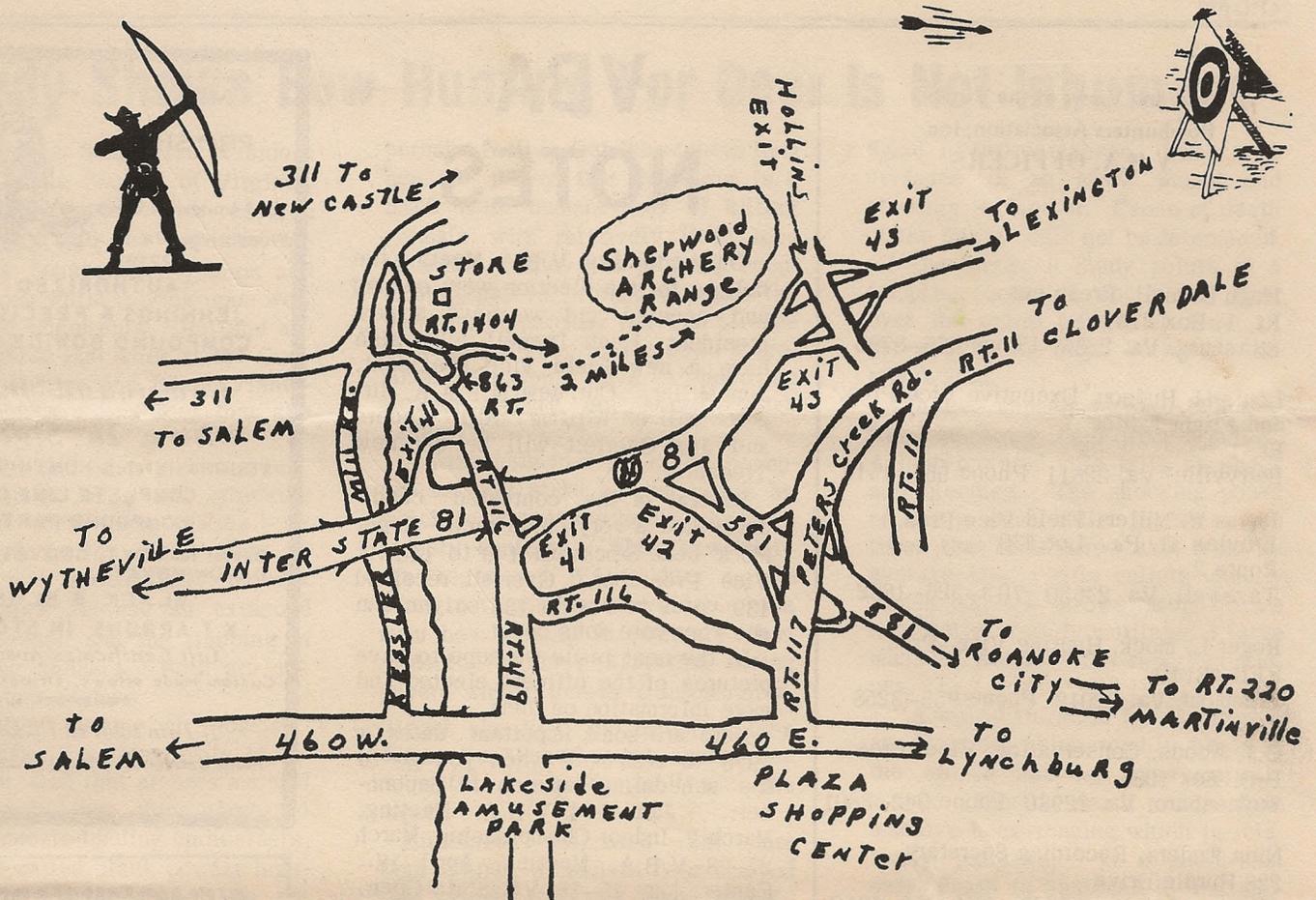


FLIGHT



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A Final Word From Your Host For The VBA State Championship

It's only a matter of days now until Sherwood Archers of Roanoke, Va. will welcome you to their 89 fun filled acres of archery excitement. They await in anticipation the sounds of the plunking of arrows and the sounds of happy voices. Their three 28 target ranges will come alive with the mixture of excitement and tension mounting as you move from one target to the next.

