



Virginia Hunting Dog Alliance

Powhatan, Virginia

September 14, 2013

Sunday Hunting will continue to be an Issue

Although it is not possible to say yet whether Sunday Hunting advocates will mount a well funded (and well lobbied) full court press to get Sunday Hunting passed by the General Assembly this year, it is safe to say legislation will be introduced. Sunday Hunting advocates have been contacting legislators; petitions are mounted in the big hunting gear stores and circulating elsewhere, and some Northern Virginia legislators are tying Lyme disease there to a lack of Sunday Hunting to cull even more deer. The threat of passage by the General Assembly is real, you may recall that the Senate passed a Sunday Hunting bill in the 2012 session.

You get lucky sometimes, but waiting for your adversaries to control the agenda, the site, and the timing of the battle is generally a good way to pave the road to an eventual defeat.

Who are the folks advocating Sunday Hunting? To be sure there is a small contingent of water fowlers who want Sunday Hunting, perhaps some other small groups, and the big outdoor gear stores. But for the most part they are urban dwellers who want to come to rural areas, do their hunting on small tracts, and speed back to their homes, leaving rural Virginia hunters to deal with irate neighbors and adjoining landowners. Most of the Sunday Hunting leaders are the same folks who led the charge to do away with dog based deer hunting via the 2007 "Hound Study". These folks are aware that Sunday Hunting is a good way to materially weaken dog based hunting because dog based hunters can't hunt on Sunday, our neighbors and those who lease land to us are against it and would prohibit it. Indeed the 2012 bill had a prohibition against Sunday Hunting with dogs added at the last minute, showing that proponents were really greedy to get more access to the wildlife resource while we got less. It would surely strengthen the anti-hunting segment of the general population, and give them something to rally around.

Who's against Sunday Hunting? The overwhelming majority of owners of large tracts of rural property oppose Sunday Hunting. Outdoor enthusiasts like the horse and saddle groups, wildlife watchers, and other outdoor recreationists are solidly against it, and so are large numbers of our citizens who want a day of rest.

The majority of hunters are against Sunday Hunting, recognizing that civility is an inherent part of the character of rural Virginians. Further recognizing that many citizens do not feel comfortable sharing the open spaces while hunters pursue their sport, their opposition is becoming more vocal.

The beginning of fall is the time when many local events occur. These events attract local government members like members of Boards Supervisors plus state legislators, so we must seize every opportunity to thwart what are really campaigns to outlaw hunting with dogs by letting our representatives know why Sunday Hunting is bad for rural Virginia. And if you don't see them, call them and express your opposition.

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Fox Preserve fight will continue in 2014 General Assembly

Senator David Marsden has made it a point to challenge the Fox Hound Training Preserves. He has taken exception to the regulations issued by DGIF. Look for Senator Marsden to attack the Fox Preservers by trying to outlaw field trials in the 2014 session. This fight is about keeping, training hunting dogs, hunting and who regulates it. The animal rights folks say that chasing foxes in preserves is cruel and that it is the next thing to dog fighting. They challenge DGIF's Board of Directors because they haven't gotten their way. Of course few of them have ever been to a fox preserve, but don't bother them with the truth because the real truth is they oppose all hunting. They know that they can't attack the entire sport in a frontal assault, so they pretend that their outrage is about Fox Preserves. If they win this fight they will pick another aspect of our sport. We will soon be faced with an attempt to outlaw hunting. Remember it was trapping in Arkansas, Bear and Mountain Lions in several western states and dove in Michigan.

You can only expose their lies by telling the truth and putting it in the papers for your neighbors to see. A lie told often enough without rebuttal soon becomes the truth. **Now is the right time to send a letter to the editor of your local newspaper with copies to your State Senator and member of the House of Delegates.** {Who is your Legislator? <http://conview.state.va.us/whosmy.nsf> }

Missing Dog Web site

One of our great weapons in the fight to defend our heritage of hunting with dogs is the truth. Our detractors portray us as not caring about our hunting dogs. The VaHDA created the Missing Dog pages on our web site to help hunter locate there lost or stolen hunting dogs. This site is unique in addition to familiar items that are usually posted other on web sites are these features:

When a hunting dog is posted to the web site EVERY licensed county or city animal pound/animal control office, local humane society, and rescue organization in Virginia is notified that the dog is missing and being sought.

