

The Ruffed Grouse Society
Announces The
Inaugural Habitat Improvement Work Day.
Hosted By The
Backbone Mt. Chapter- Oakland, MD
Saturday – April 24th, 2010
At
Potomac Garrett State Forest
Time: 12:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

The Backbone Mt. Chapter would like to invite you to a Habitat Improvement Work Day on the Potomac- Garrett State Forest. We will start the day at 12:30 pm by meeting a busload of 4th grade students from Dennett Road Elementary School at the “Group Campsite” in the Wallman Area of the Potomac-Garrett State Forest. (see the directions below.) Upon arrival Forest Manager John Denning will provide a briefing of the afternoons activity. From there we will consolidate our group to shuttle the students by pick-up trucks down the Loop Road Handicapped Hunter Access Trail and Snowmobile Trail (an unimproved dirt road) to an log landing where we will proceed on foot for 1/3 mile to the planting site. State forest staff will have trees and equipment on site ready for us to roll up our sleeves and set to work. Participants should eat lunch prior to arrival. Snacks will be provided to wrap up the event.

The project for the day will involve planting a variety of tree seedlings that will contribute significant wildlife habitat values to the surrounding state forest. Included in the planting will be 1,000 native Red Spruce trees; once abundant in the highlands of Garrett Co. and surrounding WV, this native conifer is now found in only a very few remnant populations through out the region. These trees will offer dense winter cover to not only ruffed grouse, but a variety of wildlife species. In addition to the spruce, we will be planting a small apple orchard; a dozen apple trees will be planted to provide food in the form of the obvious fruits and not so obvious buds that are favored by grouse. We are also excited to be planting 50 American chestnut seedlings; these trees are part of a national effort to reestablish the nearly extinct and famed American chestnut trees that once dominated the Appalachian region. These individually tagged trees will be monitored for growth success and will eventually be part of a regional seed orchard system that will help further the reestablishment of this amazing tree species.

State Forest staff will have planting holes already augured in for the seedlings, though participants are encouraged to bring a spade shovel to help plant the apple orchard. All other necessary tools will be provided.

This event is a great opportunity to; help mentor students and introduce them to the sportsmans legacy of conserving wildlife habitat for future generations; meet some of the folks that manage your state forests; and to work along side your fellow sportsmen and women and conservation minded folks on a habitat project that will give a little something back to the resource.

So come and join us, wear work clothes, sturdy boots, bring gloves & a shovel and be prepared for the weather conditions of the day. Don't forget we will also be driving on some unimproved roads to access the work site; a few full sized pick-up trucks with open beds will be needed to shuttle participants.

This work day / habitat project is a cooperative effort between Backbone Mt. RGS Chapter; Safari Club International; The Garrett County Forest Conservancy District; Dennett Road Elementary School and the MD Department of Natural Resources, all partnering for the common goal of improving wildlife habitat for future generations.

DIRECTIONS to: Wallman Group Campsite and RGS Work Day.

From Interstate 68.
Take Rt. 219 South at Keyzers Ridge.
Follow Rt. 219 South to Oakland (30 miles)
Go thru Oakland to stoplight at Burger King.
Go straight thru light and you will now be on RT 135.
Take RT 135 to Mtn. Lake Park intersection with RT 560.
Turn right onto RT 560 go approx. 4 ½ miles (passing Bethlehem Rd.), to White Church Rd. on your left.
Take a left onto White Church Rd. go approx. 1 mile to Audley Riley Rd. on your left.
Follow Audley Riley Rd. approx. 1 mile to State Forest property and the first fork in the road.
Go right at the fork, following Wallman Road up the hill.
Group Campsite is approx. one mile on right.
If you pass the vault toilet / comfort station on your left, you just passed the group site !

.....
.....

Registration

In order to meet your needs for the day you must register. Complete the registration form and mail it to April Rohrbaugh at P.O Box 25 Bayard, Wv 26707. or send an email to april.rohrbaugh@gmail.com.

.....
.....

Name _____ **Number in Party** _____

Address _____

—

If you have an open bed pick-up and can help shuttle folks please check below.

_____ I can bring my 4x4 pick up with 8ft.open bed and will help shuttle students.

_____ I can bring my 4x4 pick up with 6 ½ ft.open bed and will help shuttle students.

Please MAIL or Email BEFORE APRIL 19th so that we can plan for logistics.