

# Eastern Great Lakes Region

## FAN UPDATE

Volume 2, Issue 1

February 4, 2013



### **When is it going to stop snowing?**

It was a very good fall hunting season for grouse, woodcock and other northern forest wildlife. And I hope that you all had a good holiday season with family and friends. The Super Bowl is over; and now it is really time to get going with the New Year's activities. I am excited about the many new projects and opportunities that are beginning. Getting a new FAN out to you is always a challenging and rewarding accomplishment. My goal this year is 4 of them; so be prepared to be informed.

One specific FAN goal is inform you of what is going on in specific forests in my region. Starting with the next FAN there will be section called *Featured Forest*. The first featured forest will be the western Huron-Manistee National Forest. If you have questions about their young forest management programs, I will try to get answers.

## **Contents:**

- Update on Lawsuit to Ban Hunting in Areas of the Huron-Manistee National Forest
- Drummer Fund in Michigan
- 2013 RGS National Raffle Tickets Available Now
- New Bulletin on Forest Management for Birds in SE Ohio
- Michigan DNR Seeks Input on Management of State Forest Land
- Wildlife Management for the Private Landowner in Indiana
- Michigan Wolf Law Signed
- Upcoming RGS Events in the Region

## **Update on Lawsuit to Ban Hunting in Areas of the Huron-Manistee National Forest**

In 2007 a citizen filed suit to ban hunting on 66,500 acres of the Huron-Manistee National Forest. The suit was initially thrown out by a federal district judge in Detroit; however, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6<sup>th</sup> district found that the Forest Service had failed to comply with several of its own regulations and a federal statute during its 2006 forest plan revision.

In response to the lawsuit the Forest Service set out to amend the plan. They offered several alternatives ranging from “no change” to changing the Management Area designation of the areas of concern and continue to allow hunting. Thousands of hunters and hunting organizations, including RGS and members, responded to this situation in support of hunting.

On January 27, 2012 the Regional Forester, Charles L. Myers, signed the Record of Decision which continues to allow hunting on the 66,500 acres which were included in the lawsuit. Four appeals of this decision were submitted in 2012. These appeals were reviewed by the Forest Service Washington Office.

In November 2012 the Chief of the Forest Service affirmed the Regional Forester’s decision. For more information on this issue go the Huron-Manistee website, <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/hmnf/landmanagement/planning>.

## **Drummer Fund in Michigan**

In November 2012 we received 13 proposals for ruffed grouse and American woodcock enhancement projects. Seven of these public land proposals were from the US Forest Service, 2 were from State Forest and 4 from State Game Area biologists. The project locations were scattered across the state with 4 in the Upper Peninsula, 5 in the Northern Lower and 4 in the Southern Lower.

The Michigan RGS Leadership Team met in late December to score and rank the proposals that we received. The funds requested with these 13 proposals totaled \$67,728. With matching funds from partner agencies these proposals would result in \$187,036 in young forest enhancement for ruffed grouse, American woodcock and numerous other wildlife species.

For the first time in the 3 years that RGS has provided Drummer Funds to partner public agencies, we are currently unable to completely fund all the Michigan projects that were requested. We currently have nearly \$40,000 from RGS chapters and grants. With this current fund balance the Leadership Team recommended that we fund ten of the projects completely. For one large project we will be currently only able to provide \$10,000 of the \$30,000 that was requested. For this project and the 2 that we are not currently funding, we are seeking additional RGS chapter funds and additional grant funds. Our goal is to fund all the projects completely. More information about these projects will be provided in future FAN updates.

## **New Bulletin on Forest Management for Birds in SE Ohio**

Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative (OBCI) has partnered with the Ohio Division of Wildlife to design and illustrate a guide written by Amanda Rodewald entitled "Managing forest birds in Southeast Ohio: a Guide for Land Managers". The full-length guide will be released shortly, and features over 50 pages of management recommendations, research findings, figures and photos based on Amanda Rodewald's work in SE Ohio. Currently available on their website is a 9-page bulletin summarizing management recommendations for a variety of habitat types and species guilds.

