

# THE MINNESOTA SHARPTAILER

Visit Us at [Sharptails.org](http://Sharptails.org) & Facebook

Spring/Summer 2025



Photo provided by the Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society



## Paschke Tract Dedication Day in Baudette

As you might have read in our previous newsletters, the Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society has partnered with Pheasants Forever, MN Department of Natural Resources, and the Minnesota Chapter of Safari Club International to purchase 1,300 acres of suitable sharp-tailed grouse habitat. This purchase will be a part of a 14,000 acre complex centered around Carp Swamp WMA in Baudette, MN. The process to purchase this property took almost 10 years and involved a large number of staff and man hours to finalize the addition to the WMA. A large thank you has to be given to Jackie Paschke and the Paschke Family for their dedication and patience throughout this process! The Baudette Area Office of the Department of Natural Resources hosted a dedication day to honor this accomplishment and it was well attended by retired and current DNR and Pheasants Forever Staff, MSGS and SCI members, as well as members of the public who are excited for more public hunting land. We heard from Sabin Adams, MN State Coordinator for Pheasants Forever, Mike Chalich, MSGS President, and retired DNR Baudette Area Manager, Scott Laudenslager, who started the process of purchasing this land. All of these acres will be managed for brushland species and both parcels of property have active sharp-tailed grouse leks on them that have been monitored for years. The DNR already has plans to begin multiple brush mowing and prescribed burn projects to help maintain these areas. The Paschke Tract is located right off of Highway 72 about eight miles south of Baudette so make sure to check out this awesome accomplishment if you are ever in the area!



DNR, Pheasants Forever, Safari Club International, staff and members of the public posing in front of the new Paschke Tract at the Dedication day this May.

Retired DNR Wildlife Area Manager, Scott Laudenslager, talking to the group about the process it took to purchase this tract and some of the bumps along the way. He was very excited for this long awaited day!



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Mike's Message to the Members	2
Board Elections	3
New Officer Positions	4
Shooting Clays to Create Habitat	4
Volunteer Brush Cut Days	5
2025 Membership Drive	6
Member Spotlight	7
New Mission Partners	7

# Mike's Message to the Members

Mike Chalich, MSGS President

I'll start this column with some news about me. April 1st was no joke! My wife and I had been collecting maple sap since mid-March and started the evaporation process the last week of the month. For 3 or 4 days, I'd get a slight burning sensation in my chest. I thought my bronchial system was inflamed from the smoke and sap fumes. With a predicted snowstorm, I decided to drive to Crosby and have it checked out. I went from Crosby to St. Mary's in Duluth via ambulance! The test indicated something was going on with my heart. The next morning, a stent was inserted to fix a 90% blockage in one artery! I was sent home the same day. My only restrictions were on my wrist, where they entered to repair.

I had no typical symptoms. I was carrying 5-gallon buckets of sap out of the woods, hauling firewood, and going for long daily walks. No pain or shortness of breath, nothing except an occasional slight burning. Thankfully, the rest of my heart looked great, and there was no damage. I caught it at a good time. I'm totally fine. I'm telling you this because it certainly makes sense to have unusual feelings in your body checked out sooner rather than later! Enough about me.

As usual, the MSGS team has been hard at work! The EC brush cut day on April 5th and in the NW on April 12th were successful! Thanks to all who put so much effort into putting these together!

This newsletter includes some particulars about our Double Gun shoot on April 27th. The weather was great, and 31 people participated! It was so much fun! Give it a try next year and bring a friend. A membership is included in the fee. Thanks, Griz for helping to organize the event!

On May 3rd, we celebrated the dedication of the Paschke Tract, South of Baudette. Thanks to PF, MSGS, Safari Club International, and MN DNR, who made this a reality. Special thanks to Scott Laudenslager, now retired DNR Wildlife Manager, for pushing for this to one day become a reality! Thanks also to our own Dave Pauly, who also helped out in many ways!

We will be kicking off our 1st formal membership drive soon. We have a goal of 350 members by year-end. It's doable folks! We're pushing 300 now. Please see the flyer in this Newsletter for details. We have some fantastic prizes so spread the word!

