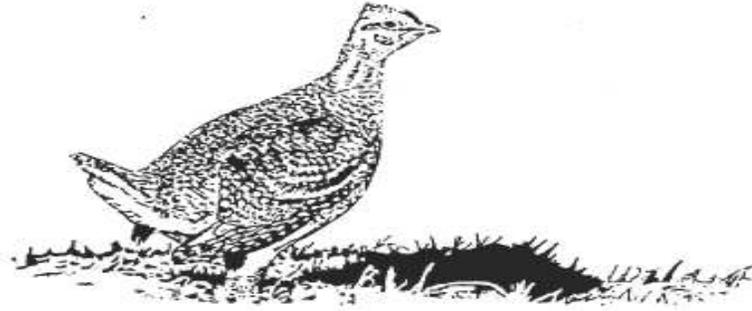


# WISCONSIN SHARP-TAILED GROUSE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Number 62	Spring 2011
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## 2011 ANNUAL MEETING by Jim Evrard

The 2011 meeting of the WSGS will take place at the St. Croix Inn, Solon Springs on Saturday and Sunday, April 30 and May 1. The business meeting will begin at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 30th in the Inn's conference room and will end at 4 p.m. following door and raffle prize drawings. The bar will be available for socializing prior to a catered dinner in the Inn.

A block of ten rooms has been reserved at a special rate of \$50+tax. You can make room reservations toll-free at 877-820-1362. Tell them you are from the Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society.

As in past years, an early Sunday morning activity on May 1st is planned followed by a group breakfast at which time the annual meeting will end. The breakfast will be at a restaurant in Solon Springs, ordering from the menu.

The meeting registration fee is \$15 per person and includes refreshments, the catered dinner, and meeting materials. Please send the fee to Treasurer Jim Evrard at 102 E. Crex Ave., Grantsburg, WI 54840 by April 22nd. We need a head count prior to the meeting so the caterer knows how many dinners to prepare.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR VIEWING DANCING SHARPTAILS by Jim Evrard

For those who have never had the opportunity to watch dancing sharptails up close in the spring, I've listed the sharptail management areas where viewing blinds are available. In some cases there is a modest fee for using the sharptail blinds. The blinds are usually available from mid-April to mid- to late-May.

**Pershing Wildlife Area** in western Taylor County  
Contact: DNR Biologist Mark Schmidt in Ladysmith.  
Email: [MarkE.Schmidt@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:MarkE.Schmidt@Wisconsin.gov)

**Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area** in northeast Burnett County  
Contact: DNR Wildlife Biologist Nancy Christel in Spooner.  
Email: [Nancy.Christel@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Nancy.Christel@Wisconsin.gov)

**Douglas County Wildlife Area** in southern Douglas County  
Contact: Lorna of the Friends of the Bird Sanctuary.  
Telephone: (715) 376-4743

**Moquah Barrens Wildlife Area** in northern Bayfield County  
Contact: U.S. Forest Service in Washburn.  
Email: [bheeringa@fs.fed.us](mailto:bheeringa@fs.fed.us)

## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

by Dave Evenson

The day was October 23, 1991, a crisp mid-autumn day at Crex Meadows. Bob Dreis had just turned 69 (an age I'm now approaching). The fledgling Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society was holding our first board meeting at the Montgomery Social Club, Jim Evrard's hunting cabin, and then, as we still do, we followed the meeting with a hunting or fishing trip.

In this case, it was a sharptail hunt on the northeast corner of Crex Meadows. Bob had his sweet little Brittany, and Pat Savage had another, perhaps even out of the same kennel, I can't remember. Ziggy and I were dogless as usual. I don't remember if I didn't have any opportunities or if I had a shot or two and missed, as is common for me, but I was without a bird. Bob had one in the bag and felt sorry for me and thus I got to eat my first Sharp-tailed Grouse.

Bob went on to serve on our board of directors for 15 years. Jim and I also got to see him a few times a year at the retired wildlifers breakfast, known as the Wildlifer's Roundtable, organized by Knight Bob and Sir Don Bublitz. R.I.P. Bob!

This week we got a letter from Tom Jankowski, another sharptail enthusiast on the first board way back then. Tom is doing well on his farm in southeast Wisconsin, watching and listening to ducks, pheasants, deer, of course, and even black bear. I have to say I'm a bit jealous of his description of pulling 9-10½ inch bluegills out of his honey hole. Tom and Pat, thanks for the letter and memories, and thanks for your efforts for Wisconsin sharptails.

