



Hunting with Hounds in Virginia: A Way Forward

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and Virginia Tech's have entered into a joint venture to examine Virginia's hunting with hounds. (www.dgif.state.va.us/hunting/hounds). I was invited to join a focus group meeting at the Piedmont Community College on December 19th. The focus groups are Phase I of the process of gathering information. Of the 20 people attending my focus group, only 4 persons were non-mounted hunters with hounds.

It was stated at the beginning of the meeting the "goal was to help address issues related to hound hunting and make it better, *not* to end or restrict hound hunting, and also to hold off any legislation to do so."

After introductions of each participant, the VT task group representative asked each participant the following questions:

1. Why/How is foxhunting important to you? Favorite answer: enjoying the outdoors with generations of families and passing on these traditions,
2. What are biggest issues? Very interesting: #1 being land to hunt on; urban sprawl. Also, anti-hunters, clash of lifestyle and attitude. Need to educate former city dwellers on wildlife habits and the economic impact of foxhunting, and children in the early grades. Another issue was "unethical" hunts (turning hounds loose on properties without permission)
3. What can be done about the unethical deer hunters and unethical hunts? Again, educating our own communities, being respectful of landowners, being good ambassadors for the sport.
4. Are there areas not to hunt? As Lt. Col. Dennis Foster said, "Places to not hunt would be those with busy highways on 3-4 sides of your fixture." Mr. Foster explained the MFHA, our Code of Hunting Practices, and the self-enforcements of each of our groups.

Questions from our group to the VT & DGIF representatives were:

1. Define the problem? . . . consensus among this focus group was not to draw a line between mounted hunters and non-mounted; some non-mounted hunters belong to a group, however none have the self-regulated group as the MFHA.
2. How will the advisory committee be selected? In order to be on the advisory committee the requirement is that person(s) must support the goal of preservation of hound hunting and will be made up of stakeholders, landowners, etc. (refer to VDGIF website).

The VT representative did mention concern for "animal welfare being an issue of non-hunters," (mostly the hound(s) being thin and being run).

Of the 16 focus groups there were 2 focus groups each of coon, deer, bear, other, owners, corporate landowners (timber, federal), non-consumptive non-hunters, hunters without hounds, and of course mounted and un-mounted foxhunters. The information gathered from the focus groups will be put together and summarized on the VDGIF website. The advisory committee will be selected and meet 4-6 times starting in February 2008. Public hearings will be next summer, and the final report will be next fall.

Brenda Simmons, President, Glenmore Hunt Club

Events of Special Note

January

1st—Joint Meet with Rockbridge, Bedford, @ Hunt, Inc RB. Call Jewell.

3rd—Social Committee meets at Glenmore Office

8th—Glenmore Board and Membership meeting

February

9th—“Beat the Winter Blues” Social

March

23rd—Closing Hunt with Breakfast

Social Committee Meeting

The Social committee will meet on Thursday, January 3 (6:30 PM) at the Glenmore office in Staunton. There are a number of important events to plan and all Glenmore members are invited to attend.

Joanne

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Glenmore Hunt Board of Director 2007-2008

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Col Hugh B. Sproul, III, *Vice President*

Dwight F. Phelps, *Honorary Secretary*

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Janet Jones, *Member at large (Hunt Status)*

Christopher T. Thompson, *Member at large (Hunt Status)*

Frank L. Hall, *Member at large (Non-hunt Status)*

Robert C. Heitler, *Member of large (Non-hunt Status)*

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Glenmore Hunt WebSite:

Secretary's Corner

The January meeting of the Glenmore Hunt Club, Inc. Will be held Tuesday, January 8th at the home of Terri Smith, Staunton, VA
BOD meets at 7 PM Membership 8 PM

New Members

Ms Carol Ann O'Conner
514 Northglen Lane
Harrisonburg, VA 22802
540-574-4706

Ms. Sarah E. Lyman
(Jr.Member)
1500 N. Coalter Street, E-9
Staunton, VA 24401
448-4487

Resigned

George Wiltshire

Dwight Phelps, Hon Secretary

Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting

The ad-hoc planning committee met at the Glenmore Office on Tuesday, November 27th. Members present included **MFH Dan Jones, H-MFH Graham Pitsenberger, Joe Manning, Stacy Thompson, Angelika O'Donnell, and Jakki Avery**. MFH Dan Jones moderated the meeting and asked the group to discuss one of the bullet points created at a previous meeting: Implement a long-term financial plan that supports membership objectives.

