



# News from the Drumming Log

**December 2010**

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## **Local News**

### **RD's Message:**

The fall banquet season proved to be a very good one here in Michigan. This is due to a positive attitude and re-dedication to banquet management. A renewed dedication to increasing membership, sponsorships, and donations was key to the success we enjoyed.

Hopefully everyone was able to get out and enjoy the fruits of our labor as the forests provided the setting to pursue and harvest grouse and woodcock which were in good numbers across Michigan. Good friends and dog work make this the best time of the year and all of the hard work is rewarded when you are afield with your dogs and hunting buddies.

This is a time for giving thanks and celebrating friends, families, and all that we are blessed with. As we move towards the Christmas season remember the greatest gift we can give is our time, efforts and resources to ensure that the forests and wildlife we love will be here again in the new year and time to come. The year 2011 brings with it a chance to really make some strides for early successional forests, grouse, woodcock and all of the plants and animals we enjoy and depend on.

From myself, my wife Phyllis, daughter Hailey and my English Setter Pete comes a wish for you and yours to have the merriest of Christmas seasons and the happiest of new years!

**Bruce Wojcik**  
rgsbruce@comcast.net  
517-668-6294

## **Chapter News**

**The fall has been a busy time afield for many chapters. Numerous shoots both fun and competitive, adult and youth oriented have provided much recreation. The following is a sampling of some of the events and locales:**

**Greater Southeast MI – 8 September, a great kickoff just before the start of the bird season. Chapter Chairman Jeff Clyma was awarded the Super Recruiter award for RGS 2010!**

**Le Grand Traverse 11 Sep – A fantastic dinner with great advances made across the board. The chapter was awarded the top recruiter Chapter for 2010.**

**Jim Foote Chapter, Gaylord 11 Sep – Annual Dog Trial**

**Eastern Upper Peninsula Chapter, St. Ignace 11 Sep Youth Day with great activities including shooting and dog work.**

**Andy Ammann Chapter, Lansing 11 Sep Annual Dog trial**

**Northwoods Chapter, Crystal Falls 7 October – Many folks traveled to the UP for this great dinner and beautiful colors and bird hunting.**

**Al Litzemberger Chapter, Petoskey 8 October. Another super dinner and a fantastic bird hunt with the committee and banquet attendees the following morning.**

**Thunder Bay Chapter, Alpena 20 October – The annual “Steak Fry” at the Doctor’s Hunt Club. What a great chance to see this famous club and grounds.**

**All of the fall activities culminated at the 2010 RGS Michigan Gun Dog of the Year completion Sunday, 26 November. The Robert J. Lytle Chapter hosted the event this year, and what a job they did. Chairpersons Lori and Brian Allison and Trial Coordinator Bad Johnson made sure all was in order. It all began with the perfect weather, brisk and sunny. The location was the Farmland Pheasant Hunters facility in Brown City. The fields, birds, and accommodations were superb with proprietor Preston Mann on hand to make sure all went smoothly.**

**It was a great completion with and very competitive.**

**There were 26 pointing dogs and 14 flushing dogs with a wide number of breeds represented. The pointing dogs division had:**

**11 English Setters, 7 German Shorthairs, 6 English Pointers, 1 Weimranar, and 1 pointing Lab.**

**The flushing division had 10 labs, 3 springers, and 1 cocker spaniel.**

**The winners for the event were:**

**Pointing Division**

**Champion** Jasper (English Setter) – Justin Somsel  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place** Zoey (German Shorthair) – Jason Steele  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Place** Abe (Pointing Lab) – David Lloyd  
**4<sup>th</sup> Place** Major (English Pointer) – Mike Lareau  
**Honorable Mention** Ruger (German Shorthair) – Mike Carmody

**Flushing Division**

**Champion** Sisco ( Labrador retriever) – Mike Cuneo  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place** Bella (Labrador Retriever) – Fritz Heller  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Place** Deuce (Labrador retriever)  
**4<sup>th</sup> Place** Woody (English Cocker) – Gary Metropoulis  
**Honorable Mention** Star (Labrador Retreiver) – Brian Butler

**Thanks to all of the judges**

**Bruce Minard, Terry Boatright, Bob Bricker, Brian Allison and Field Marshalls Mark Cyclone and Jason Gill.**



Photos by: Randy Strouse



**There are many great pictures from this event courtesy of Mike Helms and they can be accessed using the following link:**

