

NEWS IN MICHIGAN



PHEASANTS FOREVER

MICHIGAN PF NEWSLETTER WINTER 2008

PHEASANTS AND "COLD FEET?"

Winter brings freezing temperatures and snow to Michigan's landscape. Wild creatures seek out secure winter cover to keep warm and escape the brutal conditions. Pheasants, like other birds, rely on both downy feathers and quality habitat to keep them warm. But, a pheasant's lower legs are not covered with feathers. So does he get cold legs and feet? Yes, but why? Some believe cold legs are caused by excessive heat loss as blood travels through the bird's bare legs. Others believe that some mechanism in the upper leg (feathered thigh) conserves heat by removing some blood heat before going to the lower leg - so cooler blood makes them colder than the rest of the body. Too bad the pheasant does not have the willow ptarmigan's feathered legs. Ptarmigan live in much colder climates than pheasants, and need the added protection.



Mother always said if your feet were cold you should put on a hat. The pheasant has no hat, so he will, under cold conditions, sleep and rest with his head partially placed under his wing feathers. It helps cut the loss of body heat. Ptarmigan with warm, feathered legs need not sleep this way. Sleeping ducks always seem to partially cover their heads even in mild temperatures. Why? The duck's bare legs in water loses 4 times more heat than pheasant legs, so the duck has more need to conserve heat loss from the head.



MIKE PARKER
REGIONAL WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST
2681 Tapestry Dr., Okemos, MI 48864
Phone: 517-333-1272
Fax: 517-333-1272
Cell: 517-896-4178
mparker@pheasantsforever.org

Prairie Flower Highlights



PARTRIDGE PEA

Blooming period July-August
Light Requirements: Full Sun
Soil Types: Dry to Mesic

PARTRIDGE PEA IS A RESEEDING ANNUAL LEGUME. PEAS PROVIDE AN ABUNDANCE OF SEED DURING WINTER THAT IS HIGHLY NUTRITIONAL FOR PHEASANTS, QUAIL & OTHER WILDLIFE. THE PLANT ALSO ATTRACTS A PROFUSION OF INSECTS FOR CHICKS TO FEED ON. THE PLANT IS POPULAR BECAUSE IT IS LONG-LIVED, A NITROGEN-FIXING LEGUME AND GROWS WELL ON A VARIETY OF SOILS.





Education Needs Your Support...Now!

As the new year begins, I want to tell you about an exciting new Pheasants Forever education initiative called **No Child Left Indoors™** and an opportunity we have in Michigan. I know that many of you are committed to sharing the traditions you cherish with the next generation by introducing our young people to hunting, habitat and the outdoors.



The Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn and the William Jr. "Tiny" & Dorothy Zehnder Family Foundation have made a generous three-year commitment to Pheasants Forever to support hiring a regional education coordinator for Michigan PF. This education coordinator would work with Michigan PF chapters and partners to carry out the **No Child Left Indoors™** Initiative.

Tiny Zehnder always had a passion for the outdoors, and was the Charter President of the Saginaw County Pheasants Forever Chapter. He was a family man and hunter who followed his beliefs in his actions and deeds.

The Michigan No Child Left Indoors™ initiative will be carried out in his memory and will get kids outdoors and involve them in habitat projects, community events, youth programs and conservation education. The new education coordinator will work with me and with the Michigan LEP State Coordinator, Wendy Cheek, to offer training for chapters, ideas for expanding youth programs, materials and support. Working together with Michigan partners, we can expand on the great programs that our chapters are offering. Our goal is to involve even more youth and their families in understanding the land ethic.



What's in it for the chapters?

