



NEWS FROM ALBERTA

President's Report

Brian Dingreville

President

I hope this report finds each of you safe and healthy!

Over the past several months, your AFGA executive have been very busy with the complete realignment of AFGA, which by the time you are reading this you will be fully in the know of what has transpired. I want to thank everyone for their patience; I know it may have been a frustrating time for some.

The Castle Parks, Livingstone – Porcupine Hills, Beaver Creek and Bob Creek management plan meetings and proposals have been ongoing this past year. Decisions from Alberta Environment and Parks will be brought forward prior to the end of 2020. There has been a considerable amount of work that has taken place by a number of individuals, whom I wish to thank for all they have done!

In mid-August, I attended the Zone 1 meeting in Lethbridge, which was well attended with social distancing by all. Annual elections took place, with Glenn Heather continuing on as Zone 1 director and Greg Bird standing up



for vice-director. Sheila Ferguson has agreed to stay on as treasurer and also help out with secretary duties. Thank you, Glenn, for the invitation to attend your meeting.

Over the past several years, I have organized a summer trail ride, which has always been a huge success. This year, it was held up the Kananaskis to the Oldman River area. We had over 40 riders come out, which was fun, but it

did have its challenges. To start the trip off, my wife Andrea ended up with a broken shoulder as we loaded up to leave. After spending a number of hours in emergency, she felt she could continue on and hopefully enjoy the trip, which she did!

This past summer, because of the pandemic I am sure, has seen people like never before enjoying recreation in the back country, which I am sure is happening throughout Alberta and across most of Canada. For those who did try to find a spot either in a random camping area or public camping spot, I am sure you are fully aware of how things have gone! I was a little disappointed with the garbage

and waste being left in a number of camping spots. Thankfully, this has improved over the summer months.

The 2020 hunting season will be in full swing by the time you receive this and hopefully you were successful with all your hunting draws. I hope this year I will be able to get out a few more days more than I have in the previous couple of years!

Happy trails, all. 🐾

MOVING?

Please send your change of address to : 13045 156 Street, Edmonton, AB, T5V 0A2

Ph: (780) 437-2342 Email: membership@afga.org

*Please note that \$15 of your annual membership dues are allocated to Outdoor Canada West Magazine



Executive Director's Report

Delinda Ryerson

Executive Director

The Alberta Fish and Game Association – A Community Founded In Tradition & Dedicated To Conservation



The Alberta Fish and Game Association (AFGA) is steeped in tradition, and well known as the voice of everyday Albertans interested in conserving fish, wildlife and the habitat they depend on.

Those who are new or non-members of the AFGA may not be aware that it is also an organization with a strong sense of community, that prides itself on developing and passing down these conservation values and traditions to future generations of fish and game members. With almost 20,000 members currently representing approximately 83 affiliated fish and game clubs in over 450 cities, towns and villages throughout our province, we have been welcoming Albertans into

our organization for 112 years.

I first became a fish and gamer with the Vegreville Wildlife Federation in the mid-1990s. After I graduated from university, I worked in the Wildlife Ecology Branch, at what was then called the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville, later became known as the Alberta Research Council and then Alberta Innovates. I initially became a member to go to the gun range; however, I quickly decided that I wanted to become more involved in the club and contribute by teaching people of all ages how to identify different species of fish and wildlife inhabiting the province. As a member, I volunteered by teaching the waterfowl identification portion of the Hunter Education Course, and a colleague and I developed and delivered an eight-week wildlife identification course for two consecutive years. Each week, we taught eager students how to not only identify different types of fish and wildlife species, but also the kind of habitat they are found in, and other important natural history characteristics. After the eight weeks of classroom sessions, we took our knowledgeable naturalists on a seven-hour field trip. We cruised around Elk Island National Park and other wildlife-rich areas in the parkland, near Vegreville in style, as we jumped out of the Greyhound bus, to identify everything we came across. I even live trapped a red squirrel so our students could see how live traps work and to see the squirrel close-up and personal. The Vegreville Wildlife Federation won the best

educational program for this course for both years that we delivered it! Because I don't live in Vegreville anymore, I am now a member of the St. Albert and District Fish and Game Club.

AFGA members gain a connection to other conservation enthusiasts across the province. Randy Collins has been a thoughtful, active and passionate voice for the AFGA and the conservation movement for more than 40 years. He has served in too many fish and game-related capacities to list here, but this AFGA Past President and Life Member truly understands the value of a great partnership, as he continues to serve as the AFGA representative on the Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) Board of Directors.

Stories of the AFGA as a community, and larger family, is often heard from our members, including the Clarke family where AFGA conservation values are passed down through the generations. Jim Clarke, the current AFGA Hunting Chair, first became a member 48 years ago, when his father signed him up for fly tying lessons at the age of six. He eagerly learned how to tie flies sitting atop numerous phone books stacked up, so he could reach the table. Jim indicated that fish and game is very important to him and that most of his good friends are like-minded fish and gamers. Jim is so dedicated that he bought his daughter Miyah's membership when she was only a couple of days old!

