

RGS SKYLANDS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

njgrouse.com

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A Whirlwind of opportunity and our most important meeting

I know it may not seem like it but I have been busy over the last month getting larger projects ready for our chapter to take on this winter. First, I would like to thank our chapter members Mim. Dunne, and Bob Olsen for coming out on November 2nd to help us plant trees. It didn't take long to get them in the ground so it may have seemed like more preparation than execution but it is a day in the books anyway.

I was informed that the state will be starting the next phase of its grouse management project at Flat Brook W.M.A. this winter. If anyone has seen the areas already cut you know how well they come back, with dozens of trees for every one that was cut down.

I went out with Larry Hillaire of the Delaware Water Gap N.R.A. last week (thanks Larry) to check out an interesting project site. Last summer a tornado ripped through an area of about 10 acres or so near the river in the southern part of the park. The devastation was impressive; massive oaks snapped in half, some twisted up by their roots. This area was too mature for grouse or woodcock but borders an area that does contain birds. (We spoke to pheasant hunters that put up woodcock that very day.) What we may do is go into this area, cut and pile some of the down timber, clear the access road and plant it with aspen in the spring. I was assured we could sprinkle in some crab apples as well. Larry is looking into other sites on the Pennsylvania side for us to work on as well.

Mark Banker and I went to a site just over the line in NY State recently and are working on making contacts to begin a project there. We have a few possibilities for projects with the state this winter. We are hoping we can get the skid steer out here to make a large dent in field edges and other areas beneficial to grouse and woodcock.

WE made 1000.00 dollars as a result of the RGS gun raffle conducted over the summer. This money will be used to support local projects, buy trees and equipment, and pay our expenses over the coming year.

Our next meeting is Monday, December 14, at 7:00 PM at the Lafayette House in Lafayette. It is our most important meeting of the year. We will finalize banquet preparation, assign jobs for banquet night, discuss donations, discuss a schedule for work days, etc. So if you can, please attend. Jen and I will be auctioning off a one week stay in the Florida Keys this year at Ocean Pointe Resort. It is not on the flyer but if you know anyone who wants a week in Paradise tell them to show up ready to bid.

2009 was a rough year for many reasons. There is no reason to expect things won't get better in 2010. Let's finish strong and start the new year with a bang.

Jim

Next meeting: Monday December 14th at Lafayette House
RGS Skylands Banquet -Saturday January 30, 2010 Lafayette House