



Alberta Fish & Game Association

News from ALBERTA

HUNTING DAY

THE 88TH ANNUAL AFGA CONFERENCE

will be held February 23-25, 2017 at the Four Points Sheraton Edmonton South.

Plans are well under way to inform, educate, and entertain so get ready to register and book a room or two! Registration packages have already gone out and are available on the website by PDF.

DON'T FORGET to register before the early bird date, December 15th, this will save you some big bucks, so send in your completed registration as soon as possible, or you can also do it on-line at www.afga.org/store.html See you there!



Inside:

- 2** President's Report
- 3** Executive Vice-President's Report
- 4** 1st Vice-President's Report
- 6** 2nd Vice-President's Report
- 6-8** Fishing Chair Report
- 8-9** Hunting Chair Report
- 9** Environment Chair Report
- 10** Zone 1 & 4 Report
- 11** Zone 2 Report
- 12** Club Eventss
- 13** Zone 5 Report
- 15** Nevis Property Fencing

MOVING?

Please send your change of address to :
6924 - 104 Street, Edmonton,
AB T6H 2L7

Ph: (780) 437-2342;
Fax: (780) 438-6872
Email: membership1@afga.org

*Please note that \$6.30 of your annual membership dues are allocated to Outdoor Canada West Magazine



Alberta Fish & Game Association

President's Report

WAYNE LOWRY
PRESIDENT



WELL SUMMER SEEMED to come and go as quick as ever and I think that it will be referred to as the soggy summer of 2016. Rain, rain, and more rain seemed to be the message from the summer months however I do hope that between dodging the weather that everyone had an opportunity to get out in nature and have a chance to enjoy some fishing, camping, hiking and other outdoor activities. I have to admit that I did not get out to do much fishing over the summer months but we did get out for a bit of camping. We did have the opportunity to get out to the west coast for some salmon fishing with our immediate past president and family. It was a great week that we had out there and enjoyed the coast and the amenities that come with it. Thanks Gord!!

Outside of that, the summer seemed to be way busier than normal with several items that needed AFGA's attention. May and June were busy with meetings regarding public land use within the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan. These discussions will continue on into the fall with draft recommendations due by the end of the year. The AFGA response with regards to the Draft Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan was due in by the middle of July. Early to mid-August was met with the impact of the bear spearing incident and all of the fall out that resulted from that. Around the same time, the government announced that they found whirling disease in fish from Johnson Lake in Banff National Park, which raised concerns over all connected water bodies within the Bow River water-

IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR THAT ALL OF THE PLANNING THAT HAS BEEN MADE COMES TOGETHER AND WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET OUT AND ENJOY NATURE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND DO A LITTLE HUNTING.

shed. Then close to the end of August, conveniently just before hunting seasons are to open, we learn of several trails within the Whaleback that are being closed for the balance of 2016 over concerns of the that ATV's are having within that area. This decision seemed to be made by the government in conjunction with the Alberta Wilderness Association as both had press releases sent out at virtually the same time it was announced. It is easy to see de-

isions of Alberta Environment and Parks are being based solely on the input and desires of the environmental protectionist organizations of which there are many. Add on to this the addition of Bison to the back country of Banff National Park that is scheduled to take place before years end regardless of the concerns that AFGA has identified and it all adds up to a very busy summer for the AFGA executive. Also, every August the AFGA has executive meetings that are held on the third weekend. At that meeting, in addition to managing the ongoing business needs of AFGA, we also have a report from our representative on the board of directors of ACA who is our past president Randy Collins. AFGA continues to partner with the ACA on many ongoing initiatives and new opportunities as they arise.

This all brings us to the fall, a time where many of us will be able to put concerns behind us and get out into nature and enjoy some hunting. It is that time of year that all of the planning that has been made comes together and we have the opportunity to get out and enjoy nature with family and friends and do a little hunting. I hope that all you hunters have been able to get some draws or take advantage of some of the general license opportunities that exist in order to get out and spend some time in the field. Excellent hunting opportunities are certainly available for an abundance of species. The fall is also a time for thinking about and preparing resolutions for the 2017 AFGA Conference and AGM which will be held in Edmonton on February where we are able to hear about concerns that are out there and suggestions of how to improve upon policies and regulations that are in place now.

I continue to welcome your feedback on these or any other topics of importance to you and I can be reached via e-mail at rwlowry7@gmail.com or visit our website at afga.org.

Wayne Lowry
President



Alberta Fish & Game Association

Executive Vice-President's Report

MARTIN SHARREN

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

Resolutions

One of the main reasons for the existence of the Association is to act as the voice of the organized outdoors people of this province and make their wishes, with respect to fish and wildlife management, known to government.

Our main vehicle for doing this is through the resolutions that originate from the members of our clubs and proceed through the Zones, to the Alberta Fish and Game Executive, to the annual conference, and hence to the government body concerned. The formulation, handling and presentation of resolutions are a very important part of our activities.

Resolutions are a key to providing grass roots participation by the membership of the Association in the affairs and direction of the Association and are a formal statement by members that must be considered. In

order for a resolution to be effective, it must be clear, concise and factual.

Please forward them to the office just as soon as they have passed through your Zone.

Provincial Service Awards

Deadlines are quickly approaching—November 30th to be exact—so think about some of the people, Club projects, or youth groups you may have encountered that have contributed in a major, positive way to the well being of Alberta's fish, wildlife, and habitat through conservation activities and nominate them for an award. All awards, and what they are for, are listed on AFGA's website www.afga.org. Nominations do not have to be lengthy theses but rather short and to the point and if we need further information we'll contact you. It is important that we recognize those that are doing their utmost to keep hunting, fishing, and habitat in the conversation.

