



Chapter Coverts

Chapter Newsletter—Western PA, OH, WV, IN

December 2008

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RGS Spring Banquet/Event Season

The Holiday are approaching very quickly so is the upcoming RGS Spring Banquet Season. As the hunting season is winding down many Chapters have already started planning their 2009 Banquet and Events. Mark your calendar and make plans to join us. Below is a listing of upcoming events in our region.

February 6th—Greensburg, PA Banquet

Contact: Lisa 724-693-9032

February 14th—Franklin, PA Fun Shoot

Contact: Steve 814-437-1290

February 21st—Lancaster, OH Banquet

Contact: Terry 740-569-4457

March 7th—Cincinnati, OH Banquet

Contact Margie 513-248-2000 Ext 214
800-762-5469 (Fax)

margieg@bryanequipment.com

March 14th—Clarksburg, WV Banquet

Contact: Lisa 724-693-9032

March 21st—Franklin, PA Banquet

Contact: David 814-226-5574
dgalbreath@zoominternet.net

March 28th—Meadville, PA Banquet

Contact: Joyce 814-382-1905

April 15th—Pittsburgh, PA Banquet

Contact: Lisa 724-69309032



Covered Bridge Chapter Conservationist Award

The Ruffed Grouse Society Covered Bridge Chapter presented their 2008 Conservationist Award to Brian Hanna at their 3rd Annual Sportsmen's Banquet held on Thursday, November 13, 2008 at the Bella Sera by Greco's. This award was presented to Brian for his commitment and dedication to habitat improvement in Western Pennsylvania. Brian was one of the original members who started the CBC only a few years ago, with the idea to make a difference. Along with the support of his other very active committee members Brian has organized several Chapter Field Days. He wears many hats, Habitat Chairman, Ticket Chairman and this year stepped in to become the Prize Chairman. The Chapter is planning on making this award an annual presentation at their banquet. Congratulations Brian, for being the first recipient of the CBC Conservationist Award, you really deserve it!!



Inaugural Upland Bird Hunt in the PA Wilds November 2009



The Allegheny and the Allegheny Northwoods Chapters of the Ruffed Grouse Society are combining their efforts to plan an exciting adventure for upland bird hunters and guests in the Pennsylvania Wilds region of Pennsylvania. The base of operations for the weekend will be the Red Fern Inn located in Kersey, Pa. This facility is central to thousands of acres open to public hunting; including the Allegheny National Forest, several State Game Lands and State Forest lands.

Hunting days for the Upland Bird Hunt in the Pa Wilds are set for Friday, November 6 and Saturday, November 7, 2009. There will be breakfast buffets both mornings and dinner and fund raising events both evenings. Lodging accommodations will be available at the St. Marys, PA Comfort Inn and there are several campgrounds and bed and breakfasts in the area.

Number of hunters will be limited to 100; huntsman will be provided. Spots will not be reserved until paid in full. Guests who would like to join us and choose to not hunt will be able to attend the breakfasts and dinner/fund raising events.



For additional information including costs and lodging information please contact Ruffed Grouse Society Regional Directors: Ken Waite at 315-406-5016, rgsknw@twcny.rr.com or Lisa Rossi at 724-693-9032, rgslmt@msn.com

Wayne National Forest Awards Presentation

The Ruffed Grouse Society has been named as a nominee for The Wayne National Forest, 2008 Honor Award. The All Employee Meeting and Awards Presentation is being held on Thursday, December 4th, at the Ohio University Inn (Athens, OH). Among the projects being awarded are Whitaker Wetland Restoration, American Burying Beetle Reintroduction, and Autumn Olive Invasive Species Removal, and the Data Stewardship Initiative.



Welcome To RGS Southern West Virginia Chapter

The Southern West Virginia Chapter located in the Logan, West Virginia area has joined the RGS Team—Welcome. They held their first banquet on Saturday, August 30, 2008 at the Logan Country Club. Jimbo Nagy, the Banquet Chairman, Eric Salyer, the Ticket and Prize Chairman did a great job organizing the event. We had around 90 people attend the banquet and join us for a fun-filled event and helped raise funds for a great cause. We are planning several upcoming events in the near future.

2009 Banquet Sponsor Rewards Program

The 2008 Banquet Sponsor Rewards Program was very popular this year. We will be selecting the 2008 Sponsor Rewards winners before the end of the year. The 2009 Sponsor Rewards Program Options is just as good if not better.

