



# VOWA NEWS

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Virginia Outdoor Writers Association, Inc. Newsletter

www.vowa.org.  
Marika Byrd, Editor

## Hooked on Hampton for the 2009 Conference/Banquet

by King Montgomery

At the Easton, MD, conference in March 2008, the board voted unanimously to hold the March 20–22, 2009, in Hampton, Virginia on the Chesapeake Bay, and general members in attendance approved the idea. Like a glutton for punishment, I volunteered to put on the next conference, and I plan to make it a good one. I've made a visit and propose the Crowne Plaza Hampton Marina Hotel as the site of the event after working out some details. The hotel is undergoing renovation and will be ready in 2009.

Please mark the conference dates on your calendar in pen and plan to attend. Make it a mini-vacation or at least a long weekend get-away to celebrate winter's end and spring's beginning. Hampton is a neat city and has a lot to offer.

We'll begin our conference weekend with an outing on Friday afternoon, possibly a harbor cruise or something equally fun, sponsored by the Hampton Convention & Visitors Bureau. Dinner might be sponsored as well, but if not then everyone is on their own. The hotel has several good restaurants and there are many good eateries within walking distance. Saturday morning begins with breakfast and the conference will follow. The

agenda mostly will be craft improvement oriented. I hope to have presentations on digital photography and Photoshop from some established professionals and editorial tips from several noted editors. Our working lunch also will have a program.

The annual business meeting is Saturday afternoon. We'll elect new officers and carry-on with normal business. Be thinking of how to improve M-DOWA and have a list of things you'd like to do as a member.

Then we'll take a break to get ready for the evening. There will be a cocktail hour, and our annual awards banquet sponsored by Dominion. I am inviting the Governor of Virginia, Tim Kaine, to be our keynote speaker. He is an avid sportsman. I have asked Virginia Tourism to sponsor a meal.

I'd like to open our meeting to members of the Virginia Outdoor Writers Association and offer them the same opportunities during the event as we have. Perhaps we can get some of them to also join our group as members. They would not attend our business meeting, but are invited to everything else as if they were members of M-DOWA.

Hampton is one my favorite places. It is full of history, nice people, many wonderful places to

visit, and many sites to see. Plus, it is home to the Chesapeake Bay and the wonderful fishery at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and associated angling hot spots. Here is a partial laundry list of cool things to do/see in and near Hampton:

- Colonial Williamsburg, Yorktown Battlefield, Virginia Beach, Newport News, Fort Monroe, Fort Wool, Norfolk Naval Base, and more within 30 minutes or less.
- Virginia Air & Space Center. Hampton was the birthplace of NASA and the original astronauts depicted in the movie *The Right Stuff*. It is a two minute walk from the hotel.

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- Hampton University, across the Hampton River from the conference hotel, is the oldest Black university in the country.
- Bass Pro Shops retail store is 10 minutes away.
- The old part of Hampton, now home to restaurants, shops and museums, is just out the door of the hotel and up a block or two.
- US headquarters for the Cousteau Society is next to the hotel.
- Buckroe Beach, the Grandview Nature Preserve, and the Sandy Bottom Nature Park are in the city. Good opportunities for fishing and nature photography.
- Some of the Chesapeake Bay's best fishing at the nearby Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and area. Fishing year round.
- And more...

For now, please mark your calendar. I can't stress how important it is for you to plan and prepare to attend this conference **now**. If you have any questions or need more information, please let me know. I'm at 703-425-0849, kingmontgo@aol.com. And check out [www.visithampton.com](http://www.visithampton.com) and [www.crownplaza.com/hampton/](http://www.crownplaza.com/hampton/).

## VOWA Annual Meeting

The annual business meeting and recognition of the VOWA writing contest winners will be on Saturday, March 21, 2009, in conjunction with the Mason – Dixon Outdoor Writers Association, in Hampton. We do not have the exact time of our

scheduled lunch meeting, but information on this will be forthcoming once it is finalized.

## Bill Cochran Selected For The Virginia Sports Hall of Fame

Bill Cochran, a member of the Virginia Outdoor Writers Association since 1960 and a past president, has been selected for induction in the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame.



Cochran, who is 71, has been writing about the outdoors since high school when he had his first article published in Bowhunter Magazine. During his college days and shortly thereafter, Cochran became a prolific freelance writer, his work published in numerous magazines, including features in Sports Afield, Field & Stream and Outdoor Life.

His name became synonymous with the outdoors in Virginia when he began writing an outdoor column on a freelance basis for the Roanoke Times in 1962. He got the assignment when he wrote a letter to the executive editor telling him that the Roanoke Times was doing a lousy job in its outdoor coverage and "I can do better."

