



Western Great Lakes Region FAN UPDATE

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Tickets Now Available for the 2009/2010 RGS National Raffle

Tickets are now available for the 2009/2010 RGS National Raffle. The raffle winner will receive a Winchester Model 21 Baby Frame 28 gauge shotgun. This one of a kind gun features 28" barrels choked IC/M with two beads, a straight English stock crafted from AAA fancy feathercrotch walnut to a checkered butt, and a 14 1/2" LOP. The beavertail forend has an ebony insert in the tip. It has a single selective trigger and the RGS logo is hand-engraved in gold on the bottom of the receiver. The approximate retail value of this gun is \$28,000. Tickets are \$100 each with the winner drawn on June 30, 2010. To purchase raffle tickets contact Gary Zimmer at 715-674-7505 or rgszimm@newnorth.net or mail in the following coupon to:

RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY

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 _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____

Michigan Preliminary Drumming Results for 2009

Reported by Al Stewart and Val Frawley 517-373-1263

Due to personnel limitations, the ruffed grouse drumming survey was not conducted statewide in 2009. However, 42 drumming routes were run in the Upper Peninsula. In 2008, 50 drumming routes were run in the Upper Peninsula. A paired t-test was performed using data from the 42 routes run in both years. There was no difference ($P=0.6$) in the average number of drums heard per route between 2008 (18.9) and 2009 (18). Because routes were not conducted in Ontonagon and Gogebic counties in 2009, results do not represent those counties.

Ruffed grouse populations have exhibited ten-year cycles in abundance over much of Canada, Alaska, and the Great Lakes states of Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan (Rusch et al. 1999). Many factors affect grouse populations including changes in habitat and food availability. It is unclear why the population cycles occur, but many theories have been proposed (Rusch 1989). The population in Michigan is expected to peak in 2010.

Become a Michigan Grouse and Woodcock Hunter Cooperator

Al Stewart, Michigan Upland Game Bird Specialist, invites grouse hunters to "Become a Ruffed Grouse and Woodcock Hunter Cooperator"? Grouse and woodcock hunters can learn more about the program by visiting http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10363_10958_10967-75235--,00.html . They can print the form from this site and return it to Al after the season. Information obtained from these cooperators is used to prepare the annual hunting report that is available at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/2007_grouse_woodcock_cooperators_244368_7.pdf.

Merging of Michigan Departments Expected

Gov. Jennifer Granholm is expected to issue an executive order that will merge the Departments of Agriculture, Environmental Quality and Natural Resources, according to comments Lt. Gov. John Cherry. "I don't want to be held to an exact date, but I'm kind of seeing that this fall there will be an executive order that will combine the three departments."

Cherry stressed that consolidation wouldn't solve the budget problem, but that's not the primary force behind the streamlining effort, which Cherry was appointed earlier this year to oversee for the administration. Cherry's comments have ignited some buzz in Lansing, where opinions are split over such a combination. Sen. Michelle McManus (R-Lake Leelanau) said she heard rumors all week that an executive order was imminent. As the sponsor of legislation to combine the DEQ and DNR, McManus said she opposes putting the Department of Agriculture (MDA) in the mix without some input and discussion from the groups that would be involved in a combination.

"Agriculture is the only industry that is thriving in this state and it's disappointing that this administration hasn't recognized that," McManus said. "It's important that this particular department stays at the top of what the administration does with reorganizations, either as a stand-alone department or, if it combined, highlighted in some fashion."

Welcome Bruce Wojcik as New RGS Regional Director

The Ruffed Grouse Society is pleased to announce the hiring of Bruce Wojcik, a Michigan native who holds a BS degree in Wildlife from the Univ. of WI-Madison. Bruce will be the RGS Regional Director for Michigan and Northern Indiana. His will be responsible for growing both membership and chapters in those states as well as for coordinating RGS' on-the-ground mission-related conservation efforts. In order to further RGS' work to create early successional or young forests. he will work with other conservation organizations and public agencies on regional habitat restoration projects.

Bruce has worked in the conservation field for over a decade, and is no stranger to the Regional Director position; he has worked in this capacity for Ducks Unlimited and also served as a Senior Regional Director for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. He was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan and has been dedicated to conservation and conservation organizations nearly his entire life. Bruce and his family share a passion for hunting, fishing, and the great outdoors and are committed to leaving something for the next generation to enjoy.

"His background in conservation speaks for itself. He will be a great fit for the Michigan area. I think he will make an excellent addition to the field staff and I look forward to working with him," said Senior Regional Director, Mark Fouts.

According to Mike Zagata, RGS Executive Director and CEO, "Bruce is the ideal fit with what we look for in a Regional Director. He has the educational background, people skills and experience with volunteers to assist his current chapter volunteers and to bring together other folks interested in the wildlife that depend upon young forests for their survival to form new chapters. Michigan is an important state for the Society, and we needed someone who could send that signal - Bruce is that person."

Preliminary Ten-Week Wisconsin Brood Survey Results

By Brian Dhuey, Wisconsin DNR

Brood rearing conditions in Wisconsin in 2009 were cooler and significantly dryer than they were in 2008. Most of Wisconsin experienced a cool summer, with the average daily temperature running 1 to 3.5 degrees Fahrenheit cooler than normal. Precipitation was average to below over most of the state. No major weather events should have affected the brood rearing season like in 2008.