I was contacted by the DNR regarding potential changes to how Sharp-tailed Grouse are managed in the EC zone. MSGS was invited to attend a joint meeting in Aitkin. Our team held a Zoom meeting prior to discuss our strategy. Dave Pauly, James Meadow, and I attended the meeting to voice our (MSGS) thoughts. In a nutshell, DNR is considering creating a "core" area to focus Sharp-tailed Grouse Management. The proposed core is Aitkin County. Areas outside the core in the EC range would be managed for all open land species, which would include STG. MSGS provided feedback both at the meeting and in a letter. In part, we strongly believe that using county lines for a range is not adequate and suggested portions of several counties should be included in the core, asked that spring counts continue as they do now, and we not lose sight of connectivity work between areas in western Wisconsin that are really showing good bird numbers. This is just being reviewed currently within DNR. Much more to come as we learn what decisions are made. One thing we will work on is improving how we communicate how our habitat work helps so many open land species.

If any of you are interested in helping MSGS out by volunteering your time, please contact me! Please sign up a member!

Michael Chalich  
[michael\\_chalich@hotmail.com](mailto:michael_chalich@hotmail.com)

## Board of Directors:

### Executive Board

President - Mike Chalich

Vice President - Nate Basinger

Secretary - Joe Quehl

Treasurer - Gretchen Mehmel

### Regional Representatives

NW - Gary Huschle

[honkerharmony@gvtel.com](mailto:honkerharmony@gvtel.com)

NE - James Meadow

[jfmeadow@gmail.com](mailto:jfmeadow@gmail.com)

SW - Sabin Adams

[sabin.j.adams@gmail.com](mailto:sabin.j.adams@gmail.com)

SE - Ray Marshall

[romjwm@comcast.net](mailto:romjwm@comcast.net)

### Coordinators

Habitat - Dave Pauly

NW Assistant Habitat - Brian Hanson

EC Assistant Habitat -

Nate Basinger and James Meadow

Outreach/Newsletters - Joe Quehl

Website/Facebook - James Meadow

Membership - Dylan Mortenson

Fundraising/Merchandise - Bailey Petersen

Give To The Max Day - Bailey Petersen

Student Advisor - Bill Faber

### Honorary Directors

Roche Lally, Bill Berg, Jamie Slade, Dave Pauly



***The Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society is dedicated to the management and restoration of sharp-tailed grouse in Minnesota for hunters and non-hunters.***



# Board Elections - Choose your Leaders!

Elections for President, Treasurer, NE Regional Rep, and SW Regional Rep

We are holding elections this year for four board member positions: President, Treasurer, NE Regional Representative, and SW Regional Representative. Attached to this newsletter is a ballot for which you can vote for each of the candidates or you can vote electronically at [this link](#). If you do the paper ballots, please mail them to:

7273 Clearwater Road, Apt 310, Baxter, MN 56425

**Voting will close July 31st at 5:00 pm!** If you have any questions about the election please reach out to our Secretary, Joe Quehl ([joseph.o.quehl@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.o.quehl@gmail.com)).



## **Presidential Candidate**

As some of you may already know, my name is Michael Chalich and as noted prior, I've decided to run for a 2nd term to serve as President of MSGS. When I was elected in 2023, my main goals were to ensure MSGS was meeting our commitment to our membership, and our Bylaws. It also became clear to me that we need to grow our membership. Doing all of this of course is why we exist. Our beloved Sharp-tailed Grouse! We've made great strides, but there's more to do. I humbly ask for your vote.



## **Treasurer Candidate**

My name is Gretchen Mehmel, and I am running for Treasurer again because, first of all, the MSGS is a great organization doing amazing habitat work for openland wildlife species, and I want to contribute both my time and in my membership. I am running for a second term because being Treasurer takes quite a bit of work to set up (signature, purchasing card, etc.) and has a learning curve (taxes, annual non-profit paperwork, ledgers) and it just made sense to continue for another term before we switch over to a new volunteer. As for my bio, I am retired and live with my husband south of Baudette in the heart of some awesome sharp-tail country. I used to be the DNR manager of the Red Lake WMA. I love to hunt, read, bird watch, travel, listen to music, and garden.