Kids are becoming more and more removed from the outdoors. Hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities have been replaced by iPods and X Boxes. Failure to engage youth in the outdoors **now** will threaten the future of conservation and the outdoor activities we are all dedicated to protecting. Hiring a youth coordinator will provide chapters with new partnership opportunities and training to hold top quality youth events. For example, creating partnerships with 4H, Big Brothers and others will open the doors to teaching youth that would otherwise not have an opportunity to experience the outdoors. Our own children hear the conservation message, but what about those from non-hunting families? We are challenging Michigan PF chapters, partners and friends of Tiny Zehnder to "match" the family's \$100,000 donation by contributing a minimum of \$1,000 per

year for three years. Your contribution will help provide funding for the education coordinator position plus program funds dedicated exclusively to Pheasants Forever in Michigan. It will be the first position of its kind and I believe there is no better place to pilot this new initiative than here in Michigan. The time to protect the future is now! Please make this a serious topic of discussion at your next chapter meeting. Questions? Please call Mike Parker or Cheryl Riley, PF Vice President of Education.



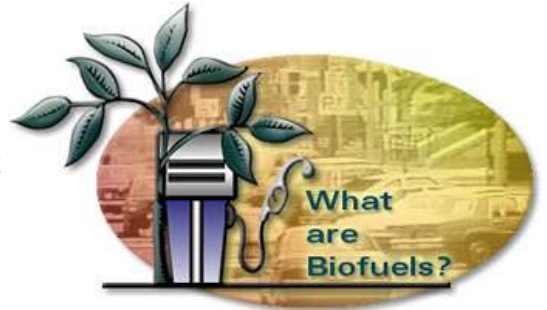


PHEASANTS FOREVER

A FEW THOUGHTS ON BIO FUELS

1ST GENERATION:

The production of corn ethanol is a fossil-fuel intensive process which yields a 25% net energy gain (energy inputs vs. outputs); in contrast biodiesel yields a 93% net gain. However, when true production costs are factored in, corn based ethanol yields only a 2% net gain. Biodiesel production today is where ethanol production was 25 years ago. Biodiesel also produces far fewer greenhouse gas emissions compared to ethanol, gasoline or regular diesel.



If all available cultivated acres in the U.S. were used for corn and soybean production, and all the grain produced was converted to biofuels (i.e. not used for food), it would replace only 12% of current gasoline demand and 6% of diesel demand. In order to actually eliminate our dependency on foreign oil at most 1/3 could be achieved via use of biofuels, the other 2/3s would have to come from improving efficiencies and conservation. By 2015 it is very realistic to produce diesel vehicles which achieve 80 mpg. Almost none of the 1st generation biofuel production today is sustainable in the long-term.

2ND GENERATION:

The Good News: Make friends with a new acronym "LIHD" - Low Input High Diversity - grassland biomass. Research (at the U of Minnesota) has shown that LIHD grassland, defined as a mix of 16 perennial herbaceous grassland species, yielded 238% higher bioenergy yields than monoculture yields (switchgrass stands) after a 10 year period (1994-2004). LIHD plots actually produced more energy as they aged; they are also carbon negative (sequestering more carbon than is released during biofuel production). Plus, LIHD can be produced on degraded agricultural lands (and were in the experiments) so there is little displacement of food production. We don't know what LIHD yields would be in productive soil (presumably greater still). LIHD stands require almost no inputs (fertilizer, replanting, and pesticides) once established. Diverse grasslands also produce the highest quality wildlife habitat, so wildlife habitat and biofuel production do not have to be mutually exclusive.

THE BAD NEWS:

2nd Generation fuels require about a 5 gals of water for every 1 gal of fuel produced (5:1). And we have still not discovered the "magic" enzyme which will enable the efficient breakdown of cellulose, but experts expect to do so within the next five years. Until then, corn and soybeans will continue to supply the input for biofuel production.

PRE-SELL THOSE BANQUET TICKETS!

If your chapter relies on selling banquet tickets at the door, consider this:

- People who purchase a banquet ticket **before** the banquet almost always attend the banquet regardless of weather or other possible activities.
- People who purchase a banquet ticket **before** the banquet might not count the ticket cost in their "banquet budget" and may end up spending more on raffles, games, and auctions. Making your chapter more money.
- You'll have a better idea of how many people will be attending your banquet because of **pre-sold** tickets. This helps you set-up your banquet hall better, ascertain the number of prizes to obtain and it's easier to plan for meals.
- **The number one reason someone isn't a member of PF is they were never asked to join.** Pre-selling banquet tickets gives you a reason to ask!