2009 Banquet Sponsor Rewards Program

Option 1 – A sponsor may elect to receive an unframed print of the year, either the new one or one from prior years (while supplies last).

Option 2 – A sponsor may elect to participate in a national drawing at the end of the 2009 Fall Banquet Season. There will be seven tickets drawn. The first winner will win the first item in the list below and so on until all seven tickets are drawn. Sponsors who choose this option will be assigned a ticket number(s) for the drawing by RGS National.

The Following Are The Seven Prizes Being Offered:

1. AYA #2 side-lock with detachable lock, 20 ga., 28" barrels, double trigger, side-by-side shotgun
2. Connecticut Shotgun's RBL-28 round action, box-lock, 28 ga., 26" barrels, single trigger, side-by-side shotgun; 3X wood grade
3. Caesar Guerini Magnus over/under 20 ga. shotgun
4. Smith & Wesson Elite Gold side-by-side 20 ga. shotgun
5. SKB Limited Edition RGS #7 over/under shotgun in 20 or 28 ga., 26" or 28" barrels
6. Choice of any pair of Steiner Binoculars \$1,600 or less
7. \$1,000 Cabela's gift certificate

The Brood-Cast—Attn: RGS Committee Members



I would first like to wish all of you a very Happy and Safe Holiday Season, they will be here before we know it. I have had the opportunity to meet with some of you already and have begun planning our 2009 Banquet or Event. I am looking forward to meeting with all of you and working toward a GREAT season. During this obviously depressed economic time, RGS is trying to do a more effective job as many organizations are. Some chapters have seen a decrease in their banquet attendance this past season due to many uncontrollable factors. I wanted to provide another helpful suggestion in writing that has been successful with other chapters. We need to get members e-mail addresses and use them as a communication tool. We can send out e-mails to hundreds of members announcing events in your area, meeting, field days, newsletters and much more in half the time and at a very minimum cost compared to first class mail. Several chapters are doing e-mail drawings; if you register your e-mail we will have a drawing at the banquet. I look forward to discussing all of your ideas at an upcoming meeting. If you have not registered your e-mail address with RGS, please do so as soon as possible and mention to other members to do the same. It is a very effective way to get the word out. Give it a try—It Really Works!

I am looking to post on the next newsletter some of your ruffed grouse and woodcock hunting photos. Please e-mail me some photos with your hunting buddies to rgslmt@msn.com. Also include a brief description on the photo and I am creating a new section in our regional electronic newsletter.

Don't Forget the **2008/2009 RGS Upland Bird Dream Hunt Raffle Tickets Make Great Christmas Gifts!!** If you would like to order ticket please contact Lisa Rossi 724-693-9032 or rgslmt@msn.com (Raffle details are listed below)!



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 exists, 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 to 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

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

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



National News

Win an Upland Bird Dream Hunt
October 2-10, 2009

**The Ruffed Grouse Society
2008-2009 National Raffle**

First Place
A week long, all-expense-paid trip consisting of two guided upland bird hunts for the winner and guest. Travel from October 2 to 10. Start at Bear Paw Mountain Outfitters in Havre, Montana and hunt for sharp-tail grouse and Hungarian partridge from October 3 to 5. Join the RGS National Grouse and Woodcock Hunt in Grand Rapids, Minnesota from October 6 to 9.

Both first place winner and guest will receive an SKB model 785 over-and-under shotgun. Each SKB will have a commemorative RGS logo medallion on the receiver, and is available in 20- or 28-gauge, with 26- or 28- inch barrels. The SKB has a retail value of \$2399.00

All transportation included. Hunting dates are final. Approximate retail value of total package: \$18,000.

Second Place
The second winner will receive a \$1,000.00 Cabela's gift certificate.

Third Place
The third place winner will receive a custom-fitted pair of upland hunting boots from Russell Moccasin. Approximate retail value: \$400.00.

Winners will be drawn on June 30, 2009 at RGS headquarters in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania.

To purchase raffle tickets call 1-888-564-6747.
Donation for each ticket is \$50.00.
Only 2500 tickets to be sold.

New Banquet Incentive Program

Fall Update

As the fall banquet season winds down, RGS is ending the year in a stronger financial situation than many other wildlife conservation organizations – thanks to your hard work! So far this year a total of 90 banquets were held, and 21 met or exceeded their 15% growth target and raised more than \$25,700 for local projects.