## **NE Regional Representative Candidate:**

My name is James Meadow, and I am excited to stand as a candidate again for the NE Regional Representative position. The past two years have been an enriching and occasionally demanding experience – we still have a lot of important work ahead of us. My family and I (my wife and our two wonderful children) love exploring Minnesota and the Superior region. We enjoy sailing, camping, hiking, climbing, hunting, and keeping up with our two energetic dogs. Professionally, I work as a technology executive in Duluth, collaborating with clients worldwide. Because of my work in the tech industry, the hands-on and impactful conservation efforts we undertake with MSGS to protect and enhance our local wild lands are particularly rewarding for me. In my past two years as NE Regional Representative, I've contributed to modernizing our organizational processes behind the scenes, initiated updates to our website and social media presence, assisted with coordination with the MN DNR, and partnered with Griz to secure MSGS' largest grant to date – the 2025 CPL grant focused on enhancing sharp-tailed grouse habitat statewide. I've also concentrated on our region by hosting two

Volunteer Brush Cut events on key habitat properties. MSGS is at a pivotal moment, and I'm excited for the opportunity to contribute to our future.



## **SW Regional Representative Candidate:**

My name is Sabin Adams, I live in Osakis MN with my wife Sara and kids Briar and Luella. Professionally I work as the MN State Coordinator for Pheasants Forever. I have a great interest in seeing sharpies expand across MN but particularly in the SW. I spend a few days each spring monitoring leks and looking for birds on the SD border. Working for PF I also look for opportunities to partner with other conservation groups that share our dedication to wildlife conservation.

## Still other ways to get involved!

### Available Officer Positions

Are you interested in helping to conserve sharp-tailed grouse in Minnesota, but don't necessarily want to serve on the Board of Directors? The MSGS has a lot of volunteer opportunities available to any member that is interested in helping out! This year, the board of directors has three newly created coordinator positions to help achieve MSGS's objectives. Descriptions of these new positions can be found below:

**Outreach Coordinator:** This position would be focused on helping tell MSGS's story and promote the organization by writing articles for magazines or news papers, and helping organize various outreach events (membership drives, podcast appearances, etc.)

**Social Media Coordinator:** In this role, the person would help MSGS manage their Facebook and Instagram page and engage members by keeping them up to date on upcoming events. They would also help write and create posts for both platforms to promote updates within the organization and sharp-tailed grouse management as a whole.

**DNR Liaison:** MSGS is looking for a MN Department of Natural Resources employee (current or retired) to assist the board of directors as a liaison between MSGS and the MN DNR to help organize events, and keep the MSGS apprised of opportunities for collaboration between the two organization.

All three of these positions are non-elected positions so if you are interested in serving as any of them please reach out to Mike Chalich ([michael\\_chalich@hotmail.com](mailto:michael_chalich@hotmail.com)).



## Shooting Clays to Create Habitat!

### The 4th Annual Double Gun Shoot in Pine City, MN



MSGS members enjoying the nice weather at the Double Gun Shoot this spring! Thank you to everyone who attended and sponsored the event (listed below).



On April 27th, the Minnesota Sharptailed Grouse Society hosted their fourth annual Double Gun Shoot fundraiser! For those of you that are new to MSGS, the Double Gun Shoot is a fundraiser that MSGS hosts each year to help fund sharp-tailed grouse conservation/habitat management projects. It is a round of sporting clays where participants can only use over-under, or side-by-side shotguns and afterwards there is a silent auction and cook out. A great event for shooters and non-shooters to go and support sharp-tailed grouse conservation. It was held this year at the Wings North range in Pine City, MN. We had an incredible turnout at the event with 31 participants in the shooting competition. In addition to the 31 participants, we had 12 sponsors at this event whose donations went to putting this event on. Thank you to everyone who attended and/or sponsored this event. We could not have done it without all of you and we are happy to report that we raised almost \$4,400 for the Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society! These funds will go towards funding more habitat management projects throughout Minnesota and advance the mission of MSGS. Stay tuned for more details next year as we begin planning the next Double Gun Shoot!

Sponsors of this event were Pheasants Forever, Moose River Sportsman Club, North American Grouse Partnership, Minnesota Wildlife Society, Minnesota Native Landscapes, Wings North Sportsman Club, PCi Roads, Sim's Gunsmithing LLC, MSGS, Ray Marshall, Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society, and the Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society.



