

VOWA NEWS

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Winter 2011

Virginia Outdoor Writers Association Newsletter
Editor: Marika Byrd

Bear Creek Lake State Park—Join our annual meeting April 13-15, 2011, in Cumberland County



http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/bea.shtml

©photo courtesy of the VSP

Located at 22 Bear Creek Lake Road, Cumberland, VA, is a 326.4 acres with a 40 acre lake recreational facility. *Drive Time:* Northern Va., three hours; Richmond, one hour; Roanoke, two hours; Tidewater/Norfolk/ Virginia Beach, three hours. The park is about 4.5 miles northwest of the town of Cumberland. From U.S. Route 60, go west on Route 622 and south on Route 629 to the park entrance.

Google map site:
http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=22+Bear+Creek+Lake+Road,+Cumberland,+VA+23040&sl=37.527426,-78.182487&sspn=0.222449,0.308647&ie=UTF8&hq=&hnear=Bear+Creek+Lake+Rd,+Cumberland,+Virginia+23040&ll=37.513539,-78.283939&spn=0.111245,0.154324&z=13

Mother Nature should be warming Mother Earth with warm sunshine, watering it with spring rains, and the spring wildflowers and trees should be sprouting colorful shades and wafting scents for those who enjoy the outdoors so much.

Baring weather complications, you should have time to get a story or two and photographs in nature—the Virginia

State Parks (VSP) system is celebrating their 75th anniversary.

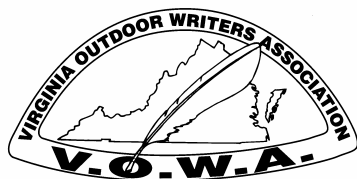
The VSP has made a number of offerings and accommodations for our visitation at Bear Creek Lake. Come and enjoy their fine hospitality.

Place **April 13-15** on your calendar, and join us for our annual meeting. A spacious meeting

room has been reserved at no VOWA News Notes, Winter 2011

cost.

See President Terry Lewis' invitation on page 2, the tentative agenda on page 3, and the pre-registration form on page 4.



Virginia Outdoor Writers Association, Inc.

February 15, 2011

I'd like to take just a moment to encourage you to attend the Annual Virginia Outdoor Writers Association, Inc., membership meeting. This year we're doing something different than anything we've ever done in the past. I think you'll find it a great way to get some terrific story material, excellent photos, and a wonderful time to get to know the other members of our Association.

The Virginia State Parks are celebrating their 75th anniversary, so they have been gracious to offer us special accommodations at one of their very special facilities—Bear Creek Lake State Park. They are offering our members all the facilities at this Park for half the regular price. They've even said they would allow us to book individual rooms, and the maximum cost is under \$30 per night per room. Just call Sue Smith at 1-800-933-7275 and press 5 to talk with a reservation specialist. Ask for Sue, and be sure to tell her you are with VOWA. They have 10 two bedroom cabins, 2 three bedroom cabins, and six bedrooms in the lodge. See the newest VOWA newsletter for more details.

Besides that, we've found a terrific caterer, who will provide delicious meals at a very reasonable cost—or you can do your own cooking at the fully equipped kitchens in the cabins and the Lodge at the Park.

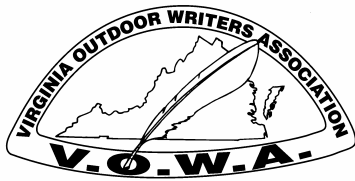
We'll have a reception each evening, thanks to a generous grant from Dominion, and a special VA Parks naturalist will led programs each evening. We'll also have a great silent auction, and hope you will have something to contribute—plus make a few bids on some terrific items available to the highest bidder.

Our guest speakers will be Joe Elton, Director of the Virginia State Parks, our good friend Bob Duncan, Executive Director of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Mr. Doug Domenech, Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources, has also been invited back to tell us the latest news from all the agencies he oversees. Add to that, our High School and Collegiate Undergraduate award winners are reading their essays and receiving their awards; some of our own members are being rewarded for Excellence in Craft, and, of course, our business meeting to keep this organization active and vibrant.

Attached is a tentative agenda and a registration form. Take a look and fill out that form so we can make appropriate plans.

Seems to me, this is an activity that couldn't be much better! I hope you'll open space in your schedule and join us for this very special occasion. I look forward to seeing you there!

Terry Lewis
President, VOWA
703-250-6914
lewistmn@msn.com



Virginia Outdoor Writers Association, Inc.

