

DATES TO  
REMEMBER:

Spring Light Goose Season  
Opener  
March 1, 2009

Crow 1st Season  
March 1, 2009

Ice House Removal  
South of Hwy 200 and Hwy 2  
March 2, 2009

Stearns County Banquet  
March 7, 2009

Ice Houses Must Be Off The  
Ice Each Night Unless Attended  
North of Hwy 200 and Hwy 2  
March 16, 2009

Next SCPF Meeting  
April 2, 2009

MN Spring Turkey Opener  
April 15, 2009

Pheasant Fest 2010  
February 26, 27, 28, 2010

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# The Rooster

## Review

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1



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## 2009 SCPF Annual Banquet—March 7th

### Get Your Tickets Now!

The Stearns County Pheasants Forever Chapter knows how important their annual banquet is to accomplishing their goal for increased pheasant habitat. Since 1983, the Stearns County Chapter has raised over \$2.6 Million for conservation and wildlife habitat projects. This year's banquet will be held at the College of St. Benedict's Gorecki Events Center on Saturday, March 7, starting at 5:30 pm. Ralph Feld, Stearns County Pheasants Forever Chapter president, is excited about having the banquet at the Gorecki Events Center. Ralph states, "Gorecki provides a great meal with plenty of space, and has easy access not far from the Interstate".

"The banquet is a fun way to spend an evening, sharing



Chad Bloom and Jessica Fruth with prizes at 2008 Banquet.

hunting stories, and you may even win something," says Feld. The banquet offers many prizes that can be won thru raffle tickets, games, silent auction and the live auction. Prizes include guns, wildlife prints, and much more!

"One of the great things about the Pheasants Forever organization is that the money raised locally is used for local conservation projects," says Brad Cobb, SCPF Public Relations Director. These locally raised funds have leveraged state and federal funds resulting in 28 Wildlife Management Areas, encompassing over 3,200 acres. Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are part of Minnesota's outdoor recreation system and are established to protect those lands and waters that have a high potential for wildlife production, public hunting, trapping, fishing, and other compatible recreational uses. The Stearns County Pheasants Forever Chapter does

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## Food Plots or Feeders?

There are two types of food sources commonly used in pheasant management: food plots and feeders. Feeders are highly mobile and can be placed in areas where food plots cannot. If there is an area with high quality winter cover lacking a food source, a feeder can be used to



provide pheasants with a stable food source during the cold winter months. They can be used effectively in emergency situations after blizzards where large groups of birds are concentrated while foraging. Feeders do not provide

protection to pheasants from predators or the elements while feeding, and recent concern with Avian Influenza and Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has made their use even less desirable. In areas with high deer populations, feeders can be used with enclosures. When possible food plots adjacent to winter cover is best.

## Partnering for Water Quality

Our lakes, waterways, and wetlands are an important part of who we are and innovative steps are being taken every day to try to preserve their quality. Unusual alliances are being formed knowing the future of these natural resources are important to everyone.

Conservationists and sportsmen are two groups that haven't always seen eye to eye, yet partnerships between the two are effective in several areas which have resulted in successful lake and land preservation projects.

One such partnership has been created in Stearns County between Pheasants Forever (PF), the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Rice Lake Association (RLA), Koronis Lake Association (KLA), North Fork Crow River Watershed District

(NFCRWD) and USDA. Stearns SWCD Shoreland Specialist Greg Berg and Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist Jason Selvog have helped spearhead the project. The North Fork Crow River Watershed District, and Rice & Koronis Lake Associations were interested in stepping up their effort to preserve the watershed and incorporate shoreline restoration to the lakes. Berg and Selvog have been working closely with the two associations which are located about 30 miles south of St. Cloud. Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) letters were sent to landowners in high priority areas explaining programs and benefits. "We just started the promotion for part of the project. So far we have sent 33 letters and have had 10 landowners call us back for more information or site visits," says Selvog. "Nine of those ten landowners

have enrolled in CRP for a total of 122 acres. A response we are pleased with," added Selvog.

Landowners eligible to participate in CRP enroll by signing a 10-15 year contract and agree to establish a cover such as native grasses and wildflowers. In return, the landowner receives annual rental on the acreage enrolled. "Working with local groups is a great benefit because they have knowledge of where these programs are needed within their areas, and in many cases, have names of landowners that have already expressed interest", said Berg. "These partnerships allow us to pin point high priority areas within the county or watershed", said Berg.

### Habitat Highlight

#### Indiangrass

This native, warm-season grass is a codominant with Big stem. It is a palatable grass as a



blue-stem. It is a palatable grass for grazing or

component of prairie hay. It is sought by grazing animals. Birds and small mammals consume the seeds. Its growth begins approximately the same time as Big bluestem; flowering is during July and August. It attains heights up to 8 feet.

Check Us Out On the Web  
[www.stearnsfpf.org](http://www.stearnsfpf.org)

## Stearns County SWCD Honored for Private Land Conservation

Pheasants Forever (PF) awarded Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District

(SWCD) with its Brood Booster award during PF's Minnesota State Convention earlier this month. The award

recognizes those who have demonstrated exceptional accomplishments in enrolling private lands into conservation programs that boost pheasant and other wildlife populations. Many U.S. Department of Agriculture and Minnesota conservation programs assist farmers and landowners at implementing the best land practices to conserve

habitat, water, soil, and our wildlife heritage. The honor is awarded annually to an entity that excels at enrolling land into conservation programs.



