



VBA

FLIGHT

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE VIRGINIA BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION



VBA OFFICERS

Paul Vogel, President
7110 Wilburdale Drive
Annandale, VA 22003
703.930.5649 (cell)
rvogel7@verizon.net

David Burpee, Executive Vice President and FLIGHT Editor
7433 Spring Tree Drive
Springfield, VA 22153
703.913.0508 (home)
burpeed@verizon.net

Cay McManus, Field Vice President
1283 Terrell Mountain Road
Lynch Station, VA 24571
434.369.2022 (home)
barebow@embarqmail.com

Marie Bell, Executive State Secretary and Treasurer
1223 Jeanette Ave
Vinton, VA 24179
888.922.9536 (VBA)
540.343.6097 (VBA Office)
540.343.7334 (home)
vbabowhunters@cox.net

Joyce Cameron, Recording Secretary
3313 Harmony Hollow Road
Front Royal, VA 22630
540.635.8128 (home)
jhcameron@embarqmail.com

Ed Bickham, Hunting Vice President
6353 Godwin Boulevard
Suffolk, VA 23432
757.255.2294 (home)
757.599.6111 (work)
757.434.3310
bick333@msn.com

Irene Stocksdales, Publicity Director
3304 Bayfield Drive
Dale City, VA 22193
703.670.5003 (home)
istocksdale@rcn.com

NBEF/IBEP Director
Pending Appointment
By the Executive board

VBA Homepage
www.vbarchers.com

FLIGHT NO. 3 VOL. 52

Published Quarterly
David Burpee, Editor
7433 Spring Tree Drive
Springfield, VA 22153
703.913.0508 (home)
burpeed@verizon.net

FLIGHT Deadline

The deadline for the Winter issue of FLIGHT will be December 4, 2009. Please submit articles of interest to the editor prior to that date. Send us your letters, stories or photos. This is your newsletter and we encourage your contributions!

From the President

A question I get a lot is, "What does the VBA do for me?" Of course, if you are a member you should not have to ask that question because it is your organization. The short answer is "a lot," but a breakdown of a partial list of the many ways the VBA benefits archery and bowhunting in Virginia may help you explain to non-members the extensive and impressive scope of VBA activities.

Clubs: VBA clubs are the heart of the organization. Spread throughout the state, VBA clubs and member pro shops offer VBA members a variety of programs and activities suited to their local needs. Each club sends a representative to VBA meetings and it is the representatives – not VBA officers – who vote to determine VBA policies and activities.

Hunting: The VBA has played a huge role in shaping the current status of bowhunting in Virginia by supporting changes to VDGIF and state hunting regulations and laws. Beginning in 1949 when the North River area in Rockingham County was the first area opened to bowhunting, the VBA has helped with a variety of improvements including: opening "Big Levels" in Augusta County to bowhunting ('53), enacting state-wide bowhunting ('56), establishing a separate license for bowhunters and allowing two additional deer to be harvested ('85), adding an additional week of bow season in early October ('94), authorizing harvest of turkey in early bow season ('94), authorizing harvest of black bear statewide in the early archery season ('94), supporting new urban archery regulations that expanded the bowhunting season by months in many locations and included harvest incentives such as "earn a buck" ('2007). Along the way, the VBA also helped the VDGIF obtain additional funding and supported them in many ways behind the scenes. The VBA has worked hard and effectively to acquire hunting privileges for Virginia bowhunters and will continue its efforts to preserve and expand these privileges. The VBA Hunting Vice President attends VDGIF meetings to represent the views of the VBA and by extension the interests of all bowhunters in Virginia.

IBEP: There are countries and states as well as places in Virginia that you can't hunt without having completed the International Bowhunters Education Program. The IBEP in Virginia is run by the VDGIF and they in turn use the VBA as their source for instructors to teach the course. The VBA has for many years partnered with the VDGIF and the National Bowhunter Education Foundation on this important program and will continue to provide this essential service to Virginia hunters.

Archery Education: The VBA has a program, including all required equipment, available to anyone interested in spreading the great sport of archery. It's called ASAP or After School Archery Program and is designed to bring beginners who have experienced archery in schools or camps more fully into the sport. The program offers incentives to the participants, instructors and leaders. ASAP is an NFAA program, but may be taught by any instructor certified by NFAA, NAA/USA Archery

Continued on page 19

ARCHERY HUNTING IN VIRGINIA

Matt Knox and Nelson Lafon, Deer Project Coordinators

Jaime Sajecki, Bear Project Leader

David Steffen, Forest Wildlife Program Manager

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

(FLIGHT EDITOR'S NOTE: This welcome contribution by the VDGIF is the first of many that will appear over the next few years. The Department has graciously agreed to provide occasional articles to FLIGHT to keep VBA members informed of key developments.)

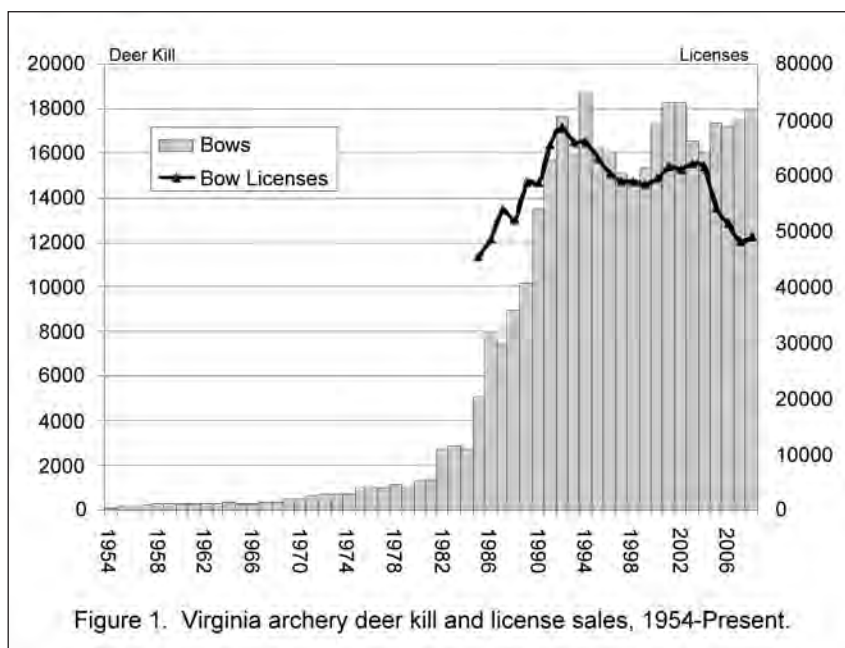
Archery hunters enjoy an abundance of game and opportunities in the Old Dominion. This article focuses on deer and bear, but there are also special archery seasons for wild turkeys (October 3 – November 7 anywhere a firearms season for turkeys is open) and bobcats (October 4-31 statewide). During archery seasons, only bows and crossbows are legal weapons. In addition to a hunting license and a bear-deer-turkey license, an archery license is required to use a longbow, compound, or recurve. A separate crossbow license is needed to use a crossbow. When hunting with archery tackle during any firearms deer or bear season, you do not need an archery or crossbow license.

White-tailed Deer

2008-09 Deer Harvest. During the past deer season, 253,678 deer were reported killed by hunters in Virginia. This total included 111,863 antlered bucks, 22,291 button bucks, and 119,524 does (47.3%). This represents a 4% increase from the 242,792 deer reported killed in fall 2007. It is also 15% higher than the ten year average of 220,249.

