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**2009
Fun Shoot

Saturday
August 29, 2009**

West Virginia Sportsmen & Firearms Association
Hammond Road
Fairmont, WV 26554

Directions:

I-79 Exit 137. Take Route 310 South Approximately 6 Miles,
Turn Right Onto Hammond Road. Club Is Approximately 1/2 Mile On Left

Agenda

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Registration

10:00 a.m.

Shoot

After Shoot

Lunch

Following Lunch

Awards

Cost

Individual

\$55.00

Youth Under 16 Free

With Paying Adult

Includes 100-Clay Birds &

Lunch After Shoot

Prizes

High Overall Shooter

Top Ladies Shooter

Top Youth Shooter

High Team – Blind Draw

You Do Not Need To Be A Ruffed Grouse Society Member
To Attend EVERYONE IS WELCOME ---- JOIN US!!!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

_____ Individual @ \$55.00

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Cash Check Credit Card

CC# _____

Billing Address If Different From Above:

Mail Entry Form To:

Steve Harris

Rt 9 Box 115A

Fairmont, WV 26554

Phone: 304.366.0637

Cell: 304.641.6056

Email: sseharris@aol.com

**Please Make Checks Payable To:
RGS North Central West Virginia Chapter**

West Virginia Habitat Update 2009

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

RGS is partnering with the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife and 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, the USFWS' Partners for Fish and Wildlife, and WV Wildlife Resources Section combined to complete many acres of alder management last winter and more work will be done winter 2009. The work can be seen from the power-line off of Timberline Road.

IN 2007, 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. So far, progress has been made on Underwood, Elk River, Beury Mountain, Conaway Run Lake, and McClintick WMAs as well as Calvin Price State Forest.

The DNR also has developed a "wish list" of habitat projects they would like to fund in the near future. This is a large initiative totaling over \$200,000. RGS is considering which parts of this proposal we may be able to tackle.

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 or written a letter on behalf of wildlife or 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, or Don Mallicoat (southern WV), rgsdonm@outdrs.net. *Updated Winter 2009*