

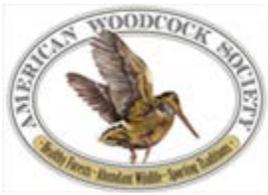
Mid – Atlantic / S. Appalachian Forest Action Network Spring 2014



This photo of a displaying ruffed grouse in VA was recently taken by Al Bourgeois of the H.C. 'Duck' Edwards Chapter. Notice the coloration above the eye (red) mostly seen in birds in hand. *That is not an aspen in the background...must be in the S. Appalachian Region!*

Spring has arrived in the Northern portion of this Region and is well advanced in the Southern Appalachians. State Drummer Fund (SDF) projects are starting habitat enhancement / creation work and reclamation of timber harvest activities is occurring on the larger RGS projects. A full list of SDF projects was provided in the Winter 2014 FAN. Many Chapters are having field days within these areas showcasing where their support of RGS is being focused on habitat. I personally want to thank those who organize the local field days. These events are very well attended and the information disseminated by habitat committee members and the respective land managers is invaluable. Contact me for an upcoming field day nearest you. The hotdogs will be the best you ever had.

The winter snowfall was variable within this Region. Those areas receiving the deepest snow pack afforded grouse the option for snow roosting and a possible higher survival rate. Areas with colder temperatures and less snow depth meant the birds' primary thermal cover and roost sites were conifers, rhododendron, laurel and the leaf retaining beech brush. These birds enter the spring possibly in lesser physical condition than those in the deeper snowpack areas. Both bird scenarios welcome the highly nutritious maple and oak flowers and of course the catkins of the male aspen where available. Enjoy the drumming (listen for the moonlight drummers as well), and get out and share the sky-dance experience of our American woodcock with someone new to the spring event. *Linda*



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Nantahala and Pisgah National Forest Plan Revision

Keep informed on the progress of the revision process. Local members and individuals with similar interests in forest management on our public lands have continued to actively engage in comments and attendance of public meetings. Submitted comments on the Plan Revision and all materials distributed during the public meetings are available for review at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/nfsnc/landmanagement/planning>. We encourage all to comment throughout the process. Feel free to contact me regarding RGS submitted comments. Thank you to all who have participated in this action and let's keep the momentum through the next phases.

Eastern Great Lakes Regional Biologist Retires

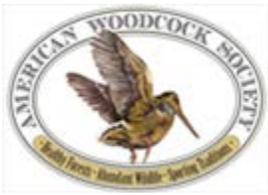
Dr. Larry Visser, RGS Eastern Great Lakes Regional Biologist covering most of Michigan, Indiana and Ohio retired on April 1st after several years with the Society. He handled a number of important items in his time with RGS including working through the Society's transition to the state Drummer Fund program. He worked closely with agencies, foundations and RGS volunteers to seek and support important habitat work across his region. While officially retired Dr. Visser continues to provide help and support to the Society to insure a smooth transition in this position. Work is already underway to replace him. We wish Larry the very best in his retirement and hope this allows him more hours in the grouse woods this fall.

Forest Management and Wildlife: Prescribed Fire

The photo to the right is from the Nantahala National Forest and shows the resilience of wildlife to forest management tools. Early spring burns hasten green-up by providing a warmer germination bed (darkening of the duff layer), eliminate shade producing vegetation, and promote native plant regeneration. This nest was **SUCCESSFUL** according to the USFS employee that monitored this site after the fire.



Woodcock nest in Tusquitee Ranger District Nantahala National Forest after a late March prescribed fire. Photo by Steve Lohr



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Find Shooting Ranges in Every State

Want to know where to practice target shooting, find a safety course or learn how to get started in shooting? Find what you're looking for at a range near you. The National Shooting Sports Foundation is providing a state-by-state shooting range directory as a resource to find where to shoot. Get started. Stay active.

[Find a shooting range near you.](#)

Upcoming RGS Events within the Region

Get out and show your support for habitat...bring a friend!

May 4 – NE PA Chapter – 2nd Annual NEPA 'Spring Break' Habitat Shoot – Rock Mountain Sporting Clays, Springville, PA. For more information contact George Nichols at 570-675-1667 or 570-406-6044.

June 6 – Southern Appalachian Chapter – Sporting Clays Shoot – Biltmore Estates Sporting Clays Club, Asheville NC. For more information contact Don Mallicoat at 828-633-1806 or don@wingsnclays.com.

June 7 – Cumberland Valley Chapter – 6th Annual Sporting Clays Shoot – Blue Ridge Sportsman's Club, Harrisburg, PA. For more information contact Tim Wentz at 717-258-1450 or 717-576-6794
twentz@pa.net.

June 14 – Georgia Chapter – 2014 Georgia Chapter Fun Shoot – Cherokee Gun Club, Gainesville, GA. For more information contact Bill Cunningham 770-205-9297, Monte Seehorn 770-983-3019, or Stan Howe at 678-427-2923.

June 20-22 – A Weekend at the Greenbrier – White Sulphur Springs, WV. For more information contact Dave Hansroth at DaveH@ruffedgrousesociety.org or 412-303-1405.

June 21 – Bonasa Chapter – 15th Annual Bonasa Chapter Conservation & Sportsmen's Banquet – Fraternal Order of Eagles Club 965, Falls Creek PA. For more information contact Sandy McGary at 814-236-0176.



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RGS 2014 National Raffle "12 Days of Christmas"

Donation: \$10 per ticket or 3 for \$20

Winners to be drawn at RGS Headquarters in Coraopolis, PA and posted on ruffedgrousesociety.org

Ticket sales end at 8:00 a.m. EST on Tuesday, December 9, 2014.

Void where prohibited by law. Winners are responsible for all taxes.

For full details, go to www.ruffedgrousesociety.org/2014 National Raffle



Stevens 512 Gold Wing

*12 GA Shown



Tristar Hunter Ex



CZ Bobwhite



- December 11: GoPro HERO3+ Black Edition
- December 12: Stevens 512 Gold Wing O/U 20-Gauge Shotgun
- December 13: Steiner Merlin Binoculars: 8 x 32



- December 14: Tristar Hunter Ex O/U 28-Gauge Shotgun

- December 15: YETI Tundra 65 All-Purpose Cooler

- December 16: CZ Bobwhite SxS 20-Gauge Shotgun



- December 17: SportDOG TEK 1.0 GPS & E-Collar (TEK-V1LT) -- SportDOG, Donor
- December 18: Webley & Scott 900 Sporting O/U 28-Gauge Shotgun -- Webley & Scott, Donor



- December 19: Samsung 51" Wide Screen Television

- December 20: CZ Canvasback O/U 20-Gauge Shotgun

- December 21: L.L. Bean \$500 Gift Certificate -- L.L. Bean, Donor

- December 22: Fausti DEA SxS 20-Gauge Shotgun



CZ Canvasback



Webley & Scott 900



Fausti DEA

To purchase raffle tickets, mail coupon to: **Ruffed Grouse Society -- 451 McCormick Road -- Coraopolis, PA 15108**
or call 888-564-6747 or buy online at ruffedgrousesociety.org

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 _____ Tickets @ \$10 Each or 3 for \$20 = \$_____ Total Enclosed CHECK (Payable to RGS) CREDIT CARD
 CC # _____ Exp. _____ Signature _____
 Billing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

The Ruffed Grouse Society is the premier 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.

Feel free to contact me regarding any content within this FAN at Lindao@ruffedgrousesociety.org or 412-720-6034. Thank you for your interest and continued support of the Ruffed Grouse Society and The American Woodcock Society.