



Regional Director Info

Spring 2010

Inside this Issue:

- 1** 2009-2010 National Raffle
Model 21 Baby Frame
28-Ga. Shotgun-Last
Chance
- 2** Cajun Becasse Chapter
Update
Seattle Chapter News
Update
- 3** RGS Fall Banquet/Event
Season
- 4** Federal Funding Available
For Private Land Owners
For Wildlife Habitat
Development
SportDog Conservation
Fund
- 5** Looking For New
Committee Members
Regional Raffle
- 6** National Raffle Flyer
- 7** Contact Info
- 8-11** RGS National News
IRS Inquiries
Drummer Fund
Membership News
CONSOL Project
Timber Harvest
In Memoriam- D. Griskevich
NAWNRC
MN Grouse Mgmt. Position
Pamphlets Available
National Raffle Nears End
RGS 50th Anniversary

2009-2010 National Raffle Model 21 Baby Frame 28-Ga. Shotgun LAST CHANCE--Order Your Tickets Today!!

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 1/2" LOP.

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

The beavertail fore-end 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.





Cajun Becasse Chapter Update

Seven of us met at Alesi's for lunch to discuss rejuvenating the Louisiana Woodcock Chapter. Attending were Mike Olinde of the LDWF, Al Bacilla, Randy Fontenot, Ricky Guilbeau, John Kaiser, John Trahan and Steve Pellessier.

I want to especially thank Mike Olinde for making the trip from Baton Rouge and sharing information on the recent wingbee, population trends and the new federal policies regarding future season lengths and regulations.

On planning fund raising events, the most heavily discussed option was a sporting clays shoot. Randy Fontenot and Al Bacilla will explore dates and venues and head that effort – contact them if you wish to help.

On the social scene, there was discussion on reviving the informal and unofficial “supper/get together” before the season starts, at the Steamboat Restaurant in Washington, LA. I will coordinate that effort with Frank Elder (tentative date is Tuesday, December 14, 2010 – the season starts the following Saturday).

Again, I want to thank the LDWF and Mike Olinde for supporting us and sharing the latest information.

Steve Pellessier, CCIM

Tel:337-233-1315 Main

Seattle Chapter News Update

RGS Members,

When we picked a date to return to the Sinlahekin wildlife area to continue our Habitat work repairing and finishing Grouse water collection guzzlers I used a calendar that did not have holidays printed on it. Sorry about that!! Picking Fathers day weekend just won't work!!

We have rescheduled, and now we will go June 12th and 13th. The Sinlahekin is a long distance and remote, so it's best to plan for the entire weekend if you want to go. It's possible to do it in one day, if you live in central WA., very difficult from anywhere else. Last year several camped out at Fish Lake, where there is a rough camp ground, and they enjoyed it. The rest of us stayed in Omak at the Omak Inn, which was clean, well run and reasonable. We all joined up Saturday evening and had a nice dinner together. There are three repairable Guzzlers we can work on.

They are very unique in that they are designed just for Grouse, or small animals. Really interesting and THEY work as we flushed grouse close by when walking up to them. This is hot country, perfect for grouse....where there is water. No water no grouse. So for those members who wonder if it really makes a difference, flushing grouse within sight of a guzzler is proof. And we have fun doing it!

HABITAT WORK DATE: June 12th and 13th.
WHERE: SINLAHEKIN WILDLIFE AREA, NEAR OMAK WA.
IF YOU WANT TO GO: CONTACT ME, OR BILL NEAL (HABITAT CO-CHAIRMAN)
Bob Olson 425-649-5194
bgolson2@msn.com
Bill Neal 206-667-8211
wneal@sanfordfrey.com

RGS Fall 2010 Banquet/Event Season

Below are listings of upcoming events in our region. For more information check the RGS website at www.RuffedGrouseSociety.org

