

SUMMER 2019 NEWSLETTER



SHERWOOD PARK
FISH & GAME ASSOCIATION

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President's Report

Good day to everyone. I hope all the rain has not damped your activities too much for the summer. With all the rain, it could make it tough on the young upland birds and reduce the numbers for hunting this fall.

The upside is that it should be good for the waterfowl hunters with lots of potholes to choose from.

Our gun range has been quite active this year with the Mapleseed event, Outlaw Precision Rimfire Series (ORPS) shoots, and weekly Monday night silhouette shooting. Check the website for more information.

Weather permitting, we plan to have the ORPS shoots each monthly through to December. I would like to again say thanks to the organizers of these programs and their helpers. We had a good turnout for the Mapleseed event and four of our members were

able to earn their Mapleseed patch. We plan to have this event again next year so watch the website for details of when. Congratulations to those shooters who earned their patch, especially the lady in the group, Natasha Pentyliuk. Natasha, by the way also contributed to this newsletter, authoring a piece on aquatic invasive species in this issue, entitled The Fight Against Invasive Fish (and how you can join).

We experienced many delays to the work on the 100m berm on the big bore range due to...yes you guessed it, the rain. Thankfully, this was eventually able to be completed and we were able to put the 100m gong back in place. This berm repair also opens the 200 m backstop up to more of the shooting benches.



Our archery range and 3D course has been seeing a lot of use and we have added a 60-yard butt for those that want to practice longer range shooting. Two of the target butts have been replaced with a new style which is supposed to stand up better than the foam butts. Our archery director has been busy planning shooting events. For those bow hunters, it is good practice.

Unfortunately, there is a downside to some of the happenings at the range. We have had recently had individuals shooting centerfire ammunition on the rimfire range, resulting in gong damage and necessitating replacement. While this is frustrating, there is a larger issue at play here: safety. The rimfire range is not certified for centerfire ammunition and using it there creates the risk of projectiles escaping the berms, a substantial safety hazard and one that could lead to problems with the CFO (i.e.-this could potentially result in the entire range being shut down). On the archery range we had not seen broadheads being used on the target butts in some time, but no sooner did we get the new target butts up then someone shot them with broadheads. The use of broadheads on these butts dramatically reduces their life and replacement is costly. If you see these kinds of activities happening at our range, please drop me a line with the details at president@spfga.ca so we can address the issue.

We do have some good news. The statistics on those attending the range have been reviewed and the executive have decided to remove the cap on range memberships and to allow guests to use the range. To get a range membership, go to the website and make out an application and submit the appropriate fees and you now have a range membership. If you want to bring a guest to shoot at the range, see the article in this newsletter for details. Please check out the rules around having guests at the range on the website before taking your guest. Both of these changes were made effective on August 1.

We have a black powder shoot coming up on September 7th and 8th for those that are interested. It is worthwhile going to see as many are dressed in garb of that era. If you would like to see the flintlocks or cap and ball rifles in action, come out and walk the course during the event.

The club work party was on June 1st and though well attended, we were not able to get all the tasks completed. The cutting of firewood for the campsites was one area we fell short on. For next year, please mark the first weekend in June on your calendar for the 2020 facility work party. It will also be in the events calendar and on the website.

Last year, two properties were purchased. The one is adjacent to the gun range has a number of trails on it and good spots for bird watching. With all the rain we have had, I do suggest you wear waterproof boots as water has collected in some of the low areas. Over the winter, we propose to use a few of the old power poles to make walkways over some of the wet areas for better access. We are still looking at the second property for the best access and where to have trails.

Hope you are doing well at the fish pond and catching lots of the feisty devils. They sure can fight when they want to. It is quite entertaining when the feeder comes on even for those that do not fish.

A number of the members are using the campground and we have graded to smooth out the speed bumps. Thank you for being patient with the road maintenance.

In 2020, the Sherwood Park Fish and Game will be hosting the 91st AFGA conference being held February 20 to 22 at the Clarion Hotel in Sherwood Park. Steve Witiuk has taken on the task of organizing the conference and could definitely use your help with the organizing. He can be contacted via email at ramwitiu@telus.net.

We have a general membership meeting scheduled for Thursday September 5th to cover the game numbers in the province and the hunting regulations changes with Mr. Matt Besko; provincial enforcement with Dennis Prodan and Alf Kolensky with the county of Strathcona. We are also planning on having another general membership meeting on October 24 with a guest speaker on the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) which is affecting our deer populations. Hope to see you at both of these meetings.

