



Chapter Coverts

Chapter Newsletter- New York and the Northern Tier of PA

Winter 2009

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A “Fantastic First” Inaugural Upland Bird Hunt In The Pennsylvania Wilds

The Allegheny and the Allegheny Northwoods Chapters of the Ruffed Grouse Society recently sponsored their first ever Upland Bird Hunt open to all current RGS members. The event was held in the St. Marys area located in northcentral Pennsylvania. The goal of the Chapters was to showcase the beauty of the

Pennsylvania Wilds and share it with the visiting hunters, friends, and spouses. Committee Members welcomed local artisans from the PA Wilds to donate art for purchase to help support the mission of RGS. The Pennsylvania Wilds

is a place that values authenticity, nature, and the timeless appeal of handmade goods. Towns and villages in this region attract artisans who appreciate these values by creating beautiful and functional items exclusive to the area. After each days hunt, an auction, raffle and RGS Store items that were exclusive to the PA Upland Bird Hunt were available to support the RGS mission and local organizing efforts.



Frank Yevcak & David Divita, UBH Hunters after a great day in the field

The Chapters welcomed about 57 Hunters from New York, Ohio, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, New Jersey, Ohio, Texas and Pennsylvania. Thank you to all of the Huntsmen who volunteered to make it a great hunt.

The evening activities included a "Meet the Artist" night on Friday, Nov 6th and a buffet dinner. The Grand Banquet was held on Saturday, Nov 7th with raffles, write-in and live auctions. The evening events were held at the Red Fern Banquet and Conference Center located in St. Marys. According RGS Life Sponsor, Mary Hosmer, "Bringing RGS members to the PA Wilds to experience the great grouse hunting we have in Northern PA has been a dream of mine for many, many years." "Our goal," said Hosmer, "was to not just have our members have a great day afield, but also a great event with spouses and friends so they will join us again the PA Wilds for many years to come!"

Allegheny Chapter committee member Chris Yeager served as Chief Huntsman, coordinating the efforts of over 26 RGS members/huntsman who brought their dogs, shared their coverts, and made sure the hunting experience was outstanding. The weather was almost perfect for the two days in the field. Flush counts reported were as high as 35 and averaged in the high to low 20's. According to Mark Banker, RGS Senior Wildlife Biologist, "More then 600 grouse flushes were reported in the two days. Most of the hunting was on public lands – Allegheny National Forest, state forests and state game lands - but some very good hunting was also found on commercial timberlands open to public hunting. Only 4 woodcock were flushed during the event and one harvested, suggesting the woodcock had moved on. Several pheasants also gave their lives to the cause".



Hunters, Tim McCall & Rick Filippi
And Clyde Enjoying The PA UBH

Congratulations
to the Allegheny and the Allegheny
Northwoods Chapters
for organizing a First Class Hunt!



Allegheny & Allegheny Northwoods Committee,
Thanks For A GREAT HUNT!
Photo By: Jennifer Meehan Switzer

RGS Driven Shoot at Pawling Mountain Club

In the tradition of a classic driven pheasant shoot, similar to those held on private estates in England, Scotland and Spain, the Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS) held a driven pheasant and flighted mallard shoot at the prestigious Pawling Mountain Club (PMC), Pawling, New York on Saturday, November 14, 2009. The day began with a continental breakfast and clay warm up at 9 a.m. followed by a challenging day of shooting.

Considered the "sport of kings," the RGS all-inclusive shoot accommodated nine members and guests, alternating between ring-neck pheasants and flighted mallards during the morning and afternoon sessions of a cool rainy day. Accompanying guests and shooters then attended an exquisite 4-course game luncheon, followed by an opportunity to see and bid on some of the finest selection of quality firearms, artwork, trips and collectables in a silent auction before departing.



Steve Grossman with a local Rochester, NY Grouse Dog

Dog Training Seminar by National Purina Trainer a Success

The Genesee Valley RGS chapter in Rochester, NY held its third successful Pointing Dog Seminar this past August. Fifteen handlers and their dogs attended the all-day event conducted by Steve Grossman, field consultant for the Nestle Purina Company. Steve is a professional gun dog trainer specializing in training

ruffed grouse and woodcock dogs.' According to committee member Deb Curtice," Steve was marvelous, at bringing the best out of our dogs and providing even the experienced grouse hunter several tips that helped us tremendously. For more information on future events, including a Spring Banquet in the Rochester Area, please contact Dan Holliman at RGSDan10@gmail.com or call 607.821.7744.

Regional News (Continued)

Elmira, NY – Recently held their 24th annual banquet at Lib's Supper Club on November 9th! 70 members attended the event to show support for the chapter and have a mouth watering prime rib dinner. RGS would like to thank Chapter President Walter Booth and the committee for all of their continued hard work and dedication. This past year, dedicated volunteers on the committee identified privately sourced tree-cutting equipment that could be used in cutting/habitat projects. New RGS biologist, Andy Weik based in Trumansburg, NY will be working closely with the committee to help identify a local habitat project.

