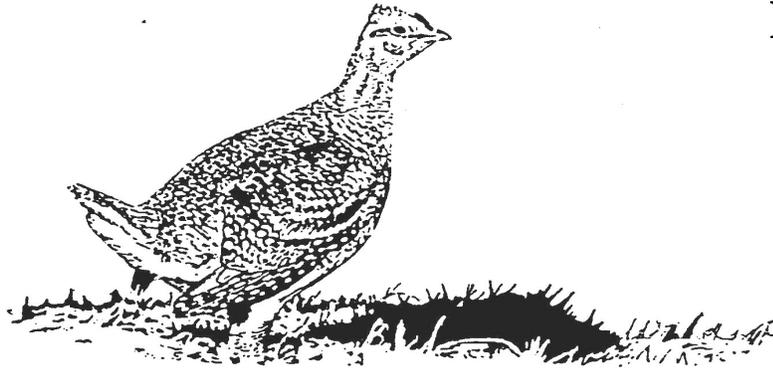


# WISCONSIN SHARP-TAILED GROUSE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Number 93

Fall 2020

## YOUR WSGS DONATIONS AT WORK

At the summer board meeting WSGS was able to fund three project requests. Very little of your dues and donations go toward printing or other administration: most of it goes directly towards on the ground habitat projects. These are often used as match to leverage other grants. Thank you!

### **Brush and tree control – Douglas County Wildlife Area- \$1500**

Pre-treat 55 acres of heavy encroachment of aspen, scrub oak, hazel and willow in a 480 acre burn unit to be burned 1-2 years post treatment to provide a greater degree of control than burning alone can provide. This specific site was the most recently cleared area within the Douglas County Wildlife Area and still has residual stumps that make standard clearing via brush mowing difficult.

### **Mechanical treatment, new firebreak development- Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area-\$2000**

In the new 1400 acquisition, contract for Fecon brush chipper/ grinder on 2-3 miles of newly developed firebreaks, and brush mow heavy growth in areas not burned because of Covid 19.

### **Dancing Grounds Maintenance- Riley Lake Wildlife Management Area- \$1700**

Reduce brush, stubble and encroaching vegetation with brush saws, chainsaws, and tractor pulled mowers on seven active or historical dancing grounds.

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## NOTICE FOR WSGS MEMBERS

The WSGS will be moving towards an “electronic by default, hard copy by request” system for the newsletter. If you would like to continue receiving a paper copy of the WSGS Newsletter, please send this request to **Ken Jonas, at [kenjon@centurytel.net](mailto:kenjon@centurytel.net) or 715-416-0627.**

## **FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**

*By Dave Evenson*

As your president, I have the privilege of a seat on the DNR Sharp-tailed Grouse Committee. Last summer, as we met by Zoom, to discuss all things sharptail, surveys, habitat and especially possibilities of a limited hunting season, I probably should have been disappointed. DNR staff couldn't do surveys, due to Covid-19, and we voted not to have any permits. I was disappointed that there was not a season this fall, since we believe that habitat loss is much more a threat than a limited harvest.

But overall, I was hopeful and renewed in spirit. WSGS volunteers stepped in to do the field work on the long running dancing grounds surveys. These were accepted by the DNR and will go down as the counts, with no asterisks, as they should be- most of the volunteers were retired DNR staff with decades of experience.

The biggest excitement for me was the amount of habitat work going on, on USFS, State, County and Timber Management lands. You'll read more about this further in this report.

WSGS has been alive 30 years now, and that's no small accomplishment- there are no guarantees for any small group like this. Thirty years ago there was no guarantee that we'd even have sharptail habitat in the state. And I like to think that over that long steady pull, we can take credit for some of the habitat we're seeing from all those land managing groups. Educating, cajoling, passing out small grants of your money to be matched with other grants to get work done has made a difference. Thank you for your membership and for your part in staying informed and educating others.

