

PIEDMONT HUNT CLUB, INC.



A South Carolina Non-Profit Corporation

www.piedmonthuntclub.com

NEWSLETTER

A SOUTH CAROLINA FAMILY ORIENTED HUNT CLUB

LOCATED IN FAIRFIELD & KERSHAW COUNTIES OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Established in 1986 – Excels in both Quality Deer & Turkey Hunting

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New Leases Wayne Archie – President

We currently have agreements to increase the **White Oak Tract** by approximately **789 acres** for next year. This addition will give us **2,925 acres** in this tract. The **789 acres** addition has been in a QDM program and has seen very little hunting pressure in the past. It also abuts up to other properties, which are also currently practicing QDM. This tract encompasses the power line near Hunt Unit 19, 17 and 15. IP has been contacted and has agreed to segment the lease for PHC to receive the lease north of Sweet Prospect Church Road and extend to our present property line. Plum Creek is to send the leases for 180 acres, which adjoins the new IP tract. These tracts will be available after May 1. We will keep you informed of the progress as we go forward. In Kershaw, we are pursuing getting the **Mayfield** property back **125 acres** (Hunt Units 118 thru 120) and enhancing the Hunt Units north of Camp Creek with food plots for next season. The new landowner has been contacted for the **302 acres**, which was sold last season (Hunt Units 71 thru 74). Presently our projection for this season is:

Fairfield = 5,376 acres

Kershaw = 4,117 acres

Total = 9,493 acres

New Member Recruitment Incentive Paul Wittfeld – Treasurer

Starting immediately, to help insure that the PHC meets its membership requirements **earlier** in the year, we have implemented a new member recruitment incentive. For each new member recruited, the club member will receive a **\$100** discount on his membership dues. The Officers of the Club will be exempt from this program. The following parameters must be met to earn the discount:

- The club member is responsible for all efforts required to introduce the prospective member to the Club facilities and hunt tracts. You cannot simply send the prospect to a Club officer.
- The new member must have paid all dues and submitted the Liability Release Form by May 31.
- Prospective members cannot have been a member in 2005. There is no limit on the number of new members that can be recruited by a current member.

Membership Status and 2006 Dues Paul Wittfeld – Treasurer

Thanks to all of you who have already mailed in your commitment checks or in many cases your full payment for the 2006-2007 hunting season. Thus far, we have received a very good response and the number of returning member and new member commitments is very close to the funds needed to pay for all of the land leases.

This year we have had a very high interest in the club for 2006. PHC continues to attract prospective members by word of mouth, our web site and our participation in local hunting shows. The new color brochure should also increase our visibility and attract new members. If you have any family members or friends who may be interested in joining our club, now is the time to contact them. With the implementation of our **New Member Recruitment Incentive**, it is more beneficial for members to be pro-active in soliciting interested candidates. The members we sign up from your referrals, saves the club time and money that can be transferred to club improvements. If you need any brochures for distribution, please email or call me.

Land Leases are becoming due earlier. The timber/management companies require their leases to be paid earlier each year. In reviewing the financial history of when dues are paid, a sizeable percentage of the dues are received way past May 1 and as late as September. This makes it difficult to pay for the early leases and meet the schedule for the summer food plot (Chufa) planting season. Late receipt of dues definitely affects the planning, number and installation of our food plots. To meet the financial needs of the club, we need to move our cash flow up **earlier** in the year.

For returning members who have not paid their dues in full, if at all possible we would like to receive the remainder of your dues as early as we can and please make sure all dues are paid in full before May 1st. After May 1st, any member who has not paid their membership dues in full will be removed from the active Membership List. If you have any questions regarding club dues please contact Paul Wittfeld.

Please make checks out to Piedmont Hunt Club, Inc. and send along with the attached Liability Release Form to:

Paul Wittfeld
5920 Summerston Place
Charlotte, NC 28277- 2539 (704) 975-2280 Mobile

If you have questions regarding the financial status of the PHC, the current membership and/or our New Member Recruitment Incentive; the clubs officers will be available at the Youth Turkey Hunt to help answer your questions. You can call or email your question anytime.

Revision to Work Days & Establishing Work Committees

Wayne Archie – President

There will be **no fines** associated with **not making** work days but members are highly encouraged to participate in as many work days as possible. The following changes will be implemented into the 2006 Rules & Regulations:

ARTICLE 13 - WORK DAYS & WORK COMMITTEES

SECTION I For our club to be successful, it is necessary that work tasks get completed satisfactory and on schedule. Each year **MEMBERS** volunteer their time and effort to make sure these work tasks are completed according to plan and on schedule. Therefore, the club requests and strongly recommends that each **MEMBER** strive to participate in as many **WORK DAYS** as they can. The club fully understands that our long distance **MEMBERS** and/or **MEMBERS** with work constraints will not be able to participate. Because work efforts are so important to our club's success, we need as many **MEMBERS** as we can to schedule their time to help out on the club. The club thanks each **MEMBER** in advance whose personal schedules/commitments allows them to help the club through service on **WORK DAYS** or work performed on their assigned **WORK COMMITTEE**. A plus in attending **WORK DAYS** or participating on a **WORK COMMITTEE**, **MEMBERS** will get better acquainted with each other and in some cases will build long lasting relationships. In addition, it also helps **MEMBERS** get more familiar with our club's organization, property and amenities.