Antelope Corridor Enhancement (ACE)

2016 marks the ninth year that your AFGA has been leading this project with great assistance from the Alberta

Conservation Association by way of grants and human resources. Migratory corridors are important in ensuring pronghorn remain at sustainable populations. Fences in particular create great difficulties for pronghorn, as they are unwilling to jump over them. Traditional barbed wire fences' lower strands are generally very low so that crawling under often results in serious scrapes that can significantly impact the antelope's health. Page wire fencing is also present, which does not allow any passage of pronghorn. Therefore ACE's objectives involve removal of barriers to minimize impediments on migration corridors for antelope, increase public awareness of antelope and effects of man-made barriers, illustrate the efficacy of on-the ground projects based on scientific research, and enhance hunters' image as proactive conservationists.

Actions to achieve these objectives include wildlife surveys to ensure compliance with provincial non-disturbance regulations, recruitment of volunteers for fence manipulation, removal of lower barbed wire strands and installation of new barbless strands where present or removal of entire sections of page wire and replacement of upper 3 strands with barbed wire and bottom strand with smooth wire.

AFGA thanks the generous support of the Alberta Conservation Association and the Minister's Special Licence program for the past 8 years. 🦋





Alberta Fish & Game Association

1ST Vice-President's Report

DOUG BUTLER

1ST VICE-PRESIDENT

IT'S MID-FALL now and I really hope we're all having a great season. My deadline for this is early September so I haven't really started yet, but early reports look good. Migratory bird hunting is in full swing and bird numbers are good. The early season archers are doing well, especially on mule deer and elk, many good trophies taken already. (See photo.)

We had executive meetings in August with many topics on the agenda. Our government replied to our 2016 resolutions, but I'd have to say not in a very acceptable way. I'm not sure if they take anybody seriously and they sure aren't making much headway on previously promised topics (such as sandhill crane seasons, wild turkey management plans, etc.)

We also have an (AFGA organized) underutilized fisheries meeting in St. Paul planned for next week (early September) and I only hope our government people attend and



really listen. Ian and Darryl's articles should fill you in on these topics.

It was a great summer on many AFGA fronts as we moved many youth through a variety of projects and activities, from week-long conservation camps to day outings such as conservation property clean-ups, bird house building, tree planting, hunter education courses and we also had many ladies events such as our BOW camps and a ladies league that seems to be ready to move through many clubs.

December looks to be a busy month (as usual) with our annual "Hunt" meeting with Fish & Wildlife staff, plus our regular executive meeting. The Alberta E&P staff also have an "Allocation" meeting in early December planned. This is a sub-committee from the AG-

PAC (Alberta Game Policy Advisory Committee). This is way overdue and has to do with the allocation of Big Game that is split between residents, non-residents, landowners, and also takes disease, predators and First Nations harvest all into consideration. It's further divided among these groups as to archery, general, special license, out-fitter allocation, hunter hosts and a long list within all these. The AGPAC itself is also scheduled to meet in December.

Our biggest concern here is that the Resident Albertan gets their fair piece of the pie, and that all is shared with a level playing field. The biggest problem is that sometimes all involved don't agree to what a level playing field is, and a certain level of greed sometimes surfaces. We'll do our best to be heard at the table, and represent you fairly.

Still no further word on the HAAP committee resuming (This is a federal committee - Hunter, Angler Advisory Panel) but we will be present at the fall meeting of the CWF (Canadian Wildlife Federation) and hopefully get updated on the status of the Wildlife Summit planned for next fall in K-Country right here in Alberta.

Most of you know we plan to re-locate our head office and with any luck some progress has been made by now.

It's also never too early to start planning your attendance at our 2017 annual conference and AGM coming in February in Edmonton.

We hear lots of suggestions and ideas from our membership (some not overly positive) so here's your chance to get heard. Even better, you can always get more involved in your club, your zone or even run for a provincial executive position.

Hopefully I will have reports on all the December sessions in our next report, so until then.

Tight Lines and Straight Shooting...

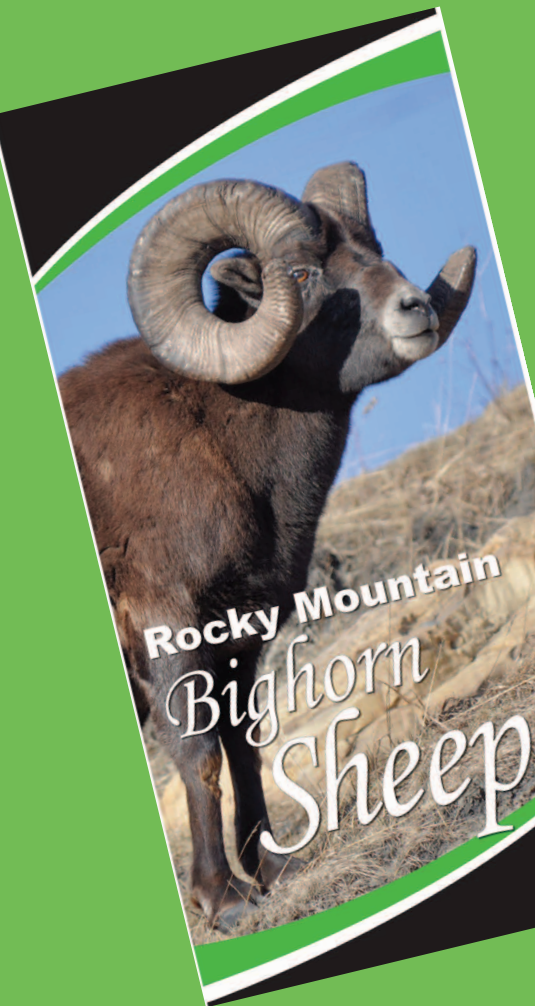
Doug Butler

dougbutler@live.com

780-895-7799



MINISTER'S SPECIAL LICENCE NEW RAFFLE COMING SOON!



