



Chapter Coverts

Chapter Newsletter-Western PA, OH, WV, IN

Winter 2009

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Inaugural Upland Bird Hunt In The Pennsylvania Wilds

The Allegheny and the Allegheny Northwoods Chapters of the Ruffed Grouse Society recently sponsored their first ever Upland Bird Hunt in the PA Wilds. The event was held in the St. Marys area located in northcentral Pennsylvania. The goal of the Chapters was to showcase the beauty of the Pennsylvania Wilds and share it with the visiting Hunters. The

Committee Members welcomed local artisans from the PA Wilds to submit pieces for the event. The Pennsylvania Wilds is a place that values authenticity, the enduring quality of nature and the timeless appeal of



handmade goods. The towns and villages in this region attract artists and artisans who appreciate these values and contribute to the regional identity by creating beautiful and functional items exclusive to the area. The items were exclusive to the PA Upland Bird Hunt.



Frank Yevcak & David Divita, UBH Hunters after a great day in the field

The Chapters welcomed about 57 Hunters from Virginia, Ohio, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, New Jersey, Ohio, Texas and, last but not least, Pennsylvania. A Special "Thank You" to all of the Huntsmen who volunteered their time to showcase the beauty of the PA Grouse Woods.

The evening activities included a "Meet the Artist" night on Friday, Nov 6th and a buffet dinner. The Grand Banquet was held on Saturday, Nov 7th with raffles, write-in and live auctions. The evening events were held at the Red Fern Banquet and Conference Center located in St. Marys.



Hunters, Tim McCall & Rick Filippi
And Clyde Enjoying The PA UBH

The weather was almost perfect for the two days in the field. Flush counts reported were as high as 35 and averaged in the high to low 20's. According to Mark Banker, RGS Senior Wildlife Biologist, "More than 600 grouse flushes were reported in the two days. Most of the hunting was on public lands – Allegheny National Forest, state forests and state game lands - but some very good hunting was also found on commercial timberlands open to public hunting. Only 4 woodcock were flushed during the event and one harvested, suggesting the woodcock had moved on. Several pheasants also gave their lives to the cause".

Congratulations
to the Allegheny and the
Allegheny Northwoods Chapters
for organizing a First Class Event!!



Allegheny & Allegheny Northwoods Committee,
Thanks For A GREAT HUNT!
Photo By: Jennifer Meehan Switzer

Wildlife Leadership Academy Announces PA Drummer Program

The Wildlife Leadership Academy (WLA) facilitated by the Pennsylvania Institute for Conservation Education (PICE) is offering the Pennsylvania Drummer program June 22-26, 2010 for youth ages 14-17. This unique program begins with an intensive residential field school including comprehensive instruction on all things ruffed grouse, and continues as students complete service and leadership projects within their communities throughout the year. PA Drummers will be held at the Powdermill Nature Reserve near Ligonier, Westmoreland County, PA. The Ruffed Grouse Society has worked closely with the PICE and other conservation organizations and agencies to develop the PA Drummer program. Applications are now available for the 2010 field schools. Interested students can download an application by going to www.PICEweb.org and click on the youth program link. This year's application deadline is April 1, 2010. Interested teens and parents can contact program coordinator Michele Kittell at mkittell@piceweb.org or 570-245-8518 or RGS Senior Biologist, Mark Banker at rgsbank@comcast.net or 814-867-7946.

Ruffed Grouse Society & CONSOL Energy Join Forces To Manage Habitat

RGS has been working with CONSOL Energy to work out a cooperative agreement to manage part of CONSOL Energy's forest land holdings in southwest PA. CONSOL Energy based in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, owns tens of thousands of acres of forestland, mainly in Pennsylvania's Washington and Green Counties. Much of this land has the potential to be prime grouse and woodcock habitat with proper management. RGS would be responsible for timber management on selected lands, sharing the revenue from the timber sales with CONSOL. The Washington and Green Counties management will be a pilot project, once the logistics are worked out via the pilot project, the agreement may be expanded to include CONSOL lands in West Virginia and Ohio. This partnership is important as grouse and woodcock populations in the extreme southwestern part of the state have seemed to decline in recent years. CONSOL's forested landholdings are significant enough that a real difference can be made.

