



News from the Drumming Log

Winter 2009

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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, a checkered butt, and a 14 ½" LOP.

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

Northeast and New England Regional Director Joins Staff

Tripp Way is the new Northeast and New England RGS Regional Director. He graduated from Wittenberg University in 2003 with a BA in English literature, but his love of grouse and woodcock hunting introduced him to the Ruffed Grouse Society – and he learned about the organization's comprehensive habitat restoration programs.

Way enjoys studying ruffed grouse and keeps extensive statistics which he reports to the Loyal Order of Dedicated Grouse Hunters. His true passion is the outdoors, and he enjoys working with his 2 ½ year old German wirehaired pointer, Duke in the field.

2010 Under Broken Wings Recipient Announced

Caleb Stallings, a 15-year-old from Ringgold, Georgia, was recently chosen as the recipient of the 2010 Under Broken Wings (UBW) program. Stallings will attend the Ruffed Grouse Society National Grouse and Woodcock Hunt in Grand Rapids, Minnesota in October of this year.

A paraplegic as a result of a car accident when he was 4, Caleb is an avid bow-hunter. A few of his trophies from 2009 include a

300-lb wild boar and a black bear. He has hunted extensively across the US and is deeply committed to helping others, especially those recently confined to a wheelchair, cope with their individual situations. "Hunting is what helps me get through, and it can help other kids as well," he says.

In Memoriam

David Vogel Uihlein

1920-2010

David Vogel Uihlein, a former RGS board member, passed away at his home in Mequon, Wisconsin on January 29, at the age of 89. An ardent naturalist and outdoorsman, he was deeply committed to conservation and was the founder and president of the Milwaukee chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society. Late last year Uihlein donated \$40,000 to the Wisconsin Drummer Fund to fund habitat projects in the area. His generosity has inspired additional contributions to RGS from friends and family for habitat enhancement projects.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 44 years, Margery Holly Uihlein, his children Lynde Bradley Uihlein of Milwaukee, and David Vogel Uihlein Jr. (Julia) also of Milwaukee; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He is also survived by Margery Uihlein's four children, six grandchildren and a great-grandson.

More on Mr. Uihlein's life and contributions will follow in our upcoming Summer issue.

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.

NAWNR Conference

The annual North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference will be held this year in Milwaukee and will be attended by state and federal wildlife agencies, representatives of many wildlife conservation groups and academics. The event will include one session entitled "Active vs. Passive Management of Wild State Lands," a topic that RGS President and CEO Mike Zagata worked to add to the conference agenda. Dan Dessecker, RGS Director of Conservation Policy, will be a speaker at the event in March. Read more about the conference in our upcoming Summer issue of the RGS magazine.

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 1-888-564-6747.

Minnesota Grouse Biologist

In cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, this year RGS will help to fund a biologist position in the area to focus primarily on ruffed grouse projects. Read more about the cooperative effort in our upcoming Summer issue of the RGS magazine.

Wayne National Forest Project Update

An agreement between RGS and Wayne National Forest is pending for a third year of continuing shrub management on Wayne National Forest land. If signed, it will result in a cumulative impact on over 1,000 acres of habitat in southeastern Ohio.

US Army and RGS sign Memorandum of Agreement

RGS and the US Army recently signed a memorandum of agreement concerning the promotion of the creation of early successional forest at Fort Drum, New York. Fort Drum personnel will provide maps and access to appropriate sites on the property. RGS will provide the personnel and equipment necessary to complete the forest management, assist in developing educational materials on early-successional forest and associated wildlife.

Local News

RD's Message

Warm wishes on yet another cold, snowy day across our region. Hopefully everyone is digging out and getting on with things. These cabin fever days find us longing for spring and all it brings.

Our spring/summer banquet season is well under way with events starting and event planning in full swing. Spring brings the promise of a great and successful banquet season.

Chapter News

The New Year started off with the State Workshop/Leadership Meeting January 30th, 2010. The meeting at the Ralph MacMullen Conference Center was sponsored in part by Weyerhaeuser Company, Grayling MI. Attendance was up this year to 41 from 28 the last two years, with 13 chapters represented. The group enjoyed a great day filled with exciting new information, comradery, and the opportunity for input and discussions on our new approach in 2010.

The meeting kicked off with a presentation by Dr. Gaylen Byker, Chairman of the Board of Directors. Dr. Byker gave an overview of the new RGS Business Plan, and the "State of the RGS". Dr Byker pointed out that we have a new national Board member from Michigan, Tracy Larsen, from the Grand Rapids Chapter.

I followed with a detailed report on the new Business Plan and its implementation, what it means to our volunteers, and what it will mean for our mission here in Michigan and across the nation.

