



# RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY

## North Central Michigan Chapter Project Announcement!

**When:** April 27, 2019 – 8:30 AM

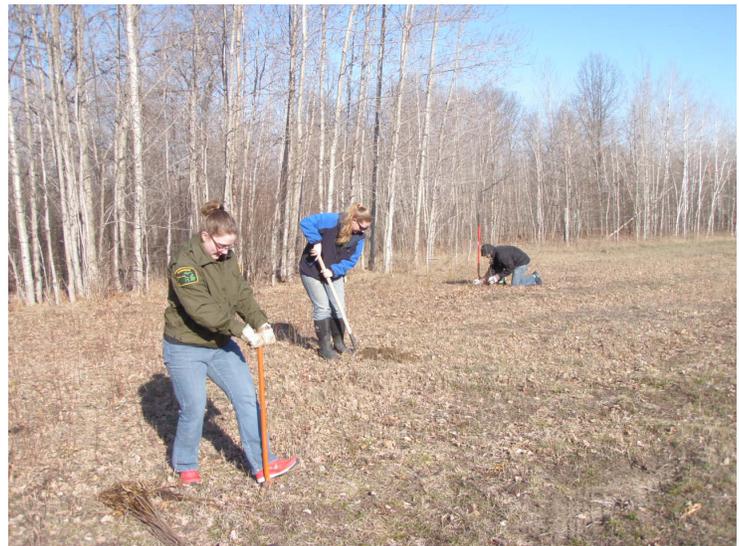
**Where:** Meet at the Department of Natural  
Resources Gladwin Field Office  
(801 N. Silverleaf, Gladwin, MI 48624)

**What:** We will be planting 30 apple trees, 10 pear and 20 crabapple trees in groups of 5 at sites adjacent to wildlife openings in the Drummond Road Project Area, Gladwin County, Michigan. This is a joint project between the DNR Wildlife Division and the North Central Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society.

**What to bring:** Shovel, work gloves and a can-do attitude!

**How long:** This project should take 6 to 7 hours. When at least half the trees are planted lunch will be provided.

**Why:** Years ago, farms dotted the landscape mostly under private ownership. These early farmers planted fruit bearing trees to supplement the agricultural crops they tended. Due to poor soils and a high-water table almost all these farming attempts failed. The only evidence remaining is the occasional group of old apple trees you sometimes encounter scattered across the landscape. Lack of routine maintenance has taken its toll on these old trees and most are in serious decline. Because these trees are so beneficial to grouse and other wildlife the objective of this project is to plant a new generation of trees across the landscape.



Through this project grouse and other wildlife species will utilize them for nesting sites, food, and cover. The bark, buds, twigs, leaves, and fruit are used. For example, porcupines, mice, rabbits and deer consume the bark; grouse and deer consume the buds; and deer, snowshoe hares and rabbits eat the twigs and leaves. Deer, turkeys, fox, porcupines, bobcats, coyotes, red squirrels, and black bears have all been known to eat the fruit. Apple trees provide a year-round food source in one form or another, but they are particularly important in the winter providing a unique and alternate food. The apples are readily eaten after other fruits have dropped or have disappeared under the snow. Wildlife have become familiar with apple tree locations and seek them out for the valuable benefits they provide.

**By participating in this project Chapter members will get the opportunity to “give back” to the wildlife and habitat that provides so much pleasure and enjoyment.**

RSVP Bruce Barlow at [barlowb@michigan.gov](mailto:barlowb@michigan.gov). I look forward to working with you on this worthwhile and important project!