



# Wildlife Action

## PEE DEE CHAPTER

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## FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

### Meeting Notes

Meeting was opened at 2:30 pm by Victoria Heath. Bob Veasey offered prayer and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance. Approximately 30 members and two guests were in attendance including Board Members Mike Hopewell, Steve Cox, Roger Burrows, Dennis Wade & Nick Carter. Other Senior Leadership in attendance included Victoria Heath, Pete Kennedy Treasurer & Donnie Wheeler Secretary, and Bob Veasey. Meeting was led by Victoria Heath (J. Etheridge absent)

January minutes were reviewed and approved.

Nathan Flowers presented guests Steve Perry and Nathan Harness. Both are interested in joining.

### Special Recognition Gift Presented

A black powder reproduction Colt pistol and presentation case was presented to Kevin Casper in recognition for many years of dedicated service to PDWLA. Gift was funded by member donations.

### New Business:

Date set for club workday starting 8:30 am Saturday morning February 28, 2026. It will be followed by hamburgers and hotdogs at noon. Please bring a small dish to share.

Discussed purchasing OSB sheets to refresh target frames. Frozen water line at the block house was recently repaired by members D. Wade & S. O’Harra which resulted in a large cost savings.

#### CRSO report – Steve Cox

Current roster of 95 members. 2026 PUF funds are still being collected. Last date PUF is being accepted is Feb 28<sup>th</sup>. After that, unpaid park members will be dropped from the March 2026 Roster and subject to an additional 75\$ reinstatement fee to restore range privileges.

Steve Marsh provided an update on the Maranatha Clay Shooting Team, they won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Conference Trap shooting last Fall. Anticipate having 5-6 students on team this Spring starting in March. Steve will have Trap Team shooting dates and times posted on the calendar (hopefully on Friday afternoons)

#### Treasurers Report was given by Pete Kennedy.

Club has approximately \$14,434.00 balance in checking/savings. Despite slower than normal 2026 PUF collections, the club is adequately funded at this time

#### Old Business

Dennis Wade provided update on elevated trap house progress. Platform being built and will be setup soon. Projected cost of project is not to exceed \$1,500. This will provide 8 trap stations, and all will operate on the existing remote system.

Florence County Animal Control has not been able to trap the 4 dogs roaming the area. FCAC is now under the Florence County Sheriff’s Department.

Dennis reported that he delivered the one-time gifts to landowners Jimmy and George in the amount of \$1,500 each. (Hunt Club funds are now being collected and managed by the Hunt Club)

#### Fishing Report Roger Burrows

Fishing activity is reduced due to cold weather. Best opportunities will be in March during herring and shad runs. Best location is in St Stephens area. Limit is one bushel of herring per person per day. Soon after Ocean Strippers will begin migrating up local rivers. Some could be as large as 50lbs or more. Good bait is small herring. Good fishing conditions on Santee during March.

#### Hunt Club Report Dennis Wade

Rabbit, Squirrel and Quail season is coming in. 7 raccoons and 2 possums have been trapped on the club. 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.

### Education Report Bob Veasey

February 17, 1864, the CSS Hunley attacked the USS Housatonic near Sullivan's Island. The sub was commissioned and lost on the same day after successfully attaching a 125lb charge on the ship's hull. It appears the detonation occurred when the Hunley was only about 20 ft from the ship. It was damaged and sank during the attack. The crew is believed to have perished from the shock wave. The Hunley has been recovered and is open to visitors by appointment.

### Environmental Report NA

Meeting adjourned 3:05pm

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#### Post Meeting Notes

Board formally approved 1500\$ (NTE) for building elevated platform arrangement on the Shotgun Range. An existing thrower will be mounted on it.

Board approved 250\$ (NTE) to purchase OSB sheets for target backstops

Board approved Nathan Harness and Steve Perry (sponsor Nathan Flowers) as candidates for Park Membership.

24 letters were mailed USPS 2/9/26 as last reminders for unpaid members to pay 2026 PUF.