

February 2012 Newsletter



790 Southdale Road
London, Ontario N6E 1A8
681-2370

FEBRUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 Superbowl XLVI party	6	7	8	9 General Meeting (video presentation)	10	11
12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18 Tackle Swap
19	20 Family Day	21	22	23 Executive Meeting	24	25 Euchre (hosts Dave Jefferies and Steve Couture)
26	27	28	29 Leap Year			

MARCH 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 General meeting & Elections	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day
18	19	20	21	22 Executive meeting	23	24 Euchre (hosts Alex Duffitt and Roseanne Parent)
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Jigg's Dinner

KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP VALID TO AVOID BEING ON A WAITING LIST TO REJOIN WOF&GPA

Our newsletter is available on our website www.wofgpa.org
Please visit our site in order to keep informed of upcoming events at the club.

**Western Ont. Fish & Game Protective Association
Executive & Committees for 2011 - 2012**

Executive

President	
Stan Gibbs	519-668-2609
1st Vice President	
Lawrence Lainchbury	519-681-7199
2nd Vice President	
Don Colborne	519-686-9559
Secretary	
Teresa Couture	519-668-6257
Treasurer	
Steve Couture	519-668-6257
Directors	
Brian Ernteman	519-453-3641
Howard Pearcey	519-280-3080
Past Presidents	
Bill Rodrigues	519-455-7905
John Manvell	519-455-3627

On Site Caretakers	
Bob and Paulette Schmidt	519-681-2370

Committees

Entertainment	
Teresa Couture (Chair)	519-668-6257
Mary Degan	
Brian Ernteman	
Valerie Grahl	
Andre Koch	
Kim Sims	
House	
Howard Pearcey (Chair)	519-280-3080
Don Colborne	
Lawrence Lainchbury	
Gord Spotton	
Todd Stewart	-----
Grounds	
Steve Couture (Chair)	519-668-6257
Don Finch	
Howard Pearcey	
Bob Smale	
Todd Stewart	
Henry Van Eerdewijk	
Ponds	
Stan Gibbs (Chair)	519-668-2609
Ron Dennis	
Brian Ernteman	
Andre Koch	
Howard Pearcey	
Bob Smale	
Welfare	
Tom & Shirley McGill	519-652-2875
Boat Rack	
Don Colborne	519-686-9559
Membership	
Valerie Grahl	519-453-0659
Newsletter	
Teresa Couture	519-668-6257

Worm Machine (seasonal)

Steve Couture	
Fundraising	
Andre Koch	
Steve Couture	
Public Relations	
Lawrence Lainchbury	
Political & Environmental Research	
Steve & Teresa Couture	
Stan Gibbs	
Lawrence Lainchbury	
Firearms Certification / Hunter Safety	
Emad Hazboun	519-317-4132

Our Conservation Pledge

I give my pledge as a Canadian to save and faithfully defend from waste the natural resources of my country, its soils and minerals, its waters, forests, air and wildlife, & to obey all Fish & Game laws.

Our Purpose

- To promote true sportsmanship by the protection, breeding, propagation, and conservation of fish and game.
- To obey the Fish and Game Laws of Ontario.
- To promote reforestation and conservation.
- To maintain a club and pond for the accommodation and enjoyment of the members and friends.

Meetings

General meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30pm, except for the months of July and August. The Executive meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month. Remember that you, as a member, can attend any of the meetings. Your input is highly valued and appreciated.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report is presented at the General and Executive meetings, showing the accounts are in order. If you wish to receive a copy of the full report, please attend either of these meetings.

 The newsletter, the annual Event Calendar, the club history, many photos and up to date club information can be obtained on our website at www.wofgpa.org



IN CONSIDERATION OF ALL MEMBERS AS THEY ENTER THE CLUB; SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED WITHIN 15 FEET OF ALL CLUB ENTRANCES.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION IN MAKING WOFGPA TRULY SMOKE-FREE.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Compared to last year this winter has been a bit of a letdown.

The ice fishing prospects to date have been next to nonexistent and skating is certainly out of the question.

Our planned "Hockey Day in Canada" celebration had to be cancelled this year due to lack of ice, and any ice fishing derbies are on hold until the conditions get better. Hopefully, next year we can once again enjoy our fine heritage of pond hockey, if old man winter will co-operate.

So much for the whining! If we can't play outside, then we will go in where it is warm.

Our annual Superbowl party is being held on Sun., Feb. 5. We have a 100 inch screen to watch the game, lots of food and drink, door prizes and a pool to try your luck at. If this gets to you in time and you would like to join us, please call me at 519-668-2609.

