



Meet  
&



Greet



The Ruffed Grouse Society will be having a Second Organizational meeting on Monday, January 5, 2009 at 7:00 PM At The Backbone Mountain Sport Shop 4768 George Washington Hwy Oakland, MD 21550

The purpose of the meeting is to:

- Name this new chapter,
- Elect officers
- Set the event schedule for 2009.

Light refreshments will be served.

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## Maryland Habitat Update 2006

The Maryland 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 MD 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.

Like many states in the East, MD has lost a tremendous amount of grouse and woodcock habitat over the last 40 years (young forests got old). More than any other state, however, Maryland is reversing this trend in the western mountains, where increased management has meant a fairly significant increase in grouse and woodcock cover. Thanks to this trend, there is good grouse and woodcock hunting to be found. State lands like Savage River State Forest and Mt. Nebo WMA have some good looking cover.

In a cooperative venture between state wildlife biologists and foresters and Garrett Community College, maps of grouse and woodcock cover on Savage River State Forest were made to aid hunters and to aid future management plans. RGS provided \$2,000 toward the cost of getting the maps made at the College. These maps can be found on the Savage River State Forest website.

RGS was among a group of conservation-minded folks who are trying to revive habitat management for woodcock at the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area in Howard County. This area was historically managed as an oasis for woodcock in a suburban environment, but has reverted mostly to woodlands. A plan has been written to restore some of the habitat.

Focusing on the bigger picture, RGS is currently taking the lead on developing 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.

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, Regional Biologist, 814-867-7946** – [rgsbank@adelphia.net](mailto:rgsbank@adelphia.net) or **Lisa Turner, Regional Director, [rgslmt@msn.com](mailto:rgslmt@msn.com)**.

*Updated January 1, 2006*