

**SPONSOR REPORT 2009**



**RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY**



### *Message from the Chairman of the Board*

*Gaylen J. Byker*

In 2009 RGS has maintained momentum in achieving our mission – to create desperately needed young forest habitat. Following are a few of our activities this year, though it's far from a complete reflection of what we, with the unwavering support of our hardworking membership and volunteers, have accomplished. Our individual donors and corporate sponsors played important roles in our success.

Among the most fruitful projects that emerged this year were RGS' presence in Washington working to influence environmental policies, the purchase of heavy equipment for creating young forest habitat and the innovative cooperative agreement between the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and RGS regarding timber rights on a parcel of land in Somerset country, Pennsylvania.

Included is information about several new board members, along with the short biographies on the entire new RGS Canada board. We're poised for some growth in Canada thanks to this new group of committed members.

Our business model continues to evolve, and the upturn in the economy has positively impacted our financial stability. We anticipate reaching our 50th Anniversary in 2011 in a strong position to continue our efforts on behalf of ruffed grouse, American woodcock and related species.



### *2010 Under Broken Wings Recipient Announced*

Caleb Stallings, a 15-year-old from Ringgold, Georgia, was chosen as the recipient of the 2010 Under Broken Wings program. He will attend the NGWH in October of this year. A paraplegic as a result of a car accident when he was 4, Caleb says "hunting is what helps me get through, and it can help other kids as well."

### *2009 Projects & Activities*

#### *New Machines Mean Habitat Work in Midwest*

The Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS) recently received three grants, totaling \$182,000, to purchase heavy equipment for managing ruffed grouse and woodcock habitat in the Midwest. Two ASV/Terex PT-100 Forestry loaders with mulching heads were purchased with grant funds from the Richard King Mellon Foundation, the Frey Foundation of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and the Charlevoix County Community Foundation of East Jordan, Michigan.

The new pieces of equipment will service Michigan, Wisconsin and surrounding states. The versatile equipment will allow RGS to help public and private partners aggressively manage neglected aspen, alder and brush habitats for ruffed grouse, woodcock and many other species. Cooperative projects with similar equipment have been in progress in the Northeast for several years with excellent results.

"These pieces of equipment are important tools to help the Ruffed Grouse Society target habitat improvements for woodcock in habitat, like alder, that is not being managed by commercial harvests," says Gary Zimmer, RGS Senior Biologist in the Western Great Lakes Region. "With this equipment RGS will be one of the primary implementers of the Upper Great Lakes Woodcock and Young Forest Habitat Initiative."

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### *Illinois Youth Attends RGS National Hunt*

Brett Sopocy attended the 2009 National Grouse and Woodcock Hunt (NGWH) at the invitation of the Under Broken Wings (UBW) program. Sopocy, a 16-year-old who is a right hemiplegic, is passionate about upland hunting and welcomed the opportunity to hunt grouse and woodcock in Minnesota. During the festivities a Life Sponsorship was purchased by several generous donors for Brett, who received a Kimber shotgun as part of the arrangement.

*Photo by Jack Muhar,  
www.RapidEvents.com*



## Somerset County Timber Harvest Unprecedented Pennsylvania Partnership Grows Roots

RGS has enjoyed working with many public and private partners over the past 50 years to reach our shared vision of creating young forest habitat. Recently we were able to take one of our biggest strides yet – with an unprecedented partnership that gives RGS the management of 2,300 acres of public forestland in the Laurel Highlands of southwestern Pennsylvania for 15 years.

The Lyme Timber Company sold the forest tract, locally called “The Barron Tract”, to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) in 2008. In keeping with the landscape habitat vision, WPC conferred timber rights to RGS for 15 years, while the land itself was conferred to the Pennsylvania Department of

Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry, to become part of the Forbes State Forest. The heavily forested tract in Somerset County, near the village of Scullton, added substantially to a mosaic of public land, effectively connecting Laurel Ridge State Park and State Game Lands 111 – and creating 26,444 acres of contiguous public lands.

RGS is working with Appalachian Forest Consultants of Stoystown, Pennsylvania to manage the habitat. By the fall of 2009, two timber sales creating habitat blocks of 85 and 65 acres had been completed, with several more planned for 2010.



## New RGS Board Members

### Lawrence M. Clark, Jr.

Lawrence Clark joined the RGS Board of Directors in October; he is a native Pennsylvanian and grew up hunting and fishing with his father and friends. Upon graduation from Villanova University in 1993, he made his way to New York City to pursue a graduate business degree from New York University and begin a career in finance.



As the owner of the Delaware River Club, a fly-fishing lodge on the West Branch of the Delaware River, Clark, an RGS Life Sponsor, is passionate about conservation and supports efforts to introduce youngsters to the world of outdoor sports and recreation.

### Tracy T. Larsen

The Ruffed Grouse Society recently added Tracy Larsen to the board of directors. Tracy, an RGS Life Sponsor, is a member of the Grand Rapids, Michigan RGS chapter and is a lifelong outdoor enthusiast, avid hunter and fly fisherman.

As an active conservationist, Larsen is passionate about encouraging youth to participate in the outdoor tradition. "I am very excited to have this opportunity to help carry on the important work of the RGS."



## RGS Takes the Lead: Articles Begin the Challenge to Change Public Sentiment

RGS has initiated a push to educate folks about the importance of early successional, or young forest, habitat to all the species that rely upon it for survival. To accomplish that, two articles have been made available on the RGS website, and reprints of each are available. One is entitled *The Other Silent Spring* and the second is *Placing Wildlife At Risk By Ignoring Ecological Principles*. Please share them with your friends, they were written to help people understand how nature works and what happens when we intervene without understanding the consequences.

The *Other Silent Spring* appeared in our Summer 2009 issue of RGS, page 40. To read Dr. Mike Zagata's article, *Placing Wildlife At Risk By Ignoring Ecological Principles*, contact RGS headquarters.

## 2009 National Raffle & Contest Winners



James Farrell pictured with along with his wife Linda, and his SKB model 785 over-and-under.

### Upland Dream Hunt Winner

James Farrell from Holidaysburg, Pennsylvania won the RGS 2009 National Raffle – an Upland Bird Dream Hunt. Jim, along with his wife Linda, hunted with Bear Paw Mountain Outfitters in Havre, Montana and attended the National Grouse and Woodcock hunt in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. The prize pack also included an SKB model 785 over-and-under for each of them.