Archers, not including crossbow hunters, killed 17,881 deer (Figure 1). The 2008 bow kill comprised 7% of the total deer kill. The 2008 archery deer kill was up 2% from 2007. Over the past decade the archery deer kill has averaged 8% of total deer kill. Since the legalization of crossbows for all deer hunters in fall 2005, the total number of archery licenses has declined approximately 17% statewide, but the harvest attributable to bows has changed little (Figure 1). This decline in archery licenses was expected based upon the experiences of other states where crossbows have become a legal weapon. Simply put, this means about 10,000 Virginia archery hunters put down their bow and picked up a crossbow.

Crossbows resulted in a deer kill of 9,597 deer or 4% of the total deer kill. The 2008 crossbow deer kill was up 11% from 2007 (Figure 2). Not surprisingly, the number of crossbow hunters and the number of deer killed with these weapons has increased dramatically over the past four seasons. In 2008, there were approximately 25,000 crossbow hunters in Virginia (Figure 2). Legalization of the crossbow has resulted in about 15,000 more hunters taking to the woods for archery season. The Department considers this increase in deer hunting recreational opportunity a good thing. Although there is not specific data from Virginia, data from Ohio clearly indicates that crossbows are much more user friendly



Continued on page 20

From the Executive Vice-President

Here We Go Again

Most people say a new year starts with the month of January, but a sizeable proportion of the VBA will swear that it starts in September or October (depending on when archery season opens in their area). There are also a few diehards who insist it really starts in April with turkey and spring bear seasons and then skips a few months to begin again in Sep/Oct.

Regardless of your persuasion, it is that time of year when many folks are saying, "Here we go again!"

Despite the relentless and never changing march of the calendar, "going again" does not and should not mean going again in the same old way. Each year brings its own charm and magic, not the least of which is anticipation. It might be anticipation of using a new bow, hunting a new property, taking a new trip, or enjoying being retired and having every day be a Saturday hunt. Regardless of the reason, one of the things about this time of year is an underlying tingle of anticipation.

This year, I hope your sense of anticipation includes some thoughts about the VBA. We are a great organization and the most effective near-term strategy for us to continue improvement is to strengthen the clubs and increase membership. I promise to do my part by making FLIGHT magazine as interesting as possible, which will hopefully help retain and recruit members.

This issue takes a step in that direction by having the first result of a newly strengthened relationship with the VDGIF. They have authored an article focused on archery and will provide another in the spring. Going forward, the FLIGHT will help point you to all the news relative to archers. Also in this issue is a super article from a VBA member and photos of VBA archers "doing their thing" in the US and around the world. You will see other special efforts in future editions.

How can you help? That's a good question because eventually the health of the VBA rests with the clubs and the individual members. So, you can: attend club meetings, participate in club and VBA events, recruit new members, send me a short article or a picture, and represent the VBA well in the woods and at tournaments. Do one or more of these things and you are part of the solution. If not....

Together we can do a lot for the VBA. I look forward to being able to say each year as we constantly improve – here we go again!

From the Hunting Vice-President

I am very proud to be your Hunting Vice President for 2009 & 2010 and to represent the VBA at various forums, including at VDGIF meetings.

As many of you know, I have been a member of the VBA since 1984 and am also a member of the Kingsboro Bowmen. I have been actively involved with the club for all those years and also have been involved at the VBA state-level for several years as a club director and as the VBA Field Governor. It has been my good fortune to have bowhunted since 1969 in a variety of locations, including LA, MS, TX, TN, MD and VA, where I have harvested both large and small game.

I would really like to see in an increase of membership in the VBA. We have a large group of bowhunters in the state that do not realize how the VBA has and is helping them with their hunting rights and opportunities to hunt. We have a great bowhunting season in the state compared to other states. I am open to suggestions on this matter. I will be attending the VDGIF meeting as an important part of my job. Influence is sometimes proportional to representation and if the VBA had 10,000 members it would help our cause.

Each club has a Point of Contact. Please make sure your club's POC is good at spreading the word when I send important emails concerning Virginia's bowhunting. I prefer email contact; however I also can be contacted via telephone. My information is listed under VBA Officers.

I look forward to serving you and expect to hear from YOU!

Get Involved! Get into the woods and enjoy the nature aspect of our sport.

A Place in the Woods

By Craig Torres, Cub Run Archers

From my backyard, follow the trail up the hill to the big oak. Take a left and keep going until you reach the ridge and can see the canyon below you. Step on to the deer trail and follow it through the manzanita and live oak, emerging into a grassy clearing. You will find me there.

For ten years, this was my place, a place in the woods.

Whenever I travel home to California, I still go back to that place. It is more encroached now. There are more houses along the ridge and human sounds banging up through the canyon. Much of my life since those years has been about finding something to replace this one spot. The more I worked in cities, the harder it became. When I started bowhunting a few years back, I began to sense that I had found my place in the woods again. To my surprise, I had forgotten a lot on the journey back.

Sitting there up on the lip of the canyon bowl, I could hear everything below me. My lab and I both knew how to sit perfectly still and listen to nature speaking in full volume. She, with her wet nose sifting through the scents thermals pulled up from the fern-lined creek bottom, and me, listening past the nagging Steller's Jay for what we both knew was there, somewhere, right below us, alive.

At a certain point, I would lean over to her and whisper: "Get a deer." She'd head out on a scent-trail she had marked early on. As soon as she left our little clearing, and clattered into the oak leaves she would stop. Then listen. She was a smart dog. She knew that the blacktail was standing up out of his bed, getting ready to dash. Then began the epic chase of hound and stag told in snapping twigs, whimpering yelps, and the quiet thunder of hoof and paw moving down trails they both knew somewhere deep in the blood and bone.

I wasn't a bowhunter yet. But I was learning the first of the great bowhunters lessons: How to be in the woods and be invisible.

In the Water

When I moved away for college, I was lucky to live near the Sierra foothills. Throwing my rod into the car, I would head straight into the mountains. In 45 minutes, I was on a stream all my own with wild rainbow trout in it. For a couple of hours, I would sit on a large rock, occasionally reeling in a ten-inch rainbow for dinner, but mostly just enjoying my fresh, gurgling place in the woods.

Then I moved back East, and thus began my long journey to find solace once again outside. It took years really. Just before I left California, I spent a summer in the high Sierra, shingling houses and mining for gold. I had my brother Henry's old fly rod and one day connected with a very large trout on the Yuba River. I never landed that fish. But watching him rise and slash at my fly provided a life-changing gift.

When I was stuck in New York City for seven years, I often escaped up to Catskill rivers for the weekend. Once, a friend asked me how I expected to meet women if I was standing hip-deep in water every Saturday. I didn't have a good answer. How could I explain? I was searching for my place in the woods. For the moment, this search had taken me to water.

I burned down the daylight many times standing in the Beaverkill and the Big Delaware. It still wasn't my place in the woods. But it was a nice distraction: cold water, vibrant life all around me and, if I was paying attention and lucky, a wild, beautiful fish or two.

My job then took me even further away: Mexico, Argentina, and then Miami. Sure, there were trips to spectacular rivers with outstanding trout. But this was tourism. I never gave up. I still wanted to get back to my place in the woods.

Back in the Woods

About two years after we moved to Virginia, a fellow VBA member asked me if I wanted to do some bowhunting on land his club leased in a nearby county. It's a special place, farmed for 100 years or more, up on a big plateau with woodland folds around the tabletop of corn, and creeks in the bottom. We arrived on a September afternoon with a perfect directional wind. I am about to step out into the woods again, I thought. Maybe, my long search had finally come to a momentary end.

