

**Lagrange Chapter #592  
Pheasants Forever**

- Was formed 10 years ago to enhance wildlife habitat and increase pheasant population
- Applied for and received two 319 non point source grants for habitat development to prevent sedimentation
- 75% Cost Share for:
  - Warm Season Grass Plantings
  - Tree Plantings
  - Wetland Construction
- During 2006 Pheasants Forever planted:
  - 111.3 acres of warm & cool season grasses
  - 10.9 acres of trees
- Total acres planted in the last six years:
  - 625.3 acres of grass
  - 25.9 acres of trees
  - 5 wetland constructed

Pheasants Forever is a national non-profit conservation organization founded in 1982 in response to the continuing decline of the ring-necked pheasant population.

Pheasants Forever is dedicated to the protection and enhancement of pheasant and other upland wildlife populations through habitat improvement, public awareness and education, and land management that benefits farmers and wildlife alike.



Pheasants Forever Board Members taking a moment to pose for the camera at the 2006 Banquet.

“This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement #C9975482-05 to the Department of Environmental Management. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

*For more information contact:*

David Arrington, Chapter President  
(260)463-8890 darrington@hughes.net  
Or  
Mike Holcomb, Habitat Coordinator  
(260)367-2363 prlabradores@hotmail.com

# Wetland Construction for Wildlife Management



**Pheasants Forever  
Lagrange Chapter #592**

**What are Wetlands?** -All wetlands must share three basic characteristics:

- There must be water present at or near the surface of the ground for a portion of the year.
- There must be plants adapted to wet conditions.
- There must be soil types that develop from wet conditions (hydric soils).

**Wetland Functions & Values** - Wetlands provide a variety of values & functions directly and indirectly benefiting people. Wetlands:

- Provide recreational opportunities, boating, hunting & fishing
- Act as natural control areas
- Filter chemicals, excess nutrients & sediments
- Provide habitat for Wildlife

**Wetland Types** - Three types of freshwater wetlands are:

- Riverine: bordering rivers and streams
- Lacustrine: found on lakes and reservoirs
- Palustrine: on shallow bodies of water, such as marshes or bogs

**Wetland Plants** include for general types:

- Aquatic bed: plants grow under water and root in the bottom
- Emergent: plants grow out of the water and include grasses, sedges, and other non woody plants
- Shrub-shrub: woody plants less than 20' tall
- Forests: woody plants 20' tall or more

**Wetland Design** - should include the following steps:

- **Water**—including amount of water present and ways to control water levels
- **Size**—the greater area of wetland present, the more diverse the wildlife community
- **Shape**—irregular shapes promote diversity
- **Slope**—amount of blank slope surrounding the wetland helps determine wetness of the area and the plants which are present
- **Depth**—controls plant types present and helps determine water level fluctuation
- **Plant Life Forms**—Feeding sites, resting areas and breeding areas more often depend upon the form of vegetation found than the plant species
- **Dominant Plants**—Wetland character is defined by the dominant plants present
- **Interspersion**—degree of mixing plant types and open water makes one wetland more visually appealing than another
- **Surrounding Landscape**—Consider the upland area, along with what is outside the wetland site
- **Water Quality**—has considerable impact upon the general character of the wetland. PH, fertility, turbidity, temperature, pollutants and toxins play an important role in the health of the wetland

**General Management and Maintenance**—Wetlands do not exist

in isolation. Activities on adjacent lands can influence the wetland. Activities outside the wetland could include:

- **Buffers**—to filter nutrients, sediments & toxins
- **Mowing**—wait until late summer or fall to allow nesting birds to leave before you mow
- **Burning**—is a recognized and valuable management tool, but should not be attempted alone
- **Plantings**—Choose species carefully, making sure exotic and non-native species do not become pests
- **Fencing**—perimeter fences may be needed to keep livestock from entering the wetland