



Chapter Coverts

Chapter Newsletter for New York, North Central & North Eastern, PA
February, 2009

February 2009

Inside this Issue:

1

RUFF Capital Campaign Update
Tailfeathers Membership Drive

2

Minnesota Court Favors
Conservationists

3

Alaskan Conservation Plan Omits
Hunting as Priority

3,4,5

Regional News – Biologist Reports

6

PA Wilds Upland Bird Hunt

7

Banquet Sponsor Rewards Program

8,9,10

Upcoming Events and National Dream
Hunt Raffle

National News

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.

Regional News

Biologist Annual Reports

The Ruffed Grouse Society has been busy in New York! **Our biologists have recently reported that they:**

- **Provided information on NYS MAPS to outdoor authors writing on RGS accomplishments in habitat work.**
- **Worked with RGS associate Art Lee on development of promotional materials and prospectus for introducing RGS to various new constituencies and supporters in NY.**
- **Worked with Regional Director Ken Waite to identify priorities for NYS and RGS involvement in habitat work.**
- **Toured six sites in W. NY w/ Natural Resources Conservation Service personnel and private landowners to make recommendations for WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program) projects and increase RGS involvement on public/private lands.**
- **Met with Albany chapter member, NYDEC and Ken Waite about moving ahead with additional projects in E. NY and more deeply involving chapters in project formulation and implementation.**



Biologist Annual Reports – New York continued

- Conducted numerous nonindustrial private landowner visits w/ private landowners and foresters to provide technical expertise on habitat management for ruffed grouse and woodcock.
- Interfaced with USFWS Partners Program for additional funding for Cornell Maple Lab MAP project and other options in NY.
- Provided Cornell Maple Lab personnel with information on baseline data collection for ruffed grouse, woodcock and songbird data preliminary to timber management activities scheduled for winter 2008/09.
- Conducted three habitat seminars and met with chapter members at Gander Mountain stores in Rochester, Tonawanda and Syracuse.
- Coordinated with NY radio personality David Dirks to appear on Albany-area outdoors radio show on 12/20/08.
- Provided NY NRCS with information on brontosaurus and other equipment for habitat work in Western New York.

In Pennsylvania:

- Met with PA Game Commission regarding habitat projects on state game lands
- Coordinated closely with USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program on equipment use throughout the state
- Set up RGS display booth at the Reading Outdoor Show
- Organized volunteers and set up the display booth at the Eastern Outdoor Show in Harrisburg.
- Met with various banquet committees and attended new chapter meetings.
- Guided 3 auction hunts.
- Met with Mellon Foundation on numerous occasions.
- Met with USFWS and Western PA Conservancy about project on State Game Lands in western PA.
- Met with the DCNR and USFWS about woodcock projects on state parks.
- Met with Mellon Foundation and Consol Energy regarding cooperative activities.
- Coordinated with Penn State Students and DCNR to present the 3rd Annual Woodcock Festival at Bald Eagle State Park
- Helped plan and implement field days with Washington and Reading Chapters.
- Attended Prescribed Fire Conference at Penn State and set up RGS display booth.



- **Worked with DCNR, PGC, NWTF, and PF to complete old field habitat project at Nescopeck State Park using CAT equipment.**
- **Moderated a session at the PA Wildlife Society/Society of American Foresters Annual Meeting in State College**
- **Lectured in a non-profit issues class at Penn State.**
- **Finalized timber rights acquisition in Somerset County.**
- **Worked with consultants to complete the first timber sale under the RGS timber rights agreement worth \$127,000.**
- **Attended PA Forest Stewards (Coverts) Annual meeting, lectured at annual training, attended strategic planning meeting, and steering committee meeting.**
- **Submitted management proposal for the Bill Goudy Memorial Project to the PGC and visited the site with the PGC planner, foresters, and land managers.**
- **Met with Delaware River Club about grouse management in Wayne County.**
- **Met with Corps of Engineers at Raystown Lake about on-going habitat projects.**
- **Worked with Mackin Engineering to complete the Woodcock Habitat Initiative pilot project at State Game Lands 39 and complete final report for National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant.**
- **Provided support for the Wildlife Leadership Adventure Camp.**
- **Spoke to Centre County Woodland Owners.**
- **Spoke to State College Bird Club.**
- **Spoke about Backyard Wildlife Management to landowners in near Gettysburg.**
- **Attended Bird Dog Days at Lion Country Supply and set up display booth.**



Inaugural Upland Bird Hunt in the PA Wilds November 2009



The Allegheny and the Allegheny Northwoods Chapters of the Ruffed Grouse Society are combining their efforts to plan an exciting adventure for upland bird hunters and guests in the Pennsylvania Wilds region of Pennsylvania. The base of operations for the weekend will be the Red Fern Banquet and Conference Center located in Kersey, Pa. This facility is central to thousands of acres open to public hunting; including the Allegheny National Forest, several State Game Lands and State Forest lands.

