



The Long Spur News

Outagamie Area Pheasants Forever Newsletter



January, 2012

Issue 17

Banquet Information

Mark your calendar for Wednesday January 25th, 2012 for the Outagamie Area PF Chapter's seventh annual banquet. As in the past, there will be a number of exciting and different boards filled with prizes to be raffled off. This year we are also working on some new games and prizes as well. This year's venue will be at Romy's Nitingale. Doors open at 5:30pm and dinner will be served at 7:00pm.



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The proceeds from this banquet fund the majority of our activities throughout the year, and all proceeds from the annual banquet stay local in the Outagamie/Calumet county area. Please consider attending to help support youth education, habitat improvement, as well as to support our goal of buying local land to help bring pheasant habitat to this area.

Pheasants Forever members will be receiving banquet invitations in the mail in December regarding ticket and prize information. If you or anyone you know would like to receive a banquet invitation, e-mail birdmaster@outagamieareapf.org with your name and address. Hope to see you there.

Upcoming Events

- 1/18/12 - Next Meeting, Romy's Nitingale, 7:00pm
- 1/25/12 - Annual Banquet, Romy's Nitingale, doors open at 5:30

From the desk of the President

A look back to move forward

As we are looking forward to the beginning of 2012 I wanted to take a minute to look back at 2011. Our year started out with our annual banquet. We had the most attendees ever at our annual banquet held at Van Abel's in Hollandtown. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. With the money raised we are able to continue with our mission of youth education and habitat improvement. With the great support of our members we are also able to support our community. The Outagamie Area PF chapter donated to two local community organizations: Loaves and Fishes in Kaukauna and the Salvation Army – Fox Cities.

We then moved to the spring and held our habitat improvement day in the Brillion Wildlife Area. A large group of volunteers with chainsaws in hand helped improve the habitat for wildlife by removing the invasive species and improved the nesting grounds for native birds. We worked all morning to remove trees and small brush around a parking area so that the surrounding 110 acres of native warm season grass nesting cover would be more appealing and productive for future generations of pheasants, turkeys, and other non-game migrant songbirds. Most of the trees removed were Green Ash, with a little Willow, Box-elder, and Dogwood mixed in.

From there we held our raffle for our Learn to Pheasant Hunt program. Along with the raffle we held the Fun Shoot trap shoot at the Outagamie Conservation Club. All profits from this help us with the Learn to Pheasant Hunt program. This year we took out 15 students that had never pheasant hunted before. This program is held in cooperation with the DNR and Outagamie Conservation Club. We are also lucky to get the support of local landowners that allows us to hunt on their property. A big thank you to them and all the mentors and dog handlers who volunteered their time to help out.

We have many supporters who donate and sponsor for our cause. They help promote our chapter and allow us to fund the many programs we have. We in turn also help other local organizations. We support the Legislative Action fund which fights for our hunting rights, we help fund the local Farm Bill Biologists who help landowners improve their property, we cost share projects on private land, and we support the Department of Natural Resources and their land improvement programs on public lands. We also donate to other local organizations to help them with their causes. We are very proud to be able to help out the Waupaca chapter of Pheasants Forever with a local land acquisition. Just this month they purchased over 41 acres next to the Deltox wildlife area. This new property will be managed for nesting cover for wildlife. The land will be turned over to the state to be open for public use. The chapter also has joined the Calumet County Sportsman's Alliance. The alliance is a group of local organizations who are working together on different conservation issues. The group meets throughout the year at various locations discussing different topics that affect the area.

We had another busy year and are very grateful to the many volunteers and supporters that we have. I am sure I missed some of the things we did but you get the picture. As we end 2011 your chapter is working hard on the 2012 banquet which will be on Wednesday, January 25 at Romy's Nitingale. We hope to make it the best yet and hope you can join us. You should already have your invite, but if not, contact us and we will get you one.

In closing, a huge and heartfelt thank you for your support and dedication. We look forward to working with you on our many programs.

From our Pheasants Forever family to yours- Happy Holidays and hope you have a joyous New Year. See you January 25 at Romy's Nitingale.

Your Chapter President - Rick Krause

Habitat Work Day 2012

By: Jon Kellermann



Are you looking for a little excitement in your life? Tired of the same old Saturday each spring waiting for turkey season to start? Well come join the other members of the Outagamie Area Pheasants Forever Chapter on a State Wildlife Area in Calumet County to help enhance wildlife habitat. On March 17th 2012 we are doing just that. In years past we have cleared many acres of grasslands from encroaching woody vegetation. We expect this year to clear and enhance more prairie than ever before. And afterwards enjoy the fruits of your labor with a hamburger or brat cooked over the grill. So bring yourself or the whole family to a fun filled day of habitat work!

