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**Sent:** Friday, June 18, 2010 4:57 PM  
**To:** FAN Member  
**Subject:** FAN Update



# Western Great Lakes Region FAN UPDATE

Volume 10, Issue 2

June 18, 2010

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**Last Chance! Don't Miss Out! Only 9 Days Left!**

**Drawing on June 30, 2010**

**Great Odds!!!!**

**Approximately 500 Tickets Sold To Date**

**Enter the 2009/2010 RGS National Raffle Today**

***Baby Frame 28-Gauge Shotgun with 28 inch barrels***

**Made Famous by Winchester**

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**Gold RGS Logo Engraving on bottom of receiver**

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of this one-of-a-kind shotgun

**To Purchase Tickets Contact: Gary Zimmer  
at 715-674-7505 or rgzimm@newnorth.net or mail the following to:**

**RGS, PO Box 116, Laona WI 54541**

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

**CHECK (Payable to RGS) CASH CREDIT CARD**

CC # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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# **RGS Members Asked to Report Wisconsin Game Bird Brood Observations This Summer**

**The Wisconsin DNR has requested the help of RGS members to monitor the brood production of a variety of game birds this summer in the state. Besides ruffed grouse sightings of pheasant, turkey, quail, gray partridge, prairie chicken and sharptailed grouse are being sought by the Wisconsin DNR. According to Brian Dhuey DNR research scientist, "The public can help us monitor the reproductive success of these birds by reporting sightings on the Game Brood Observation Survey page <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/harvest/brood.htm> of the DNR Website."**

**People interested in participating in this survey can find survey instructions and record their sightings online on the Game Bird Brood Observation survey. The survey period begins June 13 and runs through August 21, 2010. The DNR is interested in the type of bird seen, the county it was seen in, the number of hens and chicks seen and the activity people were in gaged in and for how long when the observations were made. People can record observations at the end of every day, or for times when they do not have access to the Internet and would like to keep track of your observations can find a seasonal tally sheet at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/harvest/broodtally.pdf> .**

**Each summer, wildlife personnel around the state are asked to fill out ten-week brood observation reports. These 10-week brood surveys have been ongoing for some species, like ruffed grouse, for more than 30 years. Information gathered on game bird brood production is used by DNR for monitoring population indices, making fall hunting forecasts, and monitoring regional trends. Questions about the Game Bird Brood Observation survey, accessing the tally sheet, reporting your observations, or the results of the survey, can be referred to Brian Dhuey at (608) 221-6342.**

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# Annual Survey Indicates Slight Drop in Wisconsin Ruffed Grouse Population

Wisconsin's ruffed grouse population appears to have deviated from its four-year rise, according to data that state wildlife managers collected during the 2010 spring drumming counts. "Statewide, the ruffed grouse population decreased about 5 percent between 2009 and 2010," said Sharon Fandel, Acting Upland Wildlife Ecologist with the Department of Natural Resources.

"The southwest showed the greatest decrease in drumming activity over the last year with a 21 percent decrease," Fandel said. "The central and northern regions showed a slight decrease of 4 percent and 6 percent, respectively, whereas the southeast region experienced a large increase of 60 percent more drums than in 2009. The southeast region contains the least amount of grouse cover in the state and minor increases in grouse drumming numbers can have a large influence on the drumming index."

For reasons not well understood, grouse populations cycle up and down over an 8- to 10-year period. The previous high was in 1999, and it would appear that Wisconsin has reached the peak of the current grouse cycle. Biologists note that while the 5 percent statewide decrease from last year's drumming survey results supports the idea that the ruffed grouse population may be on the downswing, the change is not statistically significant and may be due to random chance or smaller samples sizes representing a given area.

Ruffed grouse drumming surveys are divided into four regions around the state. Each spring since 1964, wildlife biologists, wardens, foresters, members of the Ruffed Grouse Society, and other volunteers have driven survey routes, stopping to listen at predetermined locations for the unmistakable sound of drumming ruffed grouse. These drumming counts and observational data on breeding success are used to estimate grouse population changes.

"Ruffed grouse drumming surveys are helpful in tracking statewide population changes over the long term," says Krista McGinley, Assistant Upland Wildlife Ecologist. "However, they are not good predictors of local harvest or hunting opportunities. The most successful hunters are usually those who spend the most time in the field and cover the most ground."

There are [two ruffed grouse management zones](#) (pdf) in the state. The hunting dates for Zone A are Sept. 18, 2010 through Jan. 31, 2011. The dates for Zone B are Oct. 16, 2010 through Dec. 8, 2010. Daily bag limits are 5 birds per day in Zone A and 2 birds per day in Zone B. Possession limits are twice the daily bag limit. Additional information can be found on the ruffed grouse page of the DNR website.

