



Grousin' Around the Mid-Atlantic

March 2010

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From your RD

The Ruffed Grouse Society continues to be the only voice heard for the benefit of our native ruffed grouse and American Woodcock. Along with these species, our habitat work also benefits over 43 species of Neotropical song birds. Many of these birds are threatened by the same lack of early successional forests that restrict our main species. Fortunately, we are starting to see public sentiment begin to turn in favor of clear cutting and other forest management practices. Our word, and the science behind it, is finally beginning to reach the public. We still have a long way to go but we have started down the right path. Thanks to all those volunteers who continue to be the heart and soul of the Ruffed Grouse Society. Without you we could not be successful.

...Recent Happenings December 2009 – February 2010

Skylands Chapter, Sussex County, New Jersey Banquet

Saturday, January 30, 2010 The Skylands Chapter celebrated its tenth annual banquet in fine style, almost doubling net proceeds from the year before. Attendees were treated to great food, fun and a chance to renew old acquaintances. In addition to the banquet, this Chapter continues to do habitat work days just about every month. For info on the next work day, contact Jim Desaye at 973-702-8380 or email jjdesaye@yahoo.com.

...Upcoming Events: Mark Your Calendar

February 2010

Potomac Valley Chapter, Frederick, MD

Saturday, February 20, 2010 - Chapter Banquet, Urbana Volunteer Fire Department. 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 Steve Choquette at 301-233-5365 or email at Schoquette2@comcast.net.

Conservation and Habitat Banquet, Fredericksburg, VA

Wednesday, February 24, 2010 The Inn at Fredericksburg Square – Premier event! Contact Dave Hansroth at 412-303-1405 or rgshans@comcast.net for more details.

James River Chapter, Richmond, VA

Saturday February 27, 2010 - Grouse Educational Field Day – Learn all about the habits and biology of Appalachian grouse. Discussion led by local DNR grouse biologists. Breakfast and program starts at Graves Mountain Lodge. For complete information or to register contact Wayne Thacker at 804-357-9448 or email at bumcw@aol.com.

March 2010

Cumberland Valley Chapter, Carlisle, PA Committee Meetings

Monday, March 1, 2010 - Discussion will focus on the upcoming banquet. All are welcome. For more information, contact Rodney Heiningner at 717-921-2810 or email at reheiningner@pa.net.

Monday, March 8, 2010 - Discussion will focus on the upcoming banquet and the sporting clays shoot. All are welcome. For more information, contact Rodney Heiningner at 717-921-2810 or email at reheiningner@pa.net.

Cumberland Valley Chapter, Carlisle, PA Banquet

Saturday, March 13, 2010 - Carlisle Hotel and Convention Center, 1700 Harrisburg Pike, Carlisle, PA. Cocktails and raffles at 6:00 pm with dinner at 7:30 pm. Raffles, games silent and live auctions. Great food, drink and atmosphere. For more information, contact Rodney Heiningner at 717-921-2810 or email at reheiningner@pa.net.

Red Brush Chapter, State College PA Banquet

Saturday, March 20, 2010 - Penn State Conference Center and Hotel, 215 Innovation Blvd., State College, PA. Cocktails & raffles 5:30 pm; dinner 7:15 pm. Games, raffles, live and silent auctions, great food, drink and conversation. Several wonderful donations have already been received. For more information, contact Scott Rushe at 814-571-1039 or srushe@comcast.net.

Potomac Valley Chapter, Frederick, MD Annual Dog Training Seminar and Fun Trial/Chukar Challenge

Saturday, March 27, 2010 McKee Beshears WMA near Poolesville, MD. Morning seminars on various aspects of bird dog training followed by lunch and an afternoon fun trial/chukar challenge. For more information contact John Thereault at 301-365-3038 or email at jcthereault@hotmail.com.

South Mountain Chapter, Lancaster PA Grouse Challenge Sporting Clays Shoot

Saturday, March 27, 2010 – Elstonville Sportsman's Association – 8:00am breakfast and registration; 9:00am first shooters; 11:30am lunch; last shooter out by noon. Awards immediately following. Course will be set up by our members and will feature 75 grouse type targets; challenging, close woods shots. Door prizes, random prizes, awards to top shooters. Lots of fun. For more information contact Jan Christen, 717-940-1483, or email at janchristen@utilitykeystone.com.

April 2010

Charles E. Bechtel Chapter, Reading PA Field and Habitat Day

Saturday, April 3, 2010 – State Game Lands 110, 9:00am - 2:30pm. The new road built with joint funds from the Reading and Media Chapters will be showcased. Some hand tool removing of trash growth will be done along with some spruce trees planted. Habitat discussion to be led by Mark Banker, RGS Senior Biologist. Light breakfast and lunch provided. For more information contact John Cave at 610-693-5970 or email at cavescorner@comcast.net.