I'm involved a bit in two other initiatives involving the Northwest Sands. The North Woods and Waters Heritage Area is closer to becoming an entity. We passed 9 of 10 criteria for the National Park Service review. The Heritage Area includes all the St. Croix watershed, both in Minnesota and Wisconsin and probably is more focused on waters than land, but still, we know they are inseparable, superb waters don't flow through degraded land. Contact [northwoodsandwaters.manager@gmail.com](mailto:northwoodsandwaters.manager@gmail.com) for more information.

The Northwest Sands Auto Tour, with The Friends of The Bird Sanctuary as the main sponsoring group has received a small grant to work towards development of the tour. This tour will feature biological, historical and geological information, with sharptails and barrens as a key part. If we get to hold our annual meeting this group will likely be main presenters.

### **THE WISCONSIN SHARP-TAILED GROUSE SOCIETY**

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. Questions about the WSGS should be directed to the Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society, 102 East Crex Avenue, Grantsburg, WI 54840.

#### **WSGS OFFICERS**

President: Dave Evenson  
Vice President/Treasurer: Ken Jonas  
Secretary: Paul Kooiker

#### **BOARD MEMBERS:**

Mike Cole                      John Probst  
Mike Amman                  Bruce Moss  
Trevor Hubbs                 Ashley Steinke

Newsletter Compositor: Lauren Finch

## MAJOR GRANT WORK BEING DONE AT NBWA AND CREX MEADOWS

Nancy Christel, Spooner Wildlife Biologist reports: The eastern 1400-acre barrens addition is near the end of an eight-year restoration process. Foresters and Wildlifers have been hard at work and it shows - A new dancing ground was established in 2010 and numbers now meet or exceed the other two leks. This area has been cleared through a series of timber sales, the last one is expected to be finished this summer. Most of the area has firebreaks established, and prescribed burns have been conducted on 600 acres; 300 of these acres are on the current schedule to be burned for the second time. We've been getting a win-win cooperating with Fire Control dozer operators- they've been getting tractor training hours pushing stumps and smoothing new fire breaks and leveling old furrows.

Joining efforts, two years ago Michelle Carlisle, Crex Wildlife Biologist and Nancy matched previous WSGS and Friends Groups' contributions to partner with the Wild Turkey Federation and receive a \$100,000 grant to mow young pine plantations and close old furrows at NBWA and open up the barrens



## NORTH AMERICAN NON-LEAD PARTNERSHIP

At the summer meeting the board unanimously approved signing onto the North American Non-Lead Partnership at the level of supporting partner. The North American Non-Lead Partnership is a coalition of hunting-based conservation organizations that are dedicated to improving ecosystem and wildlife health by choosing non-lead options. This partnership supports voluntary measures to increase the use of non-lead ammunition. As a supporting partner, WSGS will engage the membership through the newsletter and website to share current outreach materials available through the North American Non-Lead Partnership. I would encourage members to visit the North American Non-Lead Partnership website to learn more. <http://nonleadpartnership.org/>

## MOQUAH SURVEYS AND FIELD WORK

*By Brian Heeringa, USFS Biologist*

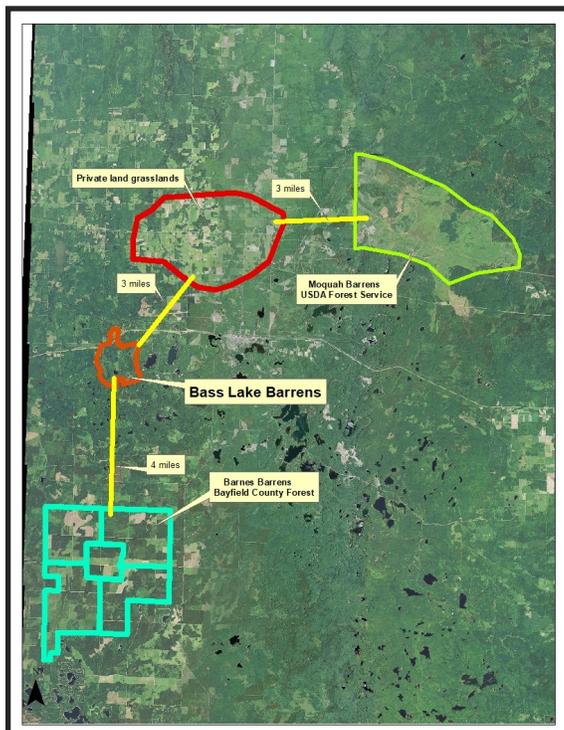
Work at the Moquah Barrens on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest continues despite the on-going global pandemic. Restrictions caused by Covid-19 not only led to delays and rescheduling of important habitat and field work, but also led to delays in the lab. This last spring, personnel from the Forest Service and Bad River Tribal Natural Resources worked together to survey the Moquah Barrens. Males were observed visiting the two primary dancing grounds as well as individual birds observed in a few other locations. Activity seemed a bit slow with the highest cock count for a morning of 9 birds and the highest overall attending bird count for a morning of 11 birds. Average daily male attendance was 6 birds, and <1 bird for females determined from 22 days of observation.