Hope you are having a great summer and be safe.

Al Keeler

SPFGA Board

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Elisabeth Small

2019 Calendar of Events

	Board Meetings 2nd Tuesday of the month, @7:00 pm Chamber of Commerce Building	General Meetings 4th Thursday of the month @7:30 pm, Old Log Cabin, 50 Spruce Avenue	Special Events
September	September 10	September 5 Special General Meeting	September 7 and 8 Black Powder Shoot September 28 Outlaw Rimfire Precision
October	October 8	October 24	October 19 Outlaw Rimfire Precision
November	November 12		<i>Date TBD</i> Outlaw Rimfire Precision
December		December 5 Association Election	December 14 Outlaw Rimfire Precision

Hunter's Information Night

With hunting season just around the corner, it's important that as hunters we continue our traditions of being well informed and keeping to responsible hunting practices.

To that end, we hosted an number of speakers for our Hunter's Information Night on September 5 at the Old Log Cabin. **Matt Besko**, Director of Wildlife at Alberta Environment and Parks and SPFGA member, the Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch members, and representatives from Strathcona County were on hand to present information about changes to the 2019 regulations and responded to member questions.

In addition to Hunter's Information Night, here is a list of helpful resources to help you stay informed as you prepare to head out this season:

- **Hunting, Fishing & Trapping Regulations**
- **Undersubscribed Quota**
- **Land Access and The Use Respect Program**
- **ACA Alberta Discover Guide**
- **Hunter Education (AHEIA)**
- **Report a Poacher**

Bylaws Update

An organization's bylaws are the ruling documents for its board of directors – its "operations manual" in essence, telling its board members how the business of the organization should be conducted. No matter how good a job was done in creating them, sooner or later the organization finds something that needs to be updated. Bylaws are a living document in other words, undergoing regular review and change.

A committee of the Board was recently struck to review the current bylaws. The intent of the committee was to have an updated version ready in draft for membership review at the September General Meeting. These draft bylaws were reviewed at the July 2019 Board Meeting and considered ready for review by the membership.

Per the current bylaws, the September 5 General Meeting was classified as a Special General Meeting for the purposes of the review and approval of these draft bylaws by the membership. Following a brief discussion, the bylaws were approved by the members in attendance

The updated bylaws may be found at:
<https://www.spfga.ca/wp-content/uploads/SPFGA-Bylaws.pdf>

An update summary of the changes may be found at:
<https://www.spfga.ca/wp-content/uploads/SPFGA-2019-Bylaws-Updates-Summary.pdf>

Relevant sections referenced in our Facility Rules have been updated to reflect these changes in the bylaws: <https://www.spfga.ca/facility-rules/>

Supervised Range Guests

The number one ongoing request from the membership has been to be permitted to bring guests. The Board discussed this for a number of months before approving a Supervised Guest Use Policy which came into effect on August 1, 2019

Guests wishing to handle firearms or shoot at the firearms or archery ranges will be required to have a guest pass. Below is a brief breakdown of the details:

- Guests must have a guest pass to use the ranges.
- All fees must be prepaid – they cannot be paid at the range.
- Until the website has been set up to purchase guest passes, the member must call (780) 467-0085 Mondays through Fridays between 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. to purchase passes.
- Cost for a guest pass for an adult is \$20. No charge for a guest under 18.
- Proof of payment will be emailed to you. Printed or electronic copies must be presented on request at the range.
- Guest passes are non-refundable and are only valid for the specific registered guest on the specific date the guest pass was purchased for.
- Each member is able to only host one guest at a time.
- As the sponsoring member is directly supervising the guest while they are handling uncased firearms, it is understood that the member and their guest will operate from a single bench.
- The website should hopefully be ready for online guest pass purchases sometime in the next month or two.

The above is a partial summary. The sponsoring member and guest are responsible for being aware of the details of the Supervised Guest Range Use Policy in full:

<https://www.spfga.ca/wp-content/uploads/SPFGA-Supervised-Guest-Range-Use-Policy-Interim.pdf>

Hosting guests is a great way to introduce people to our range and to the shooting sports in general. It is up to all of us to ensure the success of this program. The most important points of this are that each guest must be directly supervised at all times when handling firearms by the sponsoring member, and that the sponsoring member is personally responsible for ensuring their guests comply with all SPFGA Facility Rules: <https://www.spfga.ca/facility-rules/>.