Continued on page 22

The VBA Fall 3D Classic

Hosted by Manahoac Bowmen



2009 Fall 3D Classic Overall Winners



VBA Fall 3D Classic 2009

Rank	Name	Style	Day 1		Day 2		Total	
			Score	12s	Score	12s	Score	12s
SC	Gina Nadzam	AFBHFS/R	202	3	170	1	372	4
2nd	Karen Williams	AFBHFS/R	194	1	170	2	364	3
3rd	Lindsey Brown	AFBHFS/R	189	1	173	1	362	2
	Tami Willard	AFBHFS/R	171	1	183	4	354	5
SC	Cay McManus	AFTRAD	177	1	191	0	368*	1
2nd	Robin Vogel	AFTRAD	184	3	184	0	368	3
3rd	Tammy Mullins	AFTRAD	86	0	107	1	193	1
SC	Chris Willard	AMBH/BB	240	5	242	8	482**	13
SC	Dave Wendt	AMBHFS/R	254	9	243	2	497	11
2nd	Jeremy Spiker	AMBHFS/R	246	8	245	8	491	16
3rd	Darrell Wyant	AMBHFS/R	237	7	235	8	472	15
	Jimmy Halstead	AMBHFS/R	221	0	246	9	467	9
	Arthur Sommers	AMBHFS/R	236	6	229	5	465	11
	Wade Colton	AMBHFS/R	224	1	228	5	452	6
	Tom Badillo	AMBHFS/R	218	5	225	6	443	11
	Greg Early	AMBHFS/R	217	2	219	1	436	3
	Davy Alger	AMBHFS/R	230	4	196	5	426	9
	Charles Hilliard	AMBHFS/R	218	3	202	1	420	4
	Jared Williams	AMBHFS/R	212	3	202	4	414	7
	Joseph Heavner	AMBHFS/R	204	2	203	2	407	4
	Jimmy Ashley	AMBHFS/R	173	1	176	0	349	1
	Terry Rose	AMBHFS/R	0	0	0	0	0	0
SC	Randy Hoover	AMBHFS/F	225	4	196	3	421	7
SC	Charles Wright	ASMFS	262	11	245	7	507	18
2nd	Joe Truslow	ASMFS	241	6	262	7	503	13
3rd	Chris Batton	ASMFS	254	9	243	4	497	13
	Danny Alger	ASMFS	238	7	252	7	490	14
	Joel Lecker	ASMFS	244	2	241	5	485	7
	Billy Ticho	ASMFS	227	1	229	5	456	6
	Steve Moore	ASMFS	208	6	216	3	424	9
	Michael Heavner	ASMFS	189	1	176	2	365	3
	Roy Cox	ASMFS	182	1	181	0	363	1
SC	Paul Vogel	AMTRAD	239	5	246	8	485	13
2nd	Alton Smith	AMTRAD	206	2	191	4	397	6
3rd	Carl Mullins	AMTRAD	177	0	218	3	395	3
	Chad Tomlin	AMTRAD	204	1	183	1	387	2
	Dennis Wilfong	AMTRAD	185	1	202	1	387	2
	Howard Faris	AMTRAD	195	3	176	1	371	4
	Kevin O'Shea	AMTRAD	185	1	149	1	334	2

Rank	Name	Style	Day 1		Day 2		Total	
			Score	12s	Score	12s	Score	12s
	Joe McManus	AMTRAD	154	2	172	2	326	4
SC	Nichole Willard	CFBH/BB	55	0	43	0	98**	0
SC	Logan Weller	CMBHFS/F	140	1	122	1	262	2
SC	Austin Tomlin	CMTRAD	110	0	97	0	207	0
SC	Ethan Mullins	PWMTRAD	109	0	91	0	200	0
SC	Dallas Hoover	SMBHFS/F	196	2	207	2	403***	4
2nd	David Dobbins	SMBHFS/F	166	2	169	2	335	4
SC	Jarrett Frame	SMFS/R	233	4	240	5	473***	9
SC	Josh Hopkins	YAMBHFS/R	173	1	211	4	384	5
SC	Brandon Houff	YAMFS	217	2	241	6	458	8
2nd	Hunter Heavner	YAMFS	220	5	237	2	457	7
SC	Kristofer Black	YAMTRAD	168	1	148	1	316	2
SC	Cory Mullins	YFBHFS/R	125	0	128	0	253**	0
SC	Mathew Heavner	YMFS/R	230	6	221	1	451	7
NOTE: * Won Shoot Off ** New Record ***Record for New Category								



State Fall 3D Classic Records

1993 -2009

* =New Record **=Record for New Category

Style	Name	Year	1 st Day	2 nd Day	Aggre.
AMFS/R	Roy Strong	1996	274	274	548
AFFS/R	Karin Eppard	2006			536
AMFS/F	Michael Smith	2001	244	246	490
AMBHFS/R	Robbie Moore	2002	266	259	525
AFBHFS/R	Kay Core	2007	250	243	493
AMBHFS/F	Les Goss	1999	227	221	448
AFBHFS/F	Darlene Frye	1993			324
AMBB/BH	Chris Willard	2009	240	242	482 *
AFBB/BH	Cay McManus	1997			441
AMTRAD	Paul Vogel	2008	247	256	503
AFTRAD	Robin Vogel	2007	212	205	417
YAMFS/R	Denver Nail	1995	231	246	477
YAFFS/R	Lindsay Lavenhar	2004	216	209	425
YAMFS/L	Patrick Vogel	2003	165	169	334
YAMBHFS/R	Travis Dillon	2008	195	233	428
YAFBHFS/R	Jessica Callison	1995	218	226	444
YAMBHFS/L	Matthew Dobbins	2007	171	171	342
YAFBHFS/L	Jennifer Link	2000			139
YAMTRAD	Patrick Vogel	2005	161	188	349
YAFTRAD	Nickole Ernst	2000			124
YMFS/R	Chad Detwiler	1999	284	278	562
YMBHFS/R	Brandon West	2008	204	259	463
YFBHFS/R	Cory Mullins	2009	125	128	253 **
YMBHFS/F	Matthew Dobbins	2005	147	184	331
YMBB/BH	Zach Ramos	2003	148	81	229
YFBB/BH	Sara Lavenhar	2005	147	145	292
YMTRAD	Sean Ernst	1998	139	133	272
CFFS/F	Jessica Cash	2004	138	120	258
CMBHFS/R	Joshua Bowers	2001	221	222	443
CFBHFS/R	Chelsea Kinley	2002	181	190	371
CMBHFS/F	Hunter Davis	2007	260	224	484
CFBHFS/F	Cheyenne Humphrey	2005	59	131	190
CMBB/BH	Nicolas Torres	2006			174
CFBB/BH	Nichole Willard	2009	55	43	98 **
CMTRAD	Justin Ernst	1998	112	174	208
PWMBHFS/R	Trystan Johnson	2003	190	196	386
PWMBB/BH	Joshua Meadows	2001	224	228	452
PWFBB/BH	Nichole Willard	2008	85	142	227
PWMTRAD	Ben Torres	2008	192	202	394
SMFS/R	Jarrett Frame	2009	233	240	473 **
SMBHFS/F	Dallas Hoover	2009	196	207	403 **