Highland Drummer Chapter, Lewisburg, WV, Banquet

Saturday, April 17, 2010 – Blackwell's Restaurant, Elks Club, Lewisburg, WV. Cocktails & raffles 5:30pm; dinner 7:30pm. Games, raffles, live and silent auctions, great food, drink and conversation. For more information contact Charlie Brown at 304-484-7102 or email at cnbro47@dishmail.net.

Delaware Valley Chapter, Media, PA Banquet

Thursday, April 22, 2010 – Springfield Country Club, 400 West Sproul Road, Springfield, PA. Cocktails at 6pm; dinner at 7:30. Games, raffles, live and silent auctions, great food, drink and conversation. Several wonderful donations have already been received. For more information contact Jim or Connie D'Antonio at 610-722-9573 or email at cmdantonio1@verizon.net.

May 2010

Thunderbird Chapter, Altoona, PA Sporting Clays Shoot

Sunday, May 2, 2010 - Stonycreek Shooting Center, 326 Vanyo Road, Berlin, PA. Registration at 8:30am with the shoot from 9:00am until 3:00pm with the last shooter out at 2:00. Trophies, door prizes, and raffles. Contact Sam Marino at 814-946-4349.

Backbone Mountain Chapter, Oakland MD Chukar Challenge and Sporting Clays Shoot

Saturday and Sunday, May 15 and 16, 2010 – Wings of Challenge Preserve. On Saturday, participants will be able to compete in adult and puppy Chukar challenges, both for pointing and

flushing dogs. On Sunday, a team event will be held with two dogs and one or two hunters. Sporting Clays will be available both days. More details to be announced soon. For more information contact Rich Skeweris at 301-334-5814 or email at rskeeweris@pennswoods.net.

Charles E. Bechtel Chapter, Reading PA Southeastern PA Sponsor Dinner
Wednesday, May 19, 2010 – stay tuned for more information.

June 2010

Cumberland Valley Chapter, Carlisle PA Sporting Clays Shoot
Saturday, June 5, 2010 - Details to be announced.

Bonasa Chapter, Dubois, PA Banquet
Friday, June 18, 2010 - Details to be announced

Sporting Clays Shoot at Hudson Farm
Sunday, June 27, 2010 - Details to be announced

Note: Details on all upcoming events, except committee meetings, can be found on our website: www.ruffedgrousesociety.org.

...Other Local News

Al Geis Memorial Project Moving Forward in Maryland

Al Geis was a woodcock enthusiast, to say the least. He was deeply committed to woodcock research and management until the end of his life. Although needing assistance to walk in recent years, Al still attended major national meetings to express his support for all things woodcock. His passion was unquestionable. RGS is working with Al's family and friends, the Maryland DNR, and the Wildlife Management Institute to develop a memorial project in his name at Mt. Nebo Wildlife Management Area in western MD. The management plan has been approved and funds from Al's estate have been released. Matching funds are expected from the Wildlife Management Institute under that groups Woodcock Initiative.

National Sponsor Raffle Prizes for 2010

The following are the seven prizes being offered for banquet sponsors that choose the national raffle:

1. Connecticut Shotgun's RBL-28 Round Action, Box-Lock 28 Gauge, 26" Barrels, Single Trigger, Side-By-Side Shotgun; 3X Wood Grade
2. AYA 453 – 28 Gauge, 28" Barrels, Side-By-Side; Walnut Stock & Forend.
3. Caesar Guerini Magnus Over/Under 20 Gauge Shotgun

4. Smith & Wesson Elite Gold Side-By-Side 20 Gauge Shotgun
5. SKB Limited Edition RGS Model 785 Over/Under Shotgun in 20 or 28 Gauge, 26" or 28" Barrels
6. Choice Of Any Pair Of Steiner Binoculars \$1,600 or less
7. \$1,000 Cabela's Gift Certificate.

Wildlife Leadership Academy Announces PA Drummers Program

The Wildlife Leadership Academy (WLA) facilitated by the Pennsylvania Institute for Conservation Education (PICE) is offering the Pennsylvania Drummers 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.

Tuition for the residential field school is \$400.00. Applications are now available for the 2010 field schools! Interested students can download an application by going to www.PICEweb.org and clicking on the youth programs link. Tuition scholarships are also available! This year's application deadline is **April 1, 2010**. Interested teens and parents can also 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.