“This was our first time attending the RGS National Grouse and Woodcock Hunt and if anyone has the chance to attend in the future we would highly recommend it. The entire experience was a whirlwind. Our time in Montana was excellent, and we couldn’t have asked for a better ranch for hunting. Bear Paw is clean, comfortable and the food was great – as were the huntsmen,” the Farrells commented.

The winner of the Cabela’s \$1000 gift certificate is Andrew Lukashuk of Sussex, New Jersey.

The Russell Moccasin boots were won by Kristin Dew, Elgin, Illinois.

“I wish to thank the Ruffed Grouse Society and my lucky ticket for my custom-made Russell Boots. Tom and I were with Sue and Wes Dixon on Saturday afternoon. It was 65 degrees, blue sky and perfect. Not your normal day to duck hunt, but what fun! My new boots look great and are very comfortable. I did get them a little dirty in the blind, but now they have been properly baptized. Can't wait for the next outing.

Give my best to all at RGS.”

Thank you,  
Kris Dew



The RGS National Banquet Sponsor Raffle had seven winners from across the country – two of the seven winners were sponsors of the West Michigan Lakeshore RGS Chapter banquet. Bruce Visniski (right) from Muskegon, Michigan won first place and took home a Caesar Guerini Forum. Dave Miles (left) from Norton Shores, Michigan won a Caesar Guerini Magnus for taking fourth place. Also pictured is Regional Director Doug Doherty who presented the winners with their shotguns at a chapter meeting.

### Banquet Sponsor Reward Program

For 2009 RGS unveiled a new banquet sponsor reward program. Banquet sponsors had the option of choosing a ticket for an exclusive drawing with seven winners. Following are the seven winning sponsors:

1. Bruce Visniski from Muskegon, Michigan won a Caesar Guerini Forum Grade over-and-under shotgun.
2. Paul Zelisko from Lake Forest, Illinois won a Kimber shotgun.
3. Shannon Staiger from Fairbanks, Alaska won a Kimber shotgun.
4. Dave Miles from Norton Shores, Michigan won a Caesar Guerini Magnus over-and-under shotgun.
5. Terry Saylor from Canal Winchester, Ohio won a choice of any pair of Steiner binoculars.

6. Damian Croyle from Hamilton, New York won a choice of any pair of Steiner binoculars.

7. John E. Charewicz from Plover, Wisconsin won a \$1000.00 Cabela’s gift certificate.



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*Gordon W. Gullion*

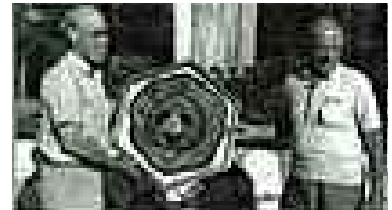
**Gullion Circle:  
 Golden Aspen Ring, Silver Birch Ring,  
 & Bronze Maple Ring**

The Gullion Circle has been created to recognize lifetime contributors of \$250,000 or more. In addition, RGS is pleased to recognize those who have made contributions to be included in the Golden Aspen Ring (\$100,000 to \$249,999), the Silver Birch Ring (\$50,000 to \$99,999) and the Bronze Maple Ring (\$25,000 to \$49,999).



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*The above listings are as of January 1, 2010.*

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+ Contributing to the Forest Wildlife Foundation (FWF) which is administered through the Ruffed Grouse Society.

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**RHODE ISLAND**

Robert T. Bolton  
Enterville Farm &  
Kennel, Inc.  
John J. Kupa, Jr.  
Edward J. McGovern  
Joe Palombo  
William P. Smith  
Phillip W. Woody

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

Walt Boomer  
William C. Griffin III  
U.S. Trust

G. Herman Walker III

**TENNESSEE**

Applied Industrial Technologies  
Rick Brantley  
Joseph M. Googe  
Norman Hughes &  
Gladys Stooksbury  
Donnie R. Hutcheson  
International Paper  
Ken Ives  
Larry McCracken  
Roger Millwood  
C. Grant Murray  
Les Nation  
Pat Finder Kennels  
Remco Electric  
B. G. (Chip) Young

**TEXAS**

Keith Ferguson  
Robert McDonald  
Peterson Beckner Industries

**UTAH**

James Cooke

**VERMONT**

Jim Baird  
Michael Benoit  
Larry Dupont  
Dave C. Furman  
Patrick M. Gavin  
Dennis Havey  
Christina Incerpi &  
Randy Bean  
Rick F. Irick  
Eric Jacobsen  
Douglas Kenyon  
Nicholas Kenyon  
Ronald Klein  
Wayne A. Laroche  
Michael Lavallee  
John McCabe  
Michael Morgan  
Northern Vermont  
Oral Surgery  
Greg & Danielle Pajala  
Peck Electric  
Jay & Crystal Pierce  
Spencer B. Potter  
Lawrence Pyne  
Henry E. Rackliff  
Charles L. Scott II  
Greg S. Simoneau  
Sergio Tognelli  
Bruce Tuck  
Mark Vaillancourt

**VIRGINIA**

Alpha Natural Resources  
Appalachian Forestry Services  
Hunt B. Asbury  
Calvin Eddie Back

William B. Blakey, Jr.  
Donald G. Blankenship  
Kenneth Bowman  
John C. Cabell  
Clay G. Coleman III  
Community Bank  
R. Reynolds Cowles, Jr.  
Scott Decker  
Dudley Electric  
Harlin C. Edwards  
William J. Elliott IV  
Enviromental  
Monitoring Inc.  
Jeremiah Finks  
Kenneth W. Friberg  
Richard L. Friberg  
John P. Gammill  
Michael A. Giles  
Green Valley  
Hunter's Paradise  
Thomas D. Griffin  
Steve Grover  
Brandon S. Harper  
William D. Heatwole  
John Hendrix  
John L. Hickman  
Ronald E. Holsinger  
Houff Transfer, Inc.  
Miles Cary Johnston, Jr.  
Charles E. Kent  
L. E. Wood Equipment  
Co., Inc.  
Ralph E. Main, Jr.  
Richard Mansfield DDS  
MeadWestvaco Corp  
Jerry Meeks  
Mountain Forest Products  
Mrs. Rowe's Restaurant  
Harold U. Nash  
Neff Enterprises  
Greg Oakley  
Larry Oder  
Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. Inc.  
Eric Pool  
Gary Quillen  
Brad Rhodenizer  
Adam M. Richards  
Runion's Hunting & Fishing  
Paul G. Saunier  
Shenandoah Internal  
Medicine  
Shenandoah Stone  
James W. Shortt Esq.  
Smith Paving  
Gary & Joyce Spiers  
Summit Engineering Inc.  
Thomas Trentman  
U. S. Joiner  
M. Gregory Weaver  
Jill Webb  
Wells Fargo Advisors  
Kenny & Jill Wilkinson