Al Stewart, Upland Bird Specialist MDNRE, gave a presentation on the status of grouse and woodcock in Michigan. Al focused primarily on the National Woodcock Initiative and partnership possibilities.

Gary Zimmer, RGS Regional Biologist updated all on the major efforts completed, initiated, and underway in our state.

Ruffed Grouse Society Cooperative Projects in Michigan 2009 – 2010

Since 1985, the Ruffed Grouse Society has provided approximately 300 thousand dollars in funding over 75 Management Area Projects (MAP) on public land across the state. These funds have enhanced ruffed grouse and woodcock habitat on over 79,000 acres of public land. Examples of recent RGS projects funded in Michigan include:

Heavy Equipment for Habitat Management

Early in 2009, the Ruffed Grouse Society purchased an ASV PT-100 forestry loader equipped with a mulching head to greatly improve the Society's ability to address non-commercial habitat management opportunities for ruffed grouse and woodcock on both public and private lands in Michigan. In addition, the Society purchased a truck and heavy duty trailer to haul this equipment from site to site. On the ground work with this machine began in July, 2009 with 102 acres of habitat improvements completed on state wildlife management areas and 65 acres of work conducted on private lands in Michigan.

Huron/Manistee National Forest Stewardship Project

Currently in the planning stages, this project will target the regeneration of over-mature aspen habitats on the Huron/Manistee National Forest. Funds derived from the commercial harvest of this aspen will be used for a variety of habitat improvement projects including the treatment of non-commercial aspen and alder habitat areas as well as the maintenance of wildlife openings used by ruffed grouse during brood rearing and by woodcock as singing and roosting areas.

Gogebic County Forest Aspen Regeneration

This project regenerated approximately 100 acres of high quality aspen habitat on land managed by the Gogebic County Forestry and Parks Commission near Ironwood in 2009. Un-merchantable residual trees remain at recently harvested cutting units. If left untreated, aspen regeneration would be impacted resulting in lower stem densities and poorer habitat for ruffed grouse, woodcock and other young forest wildlife. This project is part of a long term project to promote dense cover for these species across the Gogebic County Forest.

LeGrande Management Area Project, Cheboygan County, Michigan

Funds are being used to support ongoing ruffed grouse and woodcock habitat work on the Pigeon River Wildlife Area, near Afton. Work includes the rehabilitation of wildlife openings, improvements to access roads and trails and alder regeneration.

Ottawa National Forest Grouse Habitat Improvements

Work continued on an ongoing five year cooperative Challenge Cost Share Project with the Forest Service on the Ottawa National Forest. In 2009, improvements were made to existing hunter walking trail systems. Past work under this project included non-commercial alder and aspen management as well as hunter walking trail improvements. All funds are matched by the Forest Service, therefore doubling on the ground management activities.

ASV Forestry Machine Report

John Paige, volunteer with the Robert J. Lytle Chapter, Imlay City coordinator of our ASV Forestry machine program, provided an overview of the accomplishments of the machine these past seven months we have had the machine. The forestry machine was made possible by

generous donations by the Richard King Mellon Foundation, the Fry Foundation, and the Charlevoix County Community Foundations.



[YouTube - ruffed grouse society attacking autumn olive on v-8 club
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjFD0rxcxjg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjFD0rxcxjg)

July, 2009

7/7 – 7/31

Barry & Allegan State Game Areas

Woodcock habitat improvement

50 ASV hours 43 acres

August, 2009

8/6 – 8/12 and 8/27 – 8/28

Lapeer State Game Area

Opening maintenance & ASV operator training

11.9 ASV hours 11 acres

8/15

Private land project – Midland County

Trail & opening maintenance

3.6 ASV hours 3.5 acres

8/24

Private land project – Romeo

Opening maintenance

2 ASV hours 5 acres

September, 2009

9/4 – 9/6

Private land project – Atlanta

Trail & Opening maintenance/invasive species control

14.6 ASV hours 11 acres

9/16 – 9/30

Lapeer State Game Area

Opening maintenance & invasive species control

30.8 ASV hours 49 acres

October, 2009

10/24

Private land project – Cass City

Trail maintenance

2.3 ASV hours 2 acres

10/29

Private land project – Burton

Opening maintenance

2.3 ASV hours 2 acres

November, 2009

11/11

Private land project – Wales Center

Opening maintenance

6.8 ASV hours 6 acres

December, 2009

12/3

ASV demo taping - Lapeer

Trail & Opening maintenance/invasive species control

2 ASV hours 2 acres

12/7 & 8

Private land project - Alden

Opening maintenance/invasive species control

7 ASV hours 12 acres

12/9

Private land project - Grayling

Trail & Opening maintenance

4.3 ASV hours 4 acres

12/10

Private land project - Bitely

Opening maintenance/invasive species control

4.7 ASV hours 5 acres

12/15 – 12/18

Private land project - Barton City

Opening maintenance/invasive species control

25.6 ASV hours 15 acres

Total hours on ASV - 171.6

Approximate impacted habitat acres - 165

FAQ'S

What does it do?

