



# Chapter Coverts

Chapter Newsletter—Western PA, OH, WV, IN, GA

## Winter, 2010

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## 2010 Allegheny Chapter Upland Bird Hunt In The Pennsylvania Wilds

The Allegheny Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society recently welcomed 60 Hunters and 30 Huntsmen from all over our region, some attendants came from Ohio, Virginia, Maryland, New York and Pennsylvania to the 2010 Upland Bird Hunt in the PA Wilds. The event began on Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup> with a welcome reception at the beautiful Red Fern Conference Center located in Kersey, PA. The Allegheny Chapter once again organized a great event showcasing the beauty of the Pennsylvania Wilds and sharing it with their guest, the visiting Hunters and Huntsmen.



RGS was very honored to have as the Upland Bird Hunt 2010 feature artist, Al Dronisch, a self-taught painter and naturalist, living in Ridgway, Pennsylvania with his wife Carol. Al has spent the past 67 or 68 years developing his art and studying the world's wild creatures and the out-of-

doors. Al and his wife Carol were our special guest at the UBH Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup> "Meet The Artist" event. Al created a stunning original featured in the UBH live auction, a female woodcock sitting in the grass with a male woodcock coming in over head on his pent flight. Other local artisans from the PA Wilds submitted pieces for the event, these items were exclusive to the UBH



Dave Shackelford, Bill Hasely, Ron Frazier, and Adam Hostetler with Bill's Clyde and Ron's Shadow At the UBH



UBH Committee Member and Huntsmen, Gary Gross, sharing some stories by the fire with Huntsmen, Tim Switzer

The weather on Friday was a bit wet and cold with some scattered snow showers to deal with in the field. According to Mark Banker, RGS Senior Wildlife Biologist, "About 620 grouse flushes were reported in the two days with 40 harvested." 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. Twelve woodcock were flushed during the event and two harvested.

Jay Launer attended the UBH as a youth hunter, thanks to the generosity of Mr. Emil Liddell of West Virginia. Emil attended the UBH last year, had a fantastic time, but couldn't come this year. So, he graciously donated the registration fee to the UBH Committee so a deserving youth could experience the UBH!!!! Jay shot his first woodcock ever! Randy Sadler was Jay's huntsman, the dog they hunters over is Willow. Jay just turned 16 years old. Thanks Emil you have helped create a future Grouse Hunter!!



Jay Launer with his first Woodcock, shot at the UBH



2010 UBH Committee: (L to R) Dave Nesbitt; Mary Hosmer; Jeff Yeager; Chris Yeager; Gary Gross  
Photo By: Jennifer Meehan Switzer

*Thank you* to all of the Hunters who attended and a *Special "Thank You"* to all of the Huntsmen who volunteered their time to showcase the beauty of the PA Grouse Woods—UBH Committee

## Regional AYA Model # 2 Side By Side 20-Gauge Shotgun Raffle Winner



Michael Benson,  
Athens OH Bqt

*Congratulations* to Walter Stoecklein the lucky winner of the AYA Model #2 Side By Side 20-Gauge Shotgun. Walter purchased his ticket at the Greater Pittsburgh Area Chapter Sportsmen Banquet on April 9, 2010. The winning ticket was drawn at the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Hocking River Valley Chapter Banquet, by Michael Benson, in Athens, Ohio on November 19, 2010. Walter has attended the Pittsburgh banquet for many years and is an RGS Life Sponsor. Thank you to all of the Members who purchased a ticket, but unfortunately there can only be one winner, Congratulations, Walter!!

# The Covered Bridge Chapter 2010 Conservation Award



The Ruffed Grouse Society Covered Bridge Chapter presented their 2010 Conservation Award to Dennis Fredericks, Manager-Conservation Properties and Activities CONSOL Energy, at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Sportsmen's Banquet held on Thursday, November 11, 2010 at the Bella Sera by Gerco's. This award was presented to Denny for his commitment and dedication to habitat improvement in Western Pennsylvania. Denny played a key role in the cooperative project between the Society and CONSOL Energy. This project includes a core area of 7,000 acres, but has expanded to include other special projects where Forest needs to be managed, one new opportunity is a 17000-acre project designed to establish quail population on a landscape owned by CONSOL Energy in Greene County. Thank you to Denny and Evan Magai, Director – Properties & Assets for CONSOL Energy, for their support.