Twenty years of friendships is a pretty good result of belonging to WSGS for me. We're serious about the cause and we have been able to have some impact on habitat in Wisconsin and will continue to work for the birds. Friends, fun and memories are a great side benefit.



### 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: Tom Ziegeweid

Secretary/Treasurer: Jim Evrard

#### Board Members:

Ed Frank      John Zatopa

Dave Clausen      John Probst

Blair Klein      Paul Kooiker

**PLEASE RENEW YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP**

Check the date on your mailing label and please renew your membership if it has expired or is about to expire. The WSGS is a small organization and depends heavily upon membership fees to continue the fight for the sharp-tailed grouse and its habitat in Wisconsin. Our membership fees are low compared to most conservation groups and support all-volunteer members who serve as your board of directors and do the work of the society.



**BOARD ELECTION**

The terms of WSGS board members, Jim Evrard Ed Frank, and Blair Klein expire this year and nominations were sought for three-year terms for the three positions. Jim, Ed, and Blair are seeking reelection and the nomination of Mike Dziki has been received

**Mike Dziki** is a Gryphon Shorthair breeder and all-breed gun dog trainer living in Clear Lake. Mike has been active in various wildlife conservation groups. He is a former president and presently a board member of the River Falls Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation and Director of the Pheasants Forever Amery Chapter’s youth group.

**Jim Evrard** is a retired DNR biologist from Grantsburg and a charter member of the WSGS. He first became a board member in 1991 and served as Secretary-Treasurer 1995-1999, President 2000-2003, and again Secretary-Treasurer 2004-present. He is also WSGS newsletter editor and writes a conservation column for the Wisconsin Outdoor News.

**Ed Frank** is a retired DNR biologist who lives in Madison and has a cabin near the Namekagon Barrens. Ed was first elected to the WSGS Board in 1996 and served as President 1997-1999. He represents the WSGS in oral and written testimony at county, state, and federal government proceedings.

**Blair Klein** was raised in nearby Minnesota but moved to Wyoming in 1971, later becoming a judge in that state. He moved to Wisconsin in 2000 to manage a family farm near St. Croix Falls. Blair was first elected to the WSGS Board in 2002. He has been involved in several wildlife conservation groups including being a National Trustee for Ducks Unlimited.

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(cut and mail or bring to annual meeting)

**BALLOT –WSGS BOARD (vote for three)**

**Mike Dziki** \_\_\_\_\_

**Jim Evrard** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ed Frank** \_\_\_\_\_

**Blair Klein** \_\_\_\_\_

**Write in:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **FORMER WSGS BOARD MEMBER PASSES**

By Dave Evenson

Bob Dreis served on the initial WSGS Board, starting in 1991 and continued on the board for 15 years, through 2006. Bob spent a good portion of his professional career in Spooner as a wildlife supervisor. While he wasn't "the man on the ground" at Crex or Namekagon Barrens or any other sharptail area, his support in budgets and planning definitely helped these projects in their early years. Below is an excerpt of Bob's obituary. We all send our condolences to Betty and his family.

Robert "Bob" E. Dreis, age 88, a resident of Spooner died February 16, 2011 at Spooner Health System. Robert was born on September 1, 1922 in Chicago, Illinois. After high school Bob enlisted in the United States Army serving as a corporal in World War II with the 1st Airborne. After his honorable discharge, he went to college at St. Ambrose College in Davenport, Iowa where he obtained his Bachelor of Science Degree. He then went on to the University of Iowa in Ames, Iowa graduating with a Master's Degree in Biology & Wildlife Management.

His career began when he took a job with the Wisconsin DNR as a Wildlife Biologist in 1952. He also served as wildlife district supervisor, and acting district director. After Bob retired, he continued to be involved with many, many organizations and activities. He became Regional Director of the Ruffed Grouse Society, served as an Advisory Board member for the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute and was a great supporter of Crex Meadows. Bob was also instrumental in the early development of the local North Country Trail Association. He enjoyed fur-trading activities at Forts Folle Avoine, memberships in several bird associations and served most proudly with the [American Legion] Honor Guard.

In his free time he loved spending time with his family and wilderness backpacking, canoeing, and camping. He made many trips to the Boundary Waters over the years. He was an avid hunter and fisherman and loved his dogs.