Charles S. Yates

**WASHINGTON**

Clements General Construction /  
K. Clements  
Clements General Construction /  
L. Clements  
Doug Forsythe  
Lisa Harper  
Douglas A. Kuehn  
Rod A. McDonald  
William L. Neal  
Robert Olson  
Rod & Val Olson  
Potlatch  
Mike G. Rutz

**WEST VIRGINIA**

Briar Patch Farm  
Chesapeake Energy  
Columbia Forest Products  
Joe Defaizo Family  
Eastern American  
Energy Corp.  
Dixie Edmond  
Matthew J. Edwards  
William Hagedorn  
Michael Harmon, MD  
K & K Bit Co  
John W. Kee  
James Lemons  
Local 1024 Carpenters &  
Millwrights  
Joseph Mackowiak  
Daniel & Kathy Moore  
Family  
Chris Neal  
Park Center Sporting Goods  
Harold L. Pickens  
Plum Creek Timber Co  
Radabaugh Environmental  
Services  
REA Appraisals  
Riggs Realty  
Jack Rossi  
Cyndi Spencer  
Stalnaker Energy Corp.  
Stoney Brooke Plantation  
Sunny D Kennels  
Gary Swingle  
Mike Triplett  
United Country Adrian Properties  
WV, LLC  
Wagner Medical  
John C. Westfall DDS

**WISCONSIN**  
20th Century Arms  
William J. Abrahamson  
Family  
Action Floor Systems  
Craig J. Ader  
Thomas Aidich

RGS ANNUAL SPONSORS 2009\* - Continued

American Mini-Storage	Victor S. Falk III	Robert W. Meddaugh DDS	Sir Speedy Printing
Neil Anderson	Figi's Inc.	Jim T. Merklein	Mowry Smith III
Anonymous	First Weber Group	James Michna	Sniteman Pharmacy
Anonymous	Flambeau Forest Inn	Midwest Stihl, Inc.	Snowgoose Inc. &
Aurora Borealis Outfitters	Outfitters	The Milkman, LLC	Dairy Queen
Donald R. Bachleitner	The Fly Fishers	Milwaukee Bearing	Jim Soukup
Reid C. Badeau	Collin & Cole Fouts	Moore Housing	David P. Spang
Robert J. Baker	Fox Ridge Game Farm	William Morris	Sporting Dog Portraits
David & Rachel Bartz	Franklin Templeton Funds	Murphy Oil USA	Spring Harbor Animal
Robert Bealka	Norlyn Freese	Nelson-Feller Tennis Camp	Hospital
William D. Becker OD	Gander Mountain	Paul Newton	SRRC Services
Benefit Design Assn.	Grainger	Nicolet Hardwoods Corp	Ronald & Dona Stegeman
Bill Bennett	Stephan Grams	Tom F. Nikolai	Jeff Stepanek DVM
John Bennett	Grand Avenue Furniture	Northside Pet Hospital	William & Mary Stevens
Donald R. Betthausen	Greater Northern Corp	Northwoods Sporting Goods	Stevens Point Country Club
Brian & Chris Biedermann	Joe Gronlund	Northwoods Supper Club	Ron H. Stodola
Biomet-Stephan Assn. Inc.	Paul Hagemann DDS	Andy Olander	Story Creek, Inc.
Robert Blersch	Trentan Hake	Otto Photography	Summers North
Randy Bohon	John Hasler	Palmquist's Farm	Superior Beverages Ltd
Bothum Automotive	Jim E. Henrich	Stephen Patoka, Jr.	Superior Shooters Supply
Braun Concrete	Hess Engineering, Inc.	Patrick Golat Construction	Scott A. Swid
Breed Sportsman's Club	Larry & Lisa Hilgart	Peoples Bank Of Wisconsin	Tailfeathers Lane
Brown County	Holm's Riveredge	Peoples State Bank	James & Rose Teal
Sportsman Club	Golf Course	Pete Kueber Trucking	John & Donna Thenell
Thomas Buening	Henry G. Horneck	Plum Creek Timber	Gerald Thiede
Bull's Eye Sport Shop	Gerard Hruska	Power Pac, Inc.	Edward D. Tobias
BVK, Inc.	Ides Guides	Predator Trail Cams	Tom Dailing Design
The Cabin At Connors Lake	Insource, Inc.	Alan J. Preder	Ken & Mary Jo Tuckwell
Timothy Callahan	Robert J. Jaeger	Premium Brands	V & H, Inc.
Camp 36	Peter Janssen	Mark A. Prochazka	Van Ert Electric
Can-Am Kennels	Jack C. Jarvis	Quality Appraisals	Frank Vazquez
David D. Carl	David Johnson	Rasmussen Arms	Virchow, Krause, & Co, LLP
Catura's Martial Arts	Greg & Michelle Johnson	Michael J. Riggle	Douglas Wadsworth
Central Mechanical Systems	Ellis Jordan	Glen W. Ringwall	Brad A. Wagner
Central Wisconsin	K.L.P. Logging	River Valley Bank	Tim Wendt
Anesthesia Assoc.	Jerry Karbon	Riverside Farms	Whispering Pines Kennel
Chain O' Lakes Cyclery	Ken Winkelman Insurance	Rock Paint Distributing Corp.	Whitetails Unlimited
John E. Charewicz	Agency	The Rose Garden	Of Marshfield
Patrick D. Cherney	Jamie F. Kieckhefer, Jr.	Mike Roshar	Richard Whiting
Clover Safe Stride	Robert A. Kieckhefer	Bob Ross	Roger & Christine Whitton
Community First Bank	Brian Klein	Ross's Sport Shop &	Wickersham Jewelry, Inc.
Conway True Value Hardware	Brian D. Klockow	Guide Service	Wildlife Hunt Club
Andrew E. Cook II	Joe Korte	James Rusch	Wing Haven Kennels
T. Steve Cooper	David D. Krommenacker	Richard Rusch, MD	Wissota Sand & Gravel
Crandon Off-Road Raceway	Randy J. Kruzicki	Stephen Sash	William A. Woehrmann
Thomas P. Crist	David W. Kuehn	Dave Schlitz	Wuethrich Foundation
Custom Heating & Cooling	Jamie Kuhn	Bob F. Schmitt	David A. Zak
Dan's Feed Bin	William J. Kunde	Galen Schoepke	Gary & Olivia Zimmer
Jerry Dassler	David R. Leitner	Todd G. Schoepke	David W. Ziolkowski
Larry Dassler	Dave Lenz	Mark Schroeder &	Karl J. Zore
Dawg Tired	Liberty Bell Chalet	Mary Morgan	Travis E. Zydzik
Richard & Carol Degroot	William Liegel	James E. Schuettpeiz	
Denny Dillenburg	Morris A. Link	Schuster-Campman Abstract	
Double M Chiropractic	George A. Lyall	Title Co.	
David Drury	M & I Bank / Eagle River	David A. Schwabe	
Dunn County Fish &	M & I Bank / Marshfield	Michael Schwabe	
Game Association	Marshfield Savings Bank	Sebold Appraisal Co.	
E.O. Johnson, Co.	Jim & Marlys Martelle	Seed N Feed	
Eagle Deer Preserve	Mawicke & Goisman, S.C.	Sentry Insurance	
Eau Claire Rod & Gun Club	Allyson & Gary Mayeux	Paul E. Seul	
Matthew Erlandson	John D. McKenzie	Jim & Kathy Shurts	
Faith Technologies	Pat McLaughlin	Myron Sippl	

