



Chapter Coverts

Chapter Newsletter—Western PA, OH, WV, IN

February 2009

Inside this Issue:

1

2008 Sponsor Rewards Winners

2

2009 Banquet Sponsor Rewards Program
The WNF Forest 2008 Honor Award

3

WV Habitat Update 2009
Gilbert R. Symons Chapter Working On Habitat In OH

4

Regional Chronicle--Snapshots From Our Region

5

RGS Spring Banquet Event Season

6

PGC Seedlings For Schools
PA WHISL Pilot Project Site-Oct
Planting Day On SGL 39

7

The Brood-Cast—Attn: RGS
Committee Members

8

RUFF Capital Campaign Update
Tailfeathers Membership Drive

9

MN Court Favors Conservationists
Alaskan Conservation Plan Omits
Hunting as Priority

2008 Sponsor Rewards Winners

Congratulations to all of the 2008 RGS Sponsor winners, these are the Sponsors who choose entry into the 2008 National Drawing as their Sponsor option. RGS is awarding many great prizes, the lucky Sponsors are listed below:

Guerini Forum Grade 28-Ga. Shotgun
Muskegon, MI Chapter-Bruce Visniski

Kimber Marias Grade II 20-Ga. Shotgun
Chicago, IL Chapter-Paul Zelisko

Kimber Grade II Valier Shotgun
FairbanksAK Chapter-Shannon Staiger

Guerini Magnus 28-Ga. Shotgun
Muskegon, MI Chapter-Dave Miles

Pair Of Steiner Binoculars (Winners Choice)
Lancaster, OH Chapter-Terry Saylor

Pair Of Steiner Binoculars (Winners Choice)
Sherburne, NY Chapter-Damian Croyle

\$1000.00 Cabela's Gift Certificate
Stevens Point, WI Chapter-John Charewicz

We have selected the Sponsor Rewards National Drawing Items for 2009 and they are just as good if not better. Please see page 2 of the newsletter, the back of the 2009 Banquet Flyers or the RGS website for a list of the New Great 2009 Sponsor Option items.

2009 Banquet Sponsor Rewards Program

The 2008 Banquet Sponsor Rewards Program was very popular this year. We will be selecting the 2008 Sponsor Rewards winners before the end of the year. The 2009 Sponsor Rewards Program Options is just as good if not better.

2009 Banquet Sponsor Rewards Program

Option 1 – A sponsor may elect to receive an unframed print of the year, either the new one or one from prior years (while supplies last).

Option 2 – A sponsor may elect to participate in a national drawing at the end of the 2009 Fall Banquet Season. There will be seven tickets drawn. The first winner will win the first item in the list below and so on until all seven tickets are drawn. Sponsors who choose this option will be assigned a ticket number(s) for the drawing by RGS National.

The Following Are The Seven Prizes Being Offered:

1. AYA #2 side-lock with detachable lock, 20 ga., 28" barrels, double trigger, side-by-side shotgun
2. Connecticut Shotgun's RBL-28 round action, box-lock, 28 ga., 26" barrels, single trigger, side-by-side shotgun; 3X wood grade
3. Caesar Guerini Magnus over/under 20 ga. shotgun
4. Smith & Wesson Elite Gold side-by-side 20 ga. shotgun
5. SKB Limited Edition RGS #7 over/under shotgun in 20 or 28 ga., 26" or 28" barrels
6. Choice of any pair of Steiner Binoculars \$1,600 or less
7. \$1,000 Cabela's gift certificate

The Wayne National Forest 2008 Honor Award



Dale Dalrymple, RGS Committee Member Hocking River Valley Chapter, Athens, Ohio, Cheryl Coone, Wayne National Forest and Lisa M. Rossi, RGS Regional Director at the presentation.

