



# Chapter Coverts

Chapter Newsletter—Western PA, OH, WV, IN, GA

## Spring 2010

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## 2009-2010 National Raffle Model 21 Baby Frame 28-Ga. Shotgun--*Winding Down* **LAST CHANCE--Order Your Tickets Now!!**

Don't miss your chance to purchase a ticket or a few tickets on this one of a kind gun which features 28" barrels choked IC/M with two beads, a straight stock crafted from AAA fancy feathercrotch walnut to a checkered butt, and a 14 ½" LOP.

The DAH is 2-3/8", DAC is 1 ½, pitch is 5 and the cast is neutral.

The beavertail forend has an ebony insert in the tip. It is a single selective trigger and the RGS Logo is engraved in gold on the bottom of the receiver. Approximate Retail Value: \$32,000.00

The **WINNER WILL BE DRAWN ON JUNE 30, 2010** at the Ruffed Grouse Society Headquarters in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania. Just about a month from now, don't miss out on a great opportunity to help out your local Chapter and you may walk away with a fabulous one of a kind shotgun. Currently **WE HAVE LESS THAN 500 TICKETS SOLD.** These odds are in your favor, if you would like to purchase a ticket please use the order form included in this newsletter and your local Chapter will receive credit for your purchase.



**Time is running out!  
Order your tickets TODAY!!**



# Greater Pittsburgh Area Chapter Celebrates Its 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Sportsmen's Banquet



The Ruffed Grouse Society Greater Pittsburgh Area Chapter held its 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Sportsmen's Banquet on Friday, April 9 at the Four Points Sheraton in Mars Pennsylvania. The Committee Members spent months planning their event; they started in January selling tickets for a full size 2010 Polaris Sportsman 4X4 ATV. The winning ticket was drawn at the banquet. They also offered a setter puppy, a quail hunt, Argentina dove hunt, wild game dinner hosted by Joe Rossi, guided float fishing trip and a day of shooting with Greater Pittsburgh Chapter Committee

Member, Randy Grossman, just to name a few items. The guns at the event were a sportsmen's dream, Browning Cynergy Classic, Beretta Urika Optima, Benelli M2, Winchester SX3 Field just to mention a few. The winners of the Grand Door Prize were at table #22, every person seated at the table received a Marlin XL-7 .30-06 Rifle. Congratulations table #22!!



Joe Switala, Banquet Chairman, making sure every one falls in love with the setter puppy



Vic Allfieri won the Remington Premier RGS Conservation Gun in our Miller Lite Glass Raffle. Vic Is Pictured With Nikki.

The Committee Members would like to say "Thank You" to Daniel Pletcher from Constantine & Pletcher for donating his services. Also a "Big Thank You" to Nikki and the Miller Lite Girls for their support at our event. They help make our banquet run smoothly and add beauty and class to our event. Thank you, Ladies!!

Make plans to attend our 2011 Greater Pittsburgh Sportsmen's Banquet scheduled for FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2011. RGS Will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Don't miss it!!



Stevens E & C; Chemsteel and J.W. Steel Fabricating table received a Special Treat—A Photo with all of the Miller Lite Girls—Wow!!

# SportDOG Conservation Fund

SportDOG Brand® has awarded \$19,300 to four conservation groups as part of its annual SportDOG Conservation Fund® grant program. Award recipients were chosen by the company's Conservation Fund Grant Review Committee. SportDOG Brand's Conservation Fund coordinator said, "We're excited about being able to contribute to these types of projects that benefit wildlife for generations to come." We recognize the need for support of grassroots organizations that work with state, federal, and private wildlife and land management agencies to conserve wild game populations and critical habitat, SportDOG Brand® created the SportDOG Conservation Fund® as a way to support conservation organizations and projects its customers care about. RGS Regional Directors will be working with their local Chapters and SportDOG on future grants.



