

Okotoks & District
Fish & Game
Association



ODFGA
Newsletter

March / April
2016

MAJOR CLUB YEARLY EVENTS

2016 MEETING SCHEDULE

~~Horn Scoring Night~~

~~Friday February 26th — 5:30 to 9:00pm~~

Complete

~~Crystal Shores Beach House~~

~~Sausage Making~~

~~Date TBD? 7:00am~~

Cancelled

~~Siegfried Honseks Residence~~

Wildlife Biologist Meeting

May ??st – ? :00pm

Crystal Shores Beach House

Okotoks Parade of Garage Sales

May 21st – 9:00am – 4:00pm

Jack Wallace Residence

Annual Fishing Trip

Date TBD?

Location TBD?

Summer BBQ

Saturday August 6th - 2:00 pm

Siegfried Honsek's Residence

Christmas Social

Saturday December 10th - 6:00 pm

Crystal Shores Beach House

Frank Bertel's House
49 Downey Rd. Okotoks
7:00pm

~~January 19th~~

~~February 16th~~

~~March 15th~~

April 19th

May 17th

June 21st

July 19th

September 20th

October 18th

November 15th

IN THIS EDITION....

Recent Success / Trips.....Page 2

AFGA Conference Highlights.....Page 3

ODFGA Feb. Meeting Minutes.....Page 4

ODFGA Mar. Meeting Minutes.....Page 5

Miscellaneous SectionPage 6

Outdoor Topic.....Page 7

ODFGA Executive
Committee.....Page 8

Recent Success / Trips

Fishing / Hunting / Photography

Have a Photo / Success to Submit

Send your photo, description & Caption to:
d.d.outward.bound@gmail.com

FISHING TRIPS PLANNED

Lake Minniwanka – Jason / Markus / Dustin / Patrick & Mark are planning a / some trips out to learn the ropes of lake trout fishing in late May / early June. Further Discussion being planned at the May meeting. Patrick is organizing

Pine Coulee or Crawling Valley – Camping / Walleye Fishing Trip – Plan and Discuss at June 21st Meeting. Dustin is Organizing

FISHING SUCCESS

CHAIN LAKES – Fishing well from shore, lake is very low, small boat access only, Horst caught 7 fish recently

HUNTING SUCCESS

WATERFOWL – Spring snows hunting good in Saskatchewan and East / Central Alberta

PHOTOGRAPHY

NTR

HUNTING TRIPS PLANNED

NTR



Dustin Moore
Gull Lake Ice Fishing
8.5 lbs – 80 cms

AFGA CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

by Mark Anderson – February 18th – 20th / 2016

Using the community grant that Devon Canada provided to the Okotoks & District Fish and Game Association (ODFGA), VP Mark Anderson was able to attend the 2016 Alberta Fish and Game Association (AFGA) annual conference in Edmonton Alberta held from February 18 to 20, 2016.

The AFGA conference brought together the AFGA Executive, Alberta government officials, delegates and family members from the AFGA constituent clubs, and hunting/fishing outfitters to discuss habitat and wildlife conservation activities in Alberta.

Government officials from Alberta Environment, Fish and Wildlife, and Sustainable Resource Development presented a number of topics ranging from invasive aquatic species, predator management, changing hunter demographics, and how to foster hunting interest with the younger generation of "hipsters".

The Alberta Environment Minister even dropped in for a quick speech. The government officials attended throughout the conference and were available for questions and to provide direct feedback on conservation issues.

Other wildlife conservation societies also made

presentations, including the Canadian parks and Wilderness

Society (CPAWS), Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF), and the Alberta Conservation Association (ACA). Their talks were focused around recreational access to public lands and how to properly manage parks and protected areas to preserve these habitats. Of note, there are over 36,000 acres of land in the Alberta Wildlife Trust Fund that are available for recreational use (including hunting and fishing) at various locations across the province. These wildlife trust fund lands also require volunteers maintain and manage the properties. Check out the AFGA website for more information on the wildlife trust lands (www.afga.org/wtf-properties.html).