The Ruffed Grouse Society received the Wayne National Forest 2008 Honor Award on December 4, 2008. In late 2008, the Wayne National Forest and the Society completed a 400+ acre exotic vegetation elimination project on some abandoned mine lands that are part of the Wayne. RGS provided the heavy equipment (CAT and mulcher) to maintain native vegetation on the area. The Forest Service staff and local volunteers did a great job orchestrating the project on the local level. The project provided considerable income to the Society which will help fund further habitat work with the equipment.

Steve Buckley, RGS Hocking River Valley Chapter and Mark Banker, RGS Biologist working on the RGS and the Wayne National Forest Project— Autumn Olive Invasive Species Removal



West Virginia Habitat Update 2009

RGS has led an initiative to help the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge manage aspen and alder management. Contributors and partners have included RGS volunteers, WV Trophy Hunters Association, WV Division of Wildlife, Woodcock Limited, National Wild Turkey Federation, and many other individuals. Aspen has already been cut thanks to this initiative and more management is scheduled.

RGS is partnering with the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife and the WV Wildlife Resources Section to manage a large tract of habitat on private lands adjacent to the Refuge. It is extremely important to manage habitat anywhere the opportunity allows to maintain some of the historic cover. The WV Wildlife Resources Section did a terrific job of putting together the contract with the landowner. RGS, the USFWS' Partners for Fish and Wildlife, and WV Wildlife Resources Section combined to complete many acres of alder management last winter and more work will be done winter 2009. The work can be seen from the power-line off of Timberline Road.

IN 2007, RGS gave the DNR a \$15,000 grant as part of a cost share agreement totaling \$84,000. The project will create about 150 acres of early successional forest and about 50 acres of forest openings on 8 pieces of state land across the state. So far, progress has been made on Underwood, Elk River, Beury Mountain, Conaway Run Lake, and McClintick WMAs as well as Calvin Price State Forest.

The DNR also has developed a "wish list" of habitat projects they would like to fund in the near future. This is a large initiative totaling over \$200,000. RGS is considering which parts of this proposal we may be able to tackle.

Focusing on the bigger picture, RGS recently lead the development of a National Ruffed Grouse Management Strategy, authoring several sections of a National Woodcock Management Strategy, and co-authoring two chapters of a book on the ecology and management of grouse in the southern Appalachians.

Gilbert R. Symons Chapter Working On Habitat In Ohio

RGS volunteers from the Cincinnati chapter have been working with the Ohio Division of Wildlife and Division of Forestry to develop and fund a habitat project at Shawnee State Forest. Shawnee State Forest is one of the better places to find grouse in Ohio right now due to the extensive forestry work done following the ice storm. We hope this will be a long-term relationship.

RGS plans to provide the Ohio Division of Wildlife with a CAT and tree shear to manage aspen on wildlife areas in Ashtabula County in the winter of 2009.



Regional Chronicle -- Snapshots From Our Region

Below are some of the photos received from the Members in our region. If you have some hunting/sportsmen photos you would like to share please e-mail them to rslmt@msn.com also include a brief description of the photo and I will try to include them in this new section in our regional electronic newsletter.



**Mark Jones, RGS Gilbert R. Symons Chapter,
A day in the life of a newly Retired young man**



**Eric Slayer/RGS Southern West Virginia Chapter,
enjoying the 2008 season**



**Kenn Popko and John Brandstatter
RGS Covered Bridge Chapter
2008 Sponsor Hunt**



**Ohio Hill Chapter Committee, Lancaster, OH
at the 2008 Fun Shoot.
First Row: Tom Barnett; Rob Borah-1st Place
Shooter; Terry Borah, Jr. Back Row: Terry
Borah, Sr.; Steve Buckley; Lyndon Danison**

**Last Day of PA Ruffed Grouse Season
Ends with one in the bag for Brian Hanna
and Trooper, Washington, PA Chapter**



RGS Spring Banquet/Event Season

Mark your calendar and make plans to join us. Below are listing of upcoming events in our region.