VBA STATE CLOSED 2009

Hosted By Augusta Archers



The VBA 2009 State Closed Overall Winners



Two winners who had to leave early



VBA STATE CLOSED 2009

Rank	Name	Style	Class	Field Round		Hunter/Animal Round		Total	
				Score	Xs	Score	Xs	Score	Xs
SC	Joyce Cameron	AFBHFS/R	A	437	19	480	7	917**	26
SC	Allison Holmes	AFFS	A	509	25	530	16	1039	41
SC	Howard Faris	AMBH	AA	453	0	511	0	964**	0
2nd	John Boyd	AMBH	AA	449	0	495	0	944	0
SC	Randy Hoover	AMBHFS/F	AA	483	19	533	9	1016	28
SC	Vance Stallard	AMBHFS/R	AA	538	55	557	32	1095	87
2nd	Scott Thacker	AMBHFS/R	AA	537	51	549	19	1086	70
3rd	Jeremy Dean	AMBHFS/R	AA	533	54	552	30	1085	84
	Luke Long	AMBHFS/R	AA	524	39	547	28	1071	67
	Tony Reese	AMBHFS/R	AA	523	32	539	15	1062	47
	Ray Miller	AMBHFS/R	AA	500	32	528	14	1028	46
1st	Joseph Heavner	AMBHFS/R	A	513	34	542	14	1055	48
2nd	Victor Kernus	AMBHFS/R	A	510	34	522	12	1032	46
3rd	Justice Percell	AMBHFS/R	A	493	27	528	13	1021	40
	Jeff Bell	AMBHFS/R	A	497	16	518	8	1015	24
	Maxie Cameron	AMBHFS/R	A	467	20	534	11	1001	31
	Nathan Holmes	AMBHFS/R	A	442	10	0	0	442	10
1st	John Campbell	AMBHFS/R	B	459	12	493	11	952	23
2nd	Craig Torres	AMBHFS/R	B	397	13	508	10	905	23
3rd	William Sehen	AMBHFS/R	B	396	4	450	4	846	8
SC	Bradley Baker, Jr	AMFS/R	AA	552	72	566	35	1118**	107
2nd	Robert Kenley	AMFS/R	AA	543	62	563	25	1106	87
3rd	Richard Bell	AMFS/R	AA	541	43	559	23	1100	66
	Ben Stallard	AMFS/R	AA	529	51	558	24	1087	75
	David Estep	AMFS/R	AA	528	49	554	29	1082	78
	Terry Ballowe	AMFS/R	AA	520	40	553	25	1073	65
	Tim Burroughs	AMFS/R	AA	525	47	547	13	1072	60
	Michael Heavner	AMFS/R	AA	506	25	535	12	1041	37
	Allen Painter	AMFS/R	AA	539	51	0	0	539	0
	Phillip Painter	AMFS/R	AA	0	0	0	0	0	0
1st	Ron Meadows	AMFS/R	A	508	30	536	13	1044	43
2nd	Robbie Corbin	AMFS/R	A	488	16	539	22	1027	38
	Heath Pence	AMFS/R	B	470	11	0	0	470	11
	Ray Stone	AMTRAD	AA	339	0	0	0	339	0
SC	Michael Light	AMTRAD	A	397	0	442	3	839	3
1st	Carl Mullins	AMTRAD	B	286	5	315	0	601	5
2nd	Terry Coghill	AMTRAD	B	185	0	257	2	442	2
SC	Dewey Cash	CMBB	A	353	4	392	2	745**	6

Rank	Name	Style	Class	Field Round		Hunter/Animal Round		Total	
				Score	Xs	Score	Xs	Score	Xs
SC	Dakota Cash	CMBHFS	A	484	23	522	13	1006**	36
2nd	Nicolas Torres	CMBHFS	A	476	12	518	8	994	20
SC	Benjamin Torres	CMBHFS/L	A	157	3	111	0	268**	3
SC	Ethan Mullins	PWMTRAD	AA	249	1	105	0	354**	1
SC	Mary Wenzel	SFFS/R	AA	487	15	516	9	1003**	24
SC	Alton Smith	SMBB	AA	420	7	469	0	889	7
SC	Dallas Hoover	SMBHFS/F	AA	463	10	507	7	970**	17
SC	Billy Burkholder	SMBHFS/R	AA	523	52	546	15	1069**	67
2nd	Web Babcock, Jr	SMBHFS/R	AA	523	45	537	17	1060	62
1st	Harry Kibler	SMBHFS/R	A	505	30	529	15	1034	45
SC	Jerry Wenzel	SMFS/F	AA	444	11	508	10	952**	21
SC	Thomas Gallaher	SMFS/R	AA	541	47	556	27	1097**	74
2nd	Ted Lytton	SMFS/R	AA	531	42	546	18	1077	60
3rd	Barry Wolfe	SMFS/R	AA	502	29	541	18	1043	47
	Fred Switzer	SMFS/R	AA	501	26	522	11	1023	37
	Rob Pecora	SMFS/R	AA	490	22	530	14	1020	36
	Tommy Wilhelm	SMFS/R	AA	451	21	509	8	960	29
	Dave Proctor	SMFS/R	AA	446	19	504	9	950	28
SC	Josh Hopkins	YAMBHFS/R	A	483	23	538	19	1021	42
1st	Marcus Carter	YAMBHFS/R	B	392	8	494	10	886	18
SC	Hunter Heavner	YAMFS	AA	524	44	565	42	1089	86
2nd	Brandon Houff	YAMFS	AA	527	37	545	29	1072	66
SC	Cory Mullins	YFBHFS	AA	339	1	455	3	794**	4
SC	Jake Dean	YMBHFS	AA	501	23	532	12	1033**	35
2nd	Chase Fauber	YMBHFS	AA	496	27	535	11	1031	38
SC	Lucas Kenley	YMFS	AA	525	41	545	0	1070	41
2nd	Matthew Heavner	YMFS	AA	495	28	539	0	1034	28

NOTE: ** Broke Record or Record for New Category

VBA State Closed Records

5/4/3 targets used since 1978

1992 – only score posted was 28 Field

1993 -only scores posted were 28 F & 28 H.

1999-First day called because of storm. (NORVA)

**Beginning in 2008, Records reflect 28 F, 14 H & 14 A w/SPOTS until the format changes.

Records not using spots on animal targets.

Style	Name	Year	Field	Hunter	Animal	Aggre.
AMFS/R	Brad Baker Jr.	2009	552	566		1118**
	Darryl Diehl	2004	552	564		1116#
AFFS/R	Ginger Hamlin	2008	518	265	283	1066**
	Scarlet Rucker	1990				1062#
AMFS/F	N/A	2008				
	Ronnie Lewis	1990				1054#Tie
	Ronnie Lewis	1988				1054#Tie
AFFS/F	N/A	2008				
	Debra Barker	1990				1035#
AMBHFS/R	Tim Ewers	2008	539	273	286	1098 **
	Andy Stonesifer	2005				1102# tie
	Darryl Diehl	1998	551	551		1102# tie
AFBHFS/R	Joyce Cameron	2009	434	480		917**
	Stacy Pruitt	2004	527	548		1075#
AMBHFS/F	Randy Hoover	2008	490	252	286	1028**
	Danny Alger	1987	517	534		1051#
AFBHFS/F	N/A	2008				
	Irene Stocksdales	1995				960#
AMBB	Rick Stark	2008	510	255	280	1045**
	Denny Cline	1983	521	528		1049#
AFBB	Cay McManus	2008	481	246	269	996**
	Cay McManus	1996	495	532		1027#
AMBH	Howard Faris	2009	453	511		964**
	John Mason	1998	493	529		1022#
AFBH	N/A	2008				
	Gloria Smith	1988	463	506		969#
AMTRAD	Paul Vogel	2008	439	215	252	906**
	George Dalton	2006	402	419		821#
AFTRAD	N/A	2008				
	Debbie Woofter	2003	199	282		481#
YAMFS/R	Brandon Armstrong	2008	540	272	286	1098**
	Brandon Armstrong	2007	533	272	287	1092
YAFFS/R	N/A	2008				
	Denya Pecora	1995				1009#
YAMFS/F	N/A	2008				
	James Moore, Jr	1988	494	524		1016#
YAFFS/F	N/A	2008				
	Angela Gordon	1982	363	364		727#
YAMBHFS/R	Travis Dillon	2008	524	261	281	1066**
	Nathan Kline	2003	505	535		1040#
YAMBHFS/F	N/A	2008				
	John Coggin	1991				1004#
YAFBHFS/F	N/A	2008				
	Kimberly Dobbins	2004	238	342		580#
YAMBB	N/A	2008				
	Todd Davis	1982	417	450		867#
YAFBB	N/A					
	Vickie Younger	1990				547#
YAMBH	N/A	2008				
	Donald Tynes	1990				970#
YMFS/R	Hunter Heavner	2008	537	262	285	1084**
	Steven Stark	1998	522	545		1067#
YFFS/R	N/A	2008				
	Jessica McGee	1991				1046

