

WISCONSIN SHARP-TAILED GROUSE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 32

SPRING, 2001

CANDIDATES FOR WSGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Within this newsletter is a ballot for this year's Board of Directors election. Here are biographies of two candidates. You may also write in another candidate.

Tim Connolly - Tim did his graduate work on sharptails, working toward an M.S. degree at UWSP. He is presently finishing his thesis, Reproductive Ecology of Sharp-tailed Grouse on Northwestern Pine Barrens. This study was partially funded by WSGS. Tim feels he could offer technical expertise to the Board. Tim is presently an LTE, Wildlife Technician, for the DNR at Oshkosh.

Tom Zeigeweid - Tom has a B.S. from UWEC in Conservation Biology and is self employed. Tom is a charter member of WSGS, and was our first President. He is concerned about long term survival of sharptails in Central Wisconsin. Tom would like to see a proactive stance from WSGS on current and future issues.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WISCONSIN SHARP-TAILED GROUSE SOCIETY

Saturday and Sunday, April 28 and 29, 2001
Ashland, Wisconsin

The WSGS invites you and your spouse, partner, son, daughter, or friend to our annual meeting.

Our meeting will begin at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 28 in the spectacular Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center located just west of the junction of Highways 2 and 13 on the western edge of Ashland. Following our business meeting we will enjoy presentations on the recently completed Northwest Sands ecosystem management plan, savanna management and sharp-tailed grouse in the Moquah Barrens, and the possible sharptail reintroduction in the Ashland red clay area. We will leave the visitor center at 5 p.m. for a short auto tour of the red clay reintroduction area en route to the Northern Wisconsin Rod and Gun Clubhouse where we will enjoy a catered trout boil dinner and social.

Very early on Sunday morning, April 29, we will census sharp-tailed grouse in the Moquah Barrens. Census teams will be assigned to specific areas to count male sharptails on their dancing grounds in the early morning hours. Following the census, we will meet at the Gus Smith's home, located near the Moquah Barrens, for a census debriefing/brunch beginning at 9:00 am. The meeting ends following brunch.

Registration Deadline is April 21, 2000. The registration fee of \$15 includes refreshments, dinner on Saturday evening, brunch on Sunday morning, and registration materials. Payment must be made prior to the registration deadline.

Lodging is available at many motels in the Ashland area. Please make your own reservations.

For more information, contact Jim Evrard (715)463-2446

(cut on dotted line and return with fees)

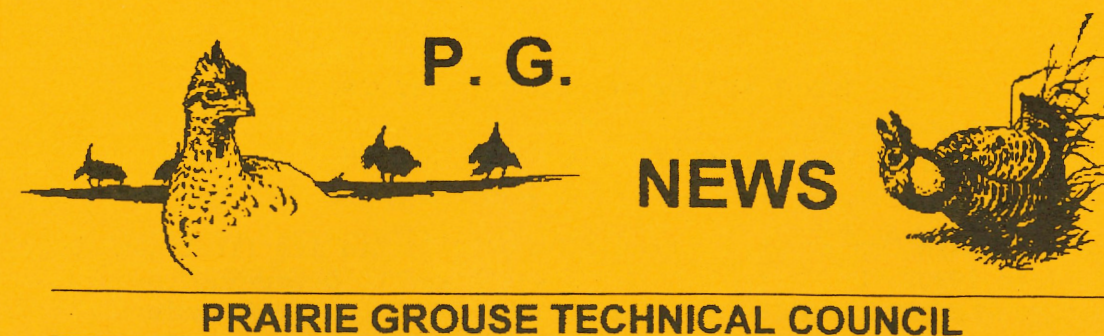
REGISTRATION - 2001 WSGS ANNUAL MEETING

Name: _____
Address: _____ City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____ Daytime Phone: (____) ____ - ____

I plan to survey sharptails Sunday morning _____
(yes) (no)

Make check/money order (\$15) payable to: Wisconsin Sharp-tailed
Grouse Society

Send form and payment to: Jim Evrard, WSGS
630 N. Pine St.
Grantsburg, WI 54840



Newsletter 1, November 2000

Upcoming Annual Meeting—Woodward, Oklahoma, 5-8 November 2001

EARLY REGISTRATION INFORMATION

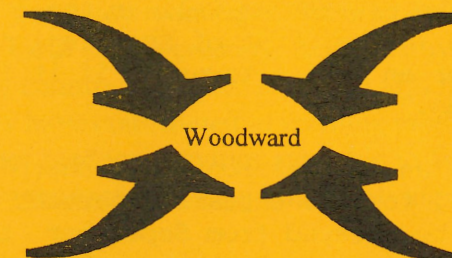
The Meeting

The next Prairie Grouse Technical Council Biennial Meeting will be held 5-8 November 2001, in Woodward, Oklahoma. That's about 140 mi (225 km) northwest of Oklahoma City. It's about a 2½ hour drive from the nearest airport (in Oklahoma City), but also about three hours from the Amarillo, Texas, and Wichita, Kansas, airports, and three hours from the Tulsa, Oklahoma, airport. That's right, **Woodward is right in the middle of everything!**

