

# VOWA NEWS

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Winter 2010

Virginia Outdoor Writers Association, Inc. Newsletter

www.vowa.org.  
Marika Byrd, Editor

## From the President

Terry Lewis

It's been a very good year for VOWA, and I hope the same can be said for all of our members. Our treasury is strong, membership has stayed steady (which is quite an accomplishment in these tough economic times), we have newly updated and corrected draft bylaws, and we continue to host the youth and the writing contests to try to keep young people involved with the great out of doors.

It has truly been a pleasure to work with our board members, who do so very much to keep this organization meaningful and productive. Special thanks to Marika Byrd for keeping succinct notes at the meetings, making sure we have an agenda, and doing the editing and layout of our newsletter. Also, thanks to all the board members who work to keep our contests vibrant. These folks spend countless hours updating the contest rules, contacting numerous schools and universities to encourage students to write, finding places to publish many of the entries, and finding terrific prizes. If VOWA did nothing more than host these contests to encourage young outdoor writers, that would be more than enough for me to stay involved. But, of course, it offers much more, and as in any organization, you get from it as much as you put in.

This year that has included our board meetings, which we've had at board member's homes. We have come to know each other so much better, and now certainly have a much better appreciation of the folks who are in our organization. If you have any time, please consider volunteering to serve as an officer, a committee, or as a member of the board. You'll find it to be a wonderful experience.

On Wednesday, March 17, we'll have our annual membership meeting. Jim Crosby has made some great arrangements for us to meet and have a super meal at the Doubletree Hotel in Charlottesville. We'll have some good speakers for those of you looking for story ideas, and Frank Mundy has agreed to share his experiences on self publishing his books. Frank has a great sense of humor, and a warm personality, so this should be a very entertaining discussion.

This year we are asking each member to consider providing something for a silent auction. If you are a photographer, one of your signed photos would be terrific. If you are a writer, a signed book, or collection of your work would be a nice addition to the auction. Or some of you might be like me and have collected various outdoor gear through the years, but realize it will never see the light of day. Hopefully another member has a need for it

and will bid a little to take it home from our annual meeting. And, not only will we have some great silent auction items, we'll also have some terrific door prizes donated by some of our supporting and corporate members.

If that isn't enough to tempt you to come to the annual meeting, we'll also have the winners of our youth and collegiate writing contest read their entries, and we'll announce the winners of our member's excellence in craft contests. And most importantly, you can share in the camaraderie by talking with old pals, meeting new friends, and encouraging the young writers to keep up their good work.

I'll close by sharing a bit from a short conversation I just had with a long time buddy of mine, who I don't talk with nearly enough. He's now in Kentucky

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and has been retired for several years from Forest Service law enforcement. We've both had a few health issues and our conversation turned to comparing injuries and operations. We concluded that we need to take more time out of doors and to think about the things that really matter. Although there are trials and tribulations, and the news is full of woe about the bad economy, we have truly been blessed to live at a great time in a great land – and we can have new parts put in when the old ones wear out. Here's hoping all your parts work well, and that you take the time to get outside and consider what it really important.



Mentoring young hunters is important to passing on the traditions of sportsmanship and self reliance. The record December snowfall provided a rare opportunity to observe tracks in the snow to learn the travel patterns and feeding habits of wildlife under winter conditions. Photos by David Coffman, Friends & Family Hunt Club, Louisa, December 2009

## Notes from the Board

by Marika Byrd

**D**ominion has again made a major contribution for use at our annual meeting on March 17. We are grateful for their recognition of the work the



Virginia Outdoor Writers Association, Inc.

Annual Meeting in Charlottesville

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Registration at 9:00 a.m.

