



Ruff Country News & Timberdoodle Times

For the Northeast Region

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Andrew Weik, Regional Wildlife Biologist for New York, New England, and Louisiana
Ruffed Grouse Society/American Woodcock Society
Freeville, NY Tel: (607) 793-4832 Email: andyw@ruffedgrousesociety.org

Season's Greetings!

Today as I write, a few inches of snow blankets the upstate New York landscape – perhaps we'll have a real winter this year. It's a time to reflect on the year past and to look forward to the year to come. I like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all of the RGS and AWS volunteers who give generously of their time, sweat, money, and passion to help improve our forests for grouse and woodcock, and to preserve our hunting traditions.



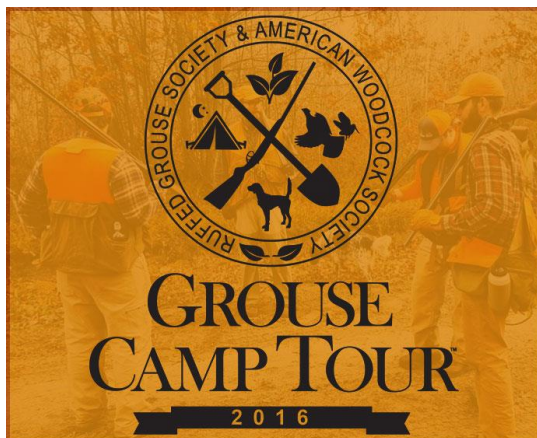
Thank you to all the folks on chapter committees and to banquet sponsors – your contributions enable RGS staff to work with the state and federal conservation agencies, and to represent our interests on important national policy issues in Washington, D.C. I also would like to thank everyone who has attended a banquet, shoot, hunt or other event – we appreciate your contributions. Many have taken the time to write a letter or send an email to your state wildlife agency to comment on habitat issues – it makes a difference and I appreciate it. Thanks to the many who have participated in habitat work days, or hosted a habitat workshop on their land. Volunteers represent the Society at sportsman shows, fairs, and National Hunting and Fishing Day events. We had a few youth events this past year – thanks to all who donated or instructed – that’s our future.



So, thank you all so much. I wish you and yours all a happy and healthy holiday season, and best wishes in the New Year.

- Andy

“Grouse Camp Tour” Continues to Celebrate the Ruffed Grouse Society’s Mission




The fall of 2016 found a few RGS staff touring several southern Appalachian states, engaging with local members and celebrating young forest habitats and our storied upland bird hunting heritage. Initiated in 2015, the Grouse Camp Tour has become a popular and visible means of showcasing the spiritual and community-building benefits of grouse and woodcock hunting, while also depicting the importance of diverse and healthy forest wildlife habitat. Follow this year’s grouse tour at

<http://www.ruffedgrousesociety.org/camptour16>.

[#grousecamptour](#) [#ruffedgrousesociety](#) – “We found grouse in North Carolina and Georgia - we also found passionate RGS members dedicated to creating healthy forests on national forestlands in the Southern Appalachian region . . .” – Matt Soberg, RGS

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Current Drummer Fund Projects in the Northeast

- Cicero Swamp Wildlife Management Area, Cicero/Sullivan, NY. 10 acres clearcut/opening creation.
- Tioughnioga Wildlife Management Area, Nelson/Cazenovia, NY. 79 acres clearcut, 113 acres apple tree release.
- Aldo Leopold Wildlife Management Area, Southbury, CT. 42 acres clearcut.
- Mad River Dam Flood Control Area, Winchester/Winsted, CT. 50 acres clearcut/opening creation.
- Downeast Lakes Land Trust, Grand Lake Stream, ME. Acquired 1,100 acres to be actively managed for habitat (ruffed grouse focal species management).



Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation and Ruffed Grouse Society Partner to Advance Conservation Goals



December 19, 2016 (Washington, DC) – The Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation (CSF) and the Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the shared goals of the two organizations to advance science-based wildlife management, wildlife conservation and the sportsmen’s heritage.