This year for the first time the DGIF game regulation booklet "Hunting and Trapping in Virginia" has information about our site. It is located on page 18 with the regulations related to hunting with dogs. We hope you will encourage your friends to use this site... It helps us all!

Chapters are Key to Our Defense

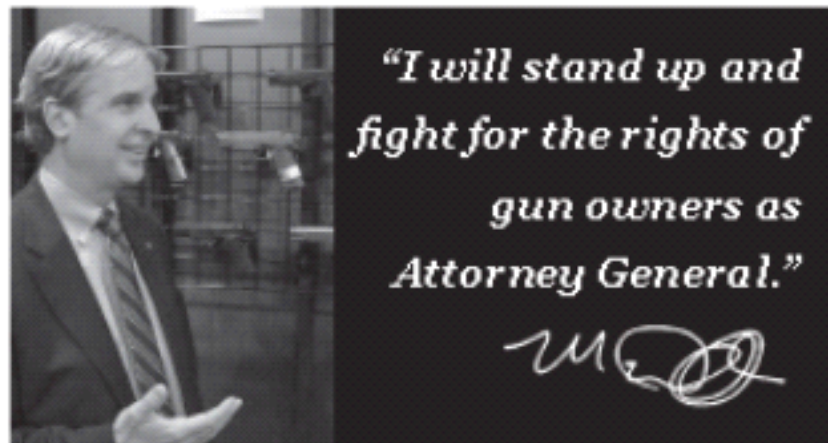
The VaHDA has committed to starting county chapters across Virginia wherever hunters are willing to make a stand to Defend Their Heritage. Twenty-nine counties and cities are organized to work with their local elected officials to protect their ability to keep dogs by watch zoning laws, animal control officers. Not a week has gone by when we haven't had to get involved at the local level. The former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives used to say that all politics are local. Hunting and dog owning have made that statement the gospel in Virginia.

Even with an active chapter the fight is constant. In Richmond County, two dogs were shot, one of them was killed by a man who had threaten to kill dogs in front of witnesses only months before. He was charged with a felony by the Commonwealth's Attorney, but the Judge saw fit to convict him of a misdemeanor and just fine him \$200.00. Outrages of this type will continue to happen until we let the public know that we will not stand for this!

Mark Obenshain for Virginia Attorney General

Mark is a true friend of Virginia's hunters. He has defended and voted in support of Fox Hound Training Preserves, opposed Sunday Hunting and has been at the forefront of legislative efforts to protect and enhance our Second Amendment rights. A senior member of Senate Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committee, Mark has been an important leader for us.

I urge you to spread the word that Mark Obenshain is the Sportsmen's candidate. We have printed Sportsmen for Obenshain bumper stickers. Ask your VaHDA chapter chairman or your GOP chairman to give you one!



CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICAN
MARK OBENSHAIN

A Recognized Conservative Leader

- ★ National Rifle Association A RATING
- ★ Family Foundation LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR
- ★ Sheriff's Association LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR
- ★ Eagle Forum LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR
- ★ American Conservative Union DEFENDER OF LIBERTY AWARD
- ★ Virginia Association of Commonwealth Attorneys CHAMPION OF JUSTICE

Mark Obenshain's

PRO-2ND AMENDMENT LEGISLATION

- SB 1335 (2013) Concealed Carry Confidentiality
- SB 465 (2004) Acceptance of concealed carry permits issued in any state.
- SB 579 (2004 -co-patros) Concealed carry in restaurants.

Conservative Leaders Jon Ritenour, Dennis Fusaro and Kirby Burch Support Mark Obenshain for Attorney General Because He Will Defend The 2nd Amendment.

