

# Grand Valley Pheasants Forever



January 2020 Newsletter:

## **Letter from the President – Dan Banister**

As I reflect on the not just the past year, but the past decade, it is amazing how much the Grand Valley Chapter has grown. This past year, we raised over \$33K for the PF mission at banquet! My first banquet in 2012 as committee chair, we raised less than \$10K. I have always said the key to a better banquet is creating donations and Cheryl has taken us to that next level. I am so appreciative of the time, our most valuable resource, that our committee members dedicate to serve the PF community. To our Sponsors, Underwriters, Donors and attending Members, thank you for your time, money and support that allows us to participate in a huge way here in Michigan and throughout the country. I am excited to see where this new decade leads us.

This past year we invested on the following GVPF missions to name just a few:

- \$10,000 to the PF Legislative Action Fund
- \$1,000 to the PF No Child Left Indoors Fund
- \$5,300 to our 6 Adopt-A-teams (GVSU, Lowell, Sparta, KCCL, Rockford, and Grand Haven)
- Habitat Seed
- \$1,500 to our 3 MI PF Positions, Morgan Warda, Ben Beaman and Bill Fischer
- \$1,000 to Allegan State Game Area for brush removal off 120<sup>th</sup> in the NE Section of the unit
- \$1,200 for the MIDNR/Pinehill Women's hunt
- GVPF Mentored Youth Hunt
- Numerous National and Michigan program's support

We are busy working on banquet to say the least. Please take a few minutes and read this newsletter in its entirety. As you will see we have many new opportunities that we are pursuing like the Veteran's Hunt and being the host chapter for the Session's Lake Outdoor Day in addition to all we have done this past year. I look forward to seeing you all at banquet on February 28 and wish each of you a Happy New Year.

## **PF MI Region Rep, Bill Vander Zouwen**

Congratulations on being part of something big. You may be attending the banquet for simply the good times with friends and family and the chance to win or buy some great prizes. But, your presence and your spending on raffles and auctions makes you an active member of one of the most respected conservation organizations of North America. And, the Grand Valley chapter has complete control of use of all revenue from the fund-raising banquet.

The Grand Valley Chapter does a very good job of serving the Kent and Ottawa County areas through provision of food plot seed for wildlife, mentored hunts for youth and ladies, introducing kids to BB-gun shooting at local events, and sponsoring numerous high school and college shooting teams. But they are also one of Michigan's biggest chapter supporters of state and national programs that provide habitat for wildlife and sustain our hunting heritage.

The Grand Valley Chapter became the first chapter in Michigan to become a Platinum Chapter Sponsor. The chapter supports our 4 staff positions including a Michigan Director, a Michigan Youth Outreach Coordinator, a Private Lands Cooperatives Coordinator and a Public Lands Adopt-A-Game-Are Coordinator. The chapter supports our state priorities through a contribution to our Michigan State Council. And, they support our mission at a large scale through our national Legislative Action Fund (LAF) and our national No Child Left Indoors Program (NCLI). Many millions of conservation dollars come to Michigan through national legislation, policies and budgets influenced with our LAF through the Farm Bill. We are also influencing legislation for public lands, non-game wildlife programs that also benefit game animals, and a national grant program for wetlands and waterfowl that also benefits pheasants. Our NCLI funds are matched 4 to 1 by corporations and foundations to grow our education and outreach programs. School pollinator programs and shooting sports are just a couple examples.

The Grand Valley Chapter is one of 30 active chapters in Michigan, with almost 8000 members here. These chapters typically do around 14,000-16,000 of habitat projects with landowners and DNR. Our chapter-funded Adopt-A-Game-Area Coordinator has raised \$388,000 in grants and donations for several hundred acres of habitat projects on many state properties. And, our chapters put on 17 mentored hunts for novice hunters and held 329 shooting events this past year.

Thank you for the important part you play in our important mission in your county, in your state, and in your country.

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### **Veteran's Hunt**

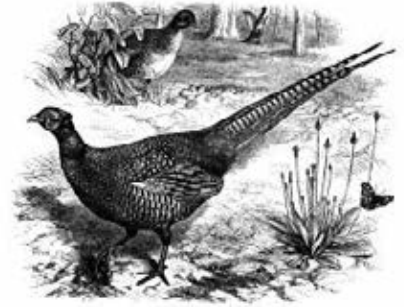
Grand Valley PF will be sponsoring (4) US Veteran's for a guided pheasant hunt at Black Water Farms, LLC located in Nunica, MI. This hunt will be a guided, 5 pheasants per hunter, and will include lunch after the hunt. This hunt will take place on Friday, March 6, 2020 at 13:00 and is first come, first served. RSVP required. Please call Dan Banister 616-291-0140 or email the chapter at [grandvalleyppf@gmail.com](mailto:grandvalleyppf@gmail.com).