Ralph Feld, Dennis Fuchs and Jason Selvog receiving award

"We applaud Stearns SWCD and local partners who support the Farm Bill Biologist position and the Stearns County landowners for their stewardship," said Ralph Feld, Stearns County Pheasants Forever Chapter President. "This award speaks to a mix of good programs, good partners, and landowners who want to take care of our soil, water, wildlife and quality of life here in Stearns County."

Stearns County SWCD is

a participant in Minnesota's Farm Bill Assistance Partnership. The partnership provides state and private funds to employ a Farm Bill Biologist, whose task is to take full advantage of the conservation opportunities provided in the Federal Farm Bill. During 2008, Stearns County SWCD technician, Vince Manderfeld and Stearns County Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist, Jason Selvog helped enroll over 2000 acres of new Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in Stearns County; including over 1500 acres in the Back Forty Pheasant practice. Stearns County funding partners include the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, Stearns SWCD, Stearns County PF, Sauk River Watershed District, North Fork Crow River Watershed

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more than just acquire public hunting land. They also support a full-time Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist. Co-located at the USDA Service Center in Waite Park, MN, the Farm Bill Biologist's job is to work with private landowners to improve wildlife habitat and water quality by promoting the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and related USDA Farm Bill programs. Dennis Fuchs, Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District administrator, said "the Continuous CRP program protects our water quality and natural resources by enrolling marginal cropland such as riparian or wet lands, and at the same time provides excellent wildlife habitat."

"Being co-located with the Stearns County SWCD, Farm Service Agency, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service increases my efficiency and allows us to contact more landowners about the available programs," said Jason Selvog, PF Farm Bill Biologist.

Pheasants Forever is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and enhancement of pheasant and other wildlife populations in North America

through habitat improvement, land management, public awareness, and education. Nationally, Pheasants Forever has over 100,000 grassroots members and volunteers who have developed more than 3 million acres of pheasant and other wildlife habitat since inception. The Stearns County Chapter is one of over 600 local chapters completing over 25,000 projects annually. More than 4,000 educators promoting conservation through the Leopold Education Project including a vast network of individual and corporate contributors are part of this contribution.

Ralph Feld summarizes "if you are interested in protecting, restoring, and enhancing wildlife habitat in Stearns County, we hope to see you at our Pheasants Forever annual banquet." Additional information for the Stearns County Pheasants Forever Chapter banquet is available on the web at [www.stearnspheasantsforever.org](http://www.stearnspheasantsforever.org).



## Member Photos



SCPF, SWCD, NRCS hunted together this past November near Sauk Centre



Ross Reiffenberger with his MT Mule Deer

### From the President: 26<sup>th</sup> Annual SCPF Banquet

Save the Date! Plans are well underway for the 26th Annual Stearns County Pheasants Forever Spring Banquet which we are excited about hosting in a new location; the recently constructed and highly acclaimed College of Saint Benedict's **Gorecki Events Center** in St Joseph, MN. The banquet will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2009 with the traditional crowing hour beginning at 5:30 p.m. followed by a host of new and classic games, live and silent auctions, raffles and a delicious sit-down dinner served at 7:30 p.m. This year's banquet chairpersons, Joe Klein and Chad Bloom are confident that The College of Saint Benedict will provide a welcome atmosphere for all of our guests with an

exceptional dining experience, media services, parking facilities and accessibility.

Pheasants Forever Television's the "Man Afield", Bill Sherck will be our key note speaker. Also, Pheasants Forever Inc., President and CEO, Howard Vincent will be in attendance.

Ralph Feld—SCPF President



Stearns Chapter President - Ralph Feld

## Advertisements



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Stearns County Chapter of  
Pheasants Forever



**Renew Your  
Membership  
Today!**

## Stearns County SWCD Honored Continued from page 3

District, Rice Lake Association, Koronis Lake Association and the Initiative Foundation.

Dennis Fuchs, administrator of the Stearns County SWCD, can attribute the SWCD's success to the SWCD's ability to partner with these other agencies and employ an additional person to help market federal Farm Bill programs. "This opportunity gives us the ability to reach more people and implement more conservation," Fuchs says.

"These partnerships allow us to pin point high priority areas of the county," said Selvog. "Working with local groups is a great benefit because they have knowledge of where these programs are needed within their areas, and working with someone like Vince who has almost 30 years of experience working with private landowners is invaluable," Selvog added.

Since 2003, when Stearns County SWCD started housing a Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist, over 18,000 acres of habitat in Stearns County has been impacted. "Stearns County SWCD and their partners really deserve recognition for what is getting done on the ground for wildlife," said Eran Sandquist, PF regional biologist for northern Minnesota. "Farm Bill conservation programs like CRP are where we really see habitat hitting the ground to improve water, farm operations, soil, and wildlife."

### *Tell a friend about our Newsletter*

*If you have friends or family that would like to receive our newsletter have them contact us at [jselvog@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:jselvog@pheasantsforever.org)*

#### Directions to Gorecki Center from Hwy 75:

When traveling west on County Road 75, turn south on College Ave N. Turn right on Minnesota Street West, then turn left on 3rd Ave. SW.

#### Directions to Gorecki Center from I94:

From I94, take the St. Joseph exit #160 onto Hwy 2 go East. Turn right on 3rd Ave. SW.

