

WINTER 2019 NEWSLETTER



SHERWOOD PARK
FISH & GAME ASSOCIATION

President's Report

Good day to everyone. My name is Al Keeler and I will be your president of the Sherwood Park Fish and Game Association for the coming year. I first joined the Alberta Fish and Game in the mid-seventies up in Grande Cache. I started with the Sherwood Park Fish and Game in 2012 and became active in the trap shooting. My wife and I are very active in archery. We compete in 3D shoots and I have to admit she is a better shot than I am. We are both avid bow hunters spending much of our fall in ground blinds or tree stands.

I got invited to attend the executive barbeque in 2015 as a guest. There must have been something in the water being served as I soon became the archery chair and am now the president. So if you get invited to the executive barbeque you may want to think about bringing your own water. That being said, I have enjoyed being the archery chair. Through the help of a number of volunteers, we have a great archery target range and 3D course along with a number of other great facilities. As members, I encourage you all to take advantage of these great facilities. For the shooting enthusiast there is the black powder trail walk, a pistol range, three rifle ranges, a rimfire and black powder range and a trap range. For those that just like the outdoors, there is archery, camping, a number of hiking trails, bird condos, a bird feeder, a fish pond, lots of water fowl, ruff grouse, moose, deer and coyotes to see. We have just added two new properties and hope that with the help of members volunteering to work on them, they will make a significant addition to our facilities.

There was a large turnout for the elections this past December. A number of members added their names to the selection for the various executive positions. After the elections were finished, we have a number of new faces on the executive. The list of executive for 2019 is shown in this issue of the newsletter. For those that are no longer on the executive, we thank you for all your hard work and hope you will assist the new incumbents in their endeavors. We had a large turnout for the January general meeting with two main topics, the voting on the resolutions the Alberta Fish and Game proposes to present to the Alberta government and the proposed updated to our facility rules. After much debate on holster usage

and steel core ammunition, the updated facility rules were accepted with the deletion of holster usage except by law enforcement personnel during their training under the supervision of a certified range officer and at our sanctioned events. Safety was the main concern around the holster issue. Steel core ammunition can be used however; but only on the big bore range and not its 25 meter butt, on the overflow and the 50 meter ranges. In no case is the steel core ammunition to be used on any of the range gongs. This ammunition is prone to ricochet if shot at the ground. It is strongly suggested those using this type of ammunition exercise care so ricochets do not occur. To ensure all members are aware of the updated facility rules, one can read them on our website. New cameras will be installed this year to help with monitoring facility usage and improve range safety.

With the legalization of cannabis we had to include it in our facility rules to deal with this issue. Use of cannabis is not allowed in any of the range areas or parking lots. Vaping or smoking of any kind is not permitted in any of shooting sheds or the clubhouse. Cannabis may be used at an individual campsite as may be alcohol and members are asked to consume responsibly.

The past year's executive has worked hard to get the membership renewals now done by a contractor up and running smoothly. The renewals for 2019 have already been completed and the range memberships sold out for 2019. This is about the fastest this activity has ever been completed. We have also been able to significantly reduce our operating costs for this activity. There are still regular memberships available and one can apply online through the website. In addition to our social media channels on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, the new website is another great addition so we can better communicate with our membership. One can find out what is happening, check the range rules and even contact the executive through the contact email. Our communications chair is doing a great job of keeping it current so please check it out. All you have to do is go to SPFGA on the internet, make a few choices and you are there.

We have the awards night coming up on Saturday, March 23 at the Millwoods Golf Course facility. Here we are able to celebrate our hunting and fishing successes from 2018, show off some of our photos, have a great meal and do some fund raising. This year there is a rifle, a bow, a fishing trip, a number of bucket draws, silent auctions and door prizes. We even have a special draw for the ladies.

I am looking forward to the coming year and working with the executive and members to maintain and improve the great facility we have. Make sure you check the events calendar for all the upcoming events. One to put on your calendar is the work party on the first Saturday in June. It takes a lot of time and effort to maintain and improve this facility. Many hands make the work a lot lighter and it gets done much faster. For now though, I suggest stay warm and be safe in all that you do.

Al Keeler



Revised SPFGA Facility Rules

These revised facility rules were approved by a majority membership vote at the January 31, 2019 General Meeting, and the website has been updated to reflect them.

The signage throughout the facility will be updated to reflect these changes as well, and this is expected to be completed sometime this spring.

It should be noted though that in the event of a discrepancy the website shall be taken as the most up to date and correct record.

Changes to the rules are fairly extensive in places. The following sections pulls out some of the more notable of these changes, but members are encouraged to read through the rules in their entirety to familiarize themselves with the current details: <https://www.spfga.ca/facility-rules/>.

Holster Use

The details of holster use have been a topic of considerable discussion. Following the January General Meeting, the SPFGA holster use policy is:

Holster use is permitted on SPFGA ranges ONLY under the direct supervision of a Qualified Range Officer during organized events or by uniformed Law Enforcement Officers.

Junior Members

All members under the age of eighteen years who do not have a Minor's License must be under the direct supervision of an adult SPFGA Range member. While supervising such a junior member, the adult Range member must be within arms-reach and must be engaged solely with the act of supervision.

The language in this section was broadened slightly to recognize the potential differences in need for supervision between a junior member with a Minor's License and one without. Information on the Minor's License may be found at the link below:

<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cfp-pcaf/fs-fd/minor-mineur-eng.htm>

Range Hours

For better optimization between the end of shooting hours and sunset, the membership voted to adjust shooting hours as follows:

Shooting hours begin at 9:00 a.m. daily and end according to the following:

- **2nd Sunday in March – April 14: 6:30 p.m.**
- **April 15 – September 21: 8:00 p.m.**

Steel Core Ammunition

Another topic involving much discussion was ammunition with steel core projectiles. Following the January General Meeting, use of this ammunition is permitted on SPFGA ranges pursuant to the following rules:

1. Must only be used on the Big Bore, Overflow, and 50 m ranges.
2. Must only be used on targets affixed to backstops.
3. Must not be used at distances less than 50 m.
4. Must not be used on gongs.

It should be noted that this section applied to projectiles with steel cores. Full metal jacket (FMJ) projectiles have a copper jacket and a lead core and are not affected by these rules. Steel cased ammunition has cases formed from steel rather than brass and may have a variety of projectiles. Members must understand the nature of the ammunition they are using and guide themselves within the rules.

- **September 22 – 1st Saturday in November: 6:30 p.m.**
- **1st Sunday in November – 2nd Saturday in March: 4:30 p.m.**

All firing must cease at the posted hours. These times are posted at the gate, on the website and in the newsletter.

Drugs, Alcohol and Vaping

Bill C-45, An Act respecting cannabis and to amend the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, the Criminal Code and other Acts came into force on October 17, 2018. These regulatory changes prompted some adjustments to the 'Drugs and Alcohol' and 'Smoking' sections of the rules to reflect the changing reality around cannabis use, which may be smoked, vaped or consumed as edibles.

Drugs and Alcohol

Alcohol consumption and cannabis use is prohibited in all range areas and parking areas. Persons under

the influence of drugs or alcohol are not permitted in any range area.

Alcoholic beverages and cannabis ingestion are permitted in the clubhouse areas. Alcoholic beverages and cannabis use are permitted in individual campsites. Members are asked in all cases to consume responsibly.

Smoking and Vaping

No vaping or smoking of any kind is permitted in shooting sheds or the clubhouse.

Targets

The following additions to the 'Targets' section of the rules:

- Acceptable soft (i.e. non-metal) targets may be used on the 50m range, and must be hung from the provided supports.
- The moving target system owned by SPFGA may be used at SPFGA-organized events.

When Things Go Wrong

In recognition that situations may arise where things may go wrong, the following sections were either added or amended to provide guidance to members.

Hang Fire / Misfires

In the event of a hang fire/misfire, the action must remain closed for a minimum of one minute, the firearm remaining under control and the muzzle being maintained in a safe downrange direction.

Cartridges that fail to go off should be disposed of in the provided disposal containers.

