



VOWA NEWS

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Fall 2006

Virginia Outdoor Writers Association, Inc. Newsletter

www.vowa.com
Marika Byrd, Editor

Virginia *Outdoor Report* Revived by Popular Demand

by David Coffman



Connect to the *Out-
Outdoor Report*

Even after being discontinued for four years, sportsmen still ask about the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries' *Outdoor Report*. So, in response to numerous requests from constituents for more timely and detailed information about the Department, the newly formed Information and Education Division is reviving the *Outdoor Report* in an electronic subscription format.

The former weekly newsletter contained information on regulations, seasons, classes, the fishing report, features on Department programs and other news. It was originally mailed, then faxed and was later emailed for a brief time.

Staff reorganization and budget concerns resulted in the report being cancelled in 2002. New developments in electronic production and distribution capabilities have overcome many of the cost and staff time concerns which caused the cancellation of the former report.

The electronic format provides all Divisions of the Department an opportunity to effectively and efficiently reach media contacts, stakeholders, sportsmen, constituent interest groups, colleagues and employees

in a timely, accurate and cost effective way.

The Outdoor Report Editor is David Coffman, who also serves as incoming President for VOWA. David also serves on the 2007 OWAA Conference Host Team

He notes that, "The primary purpose in reviving the report is to *proactively* communicate with our constituents and the public.

Although many people routinely check the VDGIF web site for information, the report allows us to 'push out' news and information in a timelier manner to a broad and diverse constituency. Subscribers can quickly scan the brief bulleted articles at their convenience and then go to various web links for more details as their time permits."

The staff producing the *new Outdoor Report* insistent on retaining the tried and true qualities of the *old* report. The success of the original newsletter was largely due to the talents of its long time editor, Spike Knuth.

Spike wore many hats in the Department being an accomplished artist, writer and knowledgeable outdoorsman. Spike has also been a leader in VOWA where he currently serves as President. When he retired in 2003, the report was also retired.

In restarting it, we have tapped Spike (although he claims to be retired, is busier than ever) to help us with a new feature.

Each report will feature his beautiful illustrations and an informative natural history article covering one of the 925 *Species of Greatest Conservation Need* that were identified in the state *Wildlife Action Plan* as imperiled or in decline.

Information used in the *Outdoor Report* will be coordinated with weekly Division activity reports, web site features and *Virginia Wildlife* magazine.

In order to subscribe, visit the DGIF website, www.dgif.virginia.gov and click on the *Outdoor Report* icon.

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OWAA has kindly offered VOWA members the same conference registration fee as their members will pay. VOWA attendees must be 2007 members in good standing

Now is a good time to renew your VOWA membership for 2007.

Mark your calendar now for June 18-22, 2007, to be at the Hotel Roanoke for a once-in-a-lifetime adventure for most of us.



VOWA 2007 ANNUAL MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

The VOWA Board decided to hold our annual meeting in June 2007 in conjunction with the OWAA conference, June 18-22, 2007. David Coffman is working with the planning committee to see about scheduling our business meeting and awards presentations during this time.

Board Vacancy

Anyone interested in the vacant position on the Board of Directors are urged to contact President Spike Knuth at knuthwildlifeart@comcast.net.

The board meets several times a year, hosts the annual meeting, and members divide the committee work.

Currently, board meetings are held at the Department of Forestry, in Charlottesville. The dates are scheduled far in advance to try and accommodate board member schedules.

MEMBER UPDATE

Making Decoys the Century Old Way," by **Curtis Badger** and Grayson Chesser, was reissued in November by Tidewater Publishers in cooperation with the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. The book was originally published by Stackpole Books in 1989 and has been out of print for several years. The original version has been selling for \$100 and up on the Internet.

"Making Decoys" provides step-by-step instruction in how to carve and paint decoys of numerous species of waterfowl, and it also deals with the culture and history of waterfowl hunting in America. Grayson Chesser, a farmer, hunting guide and one-time Virginia Game Warden, is a well-known decoy maker whose work is widely sought after by collectors around the country.

Curtis Badger has written more than 30 books about the history and natural history of the coast and about wildfowl art. The book retails for \$24.95.

Review copies are available from Tidewater Publishers, PO Box 456, Centreville, MD 21617.

Chris Bolgiano, received good news following some medical tests, and she is on the mend. Chris has offered to help judge the Undergraduate Writing Contest, and her offer has been accepted.

Dean Fosdick, First Vice President, recently resigned his First Vice President position as the Associated Press relocated him to Minnesota. We wish Dean well in his new endeavors and will sorely miss his guidance on the VOWA board. He, along with Tom Scanlan, developed and guided the first Undergraduate Writing Contest in 2006. The winning entry and photographs are on our web site at www.vowa.org.

Jennifer Hensley's husband, Thurman, is now home from the hospital following a tragic encounter with a 600 pound bear. We wish them well in his recuperation and hope Thurman is back to "normal" soon.

John Shtogren has joined our organization. He has attended several annual meetings and then decided to become one of us.

John is a part-time and freelance writer/editor/publication preparation with the Virginia Sportsman.

Garvey Winegar has settled into married life. No details have been made available at publication time. We wish Garvey and his new wife many happy years ahead.

Photographs for our web site

The picture on our web site is quite old and needs updating. Members who have seasonally appropriate pictures to donate should forward them to Marika Byrd at byrdm@vcu.org. We want to keep our organization's web site looking current—you can help by submitting outdoor photographs.

**WRITING CONTEST
INFORMATION**



Now is the time to gather your writings and consider our annual Excellence-in-Craft Awards contest. All of the details are on the web site. The **submission deadline is January 31, 2007.**

The guidelines for the youth and undergraduate contests are also posted on our web site.

**OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS
2006-2007**

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Spike Knuth | President |
| David Coffman | Vice President |
| Vacant | First Vice President |
| Marika Byrd, CPS | Secretary |
| Jim Crosby | Treasurer |
| Terry Lewis | Board Chair |
| Steve Richardson, Jr. | Board Member 2008 |
| Jennifer Hensley | Board Member 2008 |
| Dan Genest | Board Member 2007 |

Check updates at www.vowa.org.

VOWA News
Next deadline is **March 12, 2007.**
Mark your calendar now so you do not forget.

Early submissions are always welcome.
Submit to byrdm@vcu.org

**Calendar Year 2007 Membership
Renewal Notice**
January 1 to December 31, 2007
Now is the right time to pay your membership fee

Name _____
Address _____
e-mail: _____
Phone # (_____) _____

Check one membership category:

| | |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Active | \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate/Apprentice | \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Non-Active | \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor | \$50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$10.00 |

Make check payable to: **VOWA, Inc.**

Mail to:
Jim Crosby, Treasurer
5571 Brookwood Road
Crozet, VA 22932

VOWA Board Meeting
Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2007, at 10:00 a.m.
Va. Dept. of Forestry in Charlottesville
Phone: 434/977-6555 Fax 434/296-2369
Meeting is in first floor the Resource Protection Conference Room.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your Board of Directors.



