



North Central Michigan Chapter Project Announcement!

When: April 28, 2018 – 8:30 AM

Where: Meet at the Department of Natural Resources Gladwin Field Office (801 N. Silverleaf, Gladwin, MI 48624)

What: We will be planting 40 apple trees and 20 crabapple trees in groups of 5 at sites adjacent to wildlife openings in the Lame Duck Foot

Access Area, Gladwin County, Michigan. This is a joint project between the DNR Wildlife Division and the North Central Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society.

What to bring: Shovel, work gloves and a can-do attitude!

How long: This project should take 6 to 7 hours. When at least half the trees are planted lunch will be provided.

Why: Years ago, the area known as the Lame Duck Foot Access Area was in private ownership and small farms dotted the landscape. These early farmers planted fruit bearing trees to supplement the agricultural crops they tended. Due to poor soils and a high-water table almost all of these farming attempts failed. The only evidence remaining is the occasional group of old apple trees you sometimes come across while hunting. Time has taken its toll on these old trees and most are in serious decline. Because these trees are so beneficial to grouse and other wildlife the objective of this project is to plant a new generation of trees on the



landscape. Through this project grouse and other wildlife species will find food, cover, and nesting sites. The bark, buds, twigs, leaves, and fruit are used by a variety of wildlife. For example, porcupines, mice, rabbits and deer consume the bark; grouse and deer consume the buds; and deer, snowshoe hares and rabbits eat the twigs and leaves. Deer, turkeys, fox, porcupines, bobcats, coyotes, red squirrels, and black bears have all been known to eat the fruit. Apple trees provide a year-round food source in one form or another, but they are particularly important in the winter when many uneaten apples remain hanging on trees. These apples are readily eaten after other fruits have dropped off and rotted or have disappeared under the snow. Wildlife have become familiar with apple tree locations and seek them out for food.

By participating in this project Chapter members will get the opportunity to “give back” to the wildlife and habitat that provides so much pleasure and enjoyment.

RSVP Bruce Barlow at barlowb@michigan.gov. I look forward to working with you on this worthwhile and important project!