Malfunctions

In the event that a firearm malfunction occurs at curtain down – such a bolt unable to close on a tight case is now stuck, or a muzzleloader that won't fire—make reasonable efforts to resolve the situation. Should a reasonable effort prove fruitless, render the firearm as safe as possible and ensure the muzzle is pointed in a safe direction. The firearm may be inspected further at curtain up.

Emergency Ceasefire

For an emergency ceasefire (injury, medical emergency, firearm malfunction, animal on the range, etc.), clearly declare the range immediately closed. Ensure everyone present is alerted to the change in range status. Secure firearms and lower the curtain as discussed above. Everyone should move behind the Cease Fire Line.

Injury Accidents

- In the event of an injury accident:
- A cease fire must be called and the injured person(s) must vacate the Firing Line,
- Injured parties should be offered first aid, and if warranted, encouraged to seek appropriate medical attention. An injured person is permitted to return to the Firing Line to shoot only after the (Acting) Enforcement Officer clears him/her to do so.

Revised SPFGA Facility Rules (continued)

- The (Acting) Enforcement Officer must submit an Incident Report to the President within 24 hours, containing:
 - Date and time of incident.
 - Name, membership number and telephone number of the injured person(s), date and time of the incident.
- Reports taken from witnesses on site with names, membership numbers and telephone numbers.
- Details regarding the incident, nature of the injuries, and actions taken.

NOTE: In the case of a catastrophic firearm/component failure, the member involved shall not be permitted to shoot for the remainder of that day to allow them time to assess the ammunition and firearm.

Range Use Clarifications

Following review of our range certifications and subsequent discussions with the Chief Firearms Officer (CFO), the following clarifications were made within the rules:

- The Big Bore, Overflow and 50 m ranges are approved for template groups up to but not including the .50 BMG template
 - 50 BMG and 20 mm cartridges are prohibited on all SPFGA ranges.
 - The shotgun range is approved for #7 or smaller birdshot only
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Background

A committee was struck following the October 2018 Board meeting to review and revise the facility rules. This committee conducted its review, guided by three principles:

- **Simplicity:** the rules should not be cumbersome to follow
- **Congruity:** the rules should be consistent with one another
- **Individual Responsibility:** while these rules have member safety as their central focus, they should they should principally be geared toward ensuring the safety of other members and recognize where possible and feasible the individual's own autonomy where maintenance of their own personal safety is concerned.

SPFGA Board

Executive

President

Al Keeler

Past President

Doug Burton

Treasurer

Charlie Hutchings

1st Vice President

Matthew Meier

2nd Vice President

Alan Jackson

Secretary

Tom Opgenorth

Directors

Membership

Matthew Meier

Conservation

Frank Lee

Archery

Pat Emerson

Handgun

Jerry Purpur

Shotgun

Keith Lacey

Black Powder

Paul Christensen

Rifle

Tassi Xenos

Political Action/ Environment

Sebastian Dietrich

Youth

Elisabeth Small

Big Game

Dale Fournier

Fish

Jan Sorensen

Migratory/Upland Game Birds

Vacant

Communications Chair

Roland Coppens

Song Birds

Troy Lymburner

Special Projects

Gaetan Richard

Facilities Coordinator

Rick Buckley

Range Operations & Maintenance

Chris Russell

Appointed

Range Supervisor

Jim Clarke

Catering

Elaine Xenos

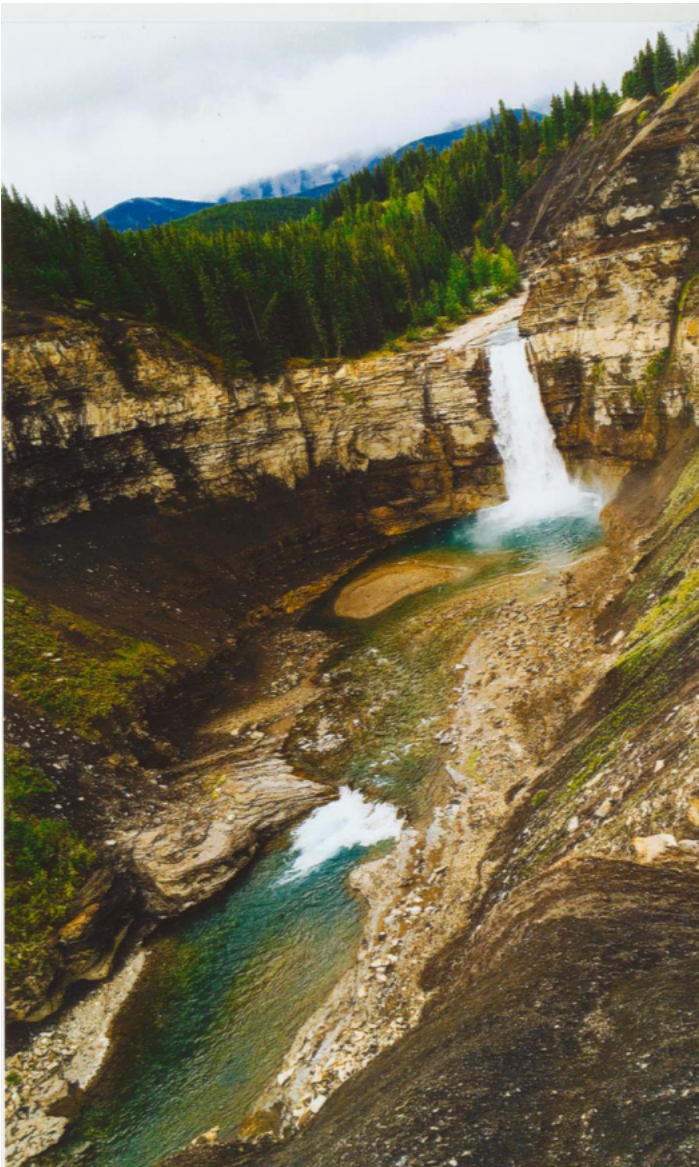
2019 Photo Contest

SPFGA holds a photography contest annually, accepting submissions in two categories: Scenic and Wildlife.

After expanding the breadth of submission methods to include submission from cloud drives and USB drives this year, we had a fair increase in the number of photos submitted, with 21 in the Wildlife category and 42 in the Scenic category. Judging was performed by the staff of Sherwood Park Mall McBain Camera following the February 22 deadline.

The winning submissions are:

Scenic



First Place
Mckenzie Erwin



Second Place
Melody Howlett



Third Place
Craig Temple

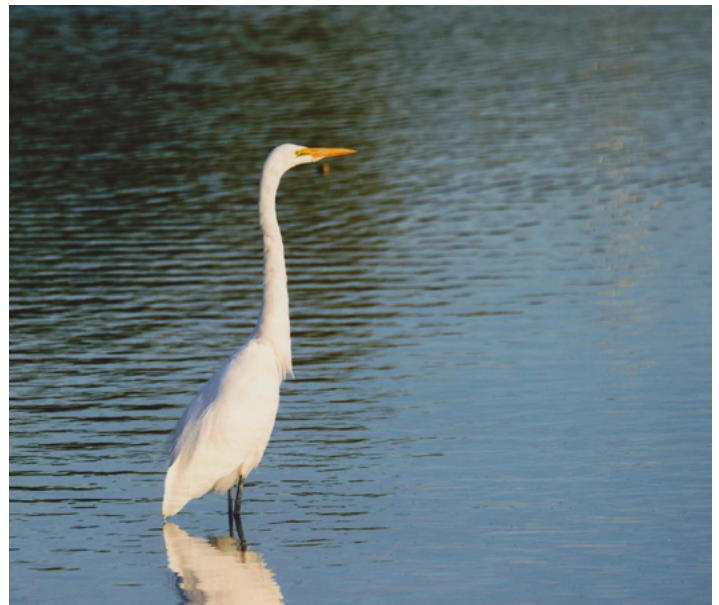
Wildlife



First Place
Melody Howlett



Second Place
Leif Grue



Third Place
Percy Howlett

Thank you to everyone who submitted photos!

2018 Trophy Winners



Dale Fournier, Big Game Chair

SPFGA Trophy scoring took place on January 27th at the Old Timers Cabin, with a couple of back up dates at Cabela's. There was a very good turn out on scoring day, with many impressive trophies were brought in to be scored.