Style	Name	Year	Field	Hunter	Animal	Aggre.
YMFS/F	N/A	2008				
	Keith Faris	1982	513	521		1034#
YFFS/F	N/A	2008				
	Sara Lavenhar	2006	277	301		578#
YMBHFS/R	Jake Dean	2009	501	532		1033**
	Nathan Kline	2002	473	507		980#
YFBHFS/R	Cory Mullins	2009	339	455		794**
	Denya Pecora	1994				843#
YMBHFS/F	N/A	2008				
	Nick Willard	1994				810#
YFBHFS/F	N/A	2008				
	Shaie Hofmann	1991				685#
YMBB	N/A	2008				
	Tad Davis	1981				973#
YFBB	N/A	2008				
	Angela Gordon	1980	137	226		363#
YMBH	N/A	2008				
	Matthew Hiedlebaugh	1990				866#
YMTRAD	N/A	2008				
	Sean Ernst	1998	152	167		319#
CMFS/R	Lucas Kenley	2008	549	271	289	1109**
	Stephen Lowe, Jr	1994				1100#
CFFS/R	N/A	2008				
	Amy Withers	1988	500	519		1019#
CMFS/F	N/A	2008				
	Kurtis Russell	1983				991#
CFFS/F	N/A	2008				
	Jessica Cash	2005				913#
CMBHFS/R	Dakota Cash	2009	484	522		1006**
	Lee Short	1994				993#
CFBHFS/R	Cory Mullins	2008	511	245	281	1037**
	Lyndsie Dore	1991				988#
CMBHF/F	Benjamin Torres	2009	157	111		268**
	Tad Hartsel	1990				1031#
CFBHFS/F	N/A	2008				
	Beth Pecora	1995				998#
CMBB	Dewey Cash	2009	353	392		745**
	Bryan Lester	1980	465	481		946#
CFBB	N/A	2008				
	Hope Wymer	2006	409	358		767#
CMBH	N/A	2008				
	Anthony Shifflett	1989				1016#
CFBH	N/A	2008				
	Denya Pecora	1989				797#
CMTRAD	Sebastian Torres	2008	268	135	196	599**
	Kristofer Black	2005				529#
PWMTRAD	Ethan Mullins	2009	249	105		354**
SMFS/R	Thomas Gallaher	2009	541	566		1097**
	Lucian Butler	1991				1104#
SFFS/R	Mary Wenzel	2009	487	516		1003**
	Christine Cable	1991				532#
SMFS/F	Jerry Wenzel	2009	444	508		952**
	Richard Merkel	1996	491	516		1007#
SMBHFS/R	Billy Burkholder	2009	523	546		1069**
	Webb Babcock	2007	516	260	283	1059#
SMBHFS/F	Dallas Hoover	2009	463	507		970**
	Richard Merkel	1995				1084#
SFBHFS/F	N/A	2008				
	Jane Mabe	1991				855#
SMBB	Bill Keen	2008	465	233	265	963**
	Larrie Emerson	1996	456	508		964#
SMBH	N/A	2008				
	Howard Faris	2005				981#
SMTRAD	Grant Patton	2008	300	171	212	683**
	Bob Baublitz	2005				912#

THE VBA TROPHY ROOM

Curt Lewis (Belvoir Bowhunters) used a recurve in Africa to arrow three great trophies, including a Kudu (right) with 63 1/8 inch horns that will likely break the world record by 9 inches. Also pictured are his Gemsbok (below right, with 36 inch horns and his Eland with 33 inch horns.



Dan Van Gundy (Belvoir Bowhunters) proudly displays his Eland antelope in Africa



Steve Richards (Belvoir) harvested a Wildebeest on a recent trip to Africa





Belvoir Bowhunters proudly display their "catch" during a summer club tournament.



Terry Dorman (Bowhunters of Rockingham) shows off his 72 lb. Carp



Ben Mahmoud (Belvoir) shows perfect form against a perfect backdrop.

WANTED: PHOTOS FOR 'FLIGHT'

Wally wants hunting photos for FLIGHT, and here are some hints for better pictures!



The best quality bowhunter success photographs exhibit four essential ingredients:

- The animal
- The bowhunter
- The archery equipment used
- The natural setting

Presenting the Animal

- 1) Place the animal so that it is in the approximate center of the photo.
- 2) Position the hunter so that he or she does not steal the show.
- 3) Blood, gaping wounds and hanging tongues are offensive and totally destroy an otherwise good quality hunter-success photo. Treat your trophy animal with the respect and dignity it deserves.

Presenting the Hunter

- 1) The hunter should be posed in hunting

clothing. Como, wool, or whatever you wear when seriously hunting is appropriate.

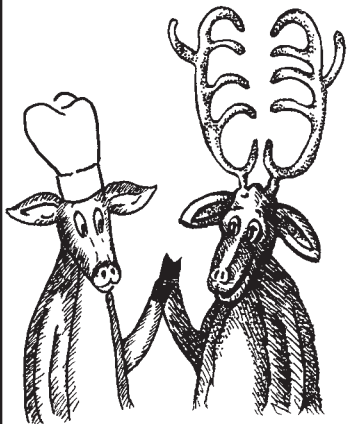
- 2) Relax and smile!

Presenting the Archery Equipment Used

- 1) The bow should always be shown clearly, but is best shown almost casually or incidentally in the photograph.
- 2) If arrows are displayed, clean any blood from them.

Presenting the Natural Setting

- 1) The natural setting is the key ingredient that ties all the other ingredients together. The setting can make or break most photographs. A completely natural setting is the only acceptable one.
- 2) ***Hunter-success photos should NEVER be taken in garages, on driveways, in pickup truck beds or on front lawns!***



Winnie and Wally's Wine and Venison Chili

4 Tbs. unsalted butter
1 red onion, diced
4 cloves garlic, minced
4 Tbs. dark brown sugar
3 cups red wine
4 Tbs. red wine vinegar
4 Tbs. tomato paste
4 cups low-sodium
Chicken stock
1 tsp. Cumin

½ tsp. cayenne pepper
½ tsp. chili powder
2 Tbs. finely chopped
fresh cilantro
Salt, to taste
4 Tbs. canola oil
1 cup diced bacon
2 lb. venison stew meat,
trimmed and finely diced
2 cups cooked black beans

In a large pot over medium heat, melt the butter and sauté the onion and garlic, stirring occasionally, until soft, 3-4 min. Stir in the brown sugar and cook until onions and garlic brown slightly, 2-3 min. Stir in the red wine, vinegar, tomato paste and chicken stock along with the cumin, cayenne, chili powder, cilantro and salt. Bring to a simmer and cook until reduced by half, 30-35 min. Meanwhile, in a large fry pan over high heat, warm the oil and fry the bacon until it browns, 2-3 min. Push bacon to the side of the pan, add the venison, and season with salt. Brown the meat, stirring occasionally, until any liquid has evaporated, about 20 min. Add black beans and toss mixture together. Transfer the meat and bean mixture to sauce and stir. Bring to a simmer and cook until the chili has thickened, about 20 min. Check seasoning and adjust as needed. Serves 6.

