



APPALACHIAN HIGHLANDS CHAPTER
RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY
May 1, 2009
NEWS FROM THE APPALACHIAN HIGHLANDS

The 14th Annual Appalachian Highlands Chapter Sportsman's held in Johnson City TN on March 28,



2009 was a great success!!! Thanks to everyone who came out and supported RGS. Also, thanks to those who purchased tickets but were unable to attend, the generous individuals and businesses who donated prizes for the event, Mahoney's Outdoorsman's Paradise for handling the guns, sponsors, the banquet committee member and last but not least, "Fiddlin' Carson Peters and the Rock House String Band" (at left) for providing the great old time bluegrass music that added so much to the event. New friendships were made and old friendships were renewed at our 14th annual banquet. The proceeds of the banquet will enable the Ruffed Grouse Society to carry on with its mission of promoting conditions suitable for ruffed grouse, American woodcock and related wildlife to sustain our hunting

tradition and outdoor heritage.

Kane Gap Habitat Project-On Saturday March 21, 2009, Girl Scouts Troop 401 from Stickleyville VA, The



Ruffed Grouse Society Appalachian Highlands Chapter volunteers and the U. S. F. S. Clinch Ranger District of the Jefferson National Forest planted trees at Kane Gap in the Jefferson National Forest near Jasper. Also, VDGIF District Biologist Johnny Wills was on hand to help with the planting. The area consists of a little over 1200 acres broken into different projects containing temporary roads, clearings and timber harvest by logging contractors. This particular project contains about 8 acres of clearings and skid roads.

The planting included soft mast species such as blueberries and huckleberries, hard mast species such as witch hazel, and cover species such as shortleaf pine. This project will enhance forest

wildlife habitat and provide a meaningful educational experience for the young people of the area. Strengthening partnerships with the U.S. Forest Service and the forest products industry is a continuing goal for the RGS Appalachian Highlands Chapter.

Lois Boggs, USFS district biologist reported a "lost lady" in the forest service road at the end of the day. There was panic as we thought we'd left one of the girl scouts behind. Lois clarified that it was a hen grouse in the road. Thoughts this bird or its offspring will benefit from our work lift our spirits!

Flatwoods Habitat Project-On Saturday April 4, 2009, volunteers from our chapter along with representative from the Watauga Ranger District of the Cherokee National Forest planted 500 mast producing tree seedlings (250 Washington hawthorne and 250 hazelnut) in the Flatwoods area of the national forest near the Hickory Tree community. Pictured from L to R are: Gary Mac Quillen, Larry Hudson, Lawrence Jervis, Jon Keys, Joe McGuiness, USFS; Danny Howell, Parker Street and Fred Hardin, USFS. Our chapter thanks USFS Watauga Ranger District Biologist Joe McGuiness for handling the tree shipment and providing an opportunity for our chapter to get involved on public lands.



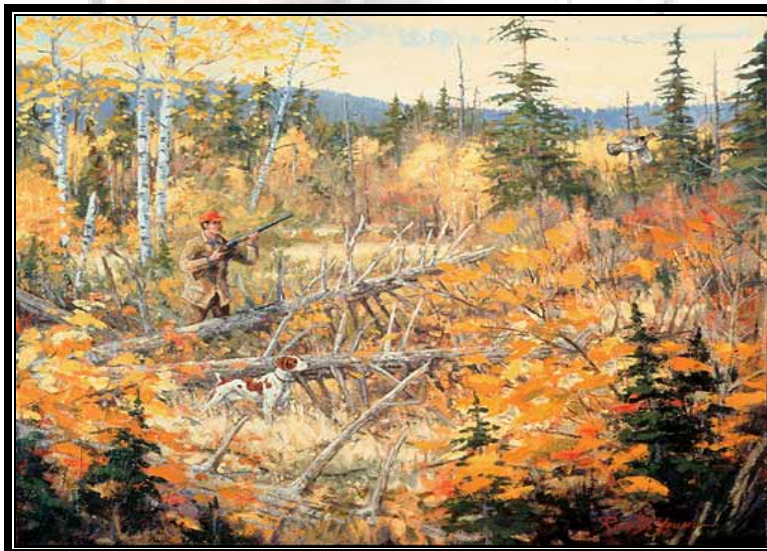
It was a beautiful day to be with friends in the great outdoors. The ground was moist from recent rains so the planting was easy. It doesn't get much better!

Virginia and Tennessee Grouse hunting survey The following chart was compiled from 2008/2009 diaries of grouse hunters in VA and TN. It is interesting reading for a grouser.

Virginia														
hunter #	days hunted	hrs. hunted	flushes	flushes/hr	birds shot at	% of flushes shot at	kills	% shot at killed	gun	type	ga	choke	dog	point or flushes by dog
1	7	18	31	1.72	8	26%	0		Beretta	o/u	12	C/I	Brit	11
2	21	79.5	51	0.64			6		A. Arms	dbl	20	I/M	Brit	
3		141	36	0.26			5		various		12	S/I	ES	9
4	10	34	36	0.44	5	33%	2	40%	Benelli	aut o	12	C	Llew	
5	9	25	15	0.24	1	17%	0		Fox	dbl	20	I/I	ES	2
6	14	27.5	6	0.11	0						20	I/M	Brit	2
7	14	72	3	0.86	2	3%	1	50%	Rem.	pu mp	20	I	Brit	17
8	2	8.5	#62	1.29	2	18%	0		Fran.	o/u	12	S/C	Griff/GSP	11
9	4	6	11	0.17	0			50%	Rem.	aut o	12	I	No dog	
10	1	7	1	2	2	14%	1		Bro	o/u	20	S/I	ES	4
*11	2	9	14	1.89	7	41%	2	29%	Ruger	o/u	12	S/S	ES	8
Tennessee														
1	17	51.5	4	0.08	0				Bro	o/u	12	S/I	Irish	2
2	5	12.5	4	0.32	1	25%	1	100%	Beretta	o/u	20	I/M	ES	
3	2	8	4	0					AYA	dbl	28	S/M	Vizala	
4	7	14	9		3	33%	1	33%					Yes??	
*5	4	20	#3		0				Rem	pu mp	20	I	Brit	1
*6	2	11	8		2	25%	2	100%	Bro	o/u	20	S/I	ES	3
* = out of state hunter # = flushes not recounted														

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The nationwide survey is compiled annually by the "Loyal Order of Dedicated Grouse Hunters" (LODGH) and comes out with LODGH's spring quarter newsletter, "Grouse Tales". The newsletter (published since 1975) also includes season highlights and photos of hunts from members. To subscribe send a check for \$15.00 to Grouse Tales, 35162 Schoolhouse Ln., N. Ridgeville, OH 44039. Publisher Ken Szabo, has generously agreed to send a free "get acquainted" issue if you'll send him a self addressed stamped envelope to the above address.



Last Word

"You ask of my companions. Hills, sir, and the sundown and a dog...They are better than human beings because they know but do not tell"

Emily Dickinson

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