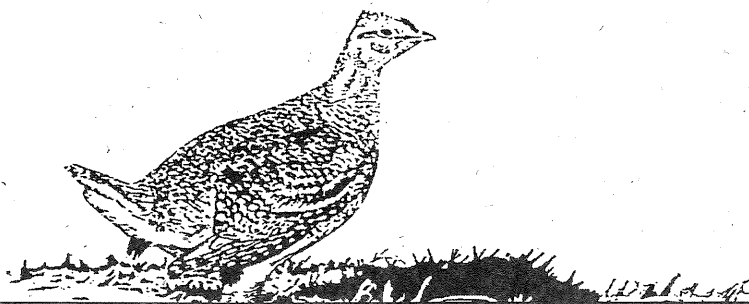


# WISCONSIN SHARP-TAILED GROUSE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Number 47

Spring 2006

## ATTEND THE 2006 ANNUAL MEETING

By Jim Evrard

### CONTENTS

Annual Meeting— P. 1

President's Corner  
WSGS Officers— P. 2

Sharptail Workshop P. 3-5

Financial Report P. 6

Afield with Ziggy — P. 7

Art Raffle — P. 8

Sharptail Survey  
Board Election — P. 9

Membership —P. 10

The WSGS annual meeting will take place on Saturday and Sunday, April 22 and 23, in Black River Falls. This will be the first time that our group will meet in that city. This is your opportunity to meet your officers and learn about what has been done in the past year and what is planned for the coming year to benefit sharp-tailed grouse in Wisconsin.

The informal business meeting will start at 1 p.m. in the lower conference room in the DNR headquarters building just west of I-94 at the Highway 54 exit. The meeting should end at 4 p.m., followed by drawings for door prizes and the annual art raffle.

The group will then move east across I-94 to the Holiday Inn for a social hour and catered prime rib/chicken dinner. A historian from the Ho-Chunk Nation will provide an interesting after dinner program. Following the program, DNR wildlife biologist Michele Windsor will make assignments to volunteers to count sharptails early the following morning in eastern Jackson County including Dike 17 and the cranberry bogs.

After the Sunday sharptail census in the field, we will return to the Holiday Inn for our debriefing brunch.

The meeting registration fee is \$25 per person, which includes refreshments, the catered dinner Saturday and the catered brunch Sunday, and registration materials. We have reserved a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn at a cost of \$62/room including taxes. Please call them at (715) 284-0888 and make your own room reservations prior to March 25.

For more information, contact Jim Evrard (715)463-2446 or email at "evrardsc@grantsburgtelcom.net".

(cut on line and return with registration fees)

### REGISTRATION 2006 WSGS ANNUAL MEETING

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check/money order (\$25/person) payable to the Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society and send to : WSGS,  
PO Box 367,  
Grantsburg, WI 54840

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Dave Evenson



All my adult life, I've been fortunate to be able to recreate on public lands. I was privileged to be able to manage state wildlife areas, and I was lucky to be able to hunt on state wildlife areas and state forests, county forests, national forests both here and out west, crown lands in Canada, and quasi-public Forest Crop industrial forests. Long ago my wife and I bought an eighty up north, but alas, other priorities got in the way, we couldn't afford the payments, and we sold it after only a year or two. Without public lands I may well have become a non-hunter, or severely limited my hunting.

The nature of land ownership, and especially of industrial forest ownership is unsettled and unsettling to me. I read in my magazines from The Nature Conservancy and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation of blockbuster deals involving millions of dollars as groups or agencies buy development rights on thousands of acres in Maine or the mountain West. Most recently we have heard of Tigerton Lumber Company in eastern Wisconsin withdrawing their lands from the Wisconsin Managed Forest Law, and leasing these lands to hunters. For decades hunters have considered that the tax benefits of the MFL would keep these industrial lands open to public hunting, but now we have to question that assumption.

In Wisconsin one million acres of industrial forestland changed ownership from 1997 to 2002. That's 94% of the industrial forest. Most of that went from one forest company to another, but along the way there were and are private developments. One bright spot is that WDNR is well aware of these exchanges, and has been able to strike deals purchasing development rights using Stewardship monies.

And what of sharptails? One could make a pretty good argument that the only secure populations (if there are any) are on state lands, national forests, and state leases on county forests. But during the 1990's industrial forests in Units 2 and 9 provided the best habitat, the highest populations and the most hunting opportunity of any area in the state. These companies have the ability to harvest trees in a big way. If these lands were sold into private forty's or eighty's, I doubt if they would ever see sharptails there again.