<http://www.obcinet.org/committees/ForestManagementSummary.pdf>

## 2013 RGS National Raffle Tickets Available Now

Purchase your tickets by calling RGS HQ at (888) 564-6747 or contacting Larry Visser at 231-768-4608 or rgsvisser@gmail.com until 5 pm Eastern DST June 27, 2013. The donation is \$20.00 per ticket; with up to 10,000 tickets to be sold. Four winners will be drawn on June 28, 2013.

**Four chances to win. WINNER'S CHOICE! - First winner selects choice of 4 prizes, second winner selects from remaining 3, etc.**

Prizes to include:

**First prize: Orvis Uplander Deluxe;** a 20-gauge over-and-under with 28" barrels, which will be produced in a limited edition of 10. \$7,995 value. **Orvis Company, Donor.**

**Second prize: South Dakota pheasant hunt at Pine Shadows Daybreak** lodge near Frederick. During the 2013-14 season, two people will enjoy three days and four nights hunting pheasant on Orvis-endorsed wingshooting grounds. All meals, lodging, ammunition, dogs, guides, and bird-cleaning included as well as airfare up to \$1,000; upon arrival, transportation to and from airport and hunting grounds provided. The value of this package is over \$7,000. **Pine Shadows Daybreak, Hunt Donor.**

**Third prize: Kansas quail hunt with certified Orvis wingshooting guide Steve Grossman.** Two hunters will spend three days and four nights during the 2013-14 season in southcentral Kansas near Medicine Lodge, hunting wild bobwhite over English setters on over 22,000 acres - including open prairie, river bottoms and draws of cedar. Two hunters per guide, double guns only and fresh dogs will be on the ground all day long. All meals and airfare up to \$1,000 is included. The value of this package is \$5,800. **Double Gun Bird Hunts, Hunt Donor.**

**Fourth prize:** Attendance for two people at the **2013 National Grouse and Woodcock Hunt** in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Three days/4 nights October 8-11, 2013 at the Sawmill Inn, Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Deluxe, guided hunt includes double occupancy lodging at the Sawmill, Outdoor Festival at the local gun club and two full days of grouse and woodcock hunting with experienced guides and trained bird dogs. All meals, bird cleaning, transportation to and from hunting areas, many extras and airfare up to \$1,000 are included. The value of the hunt is \$3,450. The winner of this prize has the option of waiving the hunt in lieu of \$2,500 cash - your choice!

All raffle participants will receive a free issue of *Orvis News*. Winners responsible for applicable taxes.

## **MI DNR Seeks Input on Management of State Forest Land**

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is seeking input from anyone interested in the health and sustainability of the Michigan state forests. The DNR has prepared draft Regional State Forest Management Plans that are available for review at [www.michigan.gov/regionalforestplans](http://www.michigan.gov/regionalforestplans) . Comments may be submitted via email to [forestplancomments@michigan.gov](mailto:forestplancomments@michigan.gov) . The review period was recently extended through March 8, 2013.

The DNR developed three draft plans which cover the eastern Upper Peninsula, the western Upper Peninsula and the northern Lower Peninsula. Once finalized, the plans will provide long-term, landscape-level direction for resource managers that will guide DNR decisions about activities and treatments on state forest land. The plans also ensure wildlife habitat and opportunities for recreation are protected.

Following public review, the DNR will assess the feedback it has received, consult with stakeholders, revise each plan accordingly and prepare for final review and approval by the DNR director at a future meeting of the Natural Resources Commission. Implementation of the Regional State Forest Management Plans will begin with the 2015 compartment review process and will continue over the 10-year life of these plans.

## **Wildlife Management for the Private Landowner in Indiana**

Wildlife Management for the Private Landowner is an 8-week course designed to provide landowners in Indiana an introduction to wildlife identification, wildlife biology, habitat management planning and techniques, and how to access information and assistance with wildlife management. The workshop will consist of eight consecutive Tuesday evenings in the classroom and two Saturday field trips to demonstrate and reinforce classroom discussions. The course is coordinated by Rob Chapman, Extension Wildlife Specialist with Purdue University and taught by several natural resource management experts. The cost for the workshop is \$100.00 per person (\$150.00 for married couples), which includes a binder and CD with resource materials and publications geared to the course topics as well as refreshments. The workshop will be held at the Southeast Purdue Agricultural Center, 4425 East 350 North, Butlerville, IN. For more information, including how to register, contact Rob Chapman at [RNCHAPMAN@purdue.edu](mailto:RNCHAPMAN@purdue.edu), or 812-662-4999.