Deb Clarke, the AFGA Zone 2 Director, has been attending Lethbridge Fish



and Game Association club events, such as family campouts and fish derbies, since she was a little girl. Deb has been an active member for 37 years and believes that, "The perseverance, dedication and passion fish and game members have when it comes to fish, wildlife and conservation is second to none. I've been fortunate to not only have my dad, Heinz Plontke, as a mentor, but also countless others who have passed along their knowledge about the outdoors and conservation to me. I wouldn't be the person I am today if I hadn't become a member and fish and game volunteer."

Miyah Clarke is a third-generation fish and gamer on both sides of her family! Being only a couple of days old when her dad first got her membership, she has spent countless hours volunteering with Lethbridge and Sarcee. She served as the AFGA Youth Director, and has been extremely helpful to me, as a volunteer, for the past several months. Miyah indicated that, "As a person who enjoys hunting, fishing and the outdoors, it is important to me to be a member of the AFGA community because of all the good work clubs, and the AFGA, do for fish, wildlife, habitat and conservation."

While the AFGA has been an influential leader in conservation for over a century, and has advocated for programs and actions that have benefitted not only anglers and hunters across the province, but also the overall public, sometimes it takes attending one of our conferences to find out more. Dona Murphy, Ladies League Co-coordinator and Past President of Onoway Fish and Game, joined the AFGA in 2014. "When I first joined, I had no idea what the AFGA was. It wasn't until I attended my first AFGA Conference that I really got to see the bigger picture! The Wildlife Trust Fund blew my mind, and I couldn't believe what an amazing program it was and continues to be."


The AFGA Wildlife Trust Fund was created in 1983 as a way to protect land for people to hunt, fish and enjoy for generations to come. Since its creation, it has grown to include over 100 properties across Alberta and currently has over 45,000 acres of habitat, all placed into land trust for future generations. Conservation-minded landowners, and collaboration with the ACA have been instrumental in growing this land trust, and we encourage anyone interested in volunteering as stewards for these properties to get involved. These properties are an invaluable resource and a great way to spend time outdoors, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Also heavily involved in the successful growth of the AFGA Wildlife Trust Fund is Brad Fenson, a member of the AFGA for close to 40 years. When Brad started with the AFGA, "There were only two properties in the Wildlife Trust Fund. The AFGA continues to secure critical habitats on an annual basis to share with all Albertans. The Wildlife Trust Fund is a flagship program of the Association, that the membership takes tremendous pride in." As the only form of funding for the Wildlife Trust Fund is donations from clubs, zones, private individuals and raffles, these properties are truly an ongoing labour of love

throughout our membership, and we thank each and every AFGA member who has or continues to contribute.

The AFGA continues to undergo growth and change while holding true to our mandates of conservation and advocating for Alberta's hunting and fishing community; we are also committed to fostering the sense of community amongst our members and clubs. The AFGA provides tangible benefits and support to its clubs and members through advocacy and communications as well as cost effective insurance coverage for outdoor pursuits. We feel our greatest value, as an organization, is the collective commitment to deliver programs and the advocacy voice on behalf of anglers, hunters and firearm owners.



We encourage anyone who isn't a member, to contact their local clubs to gain a new insight into a valuable community of like-minded individuals and continue the tradition of conservation in Alberta. Our AFGA Programs Chair, Ingrid Horner, who has been involved with the AFGA for the past eight years, says, "The people I have met over the years and their dedication to the outdoors and conservation of our beautiful province has been an amazing journey." Start your AFGA journey by visiting <https://www.afga.org/join-afga/>. 



Past President's Report

Doug Butler

Past President

The novel coronavirus has certainly altered our year, and it's been difficult without club, zone or provincial meetings, or any functions that are the old normal, but life does go on and the new normal has had positives.

This year has allowed many to spend more time in the outdoors; relaxing away from the rat race has been a good change for many, me included. The present government has done many things to improve our angling and hunting opportunities. During my term as president, I had only the NDP minister, Shannon Philips, to deal with and her focus certainly was not on us. Our current minister, Jason Nixon, has been a breath of fresh air, and along with Travis Ripley, the executive director of Fish and Wildlife, and all the staff, a big thank you from us all.

It's been many years since I've seen so many happy anglers as I have this year because of the walleye harvest opportunities in many lakes. The announcements of the upgrades to three major fish hatcheries, with the plans to get them all rolling full bore, is very good news. Angling license sales have increased, which is also great, and local projects, like the stocking of Hasse Lake, shows that our government does hear and care about us.