Also, don't forget about our Annual Tackle Swap. It will be held at our club house on Sat. Feb. 18 from 9:00 am til 1:00 pm. Tables are still available at \$ 10.00 each, if you have any wares to sell.

At the General meeting on Feb. 9, we will be showing a video "Fly-fishing the World". I am sure that everyone will be both entertaining and informative. Hope to see you then.

Stan Gibbs

WELFARE

If you know of a club member or their immediate family who could use some cheering up or has achieved one of life's milestones, please contact Tom and Shirley McGill by phone at 519-652-2875. They will gladly make contact on behalf of the club.

One of our life members, Roy J. Gross, passed away suddenly on Dec. 1, 2011. Our condolences to his widow, Anna, and their family.

Cora Thompson and Shirley McGill are at home recovering from surgery. Donna Lainchbury is doing much better. Here's to healthier days ahead for these ladies.

ANNUAL DRAW for FREE MEMBERSHIP

At each General Meeting that you, as a club member, attend, one ballot per membership is entered into the free one-year membership draw. The draw is held annually on Election night at the March General meeting.

The winners of the January General meeting draw were:

Stan Gibbs – Ice fishing rod and Power Bail

Gord Spotton - \$ 10 Tim Horton's card

Congratulations Stan and Gord.

ELECTIONS

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2012

7:30 PM

(Following a short General Meeting)

This notice is to advise all Western Ontario Fish & Game Protective Association members that the Annual Executive and Committee Elections for the 2012-2013 term will be held on Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 7:30 pm.

Note:

- All positions will be for a one year period, covering March 8, 2012 through until the next election, which will be held on the second Thursday in March 2013.
- Nomination forms may be delivered to the club by Wednesday, March 7, 2012, in a sealed envelope addressed to -
Teresa Couture
Secretary – WOF&GPA
RE: Election Nomination

- All nominated members must be present on election night to accept their nomination

OR

- Provide a written acceptance delivered to Teresa Couture (Club Secretary) on or before election night.
- All membership fees must be up to date on election night. Please have your valid membership card with you. (The one-month grace period for membership renewal will not apply).
- One vote shall apply per membership, regardless of the membership type.
- An updated membership list will be available for viewing after February 29, 2012.

The Election each year is a very important part of this organization. Our members' input and participation into the election process is necessary to keep this organization viable and accountable to its members.

Get involved and strive to make Western Ontario Fish & Game Protective Association in London, Ontario the very best that it can be.

NEW MEMBERSHIPS

If you know of any prospective members, ask them to contact the Club President, Stan Gibbs, so that their name(s) can be added to the waiting list, which continues to grow.

The Executive would like to welcome the new members to WOF&GPA. Hopefully, we will meet everyone in the near future at one of our many functions and be able to put a face and name together.



JIGG'S DINNER

It is a WOFGPA tradition that the old Executive body serves dinner to the new Executive, club members and their guests. Attendees can expect a hearty dinner of corned beef and cabbage, roast beef, potato and veggies, roll, tea and coffee. There will also be assorted salads, relish and cheese trays. Door prizes will also be available.

Date: Sat., March 31, 2012

Time: Cocktails at 5:00 pm

Dinner at 6:00 pm

Cost: \$ 15.00 per adult

ADVANCE PURCHASE ONLY

NO RESERVED TICKETS

Your advance tickets may be purchased at a function, at every meeting or by contacting Teresa Couture at 519-668-6257.

An accurate head count is needed to purchase the food for this well attended function. For this reason, all tickets must be purchased in advance. Tickets usually sell out very quickly. Do not delay in getting your tickets and miss out on a great dinner with good company, door prizes and a lot of laughter.

If you wish to add variety to the salad or desert tables by donating an item, please call Teresa Couture.

7th ANNUAL TACKLE SWAP

DATE: Sat. Feb. 18, 2012

TIME: Doors open at 9:00 am until 1:00 pm

LOCATION: WOFGPA Club hall

COST: No entrance fee

The annual Tackle Swap allows us to shake off those winter blues and enjoy a few hours indoor of interesting information on fishing, hunting, and conservation efforts. You may also want to sell some of that old equipment you have lying around. Previous years have been a great success with many different clubs promoting their club's activities and selling different fishing/hunting related wares to the visitors.

Preregistration for a reserved table is mandatory. There is a \$ 10.00 registration fee for a table and reservations can be made by contacting Stan Gibbs at 519-668-2609. Tables will be assigned. To help attract the public, we as the host club, are asking all participants donate a prize to be used as one of our door prizes.