Scoring is done to the Boone and Crockett Club Standards that has been around since the early nineteen hundreds and, as many of the animals were taken with archery, they are also eligible to be entered in the Pope and Young trophy book as well. The duck and geese entrees are entered by weighing them on a certified scale; fish and pheasants are scored by length.



Each year, there are three or four categories with no entries, so as much as you may not consider your big game head, fish or bird a trophy it still might be eligible to win the category of that species.

As a club I think it's important to emphasize that what constitutes a trophy is a matter of personal choice and the experience. While not every animal taken will qualify for the record books, any animal taken legally and through Fair Chase can be your personal trophy.

For all of us that are dedicated to the pursuit of Fair Chase, truly the good old days are here now!

| Trophy | Sponsor | Winner | Score | Location |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Big Game | | | | |
| Whitetail Deer | Butcher Block & Smoke House | Vanessa Snow | 156 5/8 | Strathcona County |
| Non-typical Whitetail Deer | Widynowski's Sausage House Ltd. | Leif Grue | 158 | Elk River |
| Mule Deer | Encore Trucking & Transport | Craig Temple | 159 2/8 | Medicine Hat |
| Non-typical Mule Deer | Canuck Industrial Sales (1982) Ltd. | no entry | | |
| American Elk | W & R Foundation Specialists Ltd. | Craig Temple | 268 3/8 | Consort |
| Canada Moose | Southtown Auto & Industrial Supply | Mitchell Bodeux | 172 2/8 | Smoky Lake |
| Pronghorn Antelope | Kerr Interior Systems Ltd. | Kris Skelly | 72 4/8 | Red Deer River |
| Bighorn Sheep | Home Hardware Sherwood Park | no entry | | |
| Black Bear | D Valves Ltd. | Luc Preteau | 18 10/16 | Slave Lake |
| County of Strathcona – Big Game | SPFGA | Craig Temple | 135 6/8 | Strathcona County |
| Largest Big Game – Archery | Jim-Bows Archery | Craig Temple | 159 2/8 | Medicine Hat |
| Largest Big Game – Blackpowder | Edmonton House Brigade | Vanessa Snow | 156 10/16 | Strathcona County |
| Largest Big Game–Crossbow | Gordon Kerr | no entry | | |
| Junior Big Game – Under 18 | Dean Bromberger | Leif Grue | 158 | Elk River |
| Master Hunter Big Game | Abalone Construction Services Inc. | Craig Temple | 159 2/8 | Medicine Hat |
| Birds | | | | |
| Goose | TPS Machining & Welding | Lyall Kortzman | 5.90 | Heinsberg |
| Duck | Nicola and Pat Harris | Lyall Kortzman | 1.56 | Vegreville |
| Pheasant | Guardian | Dwayne Zuzak | 99.06 | Two Hills |
| Fish | | | | |
| Cold Water Fish | The Fishin' Hole | Gaetan Richard | 48.26 | North Saskatchewan River |
| Junior Fish – 12 Years & Under | Claire and Matthew Meier | Eddy Matushyk | 76.84 | Lake Isle |
| Junior Fish – 13 - 17 Years | BOS | Tyler Hopkins | 55.00 | Lac Ste Anne |
| Warm Water Fish | The McKenzie Family | Eddy Matushyk | 76.84 | Lake Isle |
| Photography | | | | |
| Scenic Photography | Tim Horton's | | | |
| Wildlife Photography | McBain Camera | | | |

Service Awards

Merit Award

This award is presented for exceptional service to the Association over the preceding three-year period. A recipient must be a member of good standing in the year the award is given, have contributed significantly to the improvement of the Association, and displayed a positive attitude and willingness for the involvement in the Association's activities.

2019 Merit Award Winner: Keith Lacey

Charlie Roberts Outstanding Contributions Award

This award is presented for outstanding service and exceeding the expectations of the association. A recipient must be a member of good standing, have made a significant contribution to the long-term betterment of the Association, have demonstrated conduct becoming to the Association, have displayed a positive attitude, and a willingness for involvement in the Associations activities.

2019 Charlie Roberts Award Winner: Richard Rothwell

Wildlife Trust Fund Cheque Presentation

At the AFGA Conference in Calgary on February 21-23, 2019, SPFGA President Al Keeler presented a cheque on behalf of the club for a \$5,000 donation in support of the Wildlife Trust Fund.



Consultations with Minister Bill Blair

Bill C-71, sponsored by Ralph Goodale, the Federal Minister of Public Health & Safety, was introduced to the House on March 20, 2018. This bill proposes to amend the Firearms Act and its regulations in relation to firearms with respect to gun control-related matters. It is currently before the Senate and is in the Committee stage.

As a follow-on to this, Bill Blair, Minister of Border Security and Organized Crime Reduction, has been touring Canada in town hall consultations,

following Prime Minister Trudeau's instruction to hold a national public conversation investigating "a full ban on handguns and assault weapons in Canada." Minister Blair was in Red Deer earlier this year and met with Ian Stuart, AFGA 2nd VP and Doug Wood, Red Deer Fish and Game Association Past President, who provided facts and data-based firearms rights advocacy addresses on our behalf. Minister Blair was interested and attentive, taking notes during their discussion.



Project Mapleseed

Project Mapleseed is a made-in-Canada, non-profit, volunteer-run training program focusing on teaching traditional rifle marksmanship. One day marksmanship clinics, termed 'Mapleseeds', teach and reinforce the shooting fundamentals. Mapleseeds are open to shooters of all skill levels and all ages, so long as they have a .22 rifle, 400 rounds of ammunition, and a teachable attitude. The past attendees of Mapleseed clinics have run the gamut between young children at their first formal shooting event to a former Master Sniper with the Canadian Armed Forces.

The goal is to teach the participants the marksmanship skills they need to consistently hit a target 4 minutes-of-angle (MOA) in size. To put that into perspective, this would be equivalent to putting a large dinner plate at the 300m berm on the big-bore overflow range and being able have all the bullets from your .22 consistently hit that plate (assuming the wind doesn't push the bullet off course).

Mapleseed clinics consist of a couple hours of marksmanship instruction followed by hands-on shooting and coaching from the Mapleseed instructors. Some of the things that will be covered at a Mapleseed clinic:

- Rock Solid Shooting Positions – The fundamentals of shooting at a target from the standing offhand, sitting / kneeling, and prone positions.
- Natural Point of Aim (NPOA) – The Natural Point of Aim is important to not only making that first shot as accurate as possible, but is also important to ensuring that follow-up shots will be as accurate as possible and strike the same point of aim.
- Six Steps to Firing a Shot – Learn to apply these techniques to create a repeatable, stable and accurate shooting style.
- Sight Adjustment – Learn how to properly adjust your sights for elevation and windage, as well as fine-tuning to stay on target as the distance changes.

If you want to learn more, check out the Project Mapleseed website (<https://mapleseedrifleman.com>) and their official Facebook page: **Official Project Mapleseed-Group Discussion**.



Mapleseed at SPFGA

Mapleseed clinics are held across Canada each summer. **SPFGA has booked a Mapleseed clinic at our range for July 9, 2019! The event runs 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m** and will accommodate a maximum of 20 participants.

Registration fees are as follows:

\$75 adult SPFGA members

\$95 adult non-members

\$50 SPFGA member CAF/EMT/LEO's

\$70 non-member CAF/EMT/LEO's

\$25 for all youth (under 18)

Registration and payment will be through the project Mapleseed website

<https://mapleseedrifleman.com/>

To keep abreast of this as further details become available, refer to the **Current Events**

Page on the SPFGA website:

<https://www.spfga.ca/events/current-events/>



SPFGA has booked a Mapleseed clinic at our range for July 9, 2019!

Building Bat-Friendly Communities

Bats are fascinating creatures, but are dogged by a serious PR problem. And we can find them all around us, whether the places we look are urban, rural or wild.

Important contributors to a healthy Alberta ecosystem, bats are major predators of insects. Many pests of forests, crops, and people are among the favourite foods of bats. The organic pest control they offer contributes substantially to the Alberta economy (industry estimates from U.S. agriculture data as an example, places bat economic contributions to pest control at \$23 billion dollars annually).

Nine species of bats call Alberta home, and although rarely seen because of their nocturnal habits, they are often among the most common wildlife in our communities.

