

Cover: Close up of the 2023 Photo Contest
Winner 'Zaza' by Toby Lukiwski

PHEASANTS FOREVER NEWS

WINTER ISSUE
2024

PHEASANTS FOREVER CALGARY NEWSLETTER
Created for our members by our members



29th ANNUAL CALGARY DINNER & AUCTION



CALGARY DINNER & AUCTION

TICKETS NOW ON SALE

**Wednesday
May 8, 2024**

Doors open at 5:00pm

Palomino Room BMO Centre
Stampede Park, Calgary, Alberta

Please welcome Glen Rumpel Chair of the 29th Annual Calgary Dinner & Auction

Glen Rumpel joined the Board of Directors of Pheasants Forever Calgary in December 2017. Glen has been a key addition to the board and is particularly involved annually in supporting the Dinner & Auction, which has come to be the foremost conservation fundraiser in Canada and one of the most popular events in Calgary. Pheasants Forever is honoured to have Glen Rumpel as our 29th Dinner Chair.



ON
SALE
NOW

Buy your tickets here!

<https://www.pfcalgary.ca/2024-dinner-auction/>



CALGARY DINNER & AUCTION

May 8, 2024

Doors open at 5:00pm

Palomino Room BMO Centre
Stampede Park, Calgary, Alberta

A couple of the unique trips that will be available at this year's dinner.
We look forward to seeing you there!

Naden Lodge Three-Day All-Inclusive Salmon Trip for 10



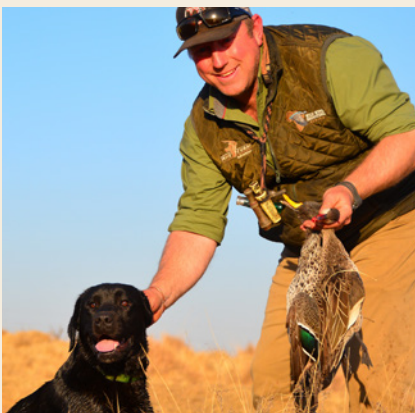
Naden Lodge is located on the doorstep of British Columbia's best known and world renowned salmon fishing grounds on the northern coast of Graham Island, the most northern major island in the Queen Charlotte Islands (Haida Gwaii). Includes direct flight from Calgary to Village of Masset on the lodge's private aircraft. Your group will have the lodge to yourselves from June 18-21, 2024!



Wild Wing Shooting South Africa 7-Day Trip for 4



Experience the finest and most diverse wingshooting available. You'll walk-up hunt iconic grey-winged partridge over well-trained pointers, enjoy the thrill and excitement of driven guinea fowl, hunt multiple duck and goose species, including the massive spurwing, the world's largest goose, test your shooting skill on high-volume doves and pigeons and more. All while living in the luxury of Africa's renowned hospitality.



2023 PF CALGARY PHOTO CONTEST WINNER



Zaza by Toby Lukiwski

FIRST PLACE WINNER!

Toby Lukiwski's photo takes home first place! The subject matter is on the mark! There is great movement in this shot and the colours and composition are spectacular!

Thank you for this amazing image.

Toby's winning photo, **Zaza** will be featured on the cover of this year's **Annual Dinner & Auction** program. Toby also receives the Burris HD 10x42 Binoculars (\$600 value). **Congratulations!**

PHOTOS THAT MADE THE TOP 10



Second Place: Photo by Andrew Sgaggi



Third Place: Photo by Keith Grimes



Fourth Place: Photo by Martin Jalkotzy



Fifth Place: Photo by Cornel Yarmoloy

**Thank you to everyone
who took the time to
submit photos!**

The response was overwhelming. Choosing the winning photo and the Top 10 was difficult given so many great images to judge. Thank you and keep shooting!

PHOTOS THAT MADE THE TOP 10



Sixth Place: Photo by Martin Jalkotzy



Eighth Place: Photo by Jordan Cutbill



Seventh Place: Photo by Cornel Yarmoloy



Ninth Place: Photo by Jordan Cutbill



Tenth Place: Photo by Andrew Sgaggi

Thank you to everyone for the great photos!

