

WISCONSIN SHARP-TAILED GROUSE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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BOARD MEETING NEWS

We're making progress on the business end of organizing the Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society. On October 17th, President Tom Ziegeweid, Vice President Jim Shurts, Secretary board member Jim Evrard met to review the articles of incorporation and by-laws. These are published in this issue. Incidentally (or maybe not so incidentally) Ziggy and Shurts both got sharpies earlier in the day, so we had a good meeting in lots of ways.

The by-laws state that we will have a seven member board of directors elected by the membership. The board will then elect the officers from its members. The nominating committee for the first "official" board is the existing officers. Board terms will be for three years except that for this first board we will randomly have two one year terms, two people with two year terms, and three people with three year terms so that we have overlapping expirations in the future.

In this newsletter we have short biographies of some of the board candidates. Also included is your ballot. Please mail in vote or bring your ballot to the annual meeting.

Myron Anderson - I am 62 years old, life long resident of Ashland area. I would like to see the restoration of sharptails in my area. I have seen and hunted sharptails since boyhood.

I believe some wrong decisions have been made by the DNR in regards to sharptail management. I would like to try to influence future sharptail management.

- Ray Anderson - Taught Wildlife at University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point for 29 years. Was involved with research on prairie chickens since 1961. Directed a 3 year sharptail research project in NW Wisconsin in the late 1970's. Currently retired from US-Stevens Point but conducting research on black bears in north central Wisconsin and continuing an annual census of prairie chickens in central Wisconsin. The sharptail's status is tenuous in Wisconsin. I offer to do that which I can to improve the situation.
- Don Bronk - Administrative Officer with the Marathon County Parks Department. I am interested in writing articles for the society and in serving on the board in a meaningful way. My list of hobbies includes hunting (mostly duck), fishing (mostly walleye), camping, playwriting, wood-working, the literature and religions of Greece, Egypt, and the near east, science fiction, astronomy, photography, classical music, sketching, gourmet wild game cooking, tree farming, and dating attractive women.
- Tom Davis - I'm Senior Editor for Wisconsin Trails Magazine, Contributing Editor and Gun Dogs Columnist for Sporting Classics, and a freelance contributor to a number of other national publications. My work is included in two anthologies of outdoor writing, The Art of Shooting Flying (GSJ Press) and Bare November Days (Country Sport Press). I own (and, occasionally breed) English Setters and Pointers with which I hunt upland birds at every opportunity. Sharptails have a special place in my affections, primarily because of the incredibly beautiful country they inhabit. I just love prairie.
- Dan Dessecker - I became fascinated with sharptails while working with the remnant population in Wood County during the early 80's. With few exceptions, existing habitat conditions and likely successional trends don't bode well for this critter in Wisconsin. I'd like to do what I can to help.
- Bob Dreis - My main interest is to save and maintain the unique habitat type (brush prairie and pine barrens) of which the sharptail is an indicator species and to occasionally murder a sharpie!
- Dave Evenson - As Cumberland Area Wildlife Manager I have a couple of the best remaining barrens in the state in my work area, and I can appreciate how rare and special these places are. I'd like to see the WSGS continue to grow and tell the barrens story over and over to policy makers that affect this habitat.

BYLAWS

WISCONSIN SHARP-TAILED GROUSE SOCIETY, INC.

ARTICLE 1. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society, hereafter referred to as The Society, shall be the preservation and enhancement of the oak and pine barrens habitat of which the sharp-tailed grouse is a key indicator species.

OBJECTIVES

Publicize the sharp-tailed grouse's plight.

Educate the public and resource professionals about sharp-tailed grouse.

Encourage management of sharp-tailed grouse habitat.

Promote both hunting and non-hunting recreational use of sharp-tailed grouse.

Influence both state and local decisions that will benefit sharp-tailed grouse and other barrens species.

ARTICLE 2. MEMBERSHIP

ELIGIBILITY

Membership in The Society shall be open to all persons or organizations who pay annual dues to The Society.

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIPS

Regular Members: Persons who pay annual dues of \$10.00

Supporting Members: Persons who pay annual dues of \$25.00

Contributing Members: Persons who pay annual dues of \$50.00.

Sustaining Members: Persons or organizations that pay annual dues of \$100.00.

Sponsor Members: Persons or organizations that pay annual dues of \$200.00 or more.

VOTING

Each member, whether individual or organization, shall be entitled to one vote on matters submitted to a vote of the members, including election of the board of directors. Voting by proxy is not allowed.

DURATION

Membership in The Society shall be for the 12 month period following receipt of annual dues.

TRANSFER

Membership in The Society is not transferable or assignable.

TERMINATION

Membership shall terminate from non-payment of dues.

ARTICLE 3. MEETINGS

ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERS

An annual meeting of The Society shall be held each year at a time and place designated by the board of directors. Not less than thirty (30) days before, the secretary-treasurer shall notify each member in writing the date, time and place of the annual meeting.

REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERS

Regular meetings of the members shall be held as determined by the board of directors. Not less than thirty (30) days before, the secretary-treasurer shall notify each member in writing the date, time and place of the regular meeting.

SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERS

Special meetings of the members may be called by any officer, provided ten (10) days notice is given to the membership as to time, place, and purpose of the special meeting.

REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular meetings of the board of directors shall be held as determined by the board of directors. Not less than thirty (30) days before, the secretary-treasurer shall notify each director in writing the date, time and place of the regular meeting.

SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Special meetings of the board of directors may be called by any officer, provided ten (10) days notice is given to the board of directors as to time, place, and purpose of the special meeting.

QUORUM

At any meeting of the members of The Society, a minimum of nine (9) members in good standing present shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

At any meeting of the board of directors of The Society, a minimum of four (4) board members in good standing present shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

VOTES

A majority of all votes cast at any legally held meeting shall bind The Society. Only members in good standing shall be entitled to vote. Voting by proxy is not allowed.

ARTICLE 4. ORGANIZATION OF THE SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of The Society shall consist of 7 members of The Society elected by the membership at large.

ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The board of directors shall be elected by mail ballot for a term of 3 years, except for the initial terms of office. The initial terms of office shall be as follows: 2 members for 1 year, 2 members for 2 years, and 3 members for 3 years. The initial length of office for individuals shall be determined by lottery among the 7 board members elected. Subsequent elections will result in staggered terms of office, with each individual being elected for 3 years. Terms of office begin with the annual meeting.

OFFICERS

Officers of The Society shall be president, vice president, secretary-treasurer and any such other officers as may be deemed necessary and established in accordance with provisions of this article. No two offices shall be held by the same person. Only members of The Society Board of Directors may be officers of The Society.

ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE OF THE OFFICERS

Officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors for a term of one (1) year, or until a successor has been duly elected. Terms of office begin with the annual meeting.

PRESIDENT

The president shall preside at all meetings of The Society and be responsible for its direction.

VICE PRESIDENT

The vice president assists the president at the latter's discretion and assumes duties of the president in his or her absence.

SECRETARY-TREASURER

The secretary-treasurer shall record the proceedings of all meetings, reporting them, first of all, to the membership for approval and then in a permanent file. He or she shall conduct transactions, maintain records and issue reports pertinent to The Society's finances.

ARTICLE 5. COMMITTEES

COMMITTEES

The president shall have the authority to create and appoint committees and their chairpersons.

DUTIES

The function and duties of committees shall be established and directed by the president.

QUORUM

At any committee meeting, a majority of that committee's members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE 6. ESTABLISHMENT OF CHAPTERS

ESTABLISHMENT

Local chapters of The Society may be formed by any group of five (5) or more members, provided the boundaries do not overlap those of an already-established chapter.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the chapters shall be to assist The Society in fulfilling its objectives. Chapters shall actively promote membership in The Society.

ORGANIZATION

Chapters shall organize, prepare bylaws and raise funds consistent with the purposes and objectives of The Society.

ANNUAL REPORT

Each chapter shall present an annual report to The Society at the annual meeting, containing a list of its members and a summary of its activities and financial status.

ARTICLE 7. AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

These bylaws may be amended only at the annual meeting of The Society by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the members present.

THESE BYLAWS ARE APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS OF THE WISCONSIN SHARP-TAILED GROUSE SOCIETY, INC.,
THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 199__.

Secretary-Treasurer
Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society, Inc.



Jim Evrard - Jim is a WDNR Wildlife Research Biologist who, as a former wildlife manager at Park Falls, Medford and Grantsburg, managed sharp-tailed grouse and maintains an interest in their survival in Wisconsin.

Jim Shurts - Jim Shurts, Madison, Wisconsin; employed by the University of Wisconsin - Madison in Legal and Executive Affairs. Current president of the Madison chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society and Acting Vice President of the Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society. "I have been fascinated with sharptails since I "discovered" them during a hunting trip to Crex Meadows in 1977. I believe that the bird and their habitat are a unique part of Wisconsin's environment and that every effort should be made to protect this environment. I believe that my background as a conservationist and fund-raiser would be an asset for the Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society."

Thomas Ziegeweid- I have always been fascinated with sharptailed grouse and brush prairie habitat. I would like to continue my tenure on our Board, and hopefully be an officer.

THIS AND THAT

Annual Meeting Our April 23rd-24th annual meeting will be in the center of the state this year so that people from all parts of the state can get to it.

We will use the Sandhill Outdoor Skills Center as base and Motel 8 in Wisconsin Rapids for accommodations. There is a good population of sharptails on our state managed areas, as well as on nearby cranberry marshes.

Plan to attend. This is the one time that we get to see each other, exchange ideas and keep WSGS going and growing.

Sharptail Hunting Report Cards - If you haven't sent in your report card to the DNR yet, please do so. Analysis by DNR research will be done shortly and we'll be able to report results in the spring newsletter.

Bylaws - We need to thank Jim Shurts and Bob Dreis for the excellent work on doing a difficult but necessary job. Also, thanks to the Minnesota SGS for letting us use their bylaws as a starting template.