## RGS Allegheny Northwoods Chapter April Work Day



ANC Committee Members Dave Galbreath, Bill Evans Shorty Whitman, Bill Biddle And Tim Switzer  
*Photo By Jennifer Meehan Switzer*

On Saturday, April 10, 2010 the Ruffed Grouse Society Allegheny Northwoods Chapter held a Chapter work day on State Game Lands #72 located in Shippenville, Pennsylvania. The Chapter took advantage of this beautiful spring day to place wire baskets around the hawthorn trees.

Helping fulfill the RGS Mission with a day of hard work are Allegheny Northwoods Committee Members in the attached photos: Dave Galbreath; Bill Evans; Shorty Whitman; Bill Biddle and Tim Switzer.



ANC Committee Members Bill Biddle and Dave Galbreath work together to get the job done  
*Photo By Jennifer Meehan Switzer*



Check out the RGS website [www.ruffedgrousesociety.org](http://www.ruffedgrousesociety.org)  
What do you think??-- Please send me your thoughts suggestions and comments  
[rgslmt@msn.com](mailto:rgslmt@msn.com)

# The Ohio Hill Chapter Committee Introduces RGS To New Members In Their Area

The Ohio Hills Chapter located in Lancaster, OH this year wanted to introduce RGS to New Members. To achieve this goal they offered at their 2010 banquet held on February 20 in Lancaster, Ohio, a New Members Door Prize. If you were a new RGS member and the Ohio Hills Chapter banquet was the first RGS event you'd ever attended, you received a complimentary chance for a shotgun. The winner of the 2010 New Members Door Prize was Craig Passen. Craig went home with a TriStar Viper 20-Gauge Shotgun. At the event they had about 18 New Members show up and support the local Chapter. Welcome to all New Members and we look forward to seeing you in 2011.



(Left to Right) Terry Borah, Sr. Chapter Ticket Chairman; and Treasurer, Terry Borah, Jr., Chapter Prize Chairman; Rob Borah, Chapter Banquet Chairman; and our winner, Craig Passen.

## RGS Delaware Valley Chapter Presented The 2010 Captain Tom Timmins' Annual Youth Award *In Memory Of Bill Goudy*

Each year, the Delaware Chapter Committee located in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania area recognizes a young person who has an interest in and has contributed in some way to conservation efforts. This year the recipient of the Youth Award was Luke Guyer. The winner is announced at the banquet held on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, so it is a surprise to the winner and audience. Luke received a Mossberg Model 88 12-Gauge Pump Shotgun. Since

the passing of our dear friend and fellow conservationist, Bill Goudy, the Committee presents this award in the memory of Bill Goudy. As we all know the future of hunting lies with our young people, like Luke— Congratulations, Luke!!



(Left to Right) Delaware Valley Chapter Committee Member George Criswell, Luke Guyer, Committee Member Captain Tom Timmins and Regional Director, Dave Hansroth



Bill Goudy

# RGS Fall Banquet/Event Season

The summer months are quickly approaching. We have a few events already scheduled so please mark your calendar and make plans to join us. Below are listings of upcoming events in our region.

## May 1<sup>st</sup>-- Atlanta, GA Fun Shoot

Contact: Bill 770-205-9297; Monte 770-983-3019; Trent 706-864-6261

## June 5<sup>th</sup> — Washington, PA Workshop For Private Landowners At South Strabane Volunteer Fire Dept. Washington, PA

Contact: Brian 412-296-1178 or [setter@gundogalliance.com](mailto:setter@gundogalliance.com)

## July 31<sup>st</sup>—Indianapolis, IN Banquet

Contact: Karl 317-291-7411

## August 7<sup>th</sup>—Lancaster, OH Fun Shoot

Contact: Terry 740-569-4457

## August 13<sup>th</sup>—New Wilmington, PA Banquet

Contact: Lisa 724-693-9032 or [rgslmt@msn.com](mailto:rgslmt@msn.com)

## August 21<sup>st</sup>—Kane, PA Banquet

Contact: Dave 814-787-7710 or [dknesbitt@windstream.net](mailto:dknesbitt@windstream.net)