IN SEARCH OF CHAMPIONS

Your membership and your support makes a great impact in our ability to create, restore, and permanently protect wildlife habitat, while preserving the legacy of our hunting and conservation heritage.

Become a *Champion of the Uplands* by:



Upgrading Your Membership

We will continue to offer upgrades to Lifetime, Patron and Gold Patron memberships.



Sponsoring or Hosting an Event

We continue to need support for events, whether through sponsorship or by hosting an event.



Joining the Habitat Legacy Society

We will always be grateful for those who will consider a gift of land or a bequest in their will. These gifts sustain the incredible work started today for generations to come.



Volunteering

Give the gift of time to our Casino and Annual Dinner & Auction which raise funds that directly support conservation projects, mentor future sportsmen, and help influence positive policy for habitat conservation.



Inviting a Friend

By inviting others to give, or to become a member, you are helping to build our supporter base and share the importance of our work.

For more information visit pfcalgary.ca, email info@pfcalgary.ca or call 403.995.9960 ext. 101



THE BEST VENISON CHILI

by Hank Shaw



Get the Recipe



From the Hunter Angler Gardener Cook, the Internet's largest source of recipes and know-how for wild foods. Hank is a chef, author, and yes, hunter, angler, gardener, forager and cook.

STAY CONNECTED

Help conserve pheasant habitat!
Annual Membership Only \$35



Buy Your Membership Online

<https://www.pfcalgary.ca/membership/>



Pheasants Forever Canada News

SAVE THE EDGES

BETTER EDGES EQUAL BETTER CANOLA

An article in the November, 2023 issue of *The Canola Digest* supports Pheasants Forever Canada's **Save the Edges** campaign.

The article summarizes two research projects evaluating the impacts of natural habitat on adjacent canola fields. In the first study, researchers explored whether natural habitats serve as insect reservoirs and whether or not they contribute to canola yield. The key result of the research indicates that non-crop areas within or near to canola fields can serve as both a source and a destination for insects beneficial to canola production. These uncultivated areas can harbour reservoirs of insects that provide services to canola such as pest control and pollination.

A correlating study in Alberta of 60 million acres of canola showed that counties where fields have the highest levels of non-cropped area have slightly higher canola yields. One suggested reason for this is that non-cropped areas serve as hotspots for beneficial insects that spill over into canola fields, increasing visitations to canola flowers.

A second research project still underway is examining the relationship between the diversity and abundance of beneficial insects and canola production in western Canada. It's specifically looking at the role of natural habitats near canola fields as reservoirs for pollinators and natural enemies of canola pests, and the subsequent effect on canola yield.

Early results appear to show that these natural areas do, indeed, function as reservoirs, and therefore may help control populations of natural canola pests.

The primary objective of our **Save the Edges** campaign is to increase awareness of trespass farming, which eliminates these natural non-cropped areas, specifically in roadside ditches and undeveloped right-of-ways. The results of the research described above reinforce the belief that, when left intact, these linear strips of habitat provide a broad suite of societal benefits.

[VISIT SAVETHEEDGES.CA](https://www.savetheedges.ca)





Pheasants Forever Canada News SAVE THE EDGES

ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL FIELDMEN



Perry McCormick discusses Pheasants Forever and the Save the Edges campaign at the annual meeting of The Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen in early December during their in-training conference held at the Deerfoot Inn & Casino in Calgary.

In December, Pheasants Forever Canada spoke about **Save the Edges** at The Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen.

Agricultural Fieldmen have always been central to the success of Agricultural Service Boards. They develop, implement, and control programs designed to carry out priorities and policies set by their Agricultural Service Board.

While education and awareness are key tools Fieldmen use in their work, they are also appointed as inspectors or regulatory officers enforcing these Alberta statutes.

