



APPALACHIAN HIGHLANDS CHAPTER
April 9th, 2010
NEWSLETTER



Our 15th Anniversary banquet was a big success!
Banquet committee members Lindsay Vance, Robin Cooper, Janet Giles and Savannah Vance (to left) were a great help at the money table. Thanks to these ladies and everyone who helped to make our banquet one of the best ever. Ms. Julie Schuster, the Commissioner of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission was in attendance along with her husband Darrell. We welcome Julie and Darrell to our chapter as new members. We want to give everyone the opportunity to get involved with our

chapter and to find ways to improve our future events. Please consider the following questions and send your responses to Robin Cooper at: racknride@embarqmail.com or call at 423-743-4690 after 7:30 p.m. if you have any questions.

1. What do you perceive this organization is about?
2. What can you see yourself doing with this group?
3. How would you like to spend some volunteer time with this group? Please outline.
4. Have you ever attend a local Forest Service meeting? Do you know how to contact F.S. personnel?
5. Do you understand how your membership money is spent?
- 6 We would appreciate your constructive comment(s) about the organization, or the banquet event.

Volunteers plant 1,000 hardwood tree seedlings on former mine site in observance of Arbor Day



Buchanan County, Virginia - March 20, 2010 - Appalachian School of Law's Energy & Mineral Law Society (EMLS) organized and hosted an Arbor Day event on land that was once mined for coal, but is now part of Buchanan County Industrial Development Authority's (IDA) Southern Gap project. The idea for this event was spawned by and patterned after a similar event that Virginia's Department of Mines,

Minerals & Energy (DMME) hosts annually. DMME was an instrumental sponsor of this event.

"This event would not have been possible without the many organizations and companies that came together to put this plan into action," says Will Estes, the Community Service Chairman for EMLS. There were more than ten groups and businesses that worked together to bring this idea to reality.

The event was sponsored in part by one of the area's leading coal producers, Alpha Natural Resources of Abingdon, Virginia. Alpha is the same company that mined this piece of ground just a few years ago in conjunction with Buchanan County IDA's Southern Gap project.

The Appalachian Highlands Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS) also sponsored the event. RGS works to restore and promote habitat for the ruffed grouse and American

woodcock, and the Appalachian Highlands Chapter of RGS often uses former mine sites for habitat work. The variety of tree species planted was approved as proper ruffed grouse habitat by the Appalachian Highlands Chapter of RGS, and the seedlings were purchased by Alpha.

This Arbor Day event was unique in that it was selected as a planting site for 50 blight resistant American chestnut seedlings. The American chestnuts were provided through a special partnership between The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) and the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI). TACF and ARRI work together through "Operation Springboard" using reclaimed surface mines to return the once abundant and beloved American chestnut to the forests of Appalachia.

The planting site was chosen by event sponsor Terra Tech Engineering Services, P.C. of Grundy, Virginia. Terra Tech worked with the property owner, Buchanan County IDA, to select the best location for the seedlings to ensure a high survival rate.

Nearly 50 volunteers came out to help make sure 1,000 trees made it in the ground for Arbor Day. Volunteers included several Boys Scouts from the Sequoyah Council; nearly 30 students from the Appalachian School of Law; representatives from Alpha, Virginia DMME, Appalachian Highlands Chapter of RGS, and Terra Tech Engineering Services.

EMLS would also like to thank Marquis Development, LLC of Williamson, West Virginia, and Vasant Lumber of Vasant, Virginia for their contributions. EMLS hopes to make this an annual event in Buchanan County.

Saturday April 17th is a work day for our chapter at Crooked Creek WMA Woodcock Habitat Improvement Project. This project is sponsored by Central Appalachian American Woodcock Initiative. The project is located in Carroll County Virginia near Galax. The project area should be planted with silky dogwood, silky willow and potentially other species by the 17th. Our role will be to use chainsaws to cut wrist sized maples so the lops to protect the seedlings from browsing. The stumps will be treated with herbicide to prevent regrowth. The project is aimed at woodcock but will also benefit grouse! The project manager is Steve Capel, a former VDGIF biologist. Our chapter is glad to be a part of this project. If you're interested in helping out or just curious about the project please contact Mike Giles at 276-523-8200 or email for work day details, a project plan and map.

Jones Hunting Preserve is back! A European Pheasant Shoot is scheduled for Saturday April 10, 2010 9:30 AM and 1:30 PM, \$99 Per Station, 10 Stations, 50 Pheasants Released Morning and Afternoon, FREE Bird Cleaning, Drinks, and Snacks, Bring your Dog(s) to help pick up Birds FREE Walk-Up Hunt for Missed and Crippled Birds After each Shoot. Contact Dale Myers at 276-494-3207 or email at: myersfamily84@hotmail.com Dale donated a 30 bird quail hunt to our banquet.

Chapter E-mail Distribution List is good way to stay in contact. Crooked Creek project details have already been e-mailed to those on the list. Please contact Mike Giles at: Michael.A.Giles@comcast.net if you'd like to be added to or removed from this list.

Last Word

In the end, we conserve what we love, we will love only what we understand, we will understand only what we are taught. -Baba Dioum

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