

FOREST ACTION NETWORK

Mid-Atlantic Southern Appalachian Region

12/31/11

Hoping all RGS members and their families had a safe and happy Holiday Season. We had lots to reflect on this time of year as some of us take a short break from our bird seasons until after the Holidays. I hope your fall has been as memory filled as mine whether with two legged or four legged companions while afield. Many of you have been part of those new memories.

I am excited about what is stirring within this region for habitat work and as these projects begin to fall into place with the help of our dedicated Chapter members I think you will be too. They would not be accomplished without people with the passion that I have met in RGS in my time here thus far. You are truly an inspiring group of sportsmen.

Thank You

Linda



If a man is really intelligent, there's practically nothing a good dog can't teach him. – Robert Ruark

Trenton NJ foresters and sportsmen are contending with a controversial bill that will allow commercial timber harvesting within state forests to assist in the health of the current condition and state. There are two ecological factors playing here which many within this region are familiar with. One is the issue of high deer density and the other is an over-mature disease prone forest. These two issues need to be dealt with together not separately and RGS is confident that the silviculturists involved in managing these state lands will do so. As you continually read in the RGS publications timber management is wildlife management and if one is out of whack so too will be the other... To read more on the current issue in NJ see the link below. http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2011/12/nj_legislature_pushes_bills_to.html

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How long post-timber harvest until Early Successional Habitat (ESH) species of songbirds use an area?

What role does the surrounding landscape play in this usage?

The photo on the right depicts ESH created late winter / early spring 2011 on CONSOL Energy lands through a cooperative agreement with RGS. Upon my first visit to this site in early June 2011, I detected nearly a dozen ESH species singing within the first 45 minutes of walking through the site. How long did it take...**the same spring!**

The photo on the left is privately owned and adjoins the CONSOL property within the forested landscape. This is of the scrub – shrub habitat type still classified as ESH and will most likely not develop into the high stem density equated to ESH created through timber harvesting. In this case birds unable to successfully establish a territory in the left stand could now do so in the recently cut stand on the right. More territories provide the opportunities for more mated pairs and a higher nesting rate, leading to increased population of pioneer ESH species which include Eastern towhee, chestnut-sided warbler, indigo bunting and mourning warbler.

What role did the existing landscape play...in this case **an extension of an already productive ESH stand with one that will develop to look and function very differently through time adding to the diversity of structure within a landscape dominated by 60 yr. old forests.** A scrub – shrub existing stand, a developing high-stem density stand, and the mature forest stands surrounding the previous two.

That is the recipe for great grouse habitat.

Thank you CONSOL Energy for being conservation conscious and doing your part in creating ESH!

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Thank You...

...to all whom submitted comments on the Pennsylvania Grouse Management Plan draft and the George Washington National Forest Plan revision draft.

Providing active input when the opportunity arises is critical in protecting our hunting heritage and ensuring ruffed grouse and American woodcock populations for the enjoyment of future generations.



Check out the new items for 2012 at our [RGS-Mart!](#)

As the George Washington National Forest Plan Revision comment period ended I would like to thank members of the H. C. Edwards Chapter and James River Chapter of RGS for participating in a Stakeholders group with individuals and groups of far differing viewpoints than the Conservation Mission of RGS on Forest management and use of our National Forests. A consensus agreement was reached and presented to the USFS representing a diversity of user groups and should be considered extremely beneficial in communication within a multiple use directive. Those individuals were Al Bourgeois, Cliff Rexrode, and Wayne Thacker.

Also Parker Street (Appalachian Highlands) and Steve Henson (Asheville) RGS Chapter members took on the same responsibility pursuing management activities on the Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee as members of the Cherokee National Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (CNFLRI). These two gentlemen were recognized by forest supervisor Tom Speaks for their volunteer service on this steering committee. The goal of the steering committee and the process was to seek common ground among the diverse group of interests of those involved that will assist the USFS in decision making concerning the future of our shared natural resources.