Syracuse, NY – Recently held their 29th annual banquet at the Whitetail at Woodcrest Golf Club in Manlius on November 13th. The banquet was a huge success with 30 sponsors for the event! A committee meeting is scheduled for January to plan 12th at the Dewitt Fish and Game club to discuss the year and upcoming events in 2010. Please contact Norman Webber @ (315) 697-3377 or Regional Director, Dan Holliman, (607) 821.7744 for more information.

Wilkes Barre, PA – The Northeastern PA Chapter has scheduled their holiday dinner for Saturday, December 19th at the Farmer's Inn in Shavertown, PA. Please check the RGS website or contact Brian Clark @ (570) 983-9918 to attend.

Watertown, NY – A meeting has been scheduled at the Gander Mountain Store in Watertown for January 27th, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the formation of a new local chapter. Light snacks will be served. If you are planning to attend or have any questions, please contact Dan Holliman, Regional Director @ (607) 821.7744 or email rgsdan10@gmail.com.

Kane, PA – The Allegheny Chapter is looking for volunteers to help with the banquet committee and Upland Bird Hunt scheduled in November of 2010. If you can donate your time or would like to be a huntsman please contact Mary Hosmer @ email wIhab@windstream.net. A meeting for all person's interested in building on this year's successful hunt, is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15th, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. at the Clarion, PA, Eat-n-Park. Please contact Dan Holliman, Regional Director for further information.

Wildlife Leadership Academy Announces PA Drummer Program

The Wildlife Leadership Academy (WLA) facilitated by the Pennsylvania Institute for Conservation Education (PICE) is offering the Pennsylvania Drummer program June 22-26, 2010 for youth ages 14-17. This unique program begins with an intensive residential field school including comprehensive instruction on all things ruffed grouse, and continues as students complete service and leadership projects within their communities throughout the year. PA Drummers will be held at the Powdermill Nature Reserve near Ligonier, Westmoreland County, PA. The Ruffed Grouse Society has worked closely with the PICE and other conservation organizations and agencies to develop the PA Drummer program. Applications are now available for the 2010 field schools. Interested students can

download an application by going to www.PICEweb.org and click on the youth program link. This year's application deadline is April 1, 2010. Interested teens and parents can contact program coordinator Michele Kittell at mkittell@picweb.org or 570-245-8518 or RGS Senior Biologist, Mark Banker at rgsbank@comcast.net or 814-867-7946.

Ruffed Grouse Society & CONSOL Energy Join Forces To Manage Habitat

RGS has been working with CONSOL Energy to work out a cooperative agreement to manage part of CONSOL Energy's forest land holdings in southwest PA. CONSOL Energy based in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, owns tens of thousands of acres of forestland, mainly in Pennsylvania's Washington and Green Counties. Much of this land has the potential to be prime grouse and woodcock habitat with proper management. RGS would be responsible for timber management on selected lands, sharing the revenue from the timber sales with CONSOL. The Washington and Green Counties



management will be a pilot project, once the logistics are worked out via the pilot project, the agreement may be expanded to include CONSOL lands in West Virginia and Ohio. This partnership is important as grouse and woodcock populations in the extreme southwestern part of the state have seemed to decline in recent years. CONSOL's forested landholdings are significant enough that a real difference can be made.

The RGS Covered Bridge Chapter welcomed Denny Fredericks, Tim Shivley, CONSOL and Mark Banker, RGS Senior Biologist to the Banquet to announce this pilot project in their back yard.

Ken Popko, CBC Co-Bqt Chairman, Tim Shivley , Dennis Fredericks, CONSOL Energy, Mark Banker, RGS Senior Biologist, John Brandstatter, CBC Co-Bqt Chairman & Brian Hanna, CBC Habitat Chairman, in front of pilot project map in Washington & Greene Counties



Check Out the RGS Store On Line— RGS-Mart—

Having trouble finding just the right item for a friend or relative? How about an RGS Membership as a gift for the hard-to-buy-for person on



your list? You will find the perfect holiday or birthday gift for the hunter and outdoorsman on your list at the RGS Mart on line at www.ruffedgrousesociety.org. If you purchase a gift membership during this holiday season, you will receive a \$10 Cabela's gift card for yourself (while supplies last). RGS Membership includes the RGS Magazine and invitations to all local events in your area. **This gift of an RGS Membership will keep on giving all year long!**