On the hunting side, again more opportunities, like hunting for sandhill cranes, using pack dogs in mountain zones and removing the firearm restriction on OHV use, all (along with the fishing changes I mentioned) came directly from resolutions our organization put forward and then our execu-



tive pushed at meetings with Fish and Wildlife. Hunting draw applications also increased this year, even with the need to purchase a wildlife certificate, which was also one of our resolutions. Again, local projects, like the opening of the Drummond Trail through the Teck coal mine in Cadomin, is great and something we've been involved with for many years. Our government is listening to us and our Fish and Wildlife department also listens keenly to us. Many of these are long overdue and many are

AFGA wishes for 10+ years, but better late than never. We still have many more requests for improvements, and we can call this baby steps, but we will continue to lobby on behalf of all outdoorspeople.

The Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) is also a great friend of ours. This organization was formed in the '90s when it was evident that our hunting and angling money was about to disappear into general revenue. Todd Zimmerling, Ken Kranrod and all the staff work very hard for us. They are stakeholder formed and driven and, along with a government representative, could not exist without stakeholder directors, of which we are one. It's unbelievable how much work they do to improve our situation and also function as a great go-between from our groups to our government. Much of the angling and hunting improvements come directly from this organization.

In a nutshell, Alberta has many great opportunities for the outdoor community, and we should enjoy them as much as we can. It has been a difficult year and even our organization is in financial difficulty, but our hunting, fishing and trapping worlds continue on. It has been a great year to smell the coffee and realize how great it is just to enjoy the outdoor world. Life goes on – enjoy it the best you can and take a youth with you to preserve our lifestyle! I had both my grandsons out fishing this summer and, as the pictures show, it's been very rewarding.

Straight shooting and tight lines! 🦉



1st Vice-President's Report

Ian Stuart

1st Vice-president

When this reaches you, the seasons will have changed, open water angling winding down, wild game harvest will be in full progress and your AFGA will be on a progressive path to restructuring.

The AFGA has faced other challenges and transitions throughout its history, but it has consistently defended habitat, fish and wildlife and the rights and responsibilities of ethical hunters, anglers, sport shooters and other outdoor enthusiasts, and advocated for the broad outdoor community. A provincial government that recognizes the value of our fish and wildlife resources certainly helped, but many of the positive changes recently seen in fisheries and wildlife management would not have come to fruition without our consistent advocacy in that direction. An example is the Alberta Game Management Advisory Group, which has since morphed into the Alberta Game Public Advisory Committee.

As your hunting chair, starting in 2013, I carried on from Doug Butler, continuing to advocate for positions based on passed and defeated resolutions and member feedback, which Jim Clarke has since continued on with. Many frustrating delays for both outdoor enthusiasts and Fish and Wildlife staff occurred, due to many changes in responsible ministers and election cycles which bring things to a halt, but consistent advocacy and the relationships we have built with Fish and Wildlife staff were ready to go when the right opportunity arose. Al-

lowing pack dogs in mountain zones and a sandhill crane harvest opportunity are but two examples predating 2013 that I believe would not now be in place if the current government and minister had faced a "blank page." This is no less so on the fishery side, led by Darry Smith, by the opening of some harvest opportunities, invest-

law-abiding firearms owners instead of addressing criminal actions. The point, notwithstanding the good work done by single interest groups, is that AFGA must continue to be an important advocate for the broad outdoor/conservation community of Alberta, and this is why membership in our association is so important.



ments in fish hatcheries and ongoing advocacy work.

Ongoing advocacy for the broad hunting, angling, shooting sports and outdoor community will continue to be extremely important going forward, and the financial pressures faced by the provincial government will tempt economic development over habitat protection. There is no need for me to elaborate here on the attacks of the federal government on

On a personal basis, I enjoyed to the opportunity to respond to a number of questions about hunting that the AFGA received from a youth group, and I will be attending a firearms workshop in the near future. I enjoyed several fishing and camping opportunities this summer, and I am looking forward to a few hunting excursions. If harvest occurs, that is a bonus; if not, I will consider every outing a privilege! 🐦



2nd Vice-President's Report

Matt Zazula

2nd Vice-president



Your AFGA executive has been hard at work through this summer and fall, dealing with some serious challenges. The special committee struck to lead our work has put in a lot of effort and recommended some very good actions. The organization will look a lot different moving forward, but all for the better, I am sure.

I can't stress enough the importance of the AFGA to outdoorsmen and, indeed, to all Albertans. The hard work and contributions of members and executive, both past and present, has built an incredible organization. The Wildlife Trust Fund is a shining example of a legacy to all Albertans, and it continues to grow. Looking back over the years, many countless members and youth have benefitted from our camps, our Hunter Education and PAL courses, and the many other courses and seminars put on at the club level. Our clubs give like-minded people the chance to get together and share outdoor experiences and opinions. The many ranges operated by the AFGA give opportunity for people to enjoy and promote their love of shooting sports. The AFGA is well-respected by government, as well. We can see this in


the many changes this past year to fishing and hunting regulations and policies; so many of these positive changes have been the result of AFGA resolutions, recommendations and position statements. Nothing happens overnight; some of these changes have taken a long time. We should all be proud that we were involved in the process to get the changes done. This is important work, and we need it to continue. Let's all do what we can to contribute to the long-term health of the Alberta Fish and Game Association.

