



Southeast Regional Newsletter

Fall 2009

Inside this Issue:

1

Shawnee State Forest Uses
RGS Trail Mix Donation

New Equipment to Enhance
RGS Habitat Work

California Decision Inhibits
Healthy Forest Management

2

Cumbersome Wildlife Bill
Introduced to Congress

REGIONAL NEWS

NC Piedmont Chapter

Dog Training Seminar

3

Region 8 Stewardship
Agreement

Upcoming Banquets

National Raffle

Grouse Season

National News

Shawnee State Forest Uses RGS Trail Mix for Forest Trails

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry recently re-opened recreation trails on the Shawnee State Forest lands. RGS donated our wildlife seed mix, *Trail Mix*, for use in reseeded some of the trails.

Seeding of the trails was accomplished in order to rehabilitate areas impacted by an April wildfire in the forest.

New Equipment Will Enhance RGS Habitat Work

RGS recently purchased two trucks and two trailers for use with the ASV/Terex PT-100 forestry loaders in the Midwest and the CAT loader in the Northeast. The new trucks and trailer will allow for the transport of the equipment to various locations for habitat work.

One truck and trailer will be used in the Midwest and the other in the Northeast. An additional truck is being supplied by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for use in Wisconsin. The remaining truck is also for use in the Northeast, and an additional trailer will be purchased very soon.

The new equipment was purchased with funds from several recently obtained grants.

California Lawsuit Ends in Settlement Unfavorable for Healthy Forest Management

A recent Northern California lawsuit ended with a settlement by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company agreeing to pay \$14.75 million as recompense for the 1999 Pendola fire in Plumas and Tahoe National Forests. The fire started due to a pine tree that fell onto a power distribution line.

Allegations that the fire caused damage to the lands, harm to the ecological habitat and loss of timber ended in the resulting settlement.

The decision is viewed by many to be a blow to conservation groups because fire, which is a natural act of nature that allows for forest renewal, was viewed as destructive.

Wildlife Bill Introduced to Congress

Bill requires lengthy species monitoring, may be unrealistic

In June this year Wisconsin Representative Ron Kind presented “American’s Wildlife Heritage Act” (HR 2807) to Congress. The bill, though ostentatiously written to sustain wildlife and plants on federal public lands, may actually prove too cumbersome to be effective.

Requirements in the bill include overwhelming obligations placed upon federal land management agencies to monitor every species that may be impacted by a proposed activity. The manpower necessary to implement this requirement is beyond the current expertise available to these agencies, and there is no provision for additional funding. The large quantities of money that would be spent attempting to follow these guidelines would, perhaps, be better spent in accomplishing much needed habitat work on federal lands.

RGS intends to work with Representative Kind and other members of Congress to modify the language of the bill to better reflect more reasonable expectations.

Welcome to new RGS Corporate Sponsor Connecticut Shotgun. They donated a 28-gauge RBL that will be used in an upcoming raffle or banquet.

Congratulations to our three 2009 National Raffle Winners: Jim Farrell from Altoona, Pennsylvania won the Dream Hunt, Andrew Lukashuk of Sussex, New York won a \$1000 Cabela’s gift certificate and Kristin Dew of Elgin, Illinois won a pair of custom Russell Moccasin boots.

REGIONAL NEWS

Welcome NC Piedmont Chapter!

Welcome aboard to the newly formed NC Piedmont Chapter! After a couple of successful events to recruit support, we formed the new chapter in June. They’ve got big plans ahead to include a booth at the Charlotte, NC Wingshooting Show in January and manning a booth at the May 2010 NRA Annual Meeting in Charlotte.

Chattanooga Dog Training Seminar

Need a pre-season warm-up with your bird dog? Our Tennessee Valley Chapter in Chattanooga has just the medicine! Hunter Payne, of Gun Dog Development, has volunteered his time to offer an all day training seminar at his facility on September 26th. Registration fee is \$50 for RGS members and \$75 for non-members (includes membership). This price includes a noon meal. You can get the flyer to register [HERE](#) or call Jeff Richards at 423.240.9166.

Region 8 Stewardship Agreement

As most are aware, we've been working hard to re-establish wildlife habitat work on our National Forests in the region. In July Mark Banker and I met with representatives from USFS Region 8 and GA, TN, and NC to discuss stewardship agreements in each state. The outcome of that meeting was a Regional Stewardship Agreement to do projects throughout the region. As of this writing, the agreement has been completed and signed by Mike Zagata, RGS Executive Director. Once signed by the USFS representative, we will start looking for "shovel ready" (to use a popular term) projects. This is a great opportunity for RGS to take a leadership role in improving wildlife habitat in our region to meet the expectations of our members. Mark and I both look forward to the possibilities this agreement will offer.

Regional Banquet Schedule

We've completed two successful banquets in our region, Atlanta & Asheville, and have two more remaining this fall. The H.C. Edwards Chapter in Staunton, VA will celebrate its 20th Anniversary on September 19th. The newly formed Smoky Mountain Chapter in Franklin, NC will hold its inaugural banquet on October 24th. If you are in the area let's get out and support our new chapter! It's not too late to register for either. You can find the registration for either [HERE](#) and going down the page to the event and clicking on the .pdf link.

National Raffle

If you like small framed, small gauge shotguns then you don't want to miss a chance on this year's National Raffle. RGS will be giving away a Model 21, 28 gauge custom gun, made famous by Winchester, in June of 2010. No more than 1500 tickets will be sold at \$100 each. If you want to get in on this, email me at rgsdonm@outdrs.net and I can give you more details.

Upcoming Grouse Season

If you're like me, your trigger finger is starting to itch and you turn around 3 times before laying down. Those are sure signs that grouse season is nearly upon us. We've had some cool nights here in Asheville which only exacerbates the situation. Wing shooting reports from the Midwest look promising and I know a lot of you are headed that way. I'm hearing anecdotal feedback about a successful grouse hatch in our region this year. Folks have reported seeing large clutches of chicks in mid-summer; Surly a good sign. I hope you all have a successful early season wherever you may be hunting.