

ODFGA Meeting Minutes May 17th / 2016

Location: Frank Bertel's Residence – 49 Downey Road,

Start Time: 7:10pm End Time 9:00pm

Attendance – 9 people

Old Business:

1) Fishing Trips:

- **Date TBD - Patrick is organizing a Lake Minniwanka trip, Dustin, Mark, Patrick, Jason, Marcus currently discussing**

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

- **Patrick is organizing a Buck Lake / Pigeon Lake trip in June 3-5, there might be some accommodations available for people if they need it. Those who were drawn for walleye for Pigeon can fish for them there. Buck Lake is open for walleye (1 over 50 cm), pike (3 over 63 cm), perch, whitefish and burbot, so people without Pigeon Lake tags can fish Buck Lake. Patrick will send out an email to the club organizing the trip.**

- **Siegfried –Twin Valley Reservoir trip – No date assigned**

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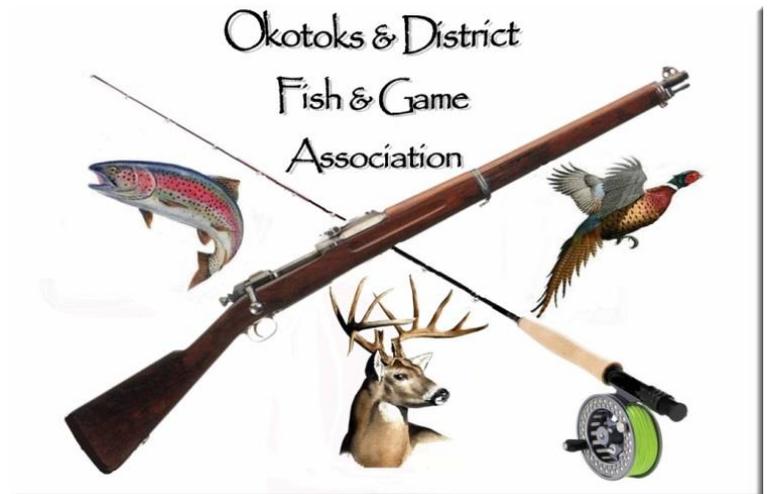
*****Other fishing trips will likely be short-notice activities for those who can make it, so watch your email*****

2) Sausage making day – **On Hold**

3) Bird Houses and Bat Boxes – **The bird and bat houses have been a hit. We've got some info on Alberta bats and what houses are best for them. Our future bat houses will be built to the new standard. A suggestion to put the ODFGA logo on the houses so the public knows we are putting them out and to give us some publicity. Siegfried offered to laminate some logos for this use.**

4) Garage Sale – **The garage sale is Saturday May 21 at Jack's place again this year. We're looking for volunteers who can help out on Saturday from 9-5. We'll have some long guns on offer as well as regular garage-sale stuff. Korth Group made a donation of items.**

***Update Club raised \$409**



5) Table Banner Update – Mark & Jack – **No update, more info at the next meeting**

6) Jim Graham Park - **has birds nesting in the nesting boxes, so we won't be doing any fencing work until later in the year after the birds have left. There are lots of dogs off-leash in the park.**

Members should be telling people to keep dogs on leash within the park and to obey the signs.

7) Wild Life Meeting - **The meeting with Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource biologist looks like it won't happen this year. He has been busy with sage grouse activities in the south.**

New Business:

4) AFGA Zone 2 Meeting – May 1st /2016

- Alberta Fish and Game Association Zone 2 meeting was held May 1st in Strathmore. Matt provided a report. A reminder that resolutions for the annual conference can be received by the Zone any time. Be sure to have them in well before the fall Zone meeting. Minutes from the May Zone meeting will be circulated when they are available

Additional Topics / Future Ideas:

- Spring Turkey in Alberta or BC for 2017

- Gopher Derby for 2017

Trout Fishing Discussion:

Darren led us in a trout fishing discussion. He is a very experienced trout fisherman, using flies almost exclusively, and is a strong supporter of catch-and-release fishing.

We talked about fishing in some local water bodies like Chain Lakes, Emerson Lake (High River), the Bow River. Trout are predators, but even large trout will hit small flies or small lures. It's very important to research in advance which bugs are active at different times of the year.

Trout feeding in lakes depends on the light conditions in the water as well as water temperature, so you might have to experiment with different depths. Fish can be in water anywhere from 2' to 15' deep, depending on the water temperature and light conditions.

Flies tied in minnow or leech patterns or small spoons and panther martins could work well.

Main hatches to watch for include mayflies, chironomids, caddis flies and stone flies. Flies tied

in those patterns are a must. A good fly fisherman should be able to understand where the fish are at and what they are eating.

Within rivers there are three type of water to look for. Riffles are shallower water areas (maybe up to knee deep) where there is a lot of choppy water on the surface. These are the 'food factories' for trout, since they contain a lot of oxygenated water and a lot of bugs. These riffles are good places to look for trout. Runs are less choppy areas of the river, where water is still running at a good pace. Runs also carry insects and therefore hold fish, although might not be as productive as riffles. Pools are places where the water is calmer. Fish usually hang out in pools, not spending much energy, so they aren't as good a fishing spot because fish aren't as active. An exception might be a pool where a riffle runs into it. Middle stretches of rivers section are often the best areas for fish. Upper areas might be too cold and not have enough insects, while lower areas might be too warm. The section of the Bow which is best seems to be from Calgary to Carseland, which you can tell by all the guide boats fishing this stretch.

Darren uses floating line 90% of the time.

There are some good fishing lakes in the Crowsnest Pass. Lee Lake is a great place for catch and keep fishing. Beaver Mines Lake is another good place. Beauvais Lake has lots of rainbows and some good brown trout too, although the browns are a little more finicky to catch. Local places with good fishing include Odlum Pond has some very good aggressive fish, and so does Elbow Lake.

Darren might be willing to put on a 'fly fishing for beginners' course for club members, if there is enough interest. As long as it's not in bow hunting season... ☺

Darren has written a book titled "Which Fly Do I Use?: A Guide To Choosing Flies That Catch Trout". If anyone is interested in a copy, let him know.

Thanks to Darren for a great talk on trout fishing!