Gun Dog Trial photos can be seen at:

<http://s1023.photobucket.com/albums/af354/RGSRJL/RGS%20Michigan%20Gun%20Dog%20of%20the%20Year%202010>

**2010 saw a new revenue sharing/project funding program implemented nationwide. The program called the State Drummer Fund is one whereby successful banquets earn dollars to be returned to their state to fund local habitat projects. The program operates on a sliding scale based on the net revenue from individual banquets.**

**Net Revenue = or > \$50,000: 20% of the net would go to the state Drummer Fund**

**Net Revenue of \$20,000 up to \$49,999: 15% of their net goes to the state Drummer Fund**

**Net Revenue of \$7,000 up to \$19,999: 10% of their net goes to the state Drummer Fund**

**This new program resulted in ~\$125,000 nationally and >\$12,000 in Michigan. This program can continue to grow as we refine and improve our fundraising activities. I am excited to work with all of the chapters within my region to maximize our state drummer funds and fundraising efforts.**



## The Ruffed Grouse Society Is Celebrating 50 Years Of Conservation



The Ruffed Grouse Society will be celebrating 50 years of Conservation and Community in 2011. We are asking our Members for ideas, suggestions on how we can celebrate this milestone for our Society. The Society strength comes from our Members their dedication and support they contribute to the organization. If you have suggestion on how we can make 2011 the best year ever for RGS and our dedicated Members please feel free to contact

me, Bruce Wojcik, 517-668-6294 or rgsbruce@comcast.net, I look forward to hearing your suggestions. We have some great things we are working on for 2011, make plans to join us at your local Chapter event and be part of the celebration

### **Ruffed Grouse Society 2010-2011 National Raffle**

The 2010-2011 Ruffed Grouse Society National Raffle is now available. This year's raffle features 3 prizes:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Remington Model 100 F-Grade 28 Gauge. Hand Engraved 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Logo On Top of Receiver, Hand-Engraved Ruffed Grouse on One Side and Woodcock on the Other, Semi Auto, Skeet Choked, Exhibition Grade Wood "Only One Made"

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Caesar Guerini Apex, 28 Gauge Over/Under, Hand Engraved Grouse on Trigger Guard "One of A Kind"

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Kimber Valier Grade II, 20 Gauge Side by Side "Last One Available Through RGS"

Please see the attached flyer and contact me with any questions and/or ticket requests.

# 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 #RG550 Retail Value: \$9,000



Gun in Production  
Engraving Shows Detail



### 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 Painted

### 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 Ceresopolis, 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: Bruce Wojcik, Regional Director  
Ruffed Grouse Society - 1004 East Geneva Drive - DeWitt, MI 48820  
or call 517-668-6294 or e-mail: rgsbruce@comcast.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 BIOLOGIST JOINING RGS TEAM IN MICHIGAN & OHIO

Starting 1 January 2011 we will have a Biologist, Larry Visser, working in Michigan and Ohio. Larry joins us after 34 years in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. We are very pleased and fortunate to have Larry join our team.

I spoke with Larry and asked him about his thoughts, and goals coming into the position with RGS. The following are some of his goals and thoughts:

“help members become involved in public land forest planning and habitat decisions”

“inform members of private land management incentives for grouse and woodcock restoration”

“I’m eager to get to know members through events and banquets, and I also hope to spend some time in the woods with them.”

“Although I am very familiar with the landscapes and habitats of Michigan, I am excited about expanding my horizons into Ohio.”



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## **Ruffed Grouse Society Cooperative Projects in Michigan 2009 – 2010**

Since 1985, the Ruffed Grouse Society has provided approximately 300 thousand dollars in funding over 75 Management Area Projects (MAP) on public land across the state. These funds have enhanced ruffed grouse and woodcock habitat on over 79,000 acres of public land. Examples of recent RGS projects funded in Michigan include:

### **Heavy Equipment for Habitat Management**

Early in 2009, the Ruffed Grouse Society purchased an ASV PT-100 forestry loader equipped with a mulching head to greatly improve the Society's ability to address non-commercial habitat management opportunities for ruffed grouse and woodcock on both public and private lands in Michigan. In addition, the Society purchased a truck and heavy duty trailer to haul this equipment from site to site. On the ground work with this machine began in July, 2009 with 102 acres of habitat improvements completed on state wildlife management areas and 65 acres of work conducted on private lands in Michigan.