After lengthy discussion, the group plans to recommend that the club seek ways to eliminate the loan currently held on the kennel facility. Several debt-reduction methods were discussed, but the one that seemed to resonate most with the committee was a suggestion to hold one annual fundraiser whose proceeds would be used to reduce the principle balance of the loan. The committee felt it reasonable to recommend a goal of eliminating this debt within the next 3–5 years.

Glenmore is a healthy and prosperous club. Eliminating the club's only debt would put the club on more secure financial footing and free funds currently budgeted for loan reduction for other purposes.

Jakki

Correction: Hunter Pace Winner Addition: First place, Junior Optimum winner: **Helen “Allie” Farley** placed first with her partner **Casey Lowe**. Confusion arose because we don't think of “our” Allie as Helen.

Virginia Hunt Week 2007—Share the Adventure

(Last month, Hugh shared with Glenmore members his experience while riding with Rappahannock Hunt. This month we join him for his recap of Old Dominion Hounds. This article concludes our in-depth coverage of 2007 Virginia Hunt Week. Ed)

The Old Dominion Hounds, organized in 1924 is located a few miles south of Hume in Fauquier County in the foot hills of the Blue Ridge. A field of thirty turned out with twenty in first flight. We departed the meet down a dirt road a short distance and the huntsman, Gerald Keal (from England) began to draw a large corn field in a valley. Hounds soon opened, we crossed the road and galloped to the top of a hill overlooking the area of the meet and the kennels. Our field master MFH Gus Forbush had us in position to watch the pack work a line across our front from left to right. Then we all watched a big red fox cross the same area from right to left. As I sat in this field I observed that the fence on every side had a coop. As the day progressed I realized that every field we entered was paneled the same way. I have never seen such perfectly paneled country. After this action subsided we returned to the cornfield, drew it again and hunted on to the south. After a while the music started and we were off on a nice long gallop through beautifully maintained trails through large stands of hardwood forest and over a few newly constructed coops. After a while we came into a field beside a thicket in which the hounds had put the fox to ground. After the usual formalities and flasks making the rounds we hunted on, had a short run and put a second fox to ground. After three and a half hours we were back at the corn field, the sun was warm and minds were contemplating food and drink.

All of a sudden as Gerald was assembling his pack some of them opened in the woods across the stream. Gus listened a few moments then observed “He’s not calling them off.” “I think I’d better check it out.” Seven of us went with him; the rest went in. We crossed the creek, jumped a coop and flew up the hill with our ears full of sweet music. Essentially we circled the area of the run, jumped 4 coops, galloped through fields and woods gloriously for about a half hour. This was definitely the highlight of the day. By the time we came in the crowd had eaten, had a drink and departed, but there was plenty of delicious food and liquid refreshment left for “The Magnificent Seven” and the hunt staff.

Gus Forbush is one of the best field masters I’ve had the pleasure to follow. On the hill top where we all viewed the red fox he positioned us perfectly and told us what to look for. When hounds were running we had nice gallops though beautiful country and over lots of jumps. When hounds were not running we went through lots of gates and spared our horses. He was a wonderful leader and gracious host.

Hugh Sproul, H-MFH

Kudus: To Hugh Sproul for his writing catching the eye of *Covertside* editors. Check out page 48 of the December 2007 issue to see a quote from his October, 2007 *Glenmore News* history series highlighted. Glenmore members will enjoy re-visiting the wonderful story of Jack Todd and his horse ‘Important Business.’ (Ed)

Recap of the Annual Finance Committee Meeting

Special thanks to **J-MFH Jewell Phelps and Dwight, Hugh Brown, and Frank Hall** who were able to participate in November 28’s Finance Committee meeting. Our annual task of developing a budget for next year was completed in fine fashion. **Bebe Wills** (Membership), **Joanne VanSiclen** (Social), **Angelika O’Donnell** (Green Pages, Publications and Publicity) were unable to attend. MFH Phelps presented input from **J-MFH Dan Jones**. The composition of the Finance Committee this year did not include representatives for the History, Hunt, or Newsletter Committees, nor our Merchandise person; but there was enough Glenmore experience attending to properly address those categories, too. The 2008 Budget is slightly larger than that of 2007, but no increase in dues or paneling fees. The proposed budget was presented to membership for approval at the December 4th meeting. Thanks again for your service on the Finance Committee.

Graham, Chair.

A Valentine for the Hounds

Ever wonder how the Glenmore hounds got such a nice place to live? It's been a long story. Here are some of the highlights.