★ **MARK OBENSHAIN** ★
FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL

WWW.MARKOBENSHAIN.COM

Paid for and authorized by Obenshain for Attorney General.

Upcoming Events

Whenever possible we post Sportsmen's events to the web site to help promote our friends. We encourage you to send us information for your events to info@vahda.org.

The first is Congressman Randy Forbes' Sportsman's Day. It is great when our elected officials sponsor hunting events! This is going to be an event to remember! The shooting promises to be first class, as will the food and fellowship! If you have questions or want more information contact Kirby Burch (Kirby@vahda.org) or contact Courtney Wolfe (see the flier below. Kirby hopes you will join him.



Sportsman's Day
with
CONGRESSMAN RANDY FORBES
(VA 4th-District)

September 21st, 2013

<p><u>Schedule of Events</u></p> <p>1:00 PM Registration & Safety Briefing 1:30 PM V.I.P. Skeet Shooting with Congressman Forbes 2:00 PM General Registration & Safety Briefing 2:45 PM Dove Hunt 4:00 PM Oysters, Meats, Drinks and Stories</p> <p><u>Contribution Awards</u></p> <p>VIP Shooting Sponsorship \$1,000 up to 3 guests V.I.P. Hunter \$ 500 up to 2 guests Dove Hunt, Food & Stories \$ 100 Food and Stories Ticket: \$ 50</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sportsman's Advice</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shotgun. Ammunition. License Required</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUV or Truck Access to Farm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5920 Dismal Swamp Canal Trail - Chesapeake, VA 23328</p>
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IF YOU WOULD LIKE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT COURTNEY WOLFE AT 757-373-8098 -- OR -- EMAIL COURTNEY@RANDYFORBES.COM.

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO 'FORBES FOR CONGRESS' AND MAIL TO:
 FORBES FOR CONGRESS PO BOX B100 CHESAPEAKE, VA 23328.

- _____ ENCLOSED IS MY \$1,000 VIP SHOOTING SPONSORSHIP, I WILL ARRIVE AT 1:00pm
- _____ ENCLOSED IS MY \$400 VIP HUNTER CONTRIBUTION, I WILL ARRIVE AT 1:00pm
- _____ ENCLOSED IS MY \$100 DOVE HUNT CONTRIBUTION, I WILL ARRIVE AT 2:00pm
- _____ ENCLOSED IS MY \$50 FOOD AND STORIES CONTRIBUTION; I WILL ARRIVE AT 3:30pm

I AM UNABLE TO ATTEND BUT WANT TO SHOW MY SUPPORT FOR CONGRESSMAN FORBES. PLEASE FIND MY ENCLOSED CONTRIBUTION OF \$_____

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

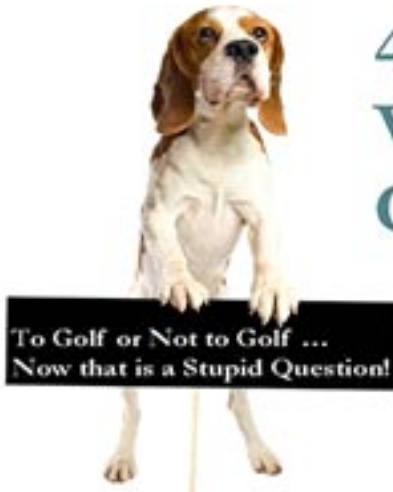
Cell Phone: _____ Web Phone: _____

Employer: _____ Occupation: _____

Contributions are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Federal Election Law requires us to report the name, address, occupation, and employer for contributions aggregating in excess of \$200 in an election cycle. The maximum an individual may contribute is \$2,400 for the primary cycle and an additional \$2,400 for the general cycle. Corporations may contribute \$1,200 for the primary cycle and an additional \$1,200 for the general cycle, respectively. Federal PACs may contribute \$1,000 for each election. Contributions from corporations, labor unions, federal government contractors, national banks, and foreign nationals without permanent residency status are prohibited.