DoubleTree hotel on U. S. Route 29 North

- › Keynote speaker will be announced once confirmed.
- › Frank Mundy, VOWA member and recent publisher of his third book, will talk about self-publishing and marketing the same.
- › Exhibit space available, via advance reservation, for those members, sponsors, and supporters to display and sell their wares—contact David Coffman ([david.coffman@dgif.virginia.org](mailto:david.coffman@dgif.virginia.org)) or 804/221-6990.
- › Business meeting with election of officers and board members.
- › Door prizes, silent auction, raffle items—so come prepared to “shop.”
- › Meet and hear from the winners of our high school and collegiate undergraduate writing competition.
- › Networking opportunities and an exchange of information about VOWA for those interested in being more active in their association during the post-meeting get together.
- › Advance registration: determine attendance and lunch reservations. Members in good standing (dues paid for 2010) are eligible to attend. To register, send your name and name of spouse, significant other, or other guest who is qualified for membership to Marika Byrd at [oriole@vcu.org](mailto:oriole@vcu.org).
- › Buffet lunch, payable on the day of the meeting.
- › Enjoy the camaraderie of fellow members, spouses, or significant others, and new members.

Association and its members do for conservation.

**Renewals:** Members in good standing will have their member-

ship current on or before March 17, to be eligible to attend and participate in the annual meeting.

Those who have entered the EIC competition need to have their membership paid when they submitted their entries.

Not having a current membership could result in suspension of the membership privileges.

**Membership application update** is being prepared for placement on the web site, and it is anticipated that we will have copies at the membership meeting.

**Door prizes, a raffle, and a silent auction** are items on the agenda for the March 17 meeting. Members are encouraged to donate an item, and the committee will make good use of it. Committee members are David Coffman, Terry Lewis, Marie Majarov, and Frank Mundy. Come prepared to go “shopping.”

**Display Space:** a small space (per a written, advance request) will be available to members (individual, corporate and supporting) who request the same through David Coffman. Members will have the opportunity to display and/or sell their “products” before, at lunch, and after the meeting.

**Bylaw** amendments will be presented for the membership approval at the business session.

**Registration:** Marika Byrd will handle the pre-registration—information to come later. Those pre-registering will be eligible to compete in the drawing for a nice “Early Bird,” special door prize.

**Craft Improvement:** Our own Frank Mundy will talk about self-publishing and marketing your own writings or photographs.

His latest book is now available. You do not want to miss it.

**Keynote speaker:** To be announced later, once confirmed.

**Competition winners:** Collegiate undergraduate and high school (grades 9-12) winners who attend the meeting will present orally their entries.

**Guests:** Adult guests who are supporting or qualify for membership are invited to attend the day’s events.

**Lunch** will be a buffet and the cost is \$15/per person, plus tax.

**Post-meeting mixer** will include time for an exchange of ideas from participating members. Board and committee chairs will provide information on the board workings. Double Tree will host this event and provide their famous, warm chocolate chip cookies.

**Spring social proposal:** Jennifer Hensley and Frank Mundy will present a spring event plan in the Grottoes area reflect a day of companionship and fun including shooting, hiking, eating, and possibly a spring gobbler hunt.

### Mason-Dixon Outdoor Writers Association

**A brief reminder** to fellow VOWA members: The Mason-Dixon Outdoor Writers Association’s annual conference and awards banquet will be held March 19-21, 2010, in Rehobeth Beach, Delaware. VOWA members may attend and participate **at the same price as M-DOWA members.** It promises to be an interesting session. See [www.mdowa.org](http://www.mdowa.org) for more information or contact King Montgomery.

## Welcome New Member

**Chris Batin:** Thanks to King Montgomery for bringing Chris to our membership. He is a member

OWAA and chairs the Strategic Planning, Marketing, Board Nominations, and Craft Improvement committees. He is sponsoring the 2011 OWAA meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska. Chris is also a member of M-DOWA. Chris is editor, publisher and owner of Alaska Angler and Alaska Hunter publications. And, he’s a good man, per King Montgomery.

## About our Members



**Jim Crosby,** (above right) and wife, “Patsy have been active in the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club since retiring from the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The club shocked me with the Award of ‘Ham of the Year’ last Tuesday, January 16--an honor I wanted to share with all my friends.” In the opinion of the club president, the most accomplishments by a club member during the past year are recognized. “The picture tells the whole story.”

**Terry Lewis and King Montgomery** are commiserating after each had knee replacement surgery.

Terry is slowly recuperating at home following release from the

hospital just ahead of the latest big snow. He is more sedate this time because of the blood loss—which was not experienced on the first knee replacement.