# Volunteer Brush Cut Days

## Deer Run WMA (EC Region) 4/5/2025

- James Meadow

Beautiful habitat, perfect crisp weather (perfect if you're a sharptail...), and a great crowd were highlights for our EC Region Volunteer Brush Cut this year!

We had 22 volunteers this year, mostly with one of our newest partners - ICWC (Institution/Community Work Crew Program through MDOC), as well as solid attendance from MN DNR and MSGS members.

Thanks to everyone who came out to the volunteer day and created habitat for sharp-tailed grouse. These 22 volunteers worked a total of 169 hours, which equated to \$7,035.47 of in-kind match hours!

These match hours will also be used to enhance efforts on our new CPL grant focused on public lands in the area. This is part of a larger brush management plan for the heart of sharptail populations within the EC region - Deer Run is surrounded by sustaining populations and has been a focus for MSGS in recent years.

The ICWC crew took home the Golden Saw award this year - it was no contest. We're incredibly thankful for their continued participation and partnership!

## Palmville WMA (NW Region) 4/12/2025

- Gary Huschle

The 2025 brush cut in Northwest Minnesota was held on April 12, 2025 at the Palmville WMA. This marked the 5th year this winter roost habitat site has been worked on by Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society brush cutting crews. A total of 38 people worked on the project this year. The 21 students and faculty from the University of Minnesota Crookston took home the Golden Saw award for the group with the most volunteers. Bemidji State University was second with 14 students and received a Silver Saw award from the Crookston crew in good humor of their on going rivalry. There were two individuals also participating on group day and an individual effort the weekend before. Total hours of volunteer work logged on the project this year was 269.5 hours.

Several clusters of grouse night roosts were observed while working on the project showing that the area is being used as roosting habitat and MSGS efforts over these years is paying off. The volunteer hours will be used for matching grant money to do large habitat improvement contracts on the Palmville WMA.



The crew enjoying a nice warm meal on the cold April day after a long day of brush cutting.



Group photo of all the volunteers who made it out to the brush cut day. Thank you to everyone who made it out to support sharp-tailed grouse.



Part of the crew taking down a big tamarack tree that was in the middle of the unit.



All 39 volunteers after a hard days work enhancing habitat for the firebird on Palmville WMA in the NW Region.





# MN Sharptailed Grouse Society Membership Drive 2025



## Prizes Include:

- 1st: Vortex Package
- 2nd: Schnee's Kestrel Boots
- 3rd: Final Rise Upland Vest
- 4th: Ross Hier Framed Water Color STG Print
- 5th: Fenwick Eagle Fly Rod/Reel
- 6th: Cuga Dog Vest
- 7th: Maine Outdoor Solutions - Flapper Hat
- 8th: Guided LEK Viewing Blind for Two  
by Dan Svedarsky
- 9th - 18th: OnX Premium 1 Year Subscription



Please help us build our membership to 350 members! We're pushing 300 already, so this is very doable.  
ALL members at the end of the year will be included in the prize drawing!  
The drawing will occur January 10th, 2026.  
Visit [www.sharptails.org](http://www.sharptails.org) for more information.

Thank you to all our sponsors!

MSGS is dedicated to the management and restoration of sharptailed grouse for hunters and non-hunters. Our work also benefits a host of other open land species.

No purchase necessary - if you'd prefer not to join MSGS at this time, but would still like to participate in the prize drawing, please send your name, address and phone number to: MSGS, PO Box 338, Duluth, MN 55803.  
Reference Prize Drawing.





