



## **Virginia Bowhunters Association (VBA)**

### **What It Has Done For You**

The VBA has enjoyed more than 70 years of success and has effectively represented the interests of bowhunters to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF). Provided below are examples of hunting-related milestones the VBA helped achieve:

- 1. 1949 – North River area (16 square miles) in Rockingham County was the first area opened to bowhunting in Virginia.**
- 2. 1953 – “Big Levels” in Augusta County was opened to bowhunting.**
- 3. 1956 – A statewide bowhunting season was enacted.**
- 4. 1985 – A separate archery license for bowhunters was established, allowing two additional deer to be harvested.**
- 5. 1994 – An additional week of bow season was added when the opening date of archery season moved from the second Saturday in October to the first Saturday in October.**
- 6. 1994 – It was made legal to harvest turkey with a bow during the early archery season.**
- 7. 2003 – It was made legal to harvest a black bear during the early archery season statewide.**
- 8. 2005 – The VBA opposed the effort to legalize the use of crossbows in the regular archery season and in the process many valuable messages about hunting safety and ethics were reinforced with all involved.**
- 9. 2007 – New “Urban Archery” regulations expanded the archery season by months in many locations and included harvest incentives such as “earn a buck.”**
- 10. 2009 - Resumed responsibility to coordinate the After School Archery Program (ASAP) in Virginia.**
- 11. 2010 – Supported a successful VDGIF plan to reintroduce elk to Virginia; Sponsored state-wide charity shoots to benefit St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital; Revitalized the International Bowhunter Education Program in Virginia in conjunction with the VDGIF and National Bowhunter Education Foundation.**
- 12. 2011 – The VBA was opposed to add a Bear Hunting license on top of our big game license. We supported the following: to expand the urban archery season to a few cities that were excluded in 2002; expand the “Youth” hunting day to include Fairfax, Loudoun and Pr. William counties; to close the elk season in Buchanan, Dickenson and Wise counties to be made available for collection of biological**

**specimens for disease testing; to remove the daily limit and make it unlimited to hunt in Fairfax, Loudoun and Pr. William counties to bring the herd under control; and, the unauthorized feeding of deer, bear and other wildlife.**

- 13. 2014 – We were in support of the following items: to make it legal to allow Sunday hunting on private land with written permission; combined the archery and crossbow license into one license; require the use of blaze orange during muzzleloading and bowhunting season; prohibit the hunting of deer or bear with the aid or assistance of dogs on Sundays and to allow persons holding an apprentice hunting license to hunt unsupervised if they have successfully completed a hunter education course.**

**The VBA will continue its efforts to preserve and expand the hunting privileges for Virginia bowhunters.**