Do you want to increase the amount of money your chapter makes at your next banquet? Do you want more people to attend and join PF? Do you want planning for set-up and meals to be easier and less stressful? Pre-selling banquet tickets is one way to make all of these things happen. Just ask! Remember, face to face works the best!





Potential New Placemat Program: Earn an easy \$500 credit

I am looking for 3 or 4 chapters willing to be “guinea pigs” on a new program Pheasants Forever National is developing. This is a first come first served deal so please let me know as soon as possible if your chapter is interested.

How does the program work?

Chapters are requested to send a list of 10-14 potential sponsors they would like to be contacted for an add. These contacts will then be contacted, by an outside vendor, and asked if they are interested in advertising on the PF placemat. If the supplied chapter contacts do not completely fill the placemat, the vendor will contact other companies in the area to advertise. Once all the advertising is complete, a local restaurant will receive, for FREE, 5,000 placemats to use in the restaurant.

What does the chapter get?

First, the chapter will receive free advertisement in the local restaurant. Second, the chapter will receive \$500 credit in the new PF Storefront. The New “PF Storefront” will handle custom banquet invitations & mailings, printed banquet tickets, program covers, banquet covers and more to come in the near future. The placemat program is free to chapters—all you have to do is provide the names of businesses in your area (they do not have to be your chapter sponsors). The chapter can also order placemats to use at banquets in quantities of 500 for \$50 plus shipping.

We are currently designing the placemat and any comments on the type of promotional information we put on about PF (or chapters) would be welcome. The picture below represents the rough draft we are working on. Potential advertisers would fill the 14 blanks on the right and bottom. Please let me know if your chapter is interested in trying this new program.

Pheasants Forever, Inc. Contributing Sponsors

Cabela's
WORLD'S FOREMOST OUTFITTER

GARMIN

FEDERAL PREMIUM
AMMUNITION

usbank
The New Service Guarantee

CHEVROLET

JOHN DEERE

PURINA

GANDER MOUNTAIN
WE LIVE OUTDOORS

20th Annual Pheasants Forever Carver County Chapter Habitat Banquet

Pheasants Forever, Inc.

PHEASANTS FOREVER, INC. is a nonprofit conservation organization dedicated to the protection and enhancement of pheasant, quail, and other wildlife populations through habitat improvement, public awareness, education, and land management policies & programs benefiting hunters and wildlife alike.

The organization is fortified by a unique system of county chapters that provides an incentive for local sponsorship and means to raise money: 100% of all net funds raised by chapters remains under full chapter control for local habitat projects.

Pheasants Forever's steadfast method of converting dollars into habitat is the underlying reason for the rapid growth and success of the organization. Since 1982, Pheasants Forever has grown to include 115,000 members in 650 chapters and has raised and spent more than \$225 million on habitat restoration projects encompassing over 4 million acres.

Habitat Forever

Pheasants Forever Habitat Management and Farm Bill teams increased their activity across the country from \$1.7 million in 2004 to \$2.4 million in 2005 and \$3.3 million in 2006.

In 2006, Habitat Forever teams worked with over 17,000 landowners to complete projects affecting 29,000 acres. Of that, 16,000 acres of grassland nesting/habitat was planted and 4,400 acres were improved by prescribed burning.

