



# *Virginia Hunting Dog Alliance*

## *Powhatan, Virginia*

### *October 31, 2013*

## **NOVEMBER 5TH – ELECTION DAY**

We have it made no secret that we support and endorse **Mark Obenshain for Attorney General**. Mark is a proven friend who has supported our efforts for years! This has only been re-enforced by the recent \$1 million donation from New York City Mayor Bloomberg to Mark's opponent. **VOTE FOR MARK OBENSHAIN!**

The VaHDA Board of Directors and the members of our extended leadership discussed the election for Governor in some detail. The Board agreed, without exception, that as individuals we were all going to vote for **Ken Cuccinelli**, and further we would encourage all Sportsmen, their friends and family to vote for him also. We did not feel that it was appropriate that we endorse him as a pro-Sportsman candidate.

This decision was not made lightly. While Ken has a strong history of support for the Second Amendment, he knows nothing of Virginia's hunting traditions and rural way of life. His opponent on the other hand, is from New York and not only knows nothing about Virginia (or Florida where he also tried to run for Governor), he is a rabid Gun Control advocate and is not trying to conceal it! His friend Mayor Bloomberg has given him more than a million dollars for endorsing Bloomberg gun control schemes. The polls are close and now either candidate can win! If you and your friends vote in large numbers you will win. There is no question that a victory by Democrat McAuliffe will be far worse for Virginia Sportsmen than a victory by Republican Ken Cuccinelli.

No matter what your individual decision, **PLEASE VOTE ON NOVEMBER 5th.**

## **THE IMPORTANT OF BEING AN ETHICAL SPORTSMAN**

The VaHDA has aggressively promoted ethical hunting. Our Code of Ethics, which can be found on the website (<http://www.vahda.org/about.htm> ) is available on laminated. A printable version is available by clicking on the Code of Ethics.

All hunters must be aware that their actions are being closely watched not just by anti-hunters but by the general public. We are asking all of our members to become missionaries for the message that the outlaws in our midst must be brought to justice. **REPORT WILDLIFE VIOLATIONS.**

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**Endorsed General Assembly Candidates with opponents**

All 100 seats in the General Assembly are up for grabs. We have listed only those candidates who have challenge races. Just because your Delegate does not have an opponent please don't think you can stay home on Election Day; you need to vote! If you don't vote, next election there will be at least one opponent for someone who has DEFENDED YOUR HERITAGE. Politics is a team activity as we all learned last year when all the votes in the General Assembly were straight party line votes. Republicans support us and Democrats opposed us. Remember, an independent candidate cannot help you in Richmond!

<b>District</b>	<b>Candidate</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Candidate</b>
2	Mark Dudenhefer *	40	Tim Hugo *
3	Will Morefield *	41	Fredy Burgos
6	Jeff Campbell	42	Dave Albo *
7	Nick Rush *	50	Jackson Miller *
10	Randy Minchew *	51	Rich Anderson *
11	Joseph Yost *	55	Buddy Fowler
12	Bob Marshall *	60	James Edmunds *
13	Danny Marshall*	65	Lee Ware *
16	Les Adams *	67	Jim LeMunyon *
17	Christopher Head *	71	Matt Fitch
18	Michael Weibert *	75	Al Peschke
19	Terry L. Austin	78	James Leftwith, Jr.
21	Ron Villanueva *	82	Bill Desteph
22	Kathy Byron *	84	Glenn Davis
23	Scott Garrett *	85	Scott Taylor
29	Mark Berg	86	Tom Rust *
30	Ed Scott *	88	Mark Cole *
31	Scott Lingamfelter *	93	Mike Watson *
32	Tag Greason *	94	David Yancy *
33	Dave LaRock *	95	John Bloom
34	Barbara Comstock *	98	Keith Hodges

**Mr. Speaker**



**WILLIAM J. HOWELL**

**GOOCHLAND COUNTY DOG ORDINANCES**

A coalition of dog owners, breeders and hunters has worked diligently to prevent some very bad draft County ordinances from becoming law. It is our belief that the origin of these drafts is the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO). This belief stems from the number of similar proposals that continued to appear in other counties such as Sussex, Powhatan and several northern Virginia localities. We note, appreciatively that Goochland's Board of Supervisors chose not to renew their membership in VACO last year.

