



# Grousin' Around the Mid-Atlantic

**September 2009**

*Inside this Issue:*

## **1-2 Recent Happenings**

Just Completed Events

## **2-4 Upcoming Events**

Local Chapter Meetings and Events

## **4-5 National News**

Shawnee State Forest Uses RGS  
Trail Mix Donation  
New Equipment to Enhance RGS  
Habitat Work  
California Decision Inhibits Healthy  
Forest Management  
Cumbersome Wildlife Bill Introduced  
to Congress

## **6 from your RD**

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## **...Recent Happenings**

**May – August, 2009**

### **Banquets**

#### **Charles E. Bechtel Chapter, Reading PA, Southeastern PA Sponsor Dinner**

Wednesday, May 13 – Another great sponsor success! Sponsors dined on a raw bar, then lobsters and steak. Congratulations to Ron Kistler for winning the sponsor gun—an SKB 785 Limited Edition RGS model 20 gauge. Funds raised will help create local grouse habitat.

#### **Bonasa Chapter, Dubois PA Banquet**

Friday, June 19 –Another successful banquet for the Bonasa Chapter. For the second straight year, net proceeds increased. Funds raised will benefit grouse and woodcock.

### **Shoots**

#### **Cumberland Valley Chapter, Carlisle PA Sporting Clays Shoot**

Saturday, June 6 – The Cumberland Valley Chapter held their first Sporting Clay tournament at Marts's Gap View Hunting Preserve in Dalmatia, PA. Over forty shooters turned out to support the chapter and the good work they do in support of RGS. Gerry Putt was the high shooter—an artist with both a brush and a shotgun! After the shoot, Jeff and Julie Reed put on a wonderful bird dog training exhibition. Many thanks to Tim Wentz and the rest of the chapter volunteers for putting on this first of many successful shoots.

#### **Ruffed Grouse Society New Jersey Sporting Clays Challenge**

Sunday, July 26 – Hudson Farm was a perfect location for this prestigious shoot. Thirty five shooters made their way through this beautiful course. High Gun was Michael Geitz with an impressive score of 91. Ron Dombrowski was second with an 89 and Dr. Bjorn Hanson was third with an 88. High team honors went to Chuck Jencarelli, Tom Toohey and Jay Buffum. Second place team included Dr. Bjorn Hanson, Howard Birdsall III, John Roswech and John Connelly. Special thanks are due to the wonderful staff at Hudson Farm for not only making the day such a pleasure but for also donating to our mission.

### **Backbone Mountain Chapter, Oakland MD Chukar Challenge and Sporting Clays Shoot**

Sunday, May 3 – The first event for this brand new chapter was a resounding success! Over forty dogs competed in this inaugural chukar challenge. Participants and their dogs ignored the steady cold rain to find their birds. When it was all over, Lisa Calhoun and her GSP, Mandy, took top honors and the title “Queen of the Mountain.” Rich Skeweris and his German Wirehair, Jake, took second. Third went to Chad Fridley and his English Setter, Magnum. Don Helbig and Chad Fridley tied for first place in the sporting clays shoot.

## **Dog Events**

### **South Mountain Chapter, Lancaster, PA Cover Dog Training Seminar**

Saturday, August 22 – Professional trainer Robert Ecker gave an interesting and informative seminar on cover dog training methods. The presentation was complete with demonstrations of his fine dogs. Dr. McGrath gave the second part of the seminar, focusing on canine first aid in the field. The seminar was very well attended and money raised will go toward local habitat work. Thanks go to Jan Christen for organizing this event and to Rick Ober for providing and cooking the food.

## **New Chapter Development**

Two new chapters have started recently. **Allentown, PA** had a well attended meet and greet and is off to a flying start. They already have a treasurer and co-banquet chairs. They will be manning a booth at the upcoming Outdoor Expo. Next meeting will be held in early to mid September. Contact Ron Kistler at 610-392-8243 or via email at [ronlkis@ptd.net](mailto:ronlkis@ptd.net) for more details or to sign up to help man their booth.

**Goochland, Virginia** also had a great first meet and greet. Lots of enthusiasm emerged from that first meeting. We already have a treasurer, banquet chair/president and co-habitat chairs. The next meeting is scheduled for the evening of Sept. 10 at Orapax Plantation. Informal sporting clays shooting will be followed by dinner and a meeting. Topics for the meeting include choosing a name for this chapter and a discussion of habitat concerns. Contact Wayne Thacker, 804-357-9448 or [BumCW@aol.com](mailto:BumCW@aol.com).

# **...Upcoming Events: Mark Your Calendar**

## **August 2009**

### **Lehigh Valley Chapter, Allentown, PA - Outdoor Expo - August 28-30**

We still have a few slots to fill to keep our RGS booth properly manned. No experience required. Contact Ron Kistler at 610-392-8243 or via email at [ronlkis@ptd.net](mailto:ronlkis@ptd.net). for more details or to sign up to help man their booth.

