

The Pheasant Flyer

Pheasant Country newsletter written and/or compiled by Debra Kuchera.



Pheasant Country LTD - Mitchell, SD • PO Box 807
Visit our Website at www.pheasantcountry.org

Fall 2008 Vol.13 Issue 1

Support Pheasant Habitat in the Mitchell Area

Attend the

PHEASANT COUNTRY PHEASANTENNIAL BANQUET

Friday, October 17th - World's Only Corn Palace

Pheasant Country LTD volunteers are excited about the upcoming Pheasant Banquet to be held in the World's Only Corn Palace, which is Mitchell's official pheasant opener kickoff. We are not only celebrating our 23rd year, but we are also celebrating the 100th Anniversary for the state of South Dakota receiving our first Ringneck pheasants – hence the name Pheasantennial!

Last year was a record year for South Dakota in the number of non-resident pheasant hunters with over 103,000 coming to our wonderful state, with our nine-county area having 16.5% of the out-of-state hunters. Our area harvested over 347,000 birds!

Come to the World's Only Corn Palace on Friday, October 17th – doors open at 5 p.m. to enjoy our delicious roast pheasant dinner and refreshments along with many chances to win prizes at the many raffle boards and tables. Pheasant Country will again be giving away a Charles Daly F. Hunter 20 gauge shotgun donated by Wayne Edinger to a lucky, young first time local hunter who successfully passed the Hunt Safe program. We will again have artists, John Green and James Green present along with a local wildlife artist Nicole Heitzman. Our auction will feature original art and prints by these artists and by Mark Anderson and Larry Green. We appreciate the support these artists give our organization.

To get your tickets in advance, please fax the form on this newsletter to (605) 996-1232. Local people may purchase tickets from any Pheasant Country committee member they know or at the Chamber of Commerce office. Tickets may be purchased at the door as well for \$45.00 each. Current Pheasant Country landowners/contract holders will receive a free pass to the Banquet by presenting a special postcard that they will receive in the mail (limit two free tickets per household).



MITCHELL AREA WELCOMES PHEASANT HUNTERS!

Thanks to all who have chosen the Mitchell area as their pheasant hunting destination. We hope your stay in our area will be enjoyable. The Mitchell Area Chamber of Commerce and area businesses want to welcome all of the pheasant hunters to our area. Please keep safe hunting your priority and don't drink and drive. For information about the Mitchell community, accommodations, restaurants, hunting services and lodges, please contact the Corn Palace Convention Visitors Bureau or see their web site at www.cornpalace.org. Toll-free 1-866-273-CORN (2676).

Hunters can get their licenses on-line before coming to Mitchell at www.sdgifp.info or once they arrive in Mitchell at these establishments as listed on the Game, Fish & Parks website: Amstar, Cabela's, Coborn's, County Fair Foods, Erickson's, Graham's Interstate BP, Jack's Sinclair, Jmart, Kmart, Leader Sporting Goods, Rendezvous Emporium and Walmart. Cost of license for adult residents is \$49 for a season-long Combination license and cost for adult non-residents is \$110 for a small game license which is for two-5 day periods. A Youth Small Game license is available for non-residents for ages 12-15 for two- 5 day periods.

The regular pheasant hunting season runs October 18 through January 4. Shooting preserves can offer hunting from September 1 to March 31. Daily limit is three cock pheasants, with a possession limit of no more than fifteen cock birds. Shooting hours are noon central daylight time to sunset October 18-24 and 10 a.m. central standard time to sunset for the rest of the season. Daylight savings time ends November 2. Hunters review the Hunting Handbook for proper identification to be left on birds and other legalities. See the SD Game, Fish and Parks website for details at www.sdgifp.info For other travel information to South Dakota see www.travelsd.com.

Thank you to our major contributors!

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GUN RAFFLE 2008

BIG GUN RAFFLE

1-100 chance \$100 each

1st prize - Benelli Super Black Eagle II 12 ga.

2nd prize - Franchi - Raptor 20 ga.

GUN PYRAMID

Level 1

Benelli Montefeltro 12 ga.

Level II

Browning BLR 270 cal.

Remington 700 BDL 243 cal.

Remington 1100 Skeet 20 ga.