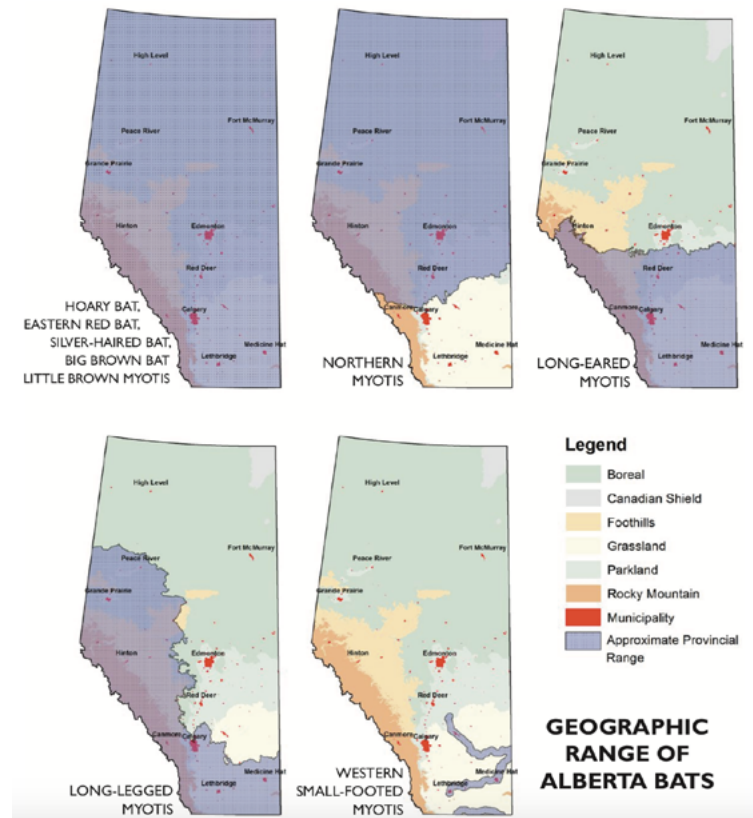


Silver-haired Bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*) – among the most common & easily recognizable Alberta bats. They are adapted to fast long-distance flights over open areas above wetlands, high in the forest canopy, or along the forest edge. Roosting occurs in crevices of large decaying trees.

Hoary Bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*) – Named for the frosted white tips of their coat. Fast long-distance flyers, foraging in open areas. Foraging flights of 20 km are not uncommon. Roosting occurs in the foilage of deciduous or coniferous trees.



Eastern Red Bat (*Lasiurus borealis*) – Medium-sized bats with small wings for high, fast flights. Moths form the bulk of their diet, but many other insects are eaten as well. Solitary foliage-roosting bats, they typically roost out on the limbs of branches concealed among clumps of leaves.





Big Brown Bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*) – One of the larger species in Alberta, they are common residents of prairie river valleys and are found Edmonton and south throughout Alberta. Common in agricultural communities and sporadic in boreal regions. Roosting is often in colonies in buildings, trees, rock crevices and caves.

Little Brown Myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*) – Also known as the Little Brown Bat, this is the most commonly occurring species in Alberta. Their diet consists midges, caddisflies and mayflies as well as beetles, moths, mosquitoes, spiders, and various types of flies. White-nose syndrome has devastated populations in areas of North America, resulting in it being listed as federally Endangered in Canada. Roosting is commonly in old trees, rock crevices, caves and bat houses.



Long-legged Myotis (*Myotis volans*) – Similar in size and appearance to the Little Brown Myotis and may roost in mixed groups with them. Roosting in buildings may be common in some areas.

Western Small-footed Myotis (*Myotis ciliolabrum*) – The smallest of Alberta bat species, locations concentrating in riparian badland habitats along the Milk River, South Saskatchewan River and Red Deer River. Roosting is primary in rock crevices and mudstone erosion holes.



Long-eared Myotis (*Myotis evotis*) – The second-smallest of Alberta bat species. They are particularly maneuverable and well adapted to slop flight, allowing them to occupy roost sites near to the ground. Roosts are commonly in erosion holes, tree stumps, under rock piles and in rock crevices.

Building Bat-Friendly Communities (continued)

Northern Myotis (*Myotis septentrionalis*) – Similar in appearance to the Little Brown Myotis. Residents of the boreal forest, foothills and mountains, occupying regions where the Long-eared Myotis does not occur. Able to hunt close to vegetation than the Little Brown Myotis, with which they share much of their range, they forage for insects resting on the surfaces of vegetation, often in the understory of old forest. Roosting is usually in the crevices of large decaying Aspen or Balsam Poplar trunks.



Bats' slow reproductive rates makes them vulnerable to habitat loss, in addition to other sources of mortality associated with human activity including the introduction of new predators, particularly house cats. In addition to these challenges, a fungal disease recently introduced to North America, called white-nose syndrome has placed two of Alberta's bat species - the Little Brown Myotis and the Northern Myotis – on the list of Endangered Species in Canada.

To flourish, bats like all animals require three basic things: food, shelter and water. Well managed habitats in urban, rural and wild areas are able to provide these key elements. Maintaining the diversity of features found in natural environments is important for ensuring the success of our bats. Providing bat houses and buildings suitable for bats is unlikely to be sufficient if our ecosystems no longer support the insect communities that they rely upon for food.

In contacting the Alberta Community Bat Program to prepare this article, their Program Coordinator, Cory Olson, M.Sc., P.Biol., advised that the message all of us need most to understand in promoting bat conservation is the importance of good management and stewardship of bats roosting

"The message all of us need most to understand in promoting bat conservation is the importance of good management and stewardship of bats roosting in buildings."

— Program Coordinator, Cory Olson, M.Sc., P.Biol.

in buildings. Some buildings support hundreds or thousands of bats, potentially representing much of the breeding population for a several kilometer radius. Although there are times when bats may need to be excluded from buildings, it is often the case that bats are not causing any harm and can be left alone. And any harm they might be causing can be easily mitigated. For example, there are many cases where bats are just roosting on the exterior of a building, out of reach from people. In this case, problems with mess can often be solved by strategically placing a plant pot to collect the waste, which makes good fertilizer. Also, bats roosting in old barns – where mess is not a concern – often do not warrant exclusion. When it is necessary to exclude bats, most of the harm can be avoided by waiting until they leave on their own in the Fall before patching their exits or completing renovations. After November 1 and before March 15 is typically the time frame of greatest bat safety. Bats are among the slowest reproducing mammal, especially for their small size. They only give birth to one pup per year, and not until their second or third year. Any factor impacting their reproductive ability – shelter being foremost among these – will have substantial effects on bat populations.

Adapted by permission from The Alberta Community Bat Program (albertabats.ca) from the following, an excellent information piece worth reading all on its own: <https://www.albertabats.ca/wp-content/uploads/AlbertaBFC.pdf>

2019 Calendar of Events

| | Executive Meetings | General Meeting | Special Events |
|-----------|---|---|--|
| | 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 pm Chamber of Commerce Building | 7:30 pm, Old Log Cabin 50 Spruce Avenue | |
| January | January 8 | January 31 | January 27, Trophy Scoring 9-4, Old Log Cabin |
| February | February 12 | | February 21-23, AFGA Convention, Calgary |
| March | March 12 | | March 23, Awards Night Dinner |
| April | April 9 | April 25 | April 6, Archery Work Party |
| May | May 14 | May 30 | May 19, Les Berry Shoot May 25 and 26, Black Powder Shoot |
| June | June 11 | | June 1, Work Party June 15, Executive BBQ |
| July | | | Narrow Lake Youth Camps AFGA Becoming an Outdoor Woman Camps |
| August | | | August 17, Fun Shoot |
| September | September 10 | September 5 | September 7 and 8 Black Powder Shoot |
| October | October 8 | | |
| November | November 12 | | |
| December | | December 5 | |