Front Row: Dennis Frederick; Second Row: Dave Levy, Mark Kenney, Scott Thompson, Bruce Barnhart, John Brandstatter, Larry Souleret, Brian Hanna; Back Row: Mark Banker, Rob Keddie, Kenn Popko

## 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!!**



# The North Central West Virginia Chapter Is Keeping Busy And Looking For Help From RGS Members!!

## Hunters & Conservationists To Meet & Greet

The North Central West Virginia Chapter located in the Clarksburg, Fairmont and Elkins, West Virginia area held an informational meeting in Tuesday, September 14, 2010 at the DNR



Frank Jezioro, Director Of WV DNR delivering his message at the North Central WV Chapter Meet & Greet

Building in Elkins, WV. There was a presentation on Grouse in West Virginia by Bill Igo, West Virginia DNR Biologist. We also heard from Frank Jezioro, Director of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. The meeting was a success with about 20 RGS Members in attendance.



Committee Members: (L to R) Steve Harris, Jim Bower, Jim Toothman, Mike Metzner, Maxine Metzner, Frank Jezioro, Dave Truban

## 2010 Chapter Fun Shoot



The North Central West Virginia does not like to let any moss grow under their feet they keep busy. Their 2010 Fun Shoot was held on Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at the West Virginia Sportsmen & Firearms Association located in Fairmont, West Virginia. The Chapter has held this event for the last few years as a fun shoot, trying to get to new Members involved with RGS and become more active. It was a beautiful October day about 18 shooters came out to practice. Thank you to all that supported the shoot and a Special Thank You to the Committee who organized this fun event. If you would like to be part of the NCWV Committee you would more than welcome. We will be planning our upcoming banquet very soon and are looking for help. If you are interested please feel free to contact Lisa Rossi 724-693-9032 or e-mail [rqlmt@msn.com](mailto:rqlmt@msn.com)





## 2010-2011 National Raffle Special Raffle To Celebrate RGS's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary *Three Chances To Win!!*

The 2010-2011 Ruffed Grouse Society National Raffle has been designed to celebrate the Ruffed Grouse Society's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. RGS turns 50 in 2011!! **THREE LUCKY WINNERS** will walk away with a fine shotgun.

The first gun is a **Remington Model 1100 "F" Grade Semi-Auto 28-Gauge Shotgun**, exhibition-grade wood, skeet choke, hand-engraved by Remington's master engraver Don Talbot with two ruffed grouse on left side two woodcock on right side, and RGS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo on top of the receiver. Unique, one of a kind Serial #RGS50 (Retail Value: \$9,000.00).

Number two is a **Caesar Guerini RGS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative APEX, over/under 28-Gauge Shotgun**, 28" barrel length, hand engraved grouse on trigger guard, "RGS" above, "1961-2011" below – one of a kind. (Retail Value: \$7850.00).

Our final gun in this raffle is **Kimber Valier Grade II, Side-by-Side 20-Gauge Shotgun**, 28" barrel length. This Kimber is the last one available through RGS. (Retail Value: \$5,000.00) Donation for each ticket is \$100.00; Only 1000 tickets will be sold.

The **WINNERS WILL BE DRAWN ON JUNE 30, 2011** at The Ruffed Grouse Society Headquarters in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania. We expect this raffle to sell out quickly, so don't miss out on a great opportunity to help out your local Chapter and you may walk away with a fabulous shotgun. **Only 1000 TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE.** These odds are in your favor, if you would like to purchase a ticket please use the order form included in this newsletter and your local Chapter will receive credit for your purchase.

## The Erie Chapter 2010 Sportsmen's Banquet Offer Live Entertainment

Thank you to "LT and the HB's" for volunteering to provide entertainment for our guest during the cocktail hour for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Erie, PA Chapter Sportsmen's Banquet held on Thursday evening, September 9<sup>th</sup> at the Erie Maennerchor Club. It was a great way to welcome Members to our event.





# Welcome New Biologists

## Minnesota Position:

Ted Dick is now the ruffed grouse habitat coordinator for Minnesota a position that was created through a partnership between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Ruffed Grouse Society. Ted is off and running and already getting his feet wet in the grouse woods. Ted can be contacted at the DNR's office in Aitkin, Minnesota by phone at 218-927-6915 ext. 250 or by email at [Ted.Dick@state.mn.us](mailto:Ted.Dick@state.mn.us) .