Upcoming RGS Events

The hunting season is winding down and winter is on its way. A great way to celebrate the upcoming holidays is to attend an RGS event in your area and bring along a friend. Mark your calendar and make plans to join us. Below are listings of upcoming events in our region. For more information, check the RGS website at www.RuffedGrouseSociety.org

December 19th, Christmas Dinner, Wilkes Barre/ Scranton, PA, at the Farmer's Inn in Shavertown, PA
Contact: Dan at 607.821.7744 or rgsdan10@gmail.com

January 11th--Oneonta NY, Trout Unlimited/ RGS Joint Banquet Planning Meeting at the Holiday Inn, Oneonta. 7 PM Contact: Dan at 607.821.7744 or rgsdan10@gmail.com

January 12th—Syracuse/ CNY Chapter Annual Planning Meeting. Dewitt Fish and Game Club. 7 P.M.
Contact: Dan at 607.821.7744 or rgsdan10@gmail.com

January 13th—New York City Dinner
Contact: Dan at 607.821.7744 or rgsdan10@gmail.com

January 27th, Watertown, New York Gander Mountain. Meet and Greet. Contact: Dan at 607.821.7744 or rgsdan10@gmail.com



If you don't see your local event on the above list, please check the RGS website at www.RuffedGrouseSociety.org . Some banquet dates have not been finalized yet. For more information, check the RGS website or contact your Regional Director.

**Check out the NEW RGS website www.ruffedgrousesociety.org
What do you think?-- Please send your thoughts, suggestions and comments
to RGSDan10@gmail.com**





From Your Regional Director: Thank You for the Warm Welcome!

I deeply appreciate the warm welcome that committees and members throughout New York and the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania have extended to me in coming aboard in September. The one thing that I have been immediately struck by is the dedication of our volunteers and valued members and the ways in which they support RGS through their continued financial donations (Life memberships, major gifts, end of year donations, estate planning) as well as their dedicated time planning, organizing and executing events and annual dinners for our cause. It is a tremendous amount of work, yet I see our members do with dedication, enthusiasm, and grace. It is an amazing group of volunteers who help our cause toward conservation, grouse hunting for future generations, and the critical work of habitat throughout the nation. Thank you for all that you do for RGS.

I am happy to report that the recent trend in our banquets is encouraging. The particulars are little different for each event, but the trend is with proper management (cost containment, aggressive tickets sales, recruiting sponsors and a lot of donations) we are holding our own and in most cases. This is critical as these times put extra stress on resource management and our work nationally and locally is more important than ever.

Just as we are coming up with new tools to accomplish our habitat work such as our ASV forestry machine we need to develop new tools to raise the funds that fuel our conservation work. We are looking towards some new type of events such as major fundraisers with high dollar (\$500/plate) events targeting a smaller previously untapped part of our community. We are also incorporating our Board of Directors to host intimate "Dine with a Sportsman" or Wine and Cheese Parties. We are looking to work with some of the bigger hunt clubs to host special parties for their membership and raise awareness and dollars for the RGS mission.

Another change we will be instituting in 2010 is a major emphasis on membership and attendance numbers. An increase in membership will ensure our success, assist us in securing grants, increase advertising rates and give us a bigger pool of potential volunteers, donors, and future leaders. To accomplish this we will now require that all banquet attendees become RGS members. We will be offering a new family membership where each family member becomes a member with one magazine going out to the family. Instead of \$25 each for all family members attending an event the cost will be \$40 and cover all family members. Those attending will also need to pay for their dinner. Hopefully this will lead to an increase in attendance as well membership numbers. We need to emphasize the cost savings and benefits to the family membership as we solicit attendees to our events.

RGS will be budgeting money for projects and that chapters with successful events will be able to keep some of what they raise in a "Drummer Fund" for statewide projects.

All of these new ideas will dovetail with our current banquet fundraisers and allow us to fund more projects nationally and locally through our chapters working to raise the funds. Stay tuned for more news and please share any new ideas you may have as we meet to start the planning for our 2010 banquet season. Regards, Dan

Don't Forget the 2009/2010 RGS National Raffle Model 21 Baby Frame 28-Gauge Shotgun, Made Famous by Winchester Raffle Tickets Make Great Christmas, New Year's and Birthday

Gifts!! If you would like to purchase a chance at this fantastic gun, please contact **Regional Director, Dan Holliman** at 607.821.7744. or RGSDan10@gmail.com.

