



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact
Jen Johnston
605-995-4476
Marketing Coordinator

Pheasants Forever Chapter Flying High

Local group wins awards after spectacular 2014

MITCHELL, SD (Thursday January 29, 2015) The Pheasant Country Pheasants Forever chapter of Mitchell is flying high going into their 30th year, after their hard work achieved spectacular results in 2014. The chapter earned two significant awards in January; the 2014 Mitchell Convention and Visitors Bureau Tourism Excellence Award and Chapter President, Dave Allen, received the ‘Workaholic’ award during the Pheasants Forever State Convention in Brookings, SD. This annual award is given to one individual for their untold hours, countless tasks and unselfish volunteer efforts.

“I was honored to receive this award out of all of the great chapter leaders across the state,” said Allen.

“Volunteering is easy to do when it is something you truly believe in.”

Believing in pheasants is exactly what area business owners believed in when they started the chapter 30 years ago. Their goal was to increase the pheasant population in order to keep hunters coming to the Mitchell area and the

goal has remained the same today. Each year their committee made up of over 25 volunteers and 12 board members, raise thousands of dollars to help with habitat, hunting, and youth programs by holding an annual banquet at the World’s Only Corn Palace, the evening before Opening Day of Pheasant Season.

In 2014, the chapter completed a \$25,000 picnic shelter project at Lake Mitchell as part of the ‘No Child Left Indoors’ initiative through Pheasants Forever nationally; and as a thank you to our community for supporting the organization over the past 29 years. The shelter,



Allen (center), accepts the “Workaholic” Award on Saturday January 24th from Mike Stephenson, SD Regional Representative (left) and Howard Vincent, President & CEO of Pheasants Forever.

located just to the east of the Sportsman's Club, is open to the public and encourages families to take advantage of the outdoors.

Additionally, the chapter expects to remain at the top spot, for the third year in a row, as the largest membership chapter in all of the US and Canada. This year over 650 people packed into the Corn Palace for their annual banquet on Friday October 17th. The sold out crowd brought in non-resident hunters from over 30 different states.

Lastly, their leadership and dedication to our community was summed up in the NBC Sports premiere of "Opening Day". The hour long show premiered on Wednesday, November 21st and showcased pheasant hunting season in South Dakota, primarily in and around Mitchell. The show was narrated by South Dakota's own, Tom Brokaw, and their chapter president, Dave Allen, was the ring-leader in bringing this national show to Mitchell.

This group has inspired and educated countless other service clubs and community organizations in Mitchell, and are considered one of the largest and most influential non-profit organizations within our community. With their strong committee and leadership team, they plan to continue doing bigger and better things for pheasant habitat, hunting, and our youth during their 30th year in 2015.

The chapter has reported a new board member was chosen during the annual board meeting on Tuesday January 27th. Jen Johnston will join Dave Allen, Chapter President, Mike Anderson, Doug Backlund, John Bennett, Marc Bernard, Al Hyatt, Mike Kuchera, Wade Musick, Scott Phillips, Mike Thompson, and Brad Zimmerman in 2015.