Called "Life Afield" the column

was so well received that in September 1963 Cochran was hired as the newspaper's first fulltime outdoor writer. He served as outdoor writer/editor for the Roanoke Times for 36 years, retiring in 1998.

Cochran becomes the first fulltime outdoor writer inducted into the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame, an organization best known for giants of organized sports, people that include Arthur Ashe and Sam Snead.

"All my life I have had the joy of taking outdoor sports coverage to places it never had been before, and this is the apex of that venture," Cochran said. "I am honored to represent all the people who enjoy a multitude of outdoor activities, and especially those who share the outdoors by writing about it."

While at the Roanoke Times, Cochran developed an award-winning outdoor page that became the subject of a chapter in the Outdoor Writers Association of America handbook "Communicating the Outdoor Experience." Cochran has been a member of the OWAA since 1963 and served as its conference co-chair, along with Mark Taylor, at the 2007 annual conference in Roanoke.

Cochran is well known for his descriptive writing, which has won him many readers and awards, including 10 first place awards from the Virginia Press Association. There also have been awards that laude Cochran for weaving the conservation message into his work. Included are the Governor's Conservation Communications of the Year, 1968 and the Trout Unlimited Silver Trout Award, 1976.

On January 15, 1999, Cochran

was honored by the Virginia General Assembly with the passage of House Joint Resolution 520 which recognized his career. It stated: "Bill Cochran has used his columns to fight pollution of the Commonwealth's matchless natural environment and to conserve Virginia's mountains, fields, rivers and streams. He has served as a mentor and role model to countless other outdoor writers and...has captured, as few others have, the profound effect of the natural environment on the human spirit."

Following his retirement from the Roanoke Times, Cochran became a pioneer in a new field of outdoor coverage by hosting a popular Web site; [www.billcochran.com](http://www.billcochran.com).

The Virginia Sports Hall of Fame museum is located in Portsmouth. Ceremonies for the seven-member class of 2009 will take place in April. Included are George Welch, the winningest football coach in University of Virginia history; Tom Dolan, Olympic gold medalist in swimming and world record holder; Brian Jordan, pro football and baseball star.

### New Chefs in the Kitchen for Virginia Wildlife



**M**aria and **Ken Perrotte** know they've got a big apron to fill when they take over

the wild game recipes column in Virginia Wildlife magazine beginning this coming January. The late Joan Cone filled that page with wild taste treats for [20] years.

Their goal in taking on this mission is to infuse the page with recipes that will make people want to say, "Hey, we can do that. Let's try it," Ken said.

"Many of the recipes will stress simple, flexible preparation. We'll also suggest some Virginia wines and, sometimes, beer and ale pairings with various dishes," he added. Color photos depicting the finished dish will also accompany most columns.

Ken and Maria live in the far eastern edge of King George County, the gateway to the historic and beautiful Northern Neck, and share a love for the outdoors.

Many a skeptic about eating wild game has become a convert after sharing a meal with them. Cooking is as much a part of the outdoors experience for them as the actual hunting or fishing.

"Based on my experiences in various camps and game dinners as a youngster, I grew up thinking venison had to be cooked well done in a skillet with sliced onions," Ken said. "Most times it was awful, but then I ate some meals prepared by people who understood handling and cooking game, and I knew this was something I wanted in my diet on a regular basis. To use a popular term of today, what's more 'green' than eating free-range wild game and fish you took yourself?"

The recipes they'll share in the coming months will reflect fish and game popular in and around Virginia. Occasionally, a guest professional chef may be spotlighted when Ken and Maria

discover a unique or particularly creative way of preparing a dish.

Ken has been the longtime outdoors columnist for the Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star newspaper and the outdoor writer for Gannett's Military Times group of publications. He actually had a couple years of formal culinary training in his youth and has cooked in restaurants, mainly to supplement income when he was a young member of the U.S. Air Force. He was making dishes like "baked, stuffed squab" before he was old enough to vote. Maria grew up in New Orleans, exposed to all the wonderful culinary variety that city offers. Her Cajun/Creole influence will show up in many dishes, as well as her penchant for some classic French-style cuisine.

"We've always believed that sharing a meal of fish and game you've caught with family and friends is one of the greatest rewards," Maria said.

### Call for Nominations for Board and Officers

**T**his is a call for nominations for board member and officers. The following positions will be open for nomination:

President	Vice President
First Vice	President
Treasurer	

Two Board Member 2 year term.

Each of the first four positions are for one year terms and the incumbent can be nominated again.

The Board has recently approved payment for lunch and part reimbursement for those who

wish to bill the Association for mileage.

You may self-nominate or nominate a fellow member. Each member has an opportunity to and the responsibility for keeping our association active and vibrant. What better way than serving **your** Association.

