

Forever Illinois Newsletter

August 2009



FIRE TRAINING - Sept 19 & 20

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- District Meetings wrap up
- Fire training, Sept 19 and 20
- Climate Change Update
- CRP Input Needed
- **2010 IL State Meeting Set January 23, 2010**
- PF/QF Searches for Illinois Youth Leadership Council candidates

On the weekend of September 19 and 20, PF/QF and the IL DNR will host the practical portion of the S130-S190 burn training.

Following the successful completion of the on-line course work (<http://training.nwcg.gov/courses.html>) and practical, chapter volunteers will be certified to conduct prescribed burns.

Pheasants Forever national burn policy requires that at least 2 individuals are certified to this level for all chapter burns.

The 2-day practical will be held at the Langham Outdoors Lodge located just south of Donnellson in Bond County.

A limited number of beds for Saturday night are available—first come, first serve based on date of enrollment.

Chapter leaders who are interested in receiving this training should do the following:

1. Enroll in the class by sending an email to Aaron Kuehl. Be sure to indicate if you need overnight lodging.
2. Start taking the online courses—there are 15 modules, each taking an estimated 1-3 hours. The online courses include: I-100, S110, S130 & S190.

3. **IMPORTANT**—be sure to print off all the module certifications and bring them to the training.

If you have any questions on the information in the module, contact the course administrator, Tom Wilson at tom.wilson@illinois.org or 618-498-1627.

If you have any other questions, contact Aaron.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Conservation Advocacy	2
Fundraising	3
Event Calendar	4

The first ever hunt-a-month raffle has gotten off to a slow start and we've got a special offer for chapters. For each 10 tickets sold or purchased, the chapter will receive 1 free ticket.

For a \$20 ticket, a person is entered in 12 separate drawings for some of the best trips in the Midwest. Trips/hunts include:

- Nebraska Pheasant & Quail Hunt—4 people, 4 days/3nights.
- Celebrity Quail Hunt - 1 winner hunts with some major leagu-

ers at Rend Lake Resort.

- Forever Cruise—2 people Caribbean cruise for 6 days and 5 nights.
- Tennessee Turkey & Brim - 2 days huntin' & fishin' guide service in Giles County, TN.
- Choice—IL Deer Hunt—you pick the area—before the lottery.
- Iowa Crow Hunt - if it flies, it dies—2 person hunt.
- Wisconsin Ruffed Grouse and Wild Woodcock—includes 2 night stay in a walled tent base camp

- Choice IL Pheasant Hunt—you pick your spot, before the lottery.
- Huntin' with the Big Dog - hunt birds with PF CEO Howard Vincent.
- WalleyePalooza—7 nights on Lake Kabetogama for 4.
- Choice IL Turkey Hunt — you pick your spot, before the lottery does.
- Celebrity Goose Hunt—hunt with some famous players during the IL Conservation Foundation Celebrity Goose Hunt.

Hunt-A-Month Raffle Starts on Labor Day

IL Youth Council Applications Due September 1st!!!



Conservation Advocacy

USDA seeks public comment on CRP

The USDA is holding 9 public input meetings seeking comments on the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

One of those meetings will be held here in Illinois:

Friday, September 25th, 5-7pm

Hilton Garden Inn, Springfield

We need chapter leaders and farmers to attend this meeting and voice their support and talk about benefits of CRP.

Topics to be discussed will include

- Provisions dealing with cropping history requirements
- Crop rotation practices
- Contract incentives
- Program enrollment terms and
- CRP enrollment authority of 32 million acres (we will fall below that number in October 2009)

We will be providing volunteers with some ideas for talking points in the near future.

Don't miss out on this important opportunity to voice your support for CRP.

Public comment is also being accepted online at www.public.geo-marine.com or people can email comments to crpcomments@tecinc.com.

Questions??? Contact Aaron.

