



Western Great Lakes Newsletter

Fall 2009

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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 reseeding 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

Upcoming Events for my region

Sept 10, 2009 Northeast Wisconsin Chapter, Green Bay, WI Banquet, Rock Garden Supper Club, Green Bay, WI Tickets: Matt Thennel 920-716-2397

Sept 12, 2009 Wilderness Wings Chapter, Hayward, WI Hunt/Shoot/Banquet An all day event. Hunt Ruffed Grouse from Sun-up ‘till 2pm. Shoot Five Stand following the hunt. Combined scores: Awards and Banquet to follow at 5. Tickets/Registration; Phil Johnson 715-354-7241; Dave Reardon 715-634-2674

Sept 15, 2009 Superior Chapter, Ironwood, MI/Hurley, WI Banquet, Liberty Bell Chalet, Hurley, WI Tickets: Will Corcoran 906-364-5672, Dave Johnson 715-492-5858

Sept 17, 2009 Marinette County Chapter, WI Banquet, Trillium on the Lake, Crivitz, WI Tickets: Bob Zutter 715-735-7311

Sept 24, 2009 David Uihlein Chapter, Milwaukee, WI, Red Circle Inn, Nashotah, WI Tickets: Paul Seul 414-254-1861

Oct 4-11, 2009 National Grouse and Woodcock Hunt, Grand Rapids, MN
Contact Mark Fouts, Regional Supervisor 715-399-2270

Oct 13, 2009 West Wisconsin Chapter, Marshfield/Neillsville, WI Holms
RiverEdge Golf Course, Marshfield, WI Tickets: Rich Chronquist 715-387-1163

Oct 15, 2009 Flambeau River Chapter, Park Falls, WI Northwoods Supper Club,
Fifield, WI Tickets: Tony Blattler 715-332-5121

Oct 16-18, 2009 Wisconsin Rendezvous, Boyd's Mason Lake Resort, Fifield, WI
To Sign Up: Dick Simon 715-762-3469. Open to all chapter committees.

Nov 02, 2009 (tentative) Rochester, MN Chapter Re-organizational Meeting
Dave Johnson Regional Director 715-492-5858

February 20, 2010 (tentative) 27th Annual Southwest Wisconsin Chapter Banquet
Muscodia, WI

May 06, 2010 31st Annual T Stanton Armour Chapter Banquet Chicago, IL

RD'S Notes

My first nine months on the job have introduced me to a wonderful group of volunteers who have a checkerboard assortment of backgrounds and interests. The most fulfilling aspect of that is being able to talk to and share experiences with other grouse and woodcock hunters. Among all the volunteer committees that I work with I've found a virtual plethora of different dog breeds and hunting styles. Everything from Munsterlanders to English Cockers, Griffons to Gordon's are represented among the dog owners on the committees of my region. Quite an array and contrast to me, having hunted with setters all of my adult life.

I awoke this morning in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to the first frost of the season. Aug 31 seems a little early to me, but many trees are starting to show the first colors of fall and the landscape is somewhat steamy at first light these cool crisp morning more like late September than August. Although drumming counts were only slightly up this spring, all first hand reports from grouse hunters I've spoken to show that brood survival was good and we should notice an increase in flush rates this fall. Here's hoping for a good season for all of you.

For those of you in and around the Hayward area, we are breaking new ground with an event in its first year. The fall hunt/banquet/shoot will feature a unique format. The hunters must register for the hunt/shoot by Friday September 11 at 9 p.m. Hunting begins at legal shooting hour and extends until 2 p.m. when all two person teams must check-in and register their birds at the Summit Lake Game Farm. Teams will then shoot 25 clays per person at 5 stand. Scores will be combined and a winning team determined by combined score. Scoring will be as follows; 5 points for each grouse combined with 1 point for each clay. Any ties will be determined by a

shoot off at 5 stand. Awards will be handed out at a traditional RGS Banquet to be held that evening beginning at 5:30 in the banquet hall. For more information or to register, please go to the RGS website or call Phil Johnson at 715-558-1664.

I'm working toward re-establishing former chapters in the territory and welcome any help from those people who have served in the past and are willing to help kick start the effort, if only to get the chapter up and running again. If you'd like or need habitat work done in your area we need to create a funding source for that funding, and an active volunteer base with a banquet is the fastest way to achieve that goal.

Cities and/or towns that need a committee include; Rice Lake, La Crosse, Ashland/Iron River, Winchester/Manitowish Waters, Appleton/Oshkosh, Waukesha, Spooner/Cumberland, Rhinelander/Tomahawk. If you'd like to become active with RGS or have been active in the past and would be willing to help with the effort, even short term, please contact me by e-mail or telephone.

Here's hoping for a flush filled fall season for all of you.

Dave Johnson

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