Paid for by Forbes for Congress

The second great event that deserves your support is the 4th annual Virginia Outside Beagle Association/Virginia Fox Beagle Association Golf tournament. If you are a golfer or have friends who play please support this event!



4th Annual VOBA & VFBA Golf Tournament



September 27th
11am Registration/12pm Shotgun
At The Club At Viniterra

Proceeds will Benefit
The Virginia Outside Beagle Association, Virginia Fox Beagle Association and The Virginia Hunting Dog Alliance

Team Registration
Cost: \$75 Per Man/\$300 Per Team
Includes: Golf, Range Balls, Prizes,
Box Lunch, 50/50 Raffle, Dinner & Beverages

Available Sponsorships

Tournament Sponsor	\$450
Named as presenting sponsor on all marketing materials, one foursome, company giveaway to all players	
Lunch Sponsor	Provide Lunch
Named as Lunch Sponsor on all marketing materials and one foursome	
Dinner Sponsor	Provide Dinner
Named as Dinner Sponsor on all marketing materials and one foursome	
Hole Sponsors	\$75
Hole real estate sign, donated marketing giveaway to go in goody bag	

**For Registration/
Sponsorship**

Contact Holly Stephens
hstephens@viniterragolf.com
804.814.7970

The Club at Viniterra
8400 Old Church Road
New Kent, VA 23124

Forms Available At:
www.vafoxbeagle.com

US Dept. of Agriculture Strikes a Blow Against Dog Breeders

Sent to us from the NC Sporting Dog Association, Inc.

Bad news for dog breeders. Despite thousands of negative comments and warnings about unintended consequences, the US Dept. of Agriculture has pushed forward the APHIS rules about dog breeding. ("APHIS" is an acronym for Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, a division of the US Dept. of Agriculture.)

The purpose of the new rules is to bring internet-based pet breeders and sellers under the regulation of the federal Animal Welfare Act. [Click here to read their self-serving press release.](#) Yes, the federal government can pass this rule without going through Congress, and they intend to do so in approximately 60 days.

[Click here to read the AKC news release](#) pointing out the problems with the proposed rules.

The problem may be summarized by this: MORE GOVERNMENT INTRUSION. As you can detect in the APHIS press release, that office within the federal government has been infiltrated with animal rights radicals. These rules would give the federal government more power to inspect, control, and shut down small breeding operations. This is bad news for our sporting dog breeds.

The some AKC press release highlights:

Increase the "retail pet store" exemption to include those maintaining 4 or fewer breeding females. Those with four or fewer "breeding females" will not be subject to USDA licensure and inspection. The AKC appreciates the intent of a continued exemption for small hobby breeders.

Vague definition of "breeding female" as one having the capability of breeding. Currently, the USDA defines "breeding female" as "capacity to breed" and bases this assessment on a visual inspection on the ground of the animals involved, determining whether they are "of breeding age" and whether there are health or other factors that would limit that. The AKC believes that this is not a practical, efficient, or clear way to establish a threshold for licensing and regulation, as it does not allow either APHIS or a breeder to assess whether a seller would be subject to licensing, regulation, and inspection without first being inspected by APHIS. The AKC remains extremely concerned that the rule will make it difficult for individuals to self-report, as they would not be able to know—without an APHIS inspection and examination of their animals before applying for a license—whether they would be required to obtain a license.

Please call or write your Congressman (U.S. House of Representatives) today and ask them to defund these disastrous regulations.

Another hunter who will go to Church on Sunday

I scouted the area all summer. I searched out the best location for my tree-stand.

I set it all up a month ahead of time. I trailed the herd.

I picked out a trophy buck. Two days before opening. day I rechecked every aspect of the hunt.

Everything was in place. Sunday morning, I woke up at 2 am.

I put on my camo, loaded my pack, set out for my stand.

This was destined to be an epic hunt. As I approached my deer stand, I decided to go to Church instead:



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 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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Authorized by the Commonwealth Sportsmen's Alliance