Unfortunately prescribed fire operations were canceled across the entire Eastern Region of the Forest Service for a majority of the season, but some habitat work was accomplished with about 130 acres of brushing and the continuation of timber harvesting associated with the Northwest Sands Restoration Project and the Greenwood Vegetation Project.

In terms of the genetic analysis work being undertaken by Jonathan Pauli at UW-Madison, progress continues to be made but delays have been experienced. Surprisingly enough, some of the materials required to process the sharp-tailed grouse feather samples were the same as those needed for Covid-19 tests! Despite all of the supply-chain delays and lab closures experienced starting back in July due to Covid, Jonathan and his staff have made good strides on the analysis and are planning to have a solid data set in the coming month. As always, thank you to all the great partners contributing to the effort at the Moquah Barrens and across the State. I look forward to what 2021 has in store for us.

## UPDATE ON THE BARNES AND BASS LAKE BARRENS, ON THE BAYFIELD COUNTY FOREST

*by Mike Amman, Bayfield County Forester and WSGS Board Member*



Habitat improvements measures for barrens dependent species on the Bayfield County Forest are increasing almost daily. **Barnes Barrens:** This summer around 200 acres of the Barnes Barrens core were sprayed with herbicide to set back brush and tree regeneration to prepare these sites for prescribed burning in the spring of 2021. This fall the WI DNR used their dozer to mechanically treat approx. 20 acres of jack pine and scrub oak that were between 10-25 ft tall within the core barrens area to improve the habitat quality for sharp-tails. In addition, 425 acres will be contract roller chopped this winter within the core area to further aid in reducing overall brush and tree height. **Bass Lake Barrens:** This barrens is brand new and still very much in the process of being opened up through commercial timber sales. Within the last year nearly 200 acres have been harvested. This number is increasing daily as a recently sold timber sale has gone active and will add 80 acres shortly to the total. Herbicide spraying will occur next summer on the recently harvested sites. There is a good possibility that close to 100 acres will be roller chopped this winter. The goal for the Bass Lake Barrens is to open up 1,300 acres which will be a combination of upland and lowland marsh

acres to provide a 'stepping stone' between the Barnes Barrens and the private land grasslands that supports sharp-tails 3 miles to the northeast, and from there to Moquah.

# **MINUTES OF WISCONSIN SHARP-TAILED GROUSE SOCIETY BOARD MEETING**

*August 27, 2020*

*Barnes Barrens, Bayfield County*

*Present: D. Evenson, B. Moss, K. Jonas, M. Cole, P. Kooiker, A. Steinke, M. Amman, T. Hubbs, E. Frank*

*Guests: B. Hanson, A. Fahlstrom, T. Naas, F. Strand*

## **Barnes Barrens**

Mike Amman, Bayfield County forester and new WSGS board member, gave an interesting discussion on the 12,000+ acre Barnes Barrens. Formerly managed as 1500 acres of firebreaks, the firebreaks were abandoned and replaced with an 1100 acre permanently open “core” area surrounded by 11,000 acres of “rolling barrens”. Bayfield County Forest and the Bayfield County Board are both committed to sharptail management.

Breeding populations of both sharptails and Kirtland’s warblers are present on the project.

The county has applied for funding through the 5 cent/acre program to monitor sharptails with GPS collars. Data would be analyzed by the NRI lab in Duluth.