Looking back at the year that has been, there is no doubt we faced a lot of challenges. So many AFGA and club activities ground to a halt. Camps were cancelled and meetings were postponed. Still, with adjustments, we managed to keep some things going. Your executive participated in numerous video conference meetings. Club and zone meetings picked up through the late summer and fall. The antelope fencing projects got done, albeit with smaller numbers of volunteers, and steps put in place to maintain a safe situation for everyone involved. Our hunting chair and fishing chair continue regular contact with various government officials, as do other members on a local level. Last August,

past president and life member, Gordon Poirier, and his wife, Rita, were invited by government to attend the Cold Lake Fish Hatchery, where the environment minister announced enhancements to that facility. Representing the AFGA, Gordon thanked the minister and premier for the investment in the hatchery and for the positive changes involving harvest opportunities and slot sizes. The fact that we were invited to this event demonstrates once again the value the government sees in the AFGA and its members.

On the topic of hatcheries and fish stocking, I am personally quite excited about the prospect of increased stocking for put, grow and take opportunities. We have a lot of lakes and reservoirs in the province that can support and sustain enhanced harvest fisheries. Increased walleye harvest opportunities in our southern reservoirs would be a great thing. I had the chance to fish Travers Reservoir southeast of Calgary for a week last summer. Travers has been a catch-and-release area for a number of years and the walleye population appears very healthy. I caught my personal best walleye, a 79-centimetre beauty, there. Opening up more catch-and-keep fisheries, supported by stocking efforts, would really please a lot of people.

Looking ahead, the AFGA and its affiliated clubs have a lot of work to do to make up for the challenges we endured in 2020. Let's do what we can to build our membership back up in 2021. Let's get some of our activities back on track, look for safe ways to resume our activities in this new world we live in and, of course, if you have a successful hunting season and can afford to share some of your harvest, think of the people in your club who were less fortunate or those who can't get out any more and consider sharing some with them. I am sure it will be much appreciated.

And, don't forget to give back to our resources whenever you can. 



Alberta Fish and Game Association

Your voice in conservation since 1908

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Knowledge that you are supporting the largest conservation organization in Alberta

Being part of the acquisition and protection of over 45,000 acres of our Wildlife Trust Fund properties; available for hunting, angling and outdoor pursuits

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Opportunity to participate on numerous conservation projects, such as Volunteer Land Stewardship or Pronghorn Corridor Enhancement

\$5,000 Accidental Death & Dismemberment benefit while participating in hunting, fishing, trapping or authorized AFGA club activities

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Yearly subscription to *Outdoor Canada West* magazine (regular newsstand price \$7.99 per issue, 6 issues per year)

10% discount on Marks merchandise

Participation in our annual Wildlife Awards competition





Fishing Chair Report

Darryl Smith

Fishing Chair



Hunting and sportfishing license sales are up dramatically. It will be interesting to see if this trend continues through the fall and winter. COVID-19 saw many viewing the outdoors as a great place to spend time exploring during what has become a sudden divergence from the norm. I know that I did see more anglers on the water (and on docks) during the early summer. I noted, however, a rapid fall off in participation when Alberta Health started to issue blue-green algae and E. coli health advisories. Now that cooler weather is upon us, I expect many will be out again at their favourite lakes before the ice closes in.

Response from anglers was also positive related to the introduction of harvest slots for walleye around Alberta. Fish and Wildlife is assessing many of these lakes to see what impacts there might be by this regulatory change, both in terms of participation and fish population dynamics. From my van-

tage point, I'm hoping that the "panic mentality with managers" does not return. While it is important to have baselines in place to understand fish populations, it will be a few years before anyone can assess the actual impact of regulation change over the long term. Fish populations are dynamic, and even lakes that are managed solely with catch-and-release regulations see shifts over the medium and long term. Wabamun Lake is a prime example. Fish and Wildlife is surveying the lake this fall. Anecdotal angling reports suggest that what initially developed as an exceptional northern pike fishery has now become dominated by walleye. It will be interesting to see the results of the test fisheries. Anglers have been reporting this phenomenon to managers for many years, only to have it downplayed or attributed solely to angling pressure.

Interaction with Fish and Wildlife was minimal over the summer. The draft *Alberta Bull Trout Recovery Plan* was circulated to the committee for

a last look in July. The next step will be the public consultation phase at a yet-to-be-determined time. An online survey related to proposed changes to the *Fisheries (Alberta) Act* regulations took place during August. The changes proposed generally align well with Alberta Fish and Game Association position statements and policies. Upgrades to the Cold Lake Fish Hatchery were announced by Premier Kenny and Minister Nixon, which will benefit sportfishing in the province. We extend a special thank you to Gordon Poirier for attending and representing the AFGA provincially.

