



# Grousin' Around the Mid-Atlantic

December 2010

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## From your RD

Big things are planned for our Fifty year anniversary in 2011. I am already hard at work preparing for the spring banquet season. Many committees are getting geared up for their efforts to help fund our mission. If you are a grouse or woodcock hunter or are just interested in conservation and the creation of early successional forest, then I urge you to get involved with your local RGS chapter. If upland bird hunting has been a part of your life and you cherish many memories that sport has given to you, then consider giving something back by volunteering. **We need your help.** Make a difference. Contact me for the name of your local chapter leader. As always, THANKS to all those who are now and have been volunteers. We would not succeed without you!

## ...Recent Happenings

**August - November, 2010**

### Banquets

#### **Southern Appalachian Chapter, Asheville, NC Annual Sportsmen's and Conservation Banquet**

The 26<sup>th</sup> annual banquet was another unqualified success. One hundred and forty three attendees enjoyed a fine evening of food and fun. Funds raised will go toward habitat in North Carolina. Thanks to the committee for their efforts.

#### **Eastern North Carolina Chapter, Raleigh, NC Inaugural Sportsmen's and Conservation Banquet**

The committee in Raleigh worked hard to put together its first RGS banquet. Results were impressive with over forty attendees and substantial funds raised. They are already looking forward to next year. Thanks to the committee for their efforts.

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

The oldest continuous running RGS Chapter held its 33<sup>rd</sup> annual banquet on September 15. Thirty three years is a long time! As usual, the event raised substantial funds for the RGS mission. Thanks committee!

### **Lehigh Valley Chapter, Allentown, PA Inaugural Sportsmen's and Conservation Banquet**

Efforts finally came to fruition with the first ever banquet in Allentown. The committee worked hard to get this first one done and it was a rousing success. Attendees numbered sixty six with ten sponsors. This was quite a wonderful accomplishment. Thanks to the committee for all their hard work.

### **H.C. Edwards Chapter, Staunton, VA Sportsmen's and Conservation Banquet**

The 21<sup>st</sup> annual banquet was another great success. Over 170 people attended, including 46 sponsors. This Chapter continues to lead with the largest number of sponsors relative to the total number of attendees. Harlin "Duck" Edwards continues to be very active even though he resigned this year as treasurer. Duck has been a wonderful supporter of RGS for many years. We truly appreciate his efforts and commitment. Thanks to the committee for their efforts.

### **Thunderbird Chapter, Altoona, PA 30th Annual Sportsmen's and Conservation Banquet**

The Altoona Chapter continues to excel at its annual banquet. Even though attendance was off a little, they still managed to raise substantial funds toward our mission. Thanks to the committee for their efforts.

## **Shoots**

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

The Bonasa Chapter held their second annual sporting clays championship on September 26 at Firebird Wingshooting, Brookville, PA. The shoot consisted of 100 sporting clay targets. Twenty three shooters participated. The weather was great for the shooting event. The staff of Firebird Wingshooting conducted a well managed shoot, with a great lunch for all. A good time was had by all involved in the shoot. Winners were: Clinton Dicks-High Score of 91; Mat Olsakovsky-High Youth Score of 59; Ray Noble-High Senior Score of 85; and Paul Bobby-High Side by Side Score of 70. Monies raised will be used for grouse and woodcock habitat work.

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

## **December, 2010**

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

Monday, December 6, 7pm at the home of Bill Cartwright, 3815 Bush Creek Drive, Frederick, MD Phone: 301-346-7191 (this is actually in the village of Urbana). New committee members are needed and welcome. Discussion will center on the upcoming banquet, NRA booth and dog day. For more information, contact Terry Oland at 301-874-5269 or email at [terry.oland@comcast.net](mailto:terry.oland@comcast.net).

### **Red Brush Chapter, State College, PA Committee Meeting**

Thursday, December 9, 7 pm. Agenda items will include banquet plans discussed, tickets distributed, etc. This Chapter has a new enthusiasm and commitment. New committee members are needed. Come out and join the committee. All are welcome. For more information, contact Jim Weaver at 814-574-8053 or email at [jimwredbrush@gmail.com](mailto:jimwredbrush@gmail.com).

## **January, 2011**

### **Late Maryland Woodcock Season**

January 14 – 22, 2011. Don't miss this fantastic late season bird hunting opportunity

## **February, 2011**

### **South Mountain Chapter, Lancaster, PA Banquet**

Saturday, February 5, 2011 at Acorn Farms, 3141 Mount Joy Road, Mount Joy, PA  
Phone: 717-653-6182. Cocktails and raffles start at 5pm with dinner at 7pm. Games, raffles and live and silent auctions. Enjoy good food, drink and company! For more information, contact George Criswell at 717-432-4062 or Doug Royer at 717-823-1253 or email at [droyer@normandeau.com](mailto:droyer@normandeau.com).

