**Pollinator Post Release (Include High-Resolution Photo for Local Media)**

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**Local Volunteers Deliver “Youth Pollinator Habitat Program” at Walled Lake Elementary Schools**

**Walled Lake, Mich. – May 24, 2016 –** In an effort to support outdoor education and diverse wildlife habitat for the future of pollinators and upland gamebirds, the Oakland County Chapter of Pheasants Forever has partnered with local elementary students to deliver the organization’s signature “Youth Pollinator Habitat Program” at Glengary and Mary Helen Guest Elementary Schools. Pheasants Forever and more than 30 elementary students gathered on May 27th to plant a native prairie while learning about pollinators, plants, and prairie ecosystems.

The program’s objectives are to increase awareness about declining grassland wildlife populations (including pheasants, quail, and pollinating insects), educate the general public on the importance of pollinator habitat, and establish quality pollinator habitat throughout the country. Local Pheasants Forever chapters and their partners are working with communities to create habitat projects that involve youth, school, and community groups.

“This is yet another way that Pheasants Forever helps influence the conservation leaders of the future beyond banquets and designated youth events,” stated Fred Dore, youth director for the Oakland County Chapter of Pheasants Forever and volunteer for the joint pollinator project. “This pollinator plot is helping to restore critical habitat for monarch butterflies, honey bees, and grassland songbirds, while serving as an outdoor classroom for future Walled Lake elementary students – a win-win situation for everyone involved.”

Approximately one-third of all food consumed by humans is delivered by pollinators; including fruits, vegetables, nuts and coffee. Habitat necessary for rapidly declining populations of honey bees and monarch butterflies is also the very same diverse grassland and prairie flower habitat necessary for pheasants, quail, and a host of other wildlife species. Likewise, the insects produced in this habitat are the primary food source for pheasant/quail chicks during their first months of life.

Pheasants Forever’s Youth Habitat Pollinator Program is made possible by funding support from DuPont Pioneer, Monarch Joint Venture, Cabela’s Outdoor Fund, Bayer Bee Care, and the organization’s local volunteer chapters.