Level III

Remington 870 20 ga.

Savage 93 17 cal.

Henry Golden Boy 22 cal.

Charles Daly F Hunter 12 ga.

Browning A/Bolt 30/60 cal.

Olympic Arms AR-15 223 cal.

Bonus Gun

Ruger K77 243 cal.

Free chance on bonus gun for \$100 and 9 chances to win! For \$40 3 chances to win.

If you would like to purchase a raffle ticket, please indicate on the form on the back of the newsletter or contact a board member.

You will not want to miss out a chance on these:

- Gun Pyramid – with 10 guns on three levels and a bonus gun
- Big Gun Raffle – 1 in 100 chance for a Benelli Super Black Eagle II 12 gu.; 2nd place – a Franchi – Raptor 20 guage shotgun, sponsored by Endorf, Lurken & Olson and CorTrust Bank
- 2 Great guns - WWII M1 Grand and a 1903 Springfield, designed by Boyd Gunstocks Industries, Mitchell
- Pistol raffle - 637 38 cal. Smith Wesson
- Youth Gun Pyramid - Taurus M62/Carbine 22 cal and Ruger M 77, sponsored by Dr. Jerry Howe and Coborn's
- A special shotgun donated by Clem Boyd of Lucid Technologies, Mitchell – a 12 gu. Ithaca Deerslayer III with Scope and custom designed walnut gun stock, engraved with the Corn Palace and Pheasant Country logo
- A mini-chopper customized with Pheasant Country's logo
- Cabela's raffle table sponsored by Cabela's
- Miller Lite neon pheasant sign
- Custom Ruger 10/22 gun donated by Dr. Doug Holum
- Electric trap throwers donated by Champion Traps & Targets
- Many unique Auction items including a raccoon with a fish mount, bear trap and a Black Hills Gold Ring donated by Wade Musick
- Many one of a kind items on the Silent Auction – Ram Sheep Sculpture, Dog food for a year; Engraved PCL wine glasses



HUNTERS!

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Pheasant Country LTD Facts and Achievements

Pheasant Country LTD (PCL) is a 501 C-3 organization that was founded in 1985 by Mitchell businessmen, and there were 18 landowners involved in its first year. We are a local sportsmen's organization dedicated to improving pheasant and wildlife habitat in the Mitchell area as well as promoting the shooting sports for youth.

Pheasant Country received the statewide 2007 Cooperative Conservation Award from the (NRCS) Natural Resources Conservation Service in South Dakota. It is presented to an individual or group that best exemplifies dedication and leadership to natural resources conservation through cooperative conservation.



NRCS State Conservationist, Janet L. Oertly (L) presenting the award to Dave Allen (R), President of Pheasant Country Limited.

Ways in which Pheasant Country is involved:

Landowner Participation:

- ◆ 260 landowners/PCL contract holders set aside 10 acres wildlife food plots within a 35 mile radius of Mitchell
- ◆ The majority of funds raised at the Banquet go to these landowners to offset some of the expenses towards putting in their wildlife food plots. \$710,000 has been paid since 1985.
- ◆ Seed GiveAway held in April where PCL landowners have the opportunity to obtain free seed for their wildlife food plots. Thanks to the generosity of Syngenta Seeds Incorporated, Monsanto Company and Mycrogen Seed for their donations we were able to plant many food plots. Also thanks to local restaurants and grocery stores for providing rolls and coffee. Thanks especially to Big Green Fertilizer Company.
- ◆ Annual Landowner Steak Fry held in February where they receive their reimbursement checks for putting in wildlife food plots according to their contract. Thanks to our successful 2007 Banquet, we were able to award each PCL landowner/contractholder a \$150.00 check. Way to go Past President Dave Allen and committee!
- ◆ Participating landowners receive up to \$500 over two years for 8 row minimum shelterbelt if they have signed up in the program through the local Conservation District. Call Mike Kuchera for details at (605) 996-1120 or email us at info@pheasantcountry.org

Community Involvement:

- ◆ Club has great involvement from their over 50 active volunteer members. To be on the volunteer roster, please contact info@pheasantcountry.org
- ◆ Participate in the Corn Palace Stampede chili cook-off
- ◆ Participate as a Ducks Unlimited local sponsor
- ◆ Hold Banquet annually in the World's Only Corn Palace
- ◆ Make annual contribution to Palace Transit