When: Saturday March 17th 2012

Where: Killsnake or Brillion Wildlife Area, meeting site to be announced at a later date

Time: 8 am to noon with lunch to follow

Questions? Contact Josh Jackl at 920-517-1039 or Jon Kellermann at 920-420-1316

National Pheasant Fest & Quail Classic - Coming to Kansas City Feb. 2012

Mark your calendars for February 17th -19th when the annual Pheasant Fest & Quail Classic comes to Kansas City, MO. The Pheasant Fest & Quail Classic is a tradeshow that will focus on wildlife conservation, upland bird game hunting, and wildlife management and restoration. In connection with the tradeshow, Pheasants Forever will hold seminars on habitat improvement, pheasant hunting, conservation, shooting sports, wild game cooking, dog training, and lots, lots more! This event is a family event open to the public with plenty of fun activities for the kids to do as well. Look for representation from local Wisconsin Pheasants Forever chapters there. For more information, visit www.pheasantfest.org.



Preparing for Future Habitat

By: Jon Kellermann
Habitat Chair

The leaves have fallen and colder weather is on the way. Hunting season is all but behind us except for a few brave souls left chasing the buck of their dreams or chasing that wily rooster that has eluded you all season long. But whether it was duck hunting with friends, sitting for hours in a tree waiting for the buck of a life time or watching your favorite hunting companion sniff out a long tailed rooster, don't forget what provides you the enjoyment of the hunt, "habitat." This time of year can be spent preparing for that new prairie planting or maintaining an established one. One great way to maintain your prairie planting is performing a prescribed burn every 3-5 years.



The transition from one year to the next is a great time to prepare for that spring prescribed burn and one important aspect is a properly installed fire break. For most prairie plantings a 15 foot mowed fire break around the perimeter of the field will be adequate. If you have the equipment however, a tilled and mowed fire break is much safer. Another important aspect of a prescribed burn is a burn permit. Make sure to check with your local township to see if any restrictions are in place and if a permit is required. It is also advised to have a burn plan. A burn plan gives you a basis for performing a burn safely. Certain things to include are a map of the area, whether hand drawn or from a mapping resource. A map provides a basis for where to start you fire and what you do and don't want burned. You can also establish safety zones and escape routes in case of an emergency in the form of an escaped fire. A plan with also establish parameters for you fire, how many people to have on the day of the fire, what equipment is needed, weather (should we burn today or not?), phone numbers of emergency personnel, and objectives for the burn. A lot of this may seem tedious but a well thought out burn plan can be the difference between a successful safe fire and a disastrous expense mistake. If all of this seems over whelming, look up you local NRCS for helpful hints on prescribed burning and a template for a burn plan.

Have a safe rest of the hunting season and remember a safe fire starts well before the match is struck.



Habitat Partnership Opportunity

The Wildland Firefighter program at Fox Valley Technical College is offering low-cost habitat projects in Wisconsin including prescribed burning.

With all necessary equipment and a trained crew we can put habitat on the landscape while giving valuable experience to the leaders of the future. A more complete list of offerings is included below.

Types of services include:

No-Till or Broadcast Planting

Prescribed Burning

Including burn plan writing

Fire Break Mowing /Rotovating

Site Prep Discing/Rotovating

Maintenance/Site Prep Mowing

Brush/Site Preparation Mowing

Field Herbicide Application

Woody/Other Invasive Management

(Involves stump cutting/hand pulling
and/or herbicide treatment of invasives)
including Bullhog/TimberAx/Fecon work

FVTC's Wildland Firefighter program has a long history of safe, effective burns and is eager for this new opportunity to positively impact more acreage. A minimum charge is required to cover staff time. Feel free to contact Jon Kellermann, FVTC Prescribed Burn Specialist, with questions about any of these services or to request pricing information. Contact information is below.

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Neenah, WI 54956

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Contact Information

This newsletter is published quarterly for the members and friends of the Outagamie Area Chapter of Pheasants Forever, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing pheasant and other wildlife population in the Outagamie Area through public awareness and education.

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Are you looking to advertise your business? Send us your business card and we will print them in our newsletters for \$25.00/year (4 issues per year). Mail your cards and make check payable to Pheasants Forever, Rick Krause, W7459 Spring Rd., Greenville, WI, 54942.

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