We presented a 30-minute PowerPoint describing the natural and social benefits that intact roadside ditches and undeveloped right of ways provide. We emphasized that, in the face of continued and expanding land use change resulting from green energy infrastructure

development, irrigation canal rehabilitation, and increasing pressure on native grass, that **these strips of public land are increasingly critical to maintaining biodiversity.**

As many conference attendees are influencers in their respective communities, Pheasants Forever Canada is confident we helped instill a new perspective within this important constituency.

For more information please visit the website and if your organization would like a presentation this spring on **Save the Edges** email perry@pfcalgary.ca.

VISIT SAVETHEEDGES.CA



SIGNATURE HABITAT INITIATIVE

MRRRWQSI



Close-up of shrub rows along the reservoir. Local wildlife and southern Albertans all win from the vastly improved landscape provided by this initiative.

The [Habitat Legacy Partnership \(HLP\)](#) project which Pheasants Forever is a partner, works with stakeholders to improve upland game bird habitat in southern Alberta.

The [Milk River Ridge Reservoir Water Quality Stewardship Initiative \(MRRRWQSI\)](#) is a project of the HLP and is a multi-year collaborative initiative with a current focus in the County of Warner.

MRRRWQSI is overseen and managed by a working group consisting of Alberta Conservation Association (ACA), Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (EPA), and the County of Warner, whose actions are guided by terms of reference.

MRRRWQSI consists of nine segments around the Waterton–St. Mary headworks inlet canal and along the shorelands of the Milk River Ridge Reservoir. These segments are predominantly focused on provincial Crown land, known as the **provincial land corridor**, surrounding the reservoir.

The overall goal of this initiative is to improve water quality through the restoration of the vegetation community along shorelands and riparian areas. This restoration translates into the creation of vital wildlife habitat that also filters nutrients and reduces erosion.

Photos provided by ACA.



Pheasant release.

Continued next page...

Approximately \$2.2 million has been raised and invested to date, a **significant portion of which was provided by Pheasants Forever Calgary.**

To date:

- 61 kilometres of fencing has been erected to protect shoreland and riparian habitat
- 25 off-site watering units have been installed in strategic areas surrounding the reservoir to redirect cattle away from fragile riparian zones.
- 48,100 shrubs have been planted
- 566 acres has been seeded to perennial wildlife habitat

- 6.18-acre wetland was developed on the west side of the reservoir, acting as a large filter for nutrients and a magnet for wildlife.
- Parking areas, access points and educational signage has been strategically placed throughout the project area to allow public access and highlight the goals and accomplishments of the initiative.

Pheasants Forever Calgary is proud to have this as one of our signature initiatives.



East Ridge shrubs.



West Ridge habitat.



North Shore shrubs.



Raymond High School shrub plantings.



Picnic area.



Wolf willow shrubs.

Photos provided by ACA.

MARGINAL AREAS PROGRAM

UPDATE FROM DUCKS UNLIMITED CANADA

Update from Graydon Garner, Ducks Unlimited Canada



Graydon (left) presenting landowner Kirk Deeg with a Yeti cooler. The cooler was part of a Facebook promotion for the program.

Enrollment for the Marginal Areas Program (MAP) wrapped for the 2023 growing season with:

- 19 producers enrolled
- 660.9 acres of cropland converted to forages
- 775.8 acres of upland habitat retained under agreements
- 1,436.7 total program acres

We set out this year with a goal of reaching 1500 acres and missed it by the skin of our teeth. Although we fell short of our goal, we had a tough time with losing producers who decided not to seed because of the drought, or seeded and had a failed stand that are going to try again next year. There's not much we can do about the lack of moisture, and I've learned in the ag industry that you need to learn to live with drought because it's a reality.

A nice win for this year was the number of producers enrolled, with the previous year only being at 8. We also saw an expansion in the areas of the province where we delivered ranging from Hairy Hill to Foremost.

