

STEARNS COUNTY CHAPTER  
OF  
PHEASANTS FOREVER

DATES TO  
REMEMBER:

MN Pheasant Season Closes  
January 2, 2012

MN Spring Turkey  
Application Deadline  
January 13, 2012

MN PF State Convention  
January 20-22, 2012

Pheasant Fest  
February 17-19, 2012

MN Crow Hunting Opener  
(1st Season)  
March 1, 2012

SCPF Annual Banquet  
March 10, 2012

MN Spring Turkey Opener  
April 18, 2012

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# The Rooster

## Review

VOLUME 5 — ISSUE 1



1 / 1 / 2012

## 2012 SCPF Annual Banquet — March 10th

### Get Your Tickets Now!

The Stearns County Pheasants Forever Chapter knows how important our annual banquet is to help accomplish our goal for increased wildlife habitat. This year's banquet will be on **Saturday, March 10 at the Freeport Community Center** in Freeport. Since

1983, the Stearns County Chapter has raised over \$2.9 Million for conservation and wildlife habitat projects. The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for the traditional "Crowing Hour," with dinner and prizes starting at 7:30 p.m. To get your tickets go to [www.stearns SPF.org](http://www.stearns SPF.org) and click on "Get Tickets." Cost is \$55

which includes a one year membership to Pheasants Forever, dinner and door



prizes. Bring a guest for only an additional \$35 or a Ringneck membership (under 18) for only \$20. Walk-ins are also welcome! "Guns are back again this year," says Steve Sellnow, SCPF President. Banquet attendees will have the opportunity to win several guns during the banquet.

"The banquet is a fun way to spend an evening, sharing hunting stories, eating an excellent meal, raising money for local conservation and maybe even win a gun." The banquet offers many other prizes that can be won through raffle tickets, games, silent auction and the live auction.

Prizes include guns, wildlife prints and much more! Sellnow says "one of the great things about the Pheasants Forever organization is that the money raised locally is used for local conservation projects." These locally raised funds have leveraged State and Federal funds resulting in 30 Wildlife

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## Good Cover Battles Cold Winter Nights

Winter nights are a freezing 15 hours long, and it is certain the pheasant will be ravenous by breakfast time. The 10 grams of food in its crop at bedtime passed through the bird in four to five hours. When the crop is empty, the pheasant still has 10 hours of darkness till breakfast.

During these long nights, the availability of roosting habitat is extremely important to the pheasant. Thick standing grass, shrubby transitional



areas, shelterbelts or cattail sloughs are all areas where birds can spend their nights. The quality (thickness and height) of this habitat determines how much energy the birds need to stay warm ... in the same way that the quality of your windows and insulation determines

how high you need to set your home thermostat to stay warm.

Without good roosting cover in which to spend their winter nights, the birds must use more fat to survive until breakfast. A couple weeks of cold, 15-hour nights without any roosting cover will reduce energy levels to the point of killing pheasants.

Minnesota pheasants rarely starve, but they do die from exposure to the elements.

SCPF is now on  
Facebook



Search for Stearns County  
Pheasants Forever on  
Facebook and become a fan!

## 2012 Annual Banquet

[Get Your Tickets Here!](#)

### Habitat Highlight

#### Leadplant

A 1'-3' native legume that is found on prairies and savannas. Small blue to purplish flowers have bright orange stamens which form a tapering spike. Soft hairs on the leaves give it a grayish-green appearance. Occasionally the stems become woody and it can look like a shrub. The roots are long, tough, and stringy; hence the nickname "Devil's shoestrings."



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

## 2012 Annual Banquet Continued from page 1

Management Areas encompassing over 3,560 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 more than just acquire public hunting land. We also support a full-time Pheasants Forever biologist, Jason Selvog. Jason's office is located at the

USDA Service Center in Waite Park, MN. Selvog works with private landowners to improve wildlife habitat and water quality by promoting the USDA Conservation Reserve



Program (CRP) and related USDA Farm Bill programs.

Selvog states, "Being co-located with the Stearns County SWCD, Farm Service Agency, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service increases my efficiency and allows me to contact more landowners about the available programs." Sellnow 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.stearnsfpf.org](http://www.stearnsfpf.org).

### Lack of CRP Options Hurts Habitat

The New Year is coming our way and with it, the next batch of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts are set to expire on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012. These contracts will get a closer look for re-enrollment options for interested landowners; however the options for CRP re-enrollment are lacking. The Federal Government sets acre limits on several CRP practices and many CRP practice allocations have been met and are no longer available for landowners.

"We are finding that many of the expiring contracts in Stearns County don't have an option for re-enrollment," said Jason Selvog, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist in Stearns County. "Several

landowners have shown an interest in re-enrolling their expiring contracts, but



without CP38E, CP23A, CP37 or a General CRP Signup, there isn't much we can do to retain many of these acres," said Selvog. Current CRP enrollment for Minnesota is 1.6 million acres. The state of Minnesota could lose up to 630,000 acres over the next three years if nothing is done to help retain these acres in CRP. Lack of program options and high

commodity prices will contribute to the loss of wildlife habitat and environmentally sensitive acres in Minnesota.