We make modest victories, at least on paper, along the way. The Brule River State Forest Master Plan includes a boundary expansion that would pick up about 30 square miles of the North-west Sands, if and when the owning company wants to sell. Just a few months ago, the Natural Resources Board approved a boundary expansion for Crex Meadows that includes a chunk of Plum Creek Timber Company land that would be easily managed for barrens. In fact, this parcel is well known to Ziggy and Ed Frank as the place that they hunted sharptails in one of the first modern day hunts. WDNR is well aware of this parcel, and Plum Creek will likely sell it to WDNR when the time is right for the corporation. WSGS must stay vigilant to these or other possibilities to secure habitat for the bird.

The Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society (WSGS) is a private, nonprofit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the sharp-tailed grouse and its habitat in Wisconsin.

### WSGS OFFICERS

President: Dave Evenson  
Vice President: Tom Ziegeweid  
Secretary/Treasurer: Jim Evrard  
Board Members: Bob Dreis  
Ed Frank  
Blair Klein  
Dave Clausen  
Newsletter Editor: Jim Evrard

## 2005 SHARPTAIL WORKSHOP NOTES

By Ed Frank

**Jim Evrard -- Brief History:** Sharp-tailed grouse (STG) were abundant in southern Wisconsin before European settlement. They became abundant in the north following logging, fire and human settlement. They disappeared in the south and declined with the return of the forest in the north. Today they are found in a few island populations in the northwest, and there are still a few scattered birds in central Wisconsin. Currently there are eight public properties managed at least in part for STG plus about 2,000 acres on one-quarter-mile wide fire breaks on Bayfield County land and about 600 acres on the south end of the Brule River State Forest.

**Dr. Stan Temple -- Minimum Viable Populations of STG:** Dr. Temple postulated that for STG to survive 50 years without the introduction of new genes, 280 breeding birds (males and females) are needed in 10,000 acres of suitable habitat. Even so, an isolated population would still lose 40% of its genetic variability over fifty generations (approximately 100 years). The effective breeding population ( $N_e$ ) is smaller than the total population in a lekking species. Only a few males do most of the breeding (probably about 20%).  $N_e$  for a total population of 280 STG is 53 birds.

Population fluctuations result in greater rates of loss of genetic diversity, especially during lows. Genetic management is accomplished by increasing total populations, effective breeding populations or by translocating STG from other populations with a different genetic composition. Small populations need high migration rates to maintain heterozygosity.

The maximum sustained yield for hunting STG is about 40%. A fall harvest rate of about 25-30% of the fall population is acceptable. However, with a fall harvest rate of 25%, one needs 13,500 acres to produce 373 STG in the fall instead of 10,000 acres to produce 280 breeders in the spring. This would provide for an annual yield of about 93 sharp-tailed grouse.

Much more real Wisconsin STG information is needed to manage STG populations on a truly scientific basis.

Dr. Temple recommends:

1. Expand the size of STG populations to achieve better viability.
2. Begin translocation experiment to reestablish gene flow between all subpopulations.
3. Plan strategically for how to achieve population viability and sustainable hunting.

**Dr. Brad Swanson -- Genetic Diversity:** Habitat fragmentation creates small isolated STG populations, which results in loss of genetic diversity over time within each isolated population. Since loss of genes is thought to be random in each population, any isolated populations of STG grow more dissimilar genetically over time. While all of them lose genetic diversity, different genes are likely to be lost in each subpopulation; only about 20% of male STG are thought to pass on their genes whereas far more females do so.

Dr. Swanson presented data on genetic diversity for four western U.S. STG populations that were connected and six supposedly isolated Wisconsin subpopulations. No significant differences in allele diversity were observed between Sandhill (2.3), Moquah (2.7), Crex Meadows (3.2) and Namekagon Barrens (2.0). However, they differed from Gordon (3.4) and Solon Springs (5.0), which were similar statistically. The western samples were about three times more diverse than Wisconsin's 2.0-3.2 samples and twice as diverse as the 3.5-5.0 sample. The western populations are very similar to each other genetically and are essentially the same population even though the samples come from two or three different states. Genes can travel in increments from one end to the other of large contiguous STG populations.

