



Western Great Lakes Region FAN UPDATE

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May 9, 2011

Spring is Finally in the Air

Spring weather, with its ups and downs, hit in full force this year and our favorite birds were forced to adapt differently most each and every day. Some days were wonderful and grouse drumming was well underway as shown in Gary Kraszewski's deer cam photo above. But all you had to do was wait a day and things would change. In NE Wisconsin, the first migrating woodcock were spotted the first week of April just in time for a foot or more of snow and very cold temperatures for the next three to four days. We noted at least five snow events in our part of the world after the first woodcock had arrived. We'll have to wait a little while to see how all this shapes up in terms of bird productivity for this year. *Gary*

**Only 6 Weeks Left to Enter the
2010/2011 RGS 50th
Anniversary National Raffle**

Three Chances to Win, Only 1,000 Tickets to be Sold

***1st Prize: Remington Model 1100 "F" Grade 28-Gauge
Semi -Auto Shotgun***

Hand Engraved by Remington's Master Engraver Don Talbot - One of a Kind



2nd Prize: Caesar Guerini Apex, 28-Gauge Over/Under Shotgun

Hand Engraved Grouse on Trigger Guard - One of a Kind



3rd Prize: Kimber Valier Grade II 20 Gauge Side/Side Shotgun



To Purchase National Raffle Tickets Contact: Gary Zimmer
at 715-674-7505 or rgszimm@gmail.com or mail the following to:

RGS, PO Box 116, Laona WI 54541

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

_____ Tickets @ \$100.00 Each = \$_____ Total Enclosed

CHECK (Payable to RGS) CASH CREDIT CARD

CC # _____ Exp. Date _____

Billing Address _____ Billing Zip _____

Signature _____

Email Address to Change

My email address is being changed to rgszimm@gmail.com so please update your address book or any other location where you have my email address.

Ruffed Grouse Society Announces 2011 Wisconsin Drummer Fund Projects

Eleven Habitat Projects Approved For Funding

Coraopolis, PA - The Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS) will be providing financial support for eleven habitat projects during 2011 via its Wisconsin Drummer Fund. The projects are designed to benefit habitat for ruffed grouse, American woodcock and wildlife species like deer and songbirds that rely upon young forests for survival. Partners receiving RGS funding this year for projects in Wisconsin include the USDA Forest Service, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Jackson County Forestry Department, Douglas County Forestry Department, Wood County Forestry Department and Florence County Forestry and Parks Department.

According to Mike Zagata, RGS President and CEO, "RGS is pleased to work with a variety of Wisconsin partners to continue to support important wildlife related projects across the state. Since 1985, RGS has contributed over

750,000 dollars to fund 85 projects in 40 of Wisconsin's 72 counties. Our dedicated chapter members have worked hard to provide the funds that enable RGS to support these important projects that benefit both hunted and non-hunted wildlife."

The Wisconsin Drummer Fund was initiated in 2010 with over \$53,000 from chapter fund raising events and member donations being made available to support grouse and woodcock projects in 2011.

Wisconsin Drummer Fund Projects approved for 2011 include:

- Barron County Alder Management - Wisconsin DNR
- Bell Mound Ruffed Grouse Management Area Establishment - Jackson County Forestry Department
- Clam River Fishery Alder Management - Wisconsin DNR
- Colburn Wildlife Area Early Successional Habitat - Wisconsin DNR
- Dell Creek Wildlife Area Habitat Improvement - Wisconsin DNR
- Duck Lake Hunter Walking Trail Development - Florence County Forestry and Parks Department
- Hunter Walking Trail System Restoration in Oconto and Forest Counties - USDA Forest Service
- North Central Wisconsin Early Successional Habitat - Wisconsin DNR
- Potato Creek Wildlife Area Woodcock Management - Wisconsin DNR
- Ruffed Grouse Management Area Access Improvement - Douglas County Forestry Department
- Wood County Wildlife Area Aspen/Alder Regeneration - Wood County Forestry Department and Wisconsin DNR

"The projects selected for funding under the Wisconsin Drummer Fund went through a thorough evaluation. Projects that could be cost shared with other organizations received high consideration. The \$53,000 being provided by RGS is being matched by other agencies with a total of just over \$103,000 projected to be spent to complete these eleven projects.", said RGS coordinating biologist Gary Zimmer.

Fourth Attempt to Delist Gray Wolves in Western Great Lakes

On 14 April 2011, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announced a proposal to remove gray wolves from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife in the Western Great Lakes area, which is expected to be published in the federal register in the next few weeks. Wolf numbers total more than 4,000 individuals over the three core recovery states (Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin). Each state has developed a management plan for the wolves under a post-delisting scenario. Politicians in the Midwest support this decision, including Governor Scott Walker who emphasized the critical role of state management in a [letter](#) to Interior Secretary Salazar.

Delisting of the wolves would provide states and landowners more options in dealing with problems related to wolves, such as authorizing landowner and state agencies to remove or euthanize wolves that kill livestock. Wisconsin alone has had a 50% increase in depredation this year and a total of \$200,000 paid in compensation for livestock kills. It is expected that the Service will make its decision on the proposal by the end of 2011, but for now the wolves will remain classified as endangered in Michigan and Wisconsin and threatened in Minnesota.