If you observe any issues at the range please try speaking respectfully and constructively to the member and their guest. Any serious issues or lack of cooperation at the range should be reported to membership@spfga.ca for follow-up by the Member Discipline Committee. Details of the date and time as well as members involved will help us sort out these issues in a timely manner. Let's all do our part to keep the range safe and enjoyable for everyone.

Family Fun Event



Tug-of-war

We held our first Family Fun Event on August 24 at our clubhouse, and what a successful event it was!

Somewhere between a county fair and a backyard BBQ, there were games, fun activities for the kids, a walking tour of the beaver pond, scavenger hunt, presenters, and **Discover Angling** and **Discover Archery** events at the fish pond and archery range.

Approximately 145 members attended, with everyone having a great time. It was an opportunity to see and interact with parts of the property many members don't often see, and a great chance to come together as a community.

We would like to thank **Randy at The Fishin' Hole southside** and Dave at **Jim-Bows** for the generosity of their partnership. Thanks also go out to **Dave Hunka and his crew** for running the BBQ, **Kris Skelly** and **Deryk Emerson** for conducting the **Discovery Archery** event, **Kland Kuly of The Fishin' Hole Southside** for conducting the **Discover Angling** event, **Colin Bodor** for helping with traffic flow,



Discovering archery



Discovering angling



Natasha Pentyliuk and **Ryan Golby** for presenting on interesting and engaging topics, and finally to the many volunteers who worked hard to make this a smoothly-running event.



Congrats to our draw prize winners!

Family Fun Event (continued)



Discovering more archery



The scavenger hunters



Our presenters Natasha Pentyliuk (left) and Ryan Golby (right)



The Ketchamoot Sack Race

The Fight Against Invasive Fish (and how you can join)

Natasha Pentyliuk, SPFGA Member

As a member of the SPFGA, I am familiar with our members' enthusiasm for conservation alongside fish and game. I am also a masters student at the University of Alberta, and have been working with Alberta Conservation Association on a project many of you may find of interest: I am researching the role anglers may play in addressing the spread of harmful aquatic invasive species such as Prussian carp in Alberta. By surveying anglers from across Alberta and receiving reports of Prussian carp and goldfish, we hope to identify the factors that affect engagement in their reporting and removal.

The Rod-Wielding Cavalry

Invasive species—also referred to as exotic or alien species—go beyond annoying garden weeds; they cost Canada billions of dollars every year, affecting everyone from farmers to fish and game enthusiasts. Understanding the distribution of invasive species is key to meeting mitigation goals, whether that be eradication or suppression. Aquatic invasive species (AIS) bring the fight to a challenging battlefield: the water. Efforts to track the population status of AIS is costly, time-consuming, and typically conducted by researchers and professional biologists. However, there are >270,000 Albertan anglers at the front lines of a current invasion, and their assistance may be our secret weapon.

The Target

Now that Prussian carp has invaded Europe, it has decided its North American debut should be right here in Alberta: they are now found throughout Southern Alberta and Saskatchewan, and with the ability to live without water for days, survive freezing temperatures, and clone themselves at astounding rates, they aren't showing signs of slowing down. Prussian carp (*Carassius gibelio*), can look astoundingly like their close relative the goldfish (*Carassius auratus*), and while both are damaging invasive species, Prussian carp just seem to be better at it. For details on how to tell the two apart you can go to invasivereport.com, but either way, you have two missions:



Mission 1: Kill It

To reduce the risk of these invasive fish spreading to new areas, Prussian carp and goldfish should not be returned to the water once caught. With no limits on size or quantity that can be caught, we should all consult some Eurasian recipes and fill our coolers.



Mission 2: Report It

Anglers also have a unique opportunity to help address the invasion and potentially off-set the costs of traditional population research by reporting sightings of Prussian carp and goldfish. To report sightings of Prussian carp and goldfish go to invasivereport.com to fill out the easy online form, or email contact@invasivereport.com with the following information:

1. Your name
2. Catch location
3. Catch date
4. Catch type (Prussian carp or goldfish)
5. # of fish in submission
6. Photo of the fish
(Technically optional but highly appreciated)

Answer a Survey and Win!

