

Fur, Fins and Feathers



December 2019

The Clubhouse is off Old Oliphant Road on Northacres road and off County Road 13 in Wiarton.
Next meeting, January 30th, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. Your participation is welcome and anticipated. For inquiries e-mail bpsportsmen@gmail.com or mail to P.O. Box 548, Wiarton, Ontario N0H 2T0

BPSA Cheered at 2019 Santa Parade

There were cheers and applause as two floats entered by our club took part in the 2019 Wiarton Santa Claus Parade. Our archery and hatchery members worked hard preparing our entries for this parade, which attracts more than 30 organizations and is enjoyed by several thousand onlookers. In the days following the parade, it got rave reviews. Around town there were comments like "the best Santa Parade ever" and "what a great event for kids of all ages." And the Wiarton and District Chamber of Commerce "did a wonderful job staging this event."

The theme of the 2019 parade was "CANDYLAND". The main BPSA float design by the Archery Club reflected that theme displaying a giant gingerbread house with candy canes and other goodies attached. On top were red drink glasses to represent a gumdrop roof. The brightly lit float included large barber poles wrapped in wrapping paper. We had walking candy cane youngsters who were handing out free treats. Their outfits were made from large white Christmas tree bags wrapped in red tape that made them look like candy canes. BPSA youth member Cameron Jones was dressed in clear leaf bags stuffed with red, white and green balloons ...the costume designed to make him look like a "jelly bean bag." Our main float was so bright it won the Chamber "BEST LIT



FLOAT "award beating out dozens of other floats for the honour. This is the second time BPSA has won the BEST LIT FLOAT category.

The second BPSA entry by the hatchery members, was our also very brightly lit, well signed recently painted trailer. The same trailer we use for stocking fish in Georgian Bay. It was dressed up to reflect the season and to publicize the fact that since the sixties, we have stocked more than 4-million fish.





Sponsors of this BPSA effort included EPH Machine Shop Lions Head, Kevin Harders Lures n Lines Georgian Bluffs, Jessica Berg Wiarton District Chamber of Commerce and Johnny Tint Owen Sound. Like many organizations taking part BPSA volunteers distributed candies to youngsters along the parade route all waiting anxiously to see and meet Santa. Taking part in the frivolity were Wiarton Willie, Sunny the Sauble Beach seagull, South Bruce Peninsula councilor Terry Bell (left), Mayor Janice Jackson and MPP Bill Walker. A talented fire juggler and Santa wrapped up the parade spreading a feeling that "Christmas is almost here."

Yes there IS A SANTA CLAUS!!!!!! We saw him. He was in the parade.

In 2020 we will celebrate fifty-eight years of service to the Grey-Bruce community.

by Stu Paterson

Earlier at the BPSA clubhouse, Corrie Beacock prepared dinner for close to 30 volunteers from our Archery Club and hatchery who worked long and hard to decorate both floats. BPSA Archery Chair Donna Maginnis noted "we would have been hungry and at a loss with-out all of our helpers".

Corrie and Bruce had stored all the decorations we used last year. They came in handy this year. Bruce and Phil Henderson drove the truck hauling our float. Paul Maginnis handled the trailer towing and kept an eye on our walking candy canes.

Kyleigh and Austin Dickinson proudly carried our new archery banner.

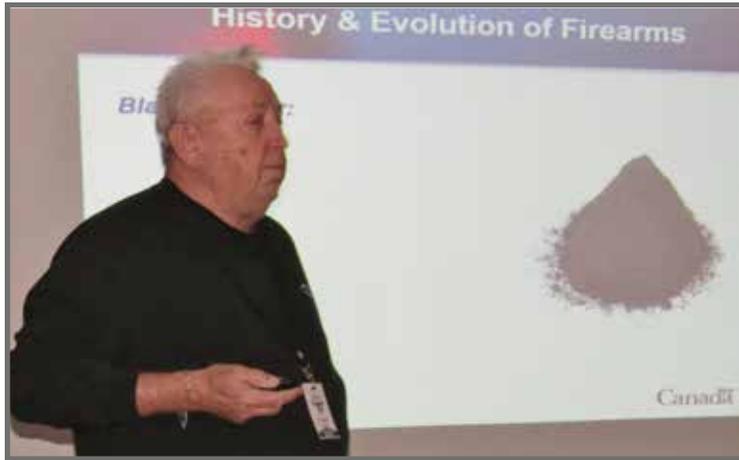
The BPSA volunteers involved were Donna and Paul Maginnis, Bruce and Corrie Beacock, Phil Henderson, Karen Van Nest, Mike, Jadin and Baylor Smith, Gord Smith, Mark Cheryl and Lexi Hewitt, Jeff, Lisa, Austin, Kyleigh and Amelia Dickinson, Kelly, Cameron, Laura and Kennedy Jones and Wayne Mussleman.

