

H.C. Edwards Chapter of the



20th Annual Sportsmen's Banquet

Saturday, September 19, 2009

Cocktails & Raffles:

6:00 p.m.

Dinner:

7:30 p.m.

Augusta Expoland

Expo Road • I-64 Exit 91

Fisherville, Virginia

Simple Directions

FROM I-81 TAKE EXIT 221 FOR I-64 EAST, ON I-64 EAST TAKE FIRST EXIT (91), RIGHT ON 608 TO TRAFFIC LIGHT, RIGHT ON EXPO RD., FOLLOW SIGNS FROM I-64 WEST, EXIT 91, LEFT ON 608 TO SECOND TRAFFIC LIGHT, RIGHT ON EXPO RD. AND FOLLOW SIGNS

TICKET INFORMATION

- ___ Membership & Dinner Ticket @ \$55.00 ea. _____
- ___ Spouse Dinner Ticket @ \$20.00 ea. _____
- ___ Youth Membership & Dinner Ticket @ \$30.00 ea. _____
- ___ Pre-Dinner Raffle Tickets @ \$5.00 Each /6 For \$20.00 _____
- ___ Model 21 "Baby Frame" 28 Gauge Raffle @ \$100.00 ea. _____
- ___ Tax Deductible Donation _____

SPONSOR INFORMATION

- ___ **Banquet Sponsor** @ \$250.00 _____
1 Membership Ticket, 1 Guest Dinner Ticket, 1 Sponsor Gun Drawing Chance And A Choice Of Option 1 Or 1 Ticket For Option 2
- ___ **Conservation Sponsor** @ \$500.00 _____
1 Membership Ticket, 3 Guest Dinner Tickets, 2 Sponsor Gun Drawing Chances, And A Choice Of Option 1 Or 2 Tickets For Option 2
- ___ **Sustaining Sponsor** @ \$1,000.00 _____
1 Membership Ticket, 7 Guest Dinner Tickets, 4 Sponsor Gun Drawing Chances, And A Choice Of Option 1 Or 4 Tickets For Option 2
- ___ **Non-Attending Sponsor Membership** @ \$250.00 _____
- ___ **Anonymous Donation** _____
- ___ **TOTAL ENCLOSED** _____

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Name/Company _____
- Attention _____
- Address _____
- City _____ State ____ Zip Code _____
- Phone Number _____
- Email Address _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT

- ___ Check/Money Order Payable To: RGS
- ___ CC# _____ Exp: _____
- CC Billing Address _____
- City _____ State ____ Zip Code _____
- Signature _____

If A Total of 8 Dinner Tickets are Purchased, A Table Will Be

Reserved In Your Name: _____

2009 Sponsor Reward Program

Must Select One Of The Following Options

Option 1 – Sponsor Print

As a sponsor, you may elect to receive the RGS 2009 Unframed Print of the Year or an unframed print from a prior year (while supplies last). You will be sent the 2009 Print of the Year unless you specify a Past Sponsor Print. To view these prints, please visit our website. www.ruffedgrousesociety.org. List Year of Choice _____

Option 2 – National Drawing

Raffle Ticket(s) for Entry into the National Drawing for a chance to win 1 of 7 prizes drawn at the end of the 2009 Banquet Season. As a sponsor you may elect to participate in the National Drawing. Seven tickets will be drawn in the order listed below with the first ticket winning the first prize and so forth. The sponsors who elect this option will be assigned a ticket number(s) for the drawing from RGS National Headquarters.

The following are the seven prizes being offered:

1. AYA #2 Side-Lock With Detachable Lock, 20 Gauge, 28" Barrels, Double Trigger, Side-By-Side Shotgun
2. Connecticut Shotgun's RBL-28 Round Action, Box-Lock 28 Gauge, 26" Barrels, Single Trigger, Side-By-Side Shotgun; 3X Wood Grade
3. Caesar Guerini Magnus Over/Under 20 Gauge Shotgun
4. Smith & Wesson Elite Gold Side-By-Side 20 Gauge Shotgun
5. SKB Limited Edition RGS #7 Over/Under Shotgun in 20 or 28 Gauge, 26" or 28" Barrels
6. Choice Of Any Pair Of Steiner Binoculars \$1,600 or less
7. \$1,000 Cabela's Gift Certificate.