Shreds small trees and brush into a coarse mulch.

How big a tree will it take down?

In general 6" and smaller trees are easily mulched. The ASV will take down larger (8" to 12") trees but it takes longer to turn them into mulch.

What does it cost?

Non RGS members \$125.00/tachometer hour.

RGS members \$100.00/tachometer hour.

RGS membership \$25.00/year

Transport \$75.00/hour.

Hourly fee includes operator and fuel.

Can I operate the ASV myself?

Operating the ASV with mulching head requires special training. In general the operator provided by RGS will be much more productive than an occasional operator.

How much will the ASV do in an hour?

One half to two thirds of an acre per hour is a reasonable expectation. Sometimes when conditions were excellent, we have done as much as an acre per hour.

How do I schedule the ASV to work on my property?

See the RGS/ASV promotion sheet for how to contact John Paige or Gary Zimmer.

We have had a new promotional video produced for our ASV machine and it was debuted for everyone's pleasure. Copies of the DVD will be available soon for chapters use at fairs and banquets.

We also viewed a video highlighting the tree sheer purchased through the Andy Ammann (Lansing) Chapter and donated to the MDNRE and in use in the Rose Lake State Game Area. A new State Leadership Team was discussed. This idea is for a small group of dedicated volunteers to step forward and be part of a Leadership Team which will assist in developing and implementing programs and assisting chapters in need. Please contact me for more information. The following is the tentative schedule for banquets, dog trials, shoots, and habitat days for 2010.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lv-jPYCSMWU>

Shoule Cutter Puchased By Andy Ammann Chapter of Ruffed Grouse Society

2010 BANQUET SCHEDULE

Southwestern MI Chapter, Kalamazoo MI
Saturday February 20, 2010

Saginaw Valley Chapter, Saginaw, MI
Friday March 5, 2010

Keith Davis Chapter, Flint, MI
Friday March 19, 2010

Robert J. Lytle Chapter, Imlay City
Saturday March 27, 2010

Andy Ammann Chapter, Lansing, MI
Friday April, 16, 2010

Michiana Chapter, Michigan City, IN
Saturday April 17, 2010

Little River Chapter, Remus, MI
Saturday April 24, 2010

Thunder Bay Chapter, Alpena, MI
Date TBD

Eastern U.P. Chapter, St. Ignace
Saturday May 8, 2010

West MI Shoreline Chapter, Muskegon, MI
Friday May 14, 2010

Jim Foote Chapter, Gaylord, MI
Friday June 18, 2010

Grand Rapids Chapter, Grand Rapids, MI
Wednesday August 25, 2010

Greater Southeast MI, Detroit, MI
(SE MI Chapter & Tri-County Chapter, Ann Arbor, MI have merged)
Wednesday September 8, 2010

LeGrand Traverse Chapter, Traverse City, MI
Saturday September 11, 2010

Northwoods Chapter, Crystal Falls, MI
*Thursday September 30, 2010

Al Litzenburger Chapter, Petoskey, MI
*Friday October 15, 2010

Let's all welcome our newest chapter Little River, Remus, MI #234, and our newest Banquet Chairman, Patrick Rheume.

We are also welcoming back the Michiana Chapter, Michigan City IN with a banquet April 17, 2010 after a year off.

Second Annual Sponsorship Raffle valued at more than \$18,000

Coraopolis, PA -- 2010 started off on a positive note for Jeff Arthur of Holidaysburg, PA, and a half-dozen other winners of the Ruffed Grouse Society's (RGS) second annual Sponsor National Drawing.

Arthur won the drawings first place prize -- aN AYA (Aguirre & Aranzabal) No. 2, 20 gauge side-by-side hammerless shotgun, featuring detachable sidelocks, ejectors, 28 inch barrels and double triggers. The Spanish made firearm also features a straight hand oil finished walnut stock, English scroll engraving, gold lined cocking indicators and an automatic safety. It has a MSRP of \$5,800.

As in past years, banquet sponsors had the option of selecting a print, or entering the national drawing that featured a selection of quality firearms manufactured by AYA, Connecticut Shotgun, Caesar Guerini, Smith & Wesson, SKB, Steiner Binoculars, and a \$1,000 Cabela's Gift Certificate. And, just as in past years, about 70-percent of those eligible entered the drawing.

To be eligible banquet attendees would have to purchase one of three sponsorship packages -- Banquet (\$250), Conservation (\$500) or Sustaining (\$1,000) -- each of which includes (along with various other incentives) 1, 2 and 4 tickets respectively.

