



From the Western Great Lakes

Regional News

Spring 2010

Inside this Issue:

1 Regional News

News From the R.D

2

Current Events

3

What's Happening

6

Regional Raffle

7 National News

Dave Johnson
Regional Director, Western
Great Lakes
Office: 715-426-1000
Cell: 715-492-5858
Email: uptrek@gmail.com

The Spring Banquet Season

The banquet season was full of promise and anticipation, and one that nearly fulfilled that promise. It started in SW Wisconsin in the river town of Muscodia in February and finished last week in Chicago. In between there was Stevens Point, Wausau, Crandon, Milwaukee, Prescott, and Sheboygan. The banquets are as diverse as the geography of this region with venues ranging from school gymnasiums to five star hotels. All told every chapter showed an increase from the previous year. We hope this trend will continue through the fall and allow RGS to continue its mission of restoring gamebird habitat in the region.



Photo courtesy of David Lillie

Current Events in the Region

June 13 -- Grouse Flurry Shoot; Madison, Wi. Waunakee Gun Club
Contact Jim Shurts 608-233-2269

June 27 -- Isaac Walton League Fun Shoot; Washburn, Ia
Contact Dave Kalkwarf 563-873-1987

August 10 -- Ironwood, Mi Doubles Shoot
(Tent.) Contact Will Corcoran 906-932-0210

August 14 -- North Lakeland Chapter Banquet; **New Chapter!!** Winchester, Wi
Contact; Joe Osfar 715-686-7164

August 17 -- Twin Cities Chapter Banquet; Minneapolis, Mn
Contact Terry Lydell 673-434-0303

August 19 -- John Keener Chapter Banquet; Madison, Wi
Contact Jim Shurts 608-233-2269

August 26 -- Chain O' Lakes Chapter Banquet; Eagle River, Wi
Contact Dan Anderson 715-617-0845

August 28 -- NE Iowa Chapter Banquet; Dubuque, Ia
Contact Eric Van Hook 319-361-2827

August 28 -- Hayward, Wi Youth Day, Hayward, Wi
Contact Phil Johnson 715-558-1664

Sept 9 -- Northeast Wi Chapter Banquet; Green Bay, Wi
Contact Jim Schuettpelz 920-469-0751

Sept 12 -- Wilderness Wings Chapter Hunt/Shoot/Banquet; Hayward, Wi
Contact Phil Johnson 715-558-1664

What's Happening

Recent Pictures from the Marshfield/Neillsville Youth Day.





WDNR staff provided a very informative presentation on raptors in the state.





The event was once again held during a steady rain/drizzle mix. Thanks to the acquisition of large tents by the chapter the event went off without a hitch. Nearly 400 youths attended the event, accompanied by a parent or friend.

Rich Chronquist of the Marshfield/Neillsville Chapter hands out prizes at the annual youth event



AYA Model #2 Side By Side 20-Ga. Shotgun Regional Raffle – Retail \$5,000

**Tickets are \$10 each;
3 For \$20 or 9 for \$50**



AYA Model #2 Side/Side Shotgun is an “affordable” side lock, and the most famous model in the AYA line. Introduced in the late 1950s, tens of thousands of No 2’s have been sold to shooters who value the superb balance and handling of a fine double gun.

Mechanically, the #2 is identical to the #1. Like the No #1, it was originally modeled on the time-tested Holland & Holland system.

It is stocked with standard walnut and engraved in a simpler pattern. Standard stock dimensions of the AYA #2: LENGTH OF PULL 15", DROP AT COMB 1/2", DROP AT HEEL 2 3/8", and CAST 1/4".

Standard Features

- Side by Side hammerless side lock shotgun.
 - Forged steel action with double locking mechanism and gas vents.
 - Hardened steel intercepting safety sears.
 - Gold lined cocking indicators.
 - Double trigger with hinged front trigger.
 - Optional selective or non-selective single trigger.
 - Chopper lump steel barrels.
 - Concave Rib.
 - Straight hand, finely checkered oil finished walnut stock.
 - Wood grade 2.
 - English scroll engraving.
 - Initial Oval.
 - Automatic Safety.
 - Available with color hardened finish.
- Approximate weight in 20 bore 6 1/4 lbs.



[Purchase Tickets At Your Local Event Or Contact:](#)

[Dave Johnson at 715-492-5858 or \[uptrek@gmail.com\]\(mailto:uptrek@gmail.com\)](#)

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.