

BEDFORD YOUTH HUNTS A HUGE SUCCESS

The Virginia Hunter Education Association Inc., in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF), conducted two Youth Deer Hunting Workshops on Saturday, November 20th & December 18th, 2010. The hunts were conducted on property belonging to the Bedford County Economic Development Authority located in the New London area of Bedford County. These workshops marked the fifth and sixth such events conducted in Bedford county in the past three years and continues the partnership between these Agencies and the Economic Development Authority. The workshops created an incredible opportunity for some area youth to experience hunting in a safe, controlled and learning environment. At the first hunt nine youngsters, ages 12 to 15, participated in the all day event, beginning with a morning hunt, an instructional session on deer biology, deer hunting techniques, and firearms safety. This was followed with each youth and parent sharing in a hearty lunch before heading back to the blinds for the afternoon hunt. The late muzzle loading hunt allowed eleven youth hunters this same opportunity.

The hunts began at approximately 6:00 A.M. with each youth being accompanied by a parent/guardian and supervised by a certified Virginia Hunter Education Instructor. Each hunting location had been pre-determined, with ground blinds set up to accommodate all participants. The hunts continued until the close of legal hours with seven deer being harvested, many deer seen and smiles all around. A heartfelt thanks go out to the members of the Virginia Hunter Education Association, DGIF employees and all other volunteers who were instrumental in successfully providing these youth deer hunting workshops. Additionally, thanks go out to the Association for their fund raising efforts and to all the vendors who so graciously provided donations. The numerous donations received made it possible to provide lunch, snacks, and hunting related door prizes for all the youth participants at no charge.

Over the past three years these hunts have offered many unique opportunities for area youth to experience the hunting tradition in a safe and ethical manner. With each passing year, we continue to see the excitement and enthusiasm in the faces of every youth and parent and are met with resounding anticipation of the next years hunts!!