Those wishing to contact Terry can mail to 5705 Wooden Hawk Lane, Burke, VA 22015.

King Montgomery writes the following:

"The surgeon was amazed at the damage the bullet did to my knee over 40 years ago (Vietnam, August 1969), and subsequently. Lots of scar tissue and some bone damage, but he had enough to work with. He also straightened the leg a little to get the bow out that developed over all those years. The ankle was fused a few years ago so it's not going anywhere.

I do outpatient physical therapy three days a week, and do exercises at home. We hope to get about 90 degrees range-of-motion, about what I had before the surgery but without the pain I felt all those years.

Terry Lewis was a big help in all this. His knee was replaced some months ago, and now he's recuperating from having the other one done as well—[January 28]. His encouraging words made things a bit easier for me.

A brief reminder to fellow VOWA members: The Mason-Dixon Outdoor Writers Association annual conference and awards banquet will be held March 19 - 21, 2010 in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. VOWA members may attend and participate at the same price as MDOWA members. It promises to be an interesting session. See [www.mdowa.org](http://www.mdowa.org) for more info.

Happy 2010 to all my VOWA friends!

King Montgomery, 5607 Tilia Court, Burke, Virginia 22015

**Lynda Richardson**, announces her "NEW WEBSITE, <http://www.lyndarichardsonphotography.com>. Right now, the site is focused on my workshops and some things I'm up to, but in the future I will add products for sale and a photo tips page.

Other news: In the February issue of *Outdoor Photographer* magazine I am featured in a story called Nature vs Nurture about several women photographers. I'm the second one mentioned. February seems to be my month as the February issue of *Smithsonian* features my October assignment on Venus flytraps, and, also I'm mentioned in the Editors column, which is rare for photographers.

Last news is I am now a "Photo Pro" for *National Wildlife* magazine <http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/National-Wildlife/PhotoZone.aspx>

I am one of several folks selected and our direct bio page is this link; <http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/National-Wildlife/PhotoZone/Archives/2010/Photo-Panel-Biographies.aspx>

Enough for now! HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! Lynda"

## Vickie Shufer receives award from BBRF

by Lillie Gilbert



Congratulations to Vickie Shufer, Conservationist of the Year, 2009, from the Back Bay Restoration Foundation! With her educational training and degree as an outdoor educator and her arrival in Virginia Beach in 1979, Vickie Shufer hit the ground running. She first worked as a naturalist interpreter at First Landing State Park. In 1980 when False Cape State Park opened, Vickie added the ecology of this barrier community to her repertoire of information that was to be shared with generations of eager people who wanted to receive learning from this dynamic and gifted educator. When the Education Center opened at False Cape in 1982, Vickie developed outdoor programming for school and Scout groups, community organizations, and individuals and presented her knowledge in an innovative hands-on approach that set her apart from other educators. Her energy and love of the environment continues to be contagious and inspiring as she volunteers and gives talks and wild food walks in many parts of the US and abroad.

Her love of land and water began at an early age. As a child, Vickie spent more time outside than in. One of her earliest memories, at age 4, was playing in the creek near her home, which led to a river. That river was later dammed, and it was her grandfather, Roy, who took Vickie on her first fishing outing in a boat on the lake that was created. Vickie has enjoyed canoeing and kayaking as an adult ever since.

Vickie still lives next to a small waterway, Pocatoy River, which leads to the North Landing River. Exploring creeks and the lands near them has been a lifelong passion, and today Vickie

owns a patch of land she calls Wild Woods Farm, on which she is raising and nurturing a wide variety of native plants. In fact, if you visit Vickie's house, you will find an amazing display of these plants in their infancy or adolescence. She painstakingly rescues and nourishes (all naturally, of course) native plants, and if you ask, she will tell you on the spot more about these amazing plants than you ever imagined.

She also is a publisher, having co-authored three local river guidebooks, [as well as] numerous brochures and booklets on local native plants and animals. She produces and is editor of the Wild Foods Journal, a national publication. Extremely capable and creative, she does the designing, editing, and publishing of books for others including, Dr. James Duke's Herb-A-Day, which is the definitive guide to medicinal and edible herbs.