Tailfeathers Membership Drive Initiated

In an effort to enlist its current members to help RGS grow, a unique membership drive has been initiated. It's called *Tailfeathers* and is a brand new program for 2009. For signing up a certain number of new members, current members will have the opportunity to receive a unique RGS thank-you and a ticket for a special raffle. *Tailfeather* rules and guidelines will be released this coming spring – so stay posted!

Dream Hunt Raffle Sales Receive Boost

Committees and Regional Directors Partner to Sell Tickets

Members can now raise money for their chapter projects by selling RGS National raffle tickets – a benefit to both their chapter and RGS! This year's raffle is the Upland Bird Dream Hunt, and tickets are \$50.00.

Regional Directors will be partnering with their committees to increase ticket sales in the upcoming months. For every ticket a chapter member sells, \$5.00 will be added to the funds of a local habitat project. The project to receive the funds will be selected by the chapter – with RGS giving final approval before dispersing funds. To participate in this rebate offer contact your Regional Director.

RGS Co-Recipient of State Forester's Association Award

RGS was recently honored for efforts to increase the importance of forest management and stewardship opportunities for forest landowners in the 2008 Farm Bill legislation.

At its annual meeting in Hyannis, Massachusetts, the National Association of State Foresters announced member organizations of the Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition as recipients of the 2008 Stan Adams Current Achievement Award for Partnerships.

The Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition, of which RGS is a partner organization, was formed specifically to increase opportunities for America's private forest landowners to access cost-share and other management assistance via the 2008 Farm Bill programs. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) of the new Farm Bill now explicitly supports those forest management practices compatible with environmental quality and that provide economic and environmental benefits to the larger society, including the retention of nationally scarce young-forest habitat.

"This award clearly demonstrates the value of partnering with those who share a common interest and philosophy with regard to the need to manage our forests in a sustainable, ecologically sound manner in order to maximize both wildlife and economic benefits," said RGS Executive Director and CEO Mike Zagata.

The 2008 Adams award was presented to Becky Carter of The Nature Conservancy, who accepted the honor on behalf of the entire Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition, which includes over 30 organizations.

RGS Biologist to Advise New England Forestry Foundation

RGS Northeast Regional Wildlife Biologist Paul Karczmarczyk was recently elected to a seat on the New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) Board of Advisors.

Karczmarczyk will join other regional experts in the fields of natural resources, forest industry, economics and business management in aiding NEFF with their mission of working with private and community landowners to insure that working forests remain a viable part of the New England landscape.

In 2006, RGS and NEFF formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding that partnered the two organizations in jointly providing technical expertise on wildlife habitat management and the formulation of conservation easements to interested forest landowners. Between 2003 and 2006, the organizations were joint recipients of substantial funding from the USDA Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program to carry out habitat treatments on numerous NEFF community forests.

"NEFF's forward-looking approach to resource conservation, and willingness to manage their lands in a way that diversifies and balances habitat needs of all wildlife using them, sets a forest stewardship standard I'd love to see other land trusts in the Northeast follow," said RGS biologist Paul Karczmarczyk.

The New England Forestry Foundation maintains over 130 community forests, and additionally holds over 120 conservation easements which affect more than 1.1 million acres of working forestland throughout the northeast. Information on NEFF can be found on their website at: www.neforestry.org.

National Forest Law BLOG Created

An online log on national forest law was created by Ryan Woody of Matthiesen, Wickert & Lehrer, S.C. To read current developments in the ever-changing landscape of National Forest laws and regulations, visit www.nationalforestlawblog.com.



RGS Grows Habitat Management Machinery Program

RGS has secured two additional CAT machines, equipped with cutting implements for habitat management, and now has three units working in the East to create grouse and woodcock habitat. Plans to obtain at least two more units for the Midwest in the near future are being pursued.

Follow up: First Timber Sale Results

Will Benefit RGS Capital Campaign

The Richard King Mellon Foundation funded a land purchase whereby the Western PA Conservancy generously gave RGS the right to harvest timber, appraised at five million dollars on 2,300 acres of land in Pennsylvania, in a manner consistent with creating grouse habitat. The first timber sale has been let for \$127,000 on 85 acres. Funds raised from the timber sale will also go toward the RUFF Campaign, a capital fund-raising effort to endow RGS biologists.

The Ruffed Grouse Society

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Established in 1961, 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.

Information on RGS, its mission, management projects and membership can be found on the web at: www.ruffedgrousesociety.org