The Bass Lake Barrens project – also Bayfield County Forest – will act as a steppingstone to the north connecting the Barnes Barrens to the Oulu grasslands and Moquah Barrens.

## **Treasurer’s Report**

Ken Jonas gave treasurer’s report: current checking account balance is \$15,196. 72, which includes \$4,082.00 in the Jim Evrard memorial account. This leaves a general account balance of \$11,000 +.

Currently 80 paid members. A discussion followed on how to ensure renewals for unpaid members. Will notify members via the newsletter, website and Facebook of the new policy that renewals for the coming year are due in January of that year.

Discussion on raising annual dues: motion made (BM/TH) and approved to change dues categories and amounts as follows: Regular \$30 – decal, Family \$50 – decal, Sustaining \$100 – hat, Life \$300

## **Election of Officers**

Welcome to new Board members Mike Amman and Trevor Hubbs

The current officers agreed to serve another year and this was approved by consensus:

Dave Evenson – President

Ken Jonas – Vice President and Treasurer

Paul Kooiker – Secretary

## **Jim Evrard Recognition**

Currently \$4500 has been committed to the sharp-tailed grouse statuary (\$4000 from WSGS and \$500 from FOC). Ken has been in contact with the potential sculptor.

Ken and Bruce met with Shirley Evrard and they agreed on a location for the sculpture along the “Prairie Trail” outside the Crex Education Center. They also recommended the sculpture include two dancing STG males and one female posed on a lek.

The statuary and accompanying text would be a gift from WSGS and FOC to the Crex DNR project, and would emphasize the educational aspects of barrens and sharp-tailed grouse management. The Board enthusiastically supported this proposal.

## **Annual Meeting**

The proposed venue is the same as the canceled 2020 annual meeting, Moquah Barrens. A tour could also include the Bass Lake Barrens project and Oulu grasslands.

Tentative date is April 24, 2020. Fred will look into reserving the buildings at the Iron River municipal park.

## **WSGS Project Requests**

Three project proposals were received:

USFS Riley Lake - \$1700: project approved for \$1700

WDNR Namekagon Barrens - \$3000: project approved for \$2000

WDNR Douglas County - \$1500: project approved for \$1500

*Continued on page 6*

**Newsletter**

30- year anniversary of creation of WSGS. Go to a color version for the fall newsletter?  
There was Board consensus to go to an all-electronic version of the newsletter. Members can still receive a hard copy version in the mail upon request.

Will include eulogies for Jim and Bob

Highlight recent habitat successes

**No Lead Initiative**

Mike Amman and Fred Strand explained how Bayfield County Forest recently approved a resolution to support this initiative.

This is a voluntary support of the initiative, with no mandates, with focus on education.

Motion was made (MA/MC) and approved by the Board to enter a resolution of support for the no lead initiative at Level 2.

**Reports from DNR and FS Managers**

Bob Hanson, DNR Northwest Sands Biologist, gave a summary of on-going barrens projects in the northwest. Lots of progress being made in barrens/sharptail management.

Bob now represents the Bureau of Wildlife Management on sharp-tailed grouse issues. He will be involved in the upcoming rewrite of the sharptail management plan, as well as Barrens BMP matters.

The mapping of historical STG leks is on hold due to Covid issues.

Concern about lack of burning on DNR properties due to Covid guidelines, ie a maximum of ten people together is hindering prescribed burning which often requires larger burn crews.

A 10-year review of species E/T listings will commence in 2020. WSGS has concerns about possible listing of sharp-tailed grouse as Threatened.

Aaron Fahlstrom, USFS Technician, gave a summary of the Moquah Barrens STG translocation effort. Lots of effort put in by US Forest Service and WDNR staff.

Currently no radio collared birds are on-line due to loss of battery life.

Feather analysis is on hold due to delays caused by Covid, but initial results look good as far as genetic diversity.

*Meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm.*

*Submitted by Paul Kooiker*

**ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 24-25, 2021**

Who knows if we will be able to meet by April, but we need to plan as though we will. Iron River Community Center will be the facility and Moquah Barrens and perhaps the Bass Lake Barrens will be our field trip. Stay tuned!