For information about Woodward and the surrounding area, see more at the Woodward web site, www.woodwardok.com. There is additional information and links on the meeting web site at www.suttoncenter.org/PGTCNews.html.

The aim of the conference is to bring together all those involved or interested in research and conservation on prairie grouse, especially Lesser and Greater Prairie-Chickens, Sharp-tailed Grouse, and Sage Grouse. Research papers and discussion sessions will be held on 6 & 7 November. Field trips will provide opportunities to see and learn about Lesser Prairie-Chicken research and habitat conservation.

The banquet speaker will be **Dr. Peter Hudson**, a Red Grouse biologist, who will be coming over from the United Kingdom. This should be an interesting and exciting meeting for all.



HELP US SAVE COSTS

ON THE NEXT NEWSLETTER!

Copying and mailing of the newsletter costs the PGTC. By sending the next newsletters by e-mail, we can save much of these costs. In addition, the e-mail version you will receive can be longer and contain color pictures and graphs.

If you have e-mail and would be willing to receive the newsletter by e-mail, please send a message to the Editor at dwiedenfeld@ou.edu.

However, to see a longer, full version of this newsletter in color, and additional information, direct your browser to

www.suttoncenter.org/PGTCNews.html

Reservations

The Woodward area is known for its quail hunting, and the meeting hotel will likely fill up with quail hunters from far and wide, possibly even you. We'll ask for a block of 50 rooms for the conference at the conference hotel (Northwest Inn), but if you plan to attend the meeting, **please make your reservation early**. (The hotel will not accept reservations for the meeting before next December 1, 2000, but please make your reservation soon after that.) If it turns out that the meeting attendees will need more than 50 rooms, it will be necessary for us to make those reservations early.

To make reservations, contact the Northwest Inn (800-727-7606; 580-256-7600; fax 580-254-2274; P.O. Box 1006, Woodward, Oklahoma 73802, USA). Be sure to tell them that you are booking for the Prairie Grouse Technical Council Meeting.

EARLY WISCONSIN SHARPTAIL RESEARCH

#3 in a series compiled by Jim Hale

When the Wisconsin Conservation Commission established its first game research program in the late 1920s, Dr. Alfred O. Gross was hired to determine the status and needs of prairie chickens and sharptails in our state. This project mainly involved prairie chickens, with less attention to sharptails. In 1930 the Commission published a "Progress Report of the Wisconsin Prairie Chicken Investigation," written by Gross. The report included data and discussions of grouse cycles, propagation and stocking, land acquisition, hunting, and distribution. His conclusions related to sharptails included the following quotes:

"<In 1930> 14 sharp-tailed grouse were trapped near Babcock, Wood County, Wisconsin, and after being wing-tipped were liberated in a 7-acre enclosure at the state game farm <at Fish Creek, Door County> in an attempt to breed them under semi-captive conditions. The birds thrived and one pair which nested succeeded in rearing four young. The latter, however, were not discovered until August 8, when the birds were well able to fly. These propagation methods will be continued...." (They were not; the entire project was discontinued in 1931.)

"Fortunately for the game resources of Wisconsin there are extensive areas within the drainage districts of the central portions of the state which are not suitable for farming but which can be made into an ideal game territory. It is highly desirable for the present as well as the future of the prairie game birds to have set aside in the midst of this region a large game refuge of several thousand acres, or an entire township if it is possible to secure it, of the tax delinquent lands."

"If the sportsmen desire to have an open season on... sharp-tailed grouse in the future it will be necessary to make certain important concessions.... The open season should be delayed from September to the second week of October. There has been opposition to such a change but the primary reason of the objectors has been that the birds are too wild, they do not hold well to a dog, and are too difficult to kill if the season comes at the latter date. The sportsman who wishes to give the birds a fair chance favors this change in date. Our investigation shows that the hatching time extends from May to July and that the average hatching date is June 10 for 23 nests observed. This means that the average covey of birds is only 12-14 weeks old at the beginning of an open season which begins the third Saturday of September."