## August 26<sup>th</sup>—Atlanta, GA Banquet

Contact: Roy 678-975-0746 or [Rts363@aol.com](mailto:Rts363@aol.com)

## August 28<sup>th</sup> — Washington, PA Sporting Clays Shoot at Hunting Hills Sporting Clays, Dillner, PA

Contact: Brian 412-296-1178 or [setter@gundogalliance.com](mailto:setter@gundogalliance.com)

## September 18<sup>th</sup>—St. Clairsville, OH Banquet

Contact: Harold 740-242-9663

## November 4<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> —PA Wilds Upland Bird Hunt

Contact: Lisa 724-693-9032 or [rgslmt@msn.com](mailto:rgslmt@msn.com)

## November 11<sup>th</sup>—Washington, PA Banquet

Contact: Brian 412-296-1178 or [setter@gundogalliance.com](mailto:setter@gundogalliance.com)

For more details or copies of the above events' banquet flyers, please visit the RGS web site: [www.ruffedgrousesociety.org](http://www.ruffedgrousesociety.org). If you do not see your local event listed, please check the RGS website. Several events are still in the process of finalizing their 2010 dates and will be posted soon.

## Regional Chronicle -- Snapshots From Our Region

Below are some of the photos received from the members in our region. If you have some hunting/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.

### RGS Committee Members Say "Thank You" To

**STIHL**

And

**Bryan**  
EQUIPMENT SALES

### For Their Generous 2010 Donations to RGS Banquet Event



RGS Delaware Valley Chapter Committee Member George Criswell, Sponsor Chairman Tom DiSalvatore, and Banquet Chairman Jim D'Antonio.  
**THANK YOU FROM MEDIA, PA!**

RGS Ohio Hills Chapter Committee Members: Lyndon Danison; Matt Taylor; Terry Borah, Jr., Prize Chairman; Rob Borah, Banquet Chairman; Steve Waibel; and Tim Waibel.  
**THANK YOU FROM LANCASTER, OH!**



RGS Ohio River Chapter Committee Members A.J. Meeks, Russ Smitley, Prize Chairman; Andy Pittman, Banquet Chairman; Dave Miller, Josh Ames.  
**THANK YOU FROM NEW MARTINSVILLE, WV!**

RGS North Central West Virginia Chapter Committee Members Dan Moore; Jim Bowers, Treasurer; and Scott Hutson, Banquet Chairman.  
**THANK YOU FROM CLARKSBURG, WV!**



RGS French Creek Valley Chapter Committee Members, Joyce Ladner, Ticket Chairman and Scott Ladner, Banquet/Prize Chairman  
**THANK YOU FROM MEADVILLE, PA!**



# WLA Offers Drummers Program For PA Youth

The Wildlife Leadership Academy (WLA) facilitated by the Pennsylvania Institute for Conservation Education (PICE) is offering the Pennsylvania Drummer program June 22-26, 2010 for youth ages 14-17. This unique program begins with an intensive residential field school including



comprehensive instruction on all things ruffed grouse, and continues as students complete service and leadership projects within their communities throughout the year. PA Drummers will be held at the Powdermill Nature Reserve near Ligonier, Westmoreland County, PA.

The Ruffed Grouse Society has worked closely with the PICE and other conservation organizations and agencies to develop the PA Drummer program. Applications are

now available for the 2010 field schools. Interested students can download an application by going to [www.PICEweb.org](http://www.PICEweb.org) and click on the youth program link. Interested teens and parents can contact program coordinator Michele Kittell at [mkittell@piceweb.org](mailto:mkittell@piceweb.org) or 570-245-8518 or RGS Senior Biologist, Mark Banker at [rgsbank@comcast.net](mailto:rgsbank@comcast.net) or 814-867-7946.



