



New England News

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Doubles Club Announced

Have you accomplished that rare feat of shooting a double on grouse or woodcock? RGS is announcing a brand new Doubles Club program. When you become a member you'll receive an exclusive honorary pin and an official certificate commemorating your achievement.

What is a double?

RGS defines a double as the occurrence of two grouse, two woodcock, or a grouse and woodcock (a mixed double) that are in flight at the same time, and are successfully harvested by one hunter. Please note: the birds must be in flight at the same time when harvested to qualify as a true double.

Applications will appear in the Summer issue of RGS, or you may also contact our membership department directly to apply at **412.262.4044**.

Grants to Grow Habitat Management Capabilities in Midwest

RGS recently received three grants, totaling \$182,000, to purchase heavy equipment for managing habitat in the Midwest. Two ASV/Terex PT-100 Forestry loaders with mulching heads will be purchased with grant funds from the R.K. Mellon Foundation, the Frey Foundation of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and the Charlevoix County Community Foundation in East Jordan, Michigan.

The new pieces of equipment will service Michigan, Wisconsin and surrounding states. The versatile equipment will allow RGS to help public and private partners aggressively manage neglected aspen, alder and brush habitats for ruffed grouse, woodcock and many other species. Cooperative projects with similar equipment have been in progress in the Northeast for several years with excellent results.

"These pieces of equipment are important tools to help the Ruffed Grouse Society target habitat improvements for woodcock in habitat, like alder, that is not being managed by commercial harvests," says Gary Zimmer, RGS Senior Biologist in the

Western Great Lakes Region. “With this equipment RGS will be one of the primary implementers of the Upper Great Lakes Woodcock and Young Forest Habitat Initiative.”

Welcome to new Corporate Sponsors: New Page and Browning. Also thank you to Johnson Lumber in Wisconsin for providing paper to our headquarters office.

Regional News

It has been a very busy springtime for RGS in the New England area. We’ve had successful banquets in Burlington, VT, West Warwick, RI, Worcester, MA, Augusta, ME, and Hadley, MA. We also manned booths at sportsmen shows in Springfield, MA, and Wilton, Augusta and Presque Isle, ME. Thank you to the many volunteers who made these events so successful.

I would like to especially recognize the truly “above and beyond” efforts of Carole and Russ Dyer who not only organized the Augusta, ME, banquet (as they have done for over 25 years) but they also organized participation and helped man the booths at **all three** of the sportsmen shows in Maine this spring. At those shows, we were able to communicate the RGS mission to many who were not aware of our goals and activities, gain some new members and, very importantly, interest some new ruffed grouse and woodcock enthusiasts in participating in new chapter formations and activities. The Ruffed Grouse Society had the immense pleasure of recognizing the long term efforts of Carole and Russ at the Augusta banquet this year and to thank L. L. Bean for the company’s support in gaining new RGS memberships. Because of such individual and corporate support, I am optimistic that we will be able to continue to expand Ruffed Grouse Society activities and goals within the state of Maine.

Please keep the Ruffed Grouse Society New England Sporting Clays Championship in mind and join us if you possibly can. It will be held at Addieville East Farm in Mapleville, Rhode Island, on Sunday the 31st of May. It is a really fun event of 100 targets followed by a fantastic lunch of lobster or steak and an auction along with other fun stuff.

Boyd Cooke
New England Regional Director