## **Special Session on Forest Management Held at the 2010 North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Milwaukee**

Evidence of the changing attitudes toward the role of forest management in the conservation of forest wildlife was in a special session that was convened at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Milwaukee, WI in March, 2010, entitled *Active or Passive Management of Public Lands: Implications to Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Recreation*.

The relevance of the issue of *active vs. passive* management was underscored by the eagerness of Rebecca Humphries, who currently serves as the Director of Michigan's Department of Natural Resources and Environment, to take time from her busy schedule to Co-Chair this important session along with Gary Kania from the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation.

The session opened with a thought-provoking paper by John Organ (US Fish & Wildlife Service) and Jan Dizard (Amherst College) who provided a historical context to the expansion of the concept of passive management.

Dan Dessecker, Director of Conservation Policy for the Ruffed Grouse Society, then spoke of the need to use active habitat management if we are to conserve the many species of forest and grassland wildlife that are currently experiencing population declines. This is especially true for those species that use habitats that were historically created through wildfires that raced across the landscape – a “natural” habitat management practice that society now drastically limits. Dessecker stated; “Land management practices used today that can to some degree mimic the effects of historic fires on grasslands and forests include prescribed burning and forest management. These practices can establish and sustain wildlife habitats similar to those resulting from historic fires.” If we are to sustain wildlife that need young forests habitats, we must increase our use of active forest management.

Steve Ferrell, Director of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, talked about how regulations and policies that can severely limit active management on federal lands can affect the ability of state agencies to meet population goals for game and nongame wildlife.

In her closing remarks, Director Humphries noted how the trend toward increasing the amount of public land where active management and public access is restricted is driven to some degree by the interests of an increasingly urban society. In 1950, 52% of the United States population lived in metropolitan areas; by 2000 that number had grown to 80%. As society becomes more and more removed from natural environments, its understanding of the dynamic nature thereof is diminished, as is its understanding of the role of active management in wildlife conservation

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# **RGS Receives Grant to Expand Landowner Education in Lakes States**

## ***Wisconsin Coverts Project to Conduct Six Workshops in Next Three Years***

The Ruffed Grouse Society has been awarded a Conservation and Community Partnership Grant under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) forest certification program that will allow the RGS and its partners to increase the impact of its Wisconsin Coverts Project – A Woodland Wildlife Management Program for Private Landowners in the Great Lakes Region.

“Key components of the SFI program are support for research and landowner outreach, and these requirements in our standard have already led to countless benefits in forests and communities across North America,” SFI President and CEO Kathy Abusow stated. “These projects are directly linked to standard requirements and will facilitate partnerships so even more benefits are gained on-the-ground – they will reach far beyond certified lands.”

The Wisconsin Coverts Project enlists and educates coverts cooperators about management opportunities for their land to both generate income and benefit wildlife so they can lead by example and help others better understand their role as land stewards.

According to Mike Zagata, RGS President and CEO, “RGS is pleased to receive this grant that allows the Society and its partners to continue to expand our very successful Wisconsin Coverts Project. Since its inception in 1994, the Wisconsin Coverts Project has conducted 17 workshops and trained 427 Coverts Cooperators that have impacted over 700,000 acres of private land.”

Wisconsin Coverts Partners include the University of Wisconsin – Extension, the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology at UW – Madison, and SFI program participant Louisiana-Pacific US who provided important matching funds for the grant.

According to Jamie Nack, Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology at UW – Madison and Wisconsin Coverts Project Coordinator, “This grant will enable us to reach additional landowners in Minnesota, Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan who will help spread the word on forest and wildlife management to their neighbors and others in their communities. This is one of the few programs in the country that emphasizes wildlife management on private lands or the influence and effect local landowners can have on wildlife populations.”

Stacey Steers, a Coverts Cooperator, has used the information he learned during a Coverts workshop he attended to help him better manage his property and help his neighbors. Steers says, "The Coverts Project is an exceptional educational program. I have never attended a better organized, more informational workshop. Sharing the knowledge with neighbors and friends is another great concept promoted by Coverts. Habitat management doesn't have to stop at a property line and neighbors working together can make a difference."

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## **Michigan DNRE Hosts Open Houses in Gaylord Forest Management Unit**

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) will host open houses on Wednesday, June 30 and Thursday, July 1, to provide information and receive public comment on proposed forest management treatments for 2012 in the Gaylord Management Unit. The June 30 open house will be held from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Indian River Field office for treatments proposed in Cheboygan and Emmet counties. The July 1 open house will be held from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Gaylord Field Office for treatments proposed in Antrim, Charlevoix and Otsego counties.

Each year, DNRE personnel inventory and evaluate one-tenth of the state forest. Information gathered includes the health, quality, and quantity of all vegetation; wildlife and fisheries habitat and needs; archeological sites; minerals; recreational use; wildfire potential and social factors, including proximity to roads and neighborhoods; and use on adjacent lands, public and private. Proposed treatments, which may include timber harvesting, replanting, and other management activities, are designed to ensure the sustainability of the resources and ecosystems.