Want to remind you once again that the 90 day rule is in effect; an archer must have 3 shoots within the 90 days immediately preceding the tournament.

Another reminder friends; the entry fees are as follows: \$8.00 for adults; \$6.00 cub or youth, or \$18.00 family maximum. Now tell me, can you think of a better way to end the summer, than to spend it with us?! Whether you come in first, second, third, or even last, just the thrill of attending a state shoot, and sharing the fun and fellowship with our fellow archers is reason enough to bring us all together.

The friendly folks at Sherwood look forward to meeting each and everyone of you, and hope that your stay with us will endow you with happy memories.

Good Luck to ALL!

Sincerely,
 Della Holdren, Secy.

VBA Members Get Off Your Cans!

Dear Fellow VBA member,

You have probably heard by now that we were not granted our proposed late archery season at the March meeting of the Va. Game Commission. We were opposed by one representative from the Humane Society. This indicates just how strong the antihunting groups have become and how weak the organization of hunters against them really is. Well, the time has come to get off our cans and take some action. The Manahoac Bowmen have already voted to make a substantial contribution to two groups dedicated to preserving hunting, the NFAA defense fund and a newly formed group called COIN, Conservation International, a group formed to take legal action against antihunting groups who use slander-

Cont. on Pg. 4

News and Views of the Virginia
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VBA NOTES

During the last V.B.A. Meeting the ballots for the election were opened and counted and we have a new president, Hugh Darnell. We also have a new Field Vice President, Jim Miller. Our new N.F.A.A. director will be William "Bill" Enders and Jim Overfelt will be our new Treasurer.

Several of the contested candidates had a very close race. Roger Mock beat Stockwell 149 to 143 for Vice President. Overfelt received 139 votes to Frye's 135 so you can see your vote does count.

In the next issue we hope to have pictures of the officers elected and more information on them.

Here are some important dates for 1976 to remember when you go to the scheduling session in September: Jan 3-4-V.B.A. Meeting, March 7-Indoor Championship, March 27-28-V.B.A. Meeting, April 18-Easter, May 15-16-Va. State Open, April 3-Opening of Trout Season, May 9-Mother's Day, June 19-20-Mid Atlantic, June 26-27-V.B.A. Meeting (State Bids), June 20-Father's Day, Sept. 4,5,6-Va. State Shoot, Sept. 18-19-Bow Hunters Jambaree, Sept. 25-Scheduling Session, Sept. 26-V.B.A. Meeting.

Next issue will be our Hunting Issue, so any information or stories on hunting that any of the members would like to submit, please do so in plenty of time for the next issue, which will be going out the First of October.

Flight Editor
Louis Hudson



20 PIN WINNERS

May - June 1975

FIELD

Scott Yeago, Staunton
James M. Vaughan, Newport News
Richard Krasovich, Norfolk
Leslie Holmes, Newport News
Jon A. Crusan, Newport News
Larry F. Winn, Hampton

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Study Shows Bow Hunting For Deer Is Not Inhumane

Mrs. Virginia Sills, vice president of the Humane Society of Virginia, is well recognized for her research in ecology. She has appeared before many conservation groups and stood strong while relying upon well researched documents. But she appeared misled last week at the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, though she may feel that she won a victory.

Mrs. Sills and other preservationists, most of whom are attacking hunting as such, found willing bedfellows among the fox hunters of Virginia and successfully brought off victories against an extended archery season and the trapping of fur bearing animals. Both are inhumane, they claimed.

Mrs. Sills, quoting an obscure source unfamiliar to wildlife biologists, indicated that archers maimed more animals than they harvested and that muzzle-loading enthusiasts, whom she called black powder hunters, used weapons which do not carry enough shocking power to be humane in hunting.