# Atlanta Georgia Chapter 2010 Fun Shoot



The Atlanta Georgia Chapter held its 2010 Fun Shoot on Saturday, May 1 at the Cherokee Gun Club located in Gainesville, Georgia, just outside of Atlanta. The weather was threatening all day and the radio and newspaper kept predicting storms that never showed up, but a total of 47 Shooters showed up to enjoy a great day of shooting. Their next event is their 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet, August 26 -- Mark Your Calendars & Join Us!!



Fun Shoot And Bqt Committee Members,  
Back Row: Trent Conners, Monte Seehorn,  
Henry DelGado, Stan Howe, Roy Smith,  
Front Row: John Richards, Jim Fonville  
and Bill Cunningham

Stan Howe & Kathy prepared  
Burgers & Dogs For The Fun  
Shoot Attendants. Um Um Good!

# Ohio Committee Members Planning An Ohio Grouse Meeting

Gilbert R. Symons Chapter with the assistance of RGS Senior Biologist, Mark Banker will be hosting an Ohio Grouse Meeting on Wednesday, July 21 beginning at 6:30 PM at the Sycamore Club, located in the Cincinnati, OH area. The meeting will review the status of grouse in Ohio and much more. If you would like more information please contact Jeff at [jrhinock@fuse.net](mailto:jrhinock@fuse.net) or RGS Senior Biologist, Mark Banker at 814-867-7946 or [rgsbank@comcast.net](mailto:rgsbank@comcast.net) Everyone is welcome.

# RGS CBC Workshop For Private Landowners- “Managing Uplands For Ruffed Grouse And American Woodcock”



The Covered Bridge Chapter of RGS and the Pennsylvania Game Commission are hosting a workshop for private landowners: Managing Uplands for Ruffed Grouse and American Woodcock on Saturday, June 5, 2010 from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM at the South Strabane Volunteer Fire Department No. 2 Social Hall, 172 Oak Spring Road, Washington, PA 15301. Attendants will learn about the following: a) Managing Habitat for Ruffed Grouse & American Woodcock; b) Species of Concern and Landowners Assistance Programs; c) WHIP and other USDA programs for Wildlife; d) Choosing your wildlife plantings; d) Timber Management, A, B, C's; e) Covered Bridge Chapter Habitat Outreach; f) Local Habitat Management in practice. We will have the following guest speakers: Tammy Colt, PGC; Mark Banker, RGS Senior Biologist; Susan Funka-Petery, USDA NRCS; Brian Hanna, Habitat Chairman for CBC of RGS; Scott Rushe, Wild Perfect; Doug Dunkerly, Land Manager PGC. Space is extremely limited. RSVP by May 28, 2010 via e-mail, telephone or snail mail to Brian Hanna – phone: 412-296-1178; e-mail: [setter@gundogalliance.com](mailto:setter@gundogalliance.com) or mail to: 413 Burton Avenue, Washington, PA 15301. For more information on this workshop please visit the RGS Covered Bridge Chapter website <http://www.gundogalliance.com/rgs>



## Looking For Volunteer Huntsmen For The 2010 Upland Bird Hunt



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Upland Bird Hunt in the Pennsylvania Wilds scheduled for November 4, 5 & 6, 2010 is looking for RGS Chapter Members for Huntsmen. The duties of the Huntsmen will be to help our hunters and guests find an assigned spot in the hunting area around Kersey. Some of the hunters will bring their 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 from other states. This is a great opportunity to meet other grouse hunters 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 Head Huntsman Chris Yeager at 814-776-1845 or [chris23@windstream.net](mailto:chris23@windstream.net)

I am looking to post on the newsletter some of your outdoor photos -- ruffed grouse & woodcock hunting photos, fishing, hiking, and 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)



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

I have had the opportunity to meet with some of you already and have begun planning your 2010 Banquet or Event. I am looking forward to meeting with all of you and working toward a GREAT 2010 season. RGS has many new ideas for 2010 and I look forward to discussing them personally with all of you at our next Committee Meeting.

