



# Chapter Coverts

Chapter Newsletter—Western PA, OH, WV, IN

May 2009

*Inside this Issue:*

1

Upland Dream Hunt Raffle  
Winding Down

2

PA RGS Chapters Join  
Together For Double  
Support At Conservation  
Club Booth  
North Central WV Chapter  
Fun Shoot

3

Conservation Award  
Presented to Shorty  
Whitman  
Looking For Volunteer  
Huntsmen

4

Planting Season-RGS  
Trail Mix  
Ohio River Chapter Honors  
Russ Smitley

5

The Brood Cast

6

Regional Chronicle

7

Doubles Club Announced  
Grants to Grow Habitat  
Management Capabilities in  
Midwest New Corporate  
Partners

## Upland Bird Dream Hunt Raffle—*Winding Down*

**LAST CHANCE--Order Your Tickets Now!!**

### ATTENTION ALL SPORTSMEN:

The 2008-2009 Ruffed Grouse Society Upland Bird Dream Hunt Raffle is in the final stages **ONLY 2 MONTHS** till we announce the lucky winners. Winner will be drawn **JUNE 30, 2009**. If you have not purchased your chance now is the time to do so! Don't forget the first ticket drawn will receive a week-long ALL-EXPENSE-PAID trip consisting of two guided hunts for you and a guest. The first hunt will be in Havre, Montana for Sharp-tail Grouse and Hungarian Partridge. The second will be a spot for you and your guest at the RGS National Grouse and Woodcock Hunt in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. I almost forgot to mention you and your guest will each receive a SKB model 785 over/under shotgun. The lucky winners will have their choice of a 20-gauge or 28-gauge shotgun gun with 26" or 28" barrels. This is a Dream Hunt all transportation is included.

Approximate retail value of this package is \$18,000.00. The second ticket drawn will receive a \$1,000.00 Cabela's Gift Card. Number three ticket drawn will receive a custom fitted pair of upland hunting boots from Russell Moccasin Company. The boots have a retail value of \$400.00. **DO NOT**

**MISS OUT ON YOUR OWN ONCE IN A LIFE TIME UPLAND BIRD DREAM HUNT!! (To order your tickets please contact Lisa Rossi at 724-693-9032 or [rslmt@msn.com](mailto:rslmt@msn.com) or see attached order form)**



## Pennsylvania RGS Chapters Join Together For Double Support At Conservation Club Booth

The Neshannock Creek Chapter and the Allegheny Northwoods Chapter both took part in the Laurel High School Conservation Club 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Sportsman's Night Out. The event took place on Friday, February 27, 2009 at the Laurel High School in New Castle. It was open to local sportsmen and outdoor enthusiasts. The RGS booth was a busy place, shown in the photo are Mark Gibson, Committee Member from the Neshannock Creek Chapter located in New Wilmington and Jeff Perdue Chapter President of the Allegheny Northwood Chapter, from the Franklin, PA area. It was great to see so many young Conservation Club Members and future grouse hunters.



Mark Gibson, Committee Member Neshannock Creek Chapter and Jeff Perdue, Chapter President Allegheny Northwoods Chapter



Scott Hutson, North Central West Virginia Chapter Banquet Chairman Instructing his Son Hunter at the Shoot

## North Central West Virginia Chapter Fun Shoot

The Clarksburg, WV area North Central West Virginia Chapter held its 2009 Fun Shoot at the West Virginia Sportsmen & Firearms Association located in Fairmont. We had about 27 shooters show up for a fun filled day. Any youth shooter under the age of 16 shooting with an adult shot for free. One of the goals of the Chapter is to encourage youth sportsmen to join Chapter events and introduce them to the shooting sports. The Clarksburg Chapter has also help out with the local Boy Scout camp donating shells and helping with instruction at the shooting range. This Chapter is looking toward the future grouse hunters, future conversationalist and future RGS Members.

