



# Regional Director Info

**December 2008**

*Inside this Issue:*

**1**

Banquet Incentive Program Update  
*Tailfeathers* Membership Drive  
Dream Hunt Raffle Sales Partnership

**2**

RGS Recognized for Habitat Work  
RGS Biologist Elected to Forestry Board

**3**

National Forest Blog Created  
CAT Program Gains Speed  
Timber Sale Results

**4**

Regional News  
Sponsor Rewards Program

**5**

Spring 2009 Banquets

**6**

Dream Hunt Flyer

## **National News**

### **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.

**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.

**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](http://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](http://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.

## **REGIONAL NEWS**

Your regional **NEWS** updates. **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 with this newsletter.

There are many events around the state to take part in. Again it is difficult for RGS to mail a flyer out to everyone in the state, so please check the website for events around the state: [ruffedgrousesociety.org](http://ruffedgrousesociety.org)

## **Proposed Winter Events**

**Missouri Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society** – Will be hosting their Sponsor Hunt and Steak Lunch sometime in late January or early February 2009. Contact information would be Gary Heldt 573-236-4315 B or 573-236-4393.

**Little Moran Hunt Club** – Will be having their second annual Chukar Partridge and Sporting Clays Challenge around the first weekend in May. Contact information would be Club Information Please Contact:

Little Moran Hunt Club  
44357 Red Oak Road  
Staples, MN 56479  
Lodge Phone: 218.894.3852  
Email: [mail@littlemoran.com](mailto:mail@littlemoran.com)  
For Additional Information And Map,  
Please Visit:  
[www.littlemoran.com](http://www.littlemoran.com)

## **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

**Proposed 2009 Spring Banquet Dates**

**Seattle, WA – February 21, 2009, Contact Bob Olson- 425-649-5194**

**Fairbanks, AK – February 28, 2009, Contact Ken Larimore- 907-479-0969**

**Herman, MO – March 21, 2009, Contact Gary Heldt- 573-236-4315**

**International Falls, MN – March 27, 2009,  
Contact Jim Dornhecker- 218-283-2229**

**Anchorage, AK – April 4, 2009, Contact Gereth Stillman-907-694-2787**

**Bemidji, MN – April 9, 2009, Contact Clyde Horlick- 218-751-9130**

**Grand Rapids, MN – April 16, 2009, Contact Noah Wilcox- 612-325-1876**

**Virginia, MN – April 23, 2009, Contact Bernie Knutson- 218-741-9115**

**Duluth/Superior – April 30, 2009, Contact Dave Larson- 218-722-9676**

**St. Cloud, MN – May 5, 2009, Contact Larry Brutger-320-529-2826**

## **Fall Grouse & Woodcock Hunting Reports**

**The fall season is coming to an end and in Minnesota and Wisconsin the snow is already covering the ground that could make the December season shorter than we would like.**

**I always survey each year for grouse and woodcock reports from our members around the state.**

**This year was a mixed bag of comments on the woodcock season. Many found numerous birds, but they seemed to come through at varying degrees of flights, with many others including myself finding very few birds, with most being locals. The grouse reports on the other hand were very good with reports in certain areas up over last year and some other areas flat or comparable to last year – (Minnesota & Wisconsin)**

**Reminder – it always gets better next year!**

## Christmas Gift to a Hunting Friend

### 2008/2009 RGS Upland Bird Dream Hunt Raffle

(For every ticket a chapter member sells, \$5.00 will be added to the funds of a local chapter habitat project)

**First Place Prize** - All Expense Paid Trip for Two to hunt from October 3-5, 2009 for sharptail grouse and Hungarian partridge at Bear Paw Mountain Outfitters in Havre, Montana followed by participation in the National Grouse and Woodcock Hunt in Grand Rapids, Minnesota from October 6-9. Both hunters also receive an SKB model 1785 o/u shotgun. Approximate value of package: \$18,000.

**Second Place Prize** - \$1,000 Cabela's Gift Certificate

**Third Place Prize** - Custom fitted Pair of upland hunting boots from Russell Moccasin Co. Approximate value of boots: \$400.

Donation for Tickets are \$50 each, with winners drawn on June 30, 2009.

To Purchase Raffle Tickets Contact: Mark D. Fouts

at 715-399-2270 or rgsfouts@centurytel.net or mail the following to:

8154 S Dowling Lake Rd W, Superior, WI 54880

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Tickets @ \$50.00 Each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed

CHECK (Payable to RGS) CASH CREDIT CARD

Do NOT mail CASH!

CC# \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

***“MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL” –  
and have safe Holiday Season***

**Thank you for your continued support!!!**

**Mark D. Fouts  
Director Of Regional Operations  
Ruffed Grouse Society  
715-399-2270  
[rgsfouts@centurytel.net](mailto: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 RGS, its mission, management projects and membership can be found on the web at:  
[www.ruffedgrousesociety.org](http://www.ruffedgrousesociety.org)**