Interaction was minimal because of the reorganization that is occurring within Alberta Environment and Parks. As reported in my last column, Fish and Wildlife is being reborn by bringing the agency together under one roof, except for enforcement. What we know is that under Executive Director Travis Ripley, there are now just six directors – three regionally and three provincially. Provincially,



Hunting Chair Report

Jim Clarke

Hunting Chair

Dave Park becomes the director of fish and wildlife policy (includes habitat), Matt Besko becomes the director for licencing and wildlife health, and Sue Cotterill becomes the director for species at risk. There are now only three regions: south, northeast and northwest. Dave Hervieux becomes the director of the northwest region, Paul MacMahon becomes the director of the northeast region and Craig Johnson becomes the director for the south. While the details are few, the changes are significant. For example, the south region appears to encompass the portion of the province from St. Paul extending through Edmonton to Drayton Valley and everything south to the Alberta/US border. The Fish and Wildlife policy director will have a section head in each of the regions. Whether this applies to the other two provincial directors is unknown. How the regions and province will be organized in terms of biologists, other staff and reporting structure is yet to be finalized.

We are all adapting to the reality of the COVID-19 pandemic. Zoom conferencing has become the norm. How we interact across society has dramatically changed. For each of us, however, we need to ensure that we are still communicating, whether with friends, within AFGA, with other stakeholders or the government of Alberta. It is a two-way responsibility. As I noted, interaction with Fish and Wildlife has been minimal. It is time to reverse this trend as, in fact, little has changed except that we have a higher reliance on technology to keep communication channels open. I will attempt to do my part, but it takes everyone to make the adjustments to the "new norm." It is a great time to visit another part of the province, explore other hunting and fishing opportunities, or introduce youth to the passion of the outdoors. Keep safe and remember, we are all in this together. 🐦

Many hunting seasons are open already, with many more to open soon. Good luck to all, in all of your outdoor pursuits! Some things are beginning to get back to a "new normal," some clubs are having meetings again, and it looks like Alberta Environment and Parks is ramping up to resume meetings as well.

As per my last report, mentioning that I was representing AFGA on the mule deer management plan, there is nothing to report yet as nothing has been presented. I'm looking forward to seeing what they have planned and participating in developing the plan that will be used going forward.

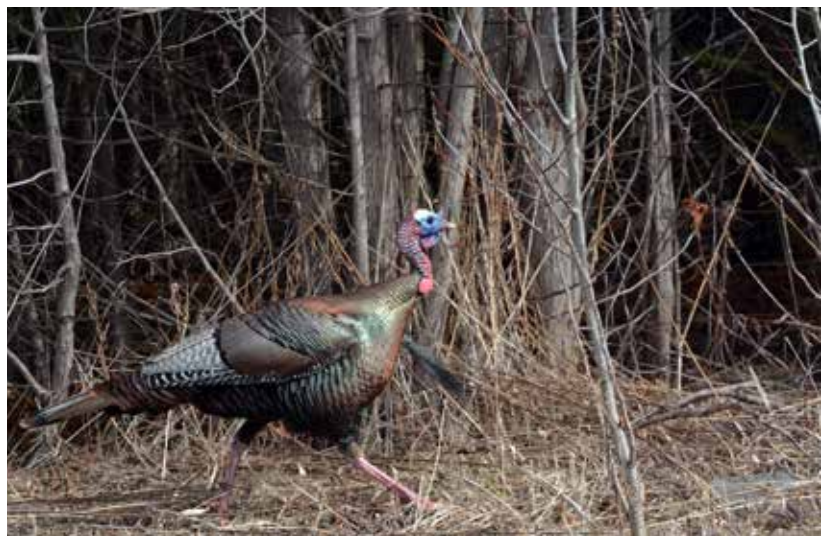
We do have some dates presented to us for some meetings in October and November for bighorn sheep, and I will be attending those.

TJ Schwanky has been organizing and completing more antelope fencing projects this summer and early fall and I will be once again participating

in this great project in September. If you have not volunteered before, give it a try next year. It really isn't hard work and you get to see some great country, meet fellow conservationists and generally have quite a few good laughs along the way!

The good news right now is that Alberta Conservation Association has been very busy on the wild turkey plan for Alberta. I have been back and forth with them and their planning group on the next steps. We are currently securing product needed in case we get the go ahead for turkey transplants! I have been holding on to 145 turkey transport boxes, as well as leg bands, from when we moved them several years ago in the southwest corner of the province. I am very hopeful that we will soon have an announcement of support from Minister Nixon for the go ahead to move forward on this long awaited and even more anticipated plan for all Albertans!