February 6th—Greensburg, PA Banquet at The Four Points By Sheraton, Greensburg, Pennsylvania

Contact: Lisa 724-693-9032



February 14th—Franklin, PA Fun Shoot at the Sandy Creek Conservancy, Franklin, Pennsylvania

Contact: Steve 814-437-1290

February 21st—Lancaster, OH Banquet at the Lancaster Eagles, Lancaster, Ohio

Contact: Terry 740-569-4457

March 7th—Cincinnati, OH Banquet at The Oasis Golf Club & Conference Center, Loveland, Ohio

Contact Margie 513-248-2000 Ext 214
800-762-5469 (Fax)

margieg@bryanequipment.com

March 14th—Clarksburg, WV Banquet at Westchester Village, Fairmont, West Virginia

Contact: Roger 304-782-1259

rogermet@yahoo.com

March 21st—Franklin, PA Banquet at Sandy Creek Firehall, Franklin, Pennsylvania

Contact: David 814-226-5574

dgalbreath@zoominternet.net

March 28th—Meadville, PA Banquet at the BPO Elks Meadville Lodge #219, Meadville, Pennsylvania

Contact: Joyce 814-382-1905

April 15th—Pittsburgh, PA Banquet at The Four Points Sheraton Pittsburgh North, Mars, Pennsylvania

Contact: Tracy 412-262-4044

trayq@ruffedgrousesociety.org



April 25th—Washington, PA Field Day at SGL232

Contact: Brain 412-296-1178

setter@gundogalliance.com



August 29th—Washington, PA Sporting Clays Shoot at Hunting Hills Sporting Clays, Dilliner, Pennsylvania

Contact: Brain 412-296-1178

setter@gundogalliance.com

Sport Show Events:

February 5th-8th—Washington County Sport Show--Washington Crown Center

February 27th—Laurel HS Conservation Club Sportsmen's Night Out—Laurel HS

PA Game Commission—Seedlings For Schools

The Pennsylvania Game Commission invites PA Schools to participate in the 2009 Seedling for Schools Project. Trees are important to wildlife, people and the environment. 1. Seedlings to develop habitats: Primarily for middle school and high school students, the Commission provides a variety of seedlings to students interested in planting seedlings on school or community grounds to improve habitat, plant along a stream, develop a tree nursery, or create a habitat area. 2. Seedlings for your class: primary for third grade students, the Commission will provide enough seedlings for each student to take a seedling home to plant. For more information on the Seedlings For Schools visit the Pennsylvania Game Commission website www.pgc.state.pa.us.



PA WHISL Pilot Project Site –Oct Planting Day On SGL 39



The PA WHISL project partnership sponsored and coordinated a planting day at the Pilot Site on October 4, 2008. The goal of the event was to plant approximately 18,000 dogwood and alder seedlings over an approximately 15-acre constructed wetland area located on SGL 39 in Sandy Creek Twp, Venango County, PA. A group of approximately 25 volunteers, including PGC, RGS, PennDOT District



1-0, Mackin Engineering gathered on October 4, 2008 at the PGC field building located east of the project site to discuss the project, identify work assignments, and distribute planting materials and equipment. The PGC donated the time of two employees and their seedling planter/tractor to assist in the planting effort. The RGS Allegheny Northwoods Chapter provided a six-wheel “Gator” ATV to help move seedlings,



equipment and volunteers around the site. The ATV was very valuable as the wetland site contains three distinct cells and sprawls across a very large area. At the conclusion of the planting day, over 12,000 seedlings had been planted at the site and over 3/4^{ths} of the entire 15 acres had been completed. PGC assembled at the site and planted the remaining areas with the tractor/planter and hand planting methods on October 6, 2008. Future long-term monitoring of the site will be conducted by

PennDOT District 1-0, PADEP, and RGS to evaluate the success and extent of wetland and woodcock habitat development. RGS has included the site in their statewide management plan and will play a pivotal role in the future management of the site.



