

Education & Outreach Monthly Report

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No Child Left Indoors®

Youth Program Management (Rich Wissink)

September was all about recruiting and/or hiring new team members:

- The Wisconsin Outreach Coordinator position was announced and closed. We have several qualified candidates and will be doing interviews the end of October. In addition, we received an additional grant from the Wisconsin DNR for this position to launch a pilot "Spirit of the Hunt" mentoring program. Thanks to **Doug Fendry** for his help recruiting some great candidates through his network in Wisconsin.
- The Iowa Outreach Coordinator is announced and closes on October 13. We have big shoes to fill in this position but working with staff and partners to recruit the best qualified candidates. Interviews for this position will also be completed at the end of October. **Brice Morris** is helping with the recruitment and interview process. Thanks Brice for your help!
- I've also been working with **Cheryl Riley** and **David Bue** to recruit, interview and hire a Youth Fundraising Manager. It has been great working with both of them during this process. We've had discussions with well qualified candidates that have made the decision much tougher than anticipated. This position will have the potential to build existing relationships and create new opportunities for Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever.

Finally, through all the recruitment and hiring processes this month, I'd like to thank **Joy Eastman** and **Sarah Piotraschke** for making the process easy for me and the candidates. Thanks ladies!

Habitat Education (Drew Larsen)

- I assisted with a MDRT Grant Application that was submitted this month. I want to thank **Duayne Madl, Jordan Martincich and Matt Holland** for all their help writing and submitting the grant application. If funded, we will be able to support a number of youth pollinator habitat projects in Kansas and Missouri.
- I presented at the Upper Loup Conservation Day in Thedford, NE. Approximately 70 youth were in attendance for this event where I conducted our pollinator educational activities.
- I attended the South Team Regional Meeting this month and moderated a session on creating new educational activities for our pollinator program. I want to thank **Steve Riley, Marc Glades, Elsa Gallagher and Kelsi Wehrman** for providing me a spot on the agenda. I also want to thank all the participants for their great ideas. Be looking for many of them to show up on our Habitat Education Blog.
- Updated our Habitat Education Facebook page, twitter account and Habitat Education Blog. You can now find new educational activities and power point presentations that can be conducted at youth events across the country. For all habitat education updates, please like and follow us at the following:
 - Blog - <http://pfqfhabitated.blogspot.com/>
 - twitter - @habitated
 - facebook page - PF/QF Habitat Education

FOREVER Shooting Sports (John Linquist)

- Where did September go? The fall shooting season is just starting so I have been flooded with ammo grant requests and Adopt A Team orders. Youth Shooting Sports has now out grown all other organized sports in schools. We are excited about connecting all these student athletes with local chapters and PF/QF.
- We have added a few more Young Gun chapters in Illinois. These chapters commit to hosting a minimum of 4 Youth Shooting events annually and get more kids outdoors enjoying nature. We encourage the chapters to sign up each youth as a new member and hopefully they attend the

local banquet and join the committee.

- We are also working on our PF/QF Shooting Sports Endowment. Currently we are at \$1.2 million towards our \$1.5 million goal. We have some fun programs coming up soon to raise some more dollars. I think everyone will enjoy the next program which includes setting a World Record!! Stay tuned!

Magazines

Mark Herwig

I'll be representing *Quail Forever Journal* at the Southeast Outdoor Press Association convention in North Carolina in early October. It is important for the southeast outdoor press to know QF is a player in the quail conservation scene. I'll also be recruiting some new writers and photographers for the magazine. I'll be visiting PF and QF chapters this fall and winter in Minnesota, Iowa, Wyoming, Florida and Georgia to do features on their volunteers, partners and conservation efforts. This week, we're wrapping up the QF Fall issue (mails Oct. 7) and then start on PF Winter issue, which mails Nov. 4. Thanks to QF field staff for the new habitat series they've been writing for each issue.

Regional News

Kansas (Brian Schaffer)

- September 15-18, I attended the South Region Team Meeting at Milford Lake, KS. As always, spending a few days with PF/QF team members is a great way to recharge your batteries and have a few good laughs.
- I was fortunate to visit with the Boy Scouts of America in Topeka to discuss opportunities to get PF/QF involved at their facilities. Their camps can expose our programs multiple times a summer and provide long-term structure for our habitat education programs. I look forward to moving forward with this partnership.
- A highlight of the month of September was attending the Black Gold PF chapter's first ever youth fishing event. This chapter continues to practice what they preach in regards to expanding outdoor opportunities for youth and their families. By the end of the day, over 200 kids and their families spent time together outdoors!



Michigan (Mary Brunken)

- September was an exciting month in Michigan. Our second annual Great Outdoors Youth Jamboree held at the Lake Hudson Recreational Area on September 7 was a huge success. We had nearly 1,600 people in attendance to enjoy the outdoors and to help us celebrate Grandparents Day! That nearly doubled the attendance from last year's Jamboree! I want to thank everyone involved, but especially the hard-working volunteers, MDNR, MPRI, the 50+ Vendor Companies in attendance, and the 9 PF Chapters, along with the Michigan State Council, who donated their time and money to help make this year's Jamboree a smashing success! Thank you all VERY much, we couldn't have done it without you!
- Another exciting event to happen this month was our NCLI Shooting Trailer being showcased at the Brain Injury Association of Michigan's Annual Conference at the Lansing Center! With 146 exhibitors and 1,400 attendees over two days, our NCLI initiative was highlighted and discussed with a new audience. This was a great way to share our story, and to educate a whole new group of people!
- Finally, I was lucky enough to be invited and involved in the Isabella County PF banquet at the Sacred Heart Hall in Mt. Pleasant last weekend. I wanted to highlight their new "kid-friendly" banquet, and thank them for focusing their time and attention towards the youth in their area during their banquet! Talk about a fantastic example to set for the rest of this year's banquet season; thank you Isabella County PF

Administrative

Cheryl Riley

- Chapters are gearing up for youth mentor hunts and other outdoor events. If you are working with a chapter on any youth event, please remind them to turn in an NCLI Event Report Form right after the event. These are so important for recording what we are doing, how many kids participate and seeking future funding.
- I always enjoy New Employee Orientation and a chance to meet our new hires. Welcome **Andy Edwards** to full-time and **Eric Systma** to the Iowa regional rep position. We are glad to have you as part of the team and expect great things.
- Enjoy fall PF and QF magazines – I think both are excellent and kudos to **Mark, Todd and Sara**.
- We are getting close to hiring our new Youth Fundraising Manager. Thanks to **Rich Wissink** and **David Bue** for their help interviewing and considering which candidate is best for this important new position. It is truly a tough decision.