The issue of Climate Legislation

by Dave Nomsen, VP of Government Affairs for Pheasants Forever

The Issue of Climate Legislation

First of all, **PF/QF does not support, nor do we oppose, climate change legislation being proposed in Washington, D.C.** Here's what we know; the House bill HR 2454, titled American Clean Energy Security Act of 2009 (ACES), addresses energy needs and climate change, and was recently passed by the U.S. House of Representatives. ACES is a massive and complex bill similar in many ways to Farm Bill legislation. Most provisions of the bill *are not supported or opposed* by PF/QF, just as we don't engage in Farm Bill provisions that don't apply to habitat like trade or nutrition programs. PF/QF is specifically not involved in items related to emissions reductions, cap and trade, or international agreements. These provisions simply have no bearing on our habitat focused mission. However, we have been actively involved in the following two provisions of the bill, which are related to habitat and hunting opportunities:

1. Natural Resources Adaptation Funding

A final bill from Congress is expected to provide long-term funding to federal and state natural resource agencies as they will likely play an important role in mitigating, or offsetting, wildlife & habitat changes from an altered climate. The current House-passed version will result in \$550 million up to \$4 billion by 2030 for natural resource funding. Funds will be used by federal agencies for numerous natural resource programs including land acquisition, easements, and private lands conservation programs. Monies will be dedicated directly to state wildlife agencies and target similar programs to assist with wildlife and habitat.

2. USDA Offset Program

The US Department of Agriculture has been directed to develop and implement programs that reward landowners for

efforts to sequester or reduce carbon. It is expected the USDA will make payments based upon the amounts of carbon stored by conservation and land management practices. At PF/QF, we've been actively working in this arena to ensure that current conservation programs like the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) are included in the discussion. If these types of programs are not included, offset payments could serve as a large disincentive to continue enrollment of lands in CRP or other conservation programs. Adding payments from carbon to CRP may actually make enrollment more competitive, thus encouraging continued and/or future enrollment in CRP and other conservation programs.

The NEW Legislative Action Fund Incentives

How much is your chapter willing to pay for 32 million acres of CRP nationwide? How about for a million acres plus in Illinois? Still not close enough to home... that equates to 1,000 acres in your county.

The need for funding for legislative action in Washington DC and here in Illinois has

never been greater... And neither has the incentive for chapters to contribute.

- \$1,000 - Stoeger O/U 12ga
- \$3,000—Fausti Stefano O/U 12ga
- \$5,000 - 6 Stoeger O/U 12ga or a Beretta White Onyx

- \$10,000 - Beretta Urika 12ga SA, Benelli SBE II 12ga, AND a Ruger Red Label O/U 12ga

- \$25,000—custom package

Please talk about this at your next committee meeting and make a contribution to conservation.



Fundraising

District Meeting Wrap-it-up!



Thank you to the more than 40 chapters who attended this year's district meetings in late July. Those chapters who could not attend should contact Matt or Tim ASAP to learn about this year's new changes and opportunities before it's too late.

Binders

At this year's meeting, each chapter received a 3 ring binder which included the PF/QF banquet package, merchandise and pass thru programs, gun programs and other important information for fundraising. It also included a section on available grants and reporting, information on the hunt a month and gun a week raffles, and other information about habitat.

Some information was not available when we assembled the binders. Chapters will receive this information in future cacklers and can easily 3-hole punch them and include in the binder.

Next year the same information will be provided, 3-hole punched and tied with a cable tie, so chapters can easily replace it in their binders.

The New Package = More choices!

Chapters asked and PF/QF has delivered a package with more choices that you can customize to fit your event. Here are the highlights:

- Core package (\$1,049) of 12 items—chapters must order the core package before getting access to the other offers—basically, this is the cover charge to get in the door.
- 100+ encore items—you pick
- Monthly specials and exclusives
- Raffle packages
- Bargain Cave—new clearance items
- Trips / Travel packages
- Monthly bonus buys (starting October)
- Your support in membership and merchandise is critical to the organization so we are offering every chapter that **orders at least \$3,000 from the underwriting booklets or trips a \$300 sport dog raffle package.**

Even with the less expensive core banquet package, we need chapters to spend the same or more with us as you did last year to make this program a success.

E-store

Chapters will be able to logon to the e-store website and order all their merchandise online. This easy-to-use system will feature real time inventory, improved tracking and point and click transactions to pay using your CMS account.

Legislative Action Fund

Here in Illinois the vast majority of land is privately owned. Conservation programs of the farm bill offer the best opportunity to put acres on the ground (CREP, SAFE, CP33, etc). We need chapter support to grow these programs and are challenging all IL chapters to give more than they have in the past. Be sure to check out the new incentives which include **6 over-under shot-guns for a \$5,000 contribution.**

Build A Wildlife Area

We'll be closing on our first BAWA project early this fall. The \$50,000 in BAWA contributions will leverage more than \$350,000 in other funding to secure a 100+ acre project in Vermilion County. We need chapters to step up and contribute in 2009 for a 2010 TBD project!