He is survived by and will be sadly missed by his wife Betty J. Dreis; their children Victoria S. (Randy) Dreis-Olson, Phillip C. (Claire) Dreis, and Peter D. (Jane) Dreis; 9 grandchildren; his sister Zoe Dreis Brost; along with other relatives and many friends.

Mass of Christian Burial was held Saturday, February 19, 2011 at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, Spooner. Bob lies in rest in Wisconsin Veteran Memorial Cemetery in Spooner where military honors were provided.

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## **RECOLLECTIONS OF AN EARLY SHARPTAIL MANAGER**

By Jim Evrard

For several years I've been trying to talk former Brule Area Wildlife Manager, Don Bublitz, into writing about his experiences managing Wisconsin sharp-tailed grouse.

Don, who makes his home in Lake Nebagamon, was responsible for managing sharptails in Douglas and Bayfield counties. In addition to caring for the birds throughout the counties, he also managed the state Douglas County Wildlife Area (locally known as the "Bird Sanctuary" and the Moquah Barrens Wildlife Area in the Chequamegon National Forest.

At the time there was little federal money for wildlife management in the national forest. There was only one U.S. Forest Service wildlife biologist for the entire forest and only enough federal money for his administrative support (office supplies, etc.) but not for actual land management for wildlife. The Wisconsin DNR was responsible for actual wildlife land management in the national forest.

Don's first experience with sharptails was gleaned from a personnel letter Don sent to me a few years ago.

## **PARTNER: WISCONSIN WILDLIFE FEDERATION**

By Jim Evrard

If you looked closely at the annual WSGS financial statement in our newsletter, you will see where the WSGS pays dues to a series of conservation organizations. One group is the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF).

In my opinion, the WWF is the most influential organization representing hunters and anglers in Wisconsin. About 160 sporting groups, representing more than 100,000 outdoors men and women, belong to the WWF. Former DNR Secretary George Meyer is the WWF Executive Director and regularly represents the WWF and its members before the Legislature and other governmental bodies in Madison.

WWF is also heavily involved in conservation education, co-managing the DNR's MacKenzie Environmental Center near Poynette. Another WWF environmental education effort is the support of the River Crossing School, a pioneer middle school for at-risk students that emphasizes hands-on conservation education. The WWF also publishes the Wisconservation; a monthly newsletter designed to keep outdoorsmen informed about environmental issues throughout Wisconsin and the U.S.

The WWF administration has five officers, a 24-member Board of Directors from 12 districts, a series of associate and honorary directors and past presidents and vice-presidents and several paid staff persons besides Meyer. In addition, there are affiliate directors, one representative from each member conservation organization. I'm the current associate director for the WSGS.

The WWF is associated with the National Wildlife Federation, a huge organization that is actively involved in education, politics, and legal natural resources defense throughout our country.

The WWF is funded with membership dues, donations, grants; banquet proceeds, and raffle calendar sales and is headquartered at the Mackenzie Center in Poynette. Anyone interested in learning more about the WWF can go to their web site at [www.wiwf.org](http://www.wiwf.org) or if interested in joining the WWF can call (608)635-2742 or (800)897-4161 or write: Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, Mackenzie Environmental Center, W7303 County Rd. CS & Q, Poynette, WI 53955

Future newsletters will feature our other 'partners', the North American Grouse Partnership, the Friends of Crex, Friends of the Namekagon Barrens, and the Friends of the Bird Sanctuary (the Douglas County Wildlife Area).

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...Recollections Continued from previous page

Bublitz wrote: "So now I'm remembering when I saw my first sharptail. It was the fall of 1952 between Cable and Drummond while home on a 30-day [military] leave before a transfer to Alaska. The owner of a country bar near Cedarburg .. [where Don had lived at the time] ..invited me to spend two weeks hunting and fishing with him out of his homestead in Cable. Back then a lot of the fields that had been farmed for potatoes had been going wild – nice brushy edge. So in the course of hunting R. Gr. [ruffed grouse] every now and then we would look for sharptails in the "resettlement" area southeast of Barnes where, incidentally, a few of the government houses built for displaced farmers still stand and are occupied."

Later Don entered college after military service, graduated and was hired by the then Wisconsin Conservation Department. He eventually was stationed in Brule where he was had the responsibility of managing sharptails in the same area where he first saw the bird.

I hope this initial article will be the catalyst for Don and other Wisconsin sharptail managers to write their sharptail management 'memoirs' for this newsletter.