Photo credits: Donna and Paul Maginnis, Paterson Media, Mike Smith, Grandore Media, Kevin Harders Lures n Lines East Grandore Media, Jessica Berg Wiarton District Chamber of Commerce



Firearms Expert Hutter at BPSA

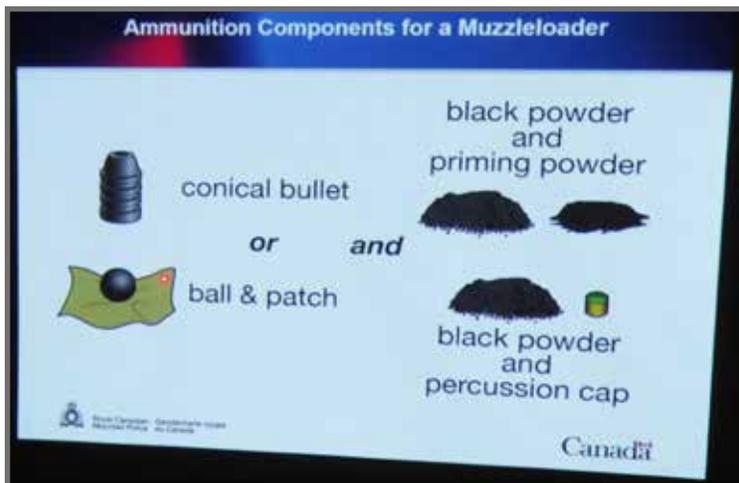
Respected firearms trainer Frank Hutter who is the Chief Firearms Safety and Training Officer for the BPSA Handgun Club, grabbed the spotlight at a recent meeting of the 300-member Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association (BPSA). Hutter, who has helped train thousands of hunters and sports shooters seeking firearms licenses, presented a 40-minute lesson on BLACK POWDER rifles and pistols. Black Powder guns are firearms that employ early firearm technology, and hand loaded ammunition.



Firearms safety is a major portion of all Frank's training sessions.

The BLACK POWDER world is one of unusual terms such as "flintlocks", "bore butter", "muzzle loaders", "wheel locks", and the most important term of all "safe handling and loading."

Hutter told BPSA members black powder guns have been used since the 12-hundreds. He said "guns play a role in the lives of millions of Canadians whether they are sports target shooters, collectors or hunters."



Frank also informed the audience of important changes to the interpretation of a loaded muzzle-loaded firearm. BPSA President Bruce Beacock said he was thrilled with the solid turnout for the Hutter information session. Said



Beacock "we have a richness of talent at BPSA. We hope to call on other members with expertise in all kinds of interesting outdoors related fields, to share their knowledge at future club meetings."

Stats Can. reports 26% of Canadian households have at least one firearm. 95% of firearm households own rifles. A much smaller percentage own pistols such as the ones used for target practice by the BPSA Handgun Club. An estimated 10 million guns are owned by civilians in Canada.

In 2020 the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association celebrates 58 years of conservation. Our non-profit volunteer based group began community work in the sixties. We boast the longest operating volunteer-run fish hatchery in Ontario. BPSA stocked 130-thousand rainbow and brown trout in 2019. In the spring we will stock 30-thousand rainbow trout yearlings. Over many years our 300 member club has stocked more than 4-million fish at several locations in Georgian Bay to boost our recreational fishery. Our club boasts many opportunities that offer you a chance to participate. They are our youth and adult archery programs, stocking or feeding fish, firearms safety training, handgun club, our invasive species awareness boot scrubber project and tree planting. Google Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association for more information.

