2007 PHEASANT FEST BANQUET NEARING

By, Jerry Mathusek

Final touches are being put on the plans for the 2007 Pheasants Forever Banquet to be held on March 23, 2007 at 5:00 P.M. at the Oshkosh Convention Center. This year's banquet promises to be the best ever!

We have completed all of the rules for the new "Table-of-Guns" game. Each table will be numbered. The table can buy their ticket for the full rack of eight (8) guns, which will be on display in the front of the room near the stage. The cost of each table is $160.00. Members at the table can split the $160.00 cost any way they choose. If any table chooses to NOT buy their table, another table can purchase the unsold table on a first-come basis. When we stop selling the tables, the winning table will be drawn from a bin and announced. There will be perforated slips with the numbers one through eight on them which will be given to each table at their time of purchase. Each table can decide how they want to choose the gun numbers. I will have a sealed envelope that will have each gun and a corresponding number (of 1 through 8) for each gun assigned to it, which I will give to the winning table after they are announced. The table members can completely determine how they want to divide the $160.00 cost per table as well as the 8 gun stubs. The winning table will receive all 8 guns. This is one of the games that will give you the best odds of winning.

Continued on page 3…
# Pheasants Forever Fox Valley Chapter

## Officers

**Chairman of the Board**  
Steve Harnitz  

**President**  
Jack Doemel  

**Vice President**  
Al Heidl  

**Secretary**  
Leo Kolaszewski  

**Treasurer**  
John Manion

## Directors

Rachel Foster  
Paul Fowler  
Mark Lewis  
Jerry Mathusek  
Jim Ryf  
Ryan Seeley  
Terry Zawacki

## Newsletter

Krissy Seeley, Editor  
Leo Kolaszewski, Managing Editor  
Jerry Mathusek, Publisher

## Committee Structure

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## Life Members

Paul Fowler  
Jerry Mathusek  
Bill Miller  
Tom Mupeter  
Tom Rusch

## Crowning Count-

Start 45 minutes before sunrise. Drive 10 mile routes, stopping every 0.5 miles to listen and record location of crowing roosters on plat book maps. Finish 1 to 1.5 hours after sunrise.  
Jim Ryf (920) 379-8170

## Youth Hunt-

Members and their dogs pair one-on-one with youth who have passed the gun safety course to have a group field day hunt for youths to experience pheasant hunting.  
Leo Kolaszewski (920) 426-0498 or pheasantsforever@gmail.com

## Membership-

To recruit the avid pheasant hunters who are not members to join and participate. Committee would meet occasionally to discuss and act on ways to increase membership in our chapter.  
Ryan Seeley (920) 235-9712 or pheasantsforever@sbcglobal.net  
Jerry Mathusek (920) 235-5610 x 11 or jdm972@cs.com

## Adopt a DNR Plot-

Clean up of a specific Winnebago County areas 4-5 times a year.  
Jim Ryf (920) 379-8170

## Fundraising-

Assist in selling tickets to raffles, help out at the sponsor banquet, attend fall socials, etc. during the year.  
Jerry Mathusek (920) 235-5610 x 11 or jdm972@cs.com

## Land Acquisition-

A planning/work committee for our chapter to initiate land acquisition programs. These programs are funded and executed using federal and state grants, Pheasants Forever national and local funds, easements and land trust cooperation.  
Jack Doemel (920) 231-1096 or buglejack@hotmail.com

## Habitat/Predator-

A planning committee to work on improving habitat and controlling predation.  
Paul Fowler (920) 688-5123 or paulfowler@charter.net

## Youth Board-

Sign up to participate and get youth involved.  
Leo Kolaszewski (920) 426-0498 or pheasantsforever@gmail.com

## Banquet-

Attend planning meetings before next year’s banquet.  
Jerry Mathusek (920) 235-5610 x 11 or jdm972@cs.com  
Al Heidl (920) 231-0860

## Volunteer Opportunities-

Sign up to participate in various activities throughout the year.  
Get on the e-mail or call list to be contacted about upcoming events.  
Ryan Seeley (920) 235-9712 or pheasantsforever@sbcglobal.net

## Leopold Education Project (L.E.P.) -

The L.E.P. is designed to teach the public about humanity’s ties to the natural world and to provide leadership in the effort to conserve and protect the earth’s natural resources.  
Terry Zawacki (920) 582-4746

## Newsletter-

Contribute articles, photos, or ideas to the newsletter.  
Krissy Seeley (920) 235-9712 or kr1ssyann@sbcglobal.net
2007 Pheasant Fest Banquet Nearing (continued from page 1)

There will be many more new and exciting games, raffles, prizes, and auction items. I am extremely pleased with the Mystery Prize and can assure you that you will not see a prize like this at any other banquet. It is unique, interesting, and definitely one-of-a-kind. I cannot wait to see who wins this event!