Statewide, ruffed grouse broods seen per observer hour was up 31% compared to 2008. Ruffed Grouse production was up in 2 of the 3 regions that compose the primary range for ruffed grouse, the northeast and northern regions, while the west central region showed no change from last year. Statewide however, grouse production did remain below the long-term average. Ruffed grouse brood size remained unchanged from last year with broods averaging 4.4 young per brood. Spring breeding grouse numbers were higher than 2008 levels and so is grouse production. While some areas of the primary ruffed grouse range will be better than others, it appears that ruffed grouse numbers this fall will be better than the previous 3-4 years and are well on their way to their cyclic high.

Draft Wisconsin Statewide Forest Assessment Comment Period Open

The public is invited to review a draft of the 2010 *Statewide Forest Assessment*, an appraisal of Wisconsin's public and private forests and of the sustainability of the state's forested ecosystems. The *Assessment* will be integral in the detailed planning processes undertaken by the Forestry Division of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and its private- and public-sector partners. The *Assessment* will include analyses of the following: productive capacity, forest structure, forest health risks, fire, recreation, the state's wood products industry, the state's forestry workforce, laws that govern the way forests are used and managed, and the investments in forest-related research and education.

Anyone who is interested in forests and forestry in Wisconsin is invited to offer comments on the *Assessment* by October 15. The goal is to review the *Assessment* from a wide range of perspectives. A link for the *Assessment* draft will be posted at <http://dnr.wi.gov/Forestry/assessment/index.htm> . Reviewers will be asked to include their comments on the *Assessment* document and e-mail their changes *directly* to program and Planning Analyst Kathleen Kiefaber at Kathleen.Kiefaber@Wisconsin.gov by October 15.

Tree and Shrub Seedlings Available from Wisconsin State Nurseries

Starting the first week of October, Wisconsin's Nursery Program will begin accepting orders for trees and shrubs for delivery in April and May of 2010. The seedlings from the Nursery Program are quality species native to Wisconsin. They are to be used for private, industrial, and state/county reforestation and conservation plantings (rather than ornamental, landscaping, and/or Christmas tree production). In addition to order requirements, landowners participating in the Managed Forest Law (MFL) Program will receive information on new Forest Stewardship Council guidelines.

The State Nursery seedlings can also be purchased by state youth groups and educational organizations for reforestation/conservation plantings. Links to the Order Form and the 32-page color catalog of tree and shrub offerings and planting information (<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/Nursery/WisconsinStateNurseryCatalog.pdf>), can be found online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/Nursery/Order/index.htm> . The Order Form is also available from DNR Service Centers around the state and from DNR foresters. Anyone looking to buy seedlings is strongly encouraged to place an order early because some species sell out quickly. Up-to-date inventory information is available at the Nursery website or by calling 800.875-9050.

Bill Reintroduced to Have the Wisconsin DNR Secretary Appointed by the DNR Board

Your Input Sought for a Followup Survey

During the current Wisconsin legislative session, Assembly Bill 138 and companion Senate Bill 113 have been reintroduced. Named "Eliminating

Political Control of the DNR”, this bill would once again remove the appointment of the Department of Natural Resources Secretary from the governor and give it back to the DNR Board, a situation that occurred. When the DNR secretary is appointed by the governor, he or she is accountable to the governor. The bill purports this can lead to partisan politics infusing it into day-to-day natural resources policies.

According to State Representative Kevin Petersen (40th Assembly District), there is a fundamental problem with the current bill. Absent this session is complementary legislation that he had co-sponsored ensuring the Department of Natural Resources Board is represented by all of Wisconsin’s natural resources community.

As the legislation read last session, representation on the board would have included at least three members of the Natural Resources Board must have held an annual hunting, fishing, or trapping license seven out of the previous ten years, and at least one member of the board will have an agriculture background. Exceptions would have made for military personnel who have been on active duty.

Representative Petersen has set up an informal survey to gauge public opinion. His questions is: If the Natural Resources Board appointed by the Governor is not required to have a sporting, recreational, and agricultural mix of members, would you still be supportive of the Secretary being appointed by the DNR Board? Please click the link and register your vote and comments. Click [here](#).

RGS Equipment Update

The two new RGS ASV PT 100 Forestry machines (one headquartered in Michigan and one in Wisconsin) with mulcher attachments have been working on habitat projects in their respectable states. Both machines now have trucks and trailers to haul the rigs around with and have been working on Federal, state and private land management projects. For information on these machines please contact Gary Zimmer at 715-674-7505 or by email at rgszimm@newnorth.net. Thanks to the donors and others who have helped make us even more effective in managing important wildlife habitats.

Upcoming RGS Events in the Region

September 24 - 19th Annual David V. Uihlein Chapter Fall Sportsmen's Banquet, Nashotah, WI. Contact Paul Seul at 414-254-1861 for info.

September 29 - Iowa DNR Private Landowner Workshop, Decorah, IA. Contact Greg Schmitt, Iowa DNR Private Lands Biologist at 563-422-6201 for info.

October 1 - 5th Annual North Woods Chapter Sportsmen's Banquet, Iron River, MI. Contact Russ Hagberg at 906-774-5915 for info.

October 13 - 23rd Annual West Central Wisconsin Chapter Sportsmen's Banquet, Marshfield, WI. Contact Jamie Kuhn at 715-743-3752 for info.

October 15 - 29th Anniversary Flambeau River Chapter Sportsmen's Banquet, Fifiel, WI. Contact Tony Blattler at 715-332-5121 for info.

October 16 - 3rd Annual Al Litzenburger Chapter Sportsmen's Banquet, Harbor Springs, MI. Contact Mike Rathbun at 231-838-1304 for info.

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:
Gary Zimmer, Sally B. Searle Senior Regional Biologist, Ruffed Grouse Society

P.O. Box 116 Laona, WI 54541 Phone: (715) 674-7505 email:
rgszimm@newnorth.net

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.