She was challenged by John Randolph, a commissioner well schooled in riflery and in wildlife management, having done much work in these fields for 20 years in the U.S. Army. Most black powder weapons carry more shocking power with a larger projectile as required by law, explained Randolph.

Mrs. Sills showed strength in the challenge to the archers, and the commissioners failed to respond,

perhaps feeling that the archers long ago had proven that the arrow is a much more humane way of killing animals with relatively little loss to injury. They had properly documented papers in hand to argue the point but apparently felt that silence is golden. They turned down a proposal that would have extended the western archery hunt season through January 5.

A Wisconsin in-depth study, prompted as that state sought means by which to protect the herds, absolved archery hunters. "While bow hunters registered 6,500 deer in the state last year, the unavoidable loss from bow hunting is moderate when measured against starvation during severe winter, losses to automobiles, illegal shooting, the crippling loss during the November gun season and domestic dog predation," was the report.

Biologists estimated that more than 60,000 Wisconsin deer starved last winter. Cars and trucks slaughtered 15,000 to 20,000 animals as they migrated in search of browse areas. More than 400 deer were killed by domestic dogs alone in Marathon County.

Wisconsin's most comprehensive study of archery deer losses was conducted on the Necedah Refuge. The bowmen killed 900 deer on the 35,000-acre refuge. There was considerable talk of high crippling losses. However, a heavy search of an area of 1,007 acres produced only four dead deer. Arrows were

found in two carcasses. There was evidence of an arrow wound and bleeding in another. Cause of death of the fourth could not be determined.

"The Necedah Study points to a crippling loss of about 100 deer over the entire refuge, or about 11 per cent of the legal harvest," the report said.

"Injured animals fare much better from an arrow than from a bullet. A high-powered rifle kills by shock and bleeding. The shocking power of a big game bullet is 50 to 100 times that of an arrow shot from the average bow. Rifle bullets usually smash bones - arrows rarely do. A rifle bullet usually mutilates a large mass of tissue," the report continues.

"A wound inflicted by an arrow is an incision which readily heals if the animal has not been mortally struck. Usually death results from massive hemorrhaging which is relatively painless. In a chest-shot deer, death is hastened by collapsing of the lungs."

The report speaks well for the archers and adds: "Arrows, or portions of arrows, imbedded in muscles of deer, have a tendency to work out. Of the many hundreds of deer examined by biologists while checking the ages of deer, or while registering animals for hunters, only one was reported as carrying a broken arrow in its body."

Mrs. Sills made the mistake of saying that she speaks for the animals. It remains to be heard whether

Cont. on Pg. 6

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Another Letter From Clinton Western

Although it was not anticipated that my letter to clubs in our zone and the Wytheville zone, and Triangle Bowhunters' answer, would be printed in the last issue of FLIGHT, it seems that some other clubs in the State found our subjects to be interesting.

This article is to merely give everyone knowledge of the results of our meeting; but let me preface this article by saying there was no intentional violation of VBA or NFAA rules and no animosity existing between the clubs involved either before or since our meeting.

The first item of discussion at our meeting was: 1. "Are awards to be given to individuals who do not shoot their class?" The answer is "No" and the main reason is that there is recorded in the minutes of VBA a rule which states that archers must shoot their class in order to be eligible for an award. We will abide by this rule until it is changed.

The second item of discussion was: 2. "The use of the unit rule as prescribed by NFAA, or a variation of that rule." The clubs in the two zones in our area agreed to use the unit rule as prescribed by NFAA, except that one award will be given even if there is only one person shooting in a class provided that person shoots his class. The use of this rule was adopted on a trial basis through the end of December, 1975, at which time there will be another meeting of the two zones. In addition to the above subjects, the zones involved plan to hold a quick meeting sometime during the State Tournament at which time they will prepare a schedule of their shoots for 1976 which will be presented at the VBA scheduling session in Charlottesville on September 20.