**To join Pheasants Forever, Inc. call
Toll-free 1-877-773-2070**

PHEASANTS forever

Business adds go here



PHEASANTS



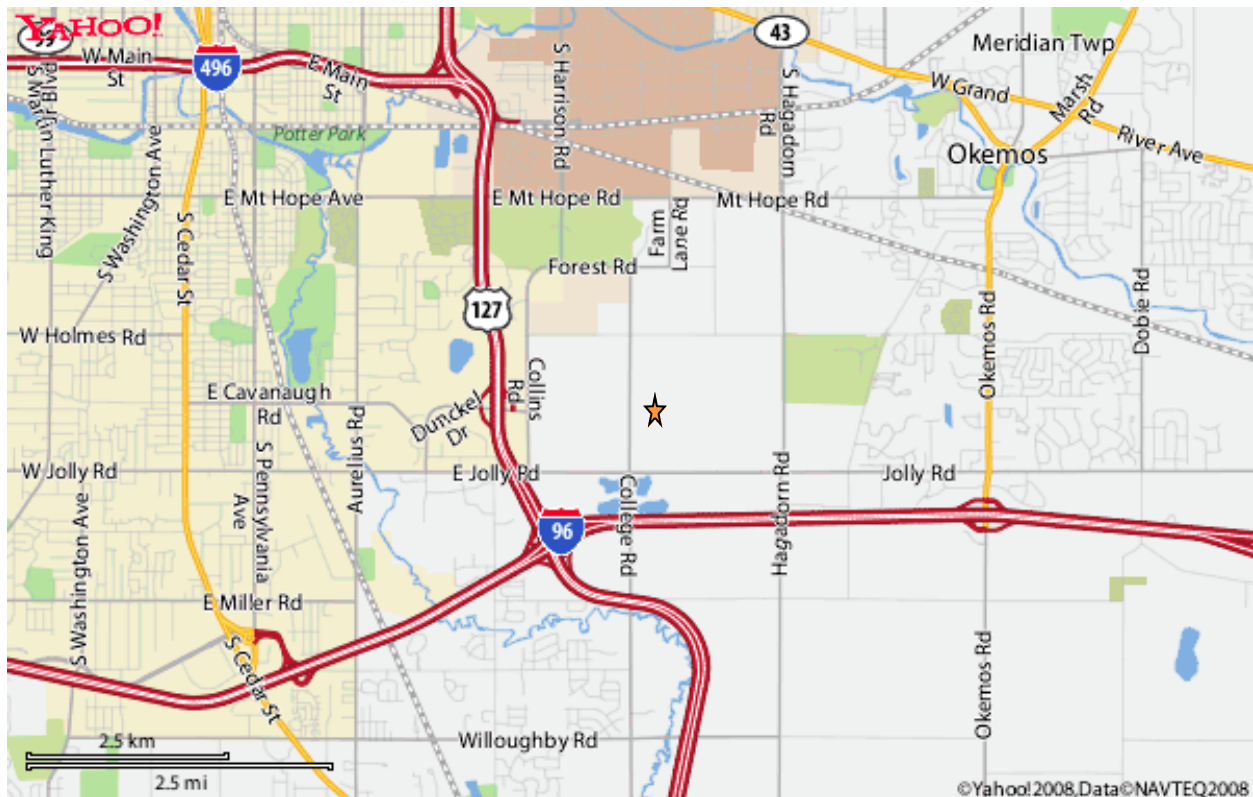
FOREVER

2008 Seed Distribution:

As a reminder, the annual seed distribution is scheduled for Friday, March 7 and Saturday March 8 at MSU University Farms, 3750 College Rd., East Lansing, MI. As always we need as many chapter folks as possible to help on Friday to help separate seed into the individual chapter orders. I know several of the "regular" helpers are unable to help this year, so we really need some new volunteers to help out. We will begin at 8:30 on Friday and typically finish by about 3:00 pm. All chapters that help on Friday can take their seed at the end of the day and do not have to come back Saturday! If that's not enticement enough, Terry Neff will once again be cooking for us on Friday. Trust me, the food is worth the drive to East Lansing! If you have never been there it really is a fun day— a great chance to meet other chapter leaders, great food and help Michigan PF chapters...bring your Carhartts and work gloves!



For chapters unable to help Friday, seed distribution is Saturday, March 8, from 10:00 until 2:00. If your chapter is using a semi-truck to pick up your seed, please contact me so we can make arrangements for Friday or Saturday. I look forward to seeing everyone in March!



©Yahoo!2008,Data©NAVTEQ2008

