

**DATES TO
REMEMBER:**

Pheasant Season Closes
January 4, 2009

Next SCPF Meeting
January 7, 2009

MN State PF Convention
January 9-11, 2009

2009 Pheasant Fest
February 6,7,& 8, 2009

2009 Stearns Banquet
March 7th, 2009

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The Rooster

Review

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2



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Partnering to Introduce Youth to the Outdoors

Central Minnesota Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Stearns County Chapter of Pheasants Forever hosted a youth mentor hunt at Fischer's Kennel and Hunt Club. This opportunity was created to provide an understanding and appreciation for hunting, conservation, and the outdoors where there is a need and desire.

"BBBS's record of helping youth is the main reason for PF support," said Joe Klein, board member of the Stearns County Pheasants Forever chapter and coordinator for this event. "We saw this as an opportunity to pass along the hunting tradition."

The day's activities included gun safety, trap shooting, and an actual pheasant hunt



SCPF President Ralph Feld with final instructions before the hunt.

followed by a lunch. Each Little and their Big were paired with a Stearns County Pheasants Forever volunteer along with their hunting dog while only the Littles hunted. The day was a wonderful experience for the kids as well as the

volunteers. The smiles as the Little brought back their birds were priceless.

"We are thrilled to be partnering with Big Brothers/Big Sisters," explained Ken Fruth, Youth Director for the Stearns County Chapter of Pheasants Forever. "Pheasants Forever is honored to work with an organization with Big Brothers/Big Sisters' reputation and tradition to guide our youth in conservation and hunting ethics."

This is the third year Stearns County Pheasants Forever has hosted this type of hunt. This has been made possible with donations from Xcel Energy, Thelen Distributing, and

Continued on page 2.

Pheasants - Winter Habitat

Depending on the severity of the winter, pheasants will use a variety of habitat types as winter cover. In mild winters with little snowfall, pheasants can find shelter in stands of native grass (i.e. switchgrass). As snows pile deeper, pheasants move to the more secure winter cover of willow thickets and cattail



sloughs. Once every 10 years, Minnesota suffers a devastating winter when snows come early and stay late, covering all but the most robust habitats while temperatures drop to record lows. In those years, the only shelter that remains are carefully constructed woody cover plantings.

Woody cover plantings should provide secure shelter from harsh Minnesota weather and protection from predators. Avoid tall deciduous trees in your wildlife cover planting as they provide perch sites for avian predators such as hawks and owls and den sites and loafing habitat for raccoons. Winter wildlife plantings should include conifers and shrubs.

Youth

Continued from page 1



Youth received shooting instruction prior to the hunt.

Roger Linz of Frito-Lay, Inc.

Little Moments. Big Magic. Huge Impact. Makes for a nice Tradition.

For more information about Pheasants Forever or Big Brothers Big Sisters visit their websites, www.pheasantsforever.org and www.bbbs.org.

Habitat Highlight

Black-Eyed Susan, is a biennial forb about 3' tall with yellow ray flowers and dark brown spherical



centers. Black-eyed Susan typically blooms from June to September. This plant offers protection and food to several song and game birds.

Check Us Out On the Web
www.stearnsfpf.org

CRP Changes Benefit Landowners and Wildlife

In October, 2008 the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that soil rental rates for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will increase nationwide. This is the third year in a row that the Farm Service Agency has updated soil rental rates nationwide in order to stay current with the market. Stearns County soil rental rates increased an average of 8 percent. This increase makes soil rental rates for CRP approach cash rental

rates.

The USDA also announced that they will provide additional payment incentives for select CRP practices. Additional incentives are now available for several practices. These practices are aimed at increasing vital habitat and nesting cover for wildlife, reducing and filtering runoff, controlling erosion and sedimentation and recharging groundwater supplies.

This means that several practices may receive 120%

of the average SRR for their property, 50% cost share and 40% practice incentive payment to establish the approved cover as well as the one time \$100 per acre signing incentive payment. "We hope that with these new economic incentives bring CRP payments closer to cash rent, and that producers will look at their less productive, frequently flooded lands and consider enrolling," stated Jason Selvog, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist. *Continued on Page 4.*

Minnesota Votes YES, Passes Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment

Minnesota voters passed The Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. Over 1.6 million Minnesotans, or 56 percent, voted YES to positively impact the future of the outdoors in the state.

Pheasants Forever joined a coalition of 350 conservation, sportsmen, environmental and arts groups in supporting the Amendment. The measure will raise the state sales tax by three-eighths of one percent - from 6.5 to 6.875 percent - beginning July 1, 2009, and will generate an estimated \$300 million a year in today's dollars, or around \$11 billion over the next 25 years.



The Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment will ensure \$100 million for Minnesota's Outdoor Heritage Fund, \$100 million for the Clean Water Fund, \$59 million for the Cultural Heritage Fund and \$43 Million for the Parks and Trails Fund

- all annually. Currently, funding for wildlife habitat remains near historic lows, and over the next 25 years, over 1 million acres of farmland, wooded lands and other natural areas will be lost as Minnesota continues growing faster than any other state in the Midwest.

"Minnesotans have chosen to do what we thought they would all along," said Joe Duggan, PF Vice President of Corporate Relations and

Marketing and a staunch advocate of the Amendment during its decade-long journey to fruition, "They have chosen, through a truly remarkable one-time opportunity, to protect the Minnesota we all know and love, and to ensure future generations enjoy cleaner waters and abundant wildlife."

Pheasants Forever also hopes the passage of The Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment in Minnesota proves to be a precursor of what's to come next year in Iowa, where the state will consider its own constitutional amendment for the sustainable funding of natural resources.

For more information on The Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, log onto www.YesForMN.org.

Pheasants Forever/DNR Mentor Youth Hunt is a Success!

The first-ever Pheasants Forever (PF) special mentored youth hunt, co-sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), allowed 200 youth the opportunity to experience a safe, high-quality outdoor experience.

The mentored youth hunt took place on October 25th. The DNR set up the structure for the hunt and promoted it, while PF chapter members served as mentors and organized the individual events. Forty Minnesota PF chapters participated in the event. Youth with valid firearms safety certificates, ages 12-17, applied and were selected through an earlier drawing. Mentors from PF chapters throughout Minnesota were paired with youth hunters and their guardians. After scouting places to hunt and securing landowner permission when necessary, mentors and participants took to the field.

Stearns County Chapter of Pheasants Forever (SCPF) was one of the forty chapters that participated in the hunt. "With fewer kids favoring outdoor activities over a weekend in front of the television, we (SCPF) thought it was a great opportunity to introduce young people to our Minnesota hunting heritage", said Ralph Feld, Stearns County Pheasants Forever President.



PF/DNR Youth Mentor Hunt

"Not every youngster bagged a bird, they did bag proper techniques and tactics, and most importantly, a safe experience," said Ken Fruth, Stearns County Chapter – Youth Director, "Our goal is to introduce youth to hunting and the outdoors. In fact, we hope some of the youth become mentors in future events *Continued on page 4*

From the President: Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment

On November 4th, Minnesota voters proved that the outdoors are important to us by passing the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. Over 1.6 million Minnesotans, or 56 percent, voted YES to positively impact the future of the outdoors in the state. To help support the Amendment the Stearns County Pheasants Forever chapter hosted one of the eight stops on a last minute rally to help inform voters of the Amendment. Representatives from Pheasants Forever, Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, Minnesota Waterfowl Association, Ducks Unlimited along with Bud Grant and Ron Schara conducted an informational meeting at Scheels in St Cloud. Approximately 50-75 people gathered in the mall entrance of Scheels to hear what the amendment would mean to Minnesota's natural resources. After the Scheels rally a short questions and answer session was held at the VFW Post 428.

With today's economy it's hard for the people to handle another form of tax increase, but Minnesotans demonstrated that outdoors and conservation of our natural resources are important to us. The dedicated funding will give us the opportunity to help improve wildlife habitat, purchase additional land for public hunting opportunities and help make up for lost CRP acres.

Think Habitat!

Ralph Feld—SCPF President



Stearns Chapter President
Ralph Feld

Member Photos



John Maile's son John James (4) and dog "Jake" after John James first ever pheasant hunt with dad.



Nathan Hylla and his South Dakota 8 pointer.

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Stearns County Chapter of
Pheasants Forever



**Renew Your
Membership
Today!**

CRP Changes Benefit Landowners and Wildlife Continued from page 2

To be eligible for CRP a landowner must have owned the land for at least 1 year prior to enrolling and the land must meet the crop history requirements set forth by the Farm Service Agency. Under CRP, landowners enter into a 10 to 15 year contract and agree to establish the required cover on the enrolled acres. In return landowners will receive cost share for establishment, annual rental payments and a one time signing bonus for enrolling.

PF/DNR Mentor Youth Hunt is a Success! Continued from page 3

to continue the tradition." "What a great job of introducing youth to the outdoors," Mike Kurre, Hunting & Angling Mentoring Program Coordinator with the DNR, Kurre, who was with the Stearns County Chapter of PF during the hunt, saw first-hand the impact the hunt had on everyone involved. "What a great group of dedicated, passionate, knowledgeable pheasant hunters, mentors and landowners," he said of the chapter, "It was truly a great day for everybody." He added, "We hope to have another hunt next year that is even better than our 2008 hunt!"

Tell a friend about our Newsletter

If you have friends or family that would like to receive our newsletter have them contact us at jselfvog@pheasantsforever.org



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