To summarize, the meeting proved to be beneficial in that mutual problems were discussed and those present expressed a desire to hold similar meetings in the future.

Clinton Western
Sherwood Archers

Tidewater Tidbits

A fact that I have known for a long time was really proven true this past week end. Archers are truly wonderful people.

The Princess Anne Bowmen held their Annual tournament this past weekend as scheduled. This included shoots for hams, money, horse shoe pitching contest - Vension roast and Weiner roast.

As you read this you're probably saying "so"? But the unusual thing was that everything went off in a pouring rain storm (all day) and the crowd that turned out didn't let the rain stop them for one minute. Campers were there from Luray, Charlottesville, Christiansburg and other points North. The horse shoe pitching contest went off as usual despite the fact that there was at least 2 inches of water covering the ground and the stakes were a solid bed of mud. Out of the sludge merged two Victorious champs for 1975, Andy Anderson of Bowhunters of Rockingham and Gary Hanson of Princess Anne. The rain didn't slow them down one bit. In fact they were so ailed inside, I doubt if they even knew it was raining.

Roger Firth of Warwick got a little carried away and won one ham, then tied with Jack Cantwell on the money shoot and wound up winning that also.

On Sunday morning 75 people were telling each other it wasn't going to rain. Well, it didn't rain either until everyone was well into the woods and shooting. Then the heavens really opened up. The shoot continued until the bitter end. No one was giving up. Considering the miserable weather the whole weekend was a huge success and much fun. Princess Anne doffs its hat to every last one who showed up and braved everything the weather had to throw at them. Please accept our heart felt thanks for making our Annual Shoot the success it was.

Nina

V.B.A. Members Get off Your Cans

Cont. from Pg. 1

ous remarks about hunters. We urge every VBA member to join and become active in one of the several groups dedicated to the preservation of hunting. You can serve our cause well by joining the NRA (with a newly formed bowhunting department headed by our own Tink Nathan), COIN, the Fred Bear Sports Club, or others. We urge every VBA affiliated club to make a contribution to the NFAA bowhunter defense fund, and to any other group of their choice.

We would like to approach the game commission again next March, if not sooner, with our proposal for a late season west of the blue ridge. Many, many states have such seasons and they provide a considerable amount of recreation for the amount of game taken. We must not, however, present such a proposal without evidence and facts to back up any claims we make about bowhunting in general or a late season in particular. We should have data on the number of states offering such a season, on the number of hunters participating, on the number of deer killed, etc.. Dig through your outdoor magazines and old records. Present any data which may be pertinent to your VBA representative and it will be assembled in future VBA meetings. If you have access to deer kill records of other states, send them along. Anything pertinent will help.

If we don't act now, especially against the antihunting groups, we may very well find ourselves losing our right to hunt while we sit on our cans on our tree stands.

Lloyd Kell 517 Harrison Rd.
for Manahoac Bowmen Fredericksburg, Va.

Triangle Bowhunter's News

Triangle Bowhunter Inc. of Christiansburg will be moving their range to a new location next year. They are buying enough land for two ranges, club house, camping ground, picnic area and a separate club range. Everything except the club house should be complete by next summer. The new range will be one half mile off U.S. Rt. 460 half way between Christiansburg and Blacksburg. Maps will be published in Flight later.

Cont. on Pg. 5

Hunting In Refuges Remains A Target

Efforts that began in 1970 to stop hunting in some national wildlife refuges are not over. Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge was the target in 1970 of the antihunting groups, the Fund for Animals, Friends of Animals, Humane Society of the United States (New Jersey Branch) and Deer, Ecology, Environment and Resources, Inc..

The details of lawsuits, court rulings, appeals, decisions favorable to allowing hunting, separate injunctions to block hunting pending filing of an environmental impact statement, further appeals, and the final decision late last year to allow continuation of hunting are of interest only to lawyers, anti-hunting spokesmen, wildlife managers and involved Fish and Wildlife Service personnel.

What remains is the origin of the controversy and the frightening possibility that injunctions against hunting may - and probably will - be ruled again. The refuges were established basically to provide habitat for migratory waterfowl.

