

RGS SKYLANDS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER---njgrouse.com

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Next up Sparta Mountain and Berkshire Valley

Mark Banker and I recently attended a meeting with several Officials of NJ fish and Wildlife, and NJ Department of Forestry . A lot of information was gleaned from this meeting such as there were grouse habitat projects completed on Hamburg Mountain WMA and Wanaque WMA approximately 20 years ago. Although grown in these areas may be worth exploring for adventurous souls as they may hold birds. These were sponsored by the then N.J. chapter, now Somerset hills chapter and they should be given credit as such. The newly acquired lake Gerard area of Sparta Mountain WMA has been harvested and managed for twenty years and should have a decent resident bird population. But the most important thing to come out of the meeting was the state is going to proceed with the next phase of grouse management in Berkshire valley wma. And they are moving forward with a comprehensive management plan for Sparta Mountain Wma which includes a substantial Grouse habitat project. Additionally Land Management Director Tony Petrongolo informed us that power companies will no longer be mowing power lines down to grass instead they will manage the power lines to keep them in an early shrub state which should also help our cause. This was all we could ask for and should prove to be a huge success in the long term.

Our next meeting will be a work day on September 11th at 8:00 am at the Wallkill River Wildlife refuge this will be a new project site and should prove to be interesting.

Just a reminder we are asking each member to get at least one donation for our banquet which is January 28th it will be here before you know it so the time to start is now. Thanks Jim