

RGS SKYLANDS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER---njgrouse.com

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WOODCOCK WALKS, PROJECTS, and The Gap!

For those of you who don't know a few weeks ago we had one of our most productive workdays in a long time at The Wallkill River NWR. Our work crew made short work of a large stand of old overgrown Aspen and we will monitor it the summer to watch it regenerate. (Should be interesting) Recently Alan Westra, Ron Hill, Bill Shane, and I attended an extensive two day chainsaw safety certification class at the Delaware Water Gap NRA. This was a requirement for us to begin working on projects this spring. The class was highly informative and apparently successful with numerous people both men and women who had never touched a saw before safely handling one by the end of the second day. For people who could not attend I spoke with Mark Banker, RGS Biologist the other day who said he would try to work out some sort of alternative training in the near future. Speaking of Mark he gave a presentation at the Pequest hatchery on Friday. He showcased RGS work and the equipment which should be arriving in NJ in April. Apparently NJ State DEP reps were impressed and now want RGS to do larger scale projects on state land in N.J. We will also be starting what will be our largest project ever in NJ on federal land later this spring. We will be Very busy for a very long time. I will be traveling to state land this coming week to check on previous plantings we have done for cover. Hopefully we will be able replenish any areas damaged by heavy snow, ice, and foraging. We should Plan on doing any planting in early to mid May, additionally we will be purchasing safety equipment for future projects with some of our banquet proceeds. We will discuss this at our next meeting.

Our annual WOODCOCK WALK will be at the Wallkill River NWR on Saturday April 21, at 7:00 PM if you can't make it the Audubon Society will be sponsoring one on April 14 Ken Witkowski will hold this one. He is a great guy and very knowledgeable. These will co sponsored by the friends of Wallkill River NWR. These events are a lot of fun and I would highly recommend them.

Our next meeting will be Thursday April 19th at The Lafayette House at 7:00 PM. I will send an updated newsletter before then. Thanks Jim DeSaye