The RGS Covered Bridge Chapter welcomed Denny Fredericks, Tim Shivley, CONSOL and Mark Banker, RGS Senior Biologist to the Banquet to announce this pilot project in their back yard.



Ken Popko, CBC Co-Bqt Chairman, Tim Shivley, Denny Fredericks, CONSOL Energy, Mark Banker, RGS Senior Biologist, John Brandstatter, CBC Co-Bqt Chairman & Brian Hanna, CBC Habitat Chairman, in front of pilot project map in Washington & Greene Counties

RGS Chapter Committee Members Celebrate 10 & 20 Years Of Service

The Ruffed Grouse Society would like to thank Mike Weeks who recently celebrated 20 years of service and Jon Little celebrating 10 years of service with the Upper Ohio Valley Chapter, located in St. Clairsville, OH. Thank you both for all of the time, energy and support you have given to the Ruffed Grouse Society. Our Committee Members are what makes RGS!!!



The Ruffed Grouse Society would also like to thank the Wingerter Family, who celebrated 10 years of service at their 2009 Erie, PA Banquet held on September 11th. Dan Wingerter, Sr., Barbra Wingerter, Judy Wingerter and Dan Wingerter, Jr. were all involved with starting this Chapter and still are an instrumental part of it 10 years later. THANK YOU!!!

Perazzi Shotgun Regional Raffle Winner



Congratulations to Rich Suranski the lucky winner of a Perazzi MX20C Over/Under 20-Gauge Shotgun. Rich purchased his ticket at the 2009 Greater Pittsburgh Chapter Banquet. The winning ticket was drawn at the 2009 National Grouse & Woodcock Hunt in Grand Rapids, Minnesota this October. Rich is the Vice President of Estimating, at Stevens Engineers & Constructors, Inc., located in Canonsburg, PA. It was a pleasure to be able to present the Perazzi to Rich at the November 12th Covered Bridge Banquet which is held in Canonsburg, PA. Rich has been an active supporter of the Ruffed Grouse Society for many years and participates in several local banquets -- Pittsburgh, Greensburg and Washington -- to name a few. It was an honor to award the Perazzi to Rich because he has given so much to RGS! Congratulations, Rich!!



Check Out the RGS Store On Line— RGS Mart— **Christmas Is Just Around the Corner**

You will find the perfect Christmas gift for the hunter and outdoorsman on your Christmas list. How about an RGS Membership as a gift for the hard-to-buy-for person on your list. If you purchase a gift membership during this holiday season, you will receive a \$10 Cabela's gift card for yourself (while supplies last). RGS Membership includes the RGS Magazine and invitations to all local events in your area. **This gift of an RGS Membership will keep on giving all year long!!**



RGS Spring 2010 Banquet/Event Season

The hunting season is winding down and the Holidays are on their way. A great way to celebrate the upcoming holidays is to attend an RGS event in your area. Invite a friend to attend, also. Mark your calendar and make plans to join us. Below are listings of upcoming events in our region. For more information check the RGS website at www.RuffedGrouseSociety.org

February 5th—Greensburg, PA Banquet
Contact: Lisa 724-693-9032 or rslmt@msn.com

February 20th—Lancaster, OH Banquet
Contact: Terry 740-569-4457

February 20th—Franklin, PA Fun Shoot
Contact: Steve 814-437-1290



March 13th—Clarksburg, WV Banquet
Contact: Lisa 724-693-9032 or rslmt@msn.com

March 20th—Cincinnati, OH Event
Contact: Jeff 513-324-1334 or jrhinock@fuse.net



March 20th—Franklin, PA Banquet
Contact: David 814-226-5574 or dgalbreath@zoominternet.net

March 27th—Meadville, PA Banquet
Contact: Joyce 814-382-1905

April 9th—Pittsburgh, PA Banquet
Contact: Lisa 724-693-9032 or rslmt@msn.com

If you don't see your local event on the above list, please check the RGS website at www.RuffedGrouseSociety.org Some banquet dates have not been finalized yet. For More Information check the RGS website

**Check out the NEW RGS website www.ruffedgrousesociety.org
What do you think??-- Please send me your thoughts suggestions and
comments rslmt@msn.com**





The Brood-Cast—Attn: RGS Committee Members

I would first like to wish all of you a very Happy and Safe Holiday Season, they will be here before we know it. I have had the opportunity to meet with some of you already and have begun planning our 2010 Banquet or Event. I am looking forward to meeting with all of you and working toward a GREAT 2010 season. RGS has many new ideas for 2010 and I look forward to discussing them personally with all of you at our next Committee Meeting.

