

Leifker Wildlife Area

2015 Land Acquisition Success

DubuqueLand Pheasants Forever is pleased to report that success has been achieved in acquiring land for habitat construction. This has been an ongoing goal of your local organization and has for years been the driving force behind each year's banquet. We enjoyed some success years ago with Whitewater Canyon and Ringneck Ridge but in later years faced the high price of land in Dubuque County. After numerous failed bids on Dubuque County land, our solution was to look outside Dubuque County where land for sale was within easy driving distance from the Dubuque area, more affordable and where we could potentially partner with other Pheasants Forever chapters.

By changing our strategy we have been able to purchase Jones County land in conjunction with our investment partners, Dubuque County Conservation Society, Twin Rivers Pheasants Forever and a grant from the Iowa Parks to People program.

The Leifker Wildlife Area is approximately 96 acres, is located six miles south of Cascade on Hwy 136, right before the Maquoketa River on the right side of the road, and bordered



to the West by land acquired by the Jones County Conservation Board and the Iowa Heritage Foundation. Most of the acres were planted in crops which will be converted to native grasses, buffer strips and shrubs to stop the continuing erosion along the river bank. According to Dubuque County Conservation Society this will now provide 12 continuous miles of protected river banks where erosion is reduced significantly.

Numerous people were involved with this acquisition but we particularly want to thank Matt McQuillen of Anamosa who is a committee member of Twin Rivers Pheasants Forever for his tireless work on this project.

We also thank each of you who support DubuqueLand Pheasants Forever through your membership and attendance at the annual banquet. It is those dollars that make the land acquisition success possible. We continue to look for other opportunities as well. By continuing to acquire acres in upper Eastern Iowa we will provide habitat to support more pheasants close to us.