

Chapter information. Call 973-702-8380 or email [jjdesaye@yahoo.com](mailto:jjdesaye@yahoo.com)

Momentum is everything, and quite frankly we have had none, or should I say I have had none for the last few months. I take responsibility for our autumn projects not starting in October like they were supposed to. But to be honest On October 17 it was 80 degrees outside my home, hardly the type of weather that anyone wants to be doing physical labor during. I did keep busy on a smaller scale completing a training course for Ag equipment for US Fish and Wildlife, then taking the equipment down to our project site at The Wallkill River NWR and doing some major landscape clearing in front of our clear cuts. There is also a trail leading in from the Kelley Road Parking area leading to all three aspen regeneration areas we have worked on. This is an incidental bonus but will be essential for me to maintain the areas in the future. So in other words the hunters have a trail through that ungodly tick infested area we like to call our project. I have a meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> with Refuge management and will have a date for our training day at Wallkill to become chainsaw certified. This certification will carry over to the gap where we should be starting to work around thanksgiving, (rough estimate) we are not going to sweat the start date because I have seen the project area and it is substantial, this will not be a one day in and out project, so we should step back take a breath and proceed cautiously. I will be meeting with officials from NJ DEP, and US F&W to discuss our future in NJ. I will probably have a couple of years worth of projects set for us by Christmas and who knows what else Santa may bring.

I will bring material to give out regarding our banquet and donations at the next meeting. It's that time again and if we do as well this year, as last year this will be our most productive banquet yet.

I would like to give special thanks to Allen Westra for securing Perona Farms for our banquet again, and John Crowley for holding our trap shoot on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October. There were many people at the range and we struck up some great conversation made some friends and even hit a few clay birds.

Woodcock and Grouse season opened with a whimper, 70+ degree weather, for the first few days put a damper on enthusiasm, but what a difference a week makes! Temps in the upper 20s have brought the flights down and I noticed a marked difference day to day where I hunt, and I am sure all of you will notice as well.

Last but not least the November meeting is arguably the most important one of the year as far as the banquet goes. It will be held at the Lafayette house on Thursday November 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM I hope anyone who wants some input in the banquet will attend. Of course even if you don't you are always welcome to attend anyway. Have a Great Season

Jim DeSaye