## RGS Personnel Updates

### New Regional Directors



The Ruffed Grouse Society recently added **David "Swede" Johnson** to staff. Johnson is new regional director for Wisconsin; the western Upper Peninsula of Michigan, the Twin Cities, Minnesota, Iowa; and Illinois.

"RGS' mission - to create grouse and woodcock habitat - is crucial to the future of

upland hunting. I'm looking forward to working with chapters to grow existing banquets, in order to better aid RGS in this endeavor," Johnson commented.

**Tripp Way** is the New England area RGS Regional Director. He graduated from Wittenberg University in 2003 with a BA in English literature, but his love of grouse and woodcock hunting introduced him to the Ruffed Grouse Society – and he learned about the organization's comprehensive habitat restoration programs.



Way enjoys studying ruffed grouse and keeps extensive statistics which he reports to the Loyal Order of Dedicated Grouse Hunters. His true passion is the outdoors, and he enjoys working with his 2 ½ year old German wirehaired pointer, Duke in the field.

Increasing membership and chapter participation while maintaining focus on the true matter – grouse, woodcock and the conservation of all species dependant on young forests for survival – top the list of Way's goals.

**Bruce Wojcik** joined the Ruffed Grouse Society regional directors late in 2009. He will be responsible for Michigan and Northern Indiana. "I have the utmost respect and appreciation for volunteers, and I am most excited and anxious to team up with Michigan RGS volunteers to make things happen across our great state," he said.



### Headquarters

**Dr. Michael Zagata's** title was changed from Executive Director & CEO to President & CEO of the Ruffed Grouse Society.

### Board of Directors

**Gaylen J. Byker** assumed the role of Chairman of the Board.



## 2nd Annual RGS 2009 Junior Essay and Poster Contest Results Announced



Lucy Whitmer

The winner of the 2009 poster contest was Lucy Whitmer of Spring Mills, Pennsylvania. Lucy is 7 years old and spends a lot of her time outdoors. The poster topic was "Show some of your favorite outdoor activities," and we were impressed by the number of different activities included on Lucy's poster. It included bike riding, picnicking, kayaking and horseback riding. For winning first place, Lucy won a pair of Steiner binoculars and an RGS junior membership.

This year's winning essay was written by 13-year-old James Krantz from Chanhassen, Minnesota. The topic was "What person has taught you the most about the outdoors?" and James won a Tri-Star Youth Model 20-gauge shotgun along with an RGS membership for his response.

James' essay moved us because it's clear from his words how much he appreciates nature. His father has taught him how to enjoy the great outdoors, while being safe and responsible.

His essay and Lucy's poster appeared in the Ruffed Grouse Society Magazine, Fall 2009, pages 24 and 25.



James Krantz

## *RGS Canada - Board of Directors Introduced*

In 2009 the Ruffed Grouse Society of Canada put a new Canadian board of directors in place. The formation of the board was a new beginning for RGS Canada and a step towards the goal of the whole organization working together as one large entity.

The six new directors come from three areas of the country where RGS is present and bring different skills.

### **Jean Brisset des Nos Quebec City**



The present chairman of the Quebec City chapter, Jean Brisset des Nos has been a part of the chapter the past 11 years. He has been chairman the past six years.

He has been an advocate of forming a national board of directors for RGS Canada with representation from the Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario. Brisset des

Nos wanted to be part of such a board when it got off the ground. His goal is to see RGS grow in Quebec.

### **John Brown Fredericton, New Brunswick**

John Brown has been a member of the Fredericton chapter committee for five years. He was attracted to it a unique way. "I'm drawn to association with things that struggle along - like underdogs," he said. "I attended many DU functions and I thought they were well established. The first Ruffed Grouse Society banquet I went to in Fredericton, I think there were 25 people there."



"Nothing gives me more pleasure than to introduce new people to this way of life and leisure," he said. "Spreading the word about harvesting, preservation and conservation is a good thing."