How to describe Vickie Shufer: Vigorous, cheerful, helpful, knowledgeable, precise, communicative, giving, and very friendly. Vickie has never met a stranger and puts everyone at ease with her sense of humor, easy-to-understand explanations, and beautiful smile. As such, she is a consummate educator.

It cannot be denied that for her love and appreciative sharing of the outdoors, and especially the native plants and animals, that she is also a conservationist of the highest degree.

Bio by Lillie Gilbert (Vickie's friend and co-explorer for 22 years).

Editor's Note: Vickie and Lillie are both VOWA members.

## Snows provide good "shooting" opportunities

by Marika Byrd

Marie Majarov and David Coffman kindly provided us an opportunity to see two regional weather scenes like few have seen in some years in these parts of Virginia. The El Nino effect brought a record-breaking storm to some areas of the Mid-Atlantic. It contributed greatly to the beauty of God's earth, provided plenty of water to quench the thirst of the parched earth, a deep blanket of snow for those winter creatures and the dormant flora, but it has also made life miserable for those who are without electricity, those who must be outdoors, and those who have to fend for themselves in times of great need. Here are some "shots" garnered during the storms in December through February.



Apple tree outside home of Marie and Milan Majarov, Winchester, during the February 5-6, 2010 snow storm, which brought 32". ©Marie and Milan Majarov



Birds in the snow outside Marie and Milan Majarov's Winchester home

during the February 5-6, 2010 storm. It is hard to imagine snow 32" deep until you experience it personally. ©Marie and Milan Majarov



The sunshine is finally showing through in Winchester after the Feb. 5-6, 2010 storm, as Marie Majarov captures the landscape outside her home into the historical park that abuts up to their property. ©Marie and Milan Majarov



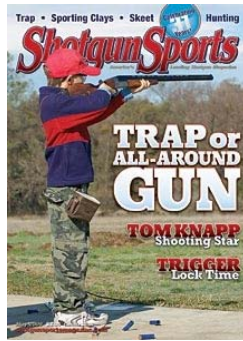
Burr! as those icicles dangle from the limb at the home of Marie and Milan Majarov, Winchester, as they bundled up to weather the about six hours without electricity, like many others caught in the March 5-6, 2010 storm. ©Marie and Milan Majarov



Snow geese at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge on the Eastern Shore. ©Marie and Milan Majarov



Hunting buddies confer on plans for the next day's hunt as "snow fog" settles in at dusk. Photo by David Coffman, December 2009, Friends and Family Hunt Club, Louisa, Va.



**SHOTGUN SPORTS MAGAZINE** is looking for strong, meaty TRAP, SKEET, HUNTING, SPORTING CLAYS & 5-STAND articles!

angles that look like a straightaway and, of course, the mental side of the game. The non-competitive shooters just want to know how to have more fun and beat their own personal best.

Our readers want more, more, more reloading advice, gun-cleaning and maintenance tips, and advice that will help non-competitive and new/struggling shooters improve. They'd also like tips on how to overcome that one or two targets that seem to be

keeping them from moving ahead. SEND YOUR STORIES IN NOW for the 2010-2011 Shotgun Sports schedule.

Linda Martin, Production Coordinator, Shotgun Sports Magazine.

You can download Writers Guidelines at <http://www.shotgunsportsmagazine.com>

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**In the loving memory of  
Ginny Gooch  
Widow of Bob Gooch,  
Dean of VOWA  
who passed away in  
December 2009.  
Burial was at the  
Beaverdam Baptist  
Church.  
VOWA members will  
fondly remember both  
for a long due to their  
many contributions in  
and out of our  
Association.**

**Virginia Outdoor Writers Association, Inc.  
Officers and Board of Directors 2009-2010**

Terry Lewis, Burke	President
Frank Mundy, Broadway	Vice President
Jennifer Hensley, Grottoes	First Vice President
Marika Byrd, CPS, Glen Allen	Secretary
David Coffman, Troy	Treasurer
David Coffman, Troy	Chair of the Board
Jim Crosby, Crozet	Board Member 2009-2011
Dan Genest, Midlothian	Board Member 2009-2011
Marie Majarov, Winchester	Board Member 2008-2010