



From the Western Great Lakes

Regional News

Winter 2010

Inside this Issue:

1

News From the RD

3

Current Events

3-4

Event Photo Gallery

5-6

New Biologists
Update on Drummer Funds

7

Wisconsin MAPs Map

8

National Raffle Flyer

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The Fall Banquet Season

The 2010 Fall event season began for me in the tiny northern Wisconsin town of Winchester. The driving force behind this new chapter was a collection of fellows with diverse backgrounds and a common interest in grouse hunting. We began the process the previous year over dinner and followed that up with a public information forum in May of this year to help gauge interest. The banquet date was set for August 14. A gorgeous facility was located and the die was cast. Seventy-four people attended the inaugural event and were feted to a wonderful dinner and some lively games and an auction.



The Aberdeen Lodge, Northern, Wi

Other events of special notice were banquets in Minneapolis, Madison, Eagle River, Dubuque, Green Bay, Hayward, Marinette, Ironwood, Milwaukee, Park Falls, and Marshfield. All told, most chapters showed an increase from the previous year. We hope this trend will continue through the winter and allow RGS to continue its mission of restoring gamebird habitat in the region.

Throughout the fall season I was continually filled with awe over the beauty of the region during the late summer and early fall change over. For the most part we were spared any rogue snowstorms that sometimes plague the upper Great Lakes in October, although a particularly violent windstorm on Oct 26th had much of the northern region without power for a number of days. Following that, a number of mild days and moderate temperatures made days afield something to remember for years.

My youngest setter pointed a bear for me the following week, and I'm not sure who was more shocked, the bear or me. No one was hurt during the incident and we all went our separate ways, promising more space to each other in the future. A check on the den a week later revealed the bruin had relocated to a less trafficked area.



Twin Cities Chapter Banquet

Current Events in the Region

February 10 Marshfield & Stevens Point Chapters Wine and Cheese Tasting Event; Contact Dave Johnson 715-492-5858

February 26 S.W. Wisconsin Chapter Banquet, Muscoda, Contact Dave Duffey 608-604-4084

March 10 Golden Sands Chapter Banquet Stevens Point Contact Tom Otto 715-341-9001



The “Vanna’s”

Annual Twin Cities Chapter Banquet Ticket Sellers



New Chapter First Banquet Venue. Winchester, WI



Eagle River, Wi Banquet Venue



River Falls Police Chief Roger Leque Drawing the Winning AYA Ticket on Oct 31, 2010



**Winner of the 2010 Regional AYA Raffle,
Gary Larson of Pickerel, Wi Receiving the AYA #2 Roundback from
Regional Director Dave Johnson**

Welcome New Biologists We Now Are Running At Full Speed!

Minnesota Position:

Ted Dick is now the ruffed grouse habitat coordinator for Minnesota, a position that was created through a partnership between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Ruffed Grouse Society. Ted is off and running and already getting his feet wet in the grouse woods. Ted can be contacted at the DNR's office in Aitkin, Minnesota by phone at 218-927-6915 ext. 250 or by email at Ted.Dick@state.mn.us.

Ohio, Indiana & Michigan Position:

Soon to arrive and fill a biologist position vacant for several years in the Society's Eastern Great Lakes Region (Michigan, Indiana and Ohio) will be Larry Visser, formerly of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources & Environment. Planned startup date for Larry is January 1, 2011. Contact information will be forthcoming for Larry.

UPDATE ON RGS STATE DRUMMER FUNDS

Here is an update on the **2010 RGS Drummer Fund**. As mentioned many times before the Drummer Fund is a great tool to get money on the ground for habitat. The Drummer Fund Chapter works on a scale. If your banquet nets between \$7,001 up to \$19,999: 10% of your net it will be placed into a statewide "Drummer Fund" to fund habitat projects. Chapters whose banquet nets between \$20,000 up to \$49,999: 15% of their net it will be placed into a statewide "Drummer Fund" to fund habitat projects. Chapter whose banquet nets \$50,000.00 or over: 20% of their net will be placed into a statewide "Drummer Fund" to fund habitat projects.

In addition, there are four other ways that money will be directed into that Fund: 1) If the chapter signs up a Life sponsor, \$2,500 of that Sponsorship will go to the Drummer Fund. 2) RGS will be sending out letters at the end of each year seeking donations. A person's State Drummer Fund will be one of three categories that one can donate to. At the end of each banquet, RGS will hand out envelopes to the attendees giving them an opportunity to donate to either the RUFF campaign or the state's Drummer Fund. 3) If a person in your state makes a large donation earmarked for habitat work, that donation will go into your State's Drummer Fund and the chapters can raise funds to match it. 4) If your chapter has a successful banquet, then your chapter may elect to hold additional fundraisers, like raffles, to raise additional money. Your chapter may keep up to \$2,500 from each such fundraiser and can use it for projects consistent with RGS' mission. RGS is trying to take steps to provide more funds for projects.

Money earned in 2010 will be spent in 2011 so that we can be certain we have it before it is spent. In the first year of RGS' new program to share banquet revenue with the chapters about \$125,000 was raised for the states' Drummer Funds to support Habitat Projects. We will be working in 2011 to get all of the chapters to increase their revenue so they raise more for their Drummer Funds - attendance, donations and sponsors are the key to add to the projects on the next page!