### **Mike Gillespie Barrie, Ontario**



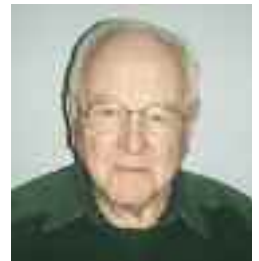
Mike Gillespie saw joining the RGS board of directors as a way of giving back after a lifetime of bird hunting. Gillespie hopes to raise RGS's profile in Canada and get its message out. "There's a perception that old growth forests are the way to go," he said.

"Species like grouse and woodcock need new growth

forest, and the only way people will know that is if we put the word out, and hopefully in Ontario I can help do that."

### **Jim Gillespie Quispamsis, New Brunswick**

Jim Gillespie is not presently a member of the Fredericton committee, but has attended a number of the RGS dinners in the New Brunswick capital. He has a long history as a conservation volunteer and believes great things are possible for RGS.



His past conservation involvement involved his second and third loves, trout and salmon fishing, respectively. He is also the founding chairman of the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund, which is now a \$7 million fund, to create wildlife habitat.

Gillespie sees possibilities for the trust fund to help RGS. "There is a substantial amount of money available through the trust fund we haven't taken advantage of," he said. "The amount of habitat has decreased through building and suburbs growing."

### **Dan Mansell Peterborough, Ontario**

Mansell's association with the Ruffed Grouse Society of Canada goes back to the earliest days of the group in the country. In the 1970s, he was working for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in Midhurst and traveled to the United States to meet with RGS representatives there. Following the meeting, he helped get the first dinner off the ground in Toronto. "My feeling is the key to all this is habitat and there needs to be some interest in it by the provincial agencies," he said.



### **Daniel Parent Quebec City**

A grouse hunter since he was 10, Parent has been involved with the Quebec City RGS chapter for the past four years. When asked to join the board of

directors, he jumped at the chance. He has several things he would like to accomplish. "If we can increase the (grouse) population and make people aware it's a good thing to hunt, then it's a good start for the kids," Parent said. "It's also a good activity to do as a family."



## Woodcock Hunter Survey: Weighing in on the Data

by Dan Dessecker, RGS Director of Conservation Policy

In early 2008 a small group of passionate woodcock hunters - many of whom are RGS members - began to discuss the idea of establishing a mandatory federal permit or stamp for woodcock hunters to raise funds to support woodcock habitat conservation projects. Word soon spread and several bird hunting and sporting dog magazines pursued the story. Several of these periodicals invited readers to voice their opinions. Not surprisingly, the vast majority of readers enthusiastically supported the idea. RGS covered the story in our Spring 2008 issue, and likewise encouraged members to weigh in. Again, the majority of members who responded thought a woodcock stamp or permit was a fine idea.

The only way to get an accurate picture of opinions held by all woodcock hunters was to conduct a random survey. During the 2008-2009 hunting season RGS mailed survey questionnaires to 2025 randomly selected woodcock hunters across the country. The survey was designed to gauge the sentiment regarding a permit or stamp, assess hunter effort and success, as well as indicate how woodcock hunters view the current state of their sport.

A complete survey questionnaire and results are printed in the Summer 2009 issue of RGS, on page 44. held by the 546 hunters who returned a completed survey. The response rate was 27%, which is on the high-end of what can be expected from this type of survey. Although a larger response is always better, this number of survey participants can provide a reasonable estimate of opinions held by woodcock hunters across the country.

Results suggest that a typical woodcock hunter is male, probably in his 40's or older, and hunts woodcock primarily in conjunction with another game animal - often ruffed grouse. He hunts woodcock up to 10 days every year, and harvests 10 or fewer woodcock each season. Nineteen percent of all survey respondents hunt woodcock in more than one state.

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## RGS and Print of the Year

### An Inside Look at the 2009 RGS Centerfold Artist

Chris Smith is a nature artist currently residing in Interlochen, Michigan. He was selected to complete illustrations for the 2009 grouse centerfold in the magazine, and continued in 2010 to illustration the American woodcock centerfold.

He is a graduate of Lake Superior State University in Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan with a BS in Fisheries and Wildlife Management. He and his wife, Lani, have two children, Nathan and Audrey and a yellow Labrador, Libby. Chris has hunted, fished, and photographed across North America, adding hands-on experience to his education in the wildlife sciences. Visit [www.chrissmithart.com](http://www.chrissmithart.com) for more of his work.

### 2010 Sponsor Print of the Year

The RGS 2010 Sponsor Print of the Year is *Standing Tall - Ruffed Grouse* by Brian Jarvi of Cohasset, Minnesota. *Standing Tall* was featured on the cover of the RGS Spring

Most woodcock hunters appear satisfied with the current season and bag limit structure. Seventy percent feel that the daily bag limit of three birds is about right, and 61% suggest that the length of the season is appropriate.

Although the highest percentage (38%) of respondents stated that the overall quality of woodcock hunting has remained about the same over the past 5 years, hunters who feel it has gotten worse (33%) far outnumber those who feel it has gotten better (17%). The majority of woodcock hunters (52%) are hunting about the same number of days as they were 5 years ago. A significant percentage of hunters (26%) are hunting less than they were 5 years ago. Comparatively, a mere 13% of hunters have increased the number of days they hunt over the last 5 years. This decline in hunter effort could be due to a perceived decline in hunt quality or the aging of hunters, or a combination of both factors.

Of those woodcock hunters that expressed an opinion, 44% support the idea of establishing a permit to hunt woodcock - if the funds generated were used for woodcock habitat conservation - and 56% are opposed to the permit. Not surprisingly, hunters who could be considered more dedicated (those who hunt more days every year or hunt in more than one state or province) are more likely to support a permit than casual woodcock hunters. Forty-seven percent of survey respondents suggest that they would, or probably would continue to hunt woodcock if required to purchase a permit in order to do so; 40% said they would not, or probably would not, continue to hunt woodcock.

This collaborative survey to gain insight into how woodcock hunters perceive the state of their sport is the first random, nationwide survey ever conducted. The data from this survey will be most helpful to natural resource professionals and policy makers as we move forward with woodcock conservation into the 21st century.

2010 issue. The original painting will be auctioned off at the 2010 National Grouse and Woodcock Hunt in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Limited edition

prints will be featured at all RGS 2010 banquets. Sponsors participating in the reward program may also elect to receive a print of Jarvi's work.