## Ohio, Indiana & Michigan Position:

Soon to arrive and fill a biologist position vacant for several years in the Society's Eastern Great Lakes Region (Michigan, Indiana and Ohio) will be Larry Visser, formerly of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources & Environment. Planned startup date for Larry is January 1, 2011. Contact information will be forthcoming for Larry.



# Projects In Our Region

## CONSOL PILOT PROJECT

We've sold our first timber sale on the CONSOL Pilot project and have several more on the way. We have been asked to handle selling timber on a 1700 acre tract (800+/- acres of forest) outside of the pilot project that is a Quail Reintroduction/Grouse/Woodcock/WHIP project on CONSOL lands that includes the PGC as the lead agency, Quail Unlimited, NRCS, and MEPCO mining company. RGS keeps all of the timber proceeds on this particular project. Quail will be transplanted from Illinois after the habitat gets where they want it. Woodcock should be plentiful in the vast brushlands we will create. Grouse will move in later when things get bigger.

## SOMERSET TIMBER TRACT

Things continue well at the Somerset Timber Tract. They are about to cut the last block of a 130 acre sale and the consultants will begin marking another sale very soon.

## WAYNE NATIONAL FOREST

This year's coop project on the Wayne NF ended in September. Things went very smoothly this year relative to the last two. Even though we had to replace the air conditioner, we had far less maintenance and repair issues this year than previous years. We hope to move the machine to the Canaan Valley after we wrap in Ohio to continue that WHIP project there. If not, that will continue this winter.

## ***Celebrate the Ruffed Grouse Society's 50th Anniversary***

Announcing the Pre-Sale Of This Limited Collector's Edition 50th Anniversary Publication Of The Ruffed Grouse Society \$14.95 Issue Price. **Orders Received By December 10<sup>th</sup> Using Coupon Code RuffGr810 = Special Price of \$10.00 plus \$2 shipping.**

***Great Christmas gift for the RGS Member on your Christmas List!!***



# Ruffed Grouse Society Disappointed With Federal Ruling

Decision could threaten hunting on all federal lands

The Ruffed Grouse Society is sincerely disappointed with a recent federal court ruling regarding recreation on the Huron-Manistee National Forest in central Michigan; noting that it sets a troubling precedent that could pose a threat to hunting on all of our federal lands.

The ruling by the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals states that the Forest must consider banning gun hunting on 66,000 acres of areas designated as "Semiprimitive". The ruling questions whether hunting is a compatible use of these areas given that Forest Plan direction states that users will find a "high probability of experiencing isolation from the sights and sounds of humans." The following quote from the ruling is disappointing as it paints hunters and hunting in a very negative light – "And so, in striking a balance between competing uses of the Forests, one might expect the Service seriously to consider whether, say, birdwatchers in fall should be able to enjoy their pastime, in 6.75 percent of the Forests, without ducking for the occasional gunshot."

Part of the court's rationale for this ruling is that the Forest failed to consider land management direction (banning gun hunting on the Semiprimitive areas) that would minimize the duplication of recreational opportunity when considering state lands in Michigan. Because gun hunting is allowed on virtually all state lands, the court suggests that the Forest should have considered banning gun hunting on the Semiprimitive areas. This portion of the ruling could force federal agencies to consider restricting gun hunting to accommodate quiet pursuits in regions where other public lands open to hunting are abundant.

According to Mike Zagata, RGS President and CEO, "The potential ramifications to hunting of this unfortunate court decision are huge. The court is suggesting that the mere sound of a gunshot is incompatible with other public uses of our public lands. In addition, the court fails to recognize that with the exception of spring turkey hunting, the vast majority of hunters are afield in the fall well after the prime period for birdwatching has passed and well before cross-country ski and snowshoe enthusiasts take to the woods. This decision could well be the single greatest threat to hunting on our federal public lands in recent memory, and RGS plans to enlist the support of its members and volunteers to oppose it."

The Court has given the Huron-Manistee 90 days to revise its Forest Plan to address the issues raised in this ruling. RGS will continue to coordinate the involvement of other leading wildlife conservation organizations to address the threats posed by this court decision and to protect the right of hunters to pursue their passion on their public lands.