...National News

National Raffle Draws to a Close

The 2009-2010 RGS national raffle draws to a close on June 30, 2010. Tickets are still available to win a Model 21 Baby Frame 28-gauge shotgun, a gun first made famous by Winchester. This is a one of a kind gun that features 28" barrels choked IC/M with two beads, a straight English stock crafted from AAA fancy feathercrotch walnut, a checkered butt, and a 14 1/2" LOP.

To find out more and purchase a ticket, contact Dave Hansroth at 412-303-1405 or email at rgshans@comcast.net.

Northeast and New England Regional Director Joins Staff

Tripp Way is the new Northeast and New England RGS Regional Director. He graduated from Wittenberg University in 2003 with a BA in English literature, but his love of grouse and woodcock hunting introduced him to the Ruffed Grouse Society – and he learned about the organization's comprehensive habitat restoration programs.

Way enjoys studying ruffed grouse and keeps extensive statistics which he reports to the Loyal Order of Dedicated Grouse Hunters. His true passion is the outdoors, and he enjoys working with his 2 1/2 year old German wirehaired pointer, Duke in the field.

2010 Under Broken Wings Recipient Announced

Caleb Stallings, a 15-year-old from Ringgold, Georgia, was recently chosen as the recipient of the 2010 Under Broken Wings (UBW) program. Stallings will attend the Ruffed Grouse Society National Grouse and Woodcock Hunt in Grand Rapids, Minnesota in October of this year.

A paraplegic as a result of a car accident when he was 4, Caleb is an avid bow-hunter. A few of his trophies from 2009 include a 300-lb wild boar and a black bear. He has hunted extensively across the US and is deeply committed to helping others, especially those recently confined to a wheelchair, cope with their individual situations. "Hunting is what helps me get through, and it can help other kids as well," he says.

In Memoriam

David Vogel Uihlein

1920-2010

David Vogel Uihlein, a former RGS board member, passed away at his home in Mequon, Wisconsin on January 29, at the age of 89. An ardent naturalist and outdoorsman, he was deeply committed to conservation and was the founder and president of the Milwaukee chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society. Late last year Uihlein donated \$40,000 to the Wisconsin Drummer Fund to fund habitat projects in the area. His generosity has inspired additional contributions to RGS from friends and family for habitat enhancement projects.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 44 years, Margery Holly Uihlein, his children Lynde Bradley Uihlein of Milwaukee, and David Vogel Uihlein Jr. (Julia) also of Milwaukee; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He is also survived by Margery Uihlein's four children, six grandchildren and a great-grandson.

More on Mr. Uihlein's life and contributions will follow in our upcoming Summer issue.

2011 – RGS 50th Anniversary

In 2011 The Ruffed Grouse Society celebrates its 50th Anniversary, preparations are already underway. Special items commemorating the anniversary will include a collector's knife, belt buckle, several unique shotguns, a unique lost-wax process cast of a ruffed grouse, carved woodcock and apparel with the 50th Anniversary RGS logo. These items will be at our 2011 banquets and available for purchase through our website.

NAWNR Conference

The annual North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference will be held this year in Milwaukee and will be attended by state and federal wildlife agencies, representatives of many wildlife conservation groups and academics. The event will include one session entitled "Active vs. Passive Management of Wild State Lands," a topic that RGS President and CEO Mike Zagata worked to add to the conference agenda. Dan Dessecker, RGS Director of Conservation Policy, will be a speaker at the event in March. Read more about the conference in our upcoming Summer issue of the RGS magazine.

Pamphlets Available

As mentioned previously, there are many RGS publications available for your use at Sport Shows, including *The Other Silent Spring*, *The Impact on Wildlife from Ignoring Ecological Principles*, Trilogy brochures and soon the *Woodcock in Hand* – as it is in the process of being

updated and reprinted. Please contact RGS Headquarters to arrange having the brochures you need sent to you by calling 1-888-564-6747.

Minnesota Grouse Biologist

In cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, this year RGS will help to fund a biologist position in the area to focus primarily on ruffed grouse projects. Read more about the cooperative effort in our upcoming Summer issue of the RGS magazine.

Wayne National Forest Project Update

An agreement between RGS and Wayne National Forest is pending for a third year of continuing shrub management on Wayne National Forest land. If signed, it will result in a cumulative impact on over 1,000 acres of habitat in southeastern Ohio.

US Army and RGS sign Memorandum of Agreement

RGS and the US Army recently signed a memorandum of agreement concerning the promotion of the creation of early successional forest at Fort Drum, New York. Fort Drum personnel will provide maps and access to appropriate sites on the property. RGS will provide the personnel and equipment necessary to complete the forest management, assist in developing educational materials on early-successional forest and associated wildlife.