



News from the Drumming Log

Spring 2010

Inside this Issue:

1-4 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

4-13 Local News

RD Message
Chapter News
Banquet Schedule
RGS 50th Anniversary
National Raffle
MDNRE Online Tool
MI Projects 2009-2010
2010 Sponsor Program

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.

Local News

RD’s Message

Spring has brought a renewed growth in the flora and fauna of our state and I am happy to report a growth in our local banquet system as well. The banquet scene is picking up and showing signs of a recovery. We are capturing larger crowds, seeing an increase in donors, sponsors, overall revenue and membership numbers!

This all comes at a great time with the onset of the new State Drummer Fund program. Individual chapters now are able to see a direct return of funds and conservation habitat projects in their state through their fundraising efforts at their local banquet.

Chapter News

The **Andy Ammann Chapter** members have been busy afield and in the banquet hall. After hosting a successful Sportsman's Banquet on 16 April 2010 in Bath MI many of the chapter volunteers have been busy in the field as woodcock banders. Randy Strouse has been banding woodcock for years all over mid Michigan. Randy reports that brood size and numbers appear to be up this year. Randy and friends have located 8 hens on the nest and have banded 61 chicks, with 3-4 chicks per nest being the average.



(above) Randy's Strouse's Lady Jezebel, a two time winner of the MI RGS Gun Dog of the Year trial is shown here pointing a woodcock in the lower right corner.



(left) With the recent snow and heavy rains in Michigan many are concerned for the health and success of the woodcock chicks and ruffed grouse nesting but Randy comments "things seem to be ok still."

The **Robert J Lytle Chapter** held a dog trial in Brown City on 10 April and had a great turnout. All handlers and dogs had a great day in the field. Pictured are the winners in the flushing dog and pointer categories. Please see the link below to view an album of great pictures from the event.



Flushers

<http://s1023.photobucket.com/albums/af354/RGSRJL/RGS%20RJLytle%20Fun%20Trail%20100409/>



Pointers

2010 SUMMER/FALL BANQUET SCHEDULE

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

Michiana Chapter, Michigan City IN
September, date to be determined

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

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

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: Bruce Wojcik, RGS Regional Director at 517-668-6294 or e-mail rgsbruce@comcast.net.

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



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' dedication and support they contribute to the organization. If you have a suggestion on how we can make 2011 the best year ever for RGS and our dedicated Members, please feel free to

contact me -- Bruce Wojcik, 517-668-6294 or rgsbruce@comcast.net. 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.

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!!**

For tickets and/or more information please contact Bruce Wojcik at 517-668-6294 or rgsbruce@comcast.net.



New Online Tool Helps Plan Your Michigan Hunting or Outdoor Adventure

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment introduced a new tool for selecting your next hunting, trapping or outdoor recreation spot -- an interactive mapping application called Mi-HUNT (www.michigan.gov/mihunt).

Mi-HUNT is a cutting-edge, Web-based application that allows users to view and navigate through all public lands open to hunting and trapping in Michigan. Mi-HUNT displays multiple layers of information, which can be customized to fit your specific outdoor interests and trip planning needs.

“No matter where you are in Michigan, you can find public land for hunting or trapping,” said DNRE Director Rebecca Humphries. “This sophisticated application is the first of its kind in Michigan and state-of-the-art nationwide, allowing hunters and outdoor enthusiasts to view, print, measure and create custom routing to their desired destinations.”

The interactive layers of Mi-HUNT allow the user to view:

- all state game and wildlife areas, federal land, state forest land and private lands open to hunting and trapping;
 - vegetation types;
 - topography of land;
- recreational facilities such as forest campgrounds, trails, boat launches, and parking areas;
 - aerial photography;
 - street maps and directions.

Mi-HUNT was made possible with a grant from the National Shooting Sports Foundation. The application was developed by the Michigan Department of Information Technology-Center for Shared Solutions using DNRE data.

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.

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".