(Submitted by Tina Burpee, Belvoir Bowhunters)

EQUIPMENT REVIEW

By

BOB FOSTER, BELVOIR BOWHUNTERS

Hundreds of new products hit the market every year. Most are from reputable manufacturers who think there is a need for a new idea or innovation. With so many to choose from, where do you even begin when trying to separate what's "hot" from what's "not"? In my case, it's always from the perspective of a Bowhunter. Is this something I can see myself using in the field? Something that will help make me more successful? Along those lines, here are my top three choices for the "must have" products.

First, take a look at the new compound bows; they're faster, flatter shooting, lighter, shorter, quieter, and have less recoil. In short, these aren't your Daddy's bows. I'm not going to specify a manufacturer - there are too many out there that are quality products. I'll just say that if you are shooting a compound bow that more than 5 years old, you will shoot better by trading up to one of the newer models. They are truly that good.

Second, lighted nocks on your arrows. If you upgrade to one of the newer bows, you'll quickly discover they shoot so fast it's actually hard to see your arrow. Lighted nocks give you the ability to quickly discover errant arrow flight in practice. More importantly, they allow you to clearly track your shots taken in that 30 minutes after sunrise or before sunset. If you make a hit, you can walk straight to your arrow for that all critical examination. Personally I like the ones that activate by centrifugal force - like Firenocks. If you bow can send an arrow downrange at 125 fps or faster, they light up and stay lit until you deactivate. All my hunting arrows have them.

My third and last choice would be a good ground blind. I picked my first one up about four years ago - a Double Bull that gave plenty of room for my 6'3" frame. Although they are most known for turkey hunting, I've now taken several deer from them. I've described them to other hunters as equivalent to tree stands 30 years ago - before deer learned to look up. I hunt Belvoir, where deer know what a Bowhunter is, and I've taken several deer from mine. They do take some learning to use effectively, but they add a whole new dimension to being up close and personal to game. Just one word of caution - there are lots out there, ranging from great products to pieces of junk, so do your homework. If possible, talk to other hunters who own one and get their opinion.

Good Hunting!

(FLIGHT Editor's note: This is the first of what will hopefully be many contributions to the magazine that review archery and/or hunting-related items. Please submit your reviews - maximum 500 words - to FLIGHT)



APPLICATION FOR VBA GAME AWARDS

VIRGINIA BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Date: _____

I, _____, _____, _____
 (Print name as it appears on VBA card) (VBA Number) (Street Address)
 _____, _____, _____ hereby certify that I harvested a
 (City and State) (Zip Code)

_____, (Buck) (Doe) (Bear) (Turkey) this year and that I am a member of the Virginia Bowhunters Association, Inc., and in good standing at that time. I hereby submit an application for one or more of the following VBA awards:

- ☐ Bill Bennett Award (bear, deer, turkey from any state) If first B.B. Award, check here ☐
- ☐ Largest VA Buck by Dressed Weight
- ☐ Largest VA Doe by Dressed Weight
- ☐ Best Rack Score (in the VA System)
- ☐ Largest VA Bear by Dressed Weight
- ☐ Largest VA Turkey by Live Weight
- ☐ Double Grand Slam for: VA. Bear, Deer, Turkey (circle 2) From Spring Turkey Season
- ☐ Triple Grand Slam for VA. Bear, Deer, and Turkey through Deer season, same year.

Pertinent information is provided below:

Signed: _____

VBA Club Affiliation: _____ State Game taken in _____

Date of Bow Harvest: _____ Big Game Tag Number: _____

Weight of Buck/Doe: _____ Weight of Bear/Turkey: _____

(Note: Provide copy of Check Station Transport form or other weight information)

Time of Day: _____ (a.m./ p.m.) Distance of Shot: _____

Type of bow: Compound _____ Recurve _____ Longbow _____ Other _____

Hunting method: Tree Stand _____ Ground Blind _____ Stalking _____ Other _____

Rack Score Using the Virginia System: _____

Name of Official Scorer (print): _____

(Note: Signed score sheet must accompany this application)

(If possible, include a picture with description of game harvested for publication in FLIGHT.)

Print Name and Signature of Witness: _____

(Person who saw game after it was harvested)

THIS APPLICATION MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN 90 DAYS OF HARVEST (BUT NOT LATER THAN MARCH 1ST AFTER THE SEASON) TO: VBA EXECUTIVE STATE SECRETARY, MARIE BELL, 1223 JEANETTE AVENUE, VINTON, VA 24179.

Note: If possible, please include a picture of yourself with the game giving the name and description of game on back for identification. First, second and third place awards are available for each size category. The first Bill Bennett award is a Plaque and following awards are cast arrows.

From the President continued from page 2

or NASP (National Archery in the Schools Program). ASAP participants become NFAA members and enjoy the membership benefits. VBA clubs also host scouts who want to earn an archery merit badge and assist with Hunters for the Hungry archery instruction efforts. And, VBA instructors with master certifications teach and certify about 200 instructors each year who subsequently teach archery at camps, fairs, scout meetings and other events.

Hunting Awards: A VBA bowhunter who successfully harvests one or more deer will receive a Bill Bennett award and is also eligible to compete for the annual big buck, big rack and big doe awards. The “Bill Bennett Big Game Award” was established in 1951 and is given to a VBA bowhunter for harvesting a whitetail deer, black bear or turkey in any state. The individual competitions are for animals harvested in Virginia

Annual Banquet: The annual awards banquet is held on a Saturday evening each year in March to honor the success of our big game winners (biggest antler buck by the Virginia scoring system and the biggest buck, doe, bear and turkey by weight in Virginia), Double & Triple Crown Tournament winners, Double and Triple Slam winners (a deer, bear and turkey with a bow within one season in Virginia), clubs with an increase in memberships, Order of the Golden Feather members, and other awards. The banquet allows our members to socialize with other archers, bowhunters and their guests and to win door prizes, a chance for a hunt, listen to our guest speaker and any other special announcements.

“FLIGHT” Magazine: Each member household receives the quarterly issue of our official publication to keep them informed of VBA activities, bowhunting issues and topics of interest to tournament archers. The magazine is also shared with VDGIF leaders to keep them informed of our activities.

Shoot Schedule Card: Each year clubs meet to decide on dates for the State tournaments and for club shoots within their respective areas. These meetings maximize the opportunities for archers because they deconflict schedules to enable maximum participation.

VBA Annual Tournaments: Each year, the VBA holds five state tournaments: the Indoor, two 3-D (Spring Marked & Fall Unmarked) and two Field (Open & Closed) tournaments. These tournaments and the club events leading up to them benefit archers and also assist bowhunters by keeping skills sharp throughout the year.

Charity Shoots: Each year VBA clubs sponsor a variety of archery-related events and donate the proceeds – which total thousands of dollars – to various charities. In 2010, the VBA will host a state-wide charity shoot and donate the proceeds to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

Annual Conservation Scholarship Fund: Any VBA or immediate family member is eligible. The \$500 scholarship must be used for forestry, wildlife conservation or related education at any accredited institution of higher learning. Clubs must submit a written request to the VBA President for approval.