Other National Drawing Winners were as follows:

- James Farrell, Holidaysburg, PA, Connecticut Shotgun's RBL-28 gauge round body action, box-lock, 28 gauge shotgun, valued at \$3,650.
- Robert Chambers, Parish, NY, Caesar Guerini "Magnus" Grade O/U 20 gauge shotgun, valued at \$3,950.
- Brad Lambert of Stoney Brooke Plantation, Gap Mills, WV, Smith & Wesson Elite Gold side-by-side 20 gauge shotgun, valued at \$2,380.
- Richard Geenan, Grandville, MI, SKB Limited Edition RGS No.7 O/U shotgun in 20 or 28 gauge with 26 -or 28-inch barrels, valued at \$2,395.
- Mark Zwiker, Wausau, WI, choice of Steiner binoculars, valued up to \$1,600.
- Ross Rackliff, Medway, MA, \$1,000 Cabela's gift certificate.

Sponsor Levels & Benefits:

Level 1: Sustaining Sponsor - (\$1,000)

Benefits:

8 Memberships and Dinner Tickets, 4 Chances on the Sponsor Gun Drawing

Choice of Options 1 or 2 as Described under "2010 Banquet Sponsor Rewards Program"

Recognition and/or Advertising opportunity

Your name or company name in the banquet program

Your name or company name recognized by the banquet MC

Level 2: Conservation Sponsor - (\$500)

Benefits:

4 Memberships and Dinner Tickets, 2 Chances on the Sponsor Gun Drawing
Choice of Options 1 or 2 as Described under “2010 Banquet Sponsor Rewards Program”
Recognition and/or Advertising opportunity
Your name or company name in the banquet program
Your name or company name recognized by the banquet MC

Level 3: Banquet Sponsor - (\$275)

Benefits:

2 Memberships and Dinner Tickets, 1 Chance on the Sponsor Gun Drawing
Choice of Options 1 or 2 as Described under “2010 Banquet Sponsor Rewards Program”
Recognition and/or Advertising opportunity
Your name or company name in the banquet program
Your name or company name recognized by the banquet MC

Level 4: Non-Attending Sponsor - (\$250)

Benefits:

Recognition as an RGS Sponsor

2010 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). Photos of prints from prior years are available on the RGS website: www.ruffedgrousesociety.org .

Option 2 – A sponsor may elect to participate in a national drawing at the end of the 2010 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. Connecticut Shotgun’s RBL-28 Round Action, Box-Lock 28 Gauge, 26” Barrels, Single Trigger, Side-By-Side Shotgun; 3X Wood Grade
2. AYA 453 – 28 Gauge, 28” Barrels, Side-By-Side; Walnut Stock & Forend.
3. Caesar Guerini Magnus Over/Under 20 Gauge Shotgun.
4. Smith & Wesson Elite Gold Side-By-Side 20 Gauge Shotgun
5. SKB Limited Edition RGS Model 785 Over/Under Shotgun in 20 or 28 Gauge, 26” or 28” Barrels
6. Choice Of Any Pair Of Steiner Binoculars \$1,600 or less
7. \$1,000 Cabela’s Gift Certificate.



2010 Print of the Year "**Standing Tall - Ruffed Grouse**" by Brian Jarvi. Signed and numbered limited edition of 600. Print size is 19.5" x 17.25" and the image size is 16.5" x 13.25".

SportDOG Grant

The Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS) was recently awarded a \$5,000 grant from the SportDOG Brand Conservation Fund to further the Cold Mountain Game Lands Murray Cove enhancement project in Haywood County, NC.

In announcing the grant, SportDOG Brand Conservation Fund Coordinator Gary Williams said, "SportDOG Brand annually supports the conservation efforts of sportsmen and conservation organizations such as yours throughout North America and we are proud to partner with you by supporting your current project."

According to RGS Regional Director Don Mallicoat, the project, which is also known as the Jerry Smathers Project -- so named after a local forester and RGS member who died suddenly in 2006 -- was spearheaded by RGS' Southern Appalachian Chapter, in cooperation with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) and, along with cutting a road (linear

wildlife opening) to a multi-stage timber harvest of nearly 150 acres, it will allow for better management of the forests including stand improvement, habitat management, control of exotic plant and animal species, and law enforcement needs.

“The Jerry Smathers Project at Cold Mountain SGL has progressed even faster than we expected, mostly because of the collaborative efforts of the NCWRC and our local chapter,” said RGS Senior Regional Wildlife Biologist Mark Banker.

“The recent grant from SportDOG was tremendously important for finishing the project that will allow for as much as 150 new acres of habitat. I know RGS and the family of Jerry Smathers are extremely grateful for their support. We look forward to doing more habitat work with them in the future,” Banker said.

When completed the project will provide quality early successional wildlife habitat that will benefit grouse, deer, rabbit, small mammals, and various species of songbirds.