



A SOUTHERN PERSPECTIVE

December 2008

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Southern Region News

Asheville Chapter Receives SportDog Grant

SportDog, an RGS corporate sponsor, recently announced that the Southern Appalachian Chapter in Asheville, NC received a \$5,000 matching Conservation Fund grant for their Jerry Smathers Habitat Project at the Cold Mountain Game Land in Haywood County.

The chapter had conducted a local fundraiser and accepted direct donations for a total of \$7,500 and received matching funds of \$2,500 from RGS National. The project started in August 2008 with cutting an access road into the project site.

For other chapters interested in applying for the Conservation Fund grant, visit www.sportdog.net and click on the link at the bottom of the page.

New Chapters formed in NC and TN

Since our last newsletter, we are happy to announce the formation of two new chapters in our region.

The first, Eastern NC Chapter, was formed in Raleigh in September. The chapter leadership got active early and planned an organizing shoot at Deep River Sporting Clays in Sanford for Dec. 6th.

The second was just formed in the Chattanooga, TN area in mid-November. We have a leadership team of volunteers and I'll be meeting with them in the next couple of weeks to decide on a chapter name and get things going.

If you know anyone in these areas that would like to get involved in RGS let them know. Sometimes we have a chapter in an area and folks don't even know about it. The best way to keep informed is through RGS membership and a current email address.

Spring Events

Here are the banquets and activities that I have on my calendar for this Spring:
Jan 30-Feb 1, 2009 – Charlotte, NC
Flyfishing & Hunting Show Display
Jan 30-Feb 1, 2009 – Charleston, WV
Hunting Expo
March 6, 2009 – Charleston, WV Banquet
March 21, 2009 – Lewisburg, WV Banquet
March 28, 2009 – Bristol TN/VA banquet
April 4, 2009 – Knoxville, TN banquet

National News

New Banquet Incentive Program

Fall Update

As the fall banquet season winds down, RGS is ending the year in a stronger financial situation than many other wildlife conservation organizations – thanks to your hard work! So far this year a total of 90 banquets were held, and 21 met or exceeded their 15% growth target and raised more than \$25,700 for local projects.

***Tailfeathers* Membership Drive Initiated**

In an effort to enlist its current members to help RGS grow, a unique

membership drive has been initiated. It's called *Tailfeathers* and is a brand new program for 2009. For signing up a certain number of new members, current members will have the opportunity to receive a unique RGS thank-you and a ticket for a special raffle. *Tailfeather* rules and guidelines will be released this coming spring – so stay posted!

Dream Hunt Raffle Sales Receive Boost *Committees and Regional Directors Partner to Sell Tickets*

Members can now raise money for their chapter projects by selling RGS National raffle tickets – a benefit to both their chapter and RGS! This year's raffle is the Upland Bird Dream Hunt, and tickets are \$50.00.

Regional Directors will be partnering with their committees to increase ticket sales in the upcoming months. For every ticket a chapter member sells, \$5.00 will be added to the funds of a local habitat project. The project to receive the funds will be selected by the chapter – with RGS giving final approval before dispersing funds. To participate in this rebate offer contact your Regional Director.

Win an Upland Bird Dream Hunt
October 2-10, 2009

**The Ruffed Grouse Society
 2008-2009 National Raffle**

First Place
 A week long, all-expense-paid trip consisting of two guided upland bird hunts for the winner and guest. Travel from October 2 to 10. Start at Bear Paw Mountain Outfitters in Havre, Montana and hunt for sharp-tail grouse and Hungarian partridge from October 3 to 5. Join the RGS National Grouse and Woodcock Hunt in Grand Rapids, Minnesota from October 6 to 9.
 Both first place winner and guest will receive an SKB model 785 over-and-under shotgun. Each SKB will have a commemorative RGS logo medallion on the receiver, and is available in 20- or 28-gauge, with 26- or 28- inch barrels. The SKB has a retail value of \$2399.00
 All transportation included. Hunting dates are final. Approximate retail value of total package: \$18,000.

Second Place
 The second winner will receive a \$1,000.00 Cabela's gift certificate.