Going into the 2024 growing season, I remain hesitant to set very lofty goals. If we get lucky and run into a (much needed) wet spring, I think it will be a bonanza of producers enrolling in the program, as the risk of a forage stand failure will be greatly reduced. We have approximately 800 acres that producers decided not to seed due to drought this year, on top of approximately 400 acres of intended seeding from new producers who have contacted me this winter. A wet spring could bring all of those acres on top of new projects yet to be flushed out and we may crack the 2000 ac mark.

However, most forecasters in their infinite wisdom are calling for another year of drought. As much as we're in a cold snap as I'm writing this, the snowpack is critically low and it's going to take a heck of a lot more snow and a big spring of

Continued next page...

rain to bring soil moisture back up to levels we're used to. If it's very dry in May as it was last year, I'm not sure how many producers are going to take the leap of faith and try to seed forages down. The only saving grace may be the fact that due to drought, record high input costs, and falling grain prices, producers may just say 'enough is enough' of trying to farm marginal acres and enroll in the program regardless of moisture.

Our plan moving forward this year is to expect a drought but hope for rain. I'm already on the offensive with MAP marketing, with plans to promote the program at events on a weekly basis until April. I'm already gaining some traction with irrigated farmers in the south/southeast part of the province, and that's a trend I'm hoping will continue. It's a great program that makes sense to a large percentage of producers, so now it's time to put our farmer hats on and pray for moisture.



Photos by Graydon Garner

What is MAP?

[MAP](#) provides a financial solution to unproductive land within annual cropped fields by seeding perennial forages. Program participants can graze, hay, mow, or leave idle.

Pheasants Forever Canada's investment in MAP helps boost the incentive to producers and expands awareness of the organization and our [Save the Edges](#) campaign.

For information on MAP please contact Graydon Garner at 403 -325-3117 or g_garner@ducks.ca

CHINOOK CHAPTER PROJECT UPDATES

Ross Creek Conservation Site

The Ross Creek Conservation Site was a busy spot last spring as several items were worked on.

Approximately 2100 shrubs were planted around the wetlands and along the ditches connecting the wetlands. The shrubs were a mixture of willows and thorny buffaloberry.

About 20 acres of disturbed land around the wetlands was reseeded using a native grass seed mixture. As this grass matures it will provide nesting cover for upland birds.

The two food plots, totalling 11 acres, were fertilized then planted to hard spring wheat. Timely rains resulted in a very good crop which will provide a lot of food for wildlife this winter.

The shelterbelt, planted in the spring of 2022, had shrubs planted to replace those lost from wildlife depredation and from the winter weather. The shelterbelt was mechanically weeded when required and was watered through July and August.

For map and directions see [Ross Creek at Alberta Discover Guide](#).



A great stop right along the TransCanada Highway 6 km west of Irvine, AB.



CHINOOK CHAPTER BANQUET

Cypress Centre, Medicine Hat

Friday, March 8, 2024, 6:00 PM

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Contact Leonard at 403-580-7635

Join us for a fantastic dinner, silent auction, raffles and great fellowship.

BUY TICKETS ONLINE

<https://pheasantsforeverchinook.ca>

CHINOOK CHAPTER PROJECT UPDATES

Sauder Reservoir Habitat Project

Sauder Reservoir Habitat Project is a 15-acre disturbed lease on the south shore of Sauder Reservoir that is being rehabilitated.

A few years ago, approximately 15,000 shrubs were planted in a multi-row shelterbelt, and to ensure the health of the shrubs it was mechanically weeded in early summer and the shrubs were watered through July and August.

Chinook is contributing \$2,000 to help purchase a transfer pump, drip lines and related pumping equipment.

This spring Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) is planning on improving the shelterbelt by laying new landscape fabric, planting several thousand more shrubs, installing driplines along all rows of the shelterbelt and installing a transfer pump, filter, suction line and discharge line. This will improve the survivability and growth of the shrubs helping to establish the shelterbelt sooner.

For map and directions see [Sauder Reservoir at Alberta Discover Guide](#).



This 109-acre site is approximately 40 km SW of Medicine Hat and consists of grass and shrub habitat, with approximately 4 km of reservoir shoreline.