During the annual general meeting at the conference a number of important AFGA topics and resolutions were discussed and voted on to affirm the AFGA's stance on regulations and conservation activities across Alberta. These resolutions will be presented to the Alberta government for consideration for future regulation changes, government funding, and conservation programs.

Some resolutions of note were:

-Passed: Allow landowners to set access restrictions on their land

(ex: foot access only), rather than posting it no trespassing.

-Passed: Clarify "guard and warn" in the Criminal Code regarding lake aeration. (Currently all government aeration in Alberta is shut down due to liability concerns)

-Passed: Allow tiger trout and splake to be stocked in private ponds.

-Defeated: Allow Outfitters to sell their Outfitter Allocation tags to Alberta Residents.

-Defeated: Multiple resolutions regarding various changes to limits/seasons for antlered mule deer and moose across the province.

Networking opportunities at the conference were excellent and I was able to connect with hundreds of fellow outdoorsmen and women to share experiences, ideas, and good times at the banquet and auction. Based on these learnings and new connections I have increased my involvement and effectiveness as the vice president of the ODFGA. I would recommend that any ODFGA member should attend the AFGA conference time and funds permitting.

The next conference is on Feb 23 to 25, 2017, likely in Edmonton



Special thanks to Devon Energy for their donation of \$1000 to the ODFGA. \$700 was used to cover the conference expenses and the remaining was a donation to the club!

ODFGA FEBRUARY MINUTES

by Dustin Moore

Meeting held at the Bertels residence.

Meeting called to order by President Patrick McKnight at 7:00 p.m.

In attendance were: Mark Anderson, Rui Teixeira, Jack Wallace, Dan Robley, Glenn Sproat, Glenn & Ashley, Dustin Moore, Patrick McKnight, Matt Zazula, Frank Bertel, Siegfried Honsek

1) Horn Scoring set for FRIDAY Feb 26th 530 to 9pm / 6Pm to 8:30 Pm for the public

Other types of advertising? IE Weekender, Radio etc - ad in Feb 17th Western Wheel. Dustin will also be interviewed by The Eagle 100.6 Radio Station, Alberta Outdoorsman & Okotoks Buy and Sell

We should feed staff and scorers! - Glenn (Supplied Pizza)

4x4 to hold mounts for display - Patrick

Who is interested in volunteering plus other members - Matt, Mark, & Jack

2) Web site \$10 monthly maintenance fee – Accepted – Mark to set-up

3) Do we need a Fishing Chair/Organizer or just wing it. Are we going to plan an Ice Fishing Outing?? – No Takers yet!

4) Sausage making day – No date chosen, Siegfried to make a last minute decision, 6lb minimum sausage per person, 350 lb cut off for group

5) Wild Life meeting – Agreed upon, Matt to rent Crystal Shores Beach House, Patrick to invite F&W Biologist, Mark to invite High River F&G, with interest from Sarcee F&G as well.

6) Costs for Mark going to AGM in Edmonton. – Devon Energy covered Mark's costs, What are our positions on issues??– Siegfried to circulate Conference Resolutions, Club agreed with use of crossbow in 212 in November, residents could purchase / hunt with an outfitter & No to residents buying tags from outfitters, Feedback from Zone 2 meeting - Mark provided an update from Zone 2 meeting see Newsletter.

7) Trap/Skeet shooting program/add – Wednesdays, \$3 off regular price for the club, See Newsletter for ammo specs and info on the center.

8) Fishing Education Program – No Update

9) Jim Graham Park plan – Matt to contact ACA about funding timing, Fencing should be done before the end of March, Volunteers – Mark, Rui, Jack, Dan, Glenn, Glenn & Ashley

10) Bird Houses and Bat Boxes – Give some bat boxes to Terry Korth for his support to club

11) If there is grant money available do we have any projects that would qualify? Any ideas?

12) Dustin is working on a new format to share news for our club! – Bi-Monthly Newsletter, working on more info + add club website / email address. Minutes will be published monthly shortly after the meeting,

Newsletter will be published bi-monthly containing both sets of minutes.

