



# Wildlife Action

## PEE DEE CHAPTER

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## MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

### Visitors

Gabe Hoover introduced himself to the group. He is interested in joining the PDWLA Park . Simon Carraway is his sponsor. He has a lifetime of experience with firearms and is looking for a range closer to home. Gabe is in the flooring business . He owns and operates the Hometown Floor Coverings in Florence.

### Meeting

Meeting was opened at 9am in prayer by Charlie Adams followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Approximately 20 members were in attendance including Board Members Wade, Adams, Burrows & Cox. Meeting was led by President Kevin Casper. This was a great turnout given the extreme wet weather forecast for the day.

Last month's Meeting Notes were unanimously approved as published.

### Treasury Report was given by K.Wyrick.

We now have a total of \$13,366 in the checking and contingency accounts. We had an income of \$2300 last month. This is the last significant income anticipated for 2024 unless we receive additional grants or other major donations. We spent \$2100 which includes \$407 last month for G. Lees property taxes. Also, approximately \$1000 for authorized skeet range maintenance and improvements. The remaining on utilities, and other misc expenditures. Also, a memorial donation of \$225 intended for Mullins was returned to National.

### CRSO report was given by S.Cox

Discussed the importance of members who come out to the range by themselves to let someone know we are out here and give them a heads up when we leave. This is very very similar to having a float plan when boating. This is a smart thing to do given the age of the group. Remember, "Safety Matters" !

The posted March roster is showing 98 members including the Maranatha Trap team from Fall. Therefore, total count and names will change slightly when the Spring Trap Team starts up in a few weeks. We lost 5 members due to 2024 PUF nonpayment. This was anticipated. Also, the March roster does not have the February volunteer hours posted. These will be picked up in next months roster along with the March hours.

### New/ Misc Business

J. Hales reports the trap team will be provided shooting vests this year from grant funds recently received. They still need approximately \$500 to complete the purchase. The vests will be supplied from Schofields Hardware and stored on site. Please contact Steve Marsh or Rodney Howard if you would like to contribute. Youth participation is the future of shooting sports so please be supportive.

K.Casper reports D. Rhodes of LNSDTR is requesting 3 shotgunners to assist with the upcoming dog trials this month in Camden. Roger Burrows volunteered to head up the group scheduled for March 23 . Might be a great opportunity for one of the experienced Maranatha Team shooters to assist. Roger will follow up to recruit a 3 shooters.

Dennis gave an update on the Skeet range activities. Upgrades and related maintenance are approximately half done. He is requesting help to finish prework off site for roofing panels replacement. The rabbit house is completed and in position. The total spend is reported to be tight but within budget. He will continue to request help as needed to finish this effort.

K.Casper gave the group a quick overview on the new SC Constitutional Carry legislation recently signed into law by Gov Henry McMaster:

- Law Abiding citizens can carry concealed or open without permits.
- Firearms can be in car fully visible of secured
- When stopped for traffic violation need not report you have a firearm or CWP
- Police cannot stop you just because firearm seen need reasonable suspicion of a crime
- Training to be offered by law enforcement
- CWP program still stands for ease of purchasing a gun and ammo

This new law may open opportunities for PDWLA to provide some basic training services for women and men alike for the safe handling and use of firearms who might not desire the legality of the CWP program. John Etheridge to contact police and Sheriff departments for opportunities in training.

Dennis gave the group his plan for the Hunt Club to have a youth hunt this coming deer season. J Etheridge shared his personal experience with this. It is a great opportunity to make a positive lifelong impression that on a young man or woman.

We have an offer by the son of J.Hale to help us get the park entrance roadway restored to an acceptable condition. Jim's son has access to professional road grading equipment. We would pay for the operator (approx. 25\$/hr) as well as fuel. We would also provide him a fully paid

National Membership and Park membership (including initiation) for the year. Kevin asked the attendees to vote on the proposal which almost passed unanimously (one nay).

### Hunt Club Report

K.Casper shared that SC Turkey population is in decline. Pressure from predators (coyotes and the like) plus loss of habitat are thought to be the main causes. R.Burrows shared that coyotes are definitely a major cause around the Hunt Club area.

### Fishing Report

R.Burrows shared Herring and Shad are running. 129 Shad per day per person is the allowable limit. He is seeing lots of activity in the St Stephens and diversion canal area, Stripers and Bream are also being caught in the Big Pee Dee. Fish the swirling water for best results. Roger recently won a salt water fishing trip, so stay tuned for the results from that excursion.

### Environmental Report

J.Etheridge reported that Clemson Extension Service is again offering soil testing services for homeowners or hunters that plant food plots for wildlife. Cost is \$6. This is an excellent tool to help avoid runoff of excessively applied fertilizer chemicals into our local creeks and rivers. For the same reason he also recommends not using cultivators for food plots.

### Workday Rescheduling

S.Cox advised we try rescheduling today's canceled workday event to Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup> (short April Chapter meeting following by approx. 4 hrs of activity and lunch) This will replace the normal Sunday meeting presently scheduled for 2:30 pm Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup>.

Like today, we will monitor the local weather forecast and make adjustments as needed. Also asked for volunteers who are willing to spend a couple hrs after today's meeting working under the picnic shelter on some simple prework for the upcoming work day.

### Last Call

D.Evans inquired about the status of the security cameras for the park. D. Wade and W..Floyd were heading that effort up. Dennis acknowledged there has been little progress so far, he has been focusing on Skeet Range activity. Charlie Adams volunteered to join this team. Goal is be able to share the best options (including budget pricing) with the membership ...stay tuned

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.

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Post meeting update- the rainy weather cleared and approximately a dozen members stayed

after the meeting assembling horizontal beams for the backstops, removing dirt from around the bowling pin targets, and installing barrier railings to replace the flags on the Skeet Range. Kevin cooked up some burgers for lunch. Members enjoyed the pretty afternoon and fellowship.