## **JIM EVRARD, 1942-2020**

*Two eulogies follow- the first by Dave Evenson, written for the Gordon MacQuarrie Old Duck Hunters Association Museum in Barnes, the second by Bruce Moss, printed in the Wisconsin Outdoors News, March 20, 2020 and reprinted with permission.*



Jim Evrard, ODHA Circle member #53, in hospice at home with liver cancer, passed away February 10, 2020.

Jim had a long and fruitful career with the Wisconsin DNR, working as a wildlife biologist and wildlife researcher. More Wisconsin readers know him from his long post-retirement writing stint for the Wisconsin Outdoor News. Jim lived, worked and recreated in MacQuarrie country, the Northwest Wisconsin Sand Barrens.

He knew MacQuarrie's writing long before there was a BAHA or an ODHA Circle. He was part of the 100 year celebration of Mac's birth in 2000. In a roundabout way, he introduced me to MacQuarrie. While Keith Crowley was on book tour for his biography of MacQuarrie Jim invited him to speak to the Friends of Crex, and I attended that evening. So I owe both those gentlemen for a ton of reading pleasure in my obsession.

I knew Jim mostly as the stalwart, hard working Secretary-Treasurer of the Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society, but he is also the person who has shared a boat with me more than any other person. I hunt and fish alone mostly, so that probably doesn't amount to more than a couple of score of trips. For Jim, the person he shared more boating experiences with would be his loving wife, Shirley, an angler and hunter in her own right. (Shirley, not Jim, caught the big northern hanging on their wall.)

When I was just getting the ODHA bug, Jim made a proposal to me and some of our sharptail and retired DNR friends to have a MacQuarrie club and occasionally visit some of the sites MacQuarrie hunted and fished. We never followed through on it, although Jim and other friends did attend the 2017 Burnett, Douglas and Washburn Counties pilgrimage. His idea is being carried out these days in an even bigger way by BAHA.

Jim kind of enjoyed being a curmudgeon. One of my favorite memories will always be our summer 2013 Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society meeting and outing. I was just getting high on this MacQuarrie thing, and suggested we meet on the east side of the Northwest Sands. We camped on Lower Eau Claire at Mooney Dam County Park, and the day after our meeting we took a couple of boats over to Middle Eau Claire. By that time I knew at least where Blunt Point was, so I was being our tour guide, and I looked over at the other boat and there was Jim, with his evil little grin, pouring a beer into MacQuarrie's waters. We all know that he was knowledgeable, and liked his ODHA books as well as any, but he sure enjoyed pretending otherwise.

Jim's Family will scatter his ashes on the Northwest Sands.

*Keith Crowley wrote about Gordon MacQuarrie's death, "Then he heard the call of all the Old Duck Hunters who had gone before. Al was there, and so was Fred. They waved him into the blind and hushed him with a mittened hand on his knee. Around the lake he saw the form of other old duck hunters, crouched behind walls of jack pine and scrub oak, their faces hidden as they instinctively reacted to the sound of wingbeats. Hundred year old battered wooden blocks bobbed in the wind-torn waters before them." May it be so for Jim. Goodbye, my Friend, Dave Evenson, Feb 13, 2020*

## **JIM EVRARD**

*By Bruce Moss*

Yesterday we held an emergency meeting of the Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society (WSTGS). Jim Evrard had been the secretary-treasurer of the WSTGS since its inception 30 years ago.

He passed away Monday, Feb. 10 from cancer and the board members met to attempt to reassign his massive workload to other board members. Jim managed the money, paid the bills, handled the bi-annual

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newsletters, maintained our membership role, and handled a myriad of other duties. Everyone chipped in to keep WSTGS functioning, but more than once it was recognized how much Jim had done to keep it going and wondered about the WSTGS's future.

Over the past few months I had often spent sleepless nights reviewing our past and worrying about Jim's future. My mind wandered frequently at our WSTGS meeting.