13) Updated email list so we can include everyone. – Siegfried Completed

14) Trophy Night stories. Remember it is not the largest but the best story with pictures that could win. – Giesla won the Angler of the year for her Walleye at Pigeon Lake and Mark won the hunter of the year for his first Whitetail buck with a bow (and a great story about the 4 he seen that morning)

15) Additional Topics: Club to cover the cost for flowers for Laurie Hodgsons wife,

Moved Christmas Social to Saturday December 10th – Crystal Shores Beach House, 5:30 setup, 6:00pm start, Matt to book venue,

Okotoks Parade of Garage Sales, May 14th – Donations accepted anytime

ODFGA MARCH MINUTES

by Dustin Moore

Meeting held at the Bertels residence.

Meeting called to order by President Patrick McKnight at 7:05 p.m.

In attendance were: Mark Anderson, Jack Wallace, Dan Robley, Glenn Sproat, Dustin Moore, Patrick McKnight, Frank Bertel, Dan Bertel, Jim Davis, Mike Olfert, Darren

1) Horn Scoring Event Recap - Friday Feb 26th 6pm to 8:30pm

Most successful form of advertising was post on Alberta Outdoorsman, Good night, some interesting horns scored, pics to follow in newsletter, couple new members signed up at the event, Club made \$32 on 50/50 draw, Dan Robley won \$32. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped out.

2) Web site \$10 monthly maintenance fee – Mark has started the website – okotoksfishandgame.com, Mark and Dustin will have access to add information. Newsletters and minutes will also be placed onto the website for easy viewing

3) Do we need a Fishing Chair/Organizer or just wing it – No Takers yet!

Currently planning by committee:

May long weekend – Dustin is going to Pigeon Lake

May long weekend or afterwards – Patrick is organizing a Lake Minniwanka trip

Dustin is planning a few trips to Pine Coulee in May / June will advise of dates when closer

Patrick is organizing a Buck Lake / Pigeon Lake trip in June / July

Dan Robely – Potential Duck Lake Montana trip

Siegfried – Potential Twin Valley Reservoir trip

Patrick sent out some detailed fishing trip emails for more info.

4) Sausage making day – Cancelled at Siegfrieds due to weather and other commitments, Patrick to contact Horst Hauge to set up a time. Interested people are Dan Robely, Dustin Moore, Patrick McKnight, Mark Anderson & Mike Olfert

5) Wild Life meeting – Patrick touched base with Brett Boucal again, Brett provided an email update and will try for a meeting in late April, details to follow once confirmed

6) Costs for Mark going to AGM in Edmonton. – Devon Energy covered Mark's costs, They gave us \$1000, actual costs were \$700 for the conference so the club will get a \$300 donation from Devon Energy. Mark provided update in the newsletter

7) Jim Graham Park plans – Wildlife fencing on hold for now, Patrick

trying for erosion grants through the Town of Okotoks, There are Mallard and Wood duck boxes that need to be installed.

8) Bird Houses and Bat Boxes – Terry Korth took 6 bird house to set up, interested in more boxes. Patrick has plans that can be copied for other styles of bird boxes as well.

9) Cabela's Outdoor Show – Not attending spring event, short notice. Another event in the fall we should consider attending. Jack / Glenn & Mark agreed to organize getting a table banner made up for events such as this, garage sale, etc.

10) 2016 Fishing Regulations – Many more closures to keeping fish in Southern Alberta lakes, also discussed new Tiger Trout being stocked in some lakes

11) Garage Sale – May 14th 0900 – Items accepted at Jack Wallace's residence, looking for volunteers to assist at the sale. We will also run an ad in the Western Wheel prior to the event

13) Additional Topics: None

Condolences from the club to Laurie Hodson on the passing of his wife after a battle with cancer.

ODFGA ACTIONS ITEMS

Volunteers Required

BBQ Setup –

Garage sale -

Club Website

Mark Anderson has developed and it's now operational.

