



RGS Ohio River Chapter
Chapter Organizational Meeting

The Ohio River Chapter will be hosting a meeting
Wednesday, February 11, 2009

at

Quinet's Court Restaurant
Main Street

(Main Street On The River By The Courthouse)
New Martinsville, West Virginia 26155

Time: 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM.

We are looking for members interested in helping RGS regenerate the vitality of this once robust chapter. We encourage you to join us to discuss the reorganization of this chapter in your area.

For questions, please contact RGS Regional Director:

Lisa M. Rossi

724-693-9032

Or E-mail: rgslmt@msn.com

Your input is vital to the success of this Chapter
Thank you and I look forward to meeting with you.

West Virginia Habitat Update 2008

The West Virginia RGS chapter volunteers are hitting on all cylinders. Fundraising, habitat projects and grass-roots efforts to promote wildlife management on public lands are all part of the mix.

Advocacy remains an extremely important component of the RGS mission. Enthusiastic support for timber management on public lands by RGS members is critical and WV members have been heard. While RGS bases its unwavering support for wildlife management on sound science, there are plenty of well organized groups who base their opposition to forest management on deception, emotion and litigation. The input to public land managers provided by our members is extremely important. RGS volunteers have been and continue to be in constant contact with state and Forest Service personnel regarding habitat management.

Like many states in the East, WV has lost a tremendous amount of grouse and woodcock habitat over the last 40 years (young forests got old). West Virginia is mostly forested and grouse inhabit all parts of the state, meaning that the long-term trend in habitat is reversible!

Because of the relatively large amount of public lands, there is still good grouse and woodcock hunting to be found. Increased attention to the needs of grouse and other young forest critters on state and federal lands should mean good things for grouse in the near future.

RGS continues to lead an initiative to help the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge manage aspen and alder management. Contributors and partners have included RGS, WV Trophy Hunters Association, WV Division of Wildlife, Woodcock Limited, National Wild Turkey Federation, and many individuals. Aspen has already been cut thanks to this initiative and more management is scheduled.

As an offshoot of the Canaan Valley NWR initiative, RGS is partnering with the WV Wildlife Resources Section to manage a large tract of habitat on private lands adjacent to the Refuge. It is extremely important to manage habitat anywhere the opportunity allows to maintain some of the historic cover. The WV Wildlife Resources Section did a terrific job of putting together the contract with the landowner. RGS and the USFWS' Partners for Fish and Wildlife are working together to complete the work this winter.

Last spring, RGS gave the DNR a \$15,000 grant as part of a cost share agreement totaling \$84,000. The project will create about 150 acres of early successional forest and about 50 acres of forest openings on 8 pieces of state land across the state.

RGS is working with the DNR to develop a large scale initiative that ideally will create many hundreds of acres of new habitat for grouse and woodcock. Stay tuned for more information on that as it is a very new initiative.

Focusing on the bigger picture, RGS recently lead the development of a National Ruffed Grouse Management Strategy, authoring several sections of a National Woodcock Management Strategy, and co-authoring two chapters of a book on the ecology and management of grouse in the southern Appalachians.

Grouse Trail Mix is a new product that RGS now has available that is perfect for planting grouse brood cover on trails, log landings and other small openings. The seed mix is mostly clovers that young and adult grouse love. All kinds of wildlife will benefit. You can order it on-line at www.ruffedgrousesociety.org or by calling 1-888-564-6747. Fall and spring are prime planting times, so order now.

If you have never been involved with the Ruffed Grouse Society, attended a meeting on behalf of wildlife or hunting, written a letter in support of habitat management and hunting, or attended an RGS function, make this the year that you do. Please contact Mark Banker, 814-867-7946 – rgsbank@comcast.net or Regional Directors Lisa Rossi (Northern WV), rgslmt@msn.com. *Updated January, 2008*