The Board will meet January 28 to, hopefully, finalize the nominated slate.

## VOWA Contest Entry Deadlines

The deadline for all contest entries is Thursday, January 15, 2009. Remember, the Excellence-in-Craft entries are judged by our sister organization in Georgia.

The guidelines for the Youth and Undergraduate contests are on the web site.

Dan Genest is working on the guidelines for the EIC and we hope to have them on the web site and e-mailed to the membership shortly.

## Photo of brick for Bob Gooch

The picture below shows the paver which was laid at the office of the Virginia Press Association in memory of our old friend Bob Gooch. It is located at the VPA office in Innsbrook. Stop by when you are in the area and see the memorial.



## MEMBER UPDATE

**Jim Crosby** sports his 1980 Fiat Spider around Virginia. His photograph of the vehicle coming out of a covered bridge near Mt. Jackson won him one of 10 winners in the International Auto Parts Travel Photo Contest.



My, you never know where your joy is going to come from, says Jim.

**Marie and Milan Majarov** have been busy this fall showing off their big pumpkins. Marie and grandson, Jake, grew them and two were 50 pounds.



Milan used his creative carving skills to produce the above for Halloween. Marie says they were difficult to photograph at night. No wonder they were a "hit" in the neighborhood.

**King Montgomery** recently had surgery and we wish him well in his recovery. He must have recovered well as he says, "...off to Bahamas--I'm a consultant for a resort/marina who is establishing a

fishing program. Someone has to do it."

## January - February Sportsmen's Shows Offer Something for Everyone

The eight regional outdoor sportsman's shows scheduled for January—February feature seminars, exhibits, demonstrations and contests promising fun and exciting new activities for everyone in the family. Experienced and novice sportsmen can try the latest in new equipment and learn about new places to enjoy Virginia's great outdoors. All the shows feature activities for kids to spark their interest in outdoor adventures. See the latest in specialized equipment and partnership programs offered by sportsmen's organizations. VDGIF staff will be on hand to provide information on hunting and fishing opportunities and agency programs to manage fish and wildlife resources. Each show offers something different, so check each show's Web site for all the details.

January 16—18, Richmond Fishing Expo, Richmond Raceway Complex.

[www.ncboatshows.com/CurrentShows/vexpo/VEXPOshow.html](http://www.ncboatshows.com/CurrentShows/vexpo/VEXPOshow.html)  
<http://macevents.com/show.cfm/eventID/123>

January 23—25, Nation's Outdoor Sportsmen's Show, Dulles Expo Center.

[www.nationsoutdoorshow.com/](http://www.nationsoutdoorshow.com/)

February 20—22, The Greater Virginia Sports & Big Game Show, Rockingham County.

[www.vasportsshow.com/](http://www.vasportsshow.com/)

February 20—22, Richmond Boat Show, Richmond Raceway Complex.  
[http://www.marinesource.com/Boat\\_Shows/annual\\_richmond\\_boat\\_show.cfm](http://www.marinesource.com/Boat_Shows/annual_richmond_boat_show.cfm)

February 20—22, The Fredericksburg Outdoor Show, Fredericksburg Expo Center.  
<http://www.bmgevents.com/fredericksburg/OutdoorShow/index.html>

February 27—March 1, Western Virginia Sports Show, Augusta Expoland Fishersville  
<http://www.westernvasportshow.com/contact.html>

February 27—March 15, Bass Pro Shops Spring Fishing Classic, Ashland

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**OFFICERS and BOARD MEMBERS  
(March 2008-March 2009)**

<b>David Coffman, Troy</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Jennifer Hensley, Grottoes</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
<b>Steve Richardson, Jr., Richmond</b>	<b>First Vice President</b>
<b>Marika Byrd, CPS, Glen Allen</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Jim Crosby, Crozet</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Terry Lewis, Burke</b>	<b>Board Chair</b>
<b>Dan Genest, Midlothian</b>	<b>Board Member (2009)</b>
<b>Marie Majarov, Winchester</b>	<b>Board Member (2010)</b>
<b>Milan Majarov, Winchester</b>	<b>Board Member (2010)</b>
<b>Frank Mundy, Broadway</b>	<b>Board Member (2009)</b>

**VOWA NEWS DEADLINE**

**Friday, January 30, 2009**  
**Submissions to: Marika Byrd**  
**[byrdm@vcu.org](mailto:byrdm@vcu.org)**

Below:

The snow image was done in the woods Marie and Milan Majarov's property which abuts the Civil War Preservation property, Third Winchester. It is a beautiful 500+ acres with miles of walking paths. ©Marie and Milan Majarov 2008.