## **Contact:**

Dan Dessecker, RGS Director of Conservation Policy.

Phone: 715-234-8302.

E-mail: [rgsdess@chibardun.coop](mailto:rgsdess@chibardun.coop)

# RGS Spring 2011 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](http://www.RuffedGrouseSociety.org)

## February 4<sup>th</sup>—Greensburg, PA Banquet

Contact: Lisa 724-693-9032 or [rgslmt@msn.com](mailto:rgslmt@msn.com)



## February 19<sup>th</sup>—Lancaster, OH Banquet

Contact: Terry 740-569-4457

## February 19<sup>th</sup>—Franklin, PA Fun Shoot

Contact: Steve 814-437-1290



## March 12<sup>th</sup>—Clarksburg, WV Banquet

Contact: Lisa 724-693-9032 or [rgslmt@msn.com](mailto:rgslmt@msn.com)

## March 19<sup>th</sup>—Franklin, PA Banquet

Contact: David 814-226-5574 or [dgalbreath@zoominternet.net](mailto:dgalbreath@zoominternet.net)

## March 26<sup>th</sup>—Meadville, PA Banquet

Contact: Joyce 814-382-1905

## April 1<sup>th</sup>—Pittsburgh, PA Banquet

Contact: Lisa 724-693-9032 or [rgslmt@msn.com](mailto:rgslmt@msn.com)



If you don't see your local event on the above list, please check the RGS website at [www.RuffedGrouseSociety.org](http://www.RuffedGrouseSociety.org) some banquet dates have not been finalized yet. For More Information check the RGS website

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 existed, 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 [rgslmt@msn.com](mailto:rgslmt@msn.com)

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



## 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 2011 Banquet or Event. I am looking forward to meeting with all

Here is an update on the **2010 RGS Drumming Fund**. As mentioned many times before the Drumming Fund is a great tool to get money on the ground for habitat. The Drumming Fund Chapter works on a scale. If your banquet nets between \$8,000. up to \$19,999: 10% of your net it will be placed into a statewide "Drummer Fund" to fund habitat projects. Chapters whose banquet nets between \$20,000 up to \$49,999: 15% of their net it will be placed into a statewide "Drummer Fund" to fund habitat projects. Chapter whose banquet nets \$50,000.00 or over: 20% of their net will be placed into a statewide "Drummer Fund" to fund habitat projects.

In addition, there are four other ways that money will be directed into that Fund: 1) If the chapter signs up a Life sponsor, \$2,500 of that Sponsorship will go to the Drummer Fund. 2) RGS will be sending out letters at the end of each year seeking donations. A person's State Drummer Fund will be one of three categories that one can donate to. At the end of each banquet, RGS will hand out envelopes to the attendees giving them an opportunity to donate to either the RUFF campaign or the state's Drummer Fund. 3) If a person in your state makes a large donation earmarked for habitat work, that donation will go into your State's Drummer Fund and the chapters can raise funds to match it. 4) If you chapter has a successful banquet, then your chapter may elect to hold additional fundraisers, like raffles, to raise additional money. Your chapter may keep up to \$2,500 from each such fundraiser and can use it for projects consist with RGS' mission. RGS is trying to take steps to provide more funds for projects. Money earned in 2010 will be spent in 2011 so that we can be certain we have it before it is spent.

### Below is the current information in our Region's State Drumming Funds:

**\$ 3,918.00 Western Allegheny Chapter-Greensburg, PA 15% Contribution**  
**\$ 804.00 Ohio Hills Chapter-Lancaster, OH 10% Contribution**  
**\$ 1,832.00 Gilbert R. Symons Chapter-Cincinnati, OH 10% Contribution**  
**\$ 978.00 Allegheny Northwoods Chapter-Franklin, PA 10% Contribution**  
**\$18,645.00 Greater Pittsburgh Chapter-Pittsburgh, PA 20% Contribution**  
**\$ 726.00 Neshannock Creek Chapter-New Wilmington, PA 10% Contribution**  
**\$ 3,043.00 Georgia Chapter-Atlanta, GA 15% Contribution**

**The November Banquets/Events are in the process of being updated so their Drumming Funds amounts are not available, yet. I will pass on those numbers as soon as they are available.**  
**A JOB WELL DONE—CONGRATULATIONS!!**

**How projects to be funded via the Drummer Fund will be determined?** In 2007, RGS asked its biologists to establish a mechanism for evaluating projects suitable for funding. That mechanism is in place and will be used to rank projects submitted for funding.

