



# Grousin' Around the Mid-Atlantic

May 2009

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## ...Recent Happenings

### **Potomac Valley Chapter, Frederick MD Banquet**

Saturday, February 28, 2009 - Congratulations to the committee and volunteers on another successful banquet. Attendance increased from 120 in 2008 to over 140 in 2009! A tremendous assortment of local donations contributed greatly to the net revenue, which also increased substantially from last year. Funds have already been spent on some local habitat projects at Indian Springs WMA near Clear Spring and at McKee Beshears WMA near Poolesville.

### **Pine Barrens Chapter, Jackson/Lakehurst NJ Banquet**

Saturday, March 7, 2009 - The Pine Barrens Chapter held another very successful banquet, making more money than last year. This chapter is actively working on woodcock habitat in some local WMAs. They recently cooperated with the state to create openings for woodcock to use in areas formerly too overgrown for good habitat. This Chapter is an excellent example of putting its revenues to work for the habitat we are trying to create. Way to go!

### **Cumberland Valley Chapter, Carlisle PA Banquet**

Saturday, March 14, 2009 - The Cumberland Valley chapter held their 27<sup>th</sup> successful banquet, raising over \$10,000 for habitat work. The committee did an outstanding job gathering local donations and contributions.

### **Potomac Valley Chapter, Frederick MD Annual Dog Training Seminar and Fun Trial**

Saturday, March 21, 2009 – Stephen Rafe, bird-dog man and author, started the day with a wonderful seminar on how to teach “stop to flush.” The seminar concluded with some hands-on training for all participants. An outstanding barbecue lunch followed the seminar and set the stage for the fun trail. First place in the trial went to Dave Hansroth and his English Setter, Cider. Richard Cullerton and his German Shorthair, Lacy, took second place. Third place went to Brad Minnich and his English Pointer, Snap.

### **Red Brush Chapter, State College PA Banquet**

Saturday, March 28, 2009 – The 22<sup>nd</sup> Red Brush banquet was again a big success. Attendees enjoyed good food, drink and company! In

addition to corporate funds, revenues were raised for grouse and woodcock habitat. The committee did a wonderful job of securing local donations, adding to the net profits.

### **South Mountain Chapter, Lancaster PA Grouse Challenge Sporting Clays Shoot**

Saturday, March 28, 2009 - The first ever "Grouse Challenge" was a huge hit. Over fifty shooters enjoyed tricky walking targets that closely mimicked real grouse opportunities. First place went to Nick Bryant with a score of 53 out of a possible 75. Second place was claimed by Dan Cerven with a 49. Scott Duffin and Dave Hackman tied for third with scores of 48. Special thanks to Rick Ober for providing, preparing and serving all the food for lunch. Rick also purchased and donated the Youth hunting vest that was raffled at this event. Also, a big thanks to Jan Christen for putting this event together along with setting up the special course. The South Mountain Chapter is alive and thriving!

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

Saturday, April 4, 2009 - (State Game Lands 110) Over 50 people braved the high winds and chilly temperatures to tour work completed and to participate in habitat discussions led by Dave Henry of the PGC and Dave Hansroth of RGS. A light breakfast and lunch were provided to the hard workers who managed to take down and stack for future use about 10,000 linear feet of eight foot high deer fence.

### **Glenn Bowers Chapter, York PA Field and Habitat Work Day**

Saturday, April 18, 2009 - Several volunteers braved the rain to plant shrubs for wildlife habitat. Senior RGS Biologist, Mark Banker, led a discussion of woodcock management and biology. Lunch was provided by the chapter. All the shrubs for the project were planted. This is another great example of our RGS Chapters getting it done in the field where it counts.

## **...Upcoming Events: Mark Your Calendar**

### **May 2009**

#### **Backbone Mountain Chapter, Oakland MD Sporting Challenge**

Sunday, May 3 – (Wings of Challenge Preserve) Participants will be able to compete in either a chukar challenge with their dogs and/or a sporting clays shoot - a chance to see who can claim the crown as the local king of the bird hunters. For more information contact Rich Skeweris at 301-334-5814 or email at [rskeeweris@pennswoods.net](mailto:rskeeweris@pennswoods.net).

#### **Charles E. Bechtel Chapter, Reading PA, Southeastern PA Sponsor Dinner**

Wednesday, May 13 – (Fish Pond, West, Swiftwater Lane, Leesport, PA) Raw bar and cocktails at 6:30, Dinner consisting of Maine Lobster and steak with all the trimmings at 7:30, silent auction and habitat discussion, High grade shotgun raffled to sponsors. For more information, contact Dan DeLoretta at 610-796-9607 or email at [dandelo17@comcast.net](mailto:dandelo17@comcast.net).

#### **Cumberland Valley Chapter, Carlisle PA Committee Meeting**

Monday, May 18 - Discussion will focus on critiquing the recent banquet and on the upcoming sporting clays shoot. All are welcome. For more information, contact Rodney Heininger at 717-921-2810 or email at [reheininger@pa.net](mailto:reheininger@pa.net).

