



## North Central Michigan Chapter Project Announcement!

**When:** April 26, 2014 – 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 35 apple trees in groups of 5 at sites adjacent to wildlife openings in the Lame Duck Foot Access Area Gladwin State Forest Unit 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 only take half the day. When all the trees are planted those that wish can go to The Camp restaurant for lunch (lunch is on your own).

**Why:** Years ago the area of the Lame Duck Foot Access Area was in private ownership. 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 left of their time here 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 put 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, beavers, mice, cottontail rabbits and deer consume the bark; grouse and deer consume the buds; and beaver, deer, snowshoe hares and cottontail rabbits eat the twigs and leaves. Deer, turkeys, fox, fishers, 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 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.***

**Please contact Bruce Barlow - 989-385-5618 or [my41chev@yahoo.com](mailto:my41chev@yahoo.com)  
for more information. I look forward to working with you  
on this worthwhile and important project!!**