### **Maryland Habitat Seminar**

Thursday, February 10 at Pintail Point - Continental breakfast at 9am, sporting clays (50 targets) until 11am, lunch at 11:30, seminar at 12:30. Speakers will include Mark Banker-Senior RGS biologist; Bob Long, Upland biologist for MD; and Nevin Dawson, Forester for the University of MD Extension Service. Fee for the entire day, all inclusive, is just \$25. For more information contact Mac Macdonald at 410-463-0031 or email at [macfly@goeaston.net](mailto:macfly@goeaston.net).

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

Saturday, February 19, 2011. Urbana Volunteer Fire Dept. Cocktails, raffles and hors d'oeuvres at 6:00 pm, dinner at 7:30, games, raffles, live and silent auctions, great food, drink and conversation. For more information, contact Terry Oland at 301-874-5269 or email at [terry.oland@comcast.net](mailto:terry.oland@comcast.net) or Steve Choquette at 301-233-5365 or email at [Schoquette2@comcast.net](mailto:Schoquette2@comcast.net)

## **March, 2011**

### **Highland Drummer Chapter, Lewisburg, WV Banquet**

Saturday, March 5, 2011. Details to be announced. For more information, contact Charlie Brown at 304-484-7102 or email at [cnbro47@dishmail.net](mailto:cnbro47@dishmail.net).

### **Cumberland Valley Chapter, Carlisle, PA Banquet**

Saturday, March 12, 2011. Details to be announced. For more information, contact Rodney Heininger at 717-921-2810 or email at [reheininger@pa.net](mailto:reheininger@pa.net).

### **Red Brush Chapter, State College, PA Banquet**

Saturday, March 19, 2011. Details to be announced. For more information, contact Jim Weaver at 814-574-8053 or email at [jimwredbrush@gmail.com](mailto:jimwredbrush@gmail.com).

### **Potomac Valley Chapter, Frederick, MD Annual Dog Training Seminar and Fun Trial/Chukar Challenge**

Saturday, March 26, 2011 - McKee Beshears WMA near Poolesville, MD. Morning seminars on various aspects of bird dog training followed by lunch and an afternoon fun trial/chukar challenge. For more information contact John Thereault at 301-365-3038 or email at [jcthereault@hotmail.com](mailto:jcthereault@hotmail.com).

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

## **...Other Local News**

### **2010 Mid-Atlantic AYA Winner**

Mr. James Osborne of Westerville, Ohio was the lucky winner of the AYA Model 2 20 gauge. Mr. Osborne purchased his winning ticket at the Lewisburg, WV banquet. Congratulations!

### **New 50th Anniversary 2010-2011 National Raffle:**

The Ruffed Grouse Society has announced a very special 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary raffle. For this special year buyers will have three chances to win. First prize is a Remington Model 1100 "F" Grade 28 gauge featuring exhibition grade wood, skeet chokes, hand engraved by Remington's master engraver Don Talbot with two ruffed grouse on the left side, two woodcock on the right side and the RGS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo on the top of the receiver. Unique, only one made – Serial #RGSr50. Retail value is \$9000.

Second prize is a Cesar Guerini RGS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Apex 28 gauge over/under with 28" barrels. This one of a kind gun features a hand engraved grouse on the trigger guard, with "RGS" above and "1961-2011" below. Retail value is \$7,850.

Third prize is the last remaining Kimber in RGS's inventory. Kimber has stopped making shotguns, making this a last chance at a real collector item. Retail value is \$5000.

Donation for each ticket is \$100. No more than 1000 tickets will be sold. Drawing will be held on June 30, 2011 at RGS HQ in Corapolis, PA. Contact me for tickets.

## **Second “Upland Bird Hunt” Another Success**

About 60 hunters, including several from my area, went afield in the vicinity of St. Mary’s, Pennsylvania in pursuit of grouse and woodcock November 4-5 at the second annual Upland Bird Hunt. A rough count of flushes reported by the huntsmen suggested more than 620 grouse flushes over two days, very similar to last year. Hunters harvested 40 grouse, a few less than last year. Only 12 woodcock were seen and two harvested. Only 2 woodcock were seen last year.

Other highlights of the event included several staunch points on bears, elk sightings, and the harvest of a grouse locally (although not as part of the Hunt) that looked like it had been lightly sprayed with white paint over its entire body, particularly the wings and tail. Nobody present had ever seen anything like it. Several dogs were caught in coyote traps, which continues to be a problem. No dogs were hurt by traps or humans hurt by unhappy dogs.

