

RGS SKYLANDS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER---njgrouse.com

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

Where does all the money go?

Every year before the banquet I plan on making a speech or at least Jims version of a speech. I have so much to tell the crowd, I spend a large amount of free time doing work for RGS, most of which no one knows about. Ruffed Grouse are not exactly a high profile species, but at this time I feel there is no more important species to manage for in New Jersey.

We have a unique opportunity in New Jersey in that green acres buys up hundreds of acres a year and sets them aside for public use, much of this is old farmland which given time will revert to the young growing forest we need to support wildlife. We have witnessed a moderate but noticeable resurgence in grouse populations over the last three years. Most of this has been in green acres areas where farms were ten years ago. Despite what people may perceive the state and federal government have been very receptive to our cause. State and Federal officials have gone to great lengths to help continue projects and plan new ones throughout the state. This past year we were able to use your money to help purchase new land for the state. Fish and Wildlife completed the next phase of the Berkshire Valley WMA project. We planted hundreds of trees on state land and continued projects on federal land. We spent days scouting new project areas and meeting with officials to secure new projects which are desperately needed state wide. Mark Banker now knows more about NJ than he ever probably cared to. We have a full slate for this coming year and are working on a groundbreaking agreement with the Delaware water gap NRA an area with a considerable number of grouse remaining on it.

Like I said earlier every year I plan on making a speech at the banquet. And every year I don't . The fact that everyone returns to the banquet year after year and supports us gives me great satisfaction and pride. Year after year you donate your money and trust us to use it wisely. I think we do. This spring we will sponsor a tree planting for children on earth day (RGS Style). We have several more work days scheduled and will likely sponsor a hunt. Our next meeting is Thursday March 2, at 7:00 pm at the Lafayette House. I will have totals for the banquet (which was a huge success) and info on our next workday by then.

Thanks again Jim

PS Out pheasant hunting the last two weeks out 5 times and have seen at least one grouse each time ,You gotta like that !