**ALBERTA FISH AND
GAME ASSOCIATION**

... conserving wildlife since 1908.

www.afga.org



Alberta Fish & Game Association

2ND Vice-President's Report

BRIAN DINGREVILLE
2ND VICE PRESIDENT

HAVING JUST RETURNED from the AFGA executive meeting held at Narrow lake in August, and seeing how green it is throughout the area as I drove home I remember saying how dry it was in a previous issue and we sure could use the moisture, wow, my bad! Don't think we have had more than a couple of days without rain since.

Over the summer I and a number of AFGA executive were invited to a meeting held in Edmonton which was hosted by E&P. Many topics of concern were discussed which we hope will bring change over the coming months.

As I mentioned I attended our Executive meeting held at Narrow Lake this past August. Most of the executive as well as all zones directors were in attendance, as well Randy Collins, past president and AFGA representative for ACA. Randy gave us a report on the activities the ACA has been involved with over this past year. All zone directors gave us a report on clubs in their zones which they have been involved with as well as the up and coming zone meetings..

I will be attending the Zone 3 meeting on October 16th, Zone 1 meeting on October 22nd at the Lethbridge Fish & Game hut as well as Zone 2 meeting on October 22nd at Cabela's in Calgary.

I have been invited to be part of the working group for the development of the castle management plan. The first meeting will be August 31st in Pincher Creek. I do look forward to being part of this group and I will keep everyone posted on things as they progress over the coming months.

This past summer we had our annual trail ride with 16 in attendance. I would like to give a huge thank you to Dennis Schatz and Bruce and Brett Bates for all the help in taking in and hauling out everyone's camping gear. Couple of the ladies, Sharon & Sherry cooked up two incredible meals which they prepared and brought in for everyone to enjoy, thank you Girls! We had a wonderful time. We did have one day of wet weather but all in all it turned out to be another huge success! I speak for myself but I am sure everyone is of the same opinion, can't wait for next year! (See photos.)

Happy Trails all!
Brian Dingreville
2nd Vice AFGA
403-315-5887
brianad@shaw.ca



Fishing Chair Report

DARRYL SMITH
FISHING CHAIR



CALL FOR CHANGE

ON A WEEKDAY night in a rural setting south of St. Paul Alberta more than three hundred anglers crowded into a country hall. Organized by Ray Mackowecki in conjunction with municipal leaders, AFGA clubs, Zone 5 and community organizations the public meeting was designed to give anglers a voice without the constraints that are often found in government forums. The meeting was well facilitated by Ray Danyluk, a former MLA and Minister with past governments in Alberta. Anglers clearly showed their passion but were respectful and controlled as they addressed and listened to key issues of concern. To the government's credit, Dave Park, Section Head for Fisheries Management Policy Branch and several other managers and biologists with the Operations Branch were in attendance. Reeves, mayors and sitting opposition members from the legislative assembly from the region were in attendance. Todd Loewen, the official opposition critic for Environment and Parks from the Wild Rose Party travelled from his home near

Valleyview to be in attendance despite the need to be home by five am a six and half hour drive. I left at 10:30pm and he was still present talking with anglers.

Anglers came to express their opinions related to the direction of fishery management in Alberta. There was a unified voice that the angling community believes that change is required. The question that is unanswered is will the Government of Alberta listen?

Since assuming the role of Fish Chair, it was very clear that a common theme expressed by AFGA members was the need for a change in direction and philosophy related to fishery management. It was rewarding to see the same sentiment expressed in a public venue by the broader angling constituency. This is confirmation that there is a great deal of commonality as the same concerns are brought up repeatable in private and online conversations with anglers across Alberta. My feeling is that similar public forums repeated across Alberta would have identified the same issues. Volunteers like Ray Mackowecki are hard to find as they devote much of their personal time to lobby for change that the angling community collectively desires. Our hats go off to you!

While the organizers of the meeting will be putting together a report, developing recommendations and likely establishing a committee my impression was the following.

- One fish limits for walleye and pike are acceptable
- There needs to be a move to harvest smaller fish and protect the spawning population
- Many more lake need to be opened up for harvest to distribute angling pressure
- The use of lethal methods (gill nets) for monitoring fish populations is not supported
- Tag based harvest regulations are not viewed positively
- Walleye populations exceed historical norms across the region and are negatively impacting forage, perch and pike populations
- Cormorant populations are negatively impacting some fisheries and they need to be managed
- Fishery habitat enhancement and protection needs to be much more

proactive including the use of weirs to maintain lake levels and programs to reduce nutrient loading

- Fishery managers are not listening to anglers or community leaders
- How to manage very small lakes with limited harvest potential requires innovative options

It was interesting to see that two thirds of those in attendance purchase a

WHERE DOES THE ALBERTA FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION STAND? FRANKLY, WE HAVE SEEN LITTLE INDICATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA EVEN RECOGNIZES THERE IS AN ISSUE.

Saskatchewan Sportfishing Licence for \$60. Business and community leaders were quick to note the loss to Alberta's economy as a result. This lost opportunity will continue unless there is a more comprehensive approach to fishery management in Alberta.

Where does the Alberta Fish and Game Association stand? Frankly, we have seen little indication that the Government of Alberta even recognizes there is an issue. The future appears to be more angling closures or moving to catch and release regulations only. Hatcheries will be limited to stocking primarily rainbow trout across Alberta in pothole lakes. While cumulative impact on the environment is recognized as a contributing factor, no comprehensive approach to deal with them is imminent.

In my last article I discussed the need for a second opinion on the direction of fishery management in Alberta. The AFGA Executive meeting at Narrow Lake on August 20, 2016 resulted in a letter from our President Wayne Lowry, addressed to the Premier of Alberta, Rachel Notley and copied to all members of the legislature asking for such an independent review. The points that were noted that needed to be addressed are as follows:

1. Are the benchmarks, measures and definitions used to classify the status

of fish populations in Alberta standardized with other jurisdiction in North America?