## ADDITIONAL SHARPTAIL RESEARCH FUND DONATIONS

The following contributions have been recently received for the sharptail research fund:

Ray White, Edmonds, WA	\$300
Paul Stoll, Apple Valley, MN	\$75
John Probst, Rhinelander	\$55
Robert Mickelson, Eau Claire	\$50
John Zatopa, Rhinelander	\$50
Jim Evrard, Grantsburg	\$50*
Dan Wilson, Centuria	\$50
Don Bublitz, Lake Nebagemon	\$25
Tim Connelly, Medicine Lake, MT	\$25
John Kubisiak, Wisconsin Rapids	\$25
Michael Simon, Verona	\$25
Dennis Magnor, Cohasselt, MN	\$20
Don Anderson, Grantsburg	\$20
James Spaeth, Sparta	\$20
Dan Anderson, Eagle River	\$15
Keith White, Green Bay	\$15
Darryl Bizub, Wautoma	\$15
Jim Shurts, Madison	\$10*, **
Mike Cole, Grantsburg	\$10*
Jodie Provost, Aitkin, MN	\$10*
Bob Hanson, Grantsburg	\$10
Tom Ziegeweid, Eau Claire	\$10

\*additional donation

\*\* Donated painting for raffle that yielded \$440

The WSGS does offer premiums based upon the amount of the contribution:

- A donation of \$50 to \$100 will receive a WSGS logo embroidered cap;
- Those donating \$100 to \$150 will receive a Louie Raymer limited edition sharptail print;
- A donation of \$150 or more will receive either a Buzz Balzer or a Ruth King limited edition sharptail print;
- Those donating \$300 or more will receive a print of choice (Raymer, Balzer, or King) plus a life membership in the WSGS.

## AFIELD WITH ZIGGY

By Tom Ziegeweid

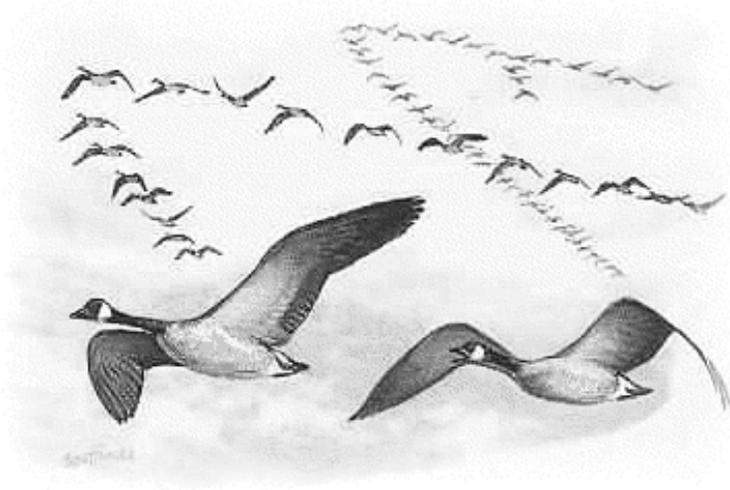
**A Great Recipe** – I just tried this recipe and its yummiier than yummy! Bob Hanson is a wildlife technician at Crex Meadows and is also a pretty good cook to boot as this recipe of his shows. The recipe works fine with goose and duck breasts, and would be OK with venison chops.

During the garden season, I grow a variety of peppers. I make “poppers” with grouse, chicken, and marinated beef sirloin steak. The key ingredients are meat, peppers, bacon, marinate, and round toothpicks.

A number of years ago there was a recipe in Pheasant Forever magazine called “pheasant poppers” that was the rage at the time. This is not an exact science, so derivations work great.

Bon Appetite!

Ziggy



### Bob's Yummy Goose

**Need:** Goose breasts - clean well, remove sinew and bloodshot meat, cut into bite size pieces and marinate

**Do:** Marinate meat 24-48 hours in mixture of one-half teriyaki sauce and one-half vegetable oil (olive oil is best)

**Select:** Peppers to suit your level of 'heat' (i.e. bell, banana, wax or jalapeno)

**Wrap:** Place piece of pepper in meat, wrap one-third strip of bacon around meat and secure with toothpick

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL**

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

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

Enclosed:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Dues (Regular - \$10, Supporting - \$25, Contributing - \$50, \$100 Sustaining, \$200 Sponsor)  
(Dues are fully tax-deductible)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Donation of Sharptail Research/Translocation Projects**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ 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

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE PAID  
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PERMIT No. 6

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