### **Huron/Manistee National Forest Stewardship Project**

Currently in the planning stages, this project will target the regeneration of over-mature aspen habitats on the Huron/Manistee National Forest. Funds derived from the commercial harvest of this aspen will be used for a variety of habitat improvement projects including the treatment of non-commercial aspen and alder habitat areas as well as the maintenance of wildlife openings used by ruffed grouse during brood rearing and by woodcock as singing and roosting areas.

### **Gogebic County Forest Aspen Regeneration**

This project regenerated approximately 100 acres of high quality aspen habitat on land managed by the Gogebic County Forestry and Parks Commission near Ironwood in 2009. Un-merchantable residual trees remain at recently harvested cutting units. If left untreated, aspen regeneration would be impacted resulting in lower stem densities and poorer habitat for ruffed grouse, woodcock and other young forest wildlife. This project is part of a long term project to promote dense cover for these species across the Gogebic County Forest.

### **LeGrande Management Area Project, Cheboygan County, Michigan**

Funds are being used to support ongoing ruffed grouse and woodcock habitat work on the Pigeon River Wildlife Area, near Afton. Work includes the rehabilitation of wildlife openings, improvements to access roads and trails and alder regeneration.

### **Ottawa National Forest Grouse Habitat Improvements**

Work continued on an ongoing five year cooperative Challenge Cost Share Project with the Forest Service on the Ottawa National Forest. In 2009, improvements were made to existing hunter walking trail systems. Past work under this project included non-commercial alder and

aspen management as well as hunter walking trail improvements. All funds are matched by the Forest Service, therefore doubling on the ground management activities.

### **Sponsor Levels & Benefits:**

Level 1: Sustaining Sponsor - (\$1,000)

Benefits:

8 Memberships and Dinner Tickets, 4 Chances on the Sponsor Gun Drawing  
Choice of Options 1 or 2 as Described under “2010 Banquet Sponsor Rewards Program”  
Recognition and/or Advertising opportunity  
Your name or company name in the banquet program  
Your name or company name recognized by the banquet MC

Level 2: Conservation Sponsor - (\$500)

Benefits:

4 Memberships and Dinner Tickets, 2 Chances on the Sponsor Gun Drawing  
Choice of Options 1 or 2 as Described under “2010 Banquet Sponsor Rewards Program”  
Recognition and/or Advertising opportunity  
Your name or company name in the banquet program  
Your name or company name recognized by the banquet MC

Level 3: Banquet Sponsor - (\$275)

Benefits:

2 Memberships and Dinner Tickets, 1 Chance on the Sponsor Gun Drawing  
Choice of Options 1 or 2 as Described under “2010 Banquet Sponsor Rewards Program”  
Recognition and/or Advertising opportunity  
Your name or company name in the banquet program  
Your name or company name recognized by the banquet MC

Level 4: Non-Attending Sponsor - (\$250)

Benefits:

Recognition as an RGS Sponsor

### **2010 Banquet Sponsor Rewards Program**

Option 1 – A sponsor may elect to receive an unframed print of the year, either the new one or one from prior years (while supplies last). Photos of prints from prior years are available on the RGS website: [www.ruffedgrousesociety.org](http://www.ruffedgrousesociety.org) .

Option 2 – A sponsor may elect to participate in a national drawing at the end of the 2010 Fall Banquet Season. There will be seven tickets drawn. The first winner will win the first item in the list below and so on until all seven tickets are drawn. Sponsors who choose this option will be assigned a ticket number(s) for the drawing by RGS National.

The Following Are The Seven Prizes Being Offered:

1. Connecticut Shotgun's RBL-28 Round Action, Box-Lock 28 Gauge, 26" Barrels, Single Trigger, Side-By-Side Shotgun; 3X Wood Grade
2. AYA 453 – 28 Gauge, 28" Barrels, Side-By-Side; Walnut Stock & Forend.
3. Caesar Guerini Magnus Over/Under 20 Gauge Shotgun.
4. Smith & Wesson Elite Gold Side-By-Side 20 Gauge Shotgun
5. SKB Limited Edition RGS Model 785 Over/Under Shotgun in 20 or 28 Gauge, 26" or 28" Barrels
6. Choice of Any Pair of Steiner Binoculars \$1,600 or less
7. \$1,000 Cabela's Gift Certificate.