The estimated effective populations ( $N_e$ ) for Wisconsin samples were much higher than the census of index population numbers. This means either some small dispersal and genetic interchange is still occurring in Wisconsin, or that our census (index data) misses quite a few STG. Even with short distances between subpopulations, genetic heterozygosity decreases in each over time and may argue for the development of corridors of suitable habitat to once again link populations.

Dr. Swanson concluded:

1. Habitat fragmentation reduces allelic diversity. It also reduces heterozygosity over time, even if populations are only a short distance away, but little or no mixing occurs.
2. It doesn't look like there is MUCH movement between Wisconsin subpopulations of STG.
3. It appears that some maintenance of genetic variation through dispersal still occurs (there is still reasonable heterozygosity for such few STG -- an occasional male hybrid could do the job).
4. Increasing connectivity might be an advantage (sharp-tailed grouse subpopulations would still be isolated but more frequent infusion of genes would be likely).

**Ed Frank** observed that we know little about STG dispersal from managed areas in Wisconsin. We also do not know whether corridors in the traditional sense are an absolute requirement. It is also possible that Wisconsin's isolated

(continued on Page 4)

sharptail populations are well below carrying capacity and therefore have little incentive to disperse. Dr. Temple observed that the development of a habitat suitability model for the prairie subspecies of STG found in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Ontario would be most helpful. We don't know what limits STG population size in our subpopulations although habitat suitability and/or patch size are most often thought of as the primary limiting factors.

Surprisingly (to Ed Frank) there was no discussion of population sources versus population sinks. Probably everyone assumes that because Wisconsin subpopulations on managed areas appear to maintain themselves over time, that they have to be population sources. The question is, are we only surveying part of the real population of STG in the vicinity of each managed area? If ingress from the vicinity is contributing to population maintenance on the managed areas surveyed, then it is possibly a population sink.

**Dr. Damian Vraniak—Spiritual and Personal Connections to Pine Barrens:** Dr. Vraniak feels a spiritual appreciation of pine barrens will build support for the preservation of this rare ecosystem. He further feels that our youth are increasingly separated from nature and the land as defined by Aldo Leopold. He is personally involving youth in the field at his property near Springbrook and on a corridor between the Douglas County Grouse Area and Namekagon Barrens. He feels that only if people make personal connections to the pine barrens will we succeed in saving them.

#### **Sharp-tailed Grouse Management Area Reports:**

**Scott Posner – Moquah Barrens:** Moquah Barrens currently consists of 8,000 acres of barrens and frost pockets. The Chequamegon National Forest is currently in the process of expanding to 13,500 acres of core area. Prescribed burn rotations have been variable, but are getting longer. In the 1980s burn intervals were supposed to be at 3–5 years. Now they are at 7–10 year intervals. The National Forest has also been trying to leave more trees recently. Moquah Barrens is a mosaic of open barrens and jack pine with some aspen and oak. Prescribed fire crews want better feedback and direction for future burns. In 2004, fourteen burns were carried out. Tree survival was good and snags are being left. The STG population is not thriving.

**Todd Naas – Bayfield County Firebreaks:** The Bayfield County firebreaks consist of one-quarter-mile wide strips north of Barnes. These strips were started 30 years ago. There are 2,050 acres in these strips but they are complimented by adjacent big block “moving barrens”, consisting of 3,000 additional acres of suitable habitat that changes location at about ten year intervals. In 2030 the rotation will start all over again unless Bayfield County succeeds in reforesting the 2050 acres to produce income. Former red pine blocks have been planted to jack pine too.

**Greg Kessler – Mosinee Paper Company Lands:** These lands are located near Gordon and Solon Springs. A massive jack pine budworm outbreak in 1992–93 killed jack pine over 25 years old. Younger jack pine and red pine weren't killed. Salvage cuts created many large continuous open barrens areas and STG populations irrupted. These STG are currently being lost because mostly red pine was planted after the salvage cuts and it is now over ten feet tall, or soon will be. Mosinee Paper Company has been consolidating some cuts recently resulting in up to 800 acres of open barrens. The Deer Print Fire was also a big success for STG.

**Fred Stand – Douglas County Wildlife Area:** The Douglas County Wildlife Area was established initially as a bird sanctuary in 1935. The first pointing dog field trial was held there in 1925. In 1948 the Wisconsin Conservation Department leased 2,000 acres from Douglas County for ten cents per acre. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) currently owns 1,000 acres and leases 3,000 acres from Douglas County. The WDNR used to burn at 3–5 year intervals but now burns at 5–10 year intervals. This land had a history of grazing and agriculture and is more prairie-like than traditional barrens. There has never been more than 22 male STG on the Douglas County Wildlife Area and in 2004 there were 21. In fall, field trial dogs typically find more STG than would be expected from the spring count of male STG. A group called the Friends of the Bird Sanctuary formed a few years ago to successfully oppose the development of an ATV play park on the Douglas County Wildlife Area.