So, as you can see from this partial list of highlights, every time you hunt with a bow, participate in a tournament, attend a club event, get involved with an International Bowhunter Education Course or other archery course or otherwise enjoy the sport you can be assured that the VBA was there and will continue to be there as a force for archery. We might not do something spectacular every day, but over the course of 68 years the record is impressive and the legacy will continue.

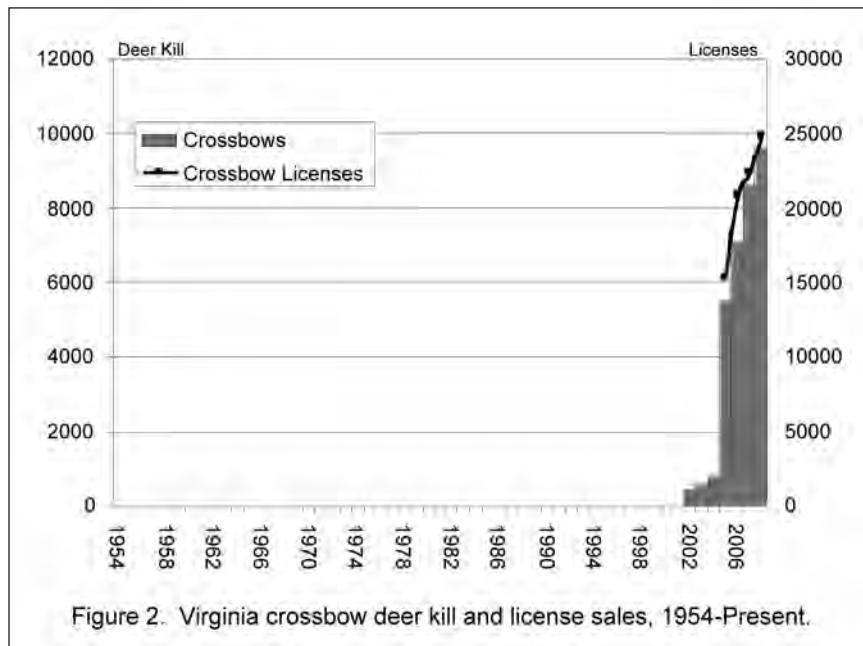
If you are a VBA member and want to be more involved, I highly encourage you to attend club meetings so you can understand how the VBA works. The more you put into an organization, the more you get out of it. The VBA organization and its operating procedures will be the topic of my next article.

The Order of the Golden Feather
is sad to inform you that OGF members
Mary Fry Davis
and
William T. Marshall
have passed away. We extend our sincere
condolences to their families and friends.
They will be missed.

Archery Hunting In Virginia continued from page 3

for older deer hunters. At some point in the near future, crossbow hunter numbers and the crossbow deer kill are expected to plateau.

Statewide archery success rates, which had averaged approximately 30% over the past decade, have increased recently to 37%. Some of this increase may be due to the influence of crossbows. A successful hunter is defined as a hunter that kills at least one deer with archery or crossbow tackle. This 30-40% archery success rate compares very favorably with other eastern U.S. and mid Atlantic states.



Deer Archery Season Changes for 2009: A new youth firearms deer hunting day has been established on the last Saturday in September (see <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/regulations/deer.asp> for details). Properly licensed deer hunters, hunting when and where there is an overlap of archery and muzzleloading deer seasons, will be allowed to carry both weapons where hunting with a muzzleloading gun is permitted. The number of deer tags on the bonus deer permit has been increased from 2 to 6 antlerless only deer tags. The price remains \$18.00

Urban Archery Deer Season. The urban archery season was initiated in 2002 to reduce deer-human conflicts in urban areas while providing recreation for Virginia sportsmen. The season consists of an early (September 5 - October 2, 2009) and late portion (January 4 - March 27, 2010) during which only antlerless deer can be taken. The season is only open within the boundaries of cities and towns (and one county) that chose to participate. For a list of the 26 localities currently participating, and any local restrictions, please see: <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/urban-archery/>.

Lists of properties available for hunting are not maintained by the Virginia Department of Game of Inland Fisheries or local governments. To find available properties, visit with or contact local landowners, hunters, archery club affiliates of VA Bowhunters Association (http://www.vbarchers.com/new_page_5.htm), or check stations (<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/checkstations/>) in your area.

Black Bears

2008-09 Bear Harvest. Virginia's statewide bear harvest has been growing at an average annual rate of 9.5% per year and mimics the Commonwealth's healthy and growing bear population. During 2008-09, a record number of 2204 bears were harvested during the archery, muzzleloader, and firearms seasons. Spotty acorn production in 2008 helped concentrate bears around available food sources, possibly making them more vulnerable to hunters. The 2008 harvest was 35% higher than the previous 2006 record of 1633 bears and 45% greater than the 2007 harvest. In 2008, bears were harvested in 64 counties, including a few counties that have never had a bear legally harvested.

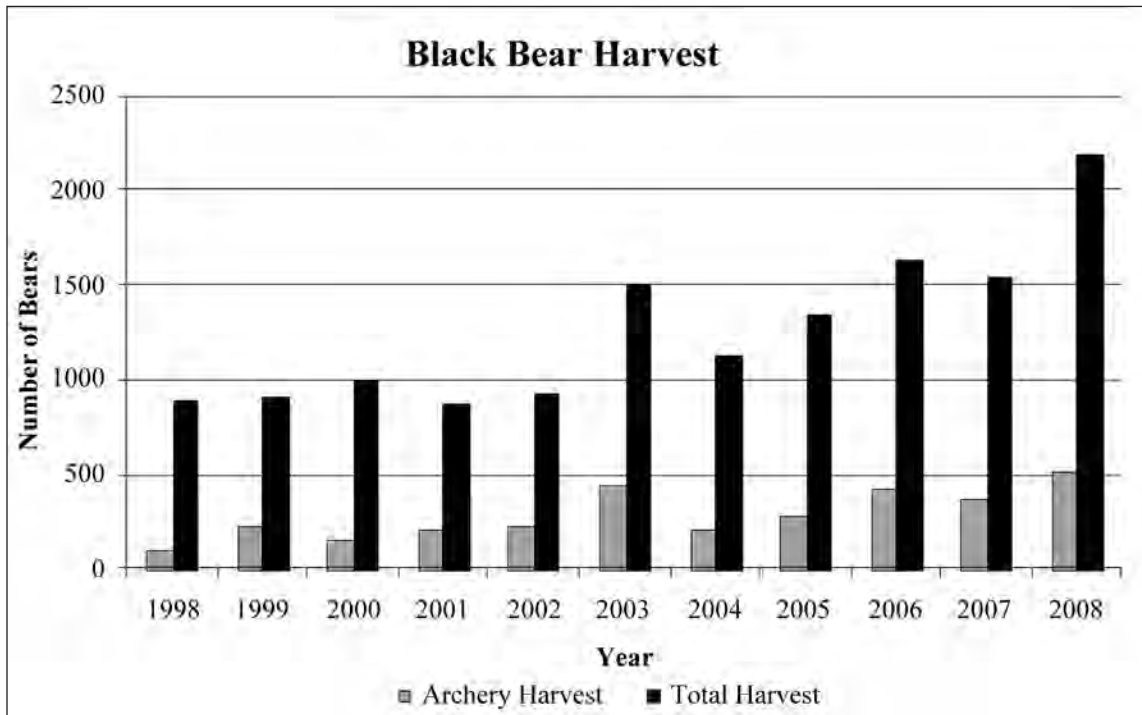
Similar to the previous 5-year average of 25%, archery hunters accounted for 23% of the total bear harvest. The top five archery counties in 2008 were Rockingham (52), Page (45), Augusta (27), Shenandoah (25), and Warren (22).

