HOW DO I OBTAIN A HUNTING LEASE?
ANSWER: There are many ways to obtain a hunting lease. You can contact landowners, forestry consultants or larger land holders, such as Timberland Investment Groups. Most of these landowners have a hunting administrator who can assist you. American Forest Management has a hunting lease program that you can access from their website americanforestmanagement.com.

HOW MUCH DOES A HUNTING LEASE COST?
ANSWER: Leases are most commonly calculated on a per-acre basis. They can run from $8 – $15 per acre plus the additional cost of insurance in the Piedmont of South Carolina, but can be higher or lower in other regions of the country. Every region of the country has various lease rates, depending on game quality and availability. The rates will also depend on the quantity of land available for lease in a specific area.

HOW CAN I GET INTO A HUNTING CLUB?
ANSWER: There are many ways you can get into a hunting club. Most clubs seeking members will put ads in local papers and through various media outlets statewide. You may contact hunting club presidents of properties that you are interested in hunting. There are smart phone apps, that have a yearly fee, and allow you to access property owners’ information all over the U.S. (i.e. OnX Maps, Land Glide, HuntStand, etc.), or you can get information about certain parcels from the county tax accessors’ office online maps. Once you find the landowner, you can contact him/her, and they may put you in touch with the hunting club president.

WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD I ASK ABOUT THE HUNTING CLUB I’D LIKE TO JOIN?
ANSWER: The questions you should ask are:

1). How many acres is the current lease and may I see a map of the property? It is to your benefit to do your own research regarding hunting lease prices in your area to ensure you are paying the correct amount for the acres listed on the lease. Review the bylaws and policies of the hunting lease and be sure that the lease is between the hunting club and the landowner, and not specifically between the club president and the club member.

2). How many members do you currently have? Ask for a member list, check the number of members against the number of acres available to hunt. Stay away from crowded hunt clubs, safety first. Talk with current members to see how they like the club and gauge their reaction to a new member joining.

3). What are the hunting/fishing/hiking/etc. rules for the lease? Make sure they are the same for everyone. Some clubs have very stringent rules and some clubs are more lenient. This will all depend on your hunting preference.

4). Am I covered under the hunting lease insurance? What kind of insurance does the club have? Most landowners require some sort of lease insurance on their property, mostly to protect them, but it also protects you. There are various outlets for hunting lease insurance. The National Wild Turkey Federation has a hunting lease insurance program for its members if you’re interested, and it can be found at NWTF.org.