



Ruffed Grouse Society News Letter Page

njgrouse.com

Ruffed Grouse Society Skylands Chapter 1355 Rt. 23 Sussex N.J.07461

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Good News

This year seems to be a little bit better for Grouse populations in my neck of the woods. Although I can't speak for Warren, or Morris counties, I have noticed an increase in both flush rate per hour in the woods as well as an increase in places I am finding Grouse. This is good news especially since we had an unexpectedly weak Woodcock season with few flights coming down for the three-week span of the season. Last year I averaged about 1 grouse flush for every two hours a field. This sounds better than it was because I was "stacking the deck" by hunting areas I knew contained birds to work my young pointer. It seemed whenever I tried someplace new last year I had little success. This year I am at this point averaging 1 bird per hour a field and much of it is in new places where I have never hunted before. This morning I flushed 2 grouse in about an hour and a half in what appears to be very solid cover on recently acquired state property belonging to Stokes forest. Now before you declare grouse populations in N.J. restored to their former glory I will admit I never hunt over three hours in a clip in N.J. Simply the size of the coverts does not warrant it. But it does make the case for creating more cover particularly in the northern part of the county where bird populations seem to be most stable.

Welcome Brian Parsons

The three soon to be four New Jersey chapters of RGS got a new and hopefully permanent regional director recently. Brian Parsons lives in the State College PA vicinity and is considerably closer than Lisa or Michelle were. Those of you who have attended our meetings know Lisa, Michelle, and Bill who combined to keep N.J. afloat for the past four years. For all they have done we are grateful but don't feel too sad for them all three have been promoted and promise to be available and in touch. I am sure Brian will be able to fill the big shoes left for him here and honestly can't wait to start working with him on our upcoming banquets and projects. Welcome to N.J. Brian you have to learn to say "Down the shore", and "Fugettaboutit"

Banquet Time.

January 29th 2005 is our annual banquet to be held at the Lafayette House as in the past a buffet with a one hour open bar are the same as last year. The only change is that the banquet will be on a Saturday this year which should make it a much more relaxing affair than years past.

Next Meeting will on Thursday January 6th at 7:00 PM at the Lafayette house anyone may attend .