## **Grouse and Woodcock Webinar - Tuesday, December 14th, Noon and 7 p.m.**

Penn State Natural Resources Extension will facilitate a webinar on Grouse and Woodcock Ecology and Management at noon and 7 p.m. on Tuesday, December 14, 2010. The on-line seminar will be presented by RGS Biologist Mark Banker and hosted by Dr. Sandy Smith, Penn State Forestry Extension professor.

To access the webinar, go to <http://rnrext.cas.psu.edu/PAForestWeb/upcomingseminars.html>. There will be a list of upcoming seminars. Click on the time slot you want to view, then you will have to register as a guest. This will only take a minute. You will then have access to the webinar. You may also be interested in other webinars coming up.

The webinar includes the ability to ask questions via text. We look forward to seeing you on-line on December 14.

## **Please Get Involved with Grouse/Woodcock Hunter Surveys**

Now is the time to start thinking about supporting your state game agency and grouse and woodcock conservation by participating in your state’s hunter survey program. Not all states have them, but PA, MD and OH rely heavily on them to give them a feel for what the populations are doing.

This is a fun and inexpensive way to keep track of your flushes and kills for yourself and come to the aid of your state wildlife agency. All you have to do is GO HUNTING! I have been a cooperator for about 10 years. We strongly encourage you to get involved.

In Ohio, contact Mike Reynolds – [mike.reynolds@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:mike.reynolds@dnr.state.oh.us)

In Maryland, contact Bob Long – [blong@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:blong@dnr.state.md.us)

In Pennsylvania, contact Ian Gregg – [igregg@state.pa.us](mailto:igregg@state.pa.us)

## **Outstanding Progress on Smathers Project at Cold Mountain Game Lands, Southwestern NC**

RGS staff and volunteers from the Asheville Chapter visited the Jerry Smathers Memorial Project at Cold Mountain Game Lands near Canton, NC in August. Not only was the logging road paid for by the local chapter being put to good use, but an impressive swath of mature forest had been harvested and the resulting re-growth looked great. This is a project that has been stewarded and funded by the local chapter from the start and is an example of how rapidly habitat can be put on the ground when volunteers work closely with the state agency, in this case the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. The WRC worked quickly in installing the road using RGS funding and getting the timber sold and cut.

We also visited with the loggers on the site and they were great guys. We noticed with some concern that the cut had gone right up to the yard of a house that had been completely surrounded by mature forest in an isolated area, but the loggers said the owner thanked them for giving them an incredible view of the mountains rising around them that they hadn't had before. They will also have great wildlife habitat literally in their back yard.

## **Off and Cutting on CONSOL Energy Lands**

RGS Consulting Forester Bernie Braun is cranking out the timber sales on CONSOL Energy lands, rapidly implementing the plan to greatly increase habitat for grouse and woodcock across a sizable landscape in southwest PA. Several sales are in the books and cutting should begin on the largest one very soon – a 60-70 acre patch.

## **Work on Mower Tract of Monongahela National Forest Moving Forward**

The Monongahela National Forest continues to move forward with its project aimed at maximizing opportunities on the Mower (pronounced Mau-er) Tract off of Rt. 92 on top of Clinch Mountain south of Elkins, WV. The Mower tract is extremely unique due to its surface mining history and high elevation. Grasslands and dense red spruce dominate the landscape, giving it a “western” appearance at first glance. The view of the WV mountains alone is worth the trip. The project, led by Biologist Shane Jones, is aiming to connect dispersed forest stands and create early successional shrublands and aspen stands. There are grouse present on the sight and lots of room for more.

So far, the following has been accomplished:

- Planted 3,000 native plants for restoration provided be NRCS
- Completed 50 acres of high elevation native plant restoration
- Cooperative work with WV Department of Forestry building ecological connectors - 100 native aspen trees planted and cooperative spruce release.

The Forest Service is still looking for volunteers and professionals to get involved to help steward this project. So far, RGS has only been a small player. Local support would be a great help. Shane Jones does a great job of keeping us posted on progress and meetings. If you are interested in getting plugged in, contact Shane at [scjones@fs.fed.us](mailto:scjones@fs.fed.us).

## **Woodcock Habitat Work Being Done at Mt Nebo, Garrett County, MD**

In addition to the Al Geis Project at Mt. Nebo, Tom Mathews reports that he has secured funding for a woodcock management demonstration area there. Tom has already met with contractors and the work is expected to begin this winter. Lots of good things are happening at Mt Nebo.

## **Bio Bases Covered**

When Larry Visser begins work in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana in the New Year, RGS will have all of its biologist positions filled for the first time in many years. Those biologists include, in order of tenure, Dan Dessecker, Mark Banker, Gary Zimmer, Andy Weik, Ted Dick, and Larry Visser.

## **Finally...**

Please feel free to contact me at any time for any reason. I am here to serve the good people of the Ruffed Grouse Society. I look forward to hearing from you.

Dave