The Glenmore hounds lived in various places, including with huntsmen and/or masters over the past seventy plus years, often losing their home when something changed, such as the death of a landowner/landlord, change of MFH, etc. There were occasions when the Hunt owned kennel property that was sold at the whim of whoever the current Hunt leadership was at the time. In more recent history, following a long legal process, a few members decided a permanent facility was necessary to help preserve the Glenmore name and traditions, without recurring lodging/kennel upheavals.

In February of 1998, a stock corporation, the *Glenmore Foundation, Inc.*, was formed for the specific purpose of purchasing and holding property in support of the Glenmore hounds and Hunt. Organizational meetings were held to set up the separate corporation and the leadership set about the task of searching for appropriate kennel properties. Several were considered, and public hearings were held as required by Augusta County Zoning regulations to operate a kennel. One of the public hearings saw a large turnout of nearby property owners who came to express concerns about safety and noise issues having a kennel located close to areas where children play outside. One homeowner even said he was worried about the hounds eating his children! Needless to say, that property was not approved by the Zoning Department to house the Glenmore hounds.

Undaunted, the Foundation leaders kept searching and finally found the current property. The Foundation sold stock for \$100 per share to raise money to buy it and subsequently lease it to the Hunt Club. The location was approved by the County officials, and the work began. And, did it, ever! The property was previously owned by a gentleman who was in the salvage business. His widow decided to sell the property. Talk about salvage! While there are currently four buildings on the property, there were originally around twenty more scattered through the trees and grounds. The previous owner used salvage materials to make "houses" for each of his many children and to hold his salvage materials! But there were not only buildings; there were stacks and stacks of broken windows, hundreds of doors, piles and piles of porcelain commodes and sinks, lumber, electrical fixtures and wiring, etc, etc. Most of this was hidden in overgrowth.

Many, many hours, days, weeks, months, and yes, years, have been given by the Hunt membership to make improvements to the kennel property. Some days there was a crew of only women digging in the dirt to install new water lines! The Foundation has reimbursed the Hunt for some of the capital improvements to the property made by this hard work. The support from the Hunt membership has been outstanding! In addition to the hard labor, nearly every Hunt member purchased stock in the first couple years. At present, the majority of the dues-paying Hunt Club members own from one to eighty shares. Some landowner members also own stock. And, stockholders include many people who are not and never have been members of the Hunt, but who recognize the importance of Glenmore contributions and foxhunting to conservation and the quality of rural life we enjoy in the Valley.

The stock value has increased enormously since its initial offering in 1998. At the last stockholders meeting in late November, the stock was valued at \$203.08 per share—and it can still be purchased for \$100! New President, **Sandy Cryder** and the Foundation Board members are planning another Glenmore Family Picnic at the kennel property following the 4th of July parade, so mark your calendars now to attend!

By completing the enclosed stock purchase form, you can give a Valentine to the Glenmore hounds AND become a voting Foundation stockholder. *People come and go, but the Foundation is the underpinning for the Hunt's future.* You can express your support with the purchase (or pledge) of some or more stock with the Foundation Secretary, Jakki Avery (540-255-6378).

If you have not visited the Glenmore Foundation property and seen how royally the hounds live, please do so anytime! (Oh, and they are NOT noisy, and DO NOT eat children! ☺

Jeanne Pitsenberger,
past President, Glenmore Foundation

GLENMORE FOUNDATION, INC.

1. Enclosed please find \$ _____ to purchase _____ shares of Glenmore Foundation stock @ \$100 per share.

2. I/We pledge to purchase _____ shares of Glenmore Foundation stock for a total of \$ _____

of which \$ _____ is enclosed. The balance will be paid as follows:

\$ _____ Quarterly / Monthly / Yearly \$ _____ Other (specify) _____

I/We want stock issued to: _____
(Print name exactly as you want stock certificate(s) to be issued. For example, you and your spouse, child, grandchild, etc.)

(NOTE: The Secretary may contact you for details to issue co-ownership stock)

Stockholder Address: _____

Signature _____ **Date** _____

[Please make checks payable to: Glenmore Foundation, Inc.]

Please return to: **Secretary**
 GLENMORE FOUNDATION, INC.
 P. O. Box 396
 Staunton, VA. 24402-0396

Comments/ instructions as to other methods of payment, etc.

