



Wildlife Action

PEE DEE CHAPTER

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MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

Meeting was opened at 2:30PM by Kevin Casper. Reggie Armstrong led prayer and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance. Approximately 20 members were in attendance including Board Members, Steve Cox, Roger Burrows, Dennis Wade, Steve O'Harra and Dan Packard plus Keith Wyrick Treasurer and Donnie Wheeler Secretary. Meeting led by John Etheridge vice president. February minutes were reviewed and approved.

New Business:

Kevin Casper reviewed a current issue with spent brass not being policed from various ranges. Majority of brass involved is a combination of 9 mm and .223 casings. Members are reminded to maintain the ranges and police up spent brass. Further discussions or action will be taken if the issue persists. Please leave the range cleaner than you found it.

The rifle range has been cleaned up and widened. There is one wet area at 200 yds that needs to be addressed either with grading or adding sand to resolve this issue. Further discussion will be held to determine the most effective way to address this matter,

This is the time of year when the range needs some general clean-up and TLC due to leaves, small limbs etc. It was requested that RSO and members make an effort when at the range to clean up some areas during part of your time at the range.

Discussion and decision made to set a general work day to include some time for clean up and maintenance to be held on Saturday April 12, 2025. The monthly meeting will be held at 9:00 am that Saturday followed by the work day and hopefully some time for shooting after lunch. There will be activity on the range and across the street around the pond.

Maranatha spring trap season begins on 3/15/2025. They practice on the shot gun range until noon on Saturday mornings. Most team members are returning for the spring season, They will have 10 shooters.

CRSO report - Steve Cox

There are currently 98 members in the park. This year 10 members did not renew Park memberships for various reasons (including 4 RSOs) The locks have been changed and keys are being distributed to current members. Please turn old keys into the box in the sign-in area.

Several park policies are under review for any needed updates or changes as part of a 4-year review process. Any items identified will be discussed and updated as needed. Only minor changes are anticipated.

Steve O'Harra is the RSO Training Officer for the shot gun range. Any RSO who desires training on opening and operating the trap machines and safely monitoring this range should contact Steve O'Harra.

Treasurers Report was given by Keith Wyrick.

The Treasurer's report shows a favorable balance at this time. Club has approximately \$13,512.01 balance in checking/savings. Does not include Hunt Club balance of approximately \$4,303.60. The January lease payment has been paid and is reflected in the current balance.

At this time the bulk of regular revenue has come in with exception of dues rebates from National and PUF payments from Maranatha Trap Team.

Old Business

Fishing Report was given by Roger Burrows

Spring is approaching so many opportunities are coming up when spawning seasons begin. Crappy are beginning their migration in the Santee area. Shell crackers are moving in Lake Marion. Unique experience available in Congaree State Park. They have tree cabins for rent. You can access the cabins by canoe/boat and spend the night. This is an opportunity to enjoy being away from the internet etc. and fish or enjoy nature. Contact the park for details and to rent a treehouse.

Hunt Club Report Dennis Wade

The Hunt club is in the process of changing locks and new keys will be available when this is completed. There are Park members expressing more interest in fishing the pond. Members are welcome to fish but are being asked to take some time to help with some cleanup on the hunt club side. There are some nesting Canadian Geese around the pond. Please do not disturb their nesting area if you are cleaning up or fishing. He has some people express interest in stocking the pond and these discussions are on-going. The Hunt club is hoping more youth will come and fish. The ponds need to have some additional cleanup for this to happen. It is recommended the bug repellent be used while working around the hunt club or fishing. Contact D. Wade for more information.

Education report Bob Veasey

Turkey season is April 03 – May 03, 2025.

Strict limitations for harvesting 1 Jake
Strict guidelines prohibit stalking turkeys on public or private land
DNR requires you report your harvest the same day and encourages reporting online or using a text app.

Environmental Report John Etheridge

The Ardor Foundation is planning to plant 10 million trees this year. They are also focusing on areas most affected by Hurricane Helene and the severely flooded areas.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

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