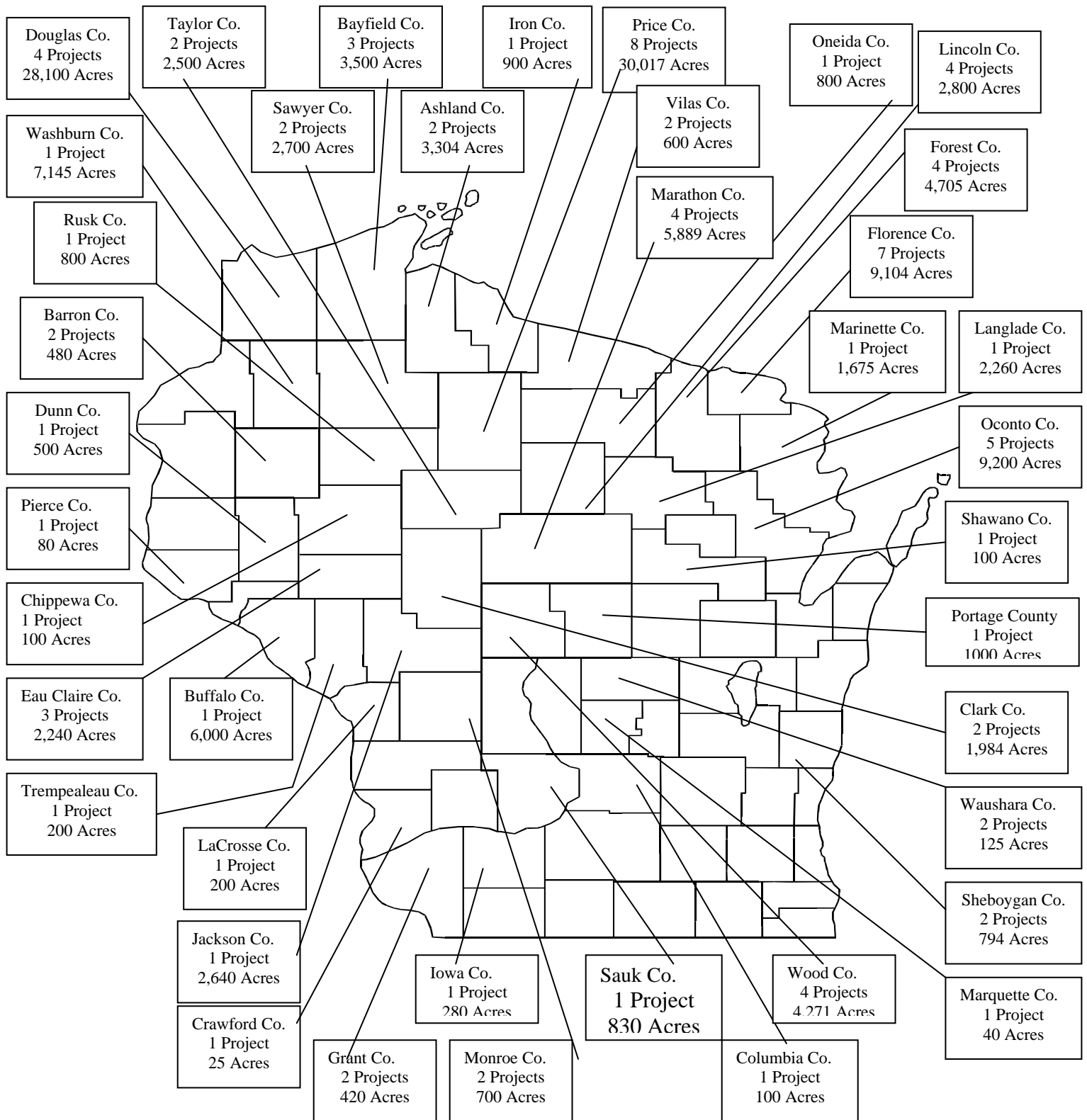
How projects to be funded via the Drummer Fund will be determined?

In 2007, RGS asked its biologists to establish a mechanism for evaluating projects suitable for funding. That mechanism is in place and will be used to rank projects submitted for funding.

How the money retained by RGS for the chapters will be accounted for?

Each chapter will have its own account at RGS and may, at any time, ask for an accounting of its funds.

Wisconsin Ruffed Grouse Society Management Area Projects 1985 to 2009



Ruffed Grouse Society



2010 - 2011

NATIONAL RAFFLE

THREE CHANCES TO WIN

REMINGTON MODEL 1100 "F" GRADE

Semi-auto 28-gauge, exhibition-grade wood, sheet choke, hand-engraved by Remington's master engraver Don Talbot with two ruffed grouse on left side, two woodcock on right side, and RGS 50th Anniversary logo on top of receiver. Unique, only one made -- Serial #RGS50 Retail Value: \$9,000



Gun in Production
Engraving Sketches Pictured



CAESAR GUERINI

RGS 50th Anniversary Commemorative APEX

Over-and-under 28-gauge, 28" barrel length hand-engraved grouse on trigger guard, "RGS" above, "1961-2011" below -- one of a kind Retail Value: \$7,850



Actual Gun
Not Pictured

KIMBER VALIER GRADE II

Side-by-side 20-gauge, 28" barrel length. Last one available through RGS. Retail Value: \$5,000

Donation for each ticket is \$100. Up to 1,000 tickets to be sold. Drawing on June 30, 2011 at RGS HQ in Corsopolis, PA. First ticket wins Remington. Second ticket wins Guerini. Third ticket wins Kimber. Winners responsible for applicable taxes.

To purchase raffle tickets, mail coupon to: Dave Johnson, Regional Director
Ruffed Grouse Society - N7789 State Road 65 - River Falls, WI 54022
or call 715-426-1000 or e-mail: uptrek@gmail.com

Name _____ Phone # _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

____ Tickets @ \$100.00 Each = \$ _____ Total Enclosed Signature _____

Billing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

CHECK (Payable to RGS) CREDIT CARD # _____ Exp. Date _____