Conservation Programs Dodge Major Cuts in FY 11 Budget Agreement

The final negotiations on spending levels for the remainder of fiscal year 2011 proved to be less devastating to conservation programs than proposed in earlier versions of the bill, reports the Wildlife Management Institute. Programs such as the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) fund and the Land and Water Conservation Fund were recommended for elimination or massive reductions in the House-passed H.R.1, causing sportsmen's conservation organizations to raise loud objections in the press and on Capitol Hill. Those outcries were apparently heard, as Congress' final cuts were less damaging than anticipated. However many programs received cuts of one-third the 2010 levels, and concern mounts as to how deep cuts will be for 2012.

"We all share [Congress'] desire to reduce our national debt and balance our budget," stated Steve Williams, President of the Wildlife Management Institute during his remarks at the opening session of the 76th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources conference in Kansas City, last month. "However, the recent slash-and-burn approach to reducing the federal budget could not have occurred with careful consideration of which conservation programs work and which do not. Consider this, the [proposed] cuts to these programs occurred in a portion of the federal budget related to water and land management, which amounts to about one half of 1 percent of the entire federal budget. Their actions could not have taken into account the non-federal funds that are leveraged by these funds or the ecological services that these programs provide for the public. In each case, the return on the investment of federal dollars pays public dividends in excess of that original investment."

Agriculture conservation programs will also receive less funding for the remainder of the year, including the Wetlands Reserve Program (down \$119 million from FY10), the Conservation Stewardship program (down \$39 million) and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (an \$80 million drop). At the agency level, the Natural Resources Conservation Service will face a \$118 million drop in their overall operations budget.

"Congress clearly heard from wildlife professionals, hunters and anglers that the proposed cuts would be devastating for conservation efforts across the country—particularly for programs like the Land and Water Conservation Fund, NAWCA, State Wildlife Grants, and others that have had such a strong return on the investment," commented Mark Humpert, Director of Wildlife Policy and Science for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Wisconsin Loons on the Air

The WI-DNR and USGS are tracking loons with satellites. A number of the birds have been fitted with radios and are being recorded throughout the year. Take a look at the following website to see where some of Wisconsin's breeding loons migrate to:

http://www.umesc.usgs.gov/terrestrial/migratory_birds/loons/migrations.html

Changing RGS Biologists

Senior Regional RGS Biologist Mark Banker recently accepted a position with the American Chestnut Foundation. We appreciate all that he did for the Society and wish him and his family well as he takes a new career path.

Replacing Mark as the RGS Regional Biologist in the Mid-Atlantic Region is Dr. Linda Ordiway of Bradford, Pennsylvania. Dr. Ordiway brings with her a wealth of experience working with early successional forest communities. She worked as a biologist with the Northeastern Forestry Science Laboratory of the US Forest Service on the Allegheny National Forest since 1994 and since 2009 has taught at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford in the environmental and biological sciences department. We welcome Dr. Ordiway to the RGS team.

2011 is RGS' 50th Anniversary!!

In 2011, the Ruffed Grouse Society celebrates its 50th Anniversary as one of the longest running conservation organizations. Special items commemorating the anniversary will include a collector's knife, belt buckle, several unique shotguns, a unique lost-wax process cast of a ruffed grouse, carved woodcock and apparel with the 50th Anniversary RGS logo. These items will be at our 2011 banquets in limited quantities, and available through the **RGS-Mart** at <http://www.ruffedgrousesociety.org/shoppingcart/magento/>, some of them currently.

RGS 50th Anniversary Publication Available

Celebrate 50 years of conservation by purchasing a copy of the unique, limited edition 50th anniversary publication of the RGS. This high quality, perfect bound publication will be a collector's item for years to come. Issue price is \$14.95 plus shipping. Order online at www.ruffedgrousesociety.org, or by phone at (888) 564-6747.

Upcoming RGS “Habitat” Events in the Region

May 14 – Habitat Work Day on the Eagle River/Florence District of the Cheq/Nicolet National Forest. Contact Dave Bartz at 920-743-6004 for info.

June 15 - Sign Up Deadline for WI Coverts Workshops, Contact Jamie Nack at 608-265-8264 or email at jlneck@wisc.edu.

June 18 – Habitat Work Day on the Cheq/Nicolet National Forest near Laona, WI. Contact Dave Bartz at 920-743-6004 for info.

August 11 to 14 - 2011 WI Coverts Workshop, Kemp Natural Resource Station, Woodruff, WI. Contact Jamie Nack at 608-265-8264 or email at jlneck@wisc.edu.

August 26 to 28 – WI Coverts Cooperators Reunion, Contact Jamie Nack at 608-265-8264 or email at jlneck@wisc.edu.

Reminder

To insure that you continue to receive timely FAN updates please notify me of changes in your email address.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions:

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Ruffed Grouse Society

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The Ruffed Grouse Society is the one international wildlife conservation organization dedicated to promoting conditions suitable for ruffed grouse, American woodcock and related wildlife to sustain our sport hunting tradition and outdoor heritage. For information on the Ruffed Grouse Society, please call 888-564-6747 or check out the RGS website at www.ruffedgrousesociety.org.