Membership Chair Report

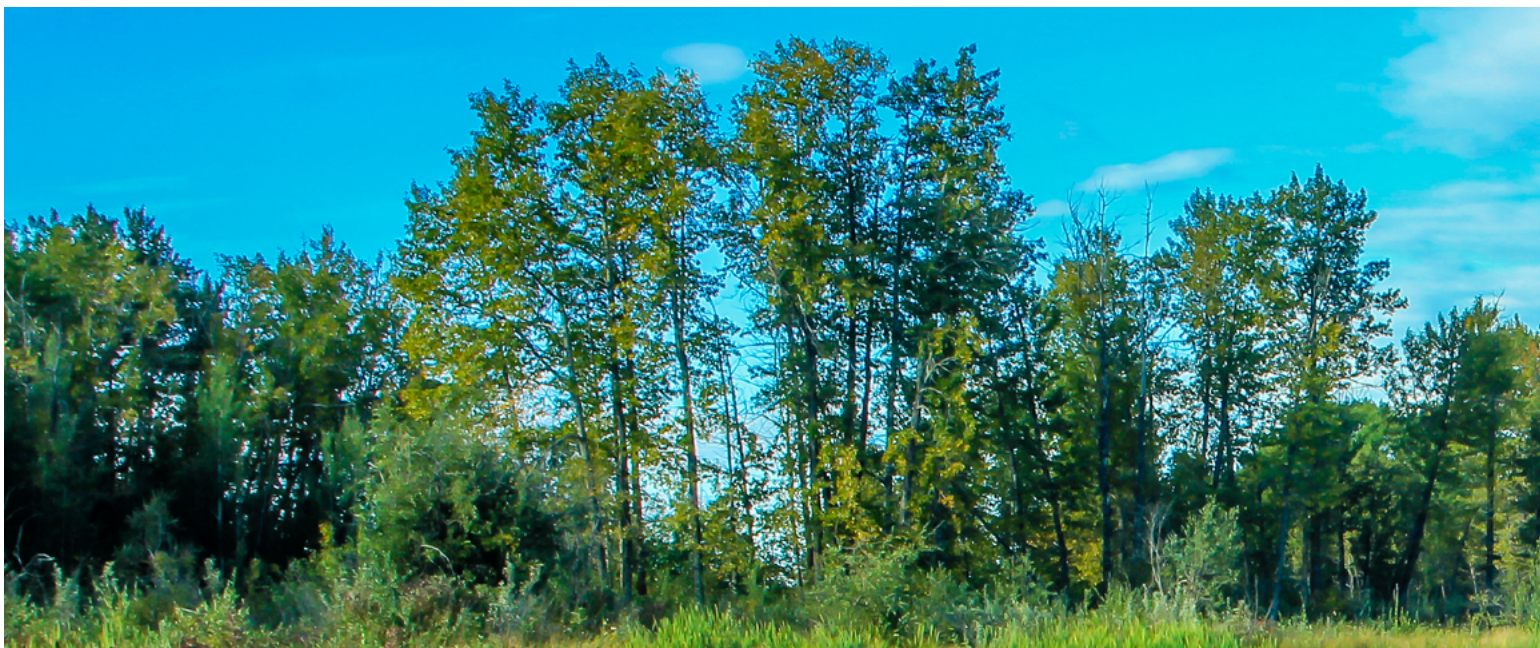
Matthew Meier, Membership Chair

The past year has been an interesting challenge. I accepted the role as Membership Chair in December of 2017 without much idea as to what the job entailed. It turned out that I was stepping in mid-way through a transition from our in-house processing of the membership to an outsourced solution. To say that there have been some growing pains would be a major understatement.

One of the major challenges is something mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, namely communication with the membership. To become more cost effective, we have been adjusting to a primarily electronic communications strategy. Not everyone is used to that, and some don't want it. At the end of 2018 we also had to deal with a work action by the Canadian Union of Postal Workers. While this didn't affect those that stay on top of their email, it did affect members who rely on physical mail. It also caused some issues with a batch of membership cards that were sent out.

There have been several changes to the membership renewal process. The biggest change came in 2018 with the introduction of our member portal on the website. Most people should have their access to this setup by now, but if you have not, I encourage you to contact Candace at ManageWise at candace@managewise.ca to do so. This portal allows you to update your contact information (which is very important) and allows you to renew our membership. In the future we will be expanding this to give members access to things like meeting minutes and to allow other payments as well (e.g. Awards Night tickets). We also moved up the renewal deadline to November 30. This was done to avoid the last-minute rush for renewals over the Christmas break, and to better facilitate the new member process.

There have been changes to the new member process as well. It wasn't that many years ago that we still sold memberships through various sporting goods stores in the area. We brought that fully in-house at the same time as introducing a cap to our range memberships. Over the past two renewal cycles we have slowly been increasing that cap. We also have a steady attrition rate from the existing memberships. The combination of these two things allows us to accept a significant number of new members every year. However, it is still a challenge for new people seeking membership with our club. In the past it has been a race to be the first people to submit applications on January 1. This makes for a large surge in our workload and it also means some people were waiting for years to try to get in.



There are now two primary methods by which interested parties can become range members. The first is to purchase a regular membership between January 1 and August 31. There is no cap on regular memberships. This gives priority access to any available spaces within the range membership cap for the following year. If more people want to upgrade than we have space for, members will be offered the chance to upgrade based on the age of their membership. The second method is to place your name on our waitlist via the website between September 1 and November 30. If space remains within the cap after existing regular members are given a chance to upgrade, then the names on the waitlist are subject to a random draw for the available number of memberships. This gives everyone on the list an equal chance at being drawn, regardless of when their name went on the list. Once the cap is reached, the rest of the waitlist for the year is purged and we start over the following year.

The final big change for this year was the introduction of an option to do the new range member orientation online. All new range members, including people that are upgrading from a regular membership, are required to complete an orientation. In the past we only offered this in-person at the range. Limited space and unpredictable weather at times drastically affected the comfort level of the attendees. Due to instructor availability, the orientations were generally done over the weekends of February and a few dates in March. Many new members were anxious to get to shooting, so while we do still offer the in-person option, we also developed the online option. New members review the facility details and the range rules on the website at a time that is convenient to them. They then complete an exam as evidence that they did read the material. A minimum score of 80% is required to pass. More than half of our new members this year opted for the online format and the feedback overall was quite positive. We look forward to further enhancing this process over the coming year.

In the coming year the goal is to refine what we already have in place and to continue to look for new ways to improve the renewal and new member processes. I am always open to comments and suggestions at membership@spfga.ca and I encourage you to bring forward any ideas you might have for consideration.



Club Email: A Challenging Topic



Roland Coppens, Communications Chair

Each club email we send out involves significant distribution cost.

"It's an email, how could it be expensive?" you might ask. Why would something as easily distributable as an email be expensive? Well, the answer actually has little to do with the emails themselves, and more to do with the members we're unable to send email to.

