



The Southwestern Nebraska Pheasants Forever Chapter held its 19th annual fund-raising banquet Saturday at Enders Lake Golf Course. Drew Larsen, Regional Nebraska Pheasants Forever Biologist from North Platte, was the emcee for the evening's activities. Approximately 145 people attended.

Several people in attendance at the banquet were able to go home with some nice prizes.

Each year the chapter awards two sponsors. This year's sponsor sculpture award went to Weiss Farms and the sponsor print of the year went to Coyote Arms—Jeff Steinke. Joe Weiss was awarded the banquet committee member award, as well.

The annual dinner gun winner of the Stevens 12 gauge over and under shotgun was Tom Hayes of Imperial. The Feznt Bingo winner and the Mad Hatter's winners each chose a Browning Lever action 22 and those winners were Pat Davison and Annie Longan, respectively.

Winners of other games during the evening included Lori Sis, Beef Raffle winner; Brad Spady, Pheasant Board game winner; and Tanner Bardsley, Rooster Royal Flush winner.

The amount raised at the banquet for habitat will be announced in the coming weeks.

The chapter also focuses many of its efforts on youth education. Since 2000, the chapter has conducted eight youth mentor hunts for a total of 144 kids in the Chase County area.

These hunts are free of cost for the youths attending and they get the opportunity to hunt pheasants in a controlled and safe environment.

Parker Dillan of Lamar won a Youth Lifetime Hunt Permit from the chapter. Kale Gockley won a youth shotgun and generously donated it back to the chapter.

Nebraska boasts 60 PF chapters and 3 QF chapters accounting for 11,000 of the organization's 120,000 members. For the past several years in a row, chapters have spent over \$2 million each year in the state on habitat projects and youth conservation education. Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever are non-profit conservation organizations dedicated to the protection and enhancement of pheasant, quail, and other wildlife populations in North America through habitat improvement, land management, public awareness, and education. PF/QF has more than 120,000 members in 700 local chapters across the continent.