**How the money retained by RGS for the chapters will be accounted for?** Each chapter will have its own account at RGS and may, at any time, ask for an accounting of its funds.

### **NEW-- 2010/2011 RGS National Raffle--Three Winners**

**Remington Model 1100 "F" Grade 28-Ga Shotgun**

**Caesar Guerini RSG 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative APEX**

**Kimber Valier Grade II, Side By Side 20-Ga. Shotgun**

**Tickets-\$100.00 Each—Up To 1,000 Tickets Will Be Sold; Winner To Be Drawn June 30, 2011**

If you would like to order ticket(s) please contact Lisa Rossi 724-693-9032 or [rgslmt@msn.com](mailto:rgslmt@msn.com).

(To Order Please print below order form)

# 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](mailto:rgslmt@msn.com) also include a brief description of the photo and I will try to include them in this section in our regional electronic newsletter.

**Scott Thompson, RGS Covered Bridge Chapter Committee Member, With His Gang, Daughter Elizabeth, Saber, Kimber & Scout, Watching Saturday Morning Hunting Shows**



**Trevor Thomas Age 6 years old from the Ohio Hills Chapter With his First Squirrel Shot With His Grandfather Terry Borah, Jr., CONGRATULATIONS TREVOR!!**

**Mark Banker, RGS Senior Biologist Checking In Birds At The 2010 Allegheny Chapter Upland Bird Hunt In The PA Wilds, early November Photo By: Jennifer Meehan Switzer**



**Steve Oliver From Sandy Lake, PA Shown With His Piebald Grouse Taken In The Allegheny National Forest North Of Marienville, PA On November 5, 2010 Photo By: Jennifer Meehan Switzer**

**RGS Covered Bridge Chapter Members, (R to L) Woody Lesnett, Committee Member Bruce Barnhart & Committee Member Brian Hanna enjoying a hunting trip this fall in Michigan.**




**I am looking to post on the news letter some of your outdoors photos, Ruffed Grouse & Woodcock hunting photos, fishing, hiking camping. What are the RGS Committee Members doing in our region? E-mail your photo with a brief description and share with other Committee Members-- e-mail to [rgslmt@msn.com](mailto:rgslmt@msn.com)**

**NEW-- 2010/2011 RGS National Raffle--Three Winners**

**Tickets-\$100.00 Each—Up To 1,000 Tickets Will Be Sold; Winner To Be Drawn June 30, 2011**

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

# Ruffed Grouse Society





2010 - 2011  
**NATIONAL RAFFLE**  
THREE CHANCES TO WIN


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**REMINGTON MODEL 1100 "F" GRADE**  
Semi-auto 28-gauge, exhibition-grade wood, skeet choke, hand-engraved by Remington's master engraver Don Talbot with two ruffed grouse on left side, two woodcock on right side, and RGS 50th Anniversary logo on top of receiver. Unique, only one made - Serial #RGS50 Retail Value: \$9,000

Gun or Productor Engraving Donata Talbot









**CAESAR GUERINI**  
RGS 50th Anniversary Commemorative APEX  
Over-and-under 28-gauge, 28" barrel length hand-engraved grouse on trigger guard, "RGS" above, "1961-2011" below - one of a kind Retail Value: \$7,850

Actual Gun Not Returned





**KIMBER VALIER GRADE II**  
Side-by-side 20-gauge, 28" barrel length. Last one available through RGS. Retail Value: \$5,000

Donation for each ticket is \$100. Up to 1,000 tickets to be sold. Drawing on June 30, 2011 at RGS HQ in Ceraopolis, PA. First ticket wins Remington. Second ticket wins Guerini. Third ticket wins Kimber. Winners responsible for applicable taxes.

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**To purchase raffle tickets, mail coupon to: Lisa Rossi, Regional Director  
Ruffed Grouse Society - 215 Marshall Road - Oakdale, PA 15071  
or call 724-693-9032 or e-mail: [rgslmt@msn.com](mailto:rgslmt@msn.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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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](mailto:rgslmt@msn.com).



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](http://www.ruffedgrousesociety.org)