"At the present time <1930> pheasants at the rate of 10,000 birds a year are being liberated in Wisconsin, especially the southern counties of the state. It is strongly recommended that pheasants should not be introduced into the central area of the state most densely populated by the prairie chicken and sharp-tailed grouse"

Volunteers Needed for Sharptail Survey

The WSGS, in cooperation with the DNR, will count displaying sharp-tailed grouse throughout Wisconsin this spring. This will be the first time that a statewide count is attempted. The DNR never had enough money for an annual statewide sharp-tailed grouse survey, but concentrated on counting the birds in the nine properties specifically managed for the sharptail.

Volunteers are needed to assist DNR biologists in censusing some of the managed properties and to count the birds in areas not covered by the DNR. The census period is from early April to mid-May. The biologists will provide maps of census areas and the forms and instructions for the survey. The WSGS agreed to recruit volunteers and pay for some of the costs involved.

The DNR will be the permanent repository for the survey data collected. The information will be used to determine the distribution and numbers of displaying sharptails. This information is needed each year to set the number of hunting permits available in the fall.

WSGS members who indicated they were willing to census sharptails when they joined the group or renewed their membership, have been contacted by letter to ask if they would volunteer this spring. Members of other interested groups such as the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, have also been asked to volunteer for this effort.

WSGS Board Member Tom Jancoski has traveled throughout Wisconsin in past years assisting the DNR in sharptail surveys. Since I'm now retired, I plan to join Tom in this effort. I hope the statewide survey this spring is successful to a point where the sharptail survey can become an annual affair much like the sandhill crane survey.

If you enjoy roaming Wisconsin's wild open landscapes in early spring mornings when the earth and its creatures become alive after a long, cold and snowy winter, you will enjoy counting sharptails. You'll also have the satisfaction of knowing that you personally have contributed to learning more about this unique bird. I also plan to sample of the other outdoor activities available in Wisconsin in the spring since sharptails are counted in the early morning hours, leaving the rest of the day for fishing or other activities.

Volunteers in this worthy effort, should contact me: Jim Evrard

630 N. Pine St.

Grantsburg, WI 54840

(715)463-2446

"evrardsc@grantsburgtelcom.net"





SEVENTH ANNUAL ART RAFFLE

This year's offering is an original acrylic by Louis Raymer. This original of a full strut gobbler was submitted for the Minnesota State Wild Turkey Stamp. While it was not selected, it is a striking work of art.

The first print is Sharptails on the Rise by Owen Gromme. This print was published nearly twenty years ago, but we picked this copy of in the secondary market. Those of you who know art recognize Gromme as the most legendary of Wisconsin wildlife artists.

Again this year we are able to offer Spring Dance at Crex by Louis Raymer. Thanks to Friends of Crex for donating this print. (If you're not a member of Friends of Crex, consider joining them.) There are very few sharptail prints out there and this is one of the best.

Ticket Prices - Raffle ticket prices are: 1 ticket for \$5.00, 3 tickets for \$10.00, or 10 tickets for \$25.00. Please legibly write your name and the name of the ticket purchaser, if different, on each of the stubs sold.

If you cannot attend the meeting, please send the tickets and payment to WSGS, Box 1115, Cumberland, WI 54829. Those who attend can bring stubs and money to the spring meeting. You need not be present to win. If you're a good sales person and need more tickets, contact Dave Evenson, 715-822-5421. Buy a bunch, it's for a good cause!

BALLOT - WSGS BOARD
(Vote for 2 Members)

_____ Tim Connolly

_____ Tom Zeigeweid

_____ Write - in

MAIL IN OR BRING TO ANNUAL MEETING

PLEASE CHECK THE DATE ON YOUR MAILING LABEL BELOW
TO DETERMINE IF YOU ARE PAID UP.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

(Annual Dues \$10.00)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Enclosed: \$ _____ dues

(Regular - \$10) (Supporting \$25)

(Contributing \$50) (Sustaining \$100)

(Sponsor \$200)

Dues are fully tax-deductible

Volunteer Activities

_____ Board of Directors Address:

_____ Newsletter Writing

_____ Bird census work

_____ Publicity

_____ Education

_____ Fund Raising

_____ Four color cloth patch (\$3.50 postage inc.)

_____ Deluxe corduroy dress cap (\$14.00 postage inc.)

_____ WSGS logo window sticker (\$1.50 postage inc.)

_____ Total amount enclosed

Thank you for your continued support,
Board of Directors

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND RETURN THIS APPLICATION TO: Wisconsin
Sharp-tailed Grouse Society, P.O. Box 1115, Cumberland, WI 54829

WSGS
Box 1115
Cumberland, WI 54829

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