Tentative Agenda
Virginia Outdoor Writers Association Annual Meeting
April 13-14-15
Bear Creek Lake State Park

Wednesday, April 13

Arrive at the Park and check in.
Registration open until 4:30 p.m. at the Lodge.
5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Reception at the Lodge.
6:00 p.m. Catered dinner (lasagna, salad, drinks, and dessert).
7:30 p.m. Nature Program sponsored by the Virginia State Parks.
Hospitality Area open after the program until 10:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 14

7:00 a.m. Catered Continental Breakfast.
8:30 a.m. Registration opens at the meeting facility.
9:00 a.m. Silent Auction opens
9:30 a.m. Opening of Annual VOWA Membership Meeting
10:00 a.m. Guest Speaker Joe Elton, Director of VA State Parks (confirmed) and
VA Secretary of Natural Resources Doug Domenech (invited).
11:00 a.m. Awards presented for Undergraduate and High School Writing Contests.
Noon Catered Taco Salad Buffet Lunch.
1:30 p.m. Business Meeting
2:30 p.m. Bob Duncan, Director of VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries (confirmed).
3:00 p.m. Break
3:30 p.m. Awards for Excellence in Craft.
4:00 p.m. Adjourn
5:00 p.m. Reception
6:00 p.m. Silent Auction closes.
6:00 p.m. Catered dinner (Chicken Cordon Bleu or Monterrey Chicken).
7:00 p.m. Nature Program sponsored by the Virginia State Parks).
Hospitality Area open after the program until 10:00 p.m.

Friday, April 15

7:30 a.m. Catered omelet bar.
9:30 a.m. Nature Program sponsored by the Virginia State Parks.
Lunch on your own.
1:30 p.m. Special tour of the Bass Pro Shop or Gander Mountain off I-95 north of Richmond (tentative).



Virginia Outdoor Writers Association, Inc.

**2011 Annual Meeting
Registration Form
April 13-14-15, 2011**

Name:

Address:

Home Telephone:

Emergency Contact:

E-mail address:

City/Zip:

Work/Cell Telephone:

Phone:

*Lodging is a participant expense. The State Park is providing cabins at a discounted rate. You may view details on available cabins and the lodge at: http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/bea.shtml. **10 Cabins** each with 2 bedrooms (queen bed and set of bunk beds)\$**50 per cabin per night or \$25.00 per room per night.** **Two Cabins** each with 3 bedrooms (queen bed, 2 twin beds and set of bunk beds, and 2 bathrooms) . **\$60 per cabin per night or \$20 per room per night.** **Lodge** has 2 bedrooms with queen beds, 2 bedrooms with 2 twin beds each, 2 bedrooms with 2 sets bunk beds, three bathrooms. **\$150 per night or \$25.00 per room per night.** **All cabins and the Lodge have full kitchens. There is no television or phones in the rooms, but the meeting room has wireless. .Linens and towels are provided***

There will be receptions and programs each evening.

I plan to stay at the Park: Wednesday Night ____ Thursday Night _____

Please check the meals you will attend:

| Date | Meal | Cost per person | Number of people | Total |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------|------------------|-------|
| Wednesday April 13 | Dinner (Lasagna/salad/drinks and desserts) | \$11.50 | | |
| Thursday April 14 | Breakfast-continental | \$5.50 | | |
| Thursday April 14 | Lunch Taco Salad | \$8.50 | | |
| Thursday April 14 | Dinner (Chicken Cordon Bleu or Monterrey chicken, drinks, dessert) | \$11.50 | | |
| Friday April 15 | Breakfast- Omelet Bar | \$12.00 | | |
| | | | | |
| Total | | | | |

*Make check out to VOWA for total amount of meals

** You may pay when you arrive for the meeting.

To confirm our headcount with the caterer please return this form no later than April 1, 2011

**Linda Layser
148 Troxel Gap Rd
Middlebrook, VA 24459**

rglayser@gmail.com

Any questions, please call (540) 490-0353or e-mail Linda Layser

Reservation

Make reservations at 1/800/933-7275, press 5, and ask for Sue Smith. Identify yourself with VOWA. Why not consider sharing accommodations with someone you do not know very well—get to know one another.

Options:

10 Cabins each with 2 bedrooms (queen bed and set of bunk beds) **\$50 per cabin per night or \$25.00 per room per night.**

Two Cabins each with 3 bedrooms (queen bed, 2 twin beds and set of bunk beds, and 2 bathrooms) . **\$60 per cabin per night or \$20 per room per night.**

Lodge has 2 bedrooms with queen beds, 2 bedrooms with 2 twin beds each, 2 bedrooms with 2 sets bunk beds, three bathrooms. **\$150 per night or \$25.00 per room per night.**

Full kitchens in cabins and Lodge. No television or phones; meeting room has wireless. Linens and towels provided with the rooms.

If you have problems making a reservation contact nancy.heltman@dcr.virginia.gov or telephone 804/786-5057.

Pre-Registration Form

Send pre-registration form, on page 4, to Linda Layser at rlayser@gmail.com, or phone 540/490-0353



The Lodge at Bear Creek Lake State Park. © photo courtesy of the Virginia State Parks.