Support Shooting Sports and Public Hunting:

- ◆ Make annual donation of \$2500 to the Mitchell Trap Club to sponsor the State Youth Trap Shoot Championships. Over \$30,000 has been donated since 1996.
- ◆ Purchased ammunition for the 4-H shooting sports
- ◆ Hold annual Youth Pheasant Hunt – sponsored by Rooster Roost Ranch.
- ◆ Have made donations to the Indoor Gun Range, Mitchell Trap Club, shared in purchases of two public hunting areas in Miner County and in Davison County

TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE

Please note for those who need public transportation around town, Palace Transit will be available to transport people during the day and evenings. Palace Transit will be transporting people from motels to the Pheasant Country Banquet and back to the motel on October 17. Pheasant Country LTD wants all who visit and hunt to remain safe, before, during and after the hunt. Call **(605) 995-8440** to make transportation arrangements



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Hunters Welcome!



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With losing CRP contracts to crop land, it is vitally important to help with putting in wildlife habitat. Pheasant Country made a wise choice in partnering with the (NRCS) Davison County Conservation District in being the major purchaser of this new no-till Great Plains grass drill in 2007. Dean Strand is the operator and reported in 2008, we have planted close to 1100 acres as of June 19th. Aurora County had the most acres planted with 377 along with Davison, Hanson, Miner and Sanborn utilizing the drill for grass and alfalfa seeding. Thanks to Dean Strand for his hardwork and to the landowners who have chosen to put in wildlife habitat in our area.



Deb Kuchera
Pheasant Country, LTD
P.O. Box 807
Mitchell, SD 57301

Dear Deb,

Enclosed are some photos from the 2008 SD Junior Trapshooting Championships held in Mitchell on August 3. The trapshoot was a great success. 100 youth and 35 adults participated in the event. Shooters came from all over SD and we also had a team from Gordon, NE.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of Pheasant Country for their generous support of this youth trapshoot. This money is used to buy prizes and to help defray the expense of running this trapshoot. Because the price of targets and everything else has gone through the roof, without your support we would have to charge a prohibitive fee for young shooters to enter this event.

I would like to request the continued support by Pheasant Country for this event. This is one of the largest and best youth trapshoots in the Midwest. I hope we can continue this tradition in the future.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jerry Ophrock
Jerry Ophrock

Dear Deb Kuchera,

Thank you for sponsoring the 2008 South Dakota Junior Trapshooting Championships in Mitchell. It turned out to be a great success. Our sub-junior team won the singles event. We did pretty good individually too. We had fun and got good practice. It is the only time in the year that we get to practice doubles. The door prizes are very useful. I think that I speak for everyone when I say that the shooting is greatly enjoyable. Once again thank you for sponsoring the trap shoot. I hope that you will consider sponsoring the shoot again next year.

Thanks again,

Paul Waring

Paul Waring

Thank You to Our Many Loyal Members and Supporters!!

We want to say thanks to those who have attended in the past and supported our organization and especially to the local businesses in Mitchell and the surrounding area who have made generous donations of merchandise, services and cash donations to make this event possible each year.

Board Members

Rick Herrold <i>President</i>	Dave Allen <i>Past-President</i>	Brad Zimmerman <i>Vice-President</i>	Debra Kuchera <i>Treasurer (ex-officio)</i>	Mike Anderson <i>Secretary</i>
Wade Musick	Kevin Bruscher	Chuck McPeck	Mike Kuchera	
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Sodak Gundog Kennels is offering an **AKC registered started Labrador male pup** to be sold at auction at the Banquet. The parents of the pup are both proven pheasant & waterfowl hunting companions and are working gundogs for SD guide services. The mother is a UKC Hunting Retriever Champion and the father is an AKC Master Hunter. This 4 month old pup was born 6/23/08 and has had an introduction to hunting with exposure to retrieving birds, gunfire, water and swimming, socialization, whistle recall, crate training, travelling on dog trailer, and basic on lead obedience.