Remembering Stan Grad

On July 29, 2023, at the age of 78 years, Stan Grad passed away at the Peter Lougheed Hospital due to complications from a lung infection and cardiac arrest. A Calgary native, Stan was well-known in the local business community as an entrepreneur and leader in the energy and ranching sectors. He was the president and CEO of Grad and Walker Energy Corporation, an oil and gas exploration and production company, before it was sold in 1997. As the owner of Soderghen Ranches, Ltd, he ran the largest seedstock cattle operation in Canada, with ranches near Airdrie, Fort McLeod and Cardston.

An avid and committed sportsman who travelled the world, Stan was a great friend to upland birds and to Pheasants Forever. As a volunteer, he chaired the 17th Annual Dinner & Auction in 2010, helping raise \$350,000 in the process. As a donor, among his many contributions, Stan was the lead donor as a Gold Patron in our recent *Call of the Uplands* campaign. A passionate pheasant hunter, Stan hosted eight hunts annually on his Cardston-area ranch, Chief Mountain. He donated one of those prestigious hunts every year to Pheasants Forever, to be sold at the banquet or used to steward major donors and future leaders. And, of course, Stan purchased a table at every Calgary banquet ever held.

Over the years, Stan maintained strong relationships with Pheasants Forever's board members and staff, willingly offering his guidance and advice in the development of policies and programs.

Stan was never shy about using his political influence to help shape provincial policies of importance to upland bird conservation. When the provincial government determined to end Alberta's annual pheasant release program, Stan stepped up. He pulled together a group of like-minded business leaders, re-established Upland Birds Alberta, and led the efforts necessary to ensure that the program would find a new home and sustain into the future.

Beyond his passion for pheasants and pheasant conservation, Stan was well-known as a generous benefactor to several worthy causes, including SAIT and STARS among many others.

A leader, a visionary and a conservationist, Stan Grad will be truly missed.



TALES, TRAILS & TAILS

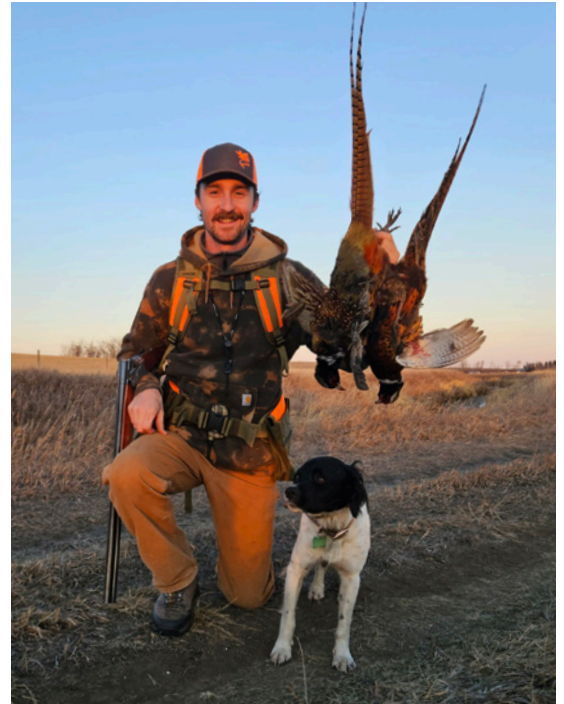
Stories and photos from our members.
Submit yours to Perry at perry@pfcalgary.ca.



It was a banner year for wild roosters in Alberta



(left to right) Perry & Kade McCormick out on an early season pheasant hunt with supporters and old Stampeder's, Tom Forzani and Greg Vavre.



Volunteer extraordinaire Kade McCormick and Bob with a couple long boys.



Volunteer extraordinaire Derek Hallgrimson and Willie with a limit of wild boys.



Howie Colburn with more roosters.



Long time supporters and huntin' pals Tom Forzani (left) and Stampeder President John Hufnagel.

TALES, TRAILS & TAILS

Stories and photos from our members.
Submit yours to Perry at perry@pfcalgary.ca.