I had known, worked with and recreated with Jim over the past 45 years. Jim would expand this statement to 45 years and two months by checking his records. All his adult life he kept detailed journals covering daily events, especially if they concerned hunting or fishing. Readers of *Wisconsin Outdoor News* have likely wondered how he could recall in detail outdoor exploits that occurred years prior. He not only recorded fish or game caught or shot, but location, weather, partners, bait or number of shells used, and anything else needed to record the event.

Jim Evrard was one of the most successful hunters and fishermen I ever met. Again, readers of *WON* remember the relatively few fish or game he reported in his columns. How could a guy who shot his first Wisconsin buck in 20 years two seasons ago be considered successful? Jim's sport pursuits had different goals than most other hunters and fishermen.

Jim loved the lands and waters where his favorite game and fish lived and he loved recreating with his family. Early fishing trips and mule deer hunting in western states were with his brother. I participated in past Black Hills turkey hunts, but most included his father. Jim and I went on annual spring trout fishing and turkey hunting trips.

Otherwise he fished mostly with his wife, Shirley. He also deer hunted near home in Grantsburg with her, and traveled out west to pursue sharp-tailed grouse with her. In the early days he always included his daughters, Terri and Lori, on his camping and fishing trips. They still did fish and camp with him as time and circumstances allowed.

Jim loved it out west and loved traveling there with Shirley. A successful trip meant enjoying nature and perhaps getting three grouse. He usually hunted every day of the Wisconsin gun and muzzleloader deer seasons near Grantsburg, enjoying songbirds and other nature, plus reveling in Shirley's success. His passion was hunting ducks and geese almost every morning on Crex Meadows Wildlife Area. If he got a dozen ducks all year, it was a great season.

Jim Evrard shunned modern technology. He had no use for spinning winged decoys, usually fished trout or bluegills with worms. He never hunted deer over bait or from an elevated stand. He also chastised fishermen for practicing catch-and-release while going to fish fries serving imported fish. He was one of the first locavores.

As I said, he was one of the most successful hunters and fishermen I knew. He did things his way – with family, for food, and love of outdoors. He made me jealous.

There was much more to Jim than hunting and fishing, of course. He got a bachelors of science and masters of science degrees at UW-Madison. He was in the Peace Corps and stationed in Peru, of which his love of the people, land and big trout were often mentioned. His career with the DNR started in Medford, but was mostly a wildlife manager at Grantsburg or a research biologist at Baldwin where he conducted a ten-year project determining the success rates of various management techniques.

His true interests and expertise were in managing waterfowl and sharp-tailed grouse, particularly on Glacial Lakes Grantsburg properties. These interests led him to be a Ducks Unlimited volunteer in Burnett County, the previously mentioned work for the Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society, and serving on the Friends of Crex Meadows board where he helped raise money for many projects, including the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area Education Center.



## JIM EVRARD MEMORIAL

*by Ken Jonas*

With the passing of Jim Evrard on February 10<sup>th</sup> of this year Wisconsin lost a stalwart conservationist, outdoor enthusiast and outspoken supporter for scientific management of the state's wildlife resource. For the Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society, Jim was one of the founding fathers- being a member of the first Board of Directors in 1991, serving as long term secretary/treasurer and a real mover and shaker that got things done for the betterment of sharp-tails in the state. We all miss him tremendously.

With Jim's passing his wife Shirley requested that in lieu of other types of memorials, donations be made to The Friends of Crex or Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society for use in furthering their stated missions. In an e-mail to WSGS Board members in early March, president Dave Evenson talked about what we should do with accumulating Evrard Memorial funds, stating, *"You want something with some permanence and you also want something that does some good. A rock with a name is permanent, and a 20 acre brush cutting does some good, but short lived. So start thinking about it- you'll come up with some good ideas."*

Well, Shirley Evrard was included on that e-mail and she had an idea that had some permanence and would do some good for sharp-tails from an educational perspective. She and Jim had been to Bismarck ND many years ago and had stopped at the Game and Fish Dept. office where they observed a large 4 foot high displaying sharp-tail grouse sculpture made of welded rebar by a local artist and prominently displayed at the front of the office building. At the time they both thought the sculpted STG was pretty neat and took a photo for reference, thinking that maybe something like that would work as a unique display somewhere in Wisconsin in the future. Shirley was reminded of that time and brought forward to the WSGS Board an idea for a sharp-tail sculpture as a memorial for Jim that would be displayed at the Crex Meadows Visitor Center. The WSGS Board thought the idea was a fitting way to remember Jim, who loved and worked tirelessly in support of both Crex Meadows and Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse and would be a great way for the Crex Visitor Center to highlight this species that is still hanging on through direct management efforts at Crex Wildlife Area.