The open house is an opportunity for the public to review proposed treatments and to provide input toward final decisions on those treatments. It also provides the public an opportunity to talk with foresters and biologists about issues of interest. Maps and information regarding the proposed treatments will be available at the open house, and can be accessed at [www.michigan.gov/dnre](http://www.michigan.gov/dnre); click on Forests, Land & Water, and then on the map of the Gaylord Forest Management Unit.

Each management unit is divided into smaller units or compartments to facilitate better administration of the resources. Compartments under review this year are in Readmond, Center and Springvale townships in Emmet

County; Mackinaw, Grant, Waverly, Ellis, Mentor and Wilmot townships in Cheboygan County; Elmira, Hayes and Charlton townships in Otsego County; Melrose Township in Charlevoix County; and Jordan and Warner townships in Antrim County.

The formal compartment review to decide on prescriptions for these areas is scheduled for 9 a.m. Wednesday, July 28, at the Tuscarora Township Hall in Indian River. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for these meetings should contact Joyce Angel-Ling at 989-732-3541, Ext. 5440.

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## **New Online Tool Helps Plan Your Michigan Hunting or Outdoor Adventure**

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment introduced a new tool for selecting your next hunting, trapping or outdoor recreation spot -- an interactive mapping application called Mi-HUNT ([www.michigan.gov/mihunt](http://www.michigan.gov/mihunt)).

Mi-HUNT is a cutting-edge, Web-based application that allows users to view and navigate through all public lands open to hunting and trapping in Michigan. Mi-HUNT displays multiple layers of information, which can be customized to fit your specific outdoor interests and trip planning needs.

“No matter where you are in Michigan, you can find public land for hunting or trapping,” said DNRE Director Rebecca Humphries. “This sophisticated application is the first of its kind in Michigan and state-of-the-art nationwide, allowing hunters and outdoor enthusiasts to view, print, measure and create custom routing to their desired destinations.”

The interactive layers of Mi-HUNT allow the user to view:

- all state game and wildlife areas, federal land, state forest land and private lands open to hunting and trapping;
  - vegetation types;
  - topography of land;
- recreational facilities such as forest campgrounds, trails, boat launches, and parking areas;
  - aerial photography;
  - street maps and directions.

Mi-HUNT was made possible with a grant from the National Shooting Sports Foundation. The application was developed by the Michigan Department of Information Technology-Center for Shared Solutions using DNRE data.

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# Thanks For All Your Support

Thank you to all the RGS Members and Staff for all the cards, letters, emails, prayers, etc. provided to me and my family as a result of the serious tractor accident I was involved with on May 23rd. Doctors predict a two to three month recovery period, which gives me ample time to get ready for the fall hunting seasons! As the first month of recuperating comes to a close we see great improvements and the outlook is good. I do appreciate the little things a lot more!!! Thanks again for all your support. *GARY*

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## Upcoming RGS Events in the Region

June 27 -- Isaac Walton League Fun Shoot; Washburn, IA.  
Contact Dave Kalkwarf 563-873-1987.

August 10 (Tent.) -- Ironwood, MI Doubles Shoot.  
Contact Will Corcoran 906-932-0210.

August 12 to 15 - First 2010 WI Coverts Workshop, Contact Jamie Nack at 608-265-8264 or email at [jlneck@wisc.edu](mailto:jlneck@wisc.edu).

August 14 -- North Lakeland Chapter Banquet: **NEW RGS CHAPTER!!**  
Winchester, WI. Contact Joe Osfar 715-686-7164.

August 17 -- Twin Cities Chapter Banquet; Minneapolis, MN.  
Contact Terry Lydell 673-434-0303.

August 19 -- John Keener Chapter Banquet; Madison, WI.  
Contact Jim Shurts 608-233-2269.

August 26 -- Chain O' Lakes Chapter Banquet; Eagle River, WI.  
Contact Dan Anderson 715-617-0845.

August 26 to 29 - Second 2010 WI Coverts Workshop, Contact Jamie Nack at 608-265-8264 or email at [jlneck@wisc.edu](mailto:jlneck@wisc.edu).

August 28 -- NE Iowa Chapter Banquet; Dubuque, IA.  
Contact Eric Van Hook 319-361-2827.

August 29 -- Hayward, WI Youth Day, Hayward, WI.  
Contact Phil Johnson 715-558-1664.

Sept 9 -- Northeast WI Chapter Banquet; Green Bay, WI.  
Contact Jim Schuettpelz 920-469-0751.

Sept 11 -- Wilderness Wings Chapter Hunt/Shoot/Banquet; Hayward, WI.  
Contact Phil Johnson 715-558-1664.

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## **Reminder**

**To insure that you continue to receive timely FAN updates please notify me of changes in your email address.**

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Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions:  
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Society  
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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](http://www.ruffedgrousesociety.org).

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