**Nancy Christel – Namekagon Barrens:** WDNR currently leases 5,500 acres from Burnett County but the specific lands leased by WDNR have changed over time. There is now a north unit with most of the STG and a south unit that is little used by STG. Nancy is thinking about dispersal corridors and even shifting mosaic corridors. She ultimately would prefer ownership rather than leasing. The STG population on the barrens is sporadic but pretty good. She is concerned about the apparent low heterozygosity of Namekagon Barrens STG.

(continued on Page 5)

**Pete Engman – Crex Meadows Wildlife Area:** Crex Meadows is very large, but there is only 5,500 acres of barrens. However, 6,000 acres of open sedge meadows and over 5,000 acres of open water provide a lot of open treeless area for sharp-tailed grouse. There is lots of early successional barrens management going on at Crex Meadows. Outside grant money is now three times more than the funding provided by WDNR. Pete wants to expand Crex northward towards Governor Knowles State Forest by acquiring 5,000 additional acres. STG populations in recent decades have experienced progressively higher high populations and higher low populations. This is the only major STG management property in Wisconsin where STG populations are expanding.

**Dan Ecklund – Riley Lake:** This is another U.S. Forest Service project that was started in 1948. WDNR and Civilian Conservation Corps crews managed it in 1939–40. There are 5,000 acres in the complex. There are only 1,700 acres of upland. Currently the upland consists of about 20% grass and 80% brush and small trees. The bulk of the area is a large relatively open bog. Some woody vegetation has developed on the edge of the bog that seems to affect STG use somewhat. They use a 4–6 year burn rotation on seven burn units. The uplands consist of heavy soils. Dan doesn't know if the STG population at Riley Lake is isolated but it may be moving in that direction since bogs in the Phillips-Prentice area are becoming increasingly wooded. Riley Lake has averaged 15–25 male STG each spring in recent years. This ranks it number four among Wisconsin's eight major STG management properties.

**Pat Beringer – Kimberly-Clark Wildlife Area:** Kimberly-Clark is another heavy soil area that is pretty wet. It is 9,600 acres, which was donated to WDNR by the Kimberly-Clark Paper Company in 1963 after the merchantable timber was harvested. STG were first reported on this property in the 1980s. The STG population peaked in the early 1990s when it had the second highest number of male STG in Wisconsin. Currently only 4–20 male STG are present. Agricultural land to the northeast has largely been lost over time. A deer yard now exists in the southwest corner. Lots of management is required to keep woody vegetation under control.

**Mark Schmidt – Pershing Wildlife Area:** This is another heavy soil area consisting of almost 8,000 acres in two units separated by private land. Mark burns 600–900 acres annually. STG populations appear to be declining, population lows are now record lows. Mark tried late September-early October prescribed burns in 2004. Early spring burns are a challenge on heavy, wet soils. A large private licensed game farm nearby may be a problem. STG on private lands in Rusk County are threatened by a loss of beef farmers and pastures and an increase in row crops.

**Michelle Windsor – Dike 17 and Central Wisconsin:** There is a remnant population of STG at Dike 17. Michelle is trying to save and increase the size of this remnant population. Dike 17 has about 3,000 acres of which 2,100 acres are uplands. Timber sales and prescribed fire along with 8 acres of food plot consisting of oats and rye are the major management measures. Michelle would like to be able to manage some of the pine barrens north of Highway 54, that is currently forested. She would also like to manage the bogs or muskeg areas near Dike 17 for wildlife rather than forestry. This property is located within the Black River State Forest. The planning process for this forest is expected to start soon. Michelle would also like to see Jackson County do consolidated cuts in barrens habitat nearby. She has a Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative grant to survey STG populations in Jackson County in 2005.