Silver Lab Pup to be Auctioned Off - Jason Weber of Mitchell also has offered for auction a silver lab pup. It will be a young pup approximately 10 weeks old. He has been breeding silver labs for a few years. Many people are intrigued by this special color Labrador.

BIRD NUMBERS REMAIN STRONG

If you have not already heard, this year's South Dakota Game Fish & Parks annual brood count survey results show a statewide increase of 9 percent. This is 64 percent ahead of the 10-year average which is phenomenal. Loss of CRP has affected some areas according to Tony Leif, GF & P's wildlife director. This year South Dakota lost close to 300,000 acres of habitat from landowners who chose not to re-enlist their CRP (Conservation Reserve Program).

Weather and winter habitat greatly influence the pheasant population as well. This year our mild winter helped from winter kill of the birds, and timely spring precipitation helped the population by providing insects for the chicks and lush growth of habitat. The months of July and August were very favorable as well without the extreme summer heat. See the South Dakota Game Fish and Parks website for more information (www.sdgap.info).

According to statistics on popular pheasant websites, our neighboring states did not fair as well with North Dakota's brood survey showing a 31% decline in 2008 and because of the severe wet conditions in the spring, Iowa's population suffered as well with their survey showing a 27% decline from last year. Minnesota also had a 24% drop in their estimated pheasant population. South Dakota was fortunate to not have had these conditions, and predictions are that our pheasant numbers will show an increase from 2007.

MAKE SURE YOUR HUNTING BUDDY IS IN SHAPE!

I am not talking about your two legged friend, I am talking about your four legged friend! Your furry hunting buddy needs **you** to be responsible for his or her well being and will sometimes hunt himself to death if you let him. Mike Anderson, one of our Pheasant Country board members and co-owner of Anderson Kennels in Mitchell, along with his lovely wife, Mavis gave us this advice:

Mike said that conditioning his dogs and other people's dogs for hunting became a priority after watching an expensive German Shorthair dog quit hunting after the second day of the hunt. It was frustrating to the owner who traveled to South Dakota to hunt with his dog only to see him not come out of his crate after only one day of hunting. Mike said the Shorthair was a very obedient dog, and the first day was all excited to go hunting.

All year long he and his wife walk or run their dogs for a mile or so once a day. When August comes and it's too hot to do road work, they grab dummies and head to the lake. There he throws dummies for the dogs to retrieve, and the swimming keeps them in shape. He said he takes the dogs out on cooler evenings to run one mile, walk one mile and run one mile. To keep it fun, he has them sit and stay and throw a tennis ball with a tennis ball thrower into cover. It's a big game when he has more than one dog, to see who can get the ball first.

Another piece of advice is to toughen in the dogs paws. To do this, he runs or walks the dogs on gravel roads or in stubble fields. He also takes them into thick cover to toughen the feet and to get them used to busting brush. He said that doing some retrieving into thick brush after some road work helps them to know how to dig the dummy out of the brush when they are tired.

He said to feed the dog a higher quality dog food when conditioning or hunting and to get a vet check to make sure there are no health concerns.

Mike added that by doing different activities with your dog, you can build a great bond for the upcoming season. This also gets YOU in shape for a great hunting experience. By the way, a great web site for us humans on getting in shape for hunting is South Dakota's own "Healthy Hunter" at www.HealthySD.gov.

Make sure your dog has plenty of water before, during and after the hunt and watch closely that he does not get overheated during the hunt. Many times it goes unnoticed until too late!

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- Yes, I want to support your organization by making a cash donation of \$ _____
- Yes, I would like buy a \$100 raffle ticket on the Big Gun - a 1 in 100 chance to win:
1st Prize: Benelli Super Black Eagle II Synthetic Camo, 2 Choke Tube; **2nd Prize:** Franchi Raptor 20 Gu. Semi-Automatic **3rd Prize:** 1 Case of Shot Shells
- Yes, I would like a Gun Pyramid ticket(s) 3 chances for _____ @ \$40.00 each or 9 chances to win (1 each level) _____ @ \$100 # _____ @ \$5.00 each bonus gun.
- Yes, I want to purchase ____ banquet tickets for October 17, 2008 at \$45.00 each (*includes membership dues*)

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Check Enclosed

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