## The Ruffed Grouse Society Is Celebrating 50 Years Of Conservation



The Ruffed Grouse Society will be celebrating 50 years of Conservation and Community in 2011. We are asking our Members for ideas, suggestions on how we can celebrate this milestone for our Society. The Society strength comes from our Members their dedication and support they contribute to the organization. If you have suggestion on how we can make 2011 the best year ever for RGS and our dedicated Members please feel free to contact me, Lisa M. Rossi, 724-693-9032 or [rgslmt@msn.com](mailto:rgslmt@msn.com), I look forward to hearing your suggestions. We have some great things we are working on for 2011, make plans to join us at your local Chapter event and be part of the celebration.

### New Regional Raffle

AYA Model # 2 Side By Side 20-Ga. Shotgun Regional

**ONLY 25 Tickets Will Be Sold!**

Tickets: \$275.00 Each or 2 For \$500.00

(2 for \$500 Must Be Sold To The Same Person)

**Sold First-Come, First-Served. -- ONLY 25 Tickets When They Are Gone, A Winner Will Be Selected**

**WE ONLY HAVE A FEW TICKETS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE, IF YOU WOULD LIKE ONE OR TWO PLEASE ORDER THEM QUICKLY!**



AYA Model 2 SxS Shotgun is an "affordable" sidelock, and the most famous model in the AYA line. Introduced in the late 1950s, tens of thousands of No 2's have been sold to shooters who value the superb balance and handling of a fine double gun.

Mechanically, the No 2 is identical to the No 1. Like the No 1, it was originally modeled on the time-tested Holland & Holland system.

It is stocked with standard walnut and engraved in a simpler pattern. Standard stock dimensions of the AYA #2: LENGTH OF PULL 15", DROP AT COMB 1/2", DROP AT HEEL 2 3/8", and CAST 1/4".

**To Order Tickets Or For More Information, Contact:**

**Lisa M. Rossi, RGS Regional Director at 724-693-9032 or [rgslmt@msn.com](mailto:rgslmt@msn.com)**

If you are interested in starting an RGS Chapter in your area I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you. If you had 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 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 at 724-693-9032 or e-mail [rgslmt@msn.com](mailto:rgslmt@msn.com).

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

**NEW-- 2009/2010 RGS National Raffle**

**Model 21 Baby Frame 28-Gauge Shotgun Made Famous by Winchester**

**Tickets-\$100.00 Each—Up To 1,500 Tickets Will Be Sold Winner To Be Drawn June 30, 2010**

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 order form below)

**Ruffed Grouse Society  
2009-2010  
National Raffle**



To purchase raffle tickets contact  
Lisa Rossi, Regional Director  
724-693-9032 or [rgslmt@msn.com](mailto:rgslmt@msn.com)

or Mail Coupon To:  
**RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY**  
215 Marshall Road  
Oakdale, PA 15071

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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Model 21  
*Baby Frame*  
28-Gauge  
Shotgun**

*(A gun first made famous  
by Winchester)*

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  
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The DAH is 2 3/8", DAC  
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The beavertail forend has an ebony insert in the tip.  
It has a single selective trigger and the RGS logo is  
engraved in gold on the bottom of the receiver.

Approximate  
retail value:  
**\$32,000.**



Winner to be drawn on  
**June 30, 2010**  
at RGS headquarters in  
Coraopolis, Pennsylvania.

*\*Winner responsible for applicable taxes.*

**Donation for each ticket is \$100.00.  
Up to 1,500 tickets to be sold.**



**Ruffed Grouse Society  
National Office**

451 McCormick Road  
Coraopolis, PA 15108

Phone: 412.262.4044

Toll Free:  
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Fax: 412.262.9207

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[rgs@ruffedgrousesociety.org](mailto:rgs@ruffedgrousesociety.org)

**Regional Director:**

Lisa M. Rossi

Phone: 724.693.9032

Fax: 724.693.9679

E-Mail:  
[rgslmt@msn.com](mailto:rgslmt@msn.com)

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 the RGS, its mission, management projects and membership can be found on the web at:

[www.ruffedgrousesociety.org](http://www.ruffedgrousesociety.org)

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 suits this newsletter ---- [rgslmt@msn.com](mailto:rgslmt@msn.com).