Hunting days for the Upland Bird Hunt in the Pa Wilds are set for Friday November 6 and Saturday November 7, 2009. There will be breakfast buffets both mornings and

dinner and fund raising events both evenings. Lodging accommodations will be available at the St. Marys, PA Comfort Inn and there are several Campgrounds and Bed and Breakfasts in the area.

Number of hunters will be limited to 100 hunters, huntsman will be provided. Spots will not be reserved until paid in full. Guests that would like to join us and choose to not hunt will be able to attend the breakfasts and dinner/fund raising events.

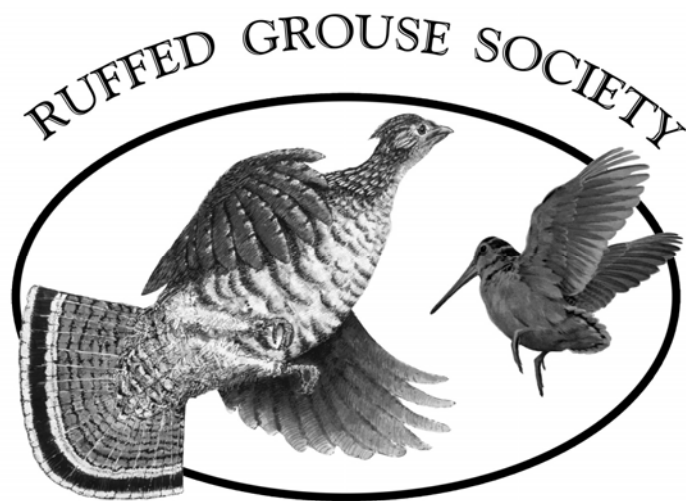
Registration is now open for this event! Please visit www.ruffedgrousesociety.org for registration, lodging and rate information. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Mary Hosmer –

Phone (814)512-2102 or E-mail: wlab@windstream.net

The Ruffed Grouse Society is focused on growing our membership in New York and Pennsylvania. We need your help to accomplish our goals and restore more habitat for future hunters! If you are interested in starting a RGS chapter in your area or would like to participate in an existing one, I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you.

Ken Waite (315) 406-5016





2009 Banquet Sponsor Rewards Program

The Ruffed Grouse Society would like to thank all sponsors for their support. Our “2009 Sponsor Rewards Program” gives sponsors the option of our popular print of the year or a special “Sponsor Only” national drawing. The choice is yours!

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



Upcoming Events

Conservation Alliance of New York

March 14th at Bass Pro Shops, Auburn, NY
Please contact Ken Waite @ (315) 406-5016 for more information

Calendar of Buffalo New York Chapter Events for 2009

31st Annual Western New York Chapter Sportsmen's Banquet
April 24th at the Brierwood County Club, Hamburg, NY
Please contact Dan Swiatek to register @ (716) 648-5084

Calendar of Central New York Chapter Events for 2009"

Project Appleseed
April 18th at Morgan Hill

Central New York Family Breakfast and Shoot
April 26th at DeWitt Gun Club, DeWitt, NY
Please contact Ed Pugliese @ Pka7@aol.com

CNY Sponsor / Banquet Committee Appreciation Event
June 13th, 2009

CNY RGS Sponsored Sporting Clays at Baldwinsville Fish & Game
August 2nd, 2009
Please contact Ed Pugliese @ Pka7@aol.com

Sportsmen's Days at Carpenter's Brook Fish Hatchery
September 26th and 27th

29th Annual Sportsman's Banquet at The Whitetail Restaurant In Manlius
Friday, November 13th, 2009

For other events, please contact Norm Webber @ (315) 697-3377 for more information



The Central NY Chapter's "Conservation Gun Raffle" for 2009

The CNY Ruffed Grouse Society is pleased to present a near mint condition Belgian Browning Sweet Sixteen Shotgun with a 28 inch vent rib barrel as our "Conservation Raffle Gun of the Year". This gun was generously donated in memory of David Hall.

Tickets will be available for \$5 each....only 500 will be sold!

Please contact Ed Pugliese @ Pka7@aol.com to purchase tickets today!

Calendar of North Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter Events for 2009

June 27th, Annual Family BBQ and Fun Shoot
More information available shortly

July 24th, Annual Sportsman's Banquet
More information available shortly

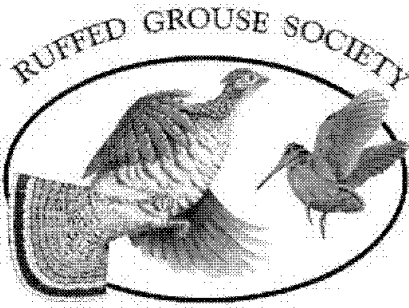
Please visit www.ruffedgrousesociety.org for more information on these and other events to be scheduled

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

***If you would like to order please contact Ken Waite
(315) 406-5016 or rgsknw@twcny.rr.com
Order form on next page***



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: Ken Waite III, Reg. Director
at 315-406-5016 or rgsknw@twcny.rr.com or mail coupon to:
RGS • 2885 Fargo Road • Baldwinsville, NY 13027

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 _____