### **Glenn Bowers Chapter, York PA - Sporting Clays Shoot, August 29**

Central Penn Sporting Clays, Includes 100 sporting clay targets, Lewis class and lunch for \$45.00. Wobble trap is \$10.00 for 25 targets. Registration starts at 7:45 with the last shooter out at 12:30. Awards presented after last shooter finishes. Raffles and prizes. For more information contact Tom Kieffer at 717-413-9205 or email at [tkieffer@ptd.net](mailto:tkieffer@ptd.net).

## September 2009

### **Backbone Mountain Chapter, Oakland Maryland**

Committee Meeting and picnic, Thursday, Sept 3, 7pm, Potomac State Forest picnic pavilion. Topics will focus on the upcoming banquet. All are welcome. For more information, contact Rich Skeweris at 301-334-5814 or via email at [rskeeweris@pennswoods.net](mailto:rskeeweris@pennswoods.net)

### **Charles E. Bechtel Chapter, Reading, PA**

Committee Meeting, Sept. 8, 7:30 at Trig Kleppinger's home. Discussion will focus on the upcoming banquet and a wrap up of the recent fun shoot. All are welcome. Contact Trig at 610-376-7011, or [kleppy@comcast.net](mailto:kleppy@comcast.net).

### **Goochland, VA**

Fun shoot and committee meeting, Thursday, September 10, Orapax Plantation. Sporting clays shooting from 5-7pm, dinner at 7pm, meeting at 7:30pm. Cost is \$30.00 for 50 sporting clays targets, including trapper tip, \$5.00 for dinner and no charge to attend meeting only. Topics at the meeting will include choosing a name for this new chapter, habitat discussion by the habitat chairs and future plans. Contact Wayne Thacker at 804-357-9448 or email at [BumCW@aol.com](mailto:BumCW@aol.com)

### **Potomac Valley Chapter, Frederick, MD**

Fun Shoot - Sept 12, Izaak Walton near Poolesville. Registration starts at 12:30pm with last shooter out at 4pm. Dinner is 4-6pm. Awards presented after last shooter finishes. Cost of \$40.00 includes 25 sporting clays targets, 25 skeet targets, and full dinner, optional classes for seniors and side by side shooters, trophies and prizes given in five categories. For more information, contact Terry Oland at 301-874-5269 or email at [terry.oland@comcast.net](mailto:terry.oland@comcast.net).

### **Ninth Annual Lion Country Supply Bird Dog Days**

Saturday, September 12, 2009, 9am-5pm. Numerous demonstrations and clinics including seminars by Rick Smith and others, vendors and conservation group displays, door prizes throughout the day. Pig roast lunch at 1pm. The event is free but for a free lunch, you must register in advance by calling 1-800-662-5202. There is also a bird dog challenge and sporting clays event at Warriors Mark Wingshooting Lodge and Kennels nearby. Trophies will be awarded at the end of the day at Lion Country Supply. Check out their website for more details: [www.lcsupply.com](http://www.lcsupply.com). RGS will be well represented at this event.

### **Charles E. Bechtel Chapter, Reading, PA Annual Sportsman's and Conservation Banquet**

Wednesday, September 16, 2009. Cocktails and raffles at 5:30pm, dinner at 7:00pm. Games, live and silent auctions and raffles. Contact Trig Kleppinger for tickets or information at 610-478-4500 or [kleppy@comcast.net](mailto:kleppy@comcast.net).

### **Backbone Mountain Chapter, Oakland Maryland Banquet**

Saturday, September 19. Cocktails and raffles at 5:30pm, dinner at 7:00pm. Games, live and silent auctions, door prizes and raffles. Contact Tom Gearhart at 301-268-0771 or email at [rskeeweris@pennswoods.net](mailto:rskeeweris@pennswoods.net) for tickets or more information

### **The Vintage Cup**

September 25-28, Pintail Point, Centreville, MD. Set up on Wednesday afternoon with the show running Thursday through Sunday. RGS will join a fantastic array of vendors. Help still needed to man our booth. For more information contact Dave Hansroth.

### **Combined New Jersey Chapters**

Sept 25-27, Phillipsburg, NJ Outdoor Expo, The Sussex and Pine Barrens Chapters are combining forces to man an RGS booth at this show. They are still looking for volunteers to help man their booth. For more information, contact Jim Desaye at 973-702-8380 or email at [jjdesaye@yahoo.com](mailto:jjdesaye@yahoo.com). or Mark Dreyfus at 732-364-3809 or email at [markd@netlabs.net](mailto:markd@netlabs.net).

### **Bonasa Chapter, Dubois PA Sporting Clays Shoot**

Sept 27, Firebird Wingshooting, Brookville, PA, Registration starts at 9:45 with the last shooter out at 1pm. Cost is \$50.00 and includes 100 sporting clays targets, complete lunch, trophies and raffles. For more information, contact Tom Noble at 814-590-9431 or [bonasa13@yahoo.com](mailto:bonasa13@yahoo.com)

## **October 2009**

### **Eastern Sponsor Hunt**

Weatherby's Lodge, Grand Lake Stream, Maine, October 15-18. Last year's hunt was a great success with plenty of grouse and woodcock in the local coverts. A limited number of slots are still available for this year's hunt. You do not need to be a sponsor to participate. In addition to great hunting, landlocked salmon fishing is available. Of course a lobster dinner is included along with other fine meals. Book signings, silent auction - this one has it all! Contact Alison Kelley at 412-262-4044 or email at [alisonk@ruffedgrousesociety.org](mailto:alisonk@ruffedgrousesociety.org) for more information.