Once a great idea is hatched there are still all the details left to fill in before it can be implemented. In early June a working sub-committee was formed consisting of Shirley Evrard, Bruce Moss and myself to pursue the idea of a metal sharp-tailed grouse sculpture that would be prominently displayed outdoors at the Crex Visitor Center with an indoor plaque commemorating Jim's contributions to conservation and the importance of STG at Crex. We immediately began negotiations with Wisconsin DNR managers seeking authorization for placement and began to look for a suitable Wisconsin based metal working artist that could create what we were looking for. With some good leads it didn't take very long to select David Groenjes of DePere, WI as our preferred metal artist and he was ready to get started as soon as we could define what we wanted done. We also began discussing our conceptual ideas with Crex Meadows WDNR Supervisor Kyle Anderson who filled us in on some of the administrative concerns and also other ideas for us to consider. It was decided that we should talk to the Friends of Crex to outline our idea for the memorial and cultivate their interest in supporting or partnering especially since they were also named as another option to receive Jim Evrard memorial funds. It was already mid-August when I met with their Board of Directors who were excited about the concept and were supportive for advancing forward. I requested a sketch from Dave Groenjes so we would all have a better idea of what he was thinking the final product would look like. About that same time the WSGS sub-committee met with DNR property supervisor Kyle Anderson who proposed having a smaller sculpture roughly 1.5 -2X life size and having 3 stg in the display with an alternate location at the head of the Norm Stone educational path on the south side of the Crex Visitor Center parking area. We looked at the site and agreed it would fit well and brought forward the idea of a 2 male, 1 female dancing ground display sculpture to artist Groenjes. David agreed that he could deliver the 3 bird display at the scale we requested with individuals looking somewhat like the larger artist sketch he had recently sent us and the birds poised on a raised base.

The Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society Board have approved the sub-committees recommen-

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*Jim Evrard Memorial Continued...*

dations and we have sent the artist a 20% down deposit to construct the display over the winter with delivery after the thaw occurs this next spring. Total cost for this sculpture will be \$6500. Thus far, donations to the WSGS Jim Evrard memorial fund have totaled \$4107.00 from 36 individual donors. Other donors have sent about \$500 to Friends of Crex in memory of Jim. That means we are about \$1900.00 short of the goal for a complete payoff and are looking for additional donor funds. Please consider contributing what you can in this effort to honor the memory of a great conservationist, long running WSGS Board member, officer and a very good man. Plus you will be adding to the educational legacy of Crex Meadows and bringing sharp-tailed grouse to the forefront for the many visitors at this great facility.

**Contributions can be sent to:**

**Wis. Sharp-tailed Grouse Society  
Jim Evrard Memorial Fund  
102 East Crex Avenue  
Grantsburg, WI 54840**



*Illustration 1: Artist's rendition of one of the dancing males*

**WSGS ON LINE**

More people every day are looking at their screens for information. Last summer Mike Cole and Ken Jonas got us up on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Wisharptails.org/>. You can help by liking and commenting on stories as they are posted. And you can contribute your own sharptail related items, or links to other stories.

Kim Wheeler manages our website, <http://www.wisharptails.org/>. We need to get better at feeding information to her as well, and making that site more useful.

**So, as everyone in the world says, like us on Facebook!**

## **REMEMBERING BOB DUMKE**

*by Ed Frank, WSGS Board Emeritus*



Bob Dumke was a very innovative person, pushing boundaries to discover new and better ways to do things. Bob died on June 11, 2020. Bob first attended some Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse (WSGS) Board meetings as a guest, soon after he and his wife Pat bought a home on Prinel Lake, just east of Webb Lake in northwestern WI. He was elected to the WSGS board in 2018 and resigned due to serious illness on 03/02/2020. Bob was a strong advocate of using “Adaptive Management” to eventually develop effective breeding and brood rearing habitat for Sharp-tailed Grouse on large, recently cut (early seral stage) Jack Pine stands. At least two Wisconsin projects are already being implemented, but with the loss of Bob, they have no advocate for the scientific design of the true “Adaptive Management” approach.