Relative Bear Densities. Unlike the different bear seasons for firearms and muzzleloaders found across Virginia, the bear archery season has been the same for all counties since a statewide season was established in 2003. Because of this, the bear archery harvest (archery kill per 100 square miles of forested habitat) is used to

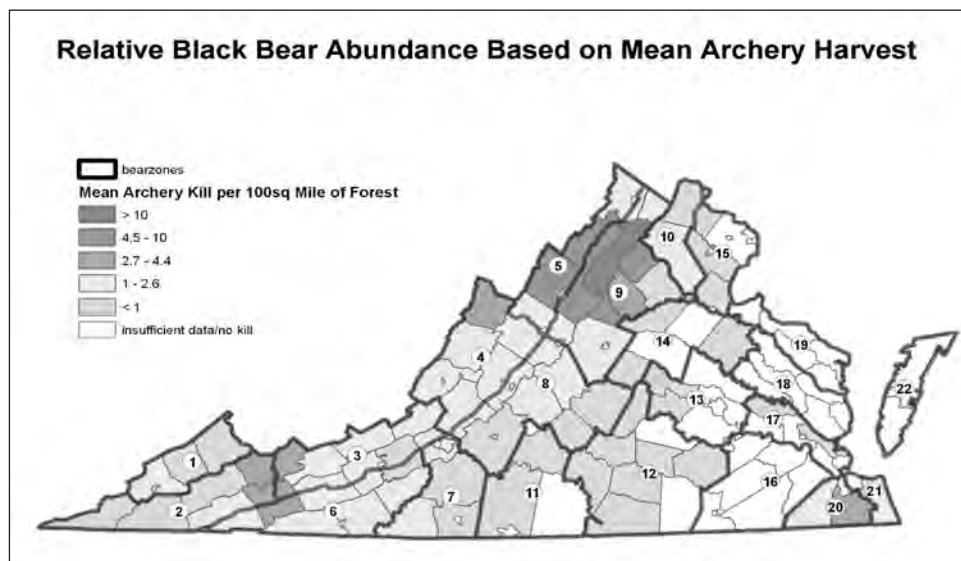
construct a relative index for bear population densities in each Virginia county. The numbers generated by this index are not the numbers of bears in a county (they are actually the archery harvest density), but can be looked at as an index of how many bears there are in one county relative to another. Based on this index, the areas surrounding Shenandoah National Park have the highest

relative bear populations with bowhunters harvesting more than 1 bear for every 10 square miles of habitat in some counties!

Bear Archery Season Changes for 2009. There will be some changes in the bear season for 2009, including a two-week extension of the statewide bear archery season.



Beginning with 2009, archery hunters will be able to harvest a bear for the duration of the traditional statewide early archery season for deer (October 3 – Nov 13, 2009). Additionally, with the appropriate licenses, a muzzle-loading firearm, as defined in the muzzleloader bear seasons section, may also be in possession when and where there is an overlap with a muzzleloading bear season where bear hunting with a rifle or muzzleloading firearm is permitted.



Remember. The bag limit for bears in Virginia is 1 per license year, and must weigh at least 100 pounds live weight or 75 pounds dressed weight (all internal organs removed). Females with cubs may not be harvested. Feeding or baiting for bears is illegal at any time of year.

Archery hunters in the Commonwealth have no shortage of good hunting trips to plan, whether they choose to pursue deer, bear, turkey, or other game. To make archery seasons a success, hunters are asked to be extra careful regarding safety, to respect the property rights of all landowners, and to report any questionable behavior or violations they may witness. For more information on hunting and wildlife management in Virginia, please visit www.dgif.virginia.gov.

My Place In The Woods continued from page 5

We're stepping over a fence now after a gentle descent through brushland, into creek bottom, the home base of whitetail. My friend spots a flicker up through the dappled shadows of oak, poplar, and maple. A group of does meander, and we are invisible. He signals me to pursue.

I am moving ahead now, and I feel the rush of the stalk. I know I am moving too fast as I approach a berm. I had forgotten that there is no such thing as deadlines here. At the base of a tree, I kneel, an arrow in the nock. I expose myself around the tree, and look up hill where I saw the deer last. The deer are not there. They were heading up hill, and now they aren't there. I look down hill. The deer are there. The does give me a final stare before they skitter off out of range.

As I sat there, frustrated, I knew I had arrived where I wanted to be. After all those years, my bow and arrow had brought me back into the woods again. Now, I had to re-learn how to be the slow, patient, still-as-a-stick stalker I once was.

After a bowhunting trip, friends or neighbors will kindly ask the next morning if I "got one." It is an innocent question because after all that is the objective. But if they really wanted to know, my story would begin with what it's like to be tucked in a blind or up in a tree stand, and to be invisible in a place all your own. I would tell them about that rabbit shriek I heard right at sunset, or the silver fox that I saw prancing along the tree line, or the two fawns with their mom I let walk on by just because, at that moment, it seemed the right thing to do. I would tell them that what really makes me look forward to a bowhunt is having the best seat in the greatest theater of all – the deep woods.

Voting Results on the Agenda Items from the September 2009 Meeting

A Senior Division shall be established and added to both the indoor and outdoor classification systems for archers 55 and older with the option of competing as either a senior or adult. **FAILED** (NOTE: Intent of the item was to add AA, A and B classes to the already existing Senior Divisions.)

Article 5: Election and term of officers: Change 2nd sentence to read "Term of office shall be for a period of two years commencing with the June meeting." **PASSED**

Article 4, Government, Sect. 3. Nominating Committee, 5th line from bottom, change to read: "these ballots...unopened until the weekend of the June meeting." **PASSED**

Article 19 By-Laws: Conservation Scholarship Fund: Add to sentence after "...funds are available. 'VBA members and immediate family members are eligible. Scholarship can be used at any accredited institution of higher learning for forestry, wildlife conservation/law enforcement. Written request must be submitted to the VBA President by March 1st for approval by the Directors.'" **PASSED**

Agenda Items to be Voted on at the January 2010 Meeting

None.

2010 VBA Calendar of Events

VBA Meetings

January 9 - 10
 March 27 (Banquet) and 28 Meeting
 June 12 - 13
 September 18 (Scheduling Session) and 19 (Meeting)

State Tournaments

State Indoor Sectional: Feb 27 - 28

Augusta Archers
 Belvoir Bowhunters
 Kingsboro Bowmen
 Sherwood Archers

Spring 3D Classic: April 17 - 18

Augusta Archers

State Open: May 29 - 30

Sherwood Archers

Fall 3D Classic: August 14 - 15

Manahoac Bowmen

State Closed: September 4 - 5

Augusta Archers

VBA Charity Shoot

St. Jude Charity Event: July 10-11

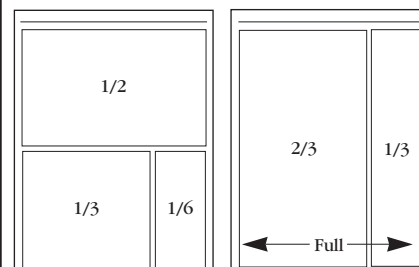
Augusta Archers
 Sherwood Archers



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 1/3 page • 5" x 5" • \$35
 1/2 page • 7 1/2" x 5" • \$60
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*Remember, the
real test of success
this hunting season is
SAFETY. Have a great
time in the woods,
represent the VBA well,
and come home all in
one piece. See 'ya
in a treestand!*