trophies for 1st, 2nd, 3rd places

Dogs entered in all 3 events will compete for Top Dog honors

Youth Bear Bay – all entries receive award

VBHA and Land Owner are not responsible for loss, accidents or theft

ABSOUTELY no alcohol or illegal drugs allowed – strictly enforced

Breakfast and lunch available on-site

Directions:

From I-81: Take Exit 205 toward VA 606/Raphine/Steeles Tavern. Turn right onto Raphine Rd., go 1/5 miles. Turn left onto US-11, go .1 mile. Turn right onto VA-56, go 1.7 miles. Turn left and follow VA-56 for 20 miles to Massies Mill, then watch for Dickie Rd. Turn slight right onto Dickie Rd., go 1.5 miles; watch for signs.

From Lynchburg: Take Rt. 29 North past Amherst, take Rt. 151 North on left; go 11 miles on Rt. 151 to Rt. 56, turn left; go 2 miles to Dickie Rd/Rt. 666 on left, go 1 1/2 miles and watch for signs.

From Charlottesville: Take 29 South to Lovingson. 5 miles past Lovingson on Rt. 29 South take Rt. 56 West on right; go 1.1 miles and turn right onto Roseland Rd/Rt. 655; go 3.9 miles to Rt. 151 and turn left; go across bridge and turn right onto Rt. 56 West; go 2 miles and turn left onto Dickie Rd/Rt. 666; go 1 1/2 miles and watch for signs.

For more information contact:

Carl Coffey	434-277-5077
David Steger	540-384-6506
Richard Sprinkle	540-254-2578



VIRGINIA BEAR HUNTERS ASSOCIATION - MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- Individual – 1 Year - \$15
- Individual – 3 Years - \$40
- Family – 1 Year - \$20
- Family – 3 Years - \$50
- Lifetime (under age 50) - \$150
- Lifetime (age 50+) - \$100

Return to: Hunter Thrasher, VBHA Secretary
3826 Narrow Passage Rd, Buchanan, VA 24066
Make checks payable to VBHA

- Renewal
- New Member
- Update Information

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Individual and family membership years are measured from the date dues are paid or from current expiration date, if later.