## Conservation Award Presented To Robert "Shorty" Whitman

The 2009 Allegheny Northwoods Chapter Conservation Award was presented to Robert "Shorty" Whitman in appreciation of his dedicated commitment to the Ruffed Grouse Society and the PA WHISL Project of SGL 39. Shorty has been an important part of this project working endless days planting thousands of trees along side other volunteers. Shorty is 86 years old and has been a loyal grouse hunter all of his life and an advocate for the Society. The presentation as a surprise to Shorty and took place at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Allegheny Northwoods Chapter Banquet held on Saturday, March 21, 2009. Congratulations Shorty!!



In the photo from left to right:  
Allegheny Northwoods Committee Members: Holding Plaque: Robert "Shorty" Whitman,  
First Row: Steve Wilkinson, John Guilinger, Jeff Superak, Jeff Perdue;  
Back Row: Bill Evans, Denny Alston, Dave Galbreath

## Looking For Volunteer Huntsmen

The Upland Inaugural Upland Bird Hunt in the Pennsylvania Wilds scheduled for November 6 & 7, 2009 is looking for RGS Chapter Members for Huntsmen. The duties of the Huntsmen will be to help our hunters and guests to find an assigned spot in the hunting area around Kersey. Some of the hunters will bring there dogs and some will want to use a huntsmen with his or her own dogs. So if you do not have a dog we would still love to have you participate in the event. Several hunters are coming form other states this is a great opportunity to meet other grouse hunter and RGS Members. What a super way to show off the assets of the Pennsylvania RGS chapters and the grouse woods they hunt. If you are willing to volunteer your time as a Huntsman please contact Chris Yeager at 814-776-1845 or [Chris23@alltel.net](mailto:Chris23@alltel.net)

## Planting Season-RGS Grouse Trail Mix



Planting Season is here---Order your RGS Grouse Trail Mix. It is a combination of both perennial legumes and chicory formulated to produce high protein content all season long. RGS Grouse Trail Mix is formulated to tolerate poor soils. Plot Enhancer Brand Chicory will provide continuous feed in the summer when the legumes are either producing seed heads and are less palatable or during the doughtier times due to its tap root system. RGS Grouse Trail Mix can be seeded in the Spring or Fall or Frost

Seeded. Sow RGS Grouse Trail Mix at 12 pounds per acre.

For more information please visit the RGS web site

<http://www.ruffedgrousesociety.org>



## Ohio River Chapter Honors Russ Smitley

The Ohio River Chapter located in New Martinsville, West Virginia recognized Russ Smitley for his outstanding support of their 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet held on Saturday, April 11, 2009. Russ encouraged several new attendants to become RGS Sponsor Members. He was also the reason Chesapeake Energy contributed a Conservation Sponsorship to the Chapter. It did not stop there Russ went to hundreds of locally businesses asking for donations. The time and hard work Russ put into the banquet really made a difference.



Andy Pittman, Banquet Chairman Presenting Russ Smitley, Donation Chairman & Prize Chairman a framed print at the Banquet



Ohio River Chapter 2009 Committee at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Sportsmen Banquet

**RGS is planning on changing the RGS website and is looking to our Chapters for input. What would you like to see on the RGS web site? What are the pros and cons of the current web site? Please send me your thoughts suggestions and comments [rgslmt@msn.com](mailto:rgslmt@msn.com).**



## The Brood-Cast—Attn: RGS Committee Members

Several of you have already held your 2009 fund-raising banquet and have done a GREAT job. I know some Chapters have seen a decrease in their banquet attendance this past season due to many uncontrollable factors. But during this obviously depressed economic times Chapters and RGS is trying do a more effective job as many organizations are. I wanted to provide another helpful suggestion in writing that has been successful with other Chapters. A great way to grow banquet attendance is to use local contacts. Reach out to local businesses that you or your company do business with, many have matching programs. A tool to use is you local Chamber of Commerce listing. I have listed a few contacts in our region below:

### Meadville, PA Area Chamber-Commerce

[www.meadvillechamber.com](http://www.meadvillechamber.com)  
211 Chestnut St.  
Meadville, PA 16335  
(814) 337-8030

### Pittsburgh, PA Airport Area Chamber of Commerce

850 Beaver Grade Road  
Moon Township, PA 15108  
(412) 264-6270

### New Martinsville, WV Wetzel County WV Chamber of Commerce

201 Main Street - PO Box 271  
New Martinsville WV 26155  
304-455-3825 / 304-455-3637

### Washington, PA, Washington County Chamber-Commerce

[www.washcochamber.com](http://www.washcochamber.com)  
20 E Beau St  
Washington, PA 15301  
(724) 225-3010

To find your local Chamber of Commerce list or additional Chambers in your area-- you can Google: Chamber of Commerce, City, State. It is a very effective was to get the word out. Give it a try—It Really Works!