Good luck this fall! 🐦





ZONE REPORTS

ZONE 1 REPORT

Glenn Heather

ZONE 1 HAD a face-to-face meeting in Lethbridge on Aug. 15. Although we in zone 1 had been communicating via e-mails, it was sure good to see and talk to the people who were all there. We had good attendance, 10 people representing six different zone 1 clubs. A big thank you to Deb Clarke, zone 2 director, and Brian Dingreville, AFGA president, for being there. They added so much more to our meetings, giving us outstanding information and insights.

This was also our annual general meeting, in which we filled all but one critical position, this being the secretary position. We have a new vice president, Greg Bird, and programs chair, Michele Kennedy.

We did have one resolution, and it was passed on to the AFGA resolutions chair. It was an early meeting; however, we will accept any resolutions passed by your clubs until Oct. 15. If you have a resolution, please send it to me and I will forward it on.

COVID-19 has changed things, most events/meetings have been cancelled, but this is only temporary. Our zone 1 clubs are resilient and will manage through this. In fact, there are some clubs that have increased membership – impressive indeed.

Aug. 22 and 23, there was work done on the antelope fencing projects which occurred at the Ross Creek location. There were 10 volunteers for this two-day event. What is even more amazing was that nine out of the 10 were return volunteers to carry on this worthy initiative; great people and well orga-

nized. These were zone 1 and zone 2 volunteers, so thank you very much.

All of you, the AFGA's members, do make a difference and share the largest common voice in Alberta. We get things done. Spread the message, be proud of being an AFGA member. Please inform and educate your friends.

Have a good fall season, enjoy the outdoors!

ZONE 2 REPORT

Deb Clarke

SUPPORT your local FISH and GAME CLUB, **PURCHASE** your annual MEMBERSHIP, become a **VOLUNTEER**, attend meetings or **PARTICIPATE** at an **EVENT** or with a **PROJECT**.

Whether you are a hunter, angler, outdoor recreationist or someone who



One of our youth participating in the fall pheasant release program

enjoys archery and shooting sports, we all have a common ground and meet somewhere in the middle when it comes to conservation.

With the pandemic and all that is going on in this world, there is no better time for you and/or your family to find some commonality with other like-minded outdoor enthusiasts; enjoy what nature has to offer and help preserve it at the same time through fish and game involvement.

Enjoy the winter months and stay safe.

ZONE 3 REPORT

Arnold Winkler

HERE WE ARE at the beginning of September and hunting season has begun. Many are preparing to get out and enjoy the peaceful outdoors, equipment is checked out, licenses purchased, WIN cards updated and are now waiting for the day that their special licence draws will be valid. Many first-time hunters are taking their required hunter training courses. A big welcome to them and wishes for great success in this new experience. There will be lots of exciting stories to come and be enjoyed by all.

The COVID-19 pandemic is still present and presents a bleak outlook as to when it will disappear so that normality will again be enjoyed. It has been a burden on many individuals and families, and lots of activities have been put on hold or totally cancelled. As we slowly start to resume past activities, we will need to be aware of the seriousness of this pandemic and implement the precautions and procedures outlined by the health professionals. That being said, it is still important to stay in contact with our respective groups and clubs. Interest may have diminished in some of these due to no person-to-person contact, but your support and comradery is needed for them to move forward and your participation makes

them a stronger body. The Alberta Fish and Game Association (AFGA) is also in need of support from members, as numbers are down somewhat due to COVID-19 and activities being suspended until conditions improve. Belonging to AFGA entitles us to utilize many benefits, as well as having a voice in conservation of the environment and fish and wildlife concerns. You can find more information on the AFGA website.

Now as I prepare for my hunting trips, may they be many, I'd like to wish you all much success in filling your tags, sharing some of your take with those that can no longer enjoy hunting or if you have extra meat, it can be donated to some food banks.

Take a youth out to observe and learn on your outdoor adventures – they will appreciate it, as will you.

ZONE 5 REPORT

Robyn Butler

COVID-19 IS not letting go of its grasp on us, but hang in there – it can't go on forever. We can still get out and enjoy the upland bird and big game hunting seasons.

Although the virus has stopped our clubs from many activities, we can

still mentor a new hunter, old or young. Also, please encourage people to take their Hunter Education course and get outdoors.

I'm sure most of you know all Wainwright hunts for this year have been cancelled. Subsequently, your special licence opportunity has been cancelled. To compensate for this circumstance, your draw priority will be restored with an additional point to reflect participation in the 2020 draw.

Congratulations to the winners of the Minister's Special Licence raffle and the winner of the AFGA Honda quad raffle; many thanks to all of the volunteers who helped to sell raffle tickets for these promotions.

As you all know, the zone 5 fall meeting was cancelled, but I still encourage clubs to send me your donation requests, suggestions, ideas or resolutions your club may have prepared. We'll deal with everything somehow and hopefully we can have our spring meeting.

Hopefully all membership fees and club outstanding invoices have been paid in full to the AFGA. Please renew your memberships and continue to support our association.