**Stu Boran – Spread Eagle Natural Area:** Stu works for WDNR Fire Control, but also manages the Spread Eagle Natural Area, which is classed as a bracken-grass area that has some of the characteristics of a barrens. The property is located in Florence County just south of Florence. It consists of 9,000 acres of which 6,000 acres has been burned at least once. Timber sales continue to occur. Between prescribed fire and timber sales combined, the area is opening up once again. It has lots of rolling hills, similar to Moquah Barrens. It also has some frost pockets. Cover consists primarily of bracken fern, blueberry, hazel and serviceberry. At the present time there are only occasional sightings of STG on the Spread Eagle Area.

**Greg Kessler – Douglas County Red Clay Area and Southern Brule River State Forest:** There are 500–600 acres of open barrens on the southern end of the Brule River State Forest that supports a STG population. There is a need to expand these open barrens onto Mosinee Paper Company lands further south in order to develop an area large enough to qualify as a STG core management area. On the red clay soils there is still much grass, some of which is occasionally cut for hay. Small grains, which used to be grown in this area, have largely been lost. Fallow grassy fields support 40–50 STG males on six dancing grounds. These fallow fields stay open up to 30 years – IF there is no tree planting.

**Todd Naas – Ashland Red Clay Grasslands:** Todd is focused primarily on 10,000 acres located south and west of the Ashland airport. There are lots of fallow grasslands that are sometimes hayed in late June or early July. The trend is toward fewer but larger dairy farms while the number of cows has remained much the same. Shrubs and small trees are invading some of the fallow lands. Crops consist primarily of oats and hay. Wooded areas consist primarily of balsam fir, spruce and aspen. No STG currently inhabit this area but Todd is hoping to obtain STG from Minnesota to translocate to this area.

**(Editors Note:** Please excuse the length and small type of this summary of the March 2005, Crex Meadows Sharptail Workshop presentations. This valuable information will be used in the upcoming rewrite of the DNR's Sharp-tailed Grouse Management Plan and the WSGS wanted to make the information available to all interested persons.)

## Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society Financial Statement

January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005

Checkbook Balance as of 01/01/05 .....	\$4,124.66
Certificate of Deposits as of 01/01/05 .....	\$2,137.53

**Total cash assets as of 01/01/05 ..... \$6,262.19**

### INCOME:

Memberships and sales. ....	\$2,335.63
Art Raffle .....	\$703.05
Sharp-tailed Grouse Workshop. ....	\$126.41
Memorial donation .....	\$100.00
Interest on Checking Account .....	\$2.68
Interest on Certificates of Deposit .....	\$53.60
<b>Total Income .....</b>	<b>\$3,321.37</b>

### EXPENDITURES:

Wisconsin Stewardship Network dues. ....	\$35.00
North American Partnership dues .....	\$35.00
Friends of the Bird Sanctuary dues. ....	\$50.00
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation dues. ....	\$125.00
Newsletter Printing .....	\$977.00
Newsletter postage. ....	\$261.05
Office supplies .....	\$71.51
Annual meeting .....	\$39.00
Non-profit report to Wis. Sec. State. ....	\$10.00
<b>Total Expenditures. ....</b>	<b>\$1,603.56</b>

Checkbook Balance as of 12/31/05. ....	\$5,788.87
Certificates of Deposit as of 12/31/05 .....	\$2,191.13

**Total Cash Assets as of 12/31/05 ..... \$7,980.00**

Submitted by Jim Evrard, Secretary/Treasurer, 12/31/05.

## AFIELD WITH ZIGGY

By Thomas Ziegeweid

WHERE I CAN GO SHARPTAIL HUNTING? That is a good question. Despite habitat setbacks nationwide, there still are plenty of great places to hunt this bird. Here are just a few.

**Wisconsin – Zone 10:** This is essentially the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area. The upside of this zone is the walking is easy. The birds are in more open cover than in Zones 2 and 9. Hints: Hunt the brushy oak ridges, adjacent areas to the refuge, both north and east, are best.

The downside to Crex is permit availability, especially with the birds being in a down cycle. You will probably get one permit or none. Include other zones on application for maximum permits.

**Wisconsin – Zones 2 and 9:** Both of these zones are adjacent to each other. Zone 2 is north of CTH A between Solon Springs, WI and HWY 27, with Zone 9 south of CTH A in Douglas County. The habitat in both zones is essentially the same, with Zone 9 being somewhat less open than Zone 2.

The area has the largest population of sharptails in Wisconsin. These zones are tough to hunt for a number of reasons. You will be stepping over tree planter furrows with rubbish scattered liberally in, on, and between them.

