



**Ruffed Grouse Society Covered Bridge Chapter
2009 Sponsors Hunt
Saturday, October 10, 2009
Alpine Hunting & Fishing Club
220 Alpine Road
Bridgeville, PA 15017**

Be among the first paid sponsors for the upcoming year, and join us for a half day hunt for pheasant, a light lunch, a few good lies, and new and renewed friendships.

Each group of four hunters will be paired with a dog and handler, or you can bring your own dog to show off. Guaranteed a dozen birds will be flyin', no guarantee you'll be hittin' 'em.



Morning or afternoon reservation times available.

Purchase your sponsorship now to assure your spot for this event, we only have spaces for the first 32 paid Sponsors. This hunt being held at the Alpine Club is open **ONLY TO Covered Bridge Chapter SPONSORS.**

The Alpine Club was founded in 1946. The membership is limited. The club is a licensed shooting preserve on 142 acres of property south of Pittsburgh in South Fayette Township, Bridgeville, Pennsylvania. The Alpine Club has a new club house were we will enjoy our light lunch. For directions please visit the Alpine Club web site www.alpinehfc.com



Covered Bridge Chapter Sponsor Packages Include The Following:

Sustaining Sponsor Package – Cost \$1,070.00

- A) 2 Spots Reserved For You At The Sponsor Hunt
- B) 1 Sustaining Sponsor Ticket, 7 Guest Dinner Tickets To The Sportsmen's Banquet Scheduled For November 12, 2009 at The Bella Sera By Greco's In Canonsburg
- C) 4 Sponsor Gun Drawing Chances – Drawn At The November 12th Banquet
- D) Choice Of Option 1, 2 or 3 In Sponsor Awards Program

Conservation Sponsor Package – Cost \$535.00

- A) 1 Spot Reserved For You At The Sponsor Hunt
- B) 1 Conservation Sponsor Ticket, 3 Guest Dinner Tickets To The Sportsmen's Banquet Scheduled For November 12, 2009 at The Bella Sera By Greco's In Canonsburg
- C) 2 Sponsor Gun Drawing Chances – Drawn At The November 12th Banquet
- D) Choice Of Option 1, 2 or 3 In Sponsor Awards Program

Banquet Sponsor Package – \$310.00

- A) 1 Spot Reserved For You At The Sponsor Hunt
- B) 1 Banquet Sponsor Ticket, 1 Guest Dinner Tickets To The Sportsmen's Banquet Scheduled For November 12, 2009 at The Bella Sera By Greco's In Canonsburg
- C) 1 Sponsor Gun Drawing Chance – Drawn At The November 12th Banquet
- D) Choice Of Option 1, 2 or 3 In Sponsor Awards Program

**Mail form and check to: Brian Hanna, RGS-Covered Bridge Chapter,
413 Burton Avenue, Washington, PA 15301**

**For more information: www.gundogalliance.com/RGS
412-296-1178 Brian**

-----**Cut & Mail**-----

Sponsor Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

E-Mail: _____

_____ \$1,070.00 Sustaining Sponsor Package \$ _____

_____ \$535.00 Conservation Sponsor Package \$ _____

_____ \$310.00 Banquet Sponsor Package \$ _____

Method of Payment: _____

____ Cash ____ Check ____ Visa ____ MasterCard Total Enclosed _____

Card No. _____ **Make checks payable to: Ruffed Grouse Society**

Signature _____ Exp. Date _____

Pennsylvania Habitat Update 2009

Pennsylvania continues to be one of RGS' most active states in terms of chapters, membership, fund-raising and habitat projects. Like many states in the East, however, PA has lost a tremendous amount of grouse and woodcock habitat over the last 40 years. Since the 1960's, the amount of quality grouse and woodcock habitat has declined by nearly 1.6 million acres. These forests have not disappeared, they've just gotten older. PA has far more forest now than it did 100 years ago. This means that the trend in habitat is reversible!

Because of the relatively large amount of public lands, there is still excellent grouse and woodcock hunting to be found, especially in the northcentral part of the state. The potential for reversing the trend in grouse and woodcock habitat and populations is very good in other parts of the state, as well. Pennsylvania could easily be the premier grouse and woodcock hunting state in the East south of Maine. Last year's mild winter plus an apparent excellent hatch this spring may have contributed to excellent hunting in many areas of the state this fall and winter.

Advocacy remains an extremely important component of the RGS mission. Enthusiastic support for timber management on public lands by RGS members is critical, and RGS members have been vocal in support of habitat management. While RGS bases its unwavering support for forest management on sound science, there are plenty of well organized groups who base their opposition for forest management on deception, emotion and litigation. We have to get our message out.

Most of our members want to know what RGS is doing in their neck-of-the-woods. The list of current projects that RGS is directly involved in changes each year. RGS has on-going projects at Bald Eagle State Park (Centre Co), Raystown Lake (Huntingdon Co), State Game Lands 110 (Berks Co), Forbes State Forest and many other game lands, to name only a few.

RGS is working with the Forbes State Forest in Somerset County to manage thousands of acres of timber for grouse and woodcock. An 85 acre timber sale is currently being cut and another sale is being planned.

The Jim Bashline project at Raystown Lake has now resulted in over 1300 acres of timber management and is producing good numbers of grouse and woodcock. Many other habitat improvements totaling hundreds of more acres also have been completed.

RGS has identified and started work on a woodcock habitat project on state game lands 82 in Somerset County in memory of Bill Goudy, who died in January 2007. Bill worked tirelessly on behalf of the American woodcock throughout his career and for the Ruffed Grouse Society for many years before retiring a few years ago. Please contact your RGS regional staff about financial support of the Bill Goudy Memorial Project.

Focusing on the bigger picture, RGS coordinated the development of the National Ruffed Grouse Management Strategy which is now approved and final. RGS biologists also authored several sections of the National Woodcock Management Strategy (still in preparation) and are co-authoring two chapters of a book on the ecology and management of grouse in the southern Appalachians.

If you have never attended an RGS event, written a letter or attended a meeting to support grouse and woodcock management, make it happen in 2009. To find out how, contact **Mark Banker, Regional Biologist**, 814-867-7946, rgsbank@comcast.net or **Regional Directors Lisa Rossi (Western PA)**, 724-693-9032, rgslmt@msn.com; **Dave Hansroth (Eastern PA)**, 412-303-1405, rgshans@comcast.net, and **Ken Waite (northern tier)**, 315-406-5016, rgsknw@twcny.rr.com. *Updated January 2009.*