## Spring 2010

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**15** National Raffle Nears End  
RGS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## National News

### Send IRS Inquiries to Headquarters

Any RGS chapter volunteer who has received chapter-related queries from the IRS should fax the form/letter directly to Ron Burkert at (412) 203-4111 or via email to [RonB@ruffedgrousesociety.org](mailto:RonB@ruffedgrousesociety.org).

### Drummer Fund Update

The statewide funding program, which puts a portion of the proceeds from regional events into a fund for local projects, has raised \$49,238 so far this year, from banquets and life sponsorships. The money will be available in 2011 for local habitat projects approved by our regional biologists.

The new approach created considerable excitement as this is the first time RGS had set a specific percentage of the banquet net revenue aside for statewide habitat projects. However, due to the state of the economy the revenue has not grown as anticipated. However, we still have the remainder of the spring banquets and all of the fall banquets to change that.

### Membership News

Our *members only* portion of the website is now up and running. We have forums for discussion and a new, modern photo gallery for you to submit your photos.

Join our Facebook Group, here's the link

<http://www.facebook.com/?ref=logo#!/group.php?gid=74704090492>.

We're gearing up for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we will be having a lot of new incentives, programs and activities. Make sure your membership is current so you don't miss out.

Our Centurion program is still going strong, so if you're considering becoming a member of this exclusive group, a one-time payment of \$1,000 entitles you to a life membership with the RGS. For every 10 Centurion members we receive, we hold a small raffle for a Kimber Valier Grade II shotgun. That means if you become a Centurion today, you have a 1 in 10 chance to win this shotgun!

### CONSOL Pilot Project

RGS expects to be partnering with CONSOL Energy® in Pittsburgh by actively managing about 7,000 acres of their forestlands in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. That will provide a source of revenue for RGS and create an abundance of early successional habitat – both for the wildlife that require that habitat and for the hunters who pursue those species.

### Somerset County Timber Harvest

*Unprecedented Pennsylvania Partnership Grows Roots*

RGS has enjoyed working with many public and private partners over the past 50 years to reach our shared vision of creating young forest habitat. Recently we were able to take one of our biggest

strides yet – with an unprecedented partnership that gives RGS the management of 2,300 acres of public forestland in the Laurel Highlands of southwestern Pennsylvania for 15 years.

The Lyme Timber Company sold the forest tract, locally called “The Barron Tract” to the R. K. Mellon Foundation who transferred ownership to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) in 2008. In keeping with the landscape habitat vision, WPC conferred timber rights to RGS for 15 years, while the land itself was conveyed to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry, to become part of the Forbes State Forest. The heavily forested tract in Somerset County, near the village of Scullton, added substantially to a mosaic of public land, effectively connecting Laurel Ridge State Park and State Game Lands 111 – and creating 26,444 acres of contiguous public lands.

RGS is working with Appalachian Forest Consultants of Stoystown, Pennsylvania to manage the habitat. By the fall of 2009, two timber sales creating future habitat blocks of 85 and 65 acres had been completed. Another timber sale of 90 acres had been laid out, and at least one and possibly two more, are planned to take place this year.

Currently the timber sales have netted \$195,000.00 – money which has been placed into the RGS endowment fund for the biologists. In the next year and a half, planned timber sales are expected to raise approximately \$300,000 more for the fund. Read more on the Somerset project in our Summer issue.

### **In Memoriam**

#### **David J. Griskevich 1956-2010**

Committed RGS member David J. Griskevich, died unexpectedly March 5 at his home in Newton, New Hampshire. He was 53.

The son of John and the late Paulyna Griskevich, he was a graduate of Tenney High School in Methuen, Massachusetts and the Berkeley School of Music in Boston. The General Manager of the Surf Club in Rye, New Hampshire, David was an active outdoorsman. A passionate upland bird hunter, as well as avid fly fisherman, he loved to hunt in the woods of Vermont.

