



Grousin' Around the Mid-Atlantic

December 2008

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...Recent Happenings

York Chapter Revitalization

On Wednesday, August 27, 2008, the York PA chapter held a reorganizational meeting. The meeting was well attended and enthusiastic members voted to change the name of the chapter to the Glenn Bowers Chapter. Tentative plans were made to begin a habitat project in late winter with a fun event such as a dog trial or fun shoot to be held in early spring. For more information, contact Mark Mummert at 717-795-9460 or email at mummenv@pa.net.

Charles E. Bechtel Chapter

Reading PA 31st Annual Sportsman's and Conservation Banquet, Sept. 10, 2008. Congratulations to this Chapter for an excellent banquet. Attendance was up and substantial funds were raised for creating local ruffed grouse and woodcock habitat. Also, two thirty-year service lanyards were awarded to Bob Coleman and George Criswell.

As a footnote to this event, the Reading chapter, in cooperation with the PA Game Commission, is actively trying to raise about \$9000 to build a road on State Game Lands 110 so that several large tracts of timber can be cut. If you can help, please contact Trig Kleppinger for information at 610-478-4500 or kleppy@comcast.net.

The Vintage Cup, September 25-28

The weather did not cooperate for this year's Vintage Cup. In spite of the daily rain, Pintail Point in Centerville, MD was full of "Vintagers" in full dress. Vendors displayed literally thousands of side by side shotguns along with other sporting paraphernalia. Many thanks to the members of the Maryland Chapter who made sure that RGS was very well represented at this event.

Oakland MD Chapter organizational meeting, September 30

A large group of enthusiastic grouse and woodcock hunters showed up to launch the Oakland Chapter. Already plans are being made for a fun event in the spring and a banquet next September. For more information, contact Rich Skeweris at 301-334-5814 or email at skeeweris@pennwoods.net.

Eastern Sponsor Hunt, October 17-20

Weatherby's Lodge proved to be the perfect place for this hunt. Weather was good, food and accommodations were excellent and both grouse and woodcock were found. Funds raised from this event will go toward habitat restoration for grouse and woodcock. Watch for a write-up in the next issue of *Shooting Sportsman* magazine.

Thunderbird Chapter, Altoona PA 28th Annual Sportsmen's and Conservation Banquet, November 7, 2008

A huge thanks and hearty congratulations to the Altoona Chapter for planning and executing a highly successful banquet. This chapter managed to almost triple their net revenues from last year! Needless to say that money is now available for local habitat projects. Way to go, Altoona!

...Upcoming Events: Mark Your Calendar

December 2008

Glenn Bowers Chapter, York PA Committee Meeting

Thursday, December 18, 2008, 6:30 pm, Gander Mountain Store, 1800 Loucks Road, York PA. Plans will be finalized for the upcoming habitat project and preliminary discussions will be held for a spring fun event. For more information contact Mark Mummert at 717-795-9460 or email at mummenv@pa.net.

South Mountain Chapter, Lancaster PA Committee Meeting

Date to be announced. Banquet plans finalized, tickets distributed, etc. For more information, contact Doug Royer at 717-823-1253 or email at droyer@normandeau.com.

January 2009

Frederick MD Chapter Habitat and Winter Meeting

Date to be announced. Biologists from Maryland and RGS will be on hand to discuss grouse numbers and habitat work in Maryland. Tim Flanigan will present his highly acclaimed grouse and grouse hunting slide program. Watch your mail for the details. For more information, contact Dave Reichenbaugh at 240-344-1825 or email at mdruffedgrouse@yahoo.com.

Charles E. Bechtel Chapter, Reading PA Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at 7:30pm at Trig Kleppinger's home. Discussions will be held on the annual Field Day and the Sponsor Banquet as well as the schedule of events for the upcoming year. Contact Trig Kleppinger for more information at 610-478-4500 or kleppy@comcast.net.

Maryland Late Woodcock Season

January 16-24. Don't miss out on the wonderful gunning to be had in this late season!

Skylands Chapter, Sussex County, New Jersey Banquet

Saturday, January 31, 2009. Perona Farms, Andover NJ. Doors open at 6pm. Games, raffles, live and silent auctions, wonderful food, drink and camaraderie. Contact Jim Desaye at 973-702-8380 or email at jjdesaye@yahoo.com.