## **November 2009**

### **Thunderbird Chapter, Altoona, PA 28th Annual Sportsmen's and Conservation Banquet**

Friday, November 6, 2009, The Calvin House, Duncansville, PA. Cocktails and raffles at 6pm, dinner at 7:30pm. Auctions, games, raffles and door prizes. Contact Jim Farrell at 814-932-1307 for more information.

**Note: Details on all upcoming events, except committee meetings, can be found on our website: [www.ruffedgrousesociety.org](http://www.ruffedgrousesociety.org).**

## **National News**

### ***Shawnee State Forest Uses RGS Trail Mix for Forest Trails***

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry recently re-opened recreation trails on the Shawnee State Forest lands. RGS donated our wildlife seed mix, Trail Mix, for use in reseeding some of the trails.

Seeding of the trails was accomplished in order to rehabilitate areas impacted by an April wildfire in the forest.

### ***New Equipment Will Enhance RGS Habitat Work***

RGS recently purchased two trucks and two trailers for use with the ASV/Terex PT-100 forestry loaders in the Midwest and the CAT loader in the Northeast. The new trucks and trailer will allow for the transport of the equipment to various locations for habitat work.

One truck and trailer will be used in the Midwest and the other in the Northeast. An additional truck is being supplied by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for use in Wisconsin. The remaining truck is also for use in the Northeast, and an additional trailer will be purchased very soon.

The new equipment was purchased with funds from several recently obtained grants.

### ***California Lawsuit Ends in Settlement Unfavorable for Healthy Forest Management***

A recent Northern California lawsuit ended with a settlement by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company agreeing to pay \$14.75 million as recompense for the 1999 Pendola fire in Plumas and Tahoe National Forests. The fire started due to a pine tree that fell onto a power distribution line.

Allegations that the fire caused damage to the lands, harm to the ecological habitat and loss of timber ended in the resulting settlement.

The decision is viewed by many to be a blow to conservation groups because fire, which is a natural act of nature that allows for forest renewal, was viewed as destructive.

### ***Wildlife Bill Introduced to Congress Bill requires lengthy species monitoring, may be unrealistic***

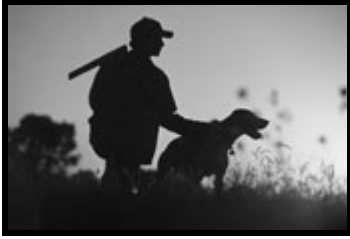
In June this year Wisconsin Representative Ron Kind presented “American’s Wildlife Heritage Act” (HR 2807) to Congress. The bill, though ostentatiously written to sustain wildlife and plants on federal public lands, may actually prove too cumbersome to be effective.

Requirements in the bill include overwhelming obligations placed upon federal land management agencies to monitor every species that may be impacted by a proposed activity. The manpower necessary to implement this requirement is beyond the current expertise available to these agencies, and there is no provision for additional funding. The large quantities of money that would be spent attempting to follow these guidelines would, perhaps, be better spent in accomplishing much needed habitat work on federal lands.

RGS intends to work with Representative Kind and other members of Congress to modify the language of the bill to better reflect more reasonable expectations.

***Welcome to new RGS Corporate Sponsor Connecticut Shotgun. They donated a 28-gauge RBL that will be used in an upcoming raffle or banquet.***

***Congratulations to our three 2009 National Raffle Winners: Jim Farrell from Altoona, Pennsylvania won the Dream Hunt, Andrew Lukashuk of Sussex, New York won a \$1000 Cabela’s gift certificate and Kristin Dew of Elgin, Illinois won a pair of custom Russell Moccasin boots.***



Having completed a year and a half as a Regional director for RGS, I wanted to share a few thoughts with you. I have really enjoyed this work so far. I have met a lot of wonderful people that value our mission just as much as I do. These people are willing to give of their time and money to protect a resource we deem as invaluable. We have a lot in common; sharing a love of crisp fall days in the uplands with our favorite bird dog. We also share some real concerns about the future of grouse and woodcock hunting.

One of my primary goals so far has been to strengthen the confidence and relationship among my chapters, volunteers, members and RGS. Toward that end I have tried to be totally available and to communicate on every level with my chapters and volunteers. I have listened to your comments and concerns. I am pleased to report that RGS has been and is listening. Positive changes are in the wind. Stay tuned!

My other primary goal is, of course, to raise funds so that RGS can accomplish its mission of creating and protecting habitat for grouse, woodcock and other wildlife. During these tough economic times, my chapters have really responded positively. Revenues have been good and will only increase as the economy begins to recover. I wish to offer a heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers that have given their time and resources so that we will continue to thrive. ***Your efforts are greatly appreciated.*** Please remember that without you there would be no RGS. I look forward to working closely with you for a great fall season and beyond.

Wishing you wonderful fall days afield,

Dave