Complaints have arisen from residents concerning noise and were not primarily directed at hunting dogs. Proposals included increases in dog license fees, zoning regulations that required large set-backs from property lines and

**GOOCHLAND (CONTINUED)**

acreage requirements for kennels to name a few.

The coalition of dog owners deserves a great deal of credit for staying on top of these proposals. As in Powhatan the staff and local elected representatives have listened to concerns and been responsive.

**FOX HOUND TRAINING PRESERVES**

It is clear that we are going to have to continue to fight to for the Fox Hound Training Preserves. Senator David Marsden, (D-Fairfax) has made it no secret that he intends to introduce another bill attacking the fox preserves. The most likely target will be an effort to end field trials in the belief that this will make it financially impossible to operate a preserve.

Some suggestions for those who are not willing to sit by and let him succeed:

1. Write a letter to your local weekly paper tell your neighbors and the paper's editor the truth. We go to preserves not small pens. Tell them we go to exercise and train our dogs, not to watch or participate in animal fights because animal fights don't occur in Fox Preserves, only in the minds of animal rights groups. Tell your neighbors the mainstream media has let a small group of people, who have never been nor do they intend to go to a fox preserve, mislead them about the Fox Hound Training Preserves. Tell your neighbors that this in an attack on all hunting.

2. Talk to our neighbors that don't hunt and tell them the truth about Fox Hound Training Preserves. If you know of non-hunters that have expressed opposition, but otherwise support hunting let them know the truth.

3. Don't forget to let all of your local elected officials and members of the General Assembly know these truths.

I assure you that if you don't tell our story that your enemies will continue to tell their fantasy versions.

**DGIF - DECISIVE ACTION**

The two senior staff members responsible for the financial management at DGIF have been fired as a result of serious accounting problems reported in the agency's annual audit. Matt Koch, Chief Operating Officer and Tom Gelozin, Director of Finance and Planning were terminated on Friday, October 25th prior to the release of the Audit Report the following Monday. A review of the complete report clearly indicates that are no allegations of any criminal wrong doing.

We applaud Director Bob Duncan for swift and timely action in responding to the Report of the Auditor of Public Accounts. Far too often government in both Richmond and Washington fail to hold public officials accountable. We have no doubt the Director and the DGIF Board of Directors will take the steps necessary to ensure that Sportsmen's and their Heritage will be carefully safeguarded.

There have been a number of staffing changes at DGIF. We congratulate Major Ron Henry on his promotion to Colonel in charge of the Law Enforcement Division. Col. Ron Henry fills the position vacated by our friend Dee Watts who retired at the end of June. We wish Col. Henry every success in his position. Effective law enforcement is critical to the defense of our Heritage.

## **ACCOMACK COUNTY CONTINUES TO SUPPORT DEER HUNTING WITH DOGS**

On October 16th the Accomack County Board of Supervisors voted 5 to 3 to reject a resolution asking the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to ban hunting of deer with dogs. Instead the majority voted to establish a committee of hunters and landowners to resolve problems that were at the heart of the anti-dog resolution. The Resolution was brought by a coalition of anti-hunters, aggrieved landowners and hunters who did not want hunting with dogs. The SPCA presented a petition against hunting with dogs, which was a surprise to no one. It might be easy to disregard the role of hound hunters in the problems that led to this resolution; it is of extreme importance that unethical hunters were at the very heart of the problem. If it had not been for their misdeeds, the complaints would never have given the other groups the creditability to be heard. Non-hound hunters also added to problems according to one law enforcement official.

The work to head off this disaster was done by local hunt clubs who wasted no time in reaching their members of the Board of Supervisors (BOS). David Fluhart and Ned Finney were visible leaders and spokesmen for their clubs and deserve a great deal of credit for the successful resolution of the issue. VaHDA played a support role as did local DGIF staff. The VaHDA distributed our laminated Code of Ethics/Know the Law cards to the BOS members, local DGIF staff and many hunters.