2. Has Alberta put into place an effective aquatic habitat management and enhancement program?
3. Should the priority for management be focused on allocation and monitoring?
4. Does Alberta's reliance on modeling achieve better outcomes, cost effectiveness and actual change on the ground?
5. Are there more effective regulatory methods for creating harvest opportunity while meeting conservation objectives than those adopted in Alberta?
6. Does Alberta optimize and use all fishery management tools available?
7. Does Alberta develop fish management objectives that go beyond angling regulations that lead to enhancement efforts and habitat protection?
8. Is the limited use of the Alberta fish hatchery system justified?
9. Is the organizational and governance structure of fishery management meetings it stakeholder obligations in relation to consultation and communication?
10. Does the Alberta fishery management system achieve the necessary balance and benefits from a societal, economic and environmental perspective?

At the time of writing this column no response or acknowledgement has been received from the Government of Alberta. What I heard though at the public meeting near St Paul though very much echoes that Albertans need to know the answers to the above questions.

The discovery of Whirling Disease in Johnson Lake in Banff National Park has serious implications. This was the first reported case of the disease in Canada though it has been widespread in the United States since the 1950s. In coming articles will discuss the disease in more depth as further information becomes available. As Johnson Lake is in the Bow River watershed what the future impact may be is cause for concern for this blue ribbon fishery. Go to our website at where we will post information related to the disease as it becomes available. The AFGA has been involved in the discus- ▶



Hunting Chair Report

IAN STUART
HUNTING COMMITTEE CHAIR



sions and issued the following on September 4, 2016 in support of Alberta Environment and Parks actions to that point:

*The Alberta Fish and Game Association is concerned about the long term impacts and threats related to the discovery of **whirling disease** in Alberta. Our native, introduced and stocked trout, whitefish and arctic grayling fisheries are important from an economic, recreational and biodiversity standpoint to Albertans. Education of the public aimed at understanding the etiology, reporting possible outbreaks and practices to prevent the spread of the causative organism, *myxobolus cerebralis* is the logical starting point. The organism's complex life cycle involving several hosts, that the spores can persist in the environment, the mortality rate of up to 90% in wild trout populations and experience gained from other jurisdictions requires additional actions. Confirming whether this is an isolated outbreak confined to Johnson Lake in Banff National Park or more widespread is necessary to establish the baseline for future surveillance efforts across the province. Preventing the movement of fish from hatcheries and fish culture facilities is prudent. This should include provincial, aquaculture, aquarium and those used for academic research in the province until they can be confirmed to be free of the disease before resuming normal operations. Ongoing stakeholder involvement in strategy development is critical along with improved communication as Alberta joins jurisdictions already managing the persistent impact of the disease. The Alberta Fish and Game Association supports the current efforts of Alberta Environment and Parks in managing the outbreak.*

By the time you read this the last days of open water angling are likely few. However early season ice fishing can be some of the most productive of the season particularly for lake whitefish and stocked trout. Be safe when you venture out on the ice to pursue your passion. Will change occur? Know that individuals like Ray Mackowecki and the AFGA will continue to try to advance the angling community viewpoint to the Government of Alberta.

Darryl Smith
Fishing Chair

AS THIS IS written in early September, I should be taking advantage of the hunting seasons which are open to secure some free range organic protein, but I have been "somewhat busy" between farm stuff, fishing, harvesting garden produce, and the fallout from the latest bear spearing video which has occupied a great deal of my time and thoughts since the Environment and Parks Minister's announcement that "a ban will be in place by fall".

When the topic of banning spears (and atlats) was brought to the Alberta Game Management Advisory group several years ago, my (and past Hunting Chair Doug Butler's) input was that any weapon used beyond the capability of the user could be unethical, and that "banning" a particular weapon to appease anti-hunters is dangerous, this approach was discussed at a subsequent executive meeting. Further to that, in a requested group response to the Government of Alberta Regulation Renewal Consultation Online Survey that was submitted on behalf of the AFGA in December of 2014, we supported the use of spears and atlats if properly defined. (This topic was a very small part the survey which asked a number of questions ranging from the allocation of resources, use of dogs in various scenarios, to possession of found

dead wildlife et cetera, as well as appropriateness of a number of weapons. Our (15 page!) survey response relied heavily on previously passed resolutions and went through several drafts at the executive level, with input from some of the Zone hunting chairs and other members prior to submission.)

Given this history on the spear issue, and the heavy emphasis that previous and especially our current governments have placed on consultation, which seems to result in inaction on many issues (see responses to 2016 resolutions posted on afga.org), I was surprised by the spontaneous announcement from the Minister that a ban on spear hunting would be in place by fall. And I was stunned by our President's endorsement of it; he has since explained his reasons for the decision he made in response to the Minister's statement in an email to all who have signed up for AFGA Emails. Unfortunately a combination of factors, including the time elapsed since it was last discussed, resulted in part of a live interview not quite coming out as our intended, which was further warped in some of the media reports. I think Wayne did a good job of defending other practices that are under attack and promoting hunting as a component of conservation as was his intent; it is unfortunate that significant angst resulting from the misstatement that AFGA had previously called for a ban on spears took focus off that message for many in the hunting community.

Personally I remain very conflicted over our response, and deeply concerned that spontaneous reaction on social media drove the Ministers sudden announcement on this issue, and for that matter any issue with the potential for controversy which is agenda driven by those far on one side or the other of whatever their cause. Going forward, I believe we must continue to advocate for balanced wildlife and habitat management with a rational rather than



emotion driven decision-making process. I do fully understand our need not to appear as archaic and barbaric, as Wayne explained in his e-mail, and certainly all hunters should show the respect for their quarry that was conspicuously absent in the video. Celebrating the success of any endeavor which requires extensive preparation such as athletics, hunting, and many other endeavors do is commonplace, but the sensitivities of the non-hunting public needs to be considered when hunters do so, as many non-hunters interpret celebrating the successful harvest of any fish or animal as celebrating death. Ethical hunters understand that is not the case, but one almost has to have participated in the entire experience to make the distinction. The sad reality is that the majority of Alberta's population is far removed from obtaining food from anywhere but a grocery store, and many have not thought through their own negative impact on other species.

