

## Virginia Bowhunters Association (VBA)

### What It Has Done for You!

The VBA has enjoyed more than 75 years (1941-2016) of success and has effectively represented the interests of Bowhunters to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF). 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 opened to bowhunting.
3. 1956 - A statewide bowhunting season 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 to the archery season moving it 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 - opposed the effort to legalize the use of crossbows in the regular archery season and hunting safety and ethics were reinforced.
9. 2007 - New "Urban Archery" regulations expanded the archery season and harvest incentives such as "earn a buck."
10. 2009 - responsible for coordinating the After School Archery Program (ASAP) in Virginia.
11. 2010 - supported the VDGIF plan to reintroduce elk to Virginia; sponsored state-wide charity benefit shoots: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, H4H; restored the International Bowhunter Education Program (IBEP/NBEF) with the VDGIF.
12. 2011 - opposed adding a Bear Hunting license on big game license; supported expansion of the urban archery season; expanded the youth hunting days and closed the elk season in western counties for disease testing.
13. 2014 - supported making it legal to allow Sunday hunting on private land; combined the archery and crossbow license; required blaze orange during the muzzleloading/bowhunting season; prohibited the hunting of deer/bear with dogs on Sundays; and allowed persons with an apprentice hunting license to hunt unsupervised upon completion of a hunter education course.
14. 2017 - opposed having a three-day bear season the week before the archery season and for handicap archers that hunt with a bow; the running of bears with guns would harm all bowhunters.

The VBA will continue its efforts to preserve and expand hunting privileges for Virginia Bowhunters.

## VIRGINIA BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION MEMEBERS

**Belvoir Bowhunters, Fort Belvoir - Bowhunters of Rockingham, Harrisonburg - Buggs Island Fish and Wildlife Club, Clarksville - Cub Run Archers, Centerville - Dixie Bowmen, Colonial Heights - Kingsboro Bowmen, Suffolk - Manahoac Bowmen, Fredericksburg - Prince William Archers, Brentsville - New River Bowhunters, Galax - Northern Virginia Archers, Fairfax Station - Sherwood Archers, Roanoke Shenandoah County Archers, Mt. Olive - Two Rivers Archery Club, Front Royal - Staunton River Archery Club, Hurst - Walton Park Bowhunters, Lynchburg**



## VIRGINIA BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION



# PROTECT YOUR BOWHUNTING RIGHTS

## **FACT:**

Only 10 percent of the population is hunters or support hunting

## **FACT:**

Ten percent of the population is opposed to hunting and wish to take your hunting rights away

The so-called anti-hunters or animal rights activists are growing stronger every day. They are well organized, funded and are strongly fighting at all levels to eliminate hunting. They work to influence the remaining 80 percent of the non-committed population through fear and emotions and avoid the hard facts of what the sportsmen in this country have done to conserve, foster and protect our natural resources.

The best way to help protect your hunting rights is to get involved and join an organization such as the Virginia Bowhunters Association (VBA) and have your name counted with many others to stand up against anti-hunters. Only by working together can we effectively protect our rights

### **Please Contact:**

Marie Bell, Executive State Secretary for membership and club chartering.  
VBA Office: 1223 Jeanette Avenue,  
Vinton, VA 24179 or 1-888-922-9536  
or e-mail:  
vbabowhunters@cox.net.

## **What is the VBA?**

The VBA is a state organization formed to promote archery in Virginia. The VBA's interests are as complex as the sport itself. They include the use of the bow in hunting all legal game, conservation and preservation of our natural resources and wildlife, competitive field archery, 3-D, indoor shooting, and promoting the highest standards of sportsman-like conduct in all phases of archery.

VBA members are composed of nearly 15 archery clubs throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia, as well as individual associate and bowhunting members.



## **VBA BENEFITS**

### **Hunter Education**

The VBA works with the VDGIF to present the International Bowhunters Education Program to both educate hunters and teach new instructors throughout the state.

### **Annual Banquet**

Held in March/April to recognize the success of our bowhunters/tournament shooters and provide an opportunity to socialize and share experiences with others who have the same interest.

### **Bill Bennett Big Game Award**

The individual bowhunter who successfully harvests one or more deer shall receive this award and is eligible for the annual big buck and big doe award.

### **"FLIGHT"**

Each household shall receive the quarterly issue of our official publication to keep them informed of the activities of our organization and of current hunting issues.

### **Schedule Card**

Each year every club member or associate member shall receive a schedule card listing all local and state tournament dates, types and times.

### **VBA Annual Tournaments**

Sponsored State Tournaments for Indoor, 3-D (Marked/unmarked), and Field Archery Shooting.

### **VBA Website - [www.vbarchers.com](http://www.vbarchers.com)**

Hosts an evolving and dynamic web site & Facebook page to inform all residents of archery activities in Virginia.