by Stu Paterson

Final BPSA Fish Stocking of 2019



They showed up on a bitterly cold Sunday morning to support our sports fishery. They ranged in age from four to eighty four. The action was at Gleason Brook East of Wiarton. Forty-five enthusiastic souls took part in a bucket-brigade down a steep snowy path from our tanker trailer to the falls. At this location and at the mouth of the creek, we stocked 10,450 rainbow trout. Earlier BPSA volunteers stocked 13,300 rainbow trout in Colpoys Creek and another 5-thousand at Barrow Bay with help from members of the Barrow Bay and District Sport Fishing Association. BPSA often works with other outdoors clubs on improving our recreational fishery. Among those clubs are the Barrow Bay club, the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association, the Ontario Steelheaders and the Lake Huron Fishing Club. Our club President Bruce Beacock says "A BIG THANKS goes out to our fish stocking volunteers ...it was a great effort!!!!!! We couldn't do this without out you."



This volunteer effort is part of the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association (BPSA) fish stocking program. Other volunteer work includes fish feeding, tank maintenance at our hatchery and fin clipping. Since the sixties our community group has stocked more than four million rainbow and brown trout and salmon in Southwest Georgian Bay. The 300 member BPSA was established in the sixties to "preserve and enhance fish and wildlife." BPSA operates the longest running volunteer-run fish hatchery in Ontario.

We belong to the 40-member Ontario Community Hatchery Program (CHP) which is funded by the province and operated by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. Some of the costs involved with operating our fish stocking program are covered by the CHP.

BPSA is more than fish stocking. We have an active youth and adult archery program, a busy handgun club, firearms training classes, tree planting and our invasive species awareness "boot scrubber" effort. Our aim is to install 100 boot scrubber units from Owen Sound to Tobermory.

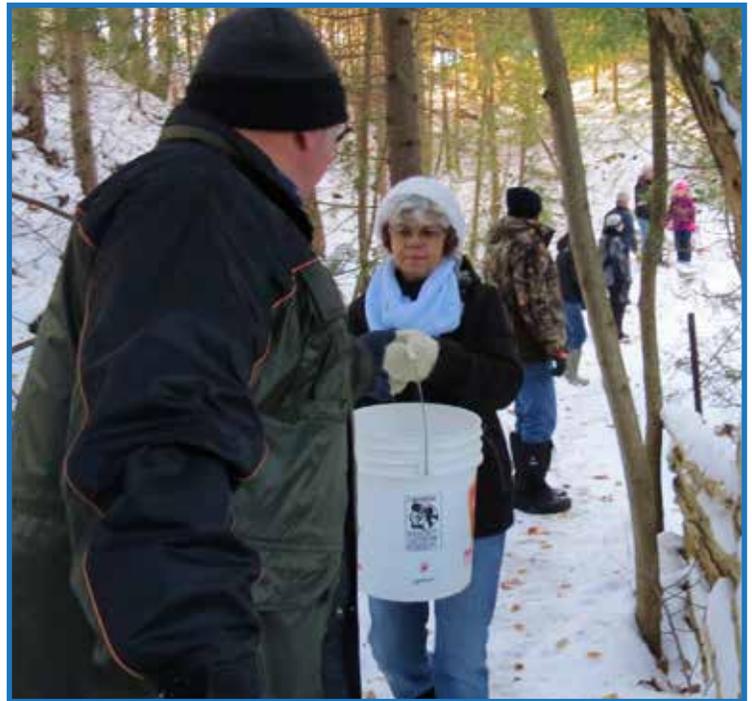


The next event on the BPSA schedule is our participation with a decorated float in the Wiarnton District Chamber of Commerce annual Santa Clause Parade. It runs at 7pm on Saturday December 7, 2019 through downtown Wiarnton and you are invited to cheer us on and say hi to Santa.

The 300 member Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association conservation club was established in the sixties to "preserve and enhance fish and wildlife." In 2020 we will celebrate fifty-eight years of service to the Grey-Bruce community.

by Stu Paterson

Photos: Paterson Media, Grandore Media



Christmas Wreaths in the Making

Twelve eager wreath makers show up at the clubhouse Friday November 29th with decorations and design ideas. What a great way to get into the Christmas spirit. With a bit of help getting everyone started, the results were beautiful. Over a dozen wreaths were made using three frame styles. Some even had time to make reindeer ornaments. Thanks to members Jo-anne and Corrie for setting up the day of.... Corrie for all the decorations, pine cones and boughs and Phil for cutting up the birch disc's and making coffee.

By KAREN Van Nest