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### **33rd Annual Banquet- February 28th, 2020- Cheryl Loy**

The Grand Valley Pheasants Forever 33rd Annual Banquet is Friday, February 28, 2020. We are excited to use The Pinnacle Center in Hudsonville again this year. We are looking forward to this night to share with all of you the hard work we have been doing this past year. So, we know this will be an exciting evening together as a chapter. Enclosed you will find all the information on this event including sponsorship levels and tickets. We are looking for new volunteers this year to build and strengthen our banquet. The Grand Valley Chapter is very proud of the number of youths that attend our banquet each year. Please call Cheryl Loy (616)446-1000 for any questions, or too help on banquet. For donations please call either Cheryl or Dan Banister at (616)291-0140. Many gun underwriting opportunities exist!



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### **Habitat Report, Don VandenBos**

Seed is ordered for 2020. For those of you still interested in seed, PF Signature Seed mixes are available and the order form can still be found online at [grandvalleyopf.com](http://grandvalleyopf.com) under the banquet tab. Also check out the [pfhabitatstore.com](http://pfhabitatstore.com) for more information. Ordering through the chapter will save you money, but will add a delay in processing and shipping. Some of the PF Signature Seed will be shipped directly to your house, we will email confirmation before shipping. This year will be another transition year in requiring seed to be prepaid. Some current orders are paid for, some still have a balance; credits for membership or banquet support will be handled at distribution. We are doing this so there is mutual skin in the game, ordering only what is needed, and simplifying the distribution process as it can be busy, rainy and windy. The chapter would love to gather photos of your grassland and food plot projects. Please email pictures to Don at [Dvanb01@yahoo.com](mailto:Dvanb01@yahoo.com) and include what seed mix you used and county that you planted in. Remember, GVPF owns and rents a Truax no-till seed drill, cost is \$10 per acre, minimum \$80 rental fee. Contact Dan Banister to schedule at 616-291-0140 or email the chapter at [grandvalleyopf@gmail.com](mailto:grandvalleyopf@gmail.com)

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### **Youth and Outreach Update**

Over the past year Grand Valley Chapter has worked to educate and engage the local community in a variety of ways with the goal of educating the public on Pheasants Forever's mission and to encourage youth participation in shooting sports. This year our chapter helped to support the purchase of a new BB gun shooting trailer which will be stationed on the west side of Michigan and will help alleviate the demand for use of the other trailer. We made use of the old trailer at an event in Caledonia where over 100 kids and new shooters were able to shoot, many doing so for the very first time. The trailer also made a stop at the Holland State Park as part of Pheasant Fridays. An initiative spearheaded at the state level by State Outreach Coordinator Bill Fisher. Rob Vink our local Youth Chair was on hand to help at this event which had one of the highest participation numbers of any State Park event. We also made a contribution to the National Pheasants Forever No Child Left Indoors Initiative (NCLI). We have done this in past years and find it important to support programs beyond our local reach as we further the mission of Pheasants Forever.

The Grand Valley Chapter has continued to support a number of youth shooting teams. We currently support four high school teams and one university team through the Midway USA Foundation. Rob Vink made a visit to the Rockford Ram Nitro shooting team and was on hand to watch some very talented shooters during one of their afternoon practices. It was encouraging to see these young men and women out shooting. Even better was hearing stories and witnessing how some of the more experienced shooters on the team encourage and help new shooters beyond the instruction from team coaches.

As a new year begins we look forward to hosting several events. We are currently planning our Mentored Youth Hunt for March 21 at Olive Acres in West Olive. This hunt will be for ages 16 and under who have not had the opportunity to hunt pheasants. To sign up contact Rob Vink at 616-813-6422 or at [d.robvink@gmail.com](mailto:d.robvink@gmail.com). We are also happy to be selected as the host chapter for the Pheasants Forever Youth Day at the Ionia State Recreation Area on May 16. Information for events will be available on our chapter Facebook page and through emails.

A Publication from:

**The Grand Valley Chapter of  
Pheasants Forever**

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## SAVE THE DATE

### Grand Valley PF #100 Upcoming Events

Michigan PF State Convention

Saturday, February 1, 2020

National Pheasant Fest, Minneapolis, MN

February 14-16, 2020

Grand Valley PF Annual Banquet

Friday, February 28, 2020

GVPF Veteran's Hunt, Black Water Farms, Nunica, MI

Friday, March 6, 2020

GVPF Mentored Youth Hunt

Saturday, March 21, 2020

2020 Seed Distribution

April/May TBD

Sessions Lake Outdoor Day, Ionia State Recreation Area

Saturday, May 16, 2020

PF Tigers Game, Comerica Park

Saturday, August 1, 2020



## CHECK US OUT AT:

**Web:**

[grandvalleypf.com](http://grandvalleypf.com)

**Email:**

[grandvalleypf@gmail.com](mailto:grandvalleypf@gmail.com)

**Facebook:**

Grand Valley Chapter, Pheasants Forever

Chapter Meetings generally the second Monday  
of each month.