Go to invasivereport.com and click on the survey link, or use the following address: https://survey.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dnd4TjKPuFZlle5

This online survey should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete. As a thank you, you will be entered to win a \$200 Cabela's / Bass Pro gift card. Sign up for further engagement about the study and you could win a second gift card!

For more information about this research project or this survey, email us at contact@invasivereport.com.

The Ketchamoot Discourse

Roland Coppens, Communications Director

A recent conversation with a member helped me appreciate the breadth of the preferences in how our members consume information. From that, we saw the need to add a two-way conversation platform to our social media, a place where members can talk directly with one another, as well as a place where members and The Board can exchange ideas & information.

Called ***The Ketchamoot Discourse***—‘Ketchamoot’ in homage to the creek running near our property, and ‘discourse’ because of its connotations of interchange of ideas, usually in an orderly, conversational way—this will be another meeting place for us.

To make sure it’s an SPFGA members-only place, and to raise consciousness regarding our other social media, we’ve put together three simple questions when you go to join. When you have a moment, grab your membership number (that’s one of the questions) and head on over to <http://bit.ly/Ketchamoot>, hit the **+Join Group** button & pop an answer in to the questions.

See you there in the conversations there!



Fish Hooks and Aerators

The parts of the aerator that sit at the bottom of the Fish Pond have been being disturbed from their position, affecting oxygen delivery to the water. Looking at them, it appears that this has been a result of being snagged by fish hooks.

Please be careful with bottom rigs in the area around where the bubbles come up – they’re likely to become fouled on the diffusers. You’ll almost certainly lose your hook and it runs the risk of reducing the effectiveness of the aeration system, which can be harmful to the fish.

Member Engagement Survey



As the Board considers short and long-term plans, we are very much interested in your thoughts and perspectives on things.

A survey polling your thoughts and feelings on the club, our programs, and our facility arrived in your inbox last week. Please take the time to complete it (should take around 10 minutes)—your feedback is crucial for us.

The Board will take a complete look at all responses received in order to inform itself on which things and activities require the attention.

We recognize that your time is important, so in thanks for investing your time in completing this survey we will be offering a draw for two 2020 Individual Range memberships (\$130 value) for respondents. This can be upgraded if desired for a small charge to a 2020 Family Range membership.

Membership Cap

A detailed analysis of actual usage of the Ketchamoot Creek recreational property was recently performed. A high level discussion of this analysis was presented in the Spring newsletter article Ketchamoot Creek Property Access.

The Board considered this analysis and concluded that we have significant capacity available.

As a result, effective August 1, 2019 the existing membership cap has been lifted and Range Memberships are have been made openly available.

Range Membership application forms can be found on the club website at: <https://www.spfga.ca/wp-content/uploads/SPFGA-2019-Range-Membership-Application-Form-Printable.pdf>.

The Board will continue to monitor facility usage to ensure sustainability of growth and will keep the flow of information regarding this to the membership open.

If you are interested in quieter times to head to the range, please see the follow-up article **Ketchamoot Creek Property Access – Part II** in this edition for a breakdown of facility usage times.

Ketchamoot Creek Property Access – Part II



Matthew Meier & Roland Coppens

In Part I of this article in the Spring 2019 newsletter, we presented a high-level look at our facility usage based on the access data from the gate logs examining how many times per year members accessed the property. Here in Part II, we'll dig a little deeper and breakdown **when** members access the property.

For this breakdown, we first looked at the distribution of users by month of the year. A direct correlation was noted between warmer months and periods of higher usage (see Chart 1), with July being the peak month.

Continuing our look and considering usage by day of the week, weekends were shown (predictably) to be busier than weekdays, with Sundays being busier than Saturdays (see Chart 2). We were intrigued by the slight bump on Wednesdays & dug a little further. The majority of these Wednesday accesses tend to be later in the day, leading to the conclusion that this may be reflecting the regular group that shoots trap on Wednesday evenings from May to August. If true, this group is likely also responsible for some of the higher usage figures for Sundays as well.