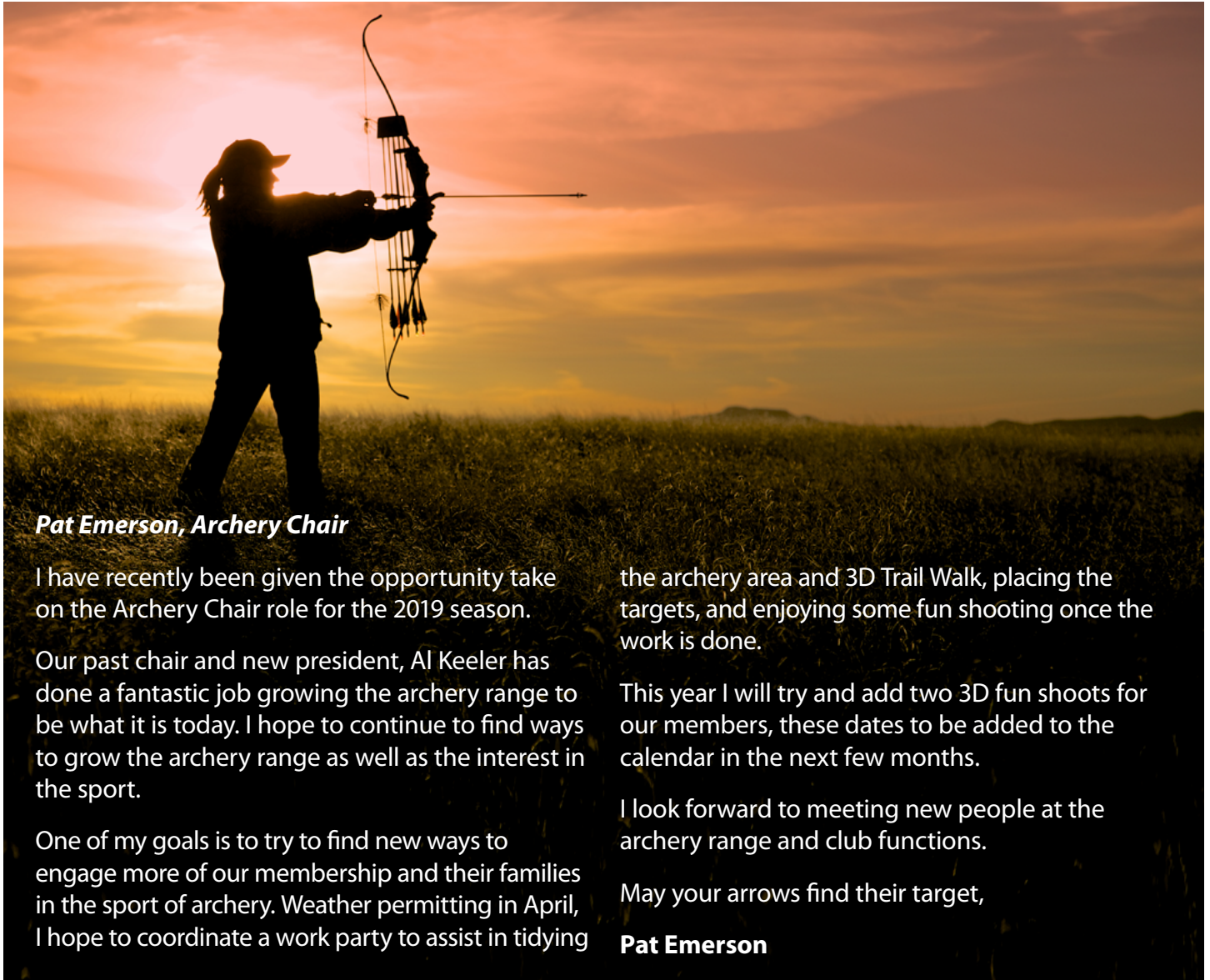
Some members are unable to receive email, for a variety of reasons. Some members have indicated their desire to not receive emails, which we're required by law to respect. Other members, who have received emails previously, opt to unsubscribe from club emails. We want to be sure all our members receive the information we send out though, so for members we're unable to email we're required to resort to physical mail via Canada Post.

At present, around 400 of our members are either unable to receive email, have elected not to provide email information to us, or have unsubscribed from club email. At \$1.05 in postage per piece of direct mail per member, not including stationery or staff costs, this adds up quickly. Each email we send out costs our members between \$400-600 to distribute.

Adding to this problem is the fact that **with each email broadcast, 50% of emails go unopened and 2-5% of members unsubscribe from club email.** The reasons for this are uncertain, but likely speak to member engagement and email burnout, and both are counterproductive to us in the long run. In recognition of these problems, we have become more selective of our use of email and leaned more heavily on our website and social media channels for these regular communications.

If you receive club information in print by direct mail through Canada Post rather than email, we ask you to consider moving to email delivery instead. Not only is this a better use of membership dollars, it's better stewardship of the environment. Contact Candace by telephone at 780-412-1311 or by email at candace@managewise.ca to have yourself set up to receive club email.

Archery Report



Pat Emerson, Archery Chair

I have recently been given the opportunity take on the Archery Chair role for the 2019 season.

Our past chair and new president, Al Keeler has done a fantastic job growing the archery range to be what it is today. I hope to continue to find ways to grow the archery range as well as the interest in the sport.

One of my goals is to try to find new ways to engage more of our membership and their families in the sport of archery. Weather permitting in April, I hope to coordinate a work party to assist in tidying

the archery area and 3D Trail Walk, placing the targets, and enjoying some fun shooting once the work is done.

This year I will try and add two 3D fun shoots for our members, these dates to be added to the calendar in the next few months.

I look forward to meeting new people at the archery range and club functions.

May your arrows find their target,

Pat Emerson

Before You Leave Home

We have many amenities at our facility that our members use. It's fairly common for us to have received bookings for them, so to avoid frustration or surprises, make sure you've checked the calendar on the website before leaving to come out: <https://www.spfga.ca/events>



Narrow Lake Conservation Center

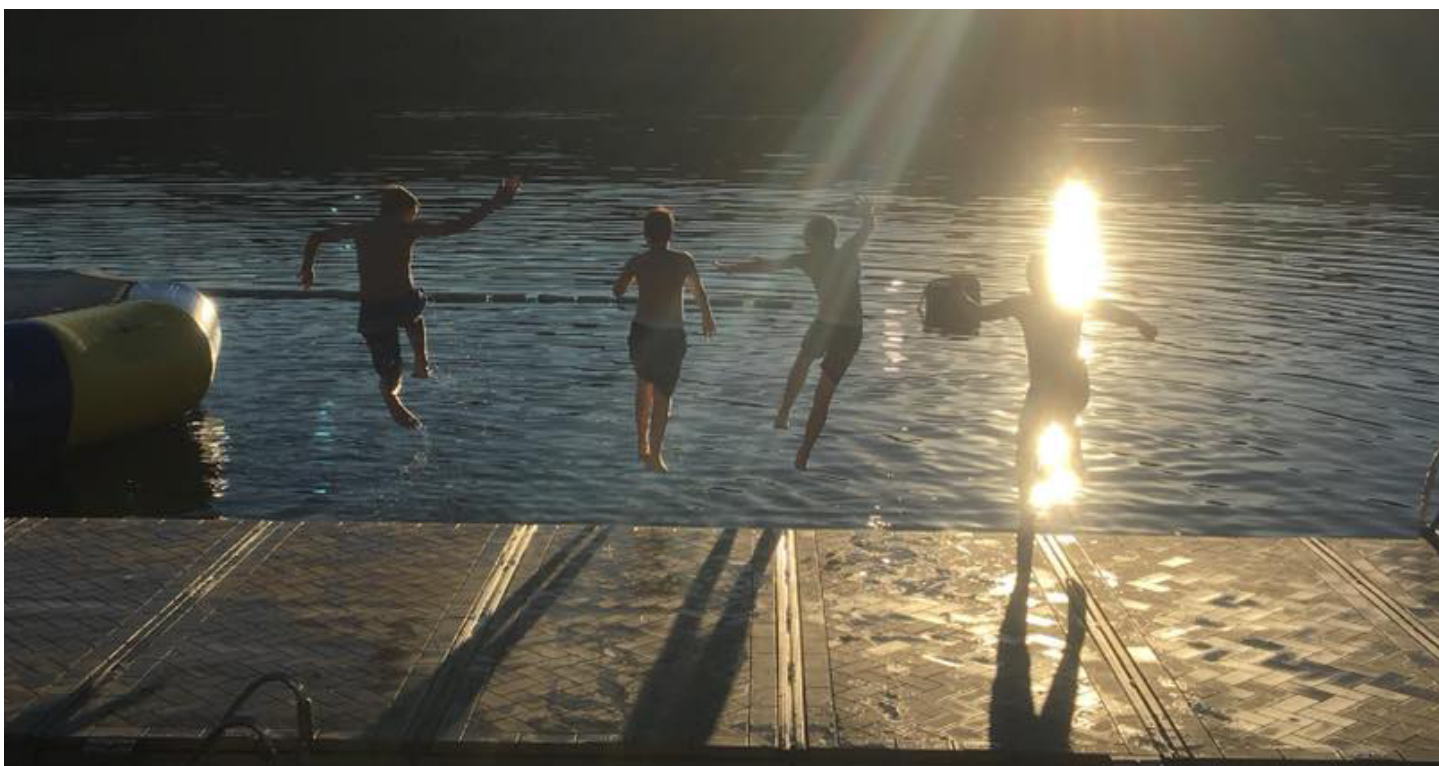
The Narrow Lake Conservation Center (NLCC) is an outdoor education center located on the eastern shore of Narrow Lake, approximately 35 km southwest of Athabasca. NLCC is managed by a partnership between AFGA Zones 4 and 5 through a volunteer board of directors.