Deer hunting in Great Swamp refuge was initially opposed because the use of buckshot in hunting deer was said to be unsound wildlife management. This argument was later used in opposing primitive-weapon hunts involving bow and arrow and muzzle-loading rifles at Eastern Neck Island National Wildlife Refuge in Maryland and Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia.

The fact that New Jersey law requires the use of buckshot in deer hunting due to the residential density of the state was by hunt opponents. Ignored also were the hunting effectiveness of both bow and arrow and muzzle-loading rifles. The high accuracy of muzzle-loading rifles in fact has led to the abandonment of special muzzle-loading hunting seasons and areas in Pennsylvania, possible restrictions next year in Virginia and no special considerations at all in Maryland. "They are just too accurate," one game commission chief said, when asked about special favors for the muzzle-loading rifles.

The requested environmental impact statement on hunting, while legal, seems to be one more delay-

ing tactic to destroy hunting.

Because of the controversy, Hunters were required to undergo severe qualifying tests of their shooting and outdoor ability. Hunters were first picked on an impartial basis from a list submitted by the New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Shellfishes.

Then they underwent briefings, orientation, license and weapon inspection. Special shotgun qualification tests were also held, with hunters required to get a specified number of pellets into the target area at hunting distances.

But, the basic idea of hunters in the field still upset the antihunting groups, even though the need for deer herd control was recognized in some areas. "We fully recognize that deer herds need to be managed both for their own sake and for the sake of the habitat," said Murdaugh Madden, counsel for the Humane Society of the United States.

Madden, however, said that the humane society feels that some unspecified official personnel, such as park rangers, be ordered to do the job.

Why the killing by a gun held by a Park Ranger, Fish and Wildlife Service agent, state conservation officer or Army personnel on Army bases would be better for the deer than killing by a trained, qualified hunter escapes reason.

With all due respect to the state and federal conservation personnel, they would probably be no more accurate than most hunters meeting stiff qualifying tests before entering a wildlife refuge.

And if we must play God by changing the natural environment with housing developments, shopping centers, highways and a habitat that no longer allows the existence of natural predators, killing by a gun is better in many cases than slow death by parasites, starvation or such a disease that overtook the deer herd after a four-year absence of hunting.

(This article Reprinted from the Washington Post. It was written by C. Boyd Pfeiffer.)



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TRIANGLE BOWHUNTERS

Cont. from Pg. 4

Triangle Bowhunter is hosting a Southwest Va. Championship this year on August 23 at 9:00 A.M.. The clubs competing are: Triangle Bowhunter, Wyth Bowhunter, Bluefield Bowhunter, Cochise Archers, Sherwood Archers, Walton Park Archers, Flat Top Archers, Clinch Valley Archery Club, and Seminole Archery Club.

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Bowhunting For Deer Not Inhumane

Cont. from Pg. 3

er, faced with the prospect of dying by starving or by the hunters' arrows, the deer would ask Mrs. Sills to speak for them.

The only reason there are deer in Virginia today is that in the early 1900's sportsmen banded together and urged the formation of a game commission, provided the funds for wildlife study and, despite opposition from some commissioners who were fox hunters and did not want to see the White Tail Deer return to Virginia, purchased animals for restocking. The management programs provide more deer in Virginia today than were present in the time of the Indians, a Virginia Tech study shows.

The commission had considered a proposed longer deer season in the west. Virginia bow and arrow hunters have had little impact upon the deer herds while enjoying a lot of recreation during the special one-month season allotted them prior to the opening of the general open gunning season of two weeks. Deer herds are a problem in some west-

ern orchard areas as the animals leave the wilds to find food to sustain them through the harsh months of February and March when there is little browse.

(This article was written by Max Ailor and was reprinted from the Richmond Times Dispatch)

DEADLINE DATES

The Deadline Date for the Sept.-Oct. issue of "Flight" is Sept. 15. This issue should be in the hands of the members by the first week in October.

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