Board member Mike Perkins and great supporter John Dick with a full limit of melanistic ringnecks.

Melanistic Ringnecks

Friendship & Pheasants



Directors Mike Mannas (left) and Mike Perkins (center) had a successful hunt with their Pheasants Forever friend (right) from south of the border.

TALES, TRAILS & TAILS

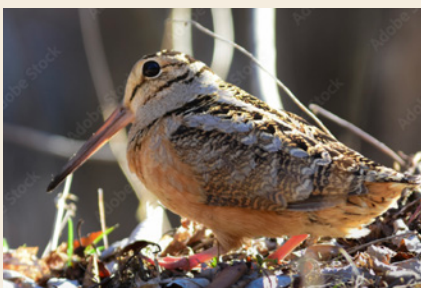
Stories and photos from our members.
Submit yours to Perry at perry@pfcalgary.ca.



Timberdoodle – dandy!

So you think a ringneck can be a tough target? Hands down the most challenging gunning game bird I have had the luxury to pursue is the American woodcock. I thought the bobwhite quail and the common snipe were challenging until I met Mr. Timberdoodle. Maybe not a lot different than a snipe, although they seem to get off the ground much quicker and elevate fast as well.

Mostly, it's where they live. A good buddy of mine once told me that if you are not having your hat get knocked off by a branch every 25 yards you are not in woodcock cover. Thankfully, they stick to ground like few other birds, allowing the dogs to hold them on point until you can get completely set for the flush. If woodcock is not on your bucket list – it should be. If you are near forests anywhere in the eastern half of the continent in late October – you should pack your shotgun.



“Superbly camouflaged against the leaf litter, the brown-mottled American Woodcock walks slowly along the forest floor, probing the soil with its long bill in search of earthworms. Unlike its coastal relatives, this plump little shorebird lives in young forests and shrubby old fields across eastern North America. Its cryptic plumage and low-profile behavior make it hard to find except in the springtime at dawn or dusk, when the males show off for females by giving loud, nasal peent calls and performing dazzling aerial displays.”

Learn more at AllAboutBirds.org

THANK YOU TO OUR PATRONS

Thank you and congratulations to the folks who received their patron plaques at our Holiday Social held at the Ranchmen's Club in early December.



Mel Belich receiving his Patron Award from Perry McCormick.



Perry presenting the Patron Award to Ruben Garcia.



MARCH 1-3
DENNY SANFORD PREMIER CENTER
SIOUX FALLS, SD



Buy 1 Get 1 Admission Tickets
CLICK FOR TICKETS

THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR DONORS



THANK YOU TO OUR FRIENDS of PHEASANTS



We want you to look good! If your logo is not looking right, please email a new **EPS** file to perry@pfcalgary.ca so that we can ensure you look your best on any future recognition.



AGM 2024

Notice of the Annual General Meeting

Calgary Chapter | Pheasants Forever Canada

5:00 pm, March 12, 2024

The Ranchmen's Club, Calgary, AB



IMPORTANT DATES OF 2024

- March 1-3 Pheasant Fest – Sioux Falls, SD
- March 8 Chinook Chapter Banquet - Cypress Centre, Medicine Hat
- March 12 AGM & BOD Meeting – Ranchmen's Club
- **May 8** **29th Annual Dinner & Auction – BMO Centre - Palomino Room**
- June TDB Board of Director's Meeting - TBD
- June 7 Fiera Capital Pheasant Fever – Silver Willow Sporting Clays
- September 5 Auspice Director's Invitational – AHEIA Calgary Firearm Centre
- September 10 Board of Director's Meeting - TBD
- September 14 First Pheasant Mentor Hunt – Spruce Creek Upland Club
- September 28 Youth/Novice Fall Shoot and Provincial Hunting Day – AHEIA Calgary Firearms Centre
- December 3 Board of Director's Meeting – The Ranchmen's Club



PHEASANTS FOREVER CALGARY

P.O. Box 5021, Station "A"

Calgary, AB T2H 1X1

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