



The Ruffed Grouse Society  
Announces its  
**Inaugural Field Day**

Hosted by the  
Potomac Valley Chapter - Frederick, Maryland  
Saturday, April 5, 2014

**McKee Beshers WMA**  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The Potomac Valley Chapter is starting phase four of its Woodcock Habitat Project. The first phase consisted of conducting a woodcock singing ground survey in order to get a baseline for future counts and to establish an index for future counts. That phase of the project is ongoing and will resume with two surveys – on March 21 and April 25, 2014. The second phase of the project involved heavy equipment to clean out all the underbrush, multiflora rose, autumn olive and other invasive species from the mature tree rows. This phase was completed in early summer 2013. The third phase required killing all the mature trees in the rows in order to get the sunlight to the ground and was completed on a hot day in September. Maryland DNR personnel, along with volunteers from the Potomac Valley Chapter, used the “hack and squirt” method to kill the standing trees. The goal is to establish early successional or young forests that woodcock need to survive and thrive.

The fourth phase will start on this Field Day. Our goal is to plant 9000 seedlings – speckled alder and silky dogwood. These are plants that provide excellent cover for woodcock and that thrive on the moist soils found at this site.

We need plenty of volunteers! We are hoping to recruit area scout troops, school groups, bird clubs, etc. Service credits may be available for school children. Come on out and make a difference. Your time is valuable, even if you’re only able to spare an hour or two of your time.

Starting time is 9:00 a.m. sharp at the Pavilion on Sycamore Landing Road. Dr. Linda Ordiway, RGS biologist, will be on hand to explain the project as will several members of MD DNR. There will be light refreshments and plenty of camaraderie to go around!

Some planting tools will be provided but please bring a shovel to make sure we have enough tools. Wear work clothes and boots and be prepared to get a little dirty.

Light lunch will be served starting around noon. After lunch we will continue planting. Some picnic tables are available in the pavilion. Please consider bringing a chair and/or field table so that you can eat lunch in comfort.

Directions to McKee Beshers Wildlife Management Area:

Our project area is located on Sycamore Landing Road in McKee Beshers WMA. From the Beltway take River Road past Bretton Woods Country Club and proceed approximately another five miles to Sycamore Landing road on your right. From Poolesville take West Willard Road to River Road. Turn left onto River Road. Go approximately 100 yards to Sycamore Landing Road on your right. There is parking on the grass near the pavilion. Carpooling is encouraged.

.....  
***Registration*** is encouraged but not required. Complete the registration form below and mail it to:  
**Mike Ryan**, 9528 West Stanhope Road, Kensington, MD 20895, (301) 946-8029, [mike.j.ryan@comcast.net](mailto:mike.j.ryan@comcast.net)  
.....

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number in Party** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_

***PLEASE REPLY ON OR BEFORE MARCH 30.***