The Brood-Cast—Attn: RGS Committee Members

If you have never attended an RGS habitat field day, attended an RGS function, written a letter on behalf of wildlife or hunting 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 Regional Director Lisa Rossi, 724-693-9032, rgslmt@msn.com.

I am looking to post on the next news letter some of your Ruffed Grouse & Woodcock hunting photos. Please e-mail me some photos with you your hunting buddies to rgslmt@msn.com If you are the lucky winner of a firearm at an RGS events, send a photo of when you broke it in. Also welcome are any photos of your new pups. I would like to include them in our electronic newsletter. Also include a brief description on the photo for the new section “Regional Chronicle—Snapshots From Our Region”.

Planting Season is just around the corner---Order your RGS Grouse Trail Mix. It is a combination of both perennial legumes and chicory formulated to produce high protein content all season long. RGS Grouse Trail Mix is formulated to tolerate poor soils. Plot Enhancer Brand Chicory will provide continuous feed in the summer when the legumes are either producing seed heads and are less palatable or during the droughtier times due to its tap root system. RGS Grouse Trail Mix can be seeded in the Spring or Fall or Frost Seeded. Sow RGS Grouse Trail Mix at 12 pounds per acre. For more information please visit the RGS web site <http://www.ruffedgrousesociety.org>.



Don't Forget the 2008/2009 RGS Upland Bird Dream Hunt Raffle

The Tickets Make GREAT GIFTS!! If you would like to order ticket please contact Lisa Rossi 724-693-9032 or rgslmt@msn.com. (The order form is attached to the end of the newsletter.)



If you are interested in starting an RGS Chapter in your area I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you. If you did have an active RGS chapter in your area but it no longer existed, and you would be willing to donate your time I need your help. I am asking all current RGS members to consider becoming involved with their local chapter or start a new active chapter in your area. If this is of interest to you please contact me. The Society is looking toward the future and our future is our Members. The Members who make things happen are called Committee Members. If you would like to become an RGS Committee Member please contact: Lisa M. Rossi, RGS Regional Director 724-693-9032 or e-mail rgslmt@msn.com.

RGS Committee Member Make Things Happen—Become Part Of The Process-Join An RGS Committee In Your Area

Please forward this on to your friends. If you have someone that wishes to receive this, have them e-mail me their address. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to post information that fits this [newsletter ---- rgslmt@msn.com](mailto:rgslmt@msn.com)



RUFF Capital Campaign Nears Halfway Mark

RUFF, or Restoring Upland Forests' Future, is a capital campaign aiming to raise \$5 million dollars in the next two years. The money will be used to fully endow our team of biologists and to reduce overhead by purchasing a building for headquarters.

To date a total of \$2.1 million dollars has been raised – placing us just shy of the halfway mark.

Make a donation today by calling 1-888-564-6747, or on our website www.ruffedgrousesociety.org.

Tail feathers Membership Drive

Will you be our 2009 Super Recruiter?

A new membership recruitment program will allow members, and their chapters, to compete for the title of Super Recruiter 2009.

When you introduce a new member to the Ruffed Grouse Society, let us know and we will track your credits. Top recruiters will be posted, along with a running tally of credits, on our website. We'll also keep you posted of your standing during the course of the year.

Rules:

Each member will receive one individual credit, and one credit for their chapter every time they sign up a new member through the end of 2009. In January, 2010 a tally will be taken to determine the top individual recruiter and the top chapter recruiter.

The individual will receive a special edition Tail Feather Super Recruiter Grouse Display from headquarters, as well as recognition on the website, magazine and at their banquet.

The chapter with the most credits will get their chapter name engraved on a plaque to be displayed at headquarters and presented by their Regional Director at the 2010 chapter banquet.

To receive credit for the contest you must do one of the following:

1. Fill out a recruitment form, (which is posted on the website) and send the completed form to: Membership Department, 451 McCormick Road, Coraopolis, PA 15108,
2. Send an email with your new member information to: membership@ruffedgrousesociety.org, or
3. Write your name on the back of the banquet stub, and specify that you are a super recruiter.

