

S.W. Michigan Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society

South West Michigan Chapter of the RGS, 225 Parsons St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007
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April Views

By Tom Mollet Secretary

The sun is shining, spring is on the way and many of us are getting cabin fever. I don't know about you, but I am ready to go to the range and shoot some clays.

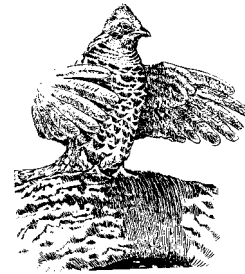
Many of us are already planning our training and hunting events for 2009. We have an outstanding training session planned for May. There are a limited number of spots, and we are quickly filling the openings that are available.

The training sessions are being sponsored by Purina and are being led by Steve Grossman. Steve specializes in the pointing breeds and Green will lead the training of the flushing breeds.

The training session was a big hit last year and we hope that the training will continue to receive the same types of reviews we received from last year.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

April Views	1
2009 Banquet review	1
Meet the Chapter Officers	2
Upcoming Events	2
Purina Dog Training Event	3
Conservation Topics	4
RGS restoration equipment	4



Michigan Thunder

2009 Banquet Recap

By Jim Altman

The 2009 RGS Banquet was a great success this year. The attendance was down a little this year; however the banquet auction and raffle items were up in quality and the food was wonderful. We want to thank Charley and his fine staff at Gull View. The Ladies from the WMU Cheer Leading Squad were back again this year. Their efforts were a big help in promoting the ticket sales and auctions. We want to thank Matt from Heritage Auctions for his help with our banquet.

The hat Raffle went fast and was a big hit this year. Jim Fish won the Sponsor gun; a fine Traditions O/U again this year. This year, we offered a Kayak on the Gun table. The tickets for this item went very well. The fishing trip with John VanDam at auction was a big hit. We want to give a special thanks to Dave & Becky Sherwood for

their bird-mounting donation. John Gerloff received a 10-year award for his work on the board. A plaque was presented to Jim Smith for his dedication and efforts on behalf of the RGS.

In summary, I want to thank all of you who attended or contributed to the RGS and the banquet. Your efforts are very significant to the success of the youth shoot at the Kalamazoo Rod and Gun Club.

Finally, your support to the habitat restoration efforts of the RGS has contributed greatly to the new habitat restoration equipment coming to Michigan. This will greatly benefit the efforts of the RGS, the DNR and private land restoration needs that will improve the habitat for Ruffed Grouse and Woodcock.

Date	Activity	Willing to help?	Type of help
May 3 rd	Purina Gun Dog Training S.W. Mich. Chapter		
September TBA	Youth hunt at Willow Lake		

Proposed Activities for 2009

Suggestions for other Activities for 2009

Date	Activity	Willing to Help	Type of Help	

Meet the Chapter

President: Jim Altman autotech@mei.net 269-342-1337

Vice President: David Dyer oakridgewachtelhund.com

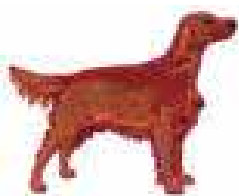
Secretary: Tom Mollet tmollet@conformamed.com 269-345-1620 269-345-1748 Fax

Treasurer: Jim Fish Jr.

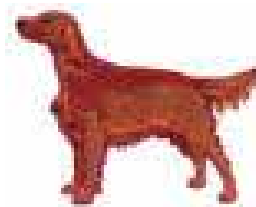
Regional Director: Doug Doherty rqsdrd@centurytel.net



Michigan Thunder



*Ruffed Grouse Society
Southwestern Michigan
Chapter
2nd Annual Dog
Training Seminar
Sponsored By Purina*



Sunday May 3, 2009

Willow Lake Sportsmen's Club

51704 North U.S. 131
Three Rivers, MI 49093

\$150.00 Value from Purina

Cost: Special Value Price Of \$75.00
(Training Birds Are Available At Additional Charge)

Limited to 20 Participants

Registration: 8:30 a.m.

Group Seminar: 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Lunch (Included): Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Personal Instruction & Field Work:

1:00 - 4:30 p.m. (Wrap-up)

**One Day Gun Dog Training
Seminar with Purina's Pro
Trainer Steve Grossman,
specializing in pointing breeds
& Assisted By Andrew Green
Specializing in Flushing Breeds**

**Participants are encouraged to
bring their dogs.**
(we prefer ages of 6 months and up).

**Visit Steve's Website for
information on his program.**

Website:
www.littlemoran.com



Willow Lake Sportsman's Club

**Situated on 300 acres in Three Rivers
Michigan, it is the perfect facility to host
this event, with fields, ponds & woods this
makes for the right atmosphere to host this
gun dog training seminar.**



**"This Program will get You & Your Dog working together
as a Hunting TEAM with group &
One on One training tailored to Your Dog's Needs"**

You Must Register By April 29, 2009

To Register, Please Contact:

Jim Altman at 269.342.1337 or 269.731.5271

Or Email: autotech@mei.net

Ruffed Grouse Society 2009 Michigan Projects (In Progress)

The equipment pictured below is one of our new tools we have in restoring the habitat for Ruffed Grouse, Woodcock and other wildlife species.



This is an amazing piece of equipment. It can precisely clear a significant amount of material in a short period of time without damaging desired species. This then allows for the biologists to restore the land to meet breeding and nutritional needs of the ruffed grouse, woodcock and other wildlife.

Hiawatha National Forest Grouse Habitat Improvements, Chippewa and Mackinac Counties, Michigan

An additional \$5,000 was provided for the ongoing Cost Share Partnership Program between the US Forest Service and the Ruffed Grouse Society. Funds contributed are being matched by the Forest Service, therefore doubling on the ground management activities. Funds in 2009 would continue the development of the Little Bear Ruffed Grouse and Woodcock Management Area on the St. Ignace Ranger District and begin habitat improvements on the Birch Farm Management Area near Rapid River.

LeGrande Management Area Project, Cheboygan County, Michigan

The project area is managed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and is located approximately six miles north of Afton, Michigan. Funds would be used to support ongoing ruffed grouse habitat work being conducted on the Pigeon River Wildlife Area. Work for 2009 includes the rehabilitation of approximately 12 acres of wildlife openings.

Michigan Private Landowner Education

RGS funds in 2008 were used to support an early succession forest educational workshop at the 2nd annual Michigan Ornithological Conference to increase the awareness of this important habitat component to local and migratory songbirds. Funds were also used to support two regional workshops for Michigan Ruffed Grouse Society Chapter representatives. Funds would be used for logistical support for these events.

Michigan Technological University Research Project

RGS provided \$6,000 for a two year research project entitled; "Optimizing Both Habitat Quality for Conservation-Concern Bird Species and Tree Productivity in Aspen Forests in the Great Lakes Region". With future prospects of using forest resources for cellulosic ethanol production, additional pressure most likely will fall on this regionally declining forest resource. This research is timely and will evaluate potential tradeoffs between biomass production and wildlife habitat management objectives in aspen stands and develop recommendations for managing aspen forests to meet quality-oriented standards.

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City, ST ZIP Code