The offending hound hunters seem to fall into two groups of “come here’s.” A surprise to those of us not that familiar with the Eastern Shore was the presence of hunters with dogs from both Maryland and Delaware! They were repeatedly mentioned as some of the biggest offenders. Sadly the other groups came from the Chesapeake and Gloucester areas. More efforts will be made to identify and hold the offending parties accountable. We will encourage DGIF to step-up enforcement to the point of adding additional staff on a temporary basis.

One big lesson the came out during the hearing and work to get a full understanding of the origin of the problems was the failure of the people that had legitimate complaints to call law enforcement and complain. The number of formal complaints over the previous two years was very low with about half potentially involving hound hunters and half other hunters. Hunters and landowners must call DGIF or their Sherriff’s department if the problems are to be addressed. **STRONG LAW ENFORCEMENT IS OUR BEST WEAPON IN THE DEFENSE OF OUR HERITAGE.**

Many of the Accomack County hunters have joined the VaHDA and we look forward to them forming a County chapter in the near future.

## **RECOGNIZING OUR SPONSORS**

As an organization the VaHDA has fallen down on an important responsibility to promptly thanks or sponsoring hunt clubs and donors. Recognizing the problem, we have changed our process and expect to have a proper thank you, including the Sponsor 2013 decals, to each of our donor before the end of November. We apologize for the delay and thank you for your patience.

## **Know the Law**

It is a class one misdemeanor in Virginia to remove a tracking collar (§ 18.2-97.1). The penalty may be up to a \$2,500 fine and one year in prison. Obviously, there are other charges that may be filed related to the destruction or attempt to dispose of the collar.

The theft of the dog (§ 18.2-97) or killing a dog (§ 18.2-144) may both be class five felonies with prison time, fines and the loss of citizenship (loss of the right to keep and bear arms) as a consequence. Also see Grand Larceny (§ 18.2-96) and (§ 18.2-102). Unauthorized use of animal... without intent to steal (§ 18.2-102) maybe a felony if value of dog exceeds \$200. Owners, as defined in § 3.2-6500, may maintain any action for the killing of any such animals, or injury thereto, or unlawful detention or use thereof as in the case of other personal property. The owner of any dog that is injured or killed contrary to the provisions of this chapter by any person shall be entitled to recover the value thereof or the damage done thereto in an appropriate action at law from such person.

It is unlawful for any person to deliver or release any animal not owned by that person to a pound, animal shelter or humane society or to pretend to be the agent of the owner (§ 18.2-144.2).

Right to Retrieve § 18.2-136 Fox hunters and coon hunters, when the chase begins on other lands, may follow their dogs on prohibited lands, and hunters of all other game, when the chase begins on other lands, may go upon prohibited lands to retrieve their dogs... but may not carry firearms or bows and arrows on their persons or hunt any game while thereon. The use of vehicles to retrieve dogs... on prohibited lands shall be allowed only with the permission of the landowner or his agent. Any person who goes on prohibited lands to retrieve his dogs ... pursuant to this section and who willfully refuses to identify himself when requested by the landowner or his agent to do so is guilty of a Class 4 misdemeanor.

## **We can be our own worst enemy or our best advertisement**

When people who don't hunt think about hunting with dogs do they think about law-abiding neighbors or outlaws? It is up to every one of us to be ambassadors for the Heritage we love. If you see a law being violated, it is your duty to report that person. Tell your hunting friends that you will not tolerate law breakers in your midst. Statistics prove that hound hunters are among the most law-abiding citizens in the Commonwealth, but there are still "bad actors" in among us. Help protect the future of our sport!

## **Submit an article**

If you would like to submit an article for possible publishing in our newsletter, email us at [info@vahda.org](mailto:info@vahda.org) or mail it to P.O. Box 657 Powhatan, Virginia 23139.

All VHDA Board members are real hunters who own dogs. The VHDA has no paid staff. We pay our own expenses because "We HAVE a dog in this fight!" If we sometimes sound angry, it is because we are! We would prefer to be hunting, teaching our children about the wonders that God has given us and training our dogs. We know that we must have a strong voice or we will lose to people, who not only disagree with you, but hate and revile you because you hunt.

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