



## Press Release

*For Immediate Release*

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### **Stearns County Pheasants Forever Chapter Has New President**

*Cold Spring's Ralph Feld takes over from Brad Cobb who served 10 years in position*

**Waite Park, Minn. – April 10, 2007** – The Stearns County Chapter of Pheasants Forever (SCPF) is now under new leadership. At the group's last regular Board Meeting on March 29<sup>th</sup>, Ralph Feld of Cold Spring, Minn was elected president to lead the sportsmen-conservation organization in efforts of protection and enhancement of pheasant and other wildlife populations through habitat improvement, land management, public awareness, and education.

Feld follows immediate past president Brad Cobb who served SCPF for 10 years. "Ralph has the energy and commitment to succeed as our next president. He brings passion and dedication to the PF mission that is required at this leadership level. I know I am leaving the president position in great hands with him at the helm," said Cobb.

Mr. Feld comes to this position with a great deal of experience and background in the issues related to the general mission of SCPF. Besides serving as co-banquet chair for SCPF for the past 5 years, Mr. Feld has been active on many SCPF committees for the past 16 years. Mr. Feld has been affiliated and active with Rich-Spring Ducks Unlimited as well.

"Ralph understands the importance of partnerships to improve wildlife habitat, and we are looking forward to working with Ralph in his new capacity," said Dennis Fuchs, Stearns SWCD administrator.

When asked what he saw in the future for SCPF, Feld replied, "I have some very big shoes to fill; Brad was a very passionate and dedicated president. He was also a great spokesman for Pheasants Forever. SCPF is a great organization with an excellent and dedicated Board of Directors. I hope to bring some fresh ideas to the organization with an emphasis on membership growth, continued development of our conservation partnerships, youth activities and a continued dedication to acquiring lands for public use."

During Cobb's tenure with the SCPF, the chapter conducted annual youth shoots and developed a partnership to conduct youth mentor hunts with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of central Minnesota. The chapter has also been a leader in hosting landowner forums about farmland conservation programs, particularly the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Since 1996, the Stearns County Chapter has helped purchase an astonishing 29 parcels that have been added to the state Wildlife Management Area System. These parcels now managed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, provide habitat and recreation for public benefit. In addition, Stearns County was the second chapter in the nation to reach the \$2 million mark in dollars spent for PF's mission. Cobb has also been the past chair of the Minnesota Pheasant Stamp Oversight Committee and the new chairman of the Budget Oversight Committee. Cobb was also the 2007 Minnesota PF Volunteer of the Year award recipient.

PF and its quail division, Quail Forever, are the only national conservation organizations that empower local chapters with the responsibility to determine how 100 percent of their locally raised conservation funds are spent. This local control allows members to see the fruits of their chapter efforts in their own communities. All chapters belong to the national organization, providing a voice on federal conservation policy development in Washington, D.C

PF was formed in St. Paul in 1982. Since that time, PF has grown to 70 chapters in the state and 700 nationwide. There are also more than 22,500 members in Minnesota and more than 115,000 across the continent. Since inception, PF has raised more than \$27.5 million for Minnesota's wildlife habitat efforts.

*For additional information about Pheasants Forever, please visit [www.PheasantsForever.org](http://www.PheasantsForever.org)  
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