One Great Idea is RGS has introduced a new **banquet ticket for 2010: the Family/Household Membership**, this includes an RGS Membership for each attending household Member. What a great way to introduce your children and spouse to RGS and to conservation. We encourage all Members to bring their spouse and children to an RGS banquet. An increase in membership will ensure our success, assist us in securing grants, increase advertising rates and give us a bigger pool of potential volunteers, donors, and future leaders. To accomplish this we will now require that all banquet attendees become RGS members. Offering a new family membership where each family member becomes a member with one magazine going out to the family. Instead of \$25 each for all family members attending an event the cost will be \$40 and cover all family members. Those attending will also need to pay for their dinner. Hopefully this will lead to an increase in attendance as well membership numbers. We need to emphasize the cost savings and benefits to the family membership as we solicit attendees to our events.

RGS will be budgeting money for projects and that chapters with successful events will be able to keep some of what they raise in a “Drummer Fund” for statewide projects.

All of these new ideas will dovetail with our current banquet fundraisers and allow us to fund more projects nationally and locally through our chapters working to raise the funds. Stay tuned for more news and please share any new ideas you may have as we meet to start the planning for our 2010 banquet season. Give it a try—It Really Works!

Don't Forget the **2009/2010 RGS National Raffle Model 21 Baby Frame 28-Gauge Shotgun, Made Famous by Winchester Raffle Tickets Make Great Christmas Gifts!!** If you would like to order tickets, please contact Lisa Rossi 724-693-9032 or rslmt@msn.com (Raffle details are listed below)



NEW-- 2009/2010 RGS National Raffle

Model 21 Baby Frame 28-Gauge Shotgun Made Famous by Winchester

Tickets-\$100.00 Each—Up To 1,500 Tickets Will Be Sold Winner To Be Drawn June 30, 2010

If you would like to order ticket please contact Lisa Rossi 724-693-9032 or rslmt@msn.com (To Order Please print below order form)

If you are interested in starting an RGS Chapter in your area I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you. If you did have an active RGS chapter in your area but it no longer exists, and you would be willing to donate your time I need your help. I am asking all current RGS members to consider becoming involved with their local chapter or start a new active chapter in your area. If this is of interest to you, please contact me. The Society is looking toward the future and our future is our Members. The Members who make things happen are called Committee Members. If you would like to become an RGS Committee Member please contact: Lisa M. Rossi, RGS Regional Director 724-693-9032 or e-mail rslmt@msn.com.



RGS Committee Member Make Things Happen—Become Part Of The Process-Join An RGS Committee In Your Are

Regional Chronicle -- Snapshots From Our Region

Below are some of the photos received from the Members in our region. If you have some hunting/sportsmen photos you would like to share please e-mail them to rgslmt@msn.com also include a brief description of the photo and I will try to include them in this new section in our regional electronic newsletter.

The Erie, PA Chapter at work,
 "How many Committee Members does
 It take to put the flatware set in the box?"



Larry Souleret's hunting
 buddy Chase with his First
 Pennsylvania Grouse on Saturday,
 Nov 14th in Venango County.
 Chase pointed the bird,
 the bird held, Larry
 flushed it and shot
 it and last but not least
 Chase made a nice
 retrieve to hand.



Huntsman, Gary Gross Form the Erie, PA
 Chapter, helping with the UBH,



Upland Bird In The PA Wilds
 Ticket Chairman, Mary Hosmer,
 all smiles welcoming Hunters
 and Huntsmen to the event



Thank You UBH Huntsmen!!
 Photo By: Jennifer Meehan Switzer



I am looking to post on the news letter some of your outdoor photos, Ruffed Grouse & Woodcock hunting photos, fishing, hiking, camping. What were the RGS Committee Members doing over the summer months in our region? E-mail your photo with a brief description and share with other Committee Members-- e-mail to rgslmt@msn.com

National News

Have you seen us lately?