Chart 1

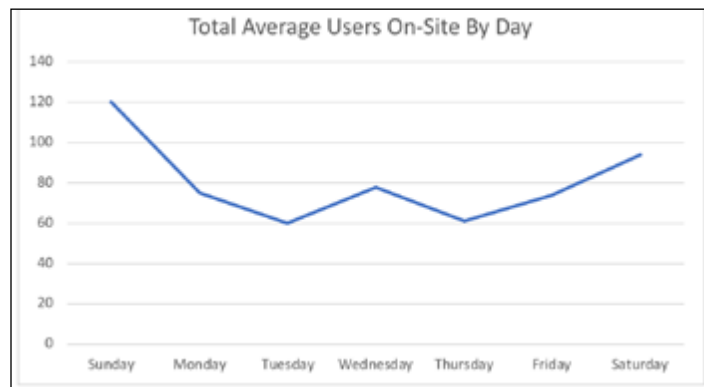


Chart 2

From there, we considered the average times that members signed in and out of the property. Looking first at the monthly data (Chart 3), similar to the trends observed in Chart 1, members arrived later and stayed later in the summer months & tended to wrap things up much earlier in the winter. Looking at time in/time out on a daily basis (Chart 4) confirms a generally consistent peak time of day (note again Wednesdays being pushed later, likely for the reasons mentioned earlier). From these views, average peak usage occurs pretty consistently between 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. daily, regardless of the day of the week.

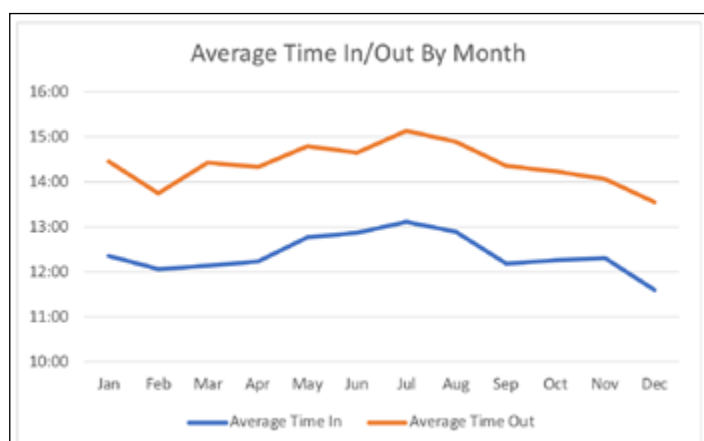


Chart 3

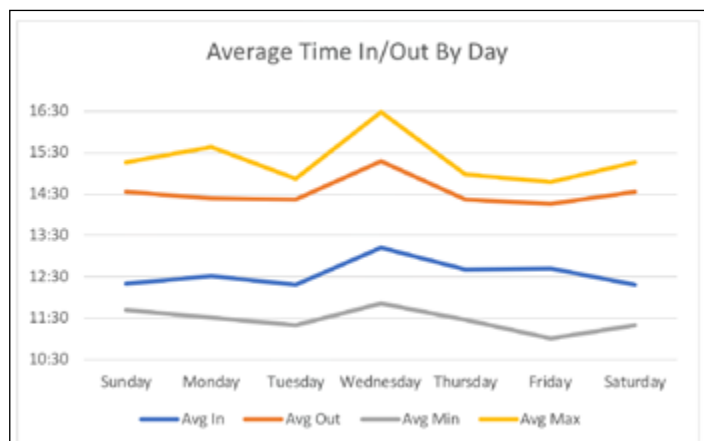


Chart 4

Finally, we looked at average time on-site (i.e. length of stay). A strong correlation with the time of year was noted again, with lengths of stay in warmer months being 1.5 times as long as in colder months (see Chart 5). Given how cold the wind can get in

the shooting sheds in the winter, this makes perfect sense. Averaging time on-site (length of stay) over the whole year (see Chart 6), as expected, members tended to stay longer on the weekends than during the week.