Donations Welcome!!!

**Please Contact
Ticket Chairman!!**

Mail To:

**Kenny Wilkinson
46 Pine Trail**

Stuarts Draft, VA 24477

Phone: 540.337.1298

Cell: 540.255.2423

Email: Rkjpinetrail@nexet.net

Cut Here

North Carolina Habitat Update 2009

North Carolina's Asheville Chapter continues to be one of RGS' most active chapters in terms of fundraising and grass roots efforts to promote habitat management for grouse. That chapter has now been joined by new chapters in Franklin and Raleigh.

The Asheville Chapter, working in conjunction with the Southern Appalachian Multiple Use Council, has been a major force in combating efforts by radical preservationist groups to end forest management in the mountains of NC and surrounding states. Now they should have some help. Advocacy remains an extremely important component of the RGS mission. Enthusiastic support for timber management on public lands by RGS members is critical. While RGS bases its unwavering support for wildlife management on sound science, there are plenty of well organized groups who base their opposition to forest management on deception, emotion and litigation. No other chapter of RGS has been as successful at keeping these radicals on their heels as Asheville.

Like many states in the East, NC has lost a tremendous amount of grouse and woodcock habitat over the last 40 years (young forests got old). Fortunately, there has been a recent surge in grouse habitat in the NC mountains, but it has occurred mostly on private lands. Generally, western NC has not lost much forest in many decades, meaning that the long-term trend in habitat is completely reversible!

Most of our members want to know what RGS is doing in their neck-of-the-woods. The Jerry Smathers project at Cold Mountain State Game Lands has been a resounding success to date. The project is being done in memory of Jerry Smathers, a long-time RGS supporter in Western NC who died suddenly in 2007. The main aspect of the Smathers project has been building a road that will help access about 140 acres of timber at Cold Mountain that will be managed for grouse and other species. It has moved forward very quickly thanks to the NC Natural Resources Commission and great local fundraising by the Asheville Chapter.

The new chapter in Franklin has hit the ground running. They have met several times with the Nantahala NF about the "Green's Creek Project", which is a large area where RGS would like to work on improving habitat on multiple fronts with the Forest Service.

RGS has been looking at projects with the various Ranger Districts on the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs to create habitat through a Forest Service program called Stewardship Contracting. RGS staff met with the Forest Supervisor this spring to discuss it in more detail. The Asheville Chapter has been the key to this effort due to their local knowledge of the area and relationship with FS staff. Thousands of acres of new grouse habitat could result from this effort, which is in the very early stages. RGS is working on figuring out how to handle the logistics of managing these sometimes large and long-term contracts.

RGS poured nearly \$130,000 into the Appalachian Cooperative Grouse Research Project. Some of that research was completed near Franklin by a graduate student from the University of Tennessee. That local work has spawned a recent article in the journal "Forest Ecology and Management", a reference book that addresses managing brood habitat for grouse (RGS paid \$1,500 in support), and a book that RGS helped draft.

Focusing on the bigger picture, RGS took the lead in developing a National Ruffed Grouse Management Strategy that is now complete, authored several sections of a national woodcock management plan, and co-authored 2 chapters of a book about the ecology and management of southern Appalachian grouse.

If you have never attended an RGS event, written a letter or attended a meeting to support grouse and woodcock management, make it happen in 2009. To find out how, contact **Mark Banker, Regional Biologist, 814-867-7946, rgsbank@comcast.net** or **Don Mallicoat, 828-279-1763, rgsdonm@outdrs.net**. *Last updated Winter, 2009.*