



# Regional Director Info

**Winter 2011**

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## 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 Store—Go On Line For Christmas Gifts

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!!**

**Christmas Is Just Around the Corner**



## 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 is 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.

## **UPDATE ON RGS STATE DRUMMER FUNDS**

Here is an update on the **2010 RGS Drummer Fund**. As mentioned many times before the Drummer Fund is a great tool to get money on the ground for habitat. The Drummer Fund Chapter works on a scale. If your banquet nets between \$7,001 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 your 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 consistent 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. In the first year of RGS' new program to share banquet revenue with the chapters about \$125,000 was raised for the states' Drummer Funds to support Habitat Projects. We will be working in 2011 to get all of the MN, MO, and other chapters to increase their revenue so they raise more for their Drummer Funds - attendance, donations and sponsors are the key!

**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.

### *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 RuffGrs810 = Special Price of \$10.00 plus \$2 shipping.**

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



## **Welcome New Biologists – We Now Are Running At Full Speed!**

### **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.

## **RGS Spring 2011 Banquet/Event Season**

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 26, 2011—Fairbanks, AK Banquet---**Contact: Mark Fouts 715-399-2270

**March 4, 2011—Duluth/Superior, MN Banquet**----Contact: Dave Larson 218-722-9676

**March 12<sup>th</sup> 2011—Seattle, WA Banquet**----Contact: Bob Olson 425-649-5194

**March 19, 2011—Herman, MO Banquet**----Contact: Tom Westhoff 573-929-3636

**March 25, 2011—International Falls, MN Banquet**----Contact: Jim Dornhecker 218-283-2229

**March 31, 2011—Bemidji, MN Banquet**----Contact: Clyde Horlick 218-751-9130

**April 9, 2011—Anchorage, AK Banquet**----Contact: Mike Griffin 907-257-6971

**April 14, 2011—Grand Rapids, MN Banquet**----Contact: Marty Neiwind 218-244-1333

**April 21, 2011—Virginia, MN Banquet**----Contact: Bernie Knutson 218-741-9115

**May 3, 2011—St. Cloud, MN Banquet**----Contact: Mark Fouts 715-399-2454

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.

Pease 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 --- [rgsfouts@centurytel.net](mailto:rgsfouts@centurytel.net).



**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 Side 20-Ga. Shotgun**

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

If you would like to order ticket(s), please contact Mark D. Fouts 715-399-2270 or [rgsfouts@centurytel.net](mailto:rgsfouts@centurytel.net).

(To Order Please print below order form)

# Ruffed Grouse Society



2010 - 2011

## NATIONAL RAFFLE

THREE CHANCES TO WIN

### 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



*Guns in Production  
Excluding Skeets, Pistols*



### 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 Pistol*

### 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 Coraopolis, PA. First ticket wins Remington. Second ticket wins Guerini. Third ticket wins Kimber. Winner responsible for applicable taxes.

To purchase raffle tickets, mail coupon to: Mark Fouts, Director of Regional Operations  
Ruffed Grouse Society - 8154 South Dowling Lake Road W - Superior, WI 54880  
or call 715-399-2270 or e-mail: rgsfouts@centurytel.net

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 \_\_\_\_\_



## --NEW Committee Members

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: Mark Fouts, RGS Director Of Regional Operations 715-399-2270 or e-mail [rgsfouts@centurytel.net](mailto:rgsfouts@centurytel.net).



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

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 [rgsfouts@centurytel.net](mailto:rgsfouts@centurytel.net).

#### **Ruffed Grouse Society National Office**

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#### **Director of Regional Operations:**

**Mark Fouts**

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***“MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL”  
and have a safe  
Holiday Season***



**Thank you for your continued support!!!**

**Mark D. Fouts  
Director Of Regional Operations  
Ruffed Grouse Society  
715-399-2270  
[rgsfouts@centurytel.net](mailto:rgsfouts@centurytel.net)**

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)