Brand New Website Generates Growing Interest

RGS recently launched a complete revision of our website, www.ruffedgrousesociety.org. News updates, regional sporting events, exciting raffles and detailed information about habitat work are now in a format that is easier to read, navigate and explore. Great RGS merchandise, along with special deals on high-end shotguns, are available by clicking the “Shop RGS” tab on the homepage. Check us out today – and take your grouse hunting to the next level.

Centurion Member Wins Kimber

Charles Hulbert of Tewksbury, Massachusetts recently became a Centurion member and won a Kimber Valier Grade II shotgun.

For every 10 new Centurions that join the Ruffed Grouse Society a raffle is held and a Kimber – or comparable shotgun – is awarded to the winner. To learn about becoming a Centurion, which begins at the \$1,000 donation level, call our membership department at 412-262-4044.

2010 National Raffle

Win a Model 21 “Baby Frame” 28-Gauge Shotgun first made famous by Winchester

This one of a kind gun features 28” barrels, choked IC/M with two beads, a straight English stock crafted from AAA fancy feathercrotch walnut to a checkered butt, and a 14 ½” LOP. The approximate retail value is \$32,000.

If you’re interested in a chance to win this gun, tickets are \$100.00 and can be purchased through your local Regional Director or by contacting RGS headquarters at 412-262-4044. Up to 1,500 tickets will be sold.

Last year’s National Raffle winner, James Farrell, won the upland bird dream hunt, which included attending the National Grouse and Woodcock Hunt in Grand Rapids, Minnesota this past October.

New England Wildlife Biologist Joins RGS Team

Andrew P. Weik joined the Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS) as New England regional wildlife biologist, and will begin his work in the new year. Weik will be responsible for implementing on-the-ground forest management, landowner and land manager education programs throughout New England.

Weik’s extensive experience includes five years with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s (USFWS) Northeast Region at Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge. Moosehorn is the only national wildlife refuge dedicated to woodcock management. His work at Moosehorn, along with his lengthy work history in various wildlife programs, makes Weik a superior fit for the RGS position.

One specific project that Weik hopes to see through to conclusion this year is the revision of the RGS publication, “A Woodcock in the Hand” (Sepik, 1994). The booklet is unique in that it details tips on examining, aging, and sexing American woodcock as well as information on population monitoring and conservation. Though currently out of print, the need and interest in the booklet have not waned.

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Model 21 Baby Frame 28-Gauge Shotgun Made Famous by Winchester

Tickets-\$100.00 Each—Up To 1,500 Tickets Will Be Sold Winner To Be Drawn June 30, 2010

If you would like to order ticket please contact Lisa Rossi 724-693-9032 or rgslmt@msn.com
(To Order, please print order form below)

**Ruffed Grouse Society
2009-2010
National Raffle**



To purchase raffle tickets contact
Lisa Rossi, Regional Director

724-693-9032 or rgslmt@msn.com

or Mail Coupon To:

RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY
215 Marshall Road
Oakdale, PA 15071

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

_____ Tickets @\$100.00 Each =

\$_____ Total Enclosed

CHECK (Payable to RGS) CASH

CREDIT CARD

CC # _____

Exp. Date _____

Billing Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____

**Model 21
Baby Frame
28-Gauge
Shotgun**

*(A gun first made famous
by Winchester)*

This one of a kind gun features 28" barrels choked IC/M with two beads, a straight English stock crafted from AAA fancy feathercrotch walnut to a checkered butt, and a 14 1/2" LOP.

The DAH is 2 3/8", DAC is 1 1/2", pitch is 5° and the cast is neutral.

The beavertail forend has an ebony insert in the tip. It has a single selective trigger and the RGS logo is engraved in gold on the bottom of the receiver.

Approximate retail value:

\$32,000.



**Winner to be drawn on
June 30, 2010**
at RGS headquarters in
Coraopolis, Pennsylvania.

**Winner responsible for applicable taxes.*

**Donation for each ticket is \$100.00.
Up to 1,500 tickets to be sold.**



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Established in 1961, 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.

Information on the RGS, its mission, management projects and membership can be found on the web at:
www.ruffedgrousesociety.org

Please forward this on to your friends. If you have someone that wishes to receive this, have them e-mail me their address. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to post information that fits this newsletter----rgslmt@msn.com