Wayne and I have "agreed to disagree" on the appropriateness of endorsing the Minister's announcement of a ban on spear hunting, and put that matter aside for the remainder of our respective terms so we can return to focusing on other issues.

Moving on: The Alberta Game Allocation Policy panel meeting, which was planned for July was cancelled. A meeting of that advisory panel and the Alberta Game Management Advisory Panel the following day is now planned for early December. We are in the process of working out the logistics of AFGA attendance as of this writing. Resolutions should have gone through the clubs and Zone meetings by the time this is in your hands, and planning for the 2017 conference and Annual General Meeting will be well under way. Please think about accepting a nomination for any of the Executive positions that are elected at the AGM as fresh ideas and approaches are always needed.

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable hunting season and my now be enjoying wild harvested food!

Yours in support of the Wise use of the Earth's resources.

Ian Stuart
Hunting Committee Chair

Environment Chair Report

CHELSEA JAEGER
ENVIRONMENT CHAIR



ALBERTA HAS FINALLY pulled out of its drought and has gotten back into 'normal' temperatures and weather. Hunting season started off wet to say the least, with massive rain storms hitting much of the province. Now that winter has settled in nicely it may be a good time to think about what is going to happen with all the water in the new year. With that, I want to remind everyone about wetlands.

Wetlands are a major source of biodiversity, they trap carbon, filter contaminants out of water, and provide a sponge to hold excess water. Besides from the biological functions of a wetland, they also provide recreational activities (duck and geese hunters will attest to this) and ecotourism opportunities. Alberta has lost approximately 70% of the wetlands in settled areas. Needless to say, that is atrocious. Its not only urban development that is causing this, driving down any gravel road in Alberta and you see first hand wetlands being drained for agricultural purposes.

Alberta has now recognized this loss as being a problem and has developed a Wetland Policy. According to the government of Alberta website:

"The goal of the Alberta Wetland Policy is to conserve, restore, protect and manage Alberta's wetlands to sustain

the benefits they provide to the environment, society and economy"

The basic message of the policy is that the goal is to minimize the impacts on wetlands are managed through avoiding, minimizing, and replacing wetland value. The government is going to use this policy to implement a provincial Wetland Management System. There are five pieces that have been identified that are needed for implementation.

They are as follows:

- Relative Wetland Value
- Wetland Mitigation
- Avoidance
- Minimization
- Replacement
- Knowledge and Information Systems
- Performance Measures, Monitoring, and Reporting
- Wetland Stewardship. Implementation was being phased in since 2014 and according to government time lines, was completed July 2016.

While on the surface, a wetlands policy is great. Anything that can help conserve large quantities of habitat for ecological biodiversity is a step in the right direction. However, there are concerns that come with this policy. The biggest problem for me is the wetland replacement. Further into the documents there is mention about how the wetlands can either replaced as a wetland or as support for wetland research. A monetary value is placed on wetlands and if an applicant does not want to actually do anything to protect the wetland, they can simply pay a fee. The policy is also unclear if it affects all individuals or only industries. I encourage everyone to google Alberta Wetland Policy and read it. If it raises concerns with you, please contact AEP and let your concerns be known.

I hope everyone had a great harvest this hunting season and I look forward to seeing many of you at conference 2017.

Chelsea Jaeger
Environment Chair



Alberta Fish & Game Association

Zone 1 Report

GREGORY BIRD
ZONE 1 DIRECTOR

AS I SIT down to write this, I am wondering where the summer went! The year has certainly slipped by quickly and when it is discussed most seem to feel the same way. With this often our recreational/relaxation time takes the hit and as such we may lose our balance. This organization strives each and every day to ensure that we have a wonderfully conserved resource for all to enjoy and partake in. It sometimes is disheartening to see just how many outside influences there are that actually we would like to see substantially reduced or even eliminated. Albeit some may just be misguided while others seem to have a counter-productive agenda for our beautiful resource. Because of this, we must continually watch over and take steps to ensure that this is not only preserved, but enhanced where possible for future generations to enjoy and live in peace with.

Your executive works very hard and tirelessly to ensure our voice is not only heard and registered, but listened too and influencing in decisions affecting us all. It is very important that we hear

from member clubs and individuals about what they experience, need, and desire for the future. I have been honored to attend some events with various clubs over the summer months, and look forward to attending a few more meetings as the fall agendas are set. Please do not hesitate to contact me with an offer, I would like to come and meet your club.

I have been able to access this beautiful resource a few times this year and every time I do, it becomes very clear of the necessity of preservation. Our youth are our future, and in that they really need that outdoor exposure and balance in their lives, as many of us were blessed with growing up. I find it especially rewarding to see and attend youth events, such as camps, fishing derbies, outdoor education and survival lessons, etc. The list is long, but all of these instill an interest in, and respect for, our outdoors.

Please, as you enjoy our resource be aware of threats to sustainability and preservation, reporting or even taking steps to negate the negative influences, for us and for our future generations!

All the best as fall arrives, in whatever outdoor activity you have been waiting all summer for! Won't be long and we will once again be at conference!

Gregory Bird
Zone 1 Director

Zone 4 Report

FARAN SCHABER
ZONE 4 DIRECTOR

I HOPE THAT everyone has had an enjoyable summer. I had a chance to do a little salmon fishing, with good results.

As I write this, hunting season starts tomorrow, and harvest is in full swing.

Narrow Lake has finished for another year, with many youth going through and learning skills for the outdoors. We have received a donation of a new dock at the camp from the ACA. This should prove to be a welcome addition to the activities at the camp.

I have attended the Tec Coal trails meeting on behalf of the AFGA, along with other user groups. There is some progress on providing access to the trails during the summer. There is also a hope that a reclaimed area will be turned back to the public by late next summer.