Stan is asking members for donations of their unwanted items for the WOFGPA table. If you have anything to donate, please contact Stan as soon as possible.

GUNS AND AMMUNITION WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE AT THIS EVENT.



EUCHRE

Thank you to Ken and Pat Lockrey for hosting the Euchre games on Sat. Jan. 28. The winners for the evening were:

High Man – Howard Pearcey (73)

High Lady – Jean Powers (64)

Most Lone Hands – Zam Fakira (6). Zam also had the highest ladies score but prizes are awarded in only one category.

Mystery Man – Tony Dukic

Mystery Lady – Debbie Parker

50/50 Draw – Janice Colborne - \$ 34.50

Progressive Euchre is a fun filled, social evening with good company, good cards and a lot of laughter. The games are open to both members and non-members. There is a light snack served and door prizes are drawn at the end of the evening. A donation of a door prize or dessert is always welcome.

Two hosts are needed for the Pot Luck Dinner and Euchre on April 28. If you are interested in hosting an evening and are not sure of what is involved, please speak to Teresa Couture at 519-668-6257. A member of the Executive will be present should any questions arise.

Next Euchre: Sat., Feb. 25, 2012 hosted by Dave Jefferies and Steve Couture

Time: Games start at 7:30 pm SHARP! Arrive early enough to socialize before the games begin.

Cost: \$ 5.00 per player. You do not need to have a partner or a foursome to progressive Euchre, as your partners will constantly change throughout the evening.

HOCKEY DAY IN CANADA AT WOFGPA

Sat. Feb. 11, 2012

Due to the unseasonable warm weather this winter, the ice on the pond is not thick enough for hockey teams from George Bray Sports Association (GBSA) to have exhibition games. For this reason, the day's festivities have been cancelled.

SUPERBOWL XLVI TICKETS

Sun. Feb. 5

The festivities will start at 4:00 pm, although game kickoff is at 6:00 pm. There will be lots of food, raffled items and door prizes throughout the evening. Please speak with Andre Koch, Alex Duffitt or Stan Gibbs to obtain your ticket for only \$ 25.00 each. Tickets are still available.

CLUB MERCHANDISE

We have pens, lanyards, Tee shirts, hoodies, sweatshirts, and toques, patch crests, key chains available in stock. We can also order lined jackets with embroidered club crest, with or without your name. Orders for custom merchandise can be made at any time by contacting Tom McGill at 519-652-2875, or see him at a meeting.

CHRISTMAS TREE AND WREATH SALES 2011 SUMMARY

To say the least it's been another super good year for our biggest Club fundraiser. Everything ran so smooth this year it's hard to believe we could pull it off, start to finish, without a hitch. And the credit goes entirely to our fantastic group of volunteers.

Thirty four volunteers assisted with setting up the tree lot. Fifty three volunteers were there to unload 841 trees when they arrived. A week later an additional load of 109 trees arrived on short notice. No problem though, as a few guys quickly took care of them. All was ready in time for the first day of Tree and Wreath sales. And what a sale it was!

Three weeks and one day later, on Sunday Dec 18th, we sold the last of our trees and our last two wreaths, closing down the year at 4:30 pm.

Wreath sales were better than last year for sure and expected to increase in the future as they get to be known. Congratulations to Hermann Szielasko and his hard working team for a job well done!

I'm very sure this year has comfortably met our expectations for profits. Details can be obtained from the Treasurer when attending a meeting.

To sum up, approximately 110 of our club members have been involved in tree sales and wreath manufacturing this year, dedicating over 1400 hours of their valuable time.

I doubt there are many organizations that can muster 50% of their membership for any cause! In fact, we have had 20 of volunteers donate over 25 hours each this year.

How about that for volunteering!

For the most part, volunteer hours involves the time of two people. The one at home or wherever also deserves full recognition for their contribution. My deepest appreciation and thanks goes to all our volunteer supporters including my wife Marian.

Wishing you all a very good year ahead and no doubt we will see you around the club from time to time.

Don Colborne

This edited submission did not arrive in time for publication in the January 2012 newsletter.

In this busy world in which we live, WOFGPA would like to acknowledge all those members, and some non-members who do volunteer, regardless of the how much one gives of themselves.

Thanks to you and all you do at your club. Your combined efforts are what make WOFGPA truly a gem in the heart of London. Kudos!

WOFGPA Executive

DANGER – THIN ICE

WOFGPA Executive advises members against venturing out on the ice this winter. With the unseasonably mild winter, an ice layer has formed on the pond. This ice is very thin and unstable and extremely unsafe.