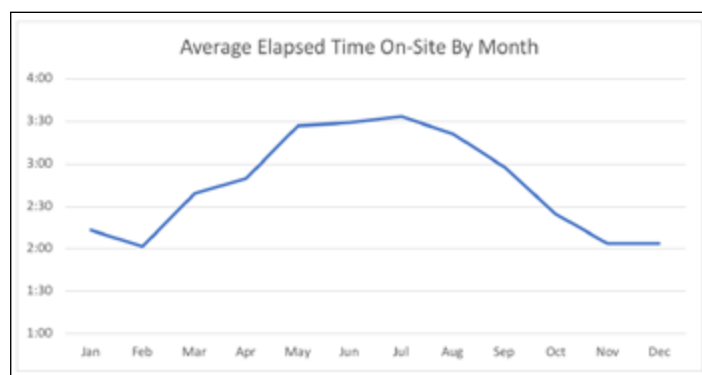


Chart 5

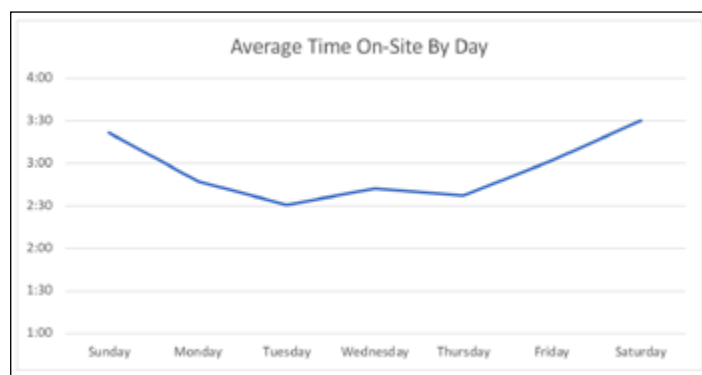


Chart 6

Taken together, the data presented in Parts I and II of this article demonstrate that our property is not heavily used and that over the year, it is at its busiest from May to September. During the week, Saturday and Sunday tend to be the busiest, with the majority of visits falling between 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. daily. This leaves substantial usable time when the facility is less busy. **So, if you enjoy using the facility when it's less busy, come in the early morning before 11:30 a.m. or later in the afternoon and evening after 3:30 p.m., especially on weekdays.**

We're very interested in the thoughts this review raises for you and invite you to share them with us –please email us at: 1stvicepresident@spfga.ca (Matthew) or communications@spfga.ca (Roland).

Chronic Wasting Disease

Roland Coppens, Dale Fournier, Dr. Mark Ball

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is an infectious disease of the brain and spinal cord affecting members of the deer family such as mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, and moose. CWD is caused by misfolded proteins called prions and is similar to **Mad Cow Disease (BSE)** in cattle, **Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease** in humans, and **scrapie** in sheep.

CWD can be spread by close contact between deer species, or by exposure to a contaminated environment. There is evidence that prions may remain infectious in the environment, particularly the soil, for years.

CWD is always fatal. At present, no treatment exists and there is no preventive vaccine. It does not appear that CWD can be transmitted to humans, but some experiments have shown that it can be transmitted from deer to other species in laboratory experimentations.

There are no diagnostic tests available commercially to identify disease in live animals. As a result, diagnostic testing must occur after the animal is harvested. In Alberta, this is done by submitting deer heads for testing at freezer locations available throughout the province. For information about freezer locations, as well as carcass disposal, please see: <https://www.alberta.ca/chronic-wasting-disease-information-for-hunters.aspx>

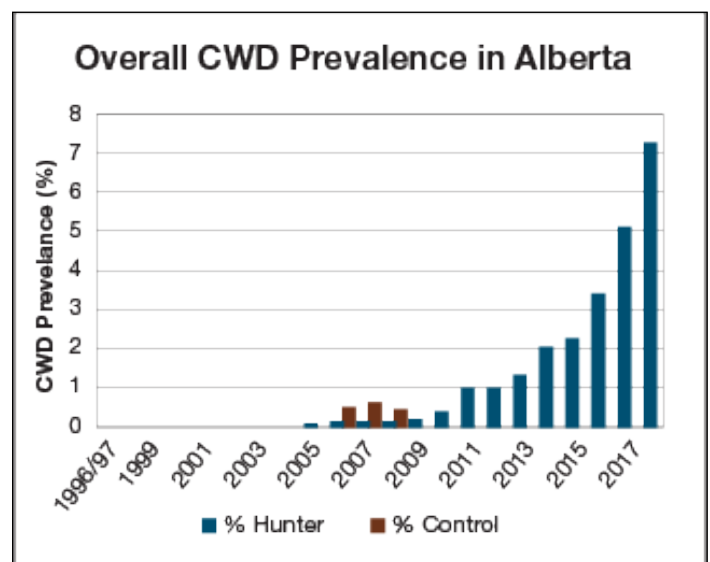
Basic CWD Fact Sheet:

- CWD is a prion disease that infects members of the deer family.
- It is fatal in all cases and no treatment or vaccine exists.
- In Alberta, CWD primarily occurs in mule deer in the wild. Approximately one in four mature mule deer tested for CWD have been positive for the disease.
- CWD has been reported in farmed white-tailed deer and farmed elk.
- Transmission occurs from deer to deer, and through environmental contamination.
- Once established, CWD is very difficult to control.
- There is no evidence that CWD can be transmitted to livestock or humans. However, health authorities recommend taking precautions.

