



2009 Ruffed Grouse Society Allegheny Northwoods Chapter Fun Shoot

Saturday, February 14, 2009

At

Sandy Creek Conservancy

688 Polk Cutoff

Franklin, PA 16323

Simple Directions

North On I-79 Out Of Pittsburgh To I-80 East To Route 8 North To Polk Cutoff.
South On I-79 Out Of Erie To Route 322 East To Route 8 South To Polk Cutoff.

Cost:

\$50.00 Per Shooter If Registered & Paid

On or Before February 9, 2009

\$55.00 Per Shooter If Registered After February 9, 2009

100-Birds

Optional Lewis Class Will Be Offered At An Additional Cost Of \$5.00

Practice Five-Stand Available

Registration:
8:30 a.m.

Shoot Starts:
9:00 a.m.

Last Shooter Out:
Noon

Lunch:
Noon

Awards/Raffles:
After Lunch

*****Reminder*****

The 4th Annual Allegheny Northwoods Chapter Sportsmen's Banquet Is Correction--Saturday, March 21, 2009 Make Plans To Join Us!!!

Each Shooter Will Receive One Ticket for Every 10 Birds Broke - Winning Ticket Will Receive A Grouse Hunter's Shotgun!!

-----Cut & Mail-----

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Cash Check Credit Card

CC Billing Address (if different from above): _____

CC#: _____ Exp Date: _____

Signature: _____

_____ \$50.00/Shooter 2/9/09 **AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$** _____

**Please Make Checks Payable To:
RGS Allegheny Northwoods Chapter**

Steve Wilkinson
780 Valley Road
Polk, PA 16342

Phone: 814.437.1290
Fax: 814.437.5105



Pennsylvania Habitat Update 2008

Pennsylvania continues to be one of RGS' most active states in terms of chapters, membership, fund-raising and habitat projects. Like many states in the East, however, PA has lost a tremendous amount of grouse and woodcock habitat over the last 40 years. Since the 1960's, the amount of quality grouse and woodcock habitat has declined by nearly 1.6 million acres. These forests have not disappeared, they've just gotten older. PA has far more forest now than it did 100 years ago. This means that the trend in habitat is reversible!

Because of the relatively large amount of public lands, there is still excellent grouse and woodcock hunting to be found, especially in the northcentral part of the state. The potential for reversing the trend in grouse and woodcock habitat and populations is very good in other parts of the state, as well. Pennsylvania could easily be the premier grouse and woodcock hunting state in the East south of Maine. Last year's mild winter plus an apparent excellent hatch this spring may have contributed to excellent hunting in many areas of the state this fall and winter.

Advocacy remains an extremely important component of the RGS mission. Enthusiastic support for timber management on public lands by RGS members is critical, and RGS members have been vocal in support of habitat management. While RGS bases its unwavering support for forest management on sound science, there are plenty of well organized groups who base their opposition to forest management on deception, emotion and litigation. We have to get our message out.

Most of our members want to know what RGS is doing in their neck-of-the-woods. The list of current projects that RGS is directly involved in changes each year. RGS has on-going projects at Bald Eagle State Park (Centre Co), Raystown Lake (Huntingdon Co), State Game Lands 110 (Berks Co), Lackawanna State Forest, and State Game Lands 39, 287, 82, 24, and 266, to name only a few. RGS is working with the Lackawanna State Forest in Luzerne County to develop a unique habitat project that will put top-notch habitat on the outskirts of Wilkes-Barre. RGS is involved in a variety of other projects across the state. The cooperatively project at Raystown Lake has now resulted in over 1000 acres of timber management.

RGS has identified and started work on a woodcock habitat project on state game lands 82 in Somerset County in memory of Bill Goudy, who died in January 2007. Bill worked tirelessly on behalf of the American woodcock throughout his career and for the Ruffed Grouse Society for many years before retiring a few years ago. Please contact your RGS regional staff about financial support of the Bill Goudy Memorial Project.

Thanks to a cooperative effort with Mackin Engineering of Pittsburgh and funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and PennDOT, RGS' Woodcock Habitat Initiative on State Lands (WHISL) project has generated new woodcock habitat projects. PennDOT is using the information created by WHISL to identify new wetland mitigation sites that will double as woodcock habitat. The first project will be located on SGL 39 in Venango County near Franklin and will be completed this year.

Focusing on the bigger picture, RGS coordinated the development of the National Ruffed Grouse Management Strategy which is now approved and final. RGS biologists also authored several sections of the National Woodcock Management Strategy (still in preparation) and are co-authoring two chapters of a book on the ecology and management of grouse in the southern Appalachians.

If you have never attended an RGS habitat field day or never written a letter or attended a meeting to support grouse and woodcock management, make it happen in 2008. To find out how, contact **Mark Banker, Regional Biologist, 814-867-7946, rgsbank@comcast.net** or **Regional Directors Lisa Rossi (Western PA), 724-693-9032, rgslmt@msn.com**; **Dave Hansroth (Southeast PA), 240-912-9294, rgshans@comcast.com** or **Ken Waite (Northern Tier), 315-635-2662, rgsknw@twcny.rr.com**.

Updated January 2008