The AFGA Executive had a meeting at Narrow Lake in late August to discuss issues within the organization. There were a few hot topics discussed during the meeting, and probably a few more around the campfire after the meeting.

Our next Zone meeting is October 23, 2016 at the Onoway clubhouse at 10:00am. Resolutions, if any, will be discussed. Please forward any resolutions, on the proper forms (available on the AFGA website: www.afga.org), to me before the meeting. Hope to see you all there.

I hope that everyone has a safe, successful, and rewarding hunting season.

Faran Schaber
Director Zone 4



The card bearer is a member and is entitled to a 10% discount on the following items:
 Carhart & Helly Hansen Merchandise, Dakota Work Shirts, Pants, Coveralls and Overalls, Jeans, Chis & SPT Tools, Green Jackets and Flares, DIX & SPT Cutler Tool and Drive Parts, Hammer, Work Socks and Gloves, Work and Safety Accessories, Casual and O&A Approved Footwear.

Show Your Card and Save!

This offer is valid at any
Mark's Work Warehouse

Show your Member Savings card at any Mark's Work Warehouse location and save 10% off all merchandise listed on your card.



Alberta Fish & Game Association

Zone 2 Report

DEB CLARKE

ZONE 2 DIRECTOR



ANOTHER FALL HUNTING season has either gone by for you or it is still underway. As long as you got away from your normal routine to experience at least one day in the field, life is good!

At the time of writing this report some late summer activities for clubs were...the Calgary Fish & Game had set up a booth at the Cabela's Fall Outdoor Show, Wheatland had released 600 hen pheasants, Airdrie held a member's shoot at the archery club (check out their Facebook site) and the High River club held their annual skeet shoot.

Jim and I helped hang the last of the smooth wire for the year at the Antelope fencing project in September, great opportunity to give back to a worthwhile conservation project. As usual, there is room for many more Fish & Game volunteers to get involved, so consider coming out in the New Year.

Nomination submissions for AFGA Service Awards are due into head office by November 30. There are 23 different prestigious awards to choose from and the list/definitions can be found at <http://www.afga.org/pdf/Conference/AWARDDefinitions.pdf>. This is your

chance to showcase and brag about club projects, express appreciation and give recognition to members and/or other individuals. Awards are presented on Saturday night at the annual conference.

Register for the 88th Annual AFGA Conference and book your hotel rooms early. The registration package was sent out to all clubs in September and can be found on the AFGA website. I encourage all clubs to send at least one delegate. Each year new delegates can attest to how much is learned which is truly a win-win for your club. To contribute financially or donate items for the event please contact head office and/or Conference Chair, Robyn Butler, as soon as possible.

Looking for project funding assistance? Check out the ACA site and download the appropriate ACA Con-

servation, Community and Education Grants application form. Please ensure that all sections of the application are completed thoroughly. The grant application info and deadline date for 2017 can be found at <http://www.ab-conservation.com/grants/aca-conservation-community-and-education-grants/>. Should you need assistance or advice in completing grant applications please contact Randy Collins (our AFGA ACA representative) or me.

Another option is through the Minister's Special Licence Grants, which are administered by the AFGA and program advisory committee. Martin Sharren, our EVP, has indicated he will assist any club in writing up proposals. A minimum of 60% of available funds raised for each species goes towards that species for management, habitat enhancement, etc. Applications will be available on the website shortly and the deadline is short. If you have a good Mule Deer enhancement project in mind be sure to apply for funding.

Keep in touch and sign up for AFGA updates and newsletters... join the Email list. To do so, go to the AFGA home page at www.afga.org.

The January Zone 2 meeting is usually around the third Sunday of the month. Contact me for the exact time, date and location.

Enjoy the holidays with family and friends. Merry Christmas and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2017!

Deb Clarke

Zone 2 Director

deb.clarke@telus.net



DID U KNOW

It is now illegal to transport your boat with the drain plug in! Pull the Plug or face a court appearance and fines of up to \$100,000. To report invasive species call **1-855-336-BOAT (2628)**.