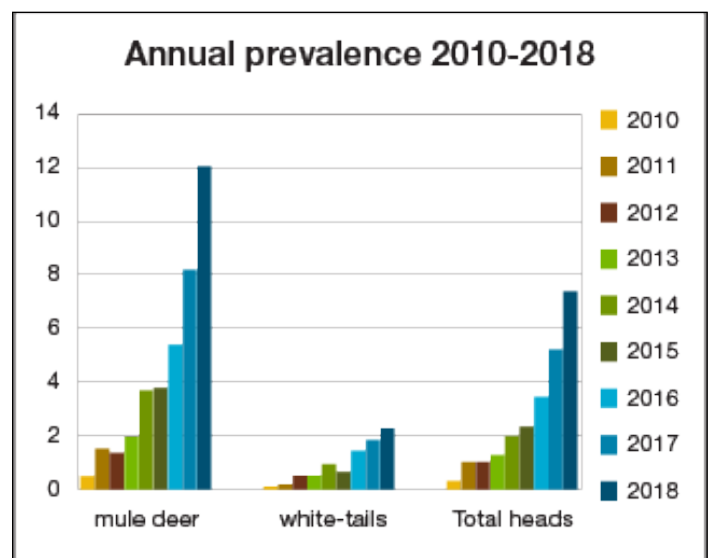
- Prevention is the best solution, but an early aggressive response to control disease is recommended when new incidents of CWD are detected.

For further information on CWD and Alberta's CWD management strategy, refer to: <https://www.alberta.ca/chronic-wasting-disease.aspx>.

There are significant patterns of CWD occurrence in Alberta, occurring primarily in mule deer in comparison to white-tailed deer. Males appear to be more likely to be infected than females.



Source: <https://www.alberta.ca/chronic-wasting-disease-updates.aspx>



Source: <https://www.alberta.ca/chronic-wasting-disease-updates.aspx>

At our October 24 General Meeting, Dr. Mark Ball, a wildlife disease specialist with Alberta Environment and Parks Fish and Wildlife Division will be presenting updates to the CWD situation in Alberta, provide information on the specimen submission process and what steps are needed in situations like European mounts. We would like to invite you to attend this important meeting.

For access to continuing Alberta CWD updates beyond this, please see: <https://www.alberta.ca/chronic-wasting-disease-updates.aspx>

The SPFGA will be submitting a proposed resolution for consideration at the 2020 AFGA Conference to lobby to ensure these testing programs are receiving the funding they require.

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

<https://www.alberta.ca/chronic-wasting-disease-overview.aspx>

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

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/chronic-wasting-disease>

Outlaw Rimfire Precision Series (ORPS)

Based on the success of our ORPS matches, we will be holding matches monthly until December, or until the weather ceases to cooperate. Matches are currently planned for:

September 28

October 19

November TBA

December 14 (*weather dependent*)

For more information, including registration, please see the Current Events page on our website: <https://www.spfga.ca/events/current-events/>

Please email secretary@spfga.ca with any questions regarding OPRS.

Hope to see you there!



Range Hours

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.
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.

Wildlife Issues—Who to Call?

Fairly regularly, we receive questions in the office regarding who to contact regarding issues with wildlife. To the right is a contact list based on animal type:



- **For issues with migratory birds** (e.g. – ducks, geese), contact **Canadian Wildlife Services** at **1-800-668-6767**
- **For issues with large wildlife** (e.g. – bears, cougars, moose, etc.) contact **Report a Poacher** at **1-800-642-3800**
- For issues with smaller animals such as squirrels or skunks—these are dealt with on your own, or a third party animal removal company can be help with the issue.

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>.



DID YOU KNOW?

Did You Know?

As an SPFGA member, did you know you're also invited to attend & observe meetings of the SPFGA Board? Board meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month 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 communications@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



Editor: Roland Coppens
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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