Note: If you have already signed up new members this year, let us know and you will receive credit accordingly.

A new member is anyone brand new to the organization, or someone who has not renewed their membership in the past 365 days. Any level of new membership/sponsorship counts for one credit toward the program.

Contact the Membership Department with questions: 1-888-564-6747.

Minnesota Court Sides with Conservationists in Superior National Forest Lawsuit

US Forest Service to Proceed with Habitat Management Projects

An important legal victory was won recently in a case regarding the Superior National Forest (SNF) in northern Minnesota. The Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS) joined with others - including Minnesota Forest Industries, Inc., Minnesota Timber Producers Association, All Terrain Vehicle Association of Minnesota, Blue Ribbon Coalition, Lake County and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - to

defend important habitat management projects being proposed by the US Forest Service in the area. These projects were part of the recently revised Forest Plan.

In 2008 the Sierra Club and other preservationists had filed suit to halt the implementation of the Forest Plan, on the grounds that the Plan allowed habitat management projects adjacent to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW). They argued that these projects would affect the wilderness character of the BWCAW itself, and should be prohibited.

Last November the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota granted RGS its request to appear as amicus curiae in support of the US Forest Service (USFS) and US Department of Agriculture (USDA) in their defense against the litigation.

Preservationists argued that aspen clear-cutting and other logging – despite the fact that it will benefit ruffed grouse, American woodcock and other species of wildlife in the SNF - will negatively impact not only the forest itself, but the adjacent BWCAW as well.

Speaking on behalf of RGS, attorney Ryan Woody of Hartford, Wisconsin, provided arguments to the contrary of the preservationists' claims. In late January of this year the court ruled in favor of the defense on all counts.

“The win on the SNF case is important because it involved the newly revised Forest Plan, which governs all future management and projects on the SNF for at least the next 15 years. In addition, I think the court's decision is important for future projects, because the court showed its respect for the Forest Service's expertise and reviewed the Plan under a very deferential approach ... As far as RGS is concerned the newly affirmed plan should provide for important opportunities to actively manage forest conditions to improve early successional habitat for ruffed grouse and other species,” Woody said.

RGS Senior Regional Wildlife Biologist Gary Zimmer agreed with Woody's assessment, adding that “The Court decision supports the many years of planning conducted by the Forest Service when it revised the Superior National Forest Plan. After years of delays, it is now time to implement that revised Plan in this area.”

Conservation Plan of Alaskan Wildlife Refuge Omits Hunting as Priority Objective

RGS Disappointed at Absence

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Draft Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge does not list enhancing game wildlife habitat and populations or hunting opportunities in the listed goals of the Plan to enhance wildlife-oriented recreation.

At nearly two million acres in size, the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge - located about two and a half hours from Anchorage in south-central Alaska - is characterized by its diverse habitats and wildlife. Created in 1941 to protect the Kenai moose, 65 percent of refuge lands are designated wilderness.

In a letter to US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) Planning Team Leader Rob Campellone, Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS) Director of Conservation, Dan Dessecker wrote: “This is especially disconcerting given that public comments provided during the development of the Draft demonstrate that hunting is tied with hiking as the second most popular form of public recreation on the refuge. In addition, this conspicuous absence of hunting from the list of priority objectives for the refuge runs counter to clear direction provided by President George W. Bush in his Executive Order 13443, the stated purpose of which is to facilitate the expansion of hunting opportunities and the management of game species and their habitats.” Dessecker added that if implemented, the current Draft will lead to reductions in habitats essential for game wildlife and, therefore, hunting opportunities.

RGS respectfully urges the US Fish & Wildlife Service to modify and select an alternative for implementation that will aid in meeting public expectations for recreation on the refuge and help to secure the future of our hunting heritage.