Good luck hunting this fall. 🦅

The card holder is a member and is entitled to a 10% discount on the following items:

10% off all clothing, footwear, accessories, tools, hardware, and specialty items. Excludes all food, drink, alcohol, tobacco, and all other items. Excludes all services. Excludes all electronics, appliances, and all other items. Excludes all furniture, home and garden accessories, outdoor and indoor equipment.

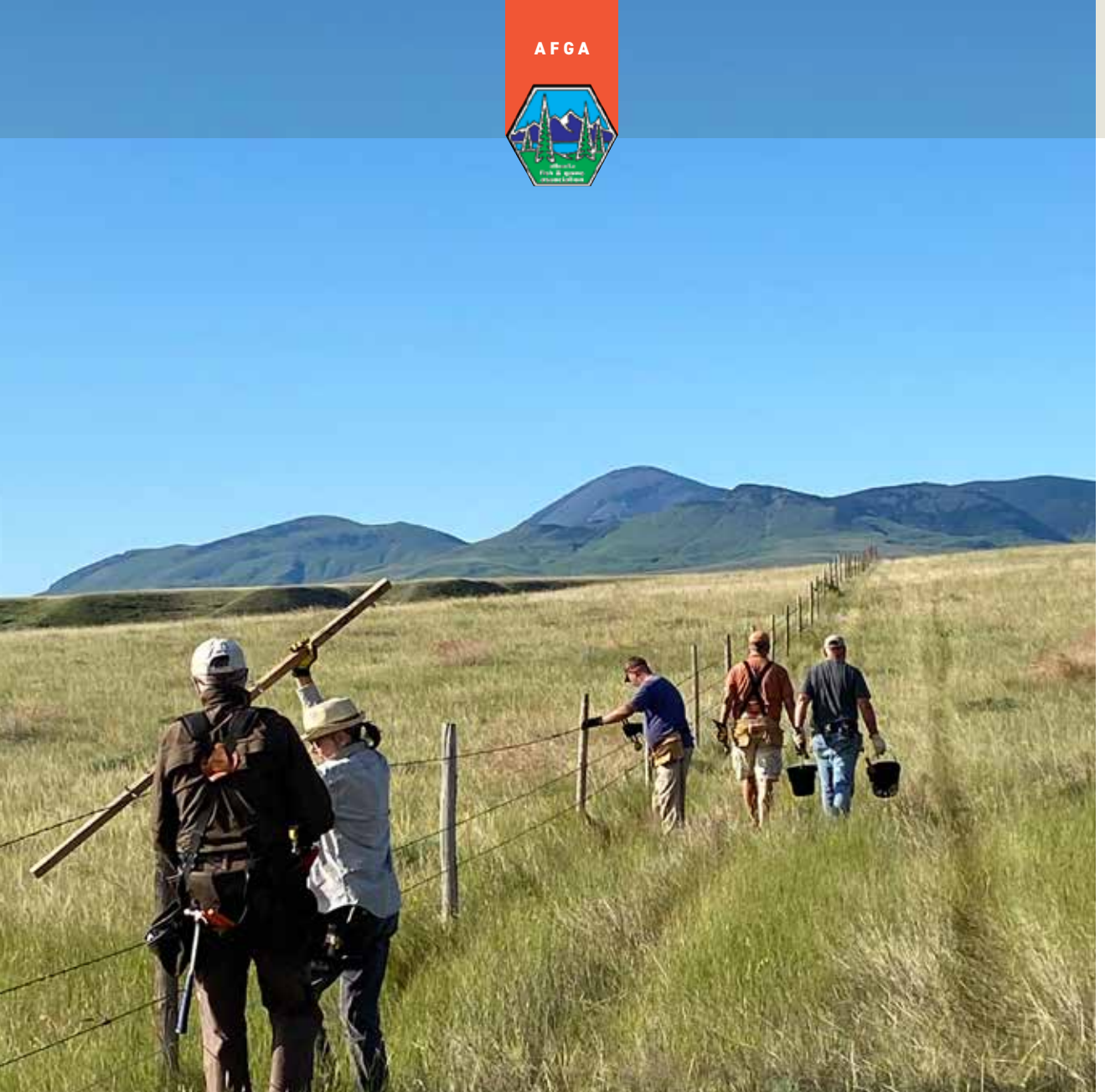
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Wildlife-Friendly Fencing

T.J. Schwanky

Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, 2020 has been a busy year for fencing, both on Wildlife Trust Fund properties in the central part of the province and for the pronghorn corridor enhancement project on private property in southern Alberta. This is due in large to grants received from the Alberta Con-

servation Association's Conservation, Community and Education grants, Minister's Special Licence Fund, Safari Club International Northern Alberta Chapter and our very dedicated volunteers.