He enjoyed music, and was a classical guitar musician. David was the co-founder of Rivers Edge Trading Company in Beverly, Massachusetts. Over the years he held 11 sporting clays tournaments at Rivers Edge to raise money for RGS habitat work, an accomplishment he numbered among the highest of those in his life.

Memorials may be made to the Ruffed Grouse Society in honor of David. Read more on Mr. Griskevich’s life and contributions in our Summer issue.

### **NAWNR Conference**

Evidence of the changing attitudes toward the role of forest management in the conservation of forest wildlife was in a special session that was convened at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in March, 2010, entitled *Active or Passive Management of Public Lands: Implications to Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Recreation*.

The relevance of the issue of *active vs. passive* management was underscored by the eagerness of Rebecca Humphries, who currently serves as the Director of Michigan's Department of Natural Resources and Environment, to take time from her busy schedule to Co-Chair this important session along with Gary Kania from the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation.

The session opened with a thought-provoking paper by John Organ (US Fish & Wildlife Service) and Jan Dizard (Amherst College) who provided a historical context to the expansion of the concept of passive management.

Dan Dessecker, Director of Conservation Policy for the Ruffed Grouse Society, then spoke of the need to use active habitat management if we are to conserve the many species of forest and grassland wildlife that are currently experiencing population declines. This is especially true for those species that use habitats that were historically created through wildfires that raced across the landscape – a “natural” habitat management practice that society now drastically limits. Dessecker stated; “Land management practices used today that can to some degree mimic the effects of historic fires on grasslands and forests include prescribed burning and forest management. These practices can establish and sustain wildlife habitats similar to those resulting from historic fires.” If we are to sustain wildlife that need young forests habitats, we must increase our use of active forest management.

Steve Ferrell, Director of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, talked about how regulations and policies that can severely limit active management on federal lands can affect the ability of state agencies to meet population goals for game and nongame wildlife.

In her closing remarks, Director Humphries noted how the trend toward increasing the amount of public land where active management and public access is restricted is driven to some degree by the interests of an increasingly urban society. In 1950, 52% of the United States population lived in metropolitan areas; by 2000 that number had grown to 80%. As society becomes more and more removed from natural environments, its understanding of the dynamic nature thereof is diminished, as is its understanding of the role of active management in wildlife conservation.

### **Minnesota Grouse Management Position Announced:**

*A Cooperative Effort of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and RGS*

Early in 2010, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced the creation of a new statewide Ruffed Grouse Specialist position. Partial funding for the position will come from RGS. The position is expected to be filled by the end of June, 2010.

“We already have a grouse biologist who tracks populations,” said Laurie Martinson, deputy commissioner for the Minnesota DNR. “The increased emphasis on grouse and grouse hunting is expected to include more hunter walking trails, more designated ruffed grouse management areas, and more information on hunting opportunities.”

For more information on the new position, please read our Summer 2010 issue.

### **Pamphlets Available**

As mentioned previously, there are many RGS publications available for your use at Sport Shows, including *The Other Silent Spring*, *The Impact on Wildlife from Ignoring Ecological Principles*, Trilogly brochures and soon the *Woodcock in Hand* – as it is in the process of being updated and

reprinted. Please contact RGS Headquarters to arrange having the brochures you need sent to you by calling (888) 564-6747.

### **National Raffle Draws to a Close**

The 2009-2010 RGS national raffle draws to a close on June 30, 2010. Tickets are still available to win a Model 21 Baby Frame 28-gauge shotgun, a gun first made famous by Winchester. This is a one of a kind gun that 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 ½" LOP.

To find out more and purchase a ticket, contact RGS at (888) 564-6747.

### **2011 – RGS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

In 2011 The Ruffed Grouse Society celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, preparations are already underway. 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 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary RGS logo. These items will be at our 2011 banquets and available for purchase through our website.