### **Course Topics will include:**

- Introduction to Wildlife Management
- The North American Conservation Model
- Wild Turkey Biology and Management
- White-tailed Deer Biology and Management
- Bobwhite Quail and Cottontail Rabbit Biology and Management
- Mourning Dove Biology and Management
- Forest, Grassland, and Wetland Management
- Fishing Pond Development and Management
- Considerations Prescribed Burning
- Management Plan Development and Assistance Programs

## **Michigan Wolf Law Signed**

Michigan Governor Rick Snyder signed SB 1350 into law on December 28, 2012. This law officially designated the wolf as a game species in Michigan and authorizes the Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to establish a season. Many of Michigan's sportspersons and agencies worked hard to get this legislation passed. RGS and its members regularly contacted legislators to get this legislation out of committee and onto the floor to be passed and sent on to the governor for his signature.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has outlined a plan to move forward with a public wolf season. A wolf population survey is being conducted this winter and public meetings are being planned. A wolf season structure could be recommended as May or June of this year.

Opposition to this plan is being organized by a group called Keep Michigan Wolves Protected. This group is led by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). They hope to collect 225,000 signatures by the end of March to have this wolf law (Public Act 520) placed on the ballot of the November 2014 election. If the signatures are obtained the change in wolf status from non-game to game would be suspended by law until the referendum is held. This would mean that there would be no possibility of a wolf season in 2013 or 2014.

We will keep you informed as this situation develops.

## **Upcoming RGS Events in the Region**

February 8 – 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Southwestern Michigan Chapter Conservation & Sportsmen's Banquet. Gull Lake View Golf & Resort, Augusta MI. Contact Sally Altman [thebookkeep@yahoo.com](mailto:thebookkeep@yahoo.com) for info.

February 16 – 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Ohio Hills Chapter Conservation & Sportsmen's Banquet. Lancaster Eagles. Contact Terry Borah, Sr. 740-569-4457 or [terryborah@juno.com](mailto:terryborah@juno.com) for info.

February 23 – Inaugural Lakeside Chapter Conservation & Sportsmen's Banquet. DeCarlo's, Warren, MI. Contact Nancy Stephens 786-206-5744 or [nastephens67@yahoo.com](mailto:nastephens67@yahoo.com) for info.

March 1 – 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Saginaw Valley Chapter Conservation & Sportsmen's Fund Raising Banquet. Horizon's Conference Center, Saginaw, MI. Contact Brad Schuknecht 989-497-0453 for info.

March 2 – Central Indiana Fun Trial. Buck Creek Hunting Preserve, Muncie, IN  
Contact Tom Beauchamp 317-313-0342 or [tjbeauch@gmail.com](mailto:tjbeauch@gmail.com) for info.

March 3 Central Indiana Gun Dog Trailing Clinic. Glens Valley Conservation Club, Martinsville, IN. Contact Tom Beauchamp 317-313-0342 or [tjbeauch@gmail.com](mailto:tjbeauch@gmail.com) for info.

March 15 – 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Keith Davis Chapter Conservation and Sportsmen's Banquet. Genesys Banquet Center, Grand Blanc, MI. Contact Brad DePottey 921-855-7619 or [rgsflint@gmail.com](mailto:rgsflint@gmail.com).

March 16 – Greater South East Michigan Chapter Fun Trial. Colonial Farms Gamebird Preserve, Chelsea, MI. Contact Dave Veldman [daveldmlan8@gmail.com](mailto:daveldmlan8@gmail.com).

March 23 – 18<sup>th</sup> Robert J. Lytle Chapter Conservation & Sportsmen's Banquet. Country Side Banquet Center, Imlay City, MI. Contact Brad Johnson 989-541-1249 or [Bigj1975@comcast.net](mailto:Bigj1975@comcast.net).

## **Reminder**

To insure that you receive timely FAN updates, please notify me of your current email address.

**Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions:**

**Larry Visser, Eastern Great Lakes Regional Biologist**  
**Ruffed Grouse Society**  
**11989 Pine Ridge Trl**  
**Leroy MI 49655**  
**Phone 231-768-4608**  
**[rgsviss@gmail.com](mailto:rgsviss@gmail.com)**