



Regional Director Info

February 2009

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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
Fairbanks, AK 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 last 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

REGIONAL NEWS

Your regional **NEWS** updates. **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 with this newsletter.

There are many events around the state to take part in. Again it is difficult for RGS to mail a flyer out to everyone in the state so please check the website for events around the state: ruffedgrousesociety.org.

RGS Spring Banquet/Event Season

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

Proposed Winter Events

Little Moran Hunt Club – Will be having their second annual Chukar Partridge and Sporting Clays Challenge around the first weekend in May. Contact information would be Club Information Please Contact:

Little Moran Hunt Club
44357 Red Oak Road
Staples, MN 56479
Lodge Phone: 218.894.3852
Email: mail@littlemoran.com
For Additional Information And Map,
Please Visit: www.littlemoran.com

Proposed 2009 Spring Banquet Dates

Fairbanks, AK – February 28, 2009,
Contact Ken Larimore- 907-479-0969

Herman, MO – March 21, 2009,
Contact Gary Heldt- 573-236-4315

International Falls, MN – March 27, 2009,
Contact Jim Dornhecker- 218-283-2229

Anchorage, AK – April 4, 2009,
Contact Gereth Stillman-907-694-2787

Bemidji, MN – April 9, 2009,
Contact Clyde Horlick- 218-751-9130

Grand Rapids, MN – April 16, 2009,
Contact Noah Wilcox- 612-325-1876

Virginia, MN – April 23, 2009,
Contact Bernie Knutson- 218-741-9115

Duluth/Superior – May 7, 2009,
Contact Dave Larson- 218-722-9676

St. Cloud, MN – May 12, 2009,
Contact Larry Brutger-320-529-2826

Warroad, MN - May 15th, 2009
Chuck Linder - 218-386-1246 EX 222

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>



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 Mark D. Fouts – 715-399-2270 or rgsfouts@centurytel.net. (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 Sharp-tail 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: Mark Fouts, Reg. Director
at 715-399-2270 or rgsfouts@centurytel.net or mail coupon to:
RGS • 8154 South Dowling Lake Rd W • Superior, WI 54880

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 _____

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: Mark D. Fouts, RGS Director of Regional Operations 715-399-2270 or rgsfouts@centurytel.net.

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 - rgsfouts@centurytel.net.



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