

RGS SKYLANDS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER---njgrouse.com

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

In CASE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD the new skid steer caterpillar arrived on Thursday at the Delaware Water Gap N.R.A. Mark Banker, Larry Hilaire, and I were present. Mark unloaded the machine and made quick work of several aspen, to give a quick demonstration to us in how the machine operates. Formal training by Cat. Will be held sometime after the first of the year. I will send out a letter notifying anyone who wishes to be trained of the date and time as soon as I find out. The machine will be in New Jersey until we are finished with it, meaning that if we are not using it and someone else needs it chances are its going to be moved. It's important that we have several workdays this winter to get as much done as possible while we have this valuable piece of equipment. That being said, **Our next workday will be held at the Delaware Water Gap NRA on Sunday, January 13, 2007.** We will meet at the Grange on River Road north of the Milford Bridge at 8 AM. From there we will travel to the worksite. If weather conditions are not favorable we will car pool into the site via four wheel drive. Larry told me he has seen a number of grouse around the "Gap" this season and that would fit right in with all reports that this was one of the better grouse seasons in the New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania area in a while. That does not mean you will be tripping over them in NJ but it is an encouraging sign none the less. I would like to take time to thank several members for work they have done recently. Chris Shotwell, Gary Tunkavige, Sam Milone, John Finkeldie Jim Gaudioso , and Mike Maher all got certified in chainsaw safety by the US Fish and Wildlife last month. We now have 10 members certified to use a saw on federal land. I would also like to thank John Crowley for the outstanding professional job he does as the treasurer year in and out. And last I would like to thank Alan Westra who has played a huge part in putting together this year's banquet. A quick foot note, Shortly after returning home yesterday from the gap I got a phone call from Fred Aun of the Star Ledger. His timing could not have been better, in today's paper (12/28/07) You will notice a nice article featuring our upcoming banquet and the project in the Gap. Thanks Fred, he has been very kind to us and RGS. Our next meeting will be on Thursday January 10, at 7:00 PM at the Lafayette House in Lafayette. It will be our final formal meeting before the banquet but of course I can be reached any time with any questions you may have and as always all are welcome to attend. Thank You Happy New Year Jim DeSaye