February 2009

South Mountain Chapter, Lancaster PA Banquet

Saturday, February 7, 2009. Elstonsville Sportsman's Association, 3133 Pinch Road, Mannheim PA 17545. Cocktails and raffles start at 5pm with dinner at 7pm. Games, raffles and live and silent auctions. Enjoy good food, drink and company! For more information, contact George Criswell at 717-432-4062 or Doug Royer at 717-823-1253 or email at droyer@normandean.com.

Frederick MD Chapter Banquet

Saturday, February 28, 2009. Lynfield Event Complex. Cocktails, Raffles and hors d'oeuvres at 6:00 pm, Dinner at 7:30, games, raffles, live and silent auctions, great food, drink and conversation. For more information, contact Terry Oland at 301-874-5269 or email at terry.oland@comcast.net or Bob Lindgren at 301-253-4202 or email at bbjlin@aol.com.

March 2009

Pine Barrens Chapter, Jackson/Lakehurst NJ Banquet

Saturday, March 7, 2009. Clarksburg Inn, 465 Stagecoach Road, Clarksburg NJ 08501. Cocktails and raffles at 6:00pm, dinner at 7:30pm. Raffles, games, silent and live auctions, great food, drink and camaraderie. For more information, contact Mark Dreyfus at 732-364-3809 or email at markd@netlabs.net.

Cumberland Valley Chapter, Carlisle PA Banquet

Saturday, March 14, 2009. Carlisle Hotel and Convention Center, 1700 Harrisburg Pike, Carlisle PA 17013. Cocktails and raffles at 6:00pm with dinner at 7:30pm. Raffles, games, silent and live auctions. Great food, drink and atmosphere. For more information, contact Rodney Heining at 717-921-2810 or email at reheining@pa.net.

Frederick, MD Chapter Annual Dog Training Seminar and Fun Trial

Saturday, March 21, 2009. McKee Beshears WMA near Poolesville, MD. Morning seminars on various aspects of bird dog training followed by lunch and an afternoon fun trial. For more information, contact John Thereault at 301-365-3038 or email at jcthereault@hotmail.com.

Red Brush Chapter, State College PA Banquet

Saturday, March 28, 2009, Details to be announced.

National News

New Banquet Incentive Program

Fall Update

As the fall banquet season winds down, RGS is ending the year in a stronger financial situation than many other wildlife conservation organizations – thanks to your hard work! So far this year a total of 90 banquets were held, and 21 met or exceeded their 15% growth target and raised more than \$25,700 for local projects.

Tailfeathers Membership Drive Initiated

In an effort to enlist its current members to help RGS grow, a unique membership drive has been initiated. It's called *Tailfeathers* and is a brand new program for 2009. For signing up a certain number of new members, current members will have the opportunity to receive a unique RGS thank-you and a ticket for a special raffle. *Tailfeather* rules and guidelines will be released this coming spring – so stay posted!

Dream Hunt Raffle Sales Receive Boost

Committees and Regional Directors Partner to Sell Tickets

Members can now raise money for their chapter projects by selling RGS National raffle tickets – a benefit to both their chapter and RGS! This year's raffle is the Upland Bird Dream Hunt, and tickets are \$50.00.

Regional Directors will be partnering with their committees to increase ticket sales in the upcoming months. For every ticket a chapter member sells, \$5.00 will be added to the funds of a local habitat project. The project to receive the funds will be selected by the chapter – with RGS giving final approval before dispersing funds. To participate in this rebate offer contact your Regional Director.

Win an Upland Bird Dream Hunt
October 2-10, 2009

**The Ruffed Grouse Society
 2008-2009 National Raffle**

First Place
 A week long, all-expense-paid trip consisting of two guided upland bird hunts for the winner and guest. Travel from October 2 to 10. Start at Bear Paw Mountain Outfitters in Havre, Montana and hunt for sharp-tail grouse and Hungarian partridge from October 3 to 5. Join the RGS National Grouse and Woodcock Hunt in Grand Rapids, Minnesota from October 6 to 9.
 Both first place winner and guest will receive an SKB model 785 over-and-under shotgun. Each SKB will have a commemorative RGS logo medallion on the receiver, and is available in 20- or 28-gauge, with 26- or 28- inch barrels. The SKB has a retail value of \$2399.00
 All transportation included. Hunting dates are final. Approximate retail value of total package: \$18,000.