This partnership will provide an opportunity to combine CSF’s legislative knowledge and network of federal and state sportsmen’s caucuses with the vast RGS membership of upland hunters to effectively guide policy in a way that encourages the active participation of sportsmen and women in the legislative process.

“We look forward to collaborating with the Ruffed Grouse Society on advancing our common mission of protecting and advancing conservation of grouse, woodcock, and other game and non-game species,” said CSF President Jeff Crane. “RGS chapters across the country include volunteers who embrace the hunting tradition and understand the importance of protecting it for future generations.”

“We are honored to partner with the Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation, an organization that makes a difference by influencing legislation and policy to benefit wildlife conservation across the nation,” said RGS President and CEO John Eichinger. “With a larger and more effective voice, together we will enhance our ability to preserve our sporting traditions by creating healthy forest habitat for game and non-game wildlife species.”

CSF and RGS possess unique resources that when combined will advance conservation goals and benefit sportsmen and women at both the state and national levels.

About CSF

Since 1989, the Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation (CSF) has maintained a singleness of purpose that has guided the organization to become the most respected and trusted sportsmen’s organization in the political arena. CSF’s mission is to work with Congress, governors, and state legislatures to protect and advance hunting, angling, recreational shooting and trapping. The unique and collective force of the Congressional Sportsmen’s Caucus (CSC), the Governors Sportsmen’s Caucus (GSC) and the National Assembly of Sportsmen’s Caucuses (NASC), working closely with CSF, and with the support of major hunting, angling, recreational shooting and trapping organizations, serves as an unprecedented network of pro-sportsmen elected officials that advance the interests of America’s hunters and anglers.



New, **First-Time Members** get the Hat, Shirt & Magazine with a new 1-Year Membership **\$35.00** a \$78.00 value!

Limited-Time Gift Offer

The advertisement features a grey t-shirt with a grouse illustration and the text "RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY", a white baseball cap with a grouse logo, and a stack of "RUFFED GROUSE" magazines. A detailed illustration of a grouse is also present.



Upcoming Events in the Region

January 20 – American Woodcock Society Becasse Chapter’s 4th Annual Habitat & Sportsmen’s Banquet. Pat’s Fisherman’s Wharf 1008 Henderson Levee Road Breaux Bridge, LA.

<http://www.ruffedgrousesociety.org/UserFiles/File/BatonRougeLA17.pdf> or contact Nick Larson (NickL@ruffedgrousesociety.org)

January 25 – Central NY Chapter Annual Meeting, Dewitt Fish & Game Club; food and drinks @6:00pm, meeting @6:30pm. For more information contact Mike Walter (mrwalter2400@gmail.com)

February 24-26 - Northeast U.S. Winter 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Workshop. Location: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County Education & 4-H Training Center, Middleline Rd, Ballston Spa, NY. Disciplines include: Archery, Air Pistol, Coordinator, Hunting/Wildlife, Living History, Muzzleloading, Rifle, and Shotgun. Contact: Marilyn Preissler at: mkp2@cornell.edu regarding payment and lodging questions or John Bowe at: jfb32@cornell.edu for all other questions.

February 25 – 5th Annual Mid-Hudson Valley Chapter Banquet, Kingston, NY. <http://www.ruffedgrousesociety.org/UserFiles/File/KingstonNY17WebSave.pdf> or contact Tripp Way (trippw@ruffedgrousesociety.org).

June 2-4 - Spring 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Workshop. Location: Wyoming County, NY. Disciplines typically offered include: Archery, Rifle, Air Pistol (Shotgun &

Coordinator as needed). Contact John Bowe at: jfb32@cornell.edu for more information.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions:

Andy Weik

RGS/AWS Regional Biologist

New York, New England, Louisiana, Eastern Canada

607-793-4832 or andyw@ruffedgrousesociety.org

The Ruffed Grouse Society is North America's foremost conservation organization dedicated to preserving our sporting traditions by creating healthy forest habitat for ruffed grouse, American woodcock and other wildlife. For information on the Ruffed Grouse Society/American Woodcock Society, please call 888-564-6747 or check out the RGS website at www.ruffedgrousesociety.org.

