



January 2012

President's Message

As we look forward to the upcoming year, I wish safe hunting for the rest of the season. This is our chapter's first newsletter and is something we look forward to presenting to our members on a quarterly basis to keep everyone informed.

Looking back on 2011, and with all the recent rain, it is hard to believe we actually had a period of drought this year. The dry spell into July prevented some of our planned warm-season grass planting; however we were able to put some acres of habitat on the ground.

Our accomplishments would not be possible without willing landowners, chapter members, chapter sponsors and donors and our many other conservation partners. We are making a difference on a local level. With our project partners, we were able to contribute to the restoration of 226 acres of wetland and 301 acres of upland. This included work on 3.42 miles of streams. Thanks to everyone.

Thanks to all who supported our events this year as well. We started in May with our annual Spring Membership Banquet, and then it was on to our Clay Shoot in August followed by our first annual Texas Hold-Em Tournament. In between, we hosted Pheasants Forever's Multi-State Meeting and had Congressman Glenn Thompson out to tour a stream restoration along Sinking Creek near Centre Hall.



August 2011 – Central PA Chapter Site Tour at Sinking Creek Restoration Site near Centre Hall.

Yes, 2011 was a productive year, but we've got much more to do in 2012. Our Chapter will be four years old this year and is still establishing a network of members, volunteers and projects. We need your help to make 2012 a year of more members, more acres and more money raised for habitat.


Adam Smith

Habitat Restoration

The projects that we could not finish are slated for restoration in 2012. Projects will include some warm season grass planting on State Game Lands 60 near Janesville and several smaller projects in our proposed Wild Pheasant Recovery area near Spring Mills. As projects arise, we will use our network of e-mails to notify members of



Central Pennsylvania Pheasants Forever Newsletter

January 2012

what's going on. Where needed, volunteers are always welcome. If there is a habitat project you'd like to see, or if you have acres to restore, or you'd like to make a site visit to one of our projects, please let us know:

adam.smith@centralpapheasants.org .



Volunteer Zach Harris pulls a Truax Drill to plant grasses & flowers at a pollinator restoration at Roger Vandermark's Farm near Bellefonte. Thanks, Roger.

Habitat Restoration Dollars

Late in 2011, the Central Pennsylvania Chapter received a donation of \$5785 from the Mifflin County Chapter for native grassland habitat restoration and trap-and-transfer of wild pheasants. While transplanting wild birds may be a few years away, this generous gift gives us a secure funding base to immediately restore native grasslands throughout Central Pennsylvania. Next year, we'll focus on finishing our 2011 sites mentioned earlier and on new grassland restoration sites in our proposed Wild Pheasant Recovery Area.

Spring Membership Banquet

Our Spring Membership Banquet will be held on **Saturday March 31, 2012** with

doors opening at 5 PM and supper at 6 PM. Once again, our event will be held at the Old Fort American Legion and will feature prime rib. There will be games, prizes, good food, guns and beverages. Tickets start at \$50 for individuals, \$80 for couples (includes one membership), \$25 for Ringnecks (18 and under). Sponsor packages are available for \$250 (includes 2 tickets with one membership), or \$500 for businesses (includes 4 tickets and 2 memberships). Each sponsor will be entered into an exclusive sponsor raffle which will include guns and prints. Also, **PF Bucks** are back. For \$20, you get 30 PF Bucks to use at the banquet for games, raffles and the silent auction. In addition, sponsors will also receive 100 PF Bucks. Check the website for details at www.centralpapheasants.org or call Jesse Putnam at 814-598-9789.

Pennsylvania Wild Pheasant Update

In 2011, Central Pennsylvania Chapter Vice President Jesse Putnam led an expedition that trapped 600 birds in South Dakota and transported them back to Pennsylvania. This is part of the ongoing pheasant reintroduction program. Half of the birds were released in the Hegins-Gratz Valley. Half were also released in Somerset to complete their reintroduction program. At this time wild bird trapping is not being done. Due to three years of extremely hard winters out west and three very wet springs the wild bird numbers are down. Also due to this very mild winter, conditions are not favorable for trapping. There are many videos related to the pheasant trapping on YouTube. To see Jesse in action, follow the link: www.youtube.com/PheasantTrapper.



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