

# Grand Valley Pheasants Forever



January 2019 Newsletter:

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

I would like to wish everybody a Happy New Year and hope your Christmas was wonderful. This year has been another busy and fulfilling year as a chapter. Personally, this year has allowed me to spend more time fishing and hunting than I have in the past 10 years. I was blessed with a successful bear hunt in the UP, a great week in South Dakota with family and the dogs, and was able to add a couple deer along the way. I was also able to introduce/mentor/guide some family and new youth to pheasant hunting several times, which was a lot of fun.

Sign up today for the 32nd Annual Banquet on February 15! We are busy soliciting donations, finalizing guns, raffles and banquet details. This will be my 13th banquet working with the chapter, I cannot believe how time flies. Cheryl Loy pursued new venues this spring and the chapter is really excited about our choice, The Pinnacle Center, in Hudsonville. This will allow us to bring everybody together with plenty of elbow room and an audio/video system second to none. We need your help in 2 areas though, please sign up early and donations. I firmly believe everybody who attends knows somebody who would donate something to be used at banquet. I will make the call, but I need you to open the door. This is the best way we know that will strengthen our fundraiser.

This past year, your chapter hosted a “Mentored Youth Hunt” for 12 boys. Partnered again with Pinehill Kennels and the DNR to support; a “Learn to Hunt” pheasant hunt for 12 women. Supported Pheasants Forever National, with \$5,000.00, to the Legislative Action Fund. This money helped support a new Farm Bill signing with a 3 million acre increase in CRP, the first increase since the 1996 Farm Bill. We passed out over \$6,000.00 in habitat seed last spring. We provided \$1,000.00 to the PF “No Child Left Indoors” program. We gave \$500.00 each to these State positions: Bill Fischer our “Youth Outreach” position, Morgan Warda our “Landowner Wildlife Cooperative Coordinator”, and Ben Beaman who is heading up our “Adopt-A-Game Area Program”. There was also a multitude of local, state and national things we supported as well; for example memberships, merchandise and volunteer hours.

Finally, I would like to thank you all as members of Pheasants Forever. If you can do nothing more this year, please maintain your membership with PF. Strength in numbers! If you plan to support us by attending banquet, please sign up right now. If you would like to volunteer, donate or help at banquet, please contact Cheryl or myself. Huge thanks to John L., Cheryl, Pam, Don, John S., Rob, Bill and Jerry for the help, encouragement, friendship and attending chapter meetings and pulling all of this together as a group.

Yours in Conservation-

## **MI PF Regional Rep News – Bill VanderZouwen**

**Michigan Pheasants Forever:** Thanks goes to the 8000 members, spouses, volunteers, sponsors, landowners, and staff for making 2018 a great year for Michigan Pheasants Forever. Your contributions at banquets and through memberships have made a big difference.

Our more than 30 chapters are doing local habitat projects; connecting kids, college students and ladies to the shooting sports and outdoors through shoots, shooting teams and mentored hunts; and joining forces with other chapters on national habitat and youth programs that are benefiting us in Michigan. Chapters completed close to 14,000 acres of habitat projects and signed up 1250 youth members.

We initiated a new program this year called the Adopt-A-Game-Area Program and hired a coordinator to raise funds from individuals, businesses, foundations, clubs and chapters to accelerate grassland restoration on 20 state properties. Check out [www.michiganpheasantsforever.org](http://www.michiganpheasantsforever.org) for more information. If you or your business would be interested in making a tax deductible donation and being recognized on a kiosk, websites, and news releases, please contact Ben Beaman at [bbeaman@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:bbeaman@pheasantsforever.org).

Michigan chapters contributed \$92,000 for legislative advocacy in Washington, D.C. Results have been incredible with a newly approved 40,000 acre, \$61,000,000 CRP SAFE (State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement) grasslands program that landowners can sign up for. Assuming the President signs the new Farm Bill, there will be another 3 million acres of CRP, more money in wildlife habitat cost-sharing, more funds for wetland easements, and more money for access programs like the Michigan Hunter Access Program.

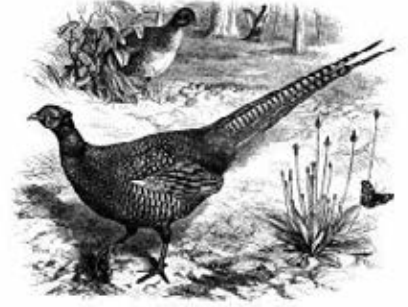
Thank you for being part of our efforts to conserve wildlife and advance our hunting heritage.



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### **32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Banquet- February 15th, 2019- Cheryl Loy**

The Grand Valley Pheasants Forever 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Banquet is Friday, February 15, 2019. We are excited to share our new venue, Pinnacle Center in Hudsonville, with exceptional audio and visual effects. 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 have many new volunteers this year so we look are building and strengthening our banquet. The Grand Valley Chapter is very proud of the number of youth that attend our banquet each year. Please call Cheryl Loy (616)446-1000 for any questions, help on banquet. For donations please call Dan Banister at (616)291-0140.



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### **Habitat Report – Don VandenBos and John Spaans**

2019 SEED PICKUP – Please know that we have ordered and paid for all spring 2019 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.

A huge thanks to Bob Driesenga for storing our leftover seed from this past May!

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### **Youth Report - Rob Vink**

This past August Grand Valley Youth Chair Rob Vink made the journey down to the Cardinal Shooting Center in Marengo Ohio for Pheasants Forever’s Focus on Forever Training. The day was spent with PF Staff learning about the variety of youth programs and events that PF sponsors. Rob and the other volunteers also spent time on the range with Mark and Sally Stevens learning how to work with and train new shotgun shooters. The premise behind this event was to equip PF volunteers with the tools and confidence to provide the best youth events possible.

On December 1st we again hosted 12 young people at the Ionia State Recreation Area for our annual mentored youth hunt. The weather was not quite as cooperative as the previous year but hunters, guides, and mentors had a great time chasing pheasants provided to the chapter by West Michigan Gamebirds.

The chapter will again be looking for a location and youth oriented group to host a pollinator plot day. This event includes several activities to teach kids about the importance of native plants and pollinators. The event also includes planting a pollinator plot with native flowers and plants. It is a great opportunity to learn about native plants, beneficial pollinating insects, and to get your hands dirty while helping to support Pheasants Forever’s mission. For more information contact Youth Chair Rob Vink through the Grand Valley Chapter website or Facebook page.

A Publication from:

**The Grand Valley Chapter of  
Pheasants Forever**

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## SAVE THE DATE

### Grand Valley PF #100 Upcoming Events

**January 12, 2019**

MI PF State Convention, Bath, MI

**January 14, 2019**

Chapter Meeting 6PM  
Brann's Steakhouse Leonard St.

**February 8, 2019**

Early Bird Registration Due

**February 15, 2019**

32nd Annual Banquet  
The Pinnacle Center

**February 22-24, 2019**

Pheasant Fest, Schaumburg, IL

Chapter Meetings generally the second Monday  
of each month.



## CHECK US OUT AT:

**Web:**

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

**Email:**

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

**Facebook:**

Grand Valley Chapter, Pheasants Forever