



Virginia Bowhunters Association (VBA)

What It Has Done for You

The VBA has enjoyed more than 78 years (1941-2019) of success and has effectively represented the interests of bowhunters to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF). Below are examples of hunting-related milestones the VBA helped achieve:

- 1. 1949 – North River area (16 square miles) in Rockingham County was the first area opened to bowhunting in Virginia.**
- 2. 1953 – “Big Levels” in Augusta County was opened to bowhunting.**
- 3. 1956 – A statewide bowhunting season was enacted.**
- 4. 1985 – A separate archery license for bowhunters was established, allowing two additional deer to be harvested.**
- 5. 1994 – An additional week of bow season was added to the archery season moving it from the second Saturday in October to the first Saturday in October.**
- 6. 1994 – It was made legal to harvest turkey with a bow during the early archery season.**
- 7. 2003 – It was made legal to harvest a black bear during the early archery season statewide.**
- 8. 2005 – The VBA opposed the effort to legalize the use of crossbows in the regular archery season and in the process many valuable messages about hunting safety and ethics were reinforced with all involved.**
- 9. 2007 – New “Urban Archery” regulations expanded the archery season by months in many locations and included harvest incentives such as “earn a buck.”**
- 10. 2009 – We resumed the responsibility to coordinate the After the Schools Archery Program (ASAP) in Virginia.**
- 11. 2010 – Supported a successful VDGIF plan to reintroduce elk to Virginia; sponsored state-wide charity shoots to benefit St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and Hunters for the Hungry; revitalized the International Bowhunter Education Program in Virginia in conjunction with the VDGIF & National Bowhunter Education Foundation (NBEP/IBEP.)**

- 12. 2011 – We were opposed to adding a Bear Hunting license on top of our Big Game license. We supported the following: to expand the Urban Archery season to a few cities that were excluded in 2002; expand the “Youth” hunting day to include Fairfax, Loudoun and Pr. William counties and close the elk season in Buchanan, Dickenson and Wise counties for disease testing.**
- 13. 2012 – We were in support to remove the daily limit and make it unlimited to hunt in Fairfax, Loudoun and Pr. William counties to bring the herd under control; and the unauthorized feeding of deer, bear and other wildlife. (to be made available for collection of biological Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).)**
- 14. 2014 – We were in support of making it legal to allow Sunday hunting on private land (with written permission;) combined the archery and crossbow license into one license; require the use of blaze orange during muzzleloading and bowhunting season; prohibited the hunting of deer or bear with the aid or assistance of dogs on Sunday; and to allow persons holding an apprentice hunting license to hunt unsupervised upon completion of a hunter education course.**
- 15. 2017 – We were opposed having a three-day bear season the week before the archery season and for handicap archers that hunt with a bow; and the running bears with guns would harm all bowhunters.**
- 16. 2018 – We were opposed of Arrow Guns for use in the archery season. We went to Richmond, fought it and got the legislation to change it the way we wanted it.**
- 17. 2018 – We are still opposed to the three-day early Bear season and the separation of the Bear Tags.**

**The VBA will continue our efforts to preserve and expand
hunting privileges for Virginia bowhunters.**