I am looking to post on the next news letter some of you Ruffed Grouse & Woodcock hunting photos. Please e-mail me some photos with you your hunting buddies to [rgslmt@msn.com](mailto:rgslmt@msn.com) If you are the lucky winner of a firearm at an RGS event, send a photo of when you broke it in. Also welcome are any photos of your new pups. I would like to include them in our electronic newsletter. Also include a brief description on the photo for the new section "Regional Chronicle—Snapshots From Our Region".

## **LAST CHANCE-- 2008/2009 RGS Upland Bird Dream Hunt Raffle**

**We Will Be Drawing A WINNER IN 2 MONTHS!!!!** If you would like to order ticket please contact Lisa Rossi 724-693-9032 or [rgslmt@msn.com](mailto:rgslmt@msn.com) (To Order Please print below order form)

If you are interested in starting an RGS Chapter in your area I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you. If you did have an active RGS chapter in your area but it no longer existed, and you would be willing to donate your time I need your help. I am asking all current RGS members to consider becoming involved with their local chapter or start a new active chapter in your area. If this is of interest to you please contact me. The Society is looking toward the future and our future is our Members. The Members who make things happen are called Committee Members. If you would like to become an RGS Committee Member please contact: Lisa M. Rossi, RGS Regional Director 724-693-9032 or e-mail [rgslmt@msn.com](mailto:rgslmt@msn.com)

**RGS Committee Member Make Things Happen—Become Part Of The Process-Join An RGS Committee In Your Area**

## Regional Chronicle -- Snapshots From Our Region

Below are some of the photos received from the Members in our region. If you have some hunting/fishing/sportsmen photos you would like to share please e-mail them to [rgslmt@msn.com](mailto:rgslmt@msn.com) also include a brief description of the photo and I will try to include them in this new section in our regional electronic newsletter.

**Jim Bowers, North Central West Virginia Committee Member hard at work keeping the Chapter shoot running smoothly**



**New Chapter Officers Form the Ohio River Chapter, Andy Pittman, Banquet Chairman, Michelle Pittman, Ticket Chairman, Russ Smitley, Prize & Donations Chairman. Just celebrated their 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet and already planning their 10<sup>th</sup> year celebration**

**Dixie Edmond, showing why she was the Top Ladies Shooter at the NCWV Chapter Fun Shoot. Also in photo Jim Toothman, NCWV Chapter Committee Member**



**I am looking to post on the news letter some of your outdoors photos, Ruffed Grouse & Woodcock hunting photos, fishing, hiking camping. What are the RGS Committee Members doing over the summer months in our region? E-mail your photo with a brief description and share with other Committee Members-- e-mail to [rgslmt@msn.com](mailto:rgslmt@msn.com)**

# National News

## Doubles Club Announced

Have you accomplished that rare feat of shooting a double on grouse or woodcock? RGS is announcing a brand new Doubles Club program. When you become a member you'll receive an exclusive honorary pin and an official certificate commemorating your achievement.

What is a double?

RGS defines a double as the occurrence of two grouse, two woodcock, or a grouse and woodcock (a mixed double) that are in flight at the same time, and are successfully harvested by one hunter. Please note: the birds must be in flight at the same time when harvested to qualify as a true double.

Applications will appear in the Summer issue of RGS, or you may also contact our membership department directly to apply at **412.262.4044**.

## Grants to Grow Habitat Management Capabilities in Midwest

RGS recently received three grants, totaling \$182,000, to purchase heavy equipment for managing habitat in the Midwest. Two ASV/Terex PT-100 Forestry loaders with mulching heads will be purchased with grant funds from the R.K. Mellon Foundation, the Frey Foundation of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and the Charlevoix County Community Foundation in East Jordan, Michigan.

