

RGS SKYLANDS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER---njgrouse.com

Chapter information. Call 973-702-8380 or email jjdesaye@yahoo.com

ALL WALK AND FEW WOODCOCK

Saturday April 21 we held our annual woodcock walk at the Wallkill River NWR. When I arrived I discovered a full parking lot with 42 hopeful participants waiting to see the bird do its display. (Last year we had 5 people) After giving the participants a brief description of what to expect, we headed down to the viewing area and began our quest. Of course things don't always go as planned and as it got darker and darker without hearing any peenting, I knew we may be in trouble. Finally we began to hear birds call, and with little light left birds began to fly. We did not see any birds spiraling up as we did in the past, but we did see birds flying around to each others call. Though I am sure there was some disappointment no one seemed to mind as there was plenty of wildlife beautiful weather and an enthusiastic crowd. And there is always next year. We had a monthly meeting on April 19th. We decided to use chapter funds to purchase safety equipment for volunteers to use at workdays. Specifically Helmets, chaps, ear, and eye protection. Additionally we decided our next work day will be planting trees, instead of cutting. This day will be on Sunday May 20th and will probably be at Hainseville WMA but I will have to get in touch with the state on that and will send an update once we get permission. We will be holding a fun shoot on Sunday June 10th at the flatbook trap range. We will hold a clean up of the range for the state but as a rule the place is pretty clean.

Those of you with children, there will be a take me fishing event held at the Wallkill River NWR on May 12th from 10-2. Children 14 and under are eligible to participate and registration is not required. The state will be stocking along with brook trout donated by Double V gun club in Vernon. What makes this event different is the lake its being held on has not been open to fishing in over twenty years and there are some large native bass in the lake. Call 973-702-7266 for more info. Our next meeting will be on Thursday May 17 at 7:00 PM at the Lafayette house in Lafayette. If anyone has a suggestion on other locations please feel free to contact me and we will discuss it. Thanks Jim DeSaye