

From: Mark Banker [mailto:rgsbank@comcast.net]
Sent: Tue 12/22/2009 3:52 PM
To: Appalachians FAN
Subject: FW: Forest Action Network - Appalachians Update

Appalachians Update Forest Action Network



Picture: Northern Wisconsin? Nope, northern New Jersey! This fine woodcock cover was discovered at Pochuck State Forest on the border of northern NJ and southern NY (technically, it's in New York) by Jim DeSaye, chairman of the Sussex, NJ chapter. The cover, an overgrown field literally on top of the mountain, was loaded with woodcock in late October. The chapter is exploring opportunities with the state of NY to maintain this great habitat.

Check for Timber Harvest Maps on Websites

Some state forests in PA have made maps showing the age and location of young forest stands available on their websites. You can start your search at www.dcnr.state.pa.us and go through the Bureau of Forestry link to find your favorite state forest. This is an extremely valuable service for any hunter. Take the time to tell the state forest staff how much you appreciate it.

Your Dog may not be Crazy

I recently hunted in an inch of very fresh snow with 3 friends. We got into a lot of grouse and saw dozens of sets of tracks. Even though we had great dogs (not mine) and saw 23 birds, we saw clearly in the snow how many grouse ran ahead of us into open woods and flushed out of sight and hearing range or circled back in thick cover to confuse the dogs. Many times the dogs pointed staunchly only for us to discover grouse tracks that ended with wing-marks in the snow.

Without snow, we might have chalked this up to "false pointing" or crazy dogs. It was great confirmation of what we often hope is going on when our dogs point earnestly, but we find no bird.

*******National Raffle*******

Frame Baby Frame 28-Gauge Shotgun
Made Famous by Winchester
(approx. retail value \$32,000)

28 inch barrels

Improved cylinder/Modified chokes

Straight English Stock, Walnut

Beavertail forend

Gold RGS Logo Engraving on bottom of receiver

Visit www.ruffedgrousesociety.org to order tickets or see a picture (it's a beauty) of this one-of-a-kind shotgun or contact any RGS staff person

Wildlife Leadership Academy Announces PA Drummers Program

The Wildlife Leadership Academy (WLA) facilitated by the Pennsylvania Institute for Conservation Education (PICE) is offering the Pennsylvania Drummers program June 22-26, 2010 for youth ages 14-17. This unique program begins with an intensive residential field school including comprehensive instruction on all things ruffed grouse, and continues as students complete service and leadership projects within their communities throughout the year. PA Drummers will be held at the Powdermill Nature Reserve near Ligonier, Westmoreland County, PA.

Tuition for the residential field school is \$400.00. Applications are now available for the 2010 field schools! Interested students can download an application by going to www.PICEweb.org and clicking on the youth programs link. Tuition scholarships are available, but more student sponsors and potential scholarships are needed! This year's application deadline is **April 1, 2010**.

Interested teens and parents can also contact program coordinator Michele Kittell at mkittell@picweb.org or 570-245-8518 or RGS Senior Biologist Mark Banker at rgsbank@comcast.net or 814-867-7946.

Participate in Ohio Forest Planning

The following is a recent e-mail message from the Ohio Division of Forestry:

Additional information and resources are now available online on Ohio's Forest Resource Assessment & Strategy (FRAS). The FRAS webpage (<http://ohiodnr.com/tabid/22319/Default.aspx>) is now available with information about the overall FRAS project, as well as the stakeholder survey and regional stakeholder

meetings. You can complete an online stakeholder survey that can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NBWJ7H8> . Another option is to download the stakeholder survey from the FRAS webpage (PDF file). You should give yourself at least 15 minutes to complete the online survey.

As a reminder, here are the dates and times for the upcoming regional stakeholder meetings (please RSVP to me if planning to attend one):

- Findlay ODNR Office, 952 Lima Ave., Dec. 16, 2009 at 1:00-4:30pm
- Akron ODNR Wildlife Office, 912 Portage Lakes Dr., Dec. 18, 2009 at 9:00-12:30pm
- Columbus ODNR Office-Fountain Square, 2045 Morse Rd., Building E-1, Jan. 5, 2010 at 1:00-4:30pm
- Athens ODNR Office, 360 E. State St., Jan. 7, 2010 at 1:00-4:30pm
- Cox Arboretum in Dayton, 6733 Springboro Pike, Jan. 13 at 12:30-4:00pm

We hope to receive your input in the form of a completed survey and/or at one of our regional stakeholder meetings. Please forward this information to others in your organization or any individuals who might be interested. Thank you for your help on this important project.

Questions or Comments?

Contact

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