All other reports from the committee chairmen are positive. Leo reports that he is receiving invitations on a steady basis. Terry is fine-tuning the live auction. Jack's raffles are shaping up nicely. Sponsors have been calling consistently and have been generous in their donations.

We are looking forward to banquet evening and anxiously await seeing each of you!

If you have any questions about the banquet, please call Jerry Mathusek at 379-1425 or Al Heidl at 231-0860.
Fox Valley Chapter Membership Challenge

By, Ryan Seeley

We are proud to announce our 2007 Membership Challenge. With that said, let me tell you about this exciting challenge and how it will work. We are encouraging everyone to go out and recruit NEW members to our chapter. We have made it easy for you to recruit people; any NEW members you recruit will not only receive the Pheasants Forever Membership, but also will receive over $100.00 in coupons they can use at participating sponsors. But we didn’t stop there, with every two NEW members you, the recruiting member, sign up, your name will go into a drawing for a Mossberg Silver Reserve 12ga. O/U. So, the more NEW members you sign up, the more chances you have to win! If that’s not enough incentive– the person that recruits the most NEW members will receive a getaway at Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells, along with many other prizes totaling over $200!

The only way we can increase the success of our chapter is with your help. We aren’t asking you to go out and pound the pavement with this program, but rather talk to your friends, neighbors, and co-workers that have an interest in habitat and hunting and see if they have interest in joining our chapter. If we could get a quarter of our chapter to bring in 2 new members, this program would be a huge success. In order for this program to run smoothly, we need everyone to fill out the proper forms. These forms will be in the April newsletter and at our March banquet. If you would like to get a head start, please feel free to contact me and I can get the forms to you right away. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ryan at 920-235-9712 or e-mail pheasantsforever@sbcglobal.net.

The Fox River Valley Pheasants Forever thanks you for your continued support. With your help we can make this a fun and enjoyable challenge.

2007 Pheasant Stamp Contest Winner

The winner for the 2007 pheasant stamp contest was chosen on November 9, 2006 in Madison. This year's winning artist is Jon Rickaby of Green Bay. His entry was an acrylic painting of a rooster and hen. First runner-up was Richard Maki of Iron River. Second runner-up was Kurt Carloni of Oconomowoc, and the third runner-up was William Millonig of Campbellsport. This year's contest had a total of 14 entries received from around the state.

The winner, Jon Rickaby, has been competing a number of years in the pheasant, turkey, and waterfowl stamp contest. This is the first time Jon has won the state pheasant stamp contest. Jon is a lifelong resident of Wisconsin and resides in Suamico with his wife and 2 children. Jon took private art lessons as a child, learning the basics, the rest is self-taught. He loves hunting pheasants and takes along his trustful black lab Sydney along on hunting trips. In fact on the day he won the contest he saw bountiful wildlife including several pheasants, a flock of turkeys, and a nice white-tailed deer. He says that this moment reminded him of the importance of the stamp programs for the wildlife of Wisconsin, which is his reason for entering the stamp contests year after year.

Pheasant stamp funds have been providing opportunities for pheasant management in Wisconsin since 1993. Sale of the $10.00 pheasant stamp annually brings in over $370,000 for developing, managing, conserving, restoring and maintaining the wild pheasant population in the state and contributes to the stocking of put-and-take pheasants on Wisconsin public hunting grounds. Annually over 30,000 acres of combined public and private lands are affected by pheasant stamp dollars.