Club Events

CLUB MEETINGS	DATE	TIME	DETAILS
Athabasca Fish & Game:	2nd Friday	7:00pm	Provincial Building – Sept to June
Barrhead Fish & Game:	Last Wednesday	7:30pm	Barrhead Legion – Sept to June
Beaver River Fish & Game:	1st Tuesday	7:30pm	Except July & August
Breton Fish & Game:	4th Wednesday	7:30pm	Breton Golden Age Centre – 50th Avenue – except July/Aug/Dec
Busby & District Fish & Game:	2nd Monday	7:30pm	Lone Goose Club House
Camrose Fish & Game:	2nd Wednesday	7:00pm	Superstore meeting room
Cardston Fish & Game:	2nd Thursday	7:00pm	Civic Center
Clandonald & District Fish & Game:	3rd Thursday	7:30pm	Clandonald Coffee shop
Claresholm Fish & Game:	3rd Monday	N/A	Claresholm indoor range
Coaldale & District Fish & Game:	2nd Tuesday	7:30pm	The Range
Dickson Fish & Game:	2nd Monday	8:00pm	Dickson Fish & Game Hall: Contact Ike: 403-588-2646 or 403-728-3818
Devon Fish & Game:	4th Thursday	7:30pm	Pioneer 73 Centre: #29 St. Lawrence Avenue
Dunvegan Fish & Game:	3rd Wednesday	7:30pm	Except July/Aug – FCSS Room – Audits and Safety building
Drumheller Fish & Game:	3rd Tuesday	7:00pm	Except July/Aug
Edmonton Fish & Game:	2nd Wednesday	7:30pm	no info
Edmonton Old Timers:	2nd Tuesday	7:00pm	Spruce Avenue Hall – 10240 115 Avenue
Edmonton Trout Fishing	1st & 3rd Tuesday	7:00pm	Queen Mary Park Community League – 109 Ave & 117 Street
Ft. MacLeod Fish & Game:	2nd Wednesday	7:00pm	NWMP Library –back door
Ft. Saskatchewan Fish & Game:	3rd Wednesday	7:00pm	Old Train Station – Sept to June
High Level Sporting Association:	3rd Wednesday	N/A	no info
High Prairie Fish & Game:	2nd Tuesday	7:00pm	Summer @ Range – Winter @ Amiro's
High River Fish & Game:	2nd Wednesday	7:45pm	For more info: http://hrfishandgame.wordpress.com
Hillcrest Fish & Game:	1st Thursday	7:00pm	Hillcrest Fish & Game Hall
Innisfail Fish & Game:	1st Monday	7:00pm	Innisfail Royal Canadian Legion – except July and August
Iron Creek Fish & Game:	2nd Thursday	7:30pm	Lougheed Lions Den - Mainstreet
Lacombe Fish & Game:	2nd Tuesday	7:30pm	Lacombe Legion (except July & August)
Lamont Fish & Game:	Last Monday	7:00pm	Lamont Lions Den – Contact Robyn Butler: 780-895-7799
Leduc Fish & Game:	1st Wednesday	7:30pm	Leduc Clubhouse – for more info – (780) 986-1807 – Sept to June
Lethbridge Fish & Game:	3rd Monday	7:00pm	LFGA Clubhouse – 9th Avenue & 10th Street South
Lloydminster Fish & Game:	Last Tuesday	7:30pm	Except July & December – Legion Hall
Magrath Rod & Gun Club	3rd Thursday	7:00pm	Magrath Library
Medicine Hat Fish & Game:	2nd Tuesday	8:00pm	Medicine Hat Boy Scout Hall – 79 Cuyler Rd. SE - Sept to June
Millet Fish & Game:	1st Tuesday	7:30pm	Millet Fish & Game Hall
Morinville Fish & Game:	2nd&4th Thurs.	7:30pm	Morinville F&G Clubhouse – except July/Aug
Mundare Fish & Game:	Last Monday	6:30pm	Mundare Gun Range – May - August
Okotoks Fish & Game:	3rd Tuesday	7:00pm	No other info
Onoway & District Fish & Game:	2nd Tuesday	7:30pm	Education Centre @ gun range – (780) 924-0005 – Sept to June
Peace Wapiti Fish & Game:	1st Tuesday	7:30pm	Better than Fred's – 9903 101 St, Gr. Prairie - Sept to June
Picture Butte Fish & Game:	1st Tuesday	7:00pm	Archery Range – 464 Crescent Ave.
Ponoka Fish & Game:	1st Thursday	7:30pm	Clubhouse
Provost Fish & Game:	2nd Tuesday	8:00pm	Indoor Gun Range – 2km East of Provost (except July/August)
Red Deer Fish & Game:	3rd Monday	7:00pm	Red Deer Legion (use Molly B door) – Tues if stat –except July/Aug
Red Earth Creek Rod & Gun Club:	3rd Tuesday	7:30pm	No other info
Rimbey Fish & Game:	1st Wednesday	7:00pm	Canalta Hotel: 5702 43rd Street – Sept to June
Rocky Mtn House Fish & Game:	2nd Wednesday	7:00pm	Rocky Arena meeting room or (summer) fish pond.
Sarcee Fish & Game:	2nd Tuesday	7:30pm	Mtn View Funeral Home Auditorium – September to June
Sherwood Park Fish & Game:	Last Thursday	7:30pm	50 Spruce Avenue
St. Albert Fish & Game:	2nd Tuesday	7:30pm	St. Albert community Hall on Perron St. – September to June
St. Paul Fish & Game:	1st Wednesday	7:30pm	Town Hall - Downstairs
Southern AB Outdoorsmen:	2nd Tuesday	N/A	Kings Home – 108 – 5th Avenue NE – Milk River
Spedden Fish & Game:	2nd Sunday	7:30pm	Ashmont
Spruce Grove Fish & Game:	1st Thursday	7:30pm	Pioneer Centre – 301 Jespesen Ave. – Sp. Grove – (Except Jul/Aug & Nov)
Stony Plain Fish & Game:	2nd Monday	7:30pm	Stony Plain Community Centre, 51 Ave. – Jimmy: (780) 963-2608
Sundre Fish & Game:	3rd Tuesday	7:00pm	Sundre Community Center
Sylvan Lake & District:	1st Monday	7:00pm	Community Partner Hall
Taber Fish & Game:	1st Wednesday	N/A	First Wendy's at Heritage Hotel
Thorsby Fish & Game:	3rd Monday	7:00pm	Sunnybrook Hall
Vegreville Wildlife Federation:	1st Thursday	7:00pm	Centennial Hall
Vermillion Fish & Game:	2nd Wednesday	N/A	Vermillion Provincial Building – Conference room
Viking Sports & Wildlife Society:	1st Tuesday	7:30pm	Clubhouse located near Viking
Vilna Fish & Game:	3rd Wednesday	7:00pm	Cultural Centre in Vilna
Wheatland Conservation & Wildlife:	2nd Thursday	7:30pm	Clubhouse on Olson Land – SW2-26-25-W4
Whitecourt Fish & Game:	1st Wednesday	7:00pm	Forestry Training Centre
Wildwood & District Rod & Gun Club:	2nd Thursday	7:30pm	Range in the clubhouse
Willingdon & District Fish & Game:	Last Tuesday	7:30pm	Willingdon Arena – upstairs clubroom – Sept to June
Wimborne & District Fish & Game:	1st Wednesday	N/A	Wimborne Hall

OTHER EVENTS	DATE	TIME	DETAILS
Beaver River Fish & Game:	Every Wednesday	6:00 – 8:00pm	Youth / Adult Archery
Busby Antler Scoring	January 28th	10:00am–5:00pm	Contact: Brian Yagos (780) 349-6034 or Don Gibson (780) 349-6548