SECTION II Each **MEMBER** who is not a **CLUB OFFICER** or **WORK LEADER** will be assigned to a **WORK COMMITTEE**. Each **WORK COMMITTEE** will be headed up by a **WORK LEADER**. The **WORK LEADER** with the help of his **WORK COMMITTEE** will be responsible for making sure tasks/assignments are completed satisfactory and on schedule. The **WORK LEADER** will contact **MEMBERS** who are assigned to his **WORK COMMITTEE** scheduling work times and discussing work processes for completing tasks.

Officers & Work Leaders Meetings Schedule Wayne Archie – President

Work Leader meetings are scheduled on non-hunting months to discuss up-coming work tasks and club improvements. In addition, the Monthly Financial Statement will be presented and discussed. The purpose of these meetings is to allow the Work Leaders to report on status of scheduled tasks and if needed, to request help in completing up-coming tasks. Hopefully the results of these meetings will keep us on tract with our work plans.

These meetings will be held on the first Saturday of the month at Fairfield at 9:00 AM on the following dates:

January 7, 2006

February 4, 2006

March 4, 2006

May 6, 2006

June 3, 2006

July 1, 2006

August 5, 2006

Work Leaders Positions Open Wayne Archie – President

Due to recent restructuring of our Club Officers roles and revising some of our Work Leader Positions, we presently have a need to fill three Work Leader Positions, they are: **(Food Plots) (Stands) (New Member Recruitment)**. Although the duties of these positions are presently being performed by other Work Leaders, in order to spread out the work and expand our leadership, we would like to fill these roles with other members. Qualified members who have the time, commitment to the club and proper skill sets and who are sincerely interested in helping the club and would like to be part of the leadership, please advise me of your interest.

Turkey Season - Last Day to Scout before Turkey Season - MARCH 15th Wayne Archie – President

No scouting or access is allowed on the club after **March 15**. This will let the woods settled down before our spring turkey season begins. Also for the ones who may not know, no one should be turkey calling on our property at any time prior to turkey season. Our turkeys are already hunter wise. We do not need to add to this by calling to them before season begins. Thanks for your cooperation.

Please note this item applies to this coming spring hunting season: During **TURKEY SEASON**, due to the limited number and physical size of the **HUNT UNITS** in **WHITE OAK**, only **ONE HUNT UNIT** may be selected by a **MEMBER** when signing in for the **WHITE OAK** tract. Another **HUNT UNIT** may be selected as many times as required only after appropriately signing out of the previous one each time. In our new Rules & Regs: See **ARTICLE 15, SECTION XII** for details.

Youth Turkey Hunt, Cook Out & Turkey Hunting Seminar Scheduled at Fairfield - March 25th Wayne Archie – President

A statewide youth turkey hunt is set for **March 25**. Youths must be between the ages of 10 and 17. The 16 or 17 year olds do not have to obtain a license or big game permit to hunt on this day but all youths must have turkey tags, which are free and can be obtained from any check station. We will have our standard procedure drawing at 5:00 am at both Kershaw and Fairfield. Only the youths will be allowed to carry a gun. In Fairfield, we plan to have a cookout at **11:00 AM** for all participants, please bring your own drinks. **James Strack**, who is the Work Leader for **EVENTS/OUTINGS/ACTIVITIES** will be in charge of the cookout. James has advised that we are having baked chicken and turkey drumsticks and other sides. Donations will be collected and appreciated.

TURKEY HUNTING SEMINAR - At **12:00** noon, **Denny Price**, long time member, avid turkey hunter, biologist working for the state of Maryland and **Gary Cline**, long time member and avid turkey hunter will give a seminar on turkey hunting. These two teamed up together will definitely give us some great pointers, techniques and call tactics needed to lure in that elusive gobbler.

We would like to have as many youths attending as possible, so please invite any youth who may be interested. Please let me know if you will be coming to hunt and if you will need a guide. We need some experienced turkey hunters to volunteer as guides. Please let me know if you can help on this day. This can be a very good day in the field with our youth. Looking forward to a great outing!

Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic - March 24, 25 & 26 Wayne Archie – President

The PHC, Inc. will participate in the **Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic** in Columbia, SC on the above dates. This is a great way to promote our club and get information out to prospective members. The show is held at the State Fairgrounds in Columbia, SC. If you would like to help staff the booth and help recruit new members, please contact Wayne Archie for details. Help staffing the booth is needed and will be appreciated.

Doors will be open from:

12:00 PM until 8:00 PM on Friday 24 th
9:00 AM until 7:00 PM on Saturday 25 th
11:00 AM until 6:00 PM on Sunday 26 th

Admission Fee:

Adults: \$6;
Seniors (60 and above): \$5
Children 10 and under Free

New Color Brochure Wayne Archie – President

New color PHC Brochures have been printed and are now being distributed in local hunting stores in the Charlotte, Rock Hill and Columbia areas. A lot of work went into the design of the brochures as it has over 60 pictures and logos. Many thanks to Paul Wittfeld and his company who orchestrated the making of this very impressive brochure. If anyone needs brochures to pass on to prospective members or has a place of business in mind where we need to place brochures, please contact either Paul Wittfeld or Wayne Archie.