## Members Spotlight-From our Kitch to yours!

Recipe by: Gretchen Mehmel

This newsletter's recipe is brought to us by Gretchen Mehmel. This recipe is called Autumn Sweetness and it was created a group of sharp-tailed grouse hunters in Baudette MN that call themselves the Baudette Area Sharp-tailers Gourmet Cartel! Sounds like an awesome group to be a part of! This recipe blends maple syrup, cinnamon, and sugar to bring out the best wild game flavors in grouse or woodcock. **Thank you Gretchen and the rest of the Gourmet Cartel for sharing this recipe with us.**

### Ingredients

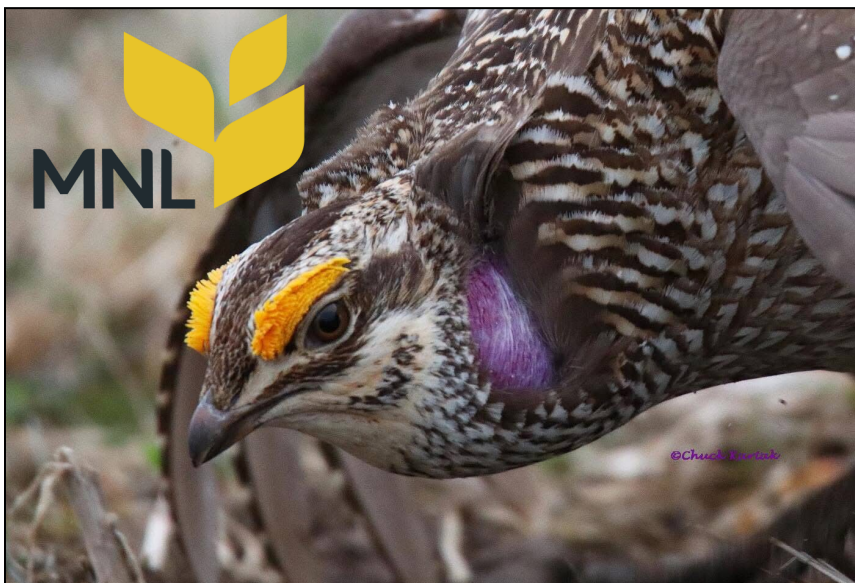
2 grouse breasts or 4 woodcock breasts  
1 cup of flour (enough to lightly coat breast meat)  
2-3 tablespoons of butter  
1/2 cup of white sugar  
1 cup of red wine  
1/4 cup of maple syrup  
Season with Salt, Pepper, Cinnamon accordingly  
Golden raisins and sliced almonds as needed

### Instructions

1. Slice boneless breast meat into thin strips and lightly coat the strips in flour afterwards sprinkle the coated meat with salt, pepper, and cinnamon.
2. Coat the bottom of a frying pan in oil and melt butter. Sauté the coated strips of meat in a hot frying pan, being careful not to overcook them. After they are thoroughly cooked set aside and let them drain.
3. Discard the oil in the frying pan and add red wine, sugar, golden raisins, and maple syrup. Stir and bring to a boil and let the liquid become thick.
4. Remove the pan from heat and place the meat in the thick sauce for 1-2 minutes.
5. After that remove the meat and place meat on a serving dish and sprinkle with sliced almonds.
6. Serve with fresh garden salad, homemade buttermilk rolls, and a wild rice pilaf. The woodcock and the sweetness of the recipe allow for several wine choices, red or white.



## New Mission Partners with Minnesota Native Landscapes



Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society is excited to announce that it has officially become a Mission Partner with Minnesota Native Landscapes (MNL)! We decided to partner with MNL to help tackle large environmental issues, such as land erosion and habitat loss, that face Minnesotans and it's wildlife. We are joining a list of 21 other non-profit organizations that are uniting together on these issues. In this partnership, we all pledge to try and improve or impact 10 million acres by 2030, a lofty goal but with all of us working together one that we think is achievable and can have a significant impact on sharp-tailed grouse in Minnesota!

## **New Article Series—“Member Spotlight”**

We are starting a new article series for the MSGS Newsletter where we highlight articles written by members! We are asking any interested member to submit their favorite wild game recipes, conservation stories, biographies of their favorite dogs, or any other outdoors-related article! If you are interested in submitting an article, please email it to Joe Quehl at [joseph.o.quehl@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.o.quehl@gmail.com) and we will feature it in the newsletter. Thank you in advance to any member who submits an article!



**Thank you to everyone for supporting the Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society and being a member! If you need to renew your membership or want to become a member visit our website at [www.sharptails.org](http://www.sharptails.org) .**



**[@mnsharptails](https://www.instagram.com/mnsharptails)**



**[@Minnesota Sharp-tailed Grouse Society](https://www.facebook.com/MinnesotaSharp-tailedGrouseSociety)**