NEW-- 2009/2010 RGS National Raffle

Model 21 Baby Frame 28-Gauge Shotgun Made Famous by Winchester

Tickets-\$100.00 Each—Up To 1,500 Tickets Will Be Sold Winner To Be Drawn June 30, 2010

If you would like to purchase tickets, please contact Regional Director, Dan Holliman at 607.821.7744 or RGSDan10@gmail.com

If you are interested in starting an RGS Chapter in your area, I would welcome the opportunity to work with you directly. If you did have an active RGS chapter in your area but it no longer exists, and you are 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 interested, let me know, and I will follow up immediately with a call or meeting. We are deeply appreciative of members who make things happen by serving on banquet or event committees in their local areas as well as those who help identify other donors and sponsors to support the RGS mission. If you would like to become an RGS Committee Member or know of a potential RGS donor, please contact: Dan Holliman, RGS Regional Director or e-mail RGSDan10@gmail.com

RGS Committee Members Make Things Happen—Become Part Of The Process-Join An RGS Committee

National News

Have you seen us lately?

Brand New Website Generates Growing Interest

RGS recently launched a complete revision of our website, www.ruffedgrousesociety.org. News updates, regional sporting events, exciting raffles and detailed information about habitat work are now in a format that is easier to read, navigate and explore. Great RGS merchandise, along with special deals on high-end shotguns, are available by clicking the “Shop RGS” tab on the homepage. Check us out today – and take your grouse hunting to the next level.

Centurion Member Wins Kimber

Charles Hulbert of Tewksbury, Massachusetts recently became a Centurion member and won a Kimber Valier Grade II shotgun.

For every 10 new Centurions that join the Ruffed Grouse Society a raffle is held and a Kimber – or comparable shotgun – is awarded to the winner. To learn about becoming a Centurion, which begins at the \$1,000 donation level, call our membership department at 412-262-4044.

2010 National Raffle

Win a Model 21 “Baby Frame” 28-Gauge Shotgun first made famous by Winchester

This one of a kind gun features 28" barrels, choked IC/M with two beads, a straight English stock crafted from AAA fancy feathercrotch walnut to a checkered butt, and a 14 ½" LOP. The approximate retail value is \$32,000.

If you're interested in a chance to win this gun, tickets are \$100.00 and can be purchased through your local Regional Director at 607.821.7744 or by contacting RGS headquarters at 412-262-4044. Up to 1,500 tickets will be sold.

Last year's National Raffle winner, James Farrell, won the upland bird dream hunt, which included attending the National Grouse and Woodcock Hunt in Grand Rapids, Minnesota this past October.

New York/ New England Wildlife Biologist Joins RGS Team

Andrew P. Weik joined the Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS) as New England regional wildlife biologist, and will begin his work in the new year. Weik will be responsible for implementing on-the-ground forest management, landowner and land manager education programs throughout New England.

Weik's extensive experience includes five years with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Northeast Region at Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge. Moosehorn is the only national wildlife refuge dedicated to woodcock management. His work at Moosehorn, along with his lengthy work history in various wildlife programs, makes Weik a superior fit for the RGS position.

One specific project that Weik hopes to see through to conclusion this year is the revision of the RGS publication, "A Woodcock in the Hand" (Sepik, 1994). The booklet is unique in that it details tips on examining, aging, and sexing American woodcock as well as information on population monitoring and conservation. Though currently out of print, the need and interest in the booklet have not waned.

Ruffed Grouse Society National Office

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NEW-- 2009/2010 RGS National Raffle

**Model 21 Baby Frame 28-Gauge Shotgun Made Famous by
Winchester**

**Tickets-\$100.00 Each—Up To 1,500 Tickets Will Be Sold Winner To
Be Drawn June 30, 2010**

**If you would like to order ticket please contact Regional Director,
Dan Holliman at 607.821.7744 or RGSDan10@gmail.com. (To Order,
please print order form below)**

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

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 -- rgsdan10@gmail.com.



Ruffed Grouse Society 2009-2010 National Raffle



To purchase raffle tickets contact
Dan Holliman, Regional Director

607-821-7744 or rgsdan10@gmail.com

or Mail Coupon To:

RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY

1101 Euclid Avenue
Syracuse, NY 13210

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

_____ Tickets @ \$100.00 Each =

\$_____ Total Enclosed

CHECK (Payable to RGS) CASH

CREDIT CARD

CC # _____

Exp. Date _____

Billing Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____

Model 21 *Baby Frame* 28-Gauge Shotgun

*(A gun first made famous
by Winchester)*

This one of a kind gun features 28" barrels choked IC/M with two beads, a straight English stock crafted from AAA fancy feathercrotch walnut to a checkered butt, and a 14 1/2" LOP.

The DAH is 2 3/8", DAC is 1 1/2", pitch is 5° and the cast is neutral.

The beavertail forend has an ebony insert in the tip. It has a single selective trigger and the RGS logo is engraved in gold on the bottom of the receiver.

Approximate
retail value:

\$32,000.



Winner to be drawn on
June 30, 2010
at RGS headquarters in
Coraopolis, Pennsylvania.

**Winner responsible for applicable taxes.*

Donation for each ticket is \$100.00.
Up to 1,500 tickets to be sold.