Second Place
 The second winner will receive a \$1,000.00 Cabela's gift certificate.

Third Place
 The third place winner will receive a custom-fitted pair of upland hunting boots from Russell Moccasin. Approximate retail value: \$400.00.

Winners will be drawn on June 30, 2009 at RGS headquarters in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania.
 To purchase raffle tickets call 1-888-564-6747.
 Donation for each ticket is \$50.00.
 Only 2500 tickets to be sold.

RGS Co-Recipient of State Forester's Association Award

RGS was recently honored for efforts to increase the importance of forest management and stewardship opportunities for forest landowners in the 2008 Farm Bill legislation.

At its annual meeting in Hyannis, Massachusetts, the National Association of State Foresters announced member organizations of the Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition as recipients of the 2008 Stan Adams Current Achievement Award for Partnerships.

The Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition, of which RGS is a partner organization, was formed specifically to increase opportunities for America's private forest landowners to access cost-share and other management assistance via the 2008 Farm Bill programs. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) of the new Farm Bill now explicitly supports those forest management practices compatible with environmental quality and that provide economic and environmental benefits to the larger society, including the retention of nationally scarce young-forest habitat.

"This award clearly demonstrates the value of partnering with those who share a common interest and philosophy with regard to the need to manage our forests in a sustainable, ecologically sound manner in order to maximize both wildlife and economic benefits," said RGS Executive Director and CEO Mike Zagata.

The 2008 Adams award was presented to Becky Carter of The Nature Conservancy, who accepted the honor on behalf of the entire Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition, which includes over 30 organizations.

RGS Biologist to Advise New England Forestry Foundation

RGS Northeast Regional Wildlife Biologist Paul Karczmarczyk was recently elected to a seat on the New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) Board of Advisors.

Karczmarczyk will join other regional experts in the fields of natural resources, forest industry, economics and business management in aiding NEFF with their mission of working with private and community landowners to insure that working forests remain a viable part of the New England landscape.

In 2006, RGS and NEFF formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding that partnered the two organizations in jointly providing technical expertise on wildlife habitat management and the formulation of conservation easements to interested forest landowners. Between 2003 and 2006, the organizations were joint recipients of substantial funding from the USDA Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program to carry out habitat treatments on numerous NEFF community forests.

"NEFF's forward-looking approach to resource conservation, and willingness to manage their lands in a way that diversifies and balances habitat needs of all wildlife using them, sets a forest stewardship standard I'd love to see other land trusts in the Northeast follow," said RGS biologist Paul Karczmarczyk.

The New England Forestry Foundation maintains over 130 community forests, and additionally holds over 120 conservation easements which affect more than 1.1 million acres of working forestland throughout the northeast. Information on NEFF can be found on their website at: www.neforestry.org.

National Forest Law BLOG Created

An online log on national forest law was created by Ryan Woody of Matthiesen, Wickert & Lehrer, S.C. To read current developments in the ever-changing landscape of National Forest laws and regulations, visit www.nationalforestlawblog.com.



RGS Travel

RGS members and others may now book their travel needs through RGS. As a means of expanding and diversifying RGS' income stream, the Society is now in the travel business with its own websites, www.RGSTravel.org or www.RGSTravel.com. Both will take you to the same website that will appear in your browser address window as: <http://www.ytb-travel.com/ruffedgrousesociety>.

The site is maintained by YTB Travel network and powered by World Choice, a segment of Travelocity.com.

RGS Grows Habitat Management Machinery Program

RGS has secured two additional CAT machines, equipped with cutting implements for habitat management, and now has three units working in the East to create grouse and woodcock habitat. Plans to obtain at least two more units for the Midwest in the near future are being pursued.

Follow up: First Timber Sale Results Will Benefit RGS Capital Campaign

The Richard King Mellon Foundation funded a land purchase whereby the Western PA Conservancy generously gave RGS the right to harvest timber, appraised at five million dollars on 2,300 acres of land in Pennsylvania, in a manner consistent with creating grouse habitat. The first timber sale has been let for \$127,000 on 85 acres. Funds raised from the timber sale will also go toward the RUFF Campaign, a capital fund-raising effort to endow RGS biologists.