Jarvi is never at a loss for inspiration. "The tremendous diversity, the sheer numbers, and often sobering confrontations of the wildlife have spawned more ideas than I can ever hope to put on canvas," he says. To view more of Jarvi's artwork, visit [www.jarvistudios.com](http://www.jarvistudios.com)



*National News*

*Ruffed Grouse Society Plays Leadership Role in Historic White House Conference*

by Dan Dessecker, RGS Director of Conservation Policy

The White House Conference on North American Wildlife Policy was held on October 1-3 in Reno, Nevada. Not since 1908, when President Theodore Roosevelt convened a Governor’s Conference on Conservation, have wildlife conservation and hunting been elevated to this level of importance by the federal government...Over 500 people from across the nation attended the Conference, including representatives from RGS Chapters in Alaska and Massachusetts. Key officials in attendance included Vice President Cheney, Department of Agriculture Secretary Shaeffer, Department of the Interior Secretary Kempthorne and Council on Environmental Quality Chair Connaughton.

The conference was one result of Executive Order 13443, which was signed by President Bush in August, 2007. This Order directs federal agencies to work in concert with the Council, state fish and wildlife agencies and the public to “facilitate the expansion and enhancement of hunting opportunities and the management of game species and their habitat” in a manner that respects state authority of resident wildlife and the property rights of private landowners...

The next and perhaps most important step in promoting the goals of the President’s Executive Order is the completion of a comprehensive



Former Vice President Cheney gives the keynote address at the White House Conference on North American Wildlife Policy held this past October in Reno, Nevada.

10-year Recreational Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Plan. Over the past 13 months, the White House and the Council have worked with a diverse cross-section of federal, state, local and tribal government officials, members of Congress and their staffs, conservation organizations and other vested interests from the private sector to identify and assess key wildlife conservation issues for the 21st Century...

The importance of viewing the Action Plan as a living document, not

merely as a product of the Bush Administration, was emphasized by CEQ Chair Connaughton. “The 10 year action plan that we’re working on together is not merely a 10 year plan, it is the foundation for a 100 year outcome. And so as we sprint to the finish, our finish is the hand off of the baton to the next administration, to the next Congress, to the next set of governors, to the next set of state officials, to the next set of leaders of your organizations, one of whom could well be my son, your daughter,” Connaughton stated.

Dan Dessecker, Ruffed Grouse Society Director of Conservation Policy, chaired the various sessions across the nation addressing the issue of Wildlife Habitat Conservation and drafted the policy paper and resulting recommendations.

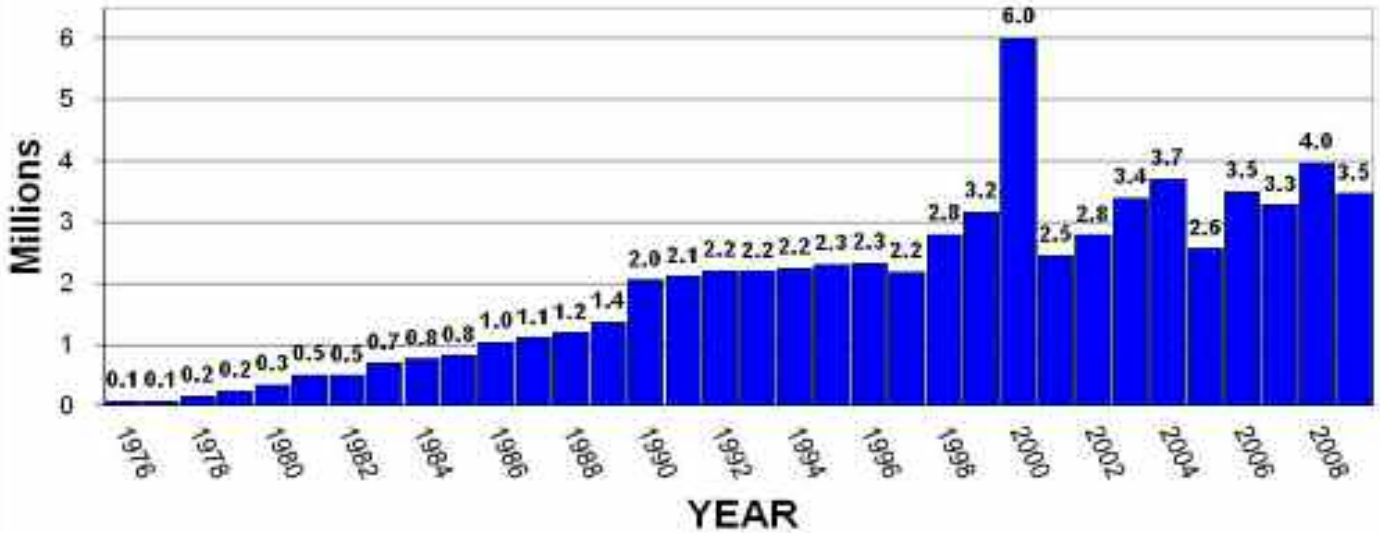
The Sporting Conservation Council and the other leaders of the wildlife conservation community will meet with the Obama Administration early in its tenure to ensure that the tireless work of so many in moving sport hunting forward on the national stage is not lost in the maze of other priorities. Ruffed Grouse Society members, and the interests of those animals we pursue with such passion each fall, have been well represented to date as this historic opportunity has unfolded – and we aim to keep it that way...

The *RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY* is a not-for-profit entity dedicated to improving the environment for the ruffed grouse, the American woodcock and many other species of forest wildlife. The accompanying financial statements include the accounts of the Society’s headquarters operations only and do not include the accounts and operations of the Society’s various chapters.

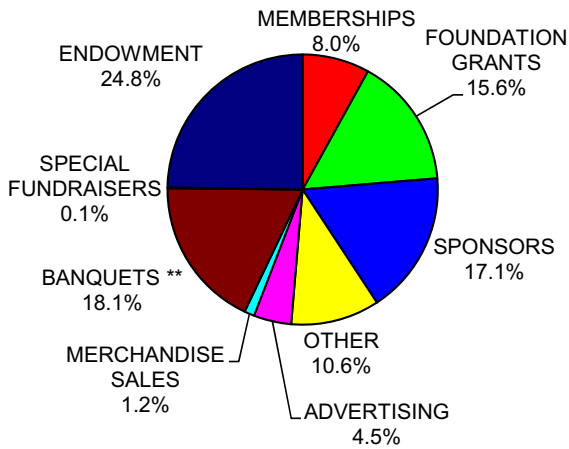
The Society is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Income from certain activities not directly related to the Society’s tax-exempt purpose, however, is subject to taxation as unrelated business income.