Dustin Moore is adding some content

MISC. SECTION

Women's Trap League

Women's learn to shoot program will start on the first Wednesday May at the Calgary Firearms Centre. To register call AHEIA at 403 252 8474

Shotgun Instruction

Patrick has taken a Coaching shot gunning course and is looking for victims to practice on. Contact Patrick if you would like to participate.

Beer Nights

When should we have one!

NEWS RELEASES

Ian Stuart's "Media of Interest"

For anyone wanting to receive emails on current media topics related to outdoors, hunting, fishing etc. Email Ian Stuart at ianstuart@ccewireless.ca

Horn Scoring Night Pictures

Outdoors Topic - Walleye Fishing Techniques

by Matt Zazula

There are 3 basic techniques and seasons to Walleye fishing. Walleye basically feed in the bottom 1 ft of the lake.

In the spring after the spawn they are more lethargic and do not tend to chase baits. Using a jig at this time of year tends to be the best approach. Jigs differ in shapes, weights colour and function. If your jig is not producing change it up after 10 to 15 minutes. Change size, weight and colour as well as style of jigs. Some round heads tend to drop quicker to the bottom rather than fluttering down like the more flat jigs. Some jigs have rattles while others have a plastic shield to cause them to react differently. buck tail jigs work well in murky water and attract by producing a small vibration as well as being more visible. Matt tends to hold his jigs 2 to 6 inches off bottom and every once in a while drop the jig the bottom to cause a noise and try to imitate a feeding fish or other prey. He noted that walleye tend to him when a jig is dropping so always keep control of your line. His favorite colors are whatever the fish are biting on but notes that orange and yellow; two tone green and black jigs tend to work well. The key is to experiment. You can jig using a minnow or leach with a minnow you hook it under the jaw with the hook protruding out the mouth so the minnow looks like it is feeding on the jig. If you are on a sandy bottom you might try casting lifting your rod tip and then let the jig settle back down working the jig towards you. This is not possible in weed beds due to snagging up. In weed beds jig horizontally.

Lindy Rigs are used when travelling less than .5 mph trolling. A Lindy rig utilizes a sliding weight about 4 to 6 ft in front of your bait. Use a slow troll using worms, leaches or minnows. Make sure your line behind the weight is straightened out with not a lot of flash as this will tend to scare the fish. He recommends leaving your bail open to allow the fish to take to bait once you feel the hit and set the hook after 3 to 4 seconds. A lindy rig set up with air injected worms also works well for trout. Remember to experiment and try different things with different fish species.

Bottom Bouncers are trolled at 1 to 1.2 mph. Use a medium weight rod. Generally 7 to 8 ft in length. Use a heavier line, perhaps a braided line attached to the bottom bouncer with a mono filament line to your bait. Do not use swivels or anything else close to your bait as this will not look natural. A reel with a line counter allows you a more consistent approach as you troll. You will use a bottom bouncer from mid-June thru the summer as the fish become more aggressive. This approach will also help you locate fish if you are unsure where they are. You need to feel the bottom on your wire. Use anything behind a bottom bouncer. Worm harnesses work well. Red colour hooks also help as they signal a wounded fish or prey. The fish are more aggressive this time of year. Experiment with spin and glows and learn to make up your own adding or subtracting beads. Use vibrations and different colors as the water warms up.

In early spring fish the water that is warmer in north bays or where the wind is blowing bait fish. In the spring look for water warmer than 59 to 60 degrees using jigs. In the summer as the surface water reaches 68 degrees use bottom bouncers.

If you want to invest your money wisely gather a variety of jigs in colour size and shape to fish for walleye, perch and trout. Remember walleye fishing is low and slow in the spring you will find fish in 12 ft of water and later in 16 to 22 feet. Remember ripples on the surface breaks the light allowing the shy walleye to come out. AM or PM fishing in low light conditions are your best options.

In September you can catch walleye trolling a rattling plug behind a 3way swivel with a weight attached with 1 ft of line. Have you plug 18 inches to 36 inches behind the swivel so the weight is hitting bottom plug.

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