The cover can be thick. Birds will flush and you may only hear them “laughing” at you as they drift away into the horizon. The big hint to hunt these zones is to hunt the thicker, taller edges adjacent to open areas. Always try to position yourself so you can see out of thick cover. Then you won’t screen yourself out of a good shot. Walk the tote roads and trails. The walking is easy and quiet on the trails. Sharptails seem to gyrate to them, to pick grit, etc.

The upside of Zones 2 and 9 is that this property is mostly open to the public to hunt due to paper company ownership. There are lots of birds in this area, you just have to find them.

Back when the population exploded after jack pine budworm clearcuts, I saw at least 100 birds on opening day and filled my 3 tags with 17 shots. In my lifetime I may never see that many sharptails in a day again. Just like the good ole’ days! If and when the population cycles back up, it just might be that good again. There have been some recent monster clearcuts which should help in the future.

**Wisconsin – Zone 8:** This is essentially the Namekagon Barrens WMA. I have never hunted this zone. I do know it is relatively open and flat. The sharptail population there is very erratic from year to year. There were no permits issued in Zone 8 in 2005.

Minnesota, the gopher state, is the closest place to hunt if you leave Wisconsin. Minnesota has two large areas that have sharptails.

**Minnesota -- Northwest Zone:** This zone is in the corner of Minnesota where it borders Manitoba and North Dakota. It encompasses Marshall, Kittson, Roseau, and Red Lake counties. Contact DNR staff at Karkstad, MN.

**Minnesota – East-Central Zone:** This zone stretches from Duluth to the Iron Range, south to Aitkin and Brainerd, and east to the Wisconsin border. Contact DNR staff at Aitkin, MN.

Minnesota has an incredible amount of acres to hunt. Much of it is public land open to the public. Some of the best hunting in the Northwest Zone, however, is on private land. The bird concentration in Minnesota is not much better than ours. We do have a very good population here in Wisconsin, considering our habitat base is much smaller than Minnesota.

You will need rubber boots to hunt darn near everywhere in Minnesota. Most of their birds are associated with boggy country.

GO WEST YOUNG MAN! Some exceptional places to hunt out west include:

**Nebraska** – Valentine National Wildlife Refuge in Cherry County, Niobrara, NB

**South Dakota** – Fort Pierre National Grasslands southwest of Pierre.

**North Dakota** – Theodore Roosevelt Badlands, also probably half of North Dakota has birds to some degree.

**Montana** – Missouri River Breaks.

Plan a Great Trip in 2006!

Tom



## 2006 ART RAFFLE

The annual art raffle, our major fund raiser, will again include three framed limited edition art prints of sharp-tailed grouse.

The first raffle prize is a sold-out edition of a print by the late Owen Gromme, considered the Dean of Wisconsin wildlife artists. On our behalf, Wild Wings a major art dealer, managed to find the print in the inventory of a retail outlet. The print's value increased about 45% since we last bought the print three years ago. The beautiful colored print is titled, *Sharptails on the Rise*, and features two sharptails flying in an aspen parkland.

The second prize is a colorful print by Minnesota artist Louis Raymer titled, *Spring Dance at Crex*. Several sharptails are shown dancing in a thinly-vegetated lek in the brush prairie of Crex Meadows. The print was donated to the WSGS by the Friends of Crex.

The third raffle prize is a black and white print of a dancing male sharptail drawn by Karen Smith, long time manager of the Lostwood National Wildlife Refuge in North Dakota. We obtained this print from the Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society.

The raffle ticket is printed below. Those wishing to enter the raffle should detach the colored "drop this ticket in a proper place" portion(s) of the tickets, place your name and address on the reverse side and send them with your donation to the WSGS, PO Box 367, Grantsburg, WI 54840. Keep the WSGS Annual Art Raffle Ticket and the attached colored "Keep this coupon" portion (s) for your records.

### WSGS 2006 ART RAFFLE TICKET

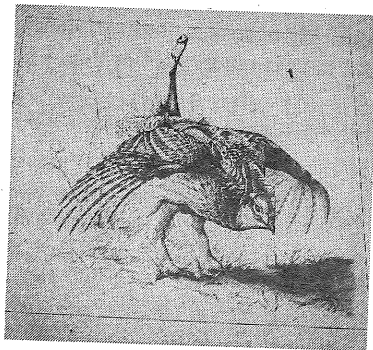
This raffle is being offered by the Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society, Box 367, Grantsburg, WI 54840. Wisconsin raffle license R0016707A-02375.