Vehicle Decals Wayne Archie – President



New vehicle decals with the new logo will be available this year. Presently waiting on pricing. Each member will receive one decal and additional decals can be purchased for a nominal fee. Decal will be printed in color and is designed as shown above. Decal size will be approximately 4 inches high and 6 3/4 inches wide.

PHC Hats & Shirts Wayne Archie – President

Hats and shirts will be available this year thru our web site. Presently working with a company in Rock Hill, SC who will be providing a link to our web site where you can access their web site and order on line, by phone or mail. Will keep everyone informed as we proceed with this process/addition.

From the Chaplain's Stand Dick Pope – Chaplain/Counselor/Bereavement

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. **Thought:** Live each day like it is your last day on earth, loving and caring for everyone.

Quality Deer Management and Piedmont Hunt Club, Inc.

(Reprinted in part from previous newsletter) Wayne Archie – President

Over the last several years, we have come to realize many benefits of practicing **Quality Deer Management (QDM)** on the **Piedmont Hunt Club, Inc. (PHC)**. As expected, we have observed more deer and have harvested better bucks due to our **QDM Program** but the **PHC** also has benefited by:

- Achieving a better buck to doe ratio
- Attracting more ethical/educated members
- Acquiring some hard to get leases by being a **QDM** club
- Gaining respect by state agencies & outdoor organizations and others in the hunting community

Some people confuse **QDM** with "**Trophy Management**" which it is not. The definition of Quality Deer Management per the Quality Deer Management Association is.....

QDM - The Philosophy

*"Increasingly, landowners, hunters, and wildlife managers across North America are embracing the **QDM** philosophy. This is evidenced by the increasing voluntary and regulatory implementation of **QDM** practices on private and public lands. Hunters are rethinking what constitutes a "quality" hunt and how they can make a positive contribution to the future of the deer herds they hunt. Another benefit of **QDM** is increased hunter safety. By taking the time to positively identify each deer by sex and age, the likelihood of accidental shootings is even more remote than under current management methods. Hunters participating in **QDM** enjoy both the tangible and intangible benefits of this approach. Pleasure can be derived from each hunting experience regardless if a shot is fired or an animal is harvested. What is important is the chance to interact with a well-managed deer herd that is in balance with its habitat. A side benefit is the knowledge that mature bucks are present in the herd - something lacking on many areas under traditional deer management. When a quality buck is taken on a **QDM** area, all property hunters can share the pride because they helped produce it by allowing it to pass as a younger animal." Source: www.qdma.com*

In working with numerous prospective members, one of their major concerns: Are we a **QDM** club? Can they expect to harvest a nice buck? Do we enforce our rules? In working with landowners they are aware of the importance of **QDM**. Their perception is that in most cases **QDM** clubs have more ethical/educated members who they feel will pay leases on time and take better care of their property. State agencies and outdoor organizations have a very high opinion of **QDM** clubs and their viewpoints and opinions are well received by landowners, foresters etc. which puts our club in a better position to acquire leases.

We have all hunted on properties whether it has been on private land or on game lands where there has been no regulated restrictions on deer harvest. The results have been very few deer observed and the harvest has consisted of mostly small bucks. In this situation there is a heavy harvest each year on the yearling bucks (1 1/2 year old bucks). These deer are the most vulnerable; they are the teen-age deer. On non-regulated hunting areas these immature bucks make up about 85 % to 95% of the buck harvest. On our **QDM** Tracts in Fairfield on numerous occasions we all have observed these small bucks and the mistakes they make. It only makes good sense not to harvest these small bucks on properties where you are striving to have larger bucks.

Being a **QDM** club and truly practicing **QDM** provides us with better quality hunting. From a political standpoint, being a **QDM** club helps us continue to attract good ethical members and also helps us have a leg up on our competition in acquiring future leases. Several southern states (North Carolina, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi and Louisiana) have put into law, regulations limiting either the size or number of bucks that can be harvested. We fully expect South Carolina to implement buck harvest restrictions in the upstate in the next few years. The SCDNR are holding meetings this year gathering data from hunters in order to introduce into law, harvest restrictions on bucks. The trend is clearly toward better management of the deer herds through **QDM** style management practices both at the private and government level.

Our successful **QDM** program on our Fairfield tracts speaks for itself, when you look at the results. Each year we are harvesting more and larger bucks. We all like to hunt and harvest deer, but it is very important in today's world to review future impacts of our actions and how it will affect our hunting in the future. If our club is to survive so our sons and daughters can appreciate the hunting experiences that we have today, we must not be selfish in our decision/actions in harvesting deer. Our club will continue to be successful if we continue to attract good people into the club and our ability to keep and obtain good hunting land. Practicing **QDM** makes that work for us, plus improves the quality of our hunting. Your continuing support in **QDM** on our Fairfield Tracts is greatly appreciated.