The 300 acre NLCC facility includes many amenities including 10 small cabins, a bunkhouse, kitchen, wash house, and two classrooms along with other buildings. The property also hosts a 100 m large bore rifle range, a small bore/handgun range, a trap range, and an archery range. There are two docks, one for swimming and one for boats, allowing for easy and direct access to the lake for activities such as canoeing, kayaking, and fishing. The facility has a small flotilla of canoes and kayaks available for use by facility users.

Narrow Lake and the neighboring Long Lake have very limited development in their respective watersheds and are a great location to access dark skies, clean water, and the peacefulness of the wilderness.

The NLCC facility is available for rental by groups for conservation or outdoor education purposes. Users have access to the entire site along with equipment such as canoes, kayaks, firearms, and archery equipment. Those interested in renting the facility are encouraged to contact **Robyn Karpinski** at secretary.narrowlacc@gmail.com.





Camps at Narrow Lake

Each summer, the NLCC hosts the Narrow Lake Youth Conservation Camp during the 1st and 3rd weeks of July and the AFGA Becoming an Outdoor Woman (BOW) Camp during the 2nd and 4th weeks of July.

The Youth Conservation Camp offers attendees Hunter Education, the Canadian Firearms Safety course and the Boat Safety Course. In addition, campers enjoy activities like canoeing, archery, rifle, pistol, shotgun, and blackpowder shooting, wilderness overnight camping, outdoor survival skills, swimming, and fishing.

The Becoming an Outdoor Woman (BOW) program is designed for ladies interested in taking part in a myriad of outdoor activities they have never tried but would like to, or beginners wanting to improve upon their skills. Activities include archery, rifle/pistol/shotgun/muzzleloader shooting, canoeing, GPS locating, outdoor cooking, and survival skills. Attendees of the five-day course also complete the Canadian Firearms Safety Course.

For information on registering at these camps, contact:

Youth Conservation Camp

Samantha Wulff at 780-720-0912 or
narrowlakeyouthcamp@outlook.com

BOW Camp

Robin Butler 780-895-7799 or
robynbutler@live.com.

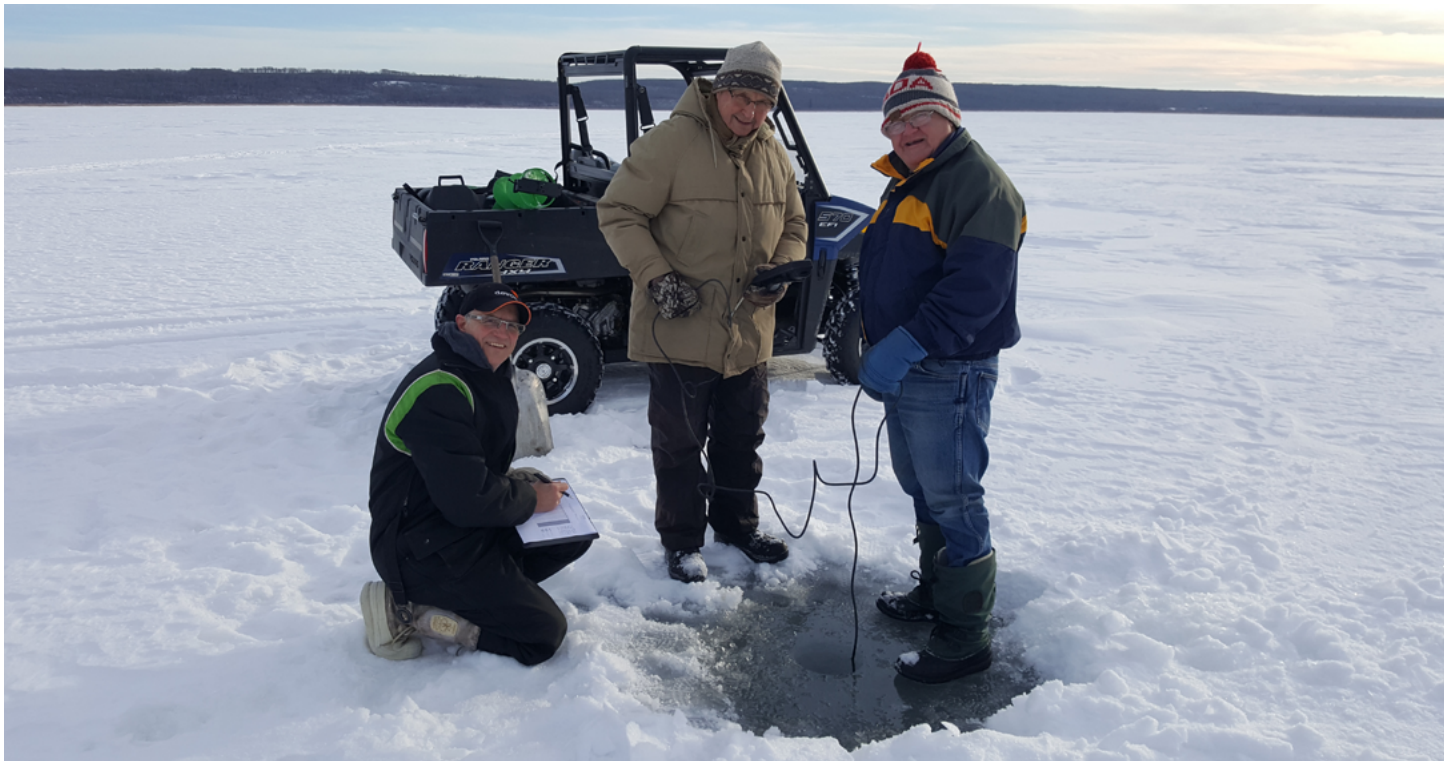
SPFGA Sponsored Members

Historically, SPFGA has sponsored youth members between 12 and 16 years of age to attend the Narrow Lake Youth Conservation Camp. This year, we will be sponsoring up to four youth to attend.

This year, for the first time, we will also be sponsoring two female members to attend the full five-day BOW camp.

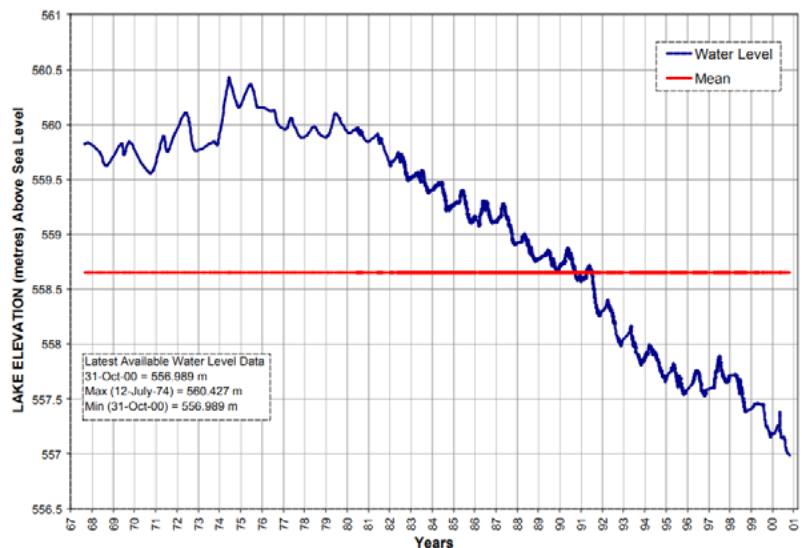
Members wishing to put their names forward for club sponsorship to attend these camps are encouraged to contact the President at president@spfga.ca by March 31. Names of the successful candidates will be announced at the May 30 General Meeting at the Old Log Cabin.

Muriel Lake Study



Muriel Lake is a shallow lake near the town of Bonnyville. Water levels of this lake have been dropping for some time, falling more than 3 meters since the 1970s, with a volume loss nearing 60%.

Water levels have been monitored for Muriel Lake since 1967, demonstrating that the lake reached its maximum recorded level in 1974 and have been declining steadily since (see right). Increases in salinity, total dissolved solids and major ion concentration have been observed. At the same time, dissolved oxygen levels have been demonstrated to be decreasing in recent years.