**Notes pertaining to the Ruffed Grouse Society audit are on file at the Ruffed Grouse Society headquarters.**

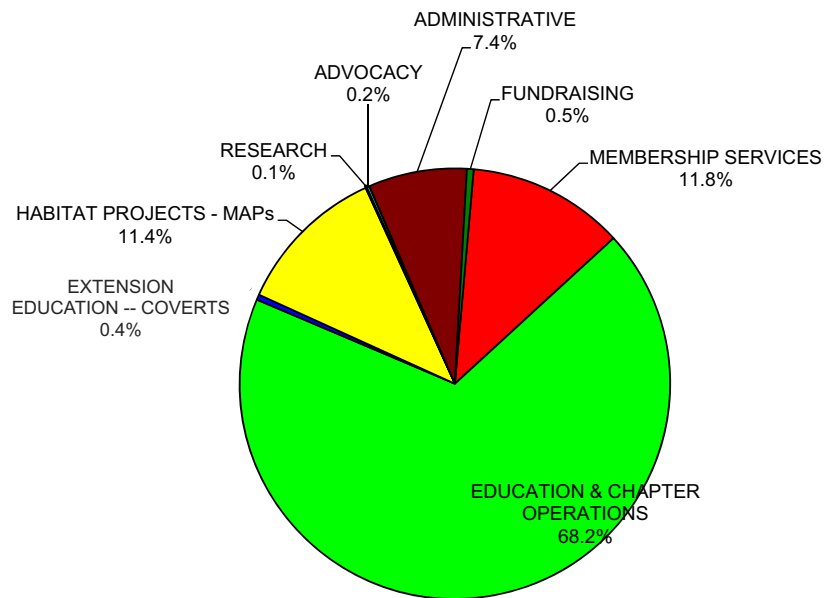
### RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY INCOME (Includes Direct Contributions to FWF)



### SOURCES OF INCOME (2009)



### WHERE YOUR DOLLAR GOES 2009



\*\*BANQUETS does not include payments for Regular and sponsor memberships made via banquets. these payments are included with all others in the categories "MEMBERSHIPS" and "SPONSORS."

**RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
DECEMBER 31, 2009**

(With comparative totals for the year ended December 31, 2008)

<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
Cash & cash equivalents, temporarily restricted, designated & undesignated	\$ 890,560	\$ 1,666,210
Short-term investments	\$ 3,451,671	\$ 1,966,563
Accounts receivable	\$ 139,132	\$ 139,354
Pledges receivable	\$ 1,075,945	\$ 1,419,373
Contribution receivable	\$ 77,830	\$ 66,406
Inventory	\$ 293,000	\$ 264,339
Land held for resale	\$ 193,652	\$ 193,652
Property & equipment (net)	\$ 454,241	\$ 245,691
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 6,576,031</b>	<b>\$ 5,961,588</b>
 <b>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Line of Credit	\$ 617,019	\$ 708,609
Accounts Payable	\$ 46,465	\$ 99,872
Accrued retirement	\$ 23,662	\$ 25,963
Accrued expenses	\$ 15,583	\$ 18,750
Deferred revenue	\$ 33,933	\$ 44,921
Notes payable	\$ 159,500	\$ 79,851
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 896,162</b>	<b>\$ 977,966</b>
 <b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted:		
Undesignated (net deficit)	\$ 820,838	\$ 480,505
Designated	\$ 4,115,522	\$ 3,443,317
Temporarily restricted	\$ 743,509	\$ 1,059,800
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 5,679,869</b>	<b>\$ 4,983,622</b>
 <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	 <b>\$ 6,576,031</b>	 <b>\$ 5,961,588</b>

**RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY  
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009**

(With comparative totals for the year ended December 31, 2008)

<b>REVENUES, GAINS &amp; OTHER SUPPORT</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
Contributions	\$ 1,471,761	\$ 3,512,056
Membership Dues	337,954	382,095
Proceeds from banquets/events	682,873	704,509
Sales of merchandise (net)	41,245	60,294
Advertising income	124,085	143,172
Fundraising	2,582	8,814
Investment income	115,490	90,175
Realized gain (loss) on sale of investments	(52,826)	(95,772)
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	599,639	(878,856)
Gain (loss) on disposal of property & equipment	(1,337)	3,097
Miscellaneous income	137,218	36,267
<b>TOTAL REVENUES, GAINS &amp; OTHER SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$ 3,458,684</b>	<b>\$ 3,965,851</b>
 <b>FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES</b>		
<i>Program services</i>		
Membership services	\$ 325,969	\$ 382,797
General education & chapter operations	1,883,981	2,212,438
Habitat projects	314,917	369,820
Coverts	11,053	12,976
Research	2,760	3,244
Advocacy	5,524	6,488
<i>Supporting services</i>		
Administration	204,421	240,059
Fundraising	13,812	16,221
<b>TOTAL FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 2,762,437</b>	<b>\$ 3,244,043</b>
 Change in net assets	 \$ 696,247	 \$ 721,808
<b>NET ASSETS BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 4,983,622</b>	<b>\$ 4,261,814</b>
<b>NET ASSETS END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 5,679,869</b>	<b>\$ 4,983,622</b>



Four Gateway Center, 9th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors of  
The Ruffed Grouse Society

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of The Ruffed Grouse Society (a nonprofit organization) as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and the related statements of cash flows for the years then ended and the statement of activities for the year ended December 31, 2009. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Society's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. The prior year summarized comparative information has been derived from The Ruffed Grouse Society's 2008 financial statements where, in our report dated May 14, 2009, we expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Ruffed Grouse Society as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and its cash flows for the years then ended and the results of its operations and changes in net assets for the year ended December 31, 2009 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The schedules of functional expenses and unrestricted and temporarily restricted net assets on pages seventeen through twenty are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
May 5, 2010

**RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY  
FUNCTIONAL EXPENDITURES  
DECEMBER 31, 2009**

Year ended December 31, 2009 (Unaudited)

	Membership Services	General Education and Chapter Operations	Habitat Projects	Conservation	Research	Activities	Administration	Fundraising	Totals
Advertising	\$ 6,274	\$ 32,214	\$ 4,385	\$ 108	\$ 47	\$ 84	\$ 3,995	\$ 258	\$ 47,254
Bank charges	723	4,500	705	25	6	19	438	31	6,188
Chapter activities expenses	31,015	152,148	35,447	1,052	267	534	14,764	1,285	287,572
Chapter expenses	21,808	136,020	21,365	744	108	371	13,034	628	185,867
Cost of merchandise sold	4,014	28,110	4,264	152	38	77	2,503	181	35,384
Data processing	1,738	10,016	1,574	59	15	29	1,087	73	14,605
Depreciation	14,125	21,642	18,547	470	120	239	8,528	589	119,711
Dues and subscriptions	645	3,729	828	22	5	11	405	27	5,467
Educational programs	711	4,158	887	34	6	12	448	30	9,084
General support	2,238	12,034	2,182	78	10	38	1,403	95	18,969
Habitat workshops	580	3,255	581	20	5	10	364	25	4,920
Insurance	2,887	18,571	2,770	97	24	45	1,765	121	24,257
Interest	3,586	20,723	3,484	122	30	61	2,249	152	30,387
Investment fees	693	5,577	330	33	8	16	605	41	8,177
Legal and accounting	5,700	32,908	5,215	124	48	97	3,580	242	48,811
Meetings and conferences	(816)	(1,827)	(408)	(11)	(5)	(5)	(105)	(13)	(2,675)
Miscellaneous	2,823	18,317	2,725	98	24	48	1,771	125	28,207
Miscellaneous contributions	443	2,553	495	15	4	8	275	19	3,758
Postage and delivery	2,054	18,402	2,757	37	34	48	1,780	121	24,782
Printing	233	1,808	283	10	2	5	184	12	2,484
Professional merchandise	2,427	14,435	2,413	55	21	40	1,588	108	31,186
Rent, utilities and cleaning	15,572	60,009	16,014	520	120	284	9,788	680	131,899
Research projects	118	852	114	6	1	3	74	5	1,073
RGS publications	18,152	104,971	17,548	810	154	338	11,280	770	153,817
Salaries and benefits	153,538	587,348	148,322	5,204	1,307	2,008	96,287	8,000	1,301,095
Supplies and equipment rental	5,851	40,340	6,744	237	58	116	4,078	290	58,161
Telephone	4,358	25,158	4,206	148	37	74	2,730	194	36,801
Travel and auto	21,256	122,844	20,534	720	190	380	18,825	301	180,125
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 325,920</b>	<b>\$ 1,583,951</b>	<b>\$ 314,917</b>	<b>\$ 11,053</b>	<b>\$ 2,780</b>	<b>\$ 5,524</b>	<b>\$ 204,421</b>	<b>\$ 13,812</b>	<b>\$ 2,762,437</b>

**CFC PARTICIPATION**

RGS participates in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) as a member of the Conservation & Preservation Charities of America Federation under the listing of "National Federations." RGS' permanent ID number is 12058. Federal employees are encouraged to add RGS to their payroll deduction plans.



**OFFICERS**

D. Wayne Jacobson, Jr.....Chair  
Denis Karnosky.....Vice Chair & Treasurer  
Scotty Searle.....Secretary

**DIRECTORS**

Larry Brutger; Leon H. "Joe" Chandler;  
Edwin H. Gott, Jr.; James Hayett; Joe R. Irwin;  
D. Wayne Jacobson, Jr.; William "Butch" Johnson;  
Bruce Ogle; James H. Oliver; John C. Oliver;  
Stephen F. Quill; George Rich; Terald J. Wilson

**DIRECTORS EMERITI**

T. Stanton Armour, S. Prosser Mellon  
Sally B. Searle, David V. Uihlein

**HEADQUARTERS STAFF**

Dr. Michael D. Zagata .....President/CEO  
Ronald P. Burkert .....Information Systems  
and Webmaster  
Anna Stubna .....Editor and Special Projects  
Margie Vollmer .....Controller  
Tracy M. Greene .....Director – Banquet Operations  
Julie Caugherty .....Director – Membership Services  
and Marketing Coordinator  
Shirley Rice.....Membership Services  
Rudy Mamula.....Accounts Payable  
Kim Swisher .....Accounts Receivable  
Leatha M. Veiock .....Informatin Systems Assistant  
and Mailroom  
Alison R. Kelley .....Administrative Assistant  
Wallace L. Chevront .....Staff Assistant --  
Shipping and Receiving  
Dick Nelson.....Publicist

**PLANNED GIFTS AND GIVING**

RGS is eligible to receive tax-deductible gifts of cash, stocks, land, bequests, and other forms of planned gifts. Members are encouraged to add RGS to their estate plans by providing the information available on those subjects on the RGS website, [www.ruffedgrousesociety.org](http://www.ruffedgrousesociety.org) on the **Conservation > Planned Gifts** page, to their estate planner or lawyer.

**CONSERVATION POLICY**

Daniel R. Dessecker .....Director

**BIOLOGISTS**

Mark E. Banker.....Senior Biologist, Mid-Atlantic  
.....New England  
Gary Zimmer .....Sally B. Searle Senior Biologist  
.....Minnesota

**REGIONAL DIRECTORS**

Mark D. Fouts.....Director of Regional Operations  
& AK, MO, MN, OR, WA  
Ken Waite.....NY, PA  
O. Boyd Cooke.....ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT  
Douglas R. Doherty .....MI, IN  
David Johnson.....WI, MI, MN, IA, IL  
Dave Hansroth .....PA, MD, NJ, DE  
Don Mallicoat .....GA, KY, LA, NC, TN, VA  
Lisa M. Rossi .....PA, OH, WV, IN

**NATIONAL OFFICE**

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**RGS CANADA**

Gary McWilliams, Chief Administrative Officer  
  
John Lockerbie  
RGS Canada Chapter Information Coordinator