



Stearns County Pheasants Forever

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March 6, 2008

For Immediate Release

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Stearns County Pheasants Forever Banquet is a Success

The Stearns County Pheasants Forever Chapter (SCPF) held its annual banquet on March 1st at Gerard's Banquet Hall in Sauk Centre. Over 400 people attended the event to help generate funds for Stearns County conservation and wildlife habitat projects.

"When it comes to conservation, there are a lot of people out there who want to make a positive difference in the restoration and preservation of wildlife but just don't know how to go about doing it. Attending a Pheasants Forever banquet is an excellent way to contribute to a good cause because our county chapter retains all of the money (exclusive of membership fees) raised and uses these funds for habitat projects with farmers and landowners in our immediate area", said Brad Cobb, SCPF Public Relations Advisor.

Since 1983, the SCPF Chapter has raised over \$2.8 million that have been designated to Pheasants Forever's mission of wildlife conservation through habitat improvements, public awareness, education and land management policies and programs. In 2007, Minnesota's 74 Pheasants Forever Chapters completed a total of 841 projects across Minnesota, which will provide more than 6,720 acres of wildlife habitat. During Minnesota Pheasants Forever 25-year history \$33.7 million has been contributed to over 21,500 projects statewide.

During the banquet the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) recognized the Schefers Brothers partnership from Paynesville as the Outstanding Conservationists for 2007. The Schefers Brothers have implemented a variety of conservation practices on their farm for the benefit of soil, water and wildlife conservation. The SWCD also recognized Urban Spanier for his 40 years of service as a SWCD Board Member.

Also, the Sauk River Watershed District presented the R.I.V.E.R. Award to Joe and Sandy Worms. This award is given to a landowner for protecting and enhancing rivers and watersheds in Minnesota. Joe and Sandy renovated their existing manure handling system, installed a

concrete stacking slab and installed rain gutters to eliminate daily manure hauling and winter spreading which will reduce approximately 100 pounds of phosphorus per year from their site.

“I was impressed by the interest of local landowners in habitat development for wildlife and water quality. Several people at the banquet talked with me about specific habitat improvement projects, and more expressed a willingness to get involved. That’s very encouraging,” said Jason Selvog, Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist.

Stearns County Pheasants Forever wanted to also extend a special than you to Gerard’s and their staff for their hospitality and hard work. In addition, SCPF thanks all the volunteers, private & business donors who helped make this years banquet a success.

Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever are non-profit conservation organizations dedicated to the protection and enhancement of pheasant, quail, and other wildlife populations in North America through habitat improvement, land management, public awareness, and education. PF/QF has more than 120,000 members in 750 local chapters across the continent.

All programs and services of the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District are available without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status.