



The Ruffed Grouse Society
 Announces The
 26th Annual South Eastern Pennsylvania Field Day
 Hosted By The
 Charles E. Bechtel Chapter-Reading, Pennsylvania
 Saturday – April 3, 2010
 At
Game Lands 110
 Time: 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

The Bechtel Chapter would like to invite you to a Dedication and Field day on State Game Lands 110. We will start the day at 9:00 am with warm welcome and light refreshments at the parking lot at the top of the Blue Mountain just East of State Route 183, see the directions below. Once everyone has convened and gotten to know one another we will proceed by vehicle (on an unimproved dirt road) across the top of the mountain and descend the North Slope.

We will stop at the beginning of the Access Road that the Bechtel & Media Chapters financed with the assistance of the Grouse Societies Funds and dedicate the project. This joint partnership with the Pa. Game Commission will open up hundreds of acres for future habitat projects. Pa. Game Commission (PGC) Regional Forester, Dave Henry, will provide a tour of the area and an update on the progress of future habitat projects. Mark Banker, RGS regional biologist will present information on the importance of the habitat that has been created. He will also fill the group in on the Societies new habitat fund and how the State Wide Habitat Objective Team will manage it.

We will also have round table with the Bechtel Chapter Committee members discussing various topics. We hope this discussion will be informative and interactive. The Chapter will then provide a lunch before we roll up our sleeves and get to work.

Mr. Henry and some of the PGC's hardest working Food and Cover Crew will provide 1000 spruce seedlings to be planted in a recently cut area to provide thermal cover. We will also work through the area creating brush piles for shelter. The PGC has a limited supply of tools for the job, so if you can bring a shovel or dibble bar for planting the trees it would be appreciated. Also for your protection wear leather gloves and eye protection.

This event is a great opportunity to meet some of the wonderful folks that work for the commission, interact with sportsman that hunt the area every year and help on a habitat Project. So come and join us, wear work clothes, sturdy boots, bring gloves & a shovel and be prepared for the weather conditions of the day. A field chair or field table might come in handy so that you can eat lunch in comfort. Don't forget we will also be driving on some unimproved roads to access the work site.

Game Lands 110, Rt. 183 Parking Area

Go north on Route 183 from the Reading area or take exit 19 (**Route 183, Straustown**) from Route 78 in Berks County. Travel North on Route 183 from the intersections with Route 78 for two and three quarter miles to the top of the Blue Mountain. The State Game lands entrance road will be on your right. Note if you start down the mountain you missed the lot. Travel another 1 tenth of a mile to the parking lot where we will meet. We will be traveling on an unimproved road for approximately one and a half miles to the work site.

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Registration

In order to meet your needs for the day you must register. Complete the registration form and mail it to John C. Cave, 1220 Milestone Road, Robesonia Pa. 19551 or send an email to Cavescorner@comcast.net.

Name _____ Number in Party _____
 Address _____

MAIL or Email BEFORE APRIL 1st .

Pennsylvania Habitat Update 2010

Pennsylvania continues to be one of RGS' most active states in terms of chapters, membership, fund-raising and habitat projects.

Because of the relatively large amount of public lands, there is excellent grouse and woodcock hunting to be found. We are very fortunate to have state and federal agencies that are proactive managers of their lands, equating to some of the best hunting in the Northeastern U.S. We are also privileged to have private partners that have facilitated unprecedented opportunities for hunting and management.

Advocacy remains an extremely important component of the RGS mission. Enthusiastic support for timber management on public lands by RGS members is critical, and RGS members have been vocal in support of habitat management. We must get our message out.

Most of our members want to know what RGS is doing in their neck-of-the-woods. The list of current projects that RGS is directly involved in changes each year. RGS has on-going projects at Bald Eagle State Park (Centre County), Raystown Lake (Huntingdon Co.), State Game Lands 110 (Berks Co.), Forbes State Forest (Somerset Co.) to name only a few, as well as many other state properties.

RGS is working with the Forbes State Forest and Appalachian Forest Consultants in Somerset County to manage thousands of acres of timber for grouse and woodcock. Thus far, 150 acres of timber has been cut to create dense cover and another sale is being planned. RGS has exclusive rights to the timber for 15 years.

The Jim Bashline project at Raystown Lake has now resulted in over 1,500 acres of timber management and is producing good numbers of grouse and woodcock. At last count, there were 7 timber sales going on simultaneously there. Many other habitat improvements totaling hundreds of more acres also have been completed.

RGS has identified and started work on a woodcock habitat project on State Game Lands 82 in Somerset County in memory of Bill Goudy, who died in January 2007. Bill worked tirelessly on behalf of the American woodcock throughout his career and for the Ruffed Grouse Society for many years before retiring a few years ago.

RGS is working on an agreement with CONSOL Energy to manage 7,000 acres of their forests in western PA. RGS will split the timber revenue with CONSOL 50/50 and create many acres of new habitat. We hope to finalize the agreement in early 2010.

If you have never attended an RGS event, written a letter or attended a meeting to support grouse and woodcock management, make it happen in 2010. To find out how, contact **Mark Banker, Regional Biologist, 814-867-7946, rgsbank@comcast.net** or **Regional Directors Lisa Rossi (Western PA), 724-693-9032, rgslmt@msn.com; Dave Hansroth (Eastern/Central PA), 412-303-1405, rgshans@comcast.net; and Tripp Way (Northern PA), trippway@gmail.com, 607-743-0760 or visit www.ruffedgrousesociety.org. Updated January 2010.**