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3rd Annual Upland Bird Hunt (UBH): The Wilds of Northern PA

Weather was clear crisp and the leaves were down but many of the weeds were still quite high. The hunters and huntsmen contended with afternoon winds and rather dry conditions. Most of the American woodcock flushed gave the impression they were not flight birds. Most grouse flushed were found near the edges of the covers indicating these were most likely fresh birds and areas were not heavily worked by dog nor man.

Most of the grouse taken were AHY leading you to suspect the brood success was low this year in the areas of hunting. If you recall we had a very wet and cold spring and many grouse in this area attempted to re-nest. The re-nest is usually due to predation, and the decrease in brood survival is contributed to lack of insects and newly germinating vegetation or buds from lower temperatures and late emergence of the insects. What we really need now is a heavy snowfall to provide winter roosting opportunities coupled with the abundant food source available in this part of PA to ensure the birds are in optimal physical condition heading into breeding season in the spring. LET IT SNOW...

RESULTS 2011 UPLAND BIRD HUNT

136 RG flushes 10 RG	94.5 hrs. 9AHY (6M 3F)	1.4 fl/hr. Day 1 1HY (F)
167 RG flushes 10 RG	89 hrs. 5AHY (2M 3F)	1.9 fl/hr. Day 2 5HY (5M)
<hr/>		
303 RG flushes 20 RG	183.5 hrs. 14 AHY (8M 6F)	1.7 fl/hr. Total 6 HY (5M 1F)

Number of Hunters = 39 Number of Huntsman = 19
 6 AW flushes, 2 take, 1 AHY M, 1 HY M
 5 AW flushes, 1 take, 1 AHY F

(AHY = adult, HY=juvenile, M=male, F=female, RG=grouse, AW=woodcock)

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RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY



1961 - 2011
50 Years of
Managing Forest Habitat

2011 - 2012
NATIONAL RAFFLE

THREE WINNERS DRAWN JUNE 29, 2012

CONNECTICUT SHOTGUN A-10 AMERICAN DELUXE
Over-and-under, 20-gauge, 28" barrels with 5 choke tubes, shallow frame, full sidelock with engraved game scenes, straight stock with exhibition grade wood and field forend. Includes combination and key locking case. Retail Value: \$9,400

DONATED BY JOHN C. CLEVER



CAESAR GUERINI RGS UNIQUE APEX GRADE
Over-and-under 28-gauge, 28" barrels with 5 choke tubes, one of a kind, hand-engraved grouse and woodcock design, Prince of Wales stock with exhibition grade wood, "RGS" on trigger guard. Retail Value: \$8,495

Donated by John C. Clever



ITHACA GRADE III MODEL 37 FEATHERLIGHT
28-gauge pump, 28" barrel with 3 choke tubes, hand-engraved with gold inlays, gold trigger, fancy AAA grade black walnut stock. Retail Value: \$3,500



Donation for each ticket is \$100. Up to 1,000 tickets to be sold.
Drawing on June 29, 2012 at RGS HQ in Cornapolis, PA. First ticket wins Connecticut.
Second ticket wins Guerini. Third ticket wins Ithaca. Winners responsible for applicable taxes.

See below for purchasing information

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mail coupon to:

**Linda D. Ordiway, Ph.D.,
Regional Biologist Ruffed Grouse Society
72 Gilbert Lane, Bradford, PA 16701**

call 412-720-6034 or e-mail: lordiwayrgs@gmail.com

Name _____ Phone# _____

Mailing Address: _____

City State Zip

Tickets @ \$100.00 Each = \$_____ Total Enclosed

Signature _____

Billing Address _____

City State Zip

CHECK (Payable to RGS) ___ CREDIT CARD # _____

Exp. Date _____

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**Think Big for 2011
Drummer Projects**

RGS Chapters, State and Federal Agencies, and Private Forest Industry lets continue the cooperation for next year's Drummer Fund Habitat Proposals. The proposal forms are being distributed by your respective RD's now or contact me for one. Feel free to contact me for assistance in developing your project or in writing your proposal.

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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. For information on the Ruffed Grouse Society, please call 888-564-6747 or check out the RGS website at www.ruffedgrousesociety.org.