Third Place
 The third place winner will receive a custom-fitted pair of upland hunting boots from Russell Moccasin. Approximate retail value: \$400.00.

Winners will be drawn on June 30, 2009 at RGS headquarters in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania.
 To purchase raffle tickets call 1-888-564-6747.
 Donation for each ticket is \$50.00.
 Only 2500 tickets to be sold.

RGS Co-Recipient of State Forester's Association Award

RGS was recently honored for efforts to increase the importance of forest management and stewardship opportunities for forest landowners in the 2008 Farm Bill legislation.

At its annual meeting in Hyannis, Massachusetts, the National Association of State Foresters announced member organizations of the Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition as recipients of the 2008 Stan Adams Current Achievement Award for Partnerships.

The Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition, of which RGS is a partner organization, was formed specifically to increase opportunities for America's private forest landowners to access cost-share and other management assistance via the 2008 Farm Bill programs. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) of the new Farm Bill now explicitly supports those forest management practices compatible with environmental quality and that provide economic and environmental benefits to the larger society, including the retention of nationally scarce young-forest habitat.

"This award clearly demonstrates the value of partnering with those who share a common interest and philosophy with regard to the need to manage our forests in a sustainable, ecologically sound manner in order to maximize both wildlife and economic benefits," said RGS Executive Director and CEO Mike Zagata.

The 2008 Adams award was presented to Becky Carter of The Nature Conservancy, who accepted the honor on behalf of the entire Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition, which includes over 30 organizations.

RGS Biologist to Advise New England Forestry Foundation

RGS Northeast Regional Wildlife Biologist Paul Karczmarczyk was recently elected to a seat on the New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) Board of Advisors.

Karczmarczyk will join other regional experts in the fields of natural resources, forest industry, economics and business management in aiding NEFF with their mission of working with private and community landowners to insure that working forests remain a viable part of the New England landscape.

In 2006, RGS and NEFF formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding that partnered the two organizations in jointly providing technical expertise on wildlife habitat management and the formulation of conservation easements to interested forest landowners. Between 2003 and 2006, the organizations were joint recipients of substantial funding from the USDA Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program to carry out habitat treatments on numerous NEFF community forests.

"NEFF's forward-looking approach to resource conservation, and willingness to manage their lands in a way that diversifies and balances habitat needs of all wildlife using them, sets a forest stewardship standard I'd love to see other land trusts in the Northeast follow," said RGS biologist

Paul Karczmarczyk.

The New England Forestry Foundation maintains over 130 community forests, and additionally holds over 120 conservation easements which affect more than 1.1 million acres of working forestland throughout the northeast. Information on NEFF can be found on their website at: www.neforestry.org.

National Forest Law BLOG Created

An online log on national forest law was created by Ryan Woody of Matthiesen, Wickert & Lehrer, S.C. To read current developments in the ever-changing landscape of National Forest laws and regulations, visit www.nationalforestlawblog.com.

RGS Grows Habitat Management Machinery Program

RGS has secured two additional CAT machines, equipped with cutting implements for habitat management, and now has three units working in the East to create grouse and woodcock habitat. Plans to obtain at least two more units for the Midwest in the near future are being pursued.

Follow up: First Timber Sale Results Will Benefit RGS Capital Campaign

The Richard King Mellon Foundation funded a land purchase whereby the Western PA Conservancy generously gave RGS the right to harvest timber, appraised at five million dollars on 2,300 acres of land in Pennsylvania, in a manner consistent with creating grouse habitat. The first timber sale has been let for \$127,000 on 85 acres. Funds raised from the timber sale will also go toward the RUFF Campaign, a capital fund-raising effort to endow RGS biologists.



RGS Travel

RGS members and others may now book their travel needs through RGS. As a means of expanding and diversifying RGS' income stream, the Society is now in the travel business with its own websites, www.RGSTravel.org or www.RGSTravel.com. Both will take you to the same website that will appear in your browser address window as: <http://www.ytb-travel.com/ruffedgrousesociety>.

The site is maintained by YTB Travel network and powered by World Choice, a segment of Travelocity.com.