Fences are necessary on Wildlife Trust Fund properties for several reasons. Cattle are grazed on some of our properties and adjacent proper-

ties and fences are used to keep them contained. In other instances, fences are used to prevent vehicle trespass or to delineate property boundaries. In the case of the Pomrenk property, a recently donated quarter section near Vegreville, we were experiencing vehicle trespass and decided the best course of action was to remove the old fence that was in very poor condition



address was included for the ACA's new Landowner's Guide to Wildlife Friendly Fencing.

Additionally, we received a grant from the Minister's Special Licence program to make the fences on the Porter and Drake properties more wildlife friendly. In this case, we re-spaced wires on existing perimeter fences to 40, 28, 23 and 18 inches to facilitate easier movement of ungulates and several fences that were no longer required were totally removed. Several man-gates were installed to make access easier for anglers and hunters on foot and several hundred posts that had popped out of the ground due to frost were repounded. Eventually, we hope to bring all the fences on Wildlife Trust Fund properties up to wildlife-friendly standards and with the help

of our hard-working volunteers and money from the Minister's Special Licence program, we are working toward this goal.

The pronghorn corridor enhancement project or, as it's more commonly known, the antelope fencing project, is in its 11th year and this year it received funding from the Alberta Conservation Association Conservation, Community and Education grant, Minister's Special Licence program and Safari Club International Northern Alberta Chapter. The heart of this project is our volunteers and, despite the challenges posed by COVID-19 this year, we still managed to complete three projects to date, with a final project scheduled for late September.

This season we worked on both pri-

vate and jointly owned conservation properties and, at the completion of the project, we will have completed 26 miles of fencing. This included adding a bottom smooth wire to the fences and respacing the wires above to wildlife-friendly spacing.

As leaders in conservation, it's important that we lead by example and bringing all fencing on Wildlife Trust Fund properties up to wildlife-friendly standards is our long-term goal. We really want to thank our funders for making all the work we did this year possible and we want to thank our very dedicated volunteers that offered to work extra days to help get the work done with the smaller crew sizes we were forced to use during COVID-19. It's been a challenging year, but a very productive one as well. 🐦

QUAD RAFFLE WINNER ANNOUNCED!

THANK YOU
HONDA CANADA!

Winner - Ruth Shewfelt

Member of Sherwood Park Fish and Game Association and
Edmonton Fish and Game Association



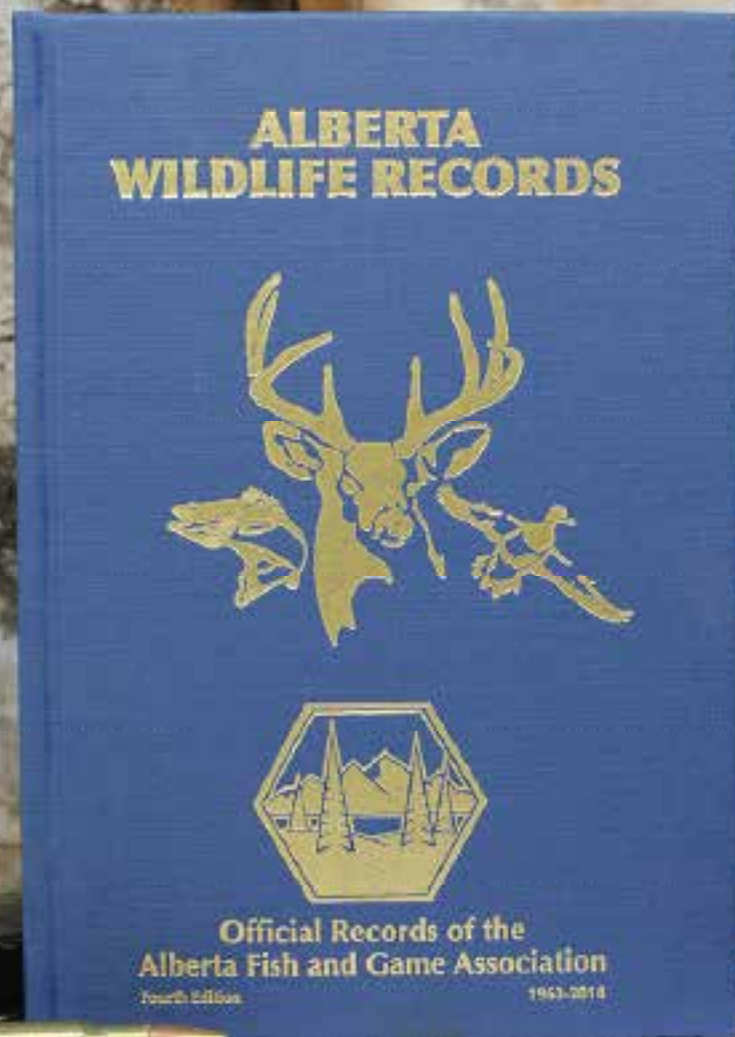
The prize was generously donated by
Honda Canada

Many thanks both the volunteers who sold raffle
tickets and those who purchased tickets in
support of conservation in Alberta



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