These changes have resulted in this lake no longer being a usable water body, with swimming being difficult due to declining water levels and growing littoral zone, sport fishing greatly reduced due to reductions in local fish populations, and power boating becoming impractical.

The Muriel Lake Basin Management Society was formed to address the seriously declining lake water level, water quality issues and decreased fish spawning habitat. The activities of this organization will be to increase awareness and understanding about the water issues at Muriel Lake, and to improve and maintain the state of the lake and its surrounding wetlands so that it may return to an ecologically healthy watershed for the benefit of all Albertans.

A presentation was made at the October 2018 SPFGA Board meeting regarding the Muriel Lake Basin Management Society's planned study to develop a management plan and a motion was passed to donate \$5,000 to support its costs.

Taken with adaptation from: (and are also great links to read)

<http://albertalakes.ualberta.ca/?page=lake&lake=59®ion=2>

<https://sites.ualberta.ca/~ersc/water/climate/muriel.htm>

<http://www.savemuriellake.com/>

https://sites.ualberta.ca/~ersc/water/climate/muriel/gov_qual.pdf

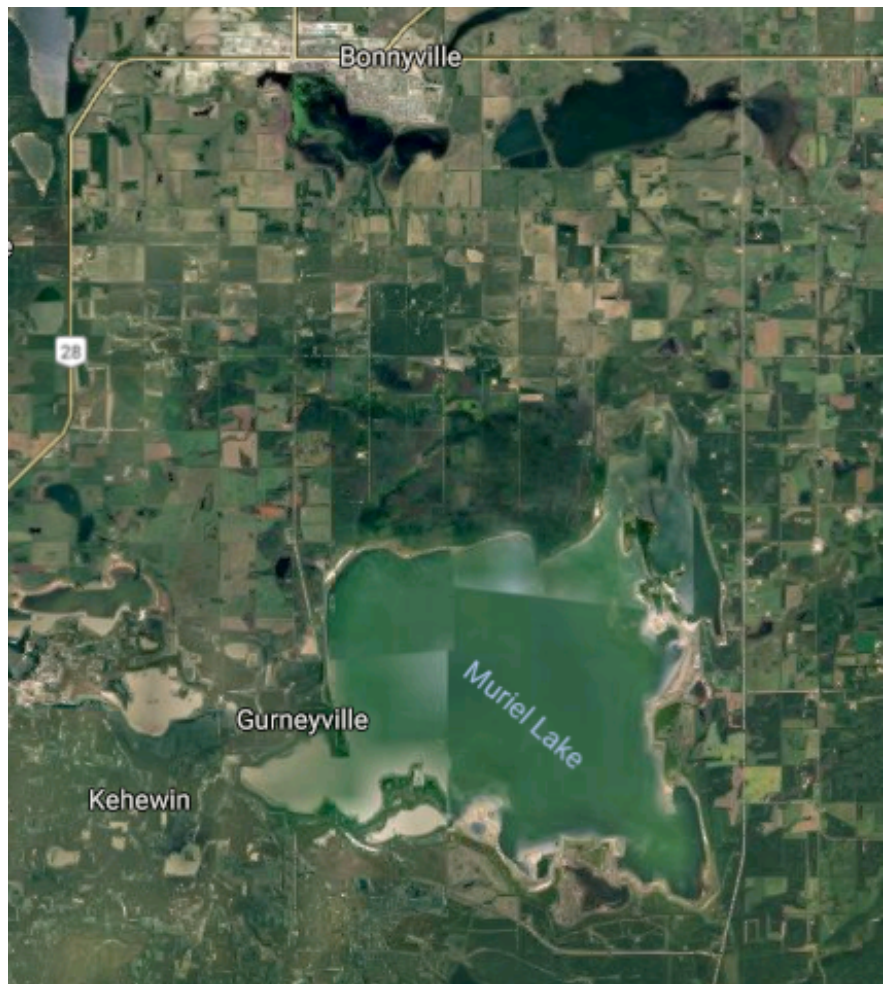
Meet Muriel Lake

Muriel Lake is a shallow water body located in the Municipal District of Bonnyville about 13 km south of the town of Bonnyville and 250 km northeast of the city of Edmonton. Muriel Lake drains an area of 384 km², with most water flowing into the lake from the south and east via several creeks including one that drains Bluet Lake and Gamier Lake to the south. There is currently no out-flow from Muriel Lake.

Muriel Lake is typical of many of shallow Alberta lakes, with the water column warming rapidly in spring, weak thermal stratification during summer, followed by the water column being well mixed by fall.

The fish fauna of Muriel Lake have historically shown to include northern pike, walleye, lake whitefish, yellow perch, burbot, white sucker, spottail shiner, and Iowa darter. The dominant submergent aquatic plants are large-sheath pondweed and stonewort.

Common great bulrush is the dominant emergent aquatic plant species in the water, with common cattail and sedges being predominant closer to shore. A variety of phytoplankton and benthic fauna have been catalogued by Alberta Environment. The lake has a large littoral zone covering more than 50% of its area, which has been increasing with declining water levels.



Waterbody Oxygenation & Fishery Health

Aeration is a fisheries management strategy employed by the Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) to ensure Albertans have access to recreational angling opportunities in areas of the province where such opportunities are otherwise limited.

Waterbodies as candidates for aeration are typically shallow, eutrophic (overly enriched with minerals and nutrients which induce excessive growth of plants and algae), experience prolonged ice cover, and are prone to summer and winter fish kills. Aeration is used to raise dissolved oxygen levels, promote an aerobic sediment layer, and support fish, insects and invertebrates occupying the full depth of the lake.

Two different aeration techniques to promote fish survival:

Mechanical surface aeration

Surface aerators pump water through a fountain on the lake's surface, oxygenating and destratifying (mixing the water's layers separated by temperature and density) the lake's water as they do so. The open water created in the ice surface promotes additional atmospheric oxygen absorption.

Mechanical surface aerators are used before and during winter—October to April—when prolonged ice and snow conditions exist.

Point-release aeration

Point-release aerators use a bubble diffuser under the lake's surface, connected by an air hose to an onshore air compressor. This circulates and destratifies, increasing dissolved oxygen and creating uniform thermal and oxygen gradients in the water column.

In 2017-18, the ACA aerated 19 waterbodies across Alberta, all of which successfully overwintered trout. The ACA continues to monitor for potential aeration opportunities, doing so in partnership with a range of stakeholders.

Taken with adaptation from: (and are also great links to read)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trophic_state_index

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_stratification

<https://www.ab-conservation.com/programs/fish/projects/lake-aeration/>

https://www.abconservation.com/downloads/annual_summaries/fish/aca_summary_2017_2018_lake_aeration.pdf

Did You Know?

As an SPFGA member, you're not just invited to general meetings—board meetings are open to members to come and observe. Board meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month except July and August (the Board does not meet during the summer) at 7 pm at the **Chamber of Commerce offices in Sherwood Park, 100 Ordze Rd.** (The door to get in is the side entrance along the south side of the building.)

We'd love to see you there, so please come on out if you're able!



You've Got a Voice!



Were you aware you're not only able to attend Board meetings, but speak at them too?

If you'd like to speak on a topic at a board meeting, all you need to do is send an email to the President at president@spfga.ca and the Secretary at secretary@spfga.ca to provide advance notice.

We'd Love To Hear From You!

Share your wildlife, conservation, hunting, fishing, scenic, and shooting sports photos, stories, and videos with us. We'd love to feature them here in our newsletter, on the website and on our social media. Wild game recipes are especially welcome!

Send your shareable items to website@spfga.ca



Join Us On Social Media!

SPFGA is active on **Facebook**, **Twitter** & **Instagram** and would we'd love to see you come and join in with us. Go to the **spfga.ca homepage** & click on the social media buttons or click the links below to connect to us.

Please like & follow us to receive news, updates & information about upcoming events. Invite family, friends and other association members to do the same!

If you have social media-related questions, or questions about the website, please contact the Communications Chair by email or by direct message



Feel Proud: You Make This Possible!

As SPFGA members, each of us also has membership in the AFGA. Take a moment to look at some of the conservation projects we all make possible through our involvement:

<https://www.facebook.com/letsgooutdoorsca/videos/723164378084733/>



SHERWOOD PARK
FISH & GAME ASSOCIATION