



Le Grand Traverse Chapter

2009 News Letter

Happy New Year Fellow RGS Members, I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your continued support of the Le Grande Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society. Best wishes to everyone for a happy, healthy new year, canine and human alike.

2008 Year in Review

WOW what a year, through your generous support of our chapter we experienced significant growth in 2008, helping to raise funds and promote the Ruffed Grouse Society's mission. I would be remiss to not thank each of the committee members for their hard work and dedication to the Chapter it is much appreciated. Also I would like to recognize our community business partners, sponsors, and members for their generous donations and financial contributions in 2008, specifically with the banquet.

2008 Banquet Huge Success!

In 2008 we experienced a 29% increase in attendance at our Annual Banquet. Held two days before opening day of Grouse Season 181 folks gathered at the Great Wolf Lodge for fun, food, and bidding. Hugh MacMaster was the recipient of the 2nd annual Ray Bunn Sportsman of the Year Award. Paul Fischer was recognized for over 10 years of Volunteer commitment to the chapters committee!

2008 Dog Trial Re-Cap

A few High lights from 2008 include a great dog trial that saw 60 different dogs, 9 different breeds, and 41 different dog handlers converge on Thundering Aspens Shooting Preserve in Mesick, MI. We had three divisions featuring Pointing, Flushing, and a puppy class. Total attendance for the event was pushing 80 RGS members and Guests!

Speaking of Paul Fischer, congratulations to Paul and his wonderful Pointer "Rip" for winning the 08 MI RGS Gun Dog of the Year Title.

2009 Growing Forward

Each year the chapter works to analyze what we can do to not only raise funds for the RGS, but to build a community organization that creates camaraderie for its members. We are pleased to announce that for the third year in a row the banquet will be held on a Saturday Night. We will have a new location this year and expect to see everyone at the Williamsburg Dinner Theatre on September 12, 2009!

2009 "NEW" Dog Training Nights

Also new this year will be four dog training nights starting in May. These nights are designed to gather members together and help train our Grouse Dogs. They will be held on licensed dog training grounds, and birds should be available for sale at the grounds that night. The idea is to gather a wealth of knowledge and offer assistance and pooling of equipment. Training in a group is not only fun but also a great way to learn from each other.

More on Dogs

Dogs are central to our member activities, after great success and feed back about the expansion of our annual fun hunt, we will once again be going forward with three divisions at the May Fun Trial; Pointing, Flushing, and Puppy divisions will be run. With the top 4 dogs from each open division qualifying for the GDOY trial. If you have never attended or participated in one of these events, please join us for all kinds of fun. We are always looking for qualified Judges for this event, if you are interested in judging please contact Fritz Heller at 231-590-0864.

2009 Schedule of Events

- March 20-22, Traverse City Hunting & Fishing Expo – Civic Center – Stop by our booth!
- May 3rd - Annual Spring Fun Trial, Thundering Aspens, Mesick MI Contact Fritz Heller 231-590-0864
- May 18th – Dog Training Night 6:30pm Start Contact Mark Stephens for location 231-313-3303
- June 15th – Dog Training Night 6:30pm – Contact Mark Stephens for location 231-313-3303
- July 20th - Dog Training Night 6:30pm – Contact Mark Stephens for location 231-313-3303
- August 17th - Dog Training Night 6:30pm – Contact Mark Stephens for location 231-313-3303
- August 29th & 30th - 2009 Hunters Safety Class – Cedar Rod and Gun Club – if you would like to teach Hunters Safety Please Contact Rick Bechtold at 231-947-5424
- September 13th - 2009 Youth Hunt Thundering Aspens Shooting Preserve – Mesick MI
- September 12th – Annual Banquet – Williamsburg Dinner Theatre 5:30pm
- September 13th – 6th Annual Michigan Ruffed Grouse Society Gun Dog of the Year at Trial Tails-a-Waggin Hunting Preserve, Marion MI – Contact Fritz Heller 231-590-0864 or Paul Fischer 231-633-5018
- September 15, 2009 Opening Day of Ruffed Grouse Season!
- September 19, 2009 Opening Day of Woodcock Season!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION @ www.tcrgs.com

Ruffed Grouse Society 2008 Michigan Projects

Hiawatha National Forest Grouse Habitat Improvements, Chippewa and Mackinac Counties, Michigan

An additional \$5,000 was provided for the ongoing Cost Share Partnership Program between the US Forest Service and the Ruffed Grouse Society. Funds contributed are being matched by the Forest Service, therefore doubling on the ground management activities. Funds in 2008 would continue the development of the Little Bear Ruffed Grouse and Woodcock Management Area on the St. Ignace Ranger District and begin habitat improvements on the Birch Farm Management Area near Rapid River.

LeGrande Management Area Project, Cheboygan County, Michigan

The project area is managed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and is located approximately six miles north of Afton, Michigan. Funds would be used to support ongoing ruffed grouse habitat work being conducted on the Pigeon River Wildlife Area. Work for 2008 includes the rehabilitation of approximately 12 acres of wildlife openings.

Michigan Private Landowner Education

RGS funds in 2008 were used to support an early successional forest educational workshop at the 2nd annual Michigan Ornithological Conference to increase the awareness of this important habitat component to local and migratory songbirds. Funds were also used to support two regional workshops for Michigan Ruffed Grouse Society Chapter representatives. Funds would be used for logistical support for these events.

Michigan Technological University Research Project

RGS provided \$6,000 for a two year research project entitled; "*Optimizing Both Habitat Quality for Conservation-Concern Bird Species and Tree Productivity in Aspen Forests in the Great Lakes Region*". With future prospects of using forest resources for cellulosic ethanol production, additional pressure most likely will fall on this regionally declining forest resource. This research is timely and will evaluate potential tradeoffs between biomass production and wildlife habitat management objectives in aspen stands and develop recommendations for managing aspen forests to meet quality-oriented standards.

Huron/Manistee National Forest Non-Commercial Aspen Regeneration, Cadillac Ranger District, Lake and Wexford Counties, Michigan

This project is a continuation of work that was initiated in 2007. Funds are being used to regenerate non-commercial aspen habitat on sites inaccessible for commercial harvests. This important habitat management activity would not occur without outside funding support. The cost to conduct the work is estimated to be \$300/acre.