



## Le Grand Traverse Chapter 2012 Newsletter

Happy New Year Fellow RGS Members, I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your continued support of the Le Grand Traverse Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society. Best wishes to everyone for a happy, healthy new year, canine and human alike.

### 2011 Year in Review

WOW what a year, through your generous support of our chapter we experienced record setting growth in 2011, helping to raise funds and promote the Ruffed Grouse Society's mission. I would be remiss to not thank each of the committee members for their hard work and dedication to the Chapter it is much appreciated. Also I would like to recognize our community business partners, sponsors, and members for their generous donations and financial contributions in 2011, specifically with the banquet.

### 2011 Banquet Huge Success!

For the 4<sup>th</sup> Year in a row we saw year over year growth at our banquet, the credit goes to the diverse banquet committee and a very active membership that appreciates the hard work locally and nationally the RGS continues to provide.

### 2011 RGS Fun Trials Recap

State of Mi RGS Chapters continues to see success in fun off season Hunting Dog Trial's throughout the state. Every year some of the best dogs at the End of the Year Dog of the Year Trial come from the Traverse City, MI Chapter. This year was no different, Fritz Heller, Bella took 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Flushing Dog Division, Ric Heller II took 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Place in Flushing Division, and Justin Somsel took 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Pointing Division for the second year in a row. The Trial was held at Colonial Farms in Chelsea, MI and hosted by the Greater South East, MI Chapter. See 2012 Events for more information on TC's Regional Trial.

### 2012 Growing Forward

More money than ever raised at RGS Banquets and Events goes to on the ground habitat. MI has the most active Drummer Fund in the Country, awarding over \$35,000 in habitat grants for 2012. Your support of RGS was vital in our chapter leading the way for money raised for on the ground Habitat. The MacMaster Gun Funds rose through sale of an AYA 28 Gauge Donated by Hugh and Michelle raised over \$7600.00 that went towards

Habitat Projects in North West Lower Michigan to be completed in 2012.

### 2012 Area Partners

Would like to take this time to thank and recognize our Partners that work hand in hand with us on habitat projects; Conservation Resource Alliance, and Cedar Rod and Gun Club.

### Dr. Rodney Robison

I want to **THANK** Dr. Rodney Robison for his 5 plus years of service to our Chapters Board, he was a familiar smiling face as a Dog Trial Marshal and a solid source of information on all things Habitat. Rodney along with his Wife will be missed as active Chapter Members. Thanks Rodney, don't be scarce!

### *Jon Ricks Sr.*

*Longtime Le Grand Traverse Chapter President and stalwart Grouse Hunter, Jonathan B. Ricks Sr. died at his home on New Year's Day 2012. The Chapter wants to express the deepest sympathies to the entire Ricks family and close circle of Friends. Mr. Ricks served Traverse City Conservation Organizations including the RGS for over three decades and his spirit and excitement for life will be missed.*

## Tree Planting Huge Success!

Le Grand Traverse Chapter Members partnered with Eric Ellis, Biologist for the CRA to complete a public land wildlife tree planting in April of 2011. Over 700 trees were planted with plans for even more in 2012. See Schedule of Events for Contacts, we need volunteers!

Congrats to Bryan Bilinski

2011 Ray Bunn Sportsman of the Year! Visit long time Chapter Supporter Field Sport Ltd.

## 2012 Schedule of Events

- March 23-25th, Traverse City Hunting & Fishing Expo – Civic Center – Stop by our booth!
- April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Co-Op Tree Planting, Benzie County, MI  
Contact Paul Huffman  
231-510-0736
- May 6<sup>th</sup>, Annual Spring Fun Trial, Thundering Aspens, Mesick MI Contact Ric Heller  
616-240-9000
- June 2012 – Youth Skeet and Trap Leagues Cedar Rod and

## Gun Club

Contact Tim Stein 231-228-6984

- August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dare to Shoot Doubles Sporting Clays Fundraiser.  
Contact Tim Stein  
231-228-6984
- August – 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> 2012 Hunters Safety Class – Cedar Rod and Gun Club – if you would like to teach Hunters Safety Please Contact Rick Bechtold at 231-947-5424
- **September 8<sup>th</sup> – Annual Banquet** Williamsburg Dinner Theatre
- September 9<sup>th</sup>, Youth Hunt Thundering Aspens
- September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012 (Saturday) Opening Day of Grouse Season!  
September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 (Saturday)  
Opening Day of Woodcock Season

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION @ [www.tcrgs.com](http://www.tcrgs.com)

*LIKE US ON FACEBOOK @  
LE GRAND TRAVERSE  
CHAPTER*

Watch for all Chapter Event Fliers in the Mail

Visit: Keep up to date on by visiting <http://www.ruffedgrousesociety.org/>

**Dare to Shoot Doubles Underwriting Function:** Please Note the Dare to Shoot Doubles Fund Raiser is designed to Support the Youth Trap and Skeet Leagues that are Free of Charge to all participants. Le Grand Traverse Chapter and Cedar Rod and Gun Club believe strongly that the future of Shooting and Conservation lies with Youth Recruitment.