Don't Forget the 2008/2009 RGS Upland Bird Dream Hunt Raffle

The Tickets Make GREAT GIFTS!! If you would like to order ticket please contact Lisa Rossi 724-693-9032 or rgslmt@msn.com. (To Order Please print below order form)

**2008/2009
NATIONAL
RAFFLE**



Donation for Raffle Ticket is
\$50.00 per Ticket
**ONLY 2500 TICKETS
TO BE SOLD.**

**UPLAND
BIRD
DREAM
HUNT**

October 2-10, 2009

FIRST PLACE - 1ST TICKET DRAWN

A week-long, all-expense-paid trip consisting of two Guided Upland Bird Hunts for the winner and a guest. Travel begins October 2, 2009.

- First, Hunt at Bear Paw Mountain Outfitters in Havre, Montana for Sharptail Grouse and Hungarian Partridge from October 3-5.
- Then, Hunt at the Ruffed Grouse Society's National Grouse and Woodcock Hunt in Grand Rapids, Minnesota from October 6-9. This hunt cannot be purchased. You will depart October 10.

Both first place winner and guest will also receive an SKB model 785 over-and-under shotgun. Each SKB will have a commemorative RGS logo medallion on each side of the receiver, and is available in 20 or 28 gauge, with 26" or 28" barrels. The SKB has a retail value of \$2399.00. All transportation is included. Hunting dates are final. Approximate retail value of package: \$18,000.00.



SECOND PLACE - 2ND TICKET DRAWN

The second place winner will receive a \$1,000.00 Cabela's gift certificate. Cabela's, a Corporate Sponsor of the Ruffed Grouse Society, has three convenient ways to shop - on-line at www.cabelas.com, through world-famous catalogs or at one of 28 retail stores. Cabela's offers outdoor enthusiasts a wide and distinctive selection of high-quality outdoor products at competitive prices while providing legendary customer service.

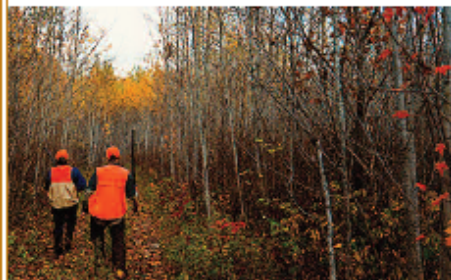


THIRD PLACE - 3RD TICKET DRAWN

The third place winner will receive a custom-fitted pair of upland hunting boots from Russell Moccasin Co., a Corporate Sponsor of the Ruffed Grouse Society, located in Berlin, Wisconsin. The winner will receive either the woman's Judy Boot or, for the men, the Signature South 40 Bird Shooter. These boots, each with an approximate retail value of \$400.00, can be viewed at www.russellmoccasin.com.



Three winners will be drawn on
JUNE 30, 2009
at the Ruffed Grouse Society's
headquarters in
Coraopolis, Pennsylvania.
Winner responsible for all taxes.



To Purchase Raffle Tickets Contact: Lisa Rossi, Reg. Director
at 724-693-9032 or rgslmt@msn.com or mail coupon to:
RGS • 215 Marshall Road • Oakdale, PA 15071

Name _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone Number _____
_____ Tickets @ \$50.00 Each = \$_____ Total Enclosed
 CHECK (Payable to RGS) CASH CREDIT CARD
CC # _____ Exp. Date _____
Billing Address _____ Billing Zip _____
Signature _____



**The Ruffed Grouse
Society
National Headquarters**

**451 McCormick Road
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**Phone: 412.262.4044
Toll Free: 1.888.564.6747**

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rgs@ruffedgrousesociety.org**

Regional Director

Lisa M. Rossi

Phone: 724.693-9032

Fax: 724.693-9676

E-Mail: rgslmt@msn.com

Established in 1961, the Ruffed Grouse Society is the one international wildlife conservation organization dedicated to promoting conditions suitable for ruffed grouse, American woodcock and related wildlife to sustain our sport hunting tradition and outdoor heritage.

Information on the RGS, its mission, management projects and membership can be found on the web at:
www.ruffedgrousesociety.org