Bob Dumke had a distinguished and accomplished career in Wildlife Research with the WI DNR for over 30 years. His innovative approaches to solving problems and willingness to consider new ideas moved the wildlife field forward under his leadership. He had an unintimidating leadership style and showed respect for everyone he worked with and their ideas.

In the 1960's, he pioneered the use of radio telemetry to study the mortality and movements of Ring-necked Pheasants near Waterloo, WI. Subsequently, he developed an experimental project to increase Bob White Quail near Richland Center. The quail project involved working with private landowners to improve quail habitat. He also tried to reintroduce White-tailed Jackrabbits to northwestern WI and documented the distribution and habitat use of Gray (Hungarian) Partridge in eastern WI.

Bob organized and chaired a national symposium titled “Wildlife Management on Private Lands” in 1981. He served as the DNR's Wildlife Research Section Chief from 1981-1990. He changed the focus of DNR research from mostly single species game management to include nongame species. Later, he expanded even that, to using an ecological approach to Wildlife Management Research. Bob was a member of the coordinating committee of the WI Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit on the UW Madison campus, where DNR and UW cooperated on many wildlife research projects. He also coordinated wildlife research with UW Stevens Point and other UW campuses. As Wildlife Research Section Chief, two new research programs were initiated: the wildlife toxicology and wildlife education research programs.

Bob also founded the Midwest Wildlife Supervisor's group which met once a year to exchange information on wildlife research around the Midwest. They looked for opportunities to learn from each other and to coordinate research across state lines. In addition, Bob was heavily involved with the planning and implementation of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conferences, held in WI, in 1987 and 1997. He even coordinated the Wildlife Damage and Abatement Program for a short period of time.

Bob became the Director of the Bureau of Research in 1990, which was renamed The Integrated Science Services Bureau in 1995. Then in 1997, he was given a special assignment to then DNR Secretary George Meyer to help plan and coordinate the reorganization of the WI DNR. The intent of the reorganization was to further the integration of DNR natural resource management programs, in a more holistic manner. As Director of Research, Bob oversaw the expansion of the DNR research program to include a Forestry research program in 1992. In 1995 Bob participated in developing a report to DNR managers discussing Wisconsin's Biodiversity as a management issue. He also promoted more broad-based ecological studies within the department. In 1996, Bob was invited to participate in a national conversation on ecosystem management, which resulted in the publication entitled: “The Keystone National Policy Dialogue on Ecosystem Management”. Bob retired from the WI DNR in 1998.

I wanted to tell you all these accomplishments of Bob Dumke because I am humbled by the exceptional caliber of person the WSGS was able to attract in Bob. He was only able to serve on the WSGS Board for a short period of time. He had so much more to give. We'll miss him.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

We are going to a primarily electronic newsletter, with hard copy only on request. This makes it impossible to send individual dues reminders, so the dues now will be annual for all, due in January for next calendar year.

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

Would you like to volunteer for:  
\_\_\_\_\_ Board of Directors  
\_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter articles  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Electronic Newsletter

Enclosed:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Dues *\*\*Please note changes* (Regular - \$30 (receive decal), Family - \$50 (receive decal), Sustaining - \$100 (receive hat), Life - \$300) *(Dues are fully tax-deductible)*

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donations in Memory of Jim Evrard *(will be put towards memorial statue)*

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ WSGS Logo Decal (\$1.50)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Four-color Cloth Patch (\$3.50)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Tan or blaze orange Cap (\$15 – indicate color choice)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ King sharptail limited edition print (\$60) *(all prices include postage and handling)*

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

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND RETURN THIS APPLICATION TO:

Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society, 102 East Crex Avenue, Grantsburg, WI 54840

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