Meet your 2008 Foundation Board:

Sandy Cryder, Pres.
Bebe Wills, VP
Jakki Avery, Sec
Graham Pitsenberger, Treas.
Roger Ashley
Hugh Brown
Jeanne Pitsenberger
Hugh Sproul, III
Frank Hall

Christmas Gala Great Fun

Mother Nature smiled on Glenmore and delayed the forecasted ice storm until the club's annual Christmas party was over. More than fifty guests attended, including Glenmore's youngest member. **Garrett Jennings**, newborn son of **Sheila and Jeff Jennings**, made his first hunt club social outing. All the ladies (and some gents) enjoyed holding the future foxhunter.

Anne and Dennis Avery hosted this year's party. Their home was decorated for the season with greenery, ribbons, and candles and, of course, trees. **Stacy Thompson** coordinated the food, and this year's buffet seemed the ideal, lovely holiday meal. There were salads, pasta dishes, green vegetables of several varieties, salmon, venison, ham, roast beef concluding with a wide-variety of pies, cheese cakes, and even baklava. It was quite a feast, and the fellowship was even more enjoyable than the food.

MFH Dan Jones and **Jewell Phelps** gathered folks in the Avery's main room after the meal had been served to make a few announcements. Whips **Jan Jones, T Stewart, Logan Hedrick, and Sara Wood** were honored for their help with the hounds and hunting. Colors were then awarded to several members after Dan gave reasons and descriptions of the recipients. Members had great fun guessing the obvious clues and cheered loudly as **Angelika O'Donnell, Linnette Coaker, Joe Manning, and Hugh Brown** were awarded colors. Those who missed the party should ask Dan to repeat his "WHOA Bailey" imitation.

The Christmas party was truly a delightful evening and Glenmore owes gratitude to Anne and Dennis Avery for providing such splendid hospitality. Hosting a large party takes much preparation, and those of us who enjoyed it are grateful to their hard work.



Above left: **Vicki Drumheller** and **Brenda Simmons** enjoy Glenmore's new member, **Garrett Jennings**. Above right: **Linnette Coaker, Angelika O'Donnell, Joe Manning, and Hugh Brown** all received their colors. Below left: **Joanne and Pete vanSiclen**.

Junior Hunt Well Attended

Glenmore hosted its fall Junior meet on Saturday, December 22nd at **Harriet Hanger's** lovely *Cobble Hill* Farm. The meet was attended by seven juniors, including our own junior members **Casey Lowe** and **Allie Farley**. **Emily Guyer** brought along her younger brother Zach, who was seen grinning from ear to ear as he expertly jumped the black tarp barrier at Carr's aboard his pony Almond Joy. **Jewell Phelps** invited her granddaughter Marlee up for the weekend and generously relinquished her beloved Skip to afford Marlee the fun of foxhunting. **Joe Manning** stepped up to lead the Hilltopper field since Jewell was car following. **Linnette Coaker's** young friend Lauren seems smitten with the sport. She returned again for Boxing Day. Thanks to everyone who brought out a junior. It is imperative that we continue to introduce our sport to the next generation. Many of our current members were introduced to the sport as children.



Pictured above: **Casey Lowe** and her great all-around pony Jellyroll, who is sadly outgrown and for sale. The editors would be happy to pass along contact information to any interested parties. Email aaavery@comcast.net.

Above right: Kizuri Lamper and Marlee Putnam. Below: Moving off for a great day of sport. Below left: New member **Cindy Kiser**.



Masters' Corner

Many things have been happening.

Dan and I have been delivering goodies to landowners in appreciation of their generosity in allowing Glenmore to hunt on their property. We thank the members that provided the goodies to deliver. To date, we've been able to touch base with many of our landowners.

We had a wonderful Christmas Party at the Averys' in spite of threatening weather. Thank you, Anne and Dennis, for hosting this event. The Masters' were please to award colors to four members at the Christmas Party. These members have been enthusiastic, contributing members and are an asset to our hunt. Colors were awarded to Linnette Coaker, Angelika O'Donnell, Joe Manning, and Hugh Brown.

As members you need to be aware that there is a Hunting with Hounds study in process in Virginia. There are many issues surrounding this, be sure to read Brenda' report on the focus group session she attended (page 1).

We've been able to carry on the very old tradition of foxhunting because of the landowners and because of our hounds. The hounds have been really excited about hunting lately and we've heard lots of "hound music" the last two hunts. The fox and the coyote came out to play with the hounds, then they went safely home, providing everyone, man and beast, with good days spent enjoying our beautiful Shenandoah Valley.

Jewell

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GLENMORE HUNT, INC.
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This
Issue*