**Fox River Valley Chapter Field Notes**

**Statistics on Free Ranging (Feral) Cats in Wisconsin**

- 5.6 Cats/Farmstead in Wisconsin.
- 200,000 active or retired farmsteads in Wisconsin.
- 1.12 Million Feral Cats in Wisconsin. (Not including urban related cats).
- This calculates out to approx. 30-60 cats per square mile.
- Mid-West Documented Banding Recoveries of Song Birds & Passerines: 31% killed by Cats.
- There are 300-400 Kills/Cat/Year.
- This equates into 392 Million Kills by Cats/Year.
  * 204 Million Small Mammals
  * 137 Million Song Birds
  * 47 Million Cottontail kills (hunters annually take 500,000-700,000)
  * 4 Million Game Birds and Waterfowl

**Remember:** Cats which are well fed, kill at an equal rate as cats which are hungry.

-Information provided by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Youth Corner—An Exhausting Day at the Lake

By, Adam Bose, Oshkosh West Woods and Water Member

The ice was finally coming back in after being absent for about a month. Some of my buddies and I had been itching to get up to this small lake of ours all year long. Finally, we picked a date and decided to go up and try our luck at some Northerns and hopefully some panfish. We made all the necessary plans and packed all the equipment; most importantly the food and the grill. All together there were 5 guys. We took 2 trucks loaded full with gear. The plan was to leave at 7:00 in the morning. The day before, we found out that there was going to be a big tournament on this lake for all the locals. This wasn’t good for us because it would shut off all the fish and it would be hard to find a spot. We went to plan B: go to another lake right down the road.

None of us had ever fished the lake, but we had heard good things about it. The day came and we all left. On the way up, we stopped at the bait shop to get the low down on the lake. We found out that there was a 29 1/2 inch walleye pulled out of the lake a week before and things looked good. The owner told us where to fish and we left. When we got to the lake, we unloaded everything and began to look for the “right area” to set up. I used my flasher to find depth and weed growth to drill holes. We put out 10 tip-ups and we all had holes to jig out of. It wasn’t very long before we had our first flag, and guess what? We missed it! Then another one went off and I called it. I set the hook and fought it for a little bit. I knew the fish was over 30 inches, then snap! The line broke. One of the knots that was tied to the swivel had broken. The rest of the day went like that. We missed a countless amount of Northerns, 5 of these misses came from the same tip-up in 20 minutes. We didn’t catch any panfish. About 15 Northerns on tip-ups and two Northerns on our rods were caught. We couldn’t figure out why we were missing so many flags. We tried everything and nothing seemed to work.

In the middle of the day we fired up the grill and had burgers, brats, hot dogs, venison, and duck. By the end of the day, we were all tired from running after flags, so we packed up and left at dark. I can’t wait to go back to this lake, because I have a lot of fish I have to get back at that I couldn’t catch the first time!
Aldo Leopold

I HOPE YOU HAVE ENJOYED OUR SERIES ON THE WORDS AND BELIEFS OF ALDO LEOPOLD. HE WAS A MAN BEFORE HIS TIME. DURING THE 1930’S HE DISCUSSED PROBLEMS WHICH STILL EXIST TODAY. IN FACT, THE MAJORITY OF THE PROBLEMS ARE WORSE THAN THEY WERE IN THE 1930’S. IT SEEMS A SHAME THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND OUR CITIZENS HAVEN’T LISTENED TO HIS WORDS. I GUESS WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT SOME DAY SOON WE WILL DEMAND PROTECTION FOR THE HABITAT AND WILD THINGS. I THINK ALDO WOULD BE HAPPY IF THAT DAY CAME SOONER THAN LATER.

-TERRY ZAWACKI, L.E.P.

SILPHIUM

Every July I watch eagerly a certain country graveyard that I pass in driving to and from my farm. It is time for a prairie birthday, and in one corner of this graveyard lives a surviving celebrant of that once important event. It is an ordinary graveyard, bordered by the usual spruces, and studded with the usual pink granite or white marble headstones, each with the usual Sunday bouquet of red or pink geraniums. It is extraordinary only in being triangular instead of square, and in harboring, within the sharp angle of its fence, a pin-point remnant of the native prairie on which the graveyard was established in the 1840's. Heretofore unreachable by sythe or mower, this yard-square relic of original Wisconsin gives birth, each July, to a man-high stalk of compass plant or cutleaf Silphium, spangled with saucer-sized yellow blooms resembling sunflowers. It is the sole remnant of this plant along this highway, and perhaps the sole remnant in the western half of our county. What a thousand acres of Silphiums looked like when they tickled the bellies of the buffalo is a question never again to be answered, and perhaps not even asked.