Silent Auction

Some interesting items will be available at a Silent Auction being conducted on April 14. Bring your check books or good old cash to get some interesting things.

Members are encouraged to donate outdoor gear or their unique memorabilia for the Silent Auction donors. To contact Terry Lewis, lewistmn@msn.com, or 703/250-6914 if you have any questions or to confirm the donation.

New Members

Welcome to new members:

Ann and Rob Simpson, are professional photographers, biologists and authors. They have written and provided images for numerous books on national parks for Far Country Press and FalconPress. They led Canon "Photography in the Park" workshops in major national parks including Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Yosemite, and the Great Smokies. They have published images in magazines including National Geographic, Time Magazine, Virginia Wildlife, National Wildlife and Ranger Rick as well as many calendars, post-cards and books. Currently they are working on a series of wildflower books and a series of nature guides for the National Parks including Shenandoah, Blue Ridge Parkway, Rocky Mountain, Yellowstone, and Yosemite.

Simpson's Nature Photography

www.agpix.com/snphotos or snphotos.com.

Annie Tobey very recently joined our ranks. Check out her links at www.CCInk.net
www.ActiveWomanTraveler.com
www.MyVMagazine.com
 Twitter: @ActivWomnTravl
 @AnnieTatV

She is a writer who has published several outdoor pieces, including outdoor travel.

Welcome Ann and Rob, as well as Annie.



Rob and Ann Simpson, owners,
 ©Simpson Nature Photography

Simpson Nature Photography Seminar

Ann and Rob Simpson are giving a photography composition presentation showing how to take better photos. The event will be in Front Royal on Saturday, March 12, from 3:00—5:00 p.m. at Samuels Public Library, 538 Villa Avenue Front Royal, VA 22630-2724. Phone: (540) 635-3153.

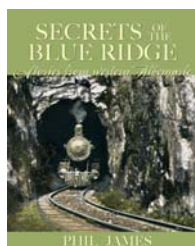
The seminar is open to the general public. The library would like to invite interested members, and the seminar is **FREE!**



From our Members:



Congratulations to **Bill Cochran** who was inducted into the Virginia Conservation Hall of Fame during the annual awards meeting of the Virginia State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation in Lexington. Cochran was honored for his lifetime commitment to outdoor sports and conservation, including coverage of the National Wild Turkey Federation from its conception until today. This was the second hall of fame honor for Cochran. In 2009 he was inducted into the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame.



SECRETS of the BLUE RIDGE: Stories from Western Albemarle by **Phil James**

celebrates the cultural heritage of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia.

Phil James has researched and gathered stories of the people and communities of the nearby Blue Ridge Mountains. Blending the oral histories he has collected with photos copied from the family

Left: ©photo courtesy of the Virginia State Parks.

albums of his neighbors, Phil presents the region's history within the context of the people who have lived it.

Let *Secrets of the Blue Ridge* remind you of those places where *your* heart calls home.

For more information or to order: **Facebook:**
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Secrets-of-the-Blue-Ridge/137399699644933>; **Website:**
<http://www.secretsoftheblueridge.com>

Email:
SecretsoftheBlueRidge@gmail.com

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Clean Rivers Day on the Blackwater and Nottoway Rivers.

By Jeff Turner

April 2, 2011, brings a combined effort to clean up the Blackwater/Nottoway Watershed. Jeff Turner, Blackwater Nottoway RiverKeeper says, "This clean up is accomplished by teams going out on our rivers, streams, ditches, and picking up trash and other junk. Teams or individuals can pick their own locations or I can find you one. Teams must keep count of bag and participant totals and totals of tires etc. Make note of your "most unusual item found". More details will follow when you sign up." Email Jeff at blknotkpr@earthlink.net or call him at 562-5173 to get signed up.

Filing cabinets for VOWA historical documents.

VOWA has an opportunity to have its historical documents in a permanent, protected location.

Members having papers on the workings of VOWA over the years are requested to bring them to the 2011 Annual Meeting. The documents will be gathered and stored. If you have documents and do not have a way to get them to the meeting, please advise Terry Lewis at lewistmn@msn.com, or Marika Byrd at oriole@vcu.org.



Spring Fling 2011

This invitation is to all members and their guests to mark your calendars for the Second Annual Spring Fling to be held May 21, 2011, at the beautiful mountain home of Jennifer and Thurman Hensley, near Grottoes, Va.

Those who attended last year were treated to an abundance of food, most of which was cooked over a hardwood fire. There also were steamed crabs and lots of other dishes to numerous to list. There were many outdoor activities available in addition to a lot of “doing nothing but sitting around the campfire and sharing a tale or two.” Everyone had a great time and this year’s event will no doubt be as equally enjoyable.

More details will be forthcoming. Come and share this great experience and create new memories with fellow writers and their guests.



©photo from Bear Creek Lake, courtesy of Virginia State Parks.