August 19th – Blackduck, MN

Contact: Jim Ness 218-835-4250

August 26th – Cambridge, MN

Contact: Judi Huempfer 763-444-4522 or krdrum85@aol.com

September 2nd —Hackensack, MN

Contact: Jerry Lamon 218-947-3338 or Jblaman@tds.net

September 9th —Grand Marais, MN

Contact: Julie Puch 218-387-1923 or sjpuch@hotmail.com

September 16th —Aitkin, MN

Contact: Jim McDonald 218-927-2669

September 23rd – Brainerd, MN

Contact: Mark Haglin 218-829-4736 or mark@pineshadows.com

October 21st —Ely, MN Banquet

Contact: Bunny Weirsema 218-365-6826



For more details or copies of the above event banquet flyers please visit the RGS web site, www.ruffedgrousesociety.org.

If you don't see your local event on the above list, please check the RGS website at www.RuffedGrouseSociety.org Some banquet dates have not been finalized yet. For More Information check the RGS website.

I am looking to post on the news letter some of your outdoor photos, Ruffed Grouse & Woodcock hunting photos, fishing, hiking, camping. What were 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 rsgfouts@centurytel.net



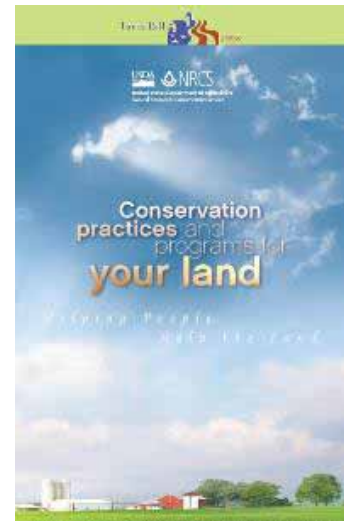
Federal Funding Available to Private Landowners for Wildlife Habitat Development

The Conservation Stewardship Program is an important component of the 2008 Farm Bill. Through CSP, private landowners, including those who own forest land, can receive payments for wildlife conservation activities already conducted on their properties.

However, in order to take advantage of the tremendous opportunity afforded by CSP, landowners must contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service and enroll in CSP by June 11, 2010. Professional staff at the NRCS can help landowners navigate the application process.

If you are a landowner interested in taking advantage of the funding opportunities available through CSP, you can learn more about this program at:

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new_csp/csp.html



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.



Looking For -- NEW Committee Members



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 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: Mark Fouts, RGS Director Of Regional Operations 715-399-2270 or e-mail rgsfouts@centurytel.net

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

Regional Raffle

AYA Model #2 Side By Side 28-Ga. Shotgun

(Retail \$5,000)

**Tickets are \$10 each;
3 For \$20 or 9 for \$50**

Winner drawn at each event will be entered in the final Regional drawing at the end of the year

AYA Model #2 Side/Side Shotgun is an “affordable” side lock, 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 #2 is identical to the #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".



**Purchase Tickets At Your Local Event Or Contact:
Mark Fouts 715-399-2270 or rgsfouts@centurytel.net.**

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 Mark Fouts 715-399-2270 or rgsfouts@centurytel.net (To Order Please print below order form)

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



To purchase raffle tickets contact
Lisa Rossi, Regional Director

724-693-9032 or 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 butt, and a 14 1/2" LOP.

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

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:
1.888.564.6747

Fax: 412.262.9207

E-Mail:
rgs@ruffedgrousesociety.org

**Director of Regional
Operations:**

Mark Fouts

Phone : 715.399-2270

Fax : 715.399-2296

Thank you for your continued support!!!

**Mark D. Fouts
Director Of Regional Operations
Ruffed Grouse Society
715-399-2270
rgsfouts@centurytel.net**

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

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 --- rgsfouts@centurytel.net.



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.

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 50th 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*, Trilogy 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 50th Anniversary

In 2011 The Ruffed Grouse Society celebrates its 50th 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 50th Anniversary RGS logo. These items will be at our 2011 banquets and available for purchase through our website.