Here are just a few reminders about ice safety:

- **A minimum of four inches (10 cm.) of CLEAR ICE is necessary to support the weight of one person. If you are fishing with a partner or a group, additional ice thickness is required.**
- The ice conditions will be posted and monitored regularly. Please stay off any unsafe ice and remember that ice conditions vary from day to day.
- Obey the thin ice signs and exercise caution at all times on pond ice. When in doubt, stay off the ice
- Always use the "Buddy" system and never venture out alone.
- Mark your fishing holes – for safety and consideration of others.
- A windmill, located on the west side of the pond by the front dock has been installed to aerate the water. There are buoys marking the location of the aeration stones. These two areas may stay as open water or may have a thin ice covering. Please keep well away from these areas, as they will never be deemed safe to support any weight, including your pet's weight.
- Do not let your pet run loose on the property, including the ice. It is the Club policy that all dogs be leashed at all times.

ICE FISHING

If the weather becomes colder and the ice is deemed as safe to venture out on, an ice derby may be scheduled but it will be on very short notice. Unfortunately, this short notice often does not allow for the members to be notified by newsletter.

If you want telephone notification of scheduled derby, please leave your name and number with Stan Gibbs at 519-668-2609.

The ice fishing derby dates will be posted on the website and the Bulletin Boards at the club.



"Those were the days" - Andre Koch ice fishing in 2011

HALL RENTALS

Did you know that the WOFGPA hall can be rented for your next “special” occasion for a very reasonable price? A number of people have already rented the hall for their function rather than hold it at their home and be left with a huge mess to clean afterward.

The main hall has a seating capacity of up to 80 persons, which makes it just the right size for a small wedding reception, showers, your next meeting, anniversary party, family reunions and get-togethers, Christmas party and birthdays. The club main hall has full kitchen facilities, except dishwasher. Professional bar service is offered in the wet bar.

Call the club caretakers, Paulette or Bob Schmidt at the club at 519-681-2370 to get the low rental rates and availability of the hall. The hall is not available for Stag and Doe parties.

You will be pleasantly surprised to find out that the club still has the cheapest rates in town. WOFGPA members receive discounted rates on evening rentals.



WOFGPA in January 2012



FISH REGISTRY

Club Rules state that every member must display a valid membership card, observe all fishing rules/limits and record their daily Trout catch, if any, in the Fish Registry Logbook.

Please take a few moments to review your daily catch limits that are set according to your membership type.

FIREARMS CERTIFICATION AND HUNTER SAFETY & BOW HUNTING COURSES

A former FAC instructor at WOFGPA, Emad Hazboun has generously agreed to teach these courses in the newly renovated basement meeting area. These courses are offered to both club members and the public so spread the word. Club members will get a discounted rate.

Emad may be contacted at 519-317-4132 or by email at emadhaz@heafs.com for further details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

General Meetings and Executive Meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursday, respectively. There are no General Meetings held in the months of July and August. Members are encouraged and invited to attend and participate in all meetings.

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Sun, Feb. 5 | Superbowl XLVI party |
| Thurs. Feb 9 | General meeting and “Fly-fishing the World” video |
| Sat. Feb. 11 | Hockey Day in Canada (cancelled due to unsafe ice conditions) |
| Tues. Feb. 14 | Valentine’s Day |
| Sat. Feb. 18 | Tackle Swap |
| Mon. Feb. 20 | Family Day |
| Thurs. Feb. 23 | Executive meeting |
| Sat. Feb. 25 | Euchre – hosted by Dave Jefferies and Steve Couture |
| Thurs. March 8 | General meeting and Elections |
| Sat. March 17 | St. Patrick’s Day |
| Thurs. March 22 | Executive meeting |
| Sat. Mar. 24 | Euchre – hosted by Alex Duffitt and Roseanne Parent |
| Sat. Mar. 31 | Jigg’s Dinner (Advance tickets available) |
| Sat. April 7 | Easter Breakfast |
| Thurs. April 12 | General Meeting |
| Thurs. Apr. 26 | Executive meeting |
| Sat. Apr. 28 | Pot Luck & Euchre – 2 hosts are needed |

Mark your calendars with these events so you don’t miss out on all the fun. Feel free to contact any committee chair or attend any meeting to offer fresh ideas or perspective.

After the Elections on March 8, 2012, the new Executive and Committees will set the Event Calendar for the 2012 – 2013 season.

You can sign up for a committee at any time simply by contacting the committee chairperson.

Your input is what makes WOFGPA truly “your club”.

All we ask is that you become an involved member.

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Murray Howard, President
2 Jutta Cr.
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**Call Paulette or Bob at the club
519-681-2370 for details.**