The new pieces of equipment will service Michigan, Wisconsin and surrounding states. The versatile equipment will allow RGS to help public and private partners aggressively manage neglected aspen, alder and brush habitats for ruffed grouse, woodcock and many other species. Cooperative projects with similar equipment have been in progress in the Northeast for several years with excellent results.

"These pieces of equipment are important tools to help the Ruffed Grouse Society target habitat improvements for woodcock in habitat, like alder, that is not being managed by commercial harvests," says Gary Zimmer, RGS Senior Biologist in the Western Great Lakes Region. "With this equipment RGS will be one of the primary implementers of the Upper Great Lakes Woodcock and Young Forest Habitat Initiative."

**Welcome to new Corporate Sponsors: New Page and Browning. Also thank you to Johnson Lumber in Wisconsin for providing paper to our headquarters office.**

Please forward this on to your friends. If you have someone that wishes to receive this, have them e-mail me their address. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to post information that fits this newsletter --- [rgslmt@msn.com](mailto:rgslmt@msn.com).



**LAST CHANCE-- 2008/2009 RGS Upland Bird Dream Hunt Raffle**  
 We Will Be Drawing A WINNER IN 2 MONTHS!!!! If you would like to order ticket please contact  
 Lisa Rossi 724-693-9032 or [rgslmt@msn.com](mailto:rgslmt@msn.com) (To Order Please print below order form)

**2008/2009  
 NATIONAL  
 RAFFLE**



Donation for Raffle Ticket is  
**\$50.00 per Ticket**  
**ONLY 2500 TICKETS**  
**TO BE SOLD.**

**UPLAND  
 BIRD  
 DREAM  
 HUNT**

**October 2-10, 2009**

**FIRST PLACE - 1ST TICKET DRAWN**

A week-long, all-expense-paid trip consisting of two Guided Upland Bird Hunts for the winner and a guest. Travel begins October 2, 2009.

- First, Hunt at Bear Paw Mountain Outfitters in Havre, Montana for Sharptail Grouse and Hungarian Partridge from October 3-5.
- Then, Hunt at the Ruffed Grouse Society's National Grouse and Woodcock Hunt in Grand Rapids, Minnesota from October 6-9. This hunt cannot be purchased. You will depart October 10.

Both first place winner and guest will also receive an SKB model 785 over-and-under shotgun. Each SKB will have a commemorative RGS logo medallion on each side of the receiver, and is available in 20 or 28 gauge, with 26" or 28" barrels. The SKB has a retail value of \$2399.00. All transportation is included. Hunting dates are final. Approximate retail value of package: \$18,000.00.



**SECOND PLACE - 2ND TICKET DRAWN**

The second place winner will receive a \$1,000.00 Cabela's gift certificate. Cabela's, a Corporate Sponsor of the Ruffed Grouse Society, has three convenient ways to shop - on-line at [www.cabelas.com](http://www.cabelas.com), through world-famous catalogs or at one of 28 retail stores. Cabela's offers outdoor enthusiasts a wide and distinctive selection of high-quality outdoor products at competitive prices while providing legendary customer service.



**THIRD PLACE - 3RD TICKET DRAWN**

The third place winner will receive a custom-fitted pair of upland hunting boots from Russell Moccasin Co., a Corporate Sponsor of the Ruffed Grouse Society, located in Berlin, Wisconsin. The winner will receive either the woman's Judy Boot or, for the men, the Signature South 40 Bird Shooter. These boots, each with an approximate retail value of \$400.00, can be viewed at [www.russellmoccasin.com](http://www.russellmoccasin.com).



Three winners will be drawn on  
**JUNE 30, 2009**  
 at the Ruffed Grouse Society's  
 headquarters in  
 Coraopolis, Pennsylvania.  
*Winner responsible for all taxes.*



To Purchase Raffle Tickets Contact: Lisa Rossi, Reg. Director  
 at 724-693-9032 or [rgslmt@msn.com](mailto:rgslmt@msn.com) or mail coupon to:  
 RGS • 215 Marshall Road • Oakdale, PA 15071

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets @ \$50.00 Each = \$\_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed  
 CHECK (Payable to RGS)     CASH     CREDIT CARD  
 CC # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_