



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release 01-20
March 3, 2020

Virginia Peninsula Sportsmen's Association Announces New Partnership with the Virginia Outdoor Sportsman Show

Richmond, Va. – The Virginia Peninsula Sportsmen's Association (VPSA) and the Virginia Outdoor Sportsman Show will collaborate in August 2020 to produce Virginia's only and oldest Deer, Bear, and Turkey judging contest. The contest has been sanctioned by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) and will take place August 7-9 at the Richmond International Raceway Complex.

The VPSA is a non-profit organization that has been the primary sponsor of Virginia's oldest and most prestigious Game Contest since 1940. The 37th annual Virginia Outdoor Sportsman Show is Virginia's largest and longest running hunting show featuring hundreds of exhibitors including outfitters, retailers, and organizations.

2020 marks the VPSA's 81st year as the producer of the Virginia Big Game Contest. The first Big Game Contest was held on September 23, 1940 in Hampton, Virginia and was open to any deer legally bagged in Virginia prior to 1940. This contest is the oldest continuous State Big Game Contest still in existence in the nation.

VPSA worked directly with the Game Commission in the early years to restock deer and turkey in Virginia. The VPSA had a holding pen for deer in Newport News; this location is now called Deer Park. Many deer passed through the holding pen before being released into Virginia's herd. VPSA had its first turkey release in early 1941 at Lee Hall. Twenty-one of the twenty-four turkeys that VPSA had attempted to raise were successfully released then.

On August 7-9 the VPSA will champion the 81st Virginia Big Game Contest at the Richmond International Raceway Complex as part of the Virginia Outdoor Sportsman Show. The contest is open to any legally bagged deer, bear, or turkey harvested from anywhere within the Commonwealth of Virginia during the 2019-20 hunting season.

This is your chance to see the biggest bucks taken in Virginia. Deer hunters throughout the Old Dominion will bring their mounts to this prestigious contest. Certified judges from VPSA and VDGIF will be awarding a Western Regional, Eastern Regional, and State Championship all under one roof. Virginia State Citations will also be given by the VPSA and VDGIF for qualifying entries.

Hunters must have a certified Virginia Game Check Card or their confirmation number on their hunting license from the Game Department's Telephone/Internet Checking System in order to enter a deer, bear, or turkey in the contest. In addition, there is a Historical Division that includes any deer taken or deadhead found from a previous season in Virginia. Historical division entries do not require a game check card. This year's contest will be judged on the Virginia Scoring System.

The \$15 per entry fee includes official scoring of one trophy whitetail, turkey, and/or bear, a free weekend pass to the outdoor show, and an official State Citation (if qualified) with score and entry into the official Virginia Record Book.

For more information about the contest, please visit www.vpsa.org, which has more details and the list of official rules. For questions not answered by the website, please call or email Mike Jones at 757-371-3335 or vpsa.big.game.contest@gmail.com.

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For more information about the Virginia Peninsula Sportsmen's Association visit www.vpsa.org