This year I found the Silphium in first bloom on 24 July, a week later than usual; during the last six years the average date was 15 July.

When I passed the graveyard again on 3 August, the fence had been removed by a road crew, and the Silphium cut. It is easy now to predict the future; for a few years my Silphium will try in vain to rise above the mowing machine, and then it will die. With it will die the prairie epoch.

The Highway Department says that 100,000 cars pass yearly over this route during the three summer months when the Silphium is in bloom. In them must ride at least 100,000 people who have 'taken' what is called history, and perhaps 25,000 who have 'taken' what is called botany. Yet I doubt whether a dozen have seen the Silphium, and of these hardly one will notice its demise. If I were to tell a preacher of the adjoining church that the road crew has been burning history books in his cemetery, under the guise of mowing weeds, he would be amazed and uncomprehending. How could a weed be a book?

This is one little episode in the funeral of the native flora, which in turn is one episode in the funeral of the floras of the world. Mechanized man, oblivious of floras, is proud of his progress in cleaning up the landscape on which, willy-nilly, he must live out his days. It might be wise to prohibit at once all teaching of real botany and real history, lest some future citizen suffer qualms about the floristic price of his good life.

"We shall never achieve harmony with land, any more than we shall achieve absolute justice or liberty for people. In these higher aspirations the important thing is not to achieve, but to strive."


"Mark this well, the laws of economics are the last thing the roads booster is thinking about."


"Do we realize that industry, which has been our good servant, might make a poor master?"


"We seem ultimately always thrown back on individual ethics as the basis of conservation policy. It is hard to make a man, by pressure of law or money, do a thing which does not spring naturally from his own personal sense of right and wrong."

Upcoming PF Activities

The upcoming months are busy for the Fox River Valley Chapter. Activities include the Spring Banquet, Habitat Clean-up, Controlled Burns, and Crowing Counts. If you are interested in helping out with these events, please contact the following members:

- Spring Banquet/Habitat Clean-up - Ryan at pheasantsforever@sbcglobal.net or 235-9712
- Controlled Burns - John Kellerman at jkellerman@pheasantsforever.org or 390-0529
- Crowing Counts - Jim Ryf at 379-8170

Food Plot Seed Available to Members

Once again, your Fox River Valley Chapter is offering members quality food plot seed at a very affordable price. Whether you’re a land owner or property manager looking to improve wildlife numbers and forage opportunities on your property, the food plot mixes and grain seed available will surely meet your needs. From the Dove Candy sunflower seed to attract early season doves and songbirds to the Winter Survival Mix benefiting pheasants, deer, turkey, etc. throughout the frigid months, your well established food plots will provide vital nutrition to a wide variety of wildlife.

Simply complete the enclosed order form and return it along with payment to PF-FRVC. You will be notified of a pick-up date and time (anticipating end of April), by a chapter representative once we have delivery dates confirmed. Remember that supplies are limited and all orders will be handled on a first come, first serve basis.
WHAT’S COOKIN’?  HONEY ROAST PHEASANT

Ingredients:
1 pheasant
3/4 cup honey
1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
2 tablespoons cider vinegar
2 tablespoons soy sauce
1/2 teaspoon msg.-optional

Combine all ingredients but the pheasant in a medium saucepan. Cook over low heat until peanut butter is melted, stirring frequently. Place the pheasant in a roasting pan. Pour the sauce over the bird, cover and place into the refrigerator overnight. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour, basting frequently with the drippings.

SUBMIT YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS

Don’t forget!
Submit your e-mail address to pheasantsforever@sbcglobal.net to receive your monthly Rooster Tales newsletter on-line and in color!
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<td>Daylight Savings Begins (set docks ahead 1 hour)</td>
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* Visit [http://www.dnr.state.wi.us](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us) for complete hunting dates, guidelines, and regulations.
Ryan Seeley’s Chocolate Lab, Alice, and 2 birds she flushed up on a hunting trip last fall to Hettinger, North Dakota.