#### **Glenn Bowers Chapter, York PA Committee Meeting**

Thursday, May 21. 6:30pm at the Gander Mountain Store in York. Discussion will focus on the recent habitat day and plans for the August sporting clays shoot. For more information contact Mark Mummert at 717-795-9460 or email at [mummenv@pa.net](mailto:mummenv@pa.net).

## June 2009

### **Cumberland Valley Chapter, Carlisle PA Sporting Clays Shoot**

Saturday, June 6, 2009 - (Marts's Gap View Hunting Preserve, Dalmatia, PA) Registration at 8:30 am, shoot starts at 9:00 am, last shooter out at 11:45 am, lunch from noon -1:00 pm. Bird dog demos from 1:00 - 2:00pm; Cost is \$35 per person or \$125 for a team of four. Includes 50 sporting clays targets, 25 wobble trap targets and lunch. Door prizes, trophies and awards. To register or for more information, contact Tim Wentz at 717-258-1450 or email at [twentz@pa.net](mailto:twentz@pa.net).

### **Bonasa Chapter, Dubois PA Banquet**

Friday, June 19 – (DuBois Country Club, 10 Lakeside Avenue, DuBois, PA) Cocktails & raffles 6:00 pm; dinner 7:30 pm. Games, raffles, live and silent auctions, great food, drink and conversation. Several wonderful donations have already been received. For more information, contact Tom Noble at 814-590-9431 or [bonasa13@yahoo.com](mailto:bonasa13@yahoo.com).

## July 2009

### **Ruffed Grouse Society Sporting Clays Shoot**

Sunday, July 26 – (The Hudson Farm, 270 Stanhope Road, Andover, NJ)  
Registration 8:30 am, shooting 9:30 am. 100 sporting clays targets in the most beautiful, prestigious sporting clays venue in the USA. \$300 fee includes 100 sporting clays targets, four boxes of shells, shell carrier, continental breakfast, lunch, dessert, auctions and raffles. To register or for more information, contact Dave Hansroth at 412-303-1405 or email at [rgshans@comcast.net](mailto:rgshans@comcast.net).

## August 2009

### **Charles E. Bechtel Chapter, Reading, PA Annual Youth Shoot; Trap, Skeet and Grouse Walk**

Saturday, August 15 – (Leesport Gun Club) Details to be announced. For more information, contact Dick Shuman at 610-926-4611.

### **Glenn Bowers Chapter, York, PA Sporting Clays Shoot**

Saturday, August 29 – Details to be announced. Contact Tom Kieffer at email [tkieffer@ptd.net](mailto:tkieffer@ptd.net).

**Note: Details on all upcoming events, except committee meetings, may be found on our website: [www.ruffedgrousesociety.org](http://www.ruffedgrousesociety.org).**

# National News

## Doubles Club Announced

Have you accomplished that rare feat of shooting a double on grouse or woodcock? RGS is announcing a brand new Doubles Club program. When you become a member you'll receive an exclusive honorary pin and an official certificate commemorating your achievement.

What is a double? RGS defines a double as the occurrence of two grouse, two woodcock, or a grouse and woodcock (a mixed double) that are in flight at the same time, and are successfully harvested by one hunter. Please note: the birds must be in flight at the same time when harvested to qualify as a true double.

Applications will appear in the Summer issue of RGS, or you may also contact our membership department directly to apply at **412.262.4044**.

## Grants to Grow Habitat Management Capabilities in Midwest

RGS recently received three grants, totaling \$182,000, to purchase heavy equipment for managing habitat in the Midwest. Two ASV/Terex PT-100 Forestry loaders with mulching heads will be purchased with grant funds from the R.K. Mellon Foundation, the Frey Foundation of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and the Charlevoix County Community Foundation in East Jordan, Michigan.

The new pieces of equipment will service Michigan, Wisconsin and surrounding states. The versatile equipment will allow RGS to help public and private partners aggressively manage neglected aspen, alder and brush habitats for ruffed grouse, woodcock and many other species. Cooperative projects with similar equipment have been in progress in the Northeast for several years with excellent results.

"These pieces of equipment are important tools to help the Ruffed Grouse Society target habitat improvements for woodcock in habitat, like alder, that is not being managed by commercial harvests," says Gary Zimmer, RGS Senior Biologist in the Western Great Lakes Region. "With this equipment RGS will be one of the primary implementers of the Upper Great Lakes Woodcock and Young Forest Habitat Initiative."

**Welcome to new Corporate Sponsors: New Page and Browning. Also thank you to Johnson Lumber in Wisconsin for providing paper to our headquarters office.**

*Thanks!*

I would like add my personal thank you to all the volunteers out there who have spent their time and their own money to help us toward our goal of creating more habitat for grouse and woodcock. Without you we could not succeed! Right now we are succeeding. Please contact me with any questions or comments. If you are not currently on one of our committees, please consider joining and give something back to the resource that has provided so much enjoyment for us.