The raffle drawing will be conducted at our annual meeting at 3 p.m., April 22, 2006 in the Department of Natural Resources building, Highway 54 exit of I-94, Black River Falls, Wisconsin.

Ticket holders need not be present to win. No prize has a value exceeding \$500.

Suggested donation is \$10 per ticket or \$20 for three tickets.  
No purchase necessary to be eligible for participation.

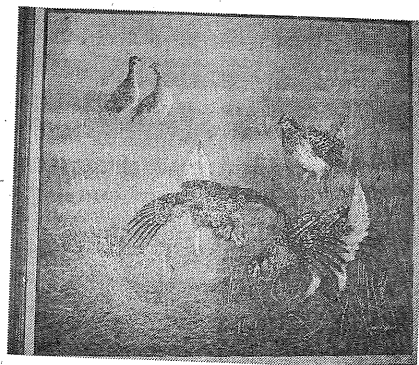
Smith



Gromme



Raymer



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ANNUAL SHARPTAIL SURVEY

As in past years, volunteers are needed to assist DNR biologists in censusing sharptails managed properties and to count the birds in areas not covered by the DNR. The need for volunteers remains high due to the limited DNR manpower resulting from past budget problems.

The census period is from early April to mid-May. The biologists provide maps of census areas and the forms and instructions for the survey. The WSGS recruits volunteers and helps in the survey where possible. The information is used to determine the distribution and numbers of displaying sharptails and to set the number of hunting permits available in the fall.

I can't think of a better way to spend a spring morning than roaming through sharptail country, enjoying the sights of sharptails and other wildlife in the wilds of Wisconsin. I plan to census sharptails until I can't walk anymore.

If you are interested in volunteering for this worthy effort, contact your DNR biologist if you have censused sharptails in the past or contact Jim Evrard at 630 N. Pine St., Grantsburg, WI 54840 or call at (715) 463-2446 or email at [evrardsc@grantsburgtelcom.net](mailto:evrardsc@grantsburgtelcom.net).

## BOARD ELECTION

The terms of Bob Dreis and Jim Wilson expired this year. Bob decided not to run again and Jim Wilson died last year. Dave Clausen was appointed to fill the balance of Wilson's term and Dave submitted his name for election to that position this year. Dave Biegel also submitted his name to stand for election.

**Dave Biegel** is a sometimes retired college instructor who lives in Marshall, spending most of his career at the Madison Area Technical College. He is married to Nancy and they have children and grandchildren. They own a summer home on the St. Croix Flowage near Gordon where Dave hunts and fishes as much as he can.

Biegel is a long-time member of the WSGS and is currently the President of the Friends of the Bird Sanctuary (Douglas County Wildlife Area). Dave claims not to be a biologist but is interested in protecting and enhancing sharp-tailed grouse habitat as well as other wildlife habitat in Wisconsin.

**Dave Clausen** is a veterinarian who works and lives in Amery. He is married with children and grandchildren and also owns a beef and tree farm in that area. Dave is an avid hunter and angler and an active member of the WSGS with he and his wife Sue being active participants at our annual meetings.

Clausen has been active in civic and conservation groups including Pheasants Forever and has been involved in wildlife habitat improvement projects in northwest Wisconsin. He recently was appointed to the Natural Resources Board by Governor Doyle and will ably represent our interests in Madison.

(detach and mail to WSGS, Box 367, Grantsburg, WI 54840 or bring to annual meeting)

### BALLOT – WSGS BOARD

(vote for two)

Dave Biegel \_\_\_\_\_

Dave Clausen \_\_\_\_\_

Write-in Candidate \_\_\_\_\_

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street/PO Box \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to volunteer for:  
\_\_\_\_\_ Board of Directors  
\_\_\_\_\_ Bird Censusing  
\_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter  
\_\_\_\_\_ Annual Meeting  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Dues (Regular - \$10, Supporting - \$25, Contributing - \$50, \$100 Sustaining,  
\$200 Sponsor, Dues are fully tax-deductible)  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ WSGS Logo Decal (\$1.50)  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Four-color Cloth Patch (\$3.50)  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Deluxe Green Corduroy Cap with Logo (\$14.00)  
(all prices include postage and handling)

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to and return this application to:**

Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society, PO Box 367, Grantsburg, WI 54840

**WSGS  
Box 367  
Grantsburg, WI 54840**

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE PAID  
GRANTSBURG, WI 54840  
PERMIT No. 6