

January 2017 Newsletter:

MI PF Regional Rep News – Bill VanderZouwen

We just attended the 2017 MI PF State Convention in Lansing this past weekend. Dan Banister traveled along with John and Cheryl Loy to hear the latest and greatest PF news/programs and be honored for several achievements this past year. Our chapter was presented with the following awards:

1. 2016 Membership Increase Award
2. 2016 Youth Membership Achievement Award
3. 2016 Legislative Action Fund Support Award
4. 2016 Food Plot Achievement Award – we were the highest in the State with 1340 acres planted.

Also presented and a huge surprise to Dan Banister was being recognized as the 2016 Michigan PF volunteer of the year. Dan was also nominated to the PF “Long Spur Society” for serving more than 10 consecutive years. Great job Dan and thanks for the service!

Letter from the President – Michael Weiden

I hope the holidays and the hunting season treated you all well! Your chapter had quite a busy year and 2017 is shaping up to be another busy one for us. We conducted our usual activities with our sponsored youth hunt, annual seed distribution, annual ladies hunt with the Michigan DNR, and of course our annual banquet. In mid January we will be attending the annual State PF Meeting. At this meeting your chapter will be recognized for its work in these areas along with our support of the PF Legislative Action Fund, and our financial support of the State Education and Outreach Coordinator.

Our annual banquet is coming up fast and is scheduled for March 3rd at the Holland Fish and Game Club. This function serves as our primary fundraiser for the year. The funds that we raise at this banquet stay in Kent and Ottawa Counties for our operating funds which we put primarily towards our habitat and outreach programs. Your PF membership fees are the only funds that get turned over to the National Organization, so we ask that you bring a friend and a youth. As always, if you are interested in donating any items to the banquet or helping out with the banquet in anyway please contact Dan Banister. Additional details about the banquet are enclosed later in the newsletter

30th Annual Banquet – March 3, 2017 – Dan Banister

The Grand Valley Pheasants Forever 30th Annual banquet is Friday, March 3, 2017. The first 225 adults in the door that night will receive a large beer mug with nice engraving. We are working hard and look forward to another exciting night together as a chapter. Enclosed you will find all the information for tickets and sponsorship levels. It is with great anticipation that I look to continue to build and strengthen our banquet. The Grand Valley Chapter had the highest youth membership (66) renewals at banquet in the state this past year, which is something to be proud of. Please call me (616)291-0140 or email me at djbanister@gmail.com for any questions, help or donations you might have.

Habitat Report – Matt Kamps

2017 SEED PICKUP – Please know that we have ordered and paid for all spring 2017 seed already. We have not been notified from PF National of shortages so we hope for a full order. Please know we have all orders and will contact you when seed has arrived. In the event of a shortage, we will reimburse the monetary cost of any additional seed you paid for. We NEVER know when we will receive seed, so please wait patiently for us to notify you of distribution day. Nevertheless, if you must, please email Matt Kamps with concerns or questions at mlkamps@centurytel.net

2018 SEED ORDERS – We will have the new seed orders ready at this spring's seed pick-up. For those who are not receiving 2017 seed and want 2018 seed, the form can be found at our redesigned website with instructions at grandvalleyppf.com. Please think about this and be ready to order for the following year. This has greatly helped us prepare an accurate order and budget. We are also changing our "free" seed amounts to reward those who attend our annual banquet. Going forward, every member will receive a \$35 seed credit toward your 2018 seed requests. This means your membership cost to PF is free. Members who attend or donate to banquet will receive \$105 seed credit towards 2018 seed requests. All seed distributed must be only used by current PF members and shall not be harvested!

Youth Report – Dan Banister

It is with deep appreciation, respect and thankfulness that we say goodbye to Dennis Crouch as Youth Chairman. Dennis stepped up and filled this position so that Dan Banister could focus on banquet. Dennis has been a stable leader and volunteer for the chapter for multiple years. He also is the head coach for the Sparta Claybusters (one of our adopt-a-teams) which is an enormous commitment also. Dennis has resigned this past month and I know the chapter will miss him greatly. Huge thanks to Dennis and his entire family for all they have done for the chapter over the years. We are proud to call you a friend!

I have always believed that the good Lord never shuts a door without opening a window. It is an honor to welcome Rob Vink to help fill the role as Youth Chairman. I put out a request for help from Rob and he jumped right in. I am extremely grateful for the timing and look forward to working with Rob and his family in the future. Rob lives in Caledonia, married with 2 sons and is always a current sponsor at our annual banquet. Rob is an Agricultural Technician for the Macatawa Watershed Project and owns his own taxidermy studio called Vink's Taxidermy.

Mentored Youth Hunt

Grand Valley Pheasants Forever is proud to announce a Mentored Youth Hunt on March 18, 2017. This is a guided, mentored hunt over a dog that also includes shooting instruction and learning how to clean your birds. This hunt is fun, free and fills up fast!! We start at 9am and finish with lunch around 12:30pm. We hope to see you there.

Who: Youth Ages 10-17

What: Mentored Youth Hunt

Where: Willowfield Farms LLC - 6959 E. Farr Rd. - Nunica, MI. 49448

When: Saturday March 18, 2017 @ 8:30am registration

RSVP Required: Call Rob Vink @ 616.813.6422 or Dan Banister 616.291.0140