



# Wildlife Action

## PEE DEE CHAPTER

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## APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

### Meeting Notes

Meeting was opened at 2:30 pm by Victoria Heath. Victoria offered a prayerful message and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance. Approximately 20 members and 3 guests were in attendance including Board Members Dennis Wade, Mike Hopewell, Nick Carter & Steve Cox plus Victoria Heath VP, Pete Kennedy Treasurer, and Donnie Wheeler Secretary. Meeting was led by Victoria Heath. President John Etheridge was out of town.

March minutes were reviewed and approved.

### New Business:

Reviewed 200 rifle range currently being closed to address issues with erosion and reduced backstop height. Reviewing options to refurbish using new fill with higher clay content. Two bids submitted so far, however different options being studied and more bids are being sought out. Different avenues for funding are also being considered.

We were advised mid-March that the current WLA liability carrier has notified Frank Oliver (WLA National CEO) that they will be inspecting all the insured WLA firing ranges. Frank had told us Rick Hemmingway (owner and manager of Back Woods Quail Club in Georgetown) would be the designated 3<sup>rd</sup> party inspector for the insurer. According to a telecon w/Frank Oliver, our 200 yd range backstop reportedly would not comply with minimum height requirement (15 ft) in its current condition. The Club is being proactive with steps to maintain and improve the range. Date of the proposed inspection has not been determined (see post meeting note)

### CRSO report – Steve Cox

Current roster has 92 listed members.

3 visitors attended...Braxton Barnett, Everette McMillan and Avie Rainwater. Braxton and Everette are new landowners for hunting property adjacent to the PDWLA range. Avie Rainwater is a clay shooting enthusiast and a friend of Wendel Jones.

### Treasurers Report was given by Pete Kennedy.

Club has approximately \$14,480 balance in checking/savings.

### Old Business -NA

### Fishing Report - Dennis Wade

Fishing activity is good for this time of year with warming temperatures and spawning season.

### Hunt Club Report - Dennis Wade

Turkey season is open with limit of two tags. 7 raccoons and 2 possums have been trapped on club property. Trapping efforts will continue. This is favorable for turkeys and other nesting birds. Members are encouraged to participate in planned coyote and raccoon management hunts.

Dennis requested help in completing roof installation with the elevated tower on the shotgun range after today's meeting.

Dennis is also researching a wireless target viewing system for potential addition to the rifle range.

### Environment Report-David Evans

Reviewed an article by Dr. Matthew Wielicki from Earth Science magazine. The author discussed that testing shows Earth's atmosphere currently continues at about 400ppm of CO2. His research presented that the Earth's climate would be healthier if levels were closer to 1000 PPM. He reviewed that the current position considering that CO2 is a pollutant and negative greenhouse gas is false.

### Education Bob Veasey

Cheraw State Park located in Chesterfield County was built by the Civilian Conservation Corp in 1934. It is the oldest state park in SC. It has 7,362 acres and includes a championship 18-hole golf course, Lake Juniper, and an extensive trail system for hiking, biking, and horses. Cabin

rentals are available. Some original buildings have been preserved. For more information go to [Southcarolinaparks.com](http://Southcarolinaparks.com)

Meeting adjourned 3:10pm

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#### Post Meeting Notes

May meeting has been changed from Mother's Day 5/10 to 5/17/26. The calendar, web page and FB have been updated. (enjoy Mother's Day with your family!)

Telecon 4/24/26 with WLA National CEO Frank Oliver revealed the liability insurance company (Philadelphia Insurance) has accepted National's payment for this year's premium without requiring inspection of the insured WLA Chapter Ranges. WLA will be offering 3<sup>rd</sup> party inspections by Rick Hemmingway for "in house use only" information if the chapter agrees.