Edmonton Old Timers Fishing Club is looking for you! Calling all fishermen over 50! You'll find lots of people to go fishing with both summer & ice fishing in the winter. We have meetings once a month with a guest speaker. For more info: Ron Gale – 780-232-6261

***IF YOU WISH TO HAVE YOUR EVENT/MEETING PLACED IN THE OUTDOOR EDGE OR ON OUR WEBSITE...PLEASE EMAIL OR FAX INFORMATION TO OUR OFFICE: info@afga.org or fax: (780) 438-6872 (CHECK OUT OUR EVENTS CALENDAR ON THE WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION or EVENTS NOT LISTED HERE: www.afga.org)**



Alberta Fish & Game Association

Zone 5 Report

ROBYN BUTLER
ZONE 5 DIRECTOR

I'M SURE MANY of you are beginning or in the middle of your hunting season. While out enjoying your adventures, please remember to be sure of your target, background and all safety aspects. It can be easy to forget some important things in the excitement of harvesting that elk, moose, deer, bear or whatever else you may be challenging.

Speaking of bear, if you happen to see any grizzly bears, please record the area, take a picture, record the date and time and let us know. It's still important that we report all bear sightings.

The Narrow Lake Conservation Centre youth camps were all full to capacity again this year. The BOW camps at the same location were also full and



went over with flying colours. Thanks to all who helped.

In Zone 5, I hear many reports from all the clubs; please send your info in so it can be shared throughout our zone and province! Our "Kids can catch - Kids can shoot" events in Lamont and Fort Saskatchewan were big successes.

Many archery shoots, fishing weekends, etc. throughout our zone are great events and I'd like to hear about them all. Many of you are busy working on your fall/winter projects and I can help spread the word around.

In a few short months we will be gathering in Edmonton for the AFGA conference. We can exchange all our stories there (some may even be a bit embellished). You should all now have your conference registration packages. If your club can help the conference committee with a donation (financial or prize), it would be greatly appreciated. I have attended many of our conferences and have met many good friends and acquaintances with vast knowledge that I have taken back to my club. It would be great if every Zone 5 club sent one or more delegates to this AGM as we are hosting it in February. It not only helps your club, but gives you a voice in the many resolutions on the floor.

Our Fall Zone meeting was just recently held in Bonnyville and I do hope we had some good resolutions to take to the AGM in Edmonton. This writing is prior to the meeting but thanks to the Beaver River club for hosting this event. The Zone executive elections were due and I hope some of you stepped up. All executive positions are open (including director). New people bring new ideas and this is great for our team so please consider it. Being Zone 5 Director has been a great experience, thank you to all for your support.

I hope your fall experiences were exciting and your freezers are in good shape. Continue to enjoy the outdoors into the winter and wishing you a Merry Christmas and a great 2017.

Robyn Butler
Zone 5 Director



THE ALBERTA FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION 88th ANNUAL CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 23-25, 2017

The AFGA is excited to have Zone 5 host the
2017 conference in Edmonton.

Conference registration packages were mailed out
September 2016

REMEMBER to REGISTER EARLY
and receive the earlybird discounted rates!

FOUR
POINTS
BY SHERATON
.....
Edmonton South

7230 Argyll Road, EDMONTON, AB

Ph: (780) 465-7931

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR HOW TO REGISTER

CALL THE AFGA OFFICE (780) 437-2342 or

REGISTER ONLINE: www.afga.org



Alberta Fish & Game Association

Nevis Property Fencing


WHILE MANAGING/OWNING nearly 100 habitat properties across Alberta is an incredible legacy to leave to future generations, these properties do require a considerable amount of regular maintenance. Our Volunteer Stewardship Program is an incredible asset assisting habitat staff in performing routine inspections and minor maintenance but these properties also require more extensive care occasionally. This includes repairing and replacing fencing. While many of the Wildlife Trust Fund properties have grazing occur on them and the grazers are responsible for maintaining fences, other properties have no grazing but still require fences, primarily to prevent illegal vehicle access. All of our Wildlife Trust Fund Properties have a "foot access only" policy and recreationists are encouraged to enjoy them but not everyone follows the rules.

Our Nevis Property was one of those properties where despite consider-

able efforts, vehicle trespass was quite severe. This 366-acre property is comprised of rolling grasslands interspersed with several stands of aspen. It is home to whitetails, moose and a very abundant population of mule deer. The illegal vehicle trespass was not only disturbing wildlife in their core home range, it was causing severe damage to this important habitat. It became obvious that a half-mile of old perimeter fence needed to be completely removed and replaced and that several other access points needed to be fenced off and in the case of one, a steel panel erected. Things had gotten so bad at the site that several of the boundary signs had been shot and one of the large 4'x8' metal signs had been chopped down and removed.

Extensive maintenance like this is very expensive so habitat staff applied to the Minister's Special Licence Programme for a grant to hire a contractor to do some of the work and the remainder would be undertaken by AFGA volunteers and staff. The

grant was awarded and in July and August 2016, the work was undertaken. Rather than a typical barbed-wire fence, a half mile of four-strand, wildlife-friendly fencing was installed. The fence is comprised of smooth wire with strands set at 18, 24, 30 and 42 inches to allow wildlife to pass through it with less stress and opportunity for injury. This fence will not only aid in reducing vehicle trespass, it will become a model for landowners and other conservation groups to use when constructing new fences on their properties. While fences are a necessity, they can be made wildlife friendly at no more cost.

The AFGA would like to acknowledge the importance of the Minister's Special Licence Program to projects like this and it is hoped that this new standard of fencing will be adopted by many others in the future. The Nevis Property is located on the corner of Highways 12 and 21 west of Stettler. Make sure to stop by and check it out this fall. 



B.O.W CAMP

Become an Outdoor Woman is a program designed for women.

It is an opportunity for women 18 years of age or older to learn outdoor skills usually associated with hunting and fishing, but useful for many outdoor pursuits.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robyn Butler: 780-895-7799

Ingrid Horner: 780-271-9794