Stearns County currently has 28,379 acres enrolled in CRP, which is dramatically lower than the high point in 1993 when the enrollment was 37,461 acres. Stearns County could lose an additional 2,754 acres this fall due to the expiring contracts as well as up to 3,099 acres in 2013 and an additional 2,274 acres in 2014 for a total of **8,127** acres in the next three years.

To view complete CRP statistics, [click here](#).

Please contact your [two U.S. Senators](#) and [one U.S. Representative](#) about making CRP a top Congressional priority today. Please don't let CRP be this generation's Soil Bank program of days gone by.

## 2011 Mentor Hunt a Success

by Jessica Massmann

On Saturday October 22<sup>nd</sup> Stearns County Pheasants Forever hosted a youth pheasant hunt with the Department of Natural Resources and Pheasants Forever Mentored Upland Bird Hunt. The day began at 8:00am at SCPF Youth Director Ken Fruth's house in Avon where youth were paired with their mentors. Gun safety and hunting ethics were discussed over breakfast. The hunt began shortly after 9:00am on private property in central Stearns County; the kids and their mentors (Member Tom Herman of Eagan, Director Ralph Feld of Cold Spring and Youth Director Ken Fruth) hunted for about three hours. Each group had the opportunity to see pheasants and one youth harvested a bird. The excitement was apparent as the group returned to Ken's house for lunch where stories of the day's hunt were shared as the youth received a lesson in cleaning a bird. The day ended and the young hunters left with

smiles on their faces and memories that will last a lifetime.

The mentored upland bird hunt is open to youth ages 12 to 17 or women who



would like to experience the thrill of pheasant hunting in the wild. Applications are due in early September so check the DNR website frequently for more information on next year's hunt, as well as many other outdoor opportunities. Thank you to the volunteers, landowners, parents and youth who made this event possible and remember to continue to strive for an increase in outdoor education!

### From the President

Hello fellow Chapter members. It is with great pleasure and humbleness to accept the position of Chapter President, Stearns County Pheasants Forever, (SCPF); one of the most active and productive Pheasants Forever (PF) chapters in the Nation. I believe we are successful because of a dedicated Board of Directors and our active and supportive membership. The Stearns Chapter exemplifies what can be accomplished with cooperative, creative partnerships and Team members sharing a *Mission for Habitat*. Let's keep it up! We all can make a difference.

I have heard different reports on the fall 2011 hunt, some good reports, some so-so. "Have to get out and

work for'em". The unusual spring was one of the main reasons for the local reduction in birds; we can't control the weather; so, we'll concentrate our efforts on Habitat. I know many of you had a chance this fall to work some of the local sites your Chapter was instrumental in developing; enjoy! *continued on page 4*



Steve Sellnow  
SCPF  
President

### Member Photos



2011—Jeremy Scegura with his Montana coyote



2011—John Maile with his Spring turkey

### Advertisements

Your Advertisement here

Contact Jason Selvog at  
[jselvog@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:jselvog@pheasantsforever.org)  
(320) 251-7800 Ext. 3

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Stearns County Chapter of  
Pheasants Forever



**Renew Your  
Membership  
Today!**

## From the President

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**Pheasants Forever's Farm Bill Biologists Program (FBB)** is nearing its 10<sup>th</sup> year of existence resulting in over two (2) million acres of habitat being created or improved for wildlife. You need to be aware that the concept for FBB program was started right here at home in Stearns County with SCPF past President, Brad Cobb and local SWCD Conservationist, Dennis Fuchs. The first FBB position was started in 2002 in Stearns County. This position was filled by John Maile (who is still on SCPF board of directors) and focused on the promotion and implementation of CRP in Stearns County. The partnership expanded nationally and PF now has 90 FBB's positions in 15 states; 9 of those positions are in Minnesota. The FBB program has been labeled by many *in-the-field* as a "huge success".

The 2012 Minnesota PF State Convention will be January 20-21, 2012 @ Breezy Point Resort. The theme this year will partially center on "making partnerships work." SCPF members will participate on a mini-session panel discussion emphasizing local partnerships to aid habitat development. Several SCPF members will attend the Convention.

If you haven't heard, WE, SCPF are now active on FACEBOOK. New Board member Cheryl Denn accepted the task of managing our Facebook affairs. Check it out on the Web and pass along suggestions and ideas to [cheryldenn3@gmail.com](mailto:cheryldenn3@gmail.com). Additionally, check our local SCPF home page [www.stearnsopf.org](http://www.stearnsopf.org) often for pertinent, timely information about your Chapter.

Lastly, our Chapter's Annual Banquet is coming soon: **March 10, 2012 at the Freeport Community Center.** Banquet Chair, Chris Denn and other Board members have put together an excellent package this year for SCPF... "To Promote Habitat." Invitations will be mailed to all members and posted to our Website as well. Watch for the invite and register early for the "early bird drawing." I am requesting each member consider registering and **bringing a "friend" along to the 2012 Banquet**; Think Habitat!

I want to wish a belated Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you. Working together as a Team, WE can make 2012 another productive and successful year for our locally owned and operated: Stearns County Pheasants Forever Chapter; We are "The Habitat Organization".

## Member Photos



2011—Joe Optiz with ND ducks



2011—Ross Reiffenberger (and friends) with early goose season results



2011—Jeremy Scegura—Mule Deer from Montana

## 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)