Fall banquets off to a shotgun start - by Tim Caughran

The season has started off with the Wabash Valley QF Banquet on the first of the month, Edgar County PF on the 15th, Champaign County PF on the 21st, and Montgomery County PF on the 29th. With folks piling into banquet halls and buying gun raffle tickets and getting their bid numbers, the fall banquet season is underway.

Thus far, things have been going real well! Attendance for events has been steady and sponsorships are up to par, or even a little above normal.

With the economy still on the mend, raffles are still performing better than auctions, even on restricted budgets folks are willing to spend \$20 for habitat and a chance to win. Some of the banquet package and encore items are still doing quite well.

The outdoor pheasant clock in PF encore sold for over \$300 at Edgar Co PF. Other items that did very well, were the Pheasant On A Milk Can (PF encore), the PF Cruise (encore trip), the Spring Ritual Print (PF encore) and the Covey in Flight Afghan (QF

encore). Remember to place your orders for these great encore items early, because they are selling fast and many of them are expected to sell out before the spring season.

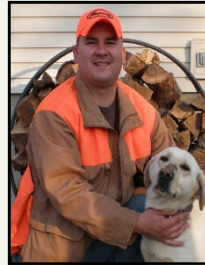
Always remember to mix up your games and raffles from year to year to keep things fresh. Try a new raffle or two, give away some different guns, and most importantly – **have fun!!!**

If you need suggestions, talk to Tim or Matt.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP



AARON K. KUEHL
DIRECTOR OF CONSERVATION
 PO Box 50, 206 S Lake St
 Oakford, IL 62673
 Phone: (217) 635-5207
 Cell: (217) 341-7171
 akuehl@pheasantsforever.org



MATT BRADSHAW
NORTHERN REGIONAL BIOLOGIST
 113 Chickasaw Lane
 Loda, IL 60948
 Phone: (217) 386-4324
 Cell: (217) 379-7014
 mbradshaw@pheasantsforever.org



KIM STERLING
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
 401 Burberry Lane
 Rochester, IL 62563
 Phone: (217) 498-6806
 Cell: (217) 502-9567
 ksterling@pheasantsforever.org



TIM CAUGHRAN
S REGIONAL BIOLOGIST
 1806 Montview Ave
 Godfrey, IL 62035
 Phone: (618) 467-2586
 Cell: (618) 791-3909
 tcaughran@quailforever.org



ALISON BRENTZEL
REGIONAL YOUTH SPECIALIST
 14 N 405 Rt. 25
 Dundee, IL 60118
 Phone: (217) 553-6073
 abrentzel@pheasantsforever.org

UPCOMING EVENT CALENDAR

Description	Location	Time	Date
Champaign Co PF Banquet	Hawthorne Suites, Champaign	5-10pm	8/21/2009
Montgomery Co PF	Taylor Springs KC Hall	5-10pm	8/29/2009
McLean Co PF Banquet		5-10pm	9/10/2009
Lincoln Heritage (Coles/Cumberland Co)	Worthington Inn, Charleston	5-10pm	9/12/2009
Kane Co PF Banquet		5-10pm	9/24/2009
South Cook PF Banquet		5-10pm	9/24/2009
Knox Co PF Banquet		5-10pm	10/2/2009
Highland PF Banquet		5-10pm	10/17/2009
Lincolnland PF/QF Chili Supper			
Warren Co PF Banquet		5-10pm	11/7/2009
2010 State Meeting & Banquet	Par-A-Dice, Peoria	9am-10pm	1/23/2010
Rock Island/Henry PF Banquet		5-10pm	2/5/2010
IL Bobwhite QF Banquet		5-10pm	2/5/2010
Grand Prairie PF Banquet		5-10pm	2/8/2010
Whiteside PF Banquet		5-10pm	2/20/2010
LaSalle Co PF Banquet		5-10pm	3/6/2010
McHenry Co PF Banquet		5-10pm	3/12/2010
Lee Co PF Banquet		5-10pm	3/13/2010
Iroquois Banquet		5-10pm	3/20/2010
Jo Daviess Banquet		5-10pm	3/20/2010
2010 Pheasant Fest	Des Moines, IA		Feb 26-28, 2010