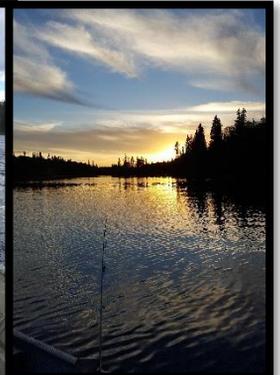
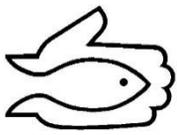




2016 FISH CAMP

 "GIVING FISH A
HELPING HAND"





2016 SVSFE Fish Camp

Camp Summary:

From August 17th - 21st Wellman Lake's United Church Camp was the "place to be" for children who love the past time commonly referred to as Sport Fishing. "Fish Camp", which has been facilitated by Swan Valley Sport Fishing Enhancement (SVSFE) since 2011 and partially funded through the Fisheries & Wildlife Enhancement Fund since inception. The camp occurs each August for children aged 9-14. The camp is designed to get kids out angling while at the same time providing them with the opportunity to learn a variety of outdoor skills.

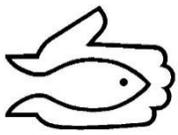
This year, SVSFE had a record breaking registration of 30 campers. Campers who we are very enthusiastic to get their lines wet and hook onto some fish. The camp utilizes the Wellman Lake United Church camp on an annual basis and is working toward creating a long-term foundation for future use. This camp provides an unique setting as it is located in a small secluded bay of Wellman Lake which is home to many species including walleye, smallmouth bass and



northern pike. Also because of the camp orientation, it typically offers calm waters for campers to explore the bay in canoes on a daily basis. This provides campers with the confidence and independence to explore nature and truly enjoy the basics of the sport of fishing.



This year, camp organizers merged training/education principles from the National "PaddleSmart" program offered by Adventure Smart. This program is designed for youth and adults who want to paddle, whether it be on standup paddleboards, kayaks or canoes. Topics included trip planning, training, and taking the essentials for water based activities (www.adventuresmart.ca). SVSFE was fortunate to have Patti Atwell, one of the trained volunteers visit the camp and train our campers on these basics. This set the mood for every adventure on the water as campers were very diligent on filing their trip plan and being prepared.



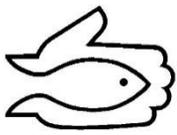
2016 SVSFE Fish Camp

Another vital presentation offered at the camp covered the growing and real concern of Aquatic Invasion Species. Local AIS Watercraft Inspectors, Eddie Shao and Steven Rivard, educated campers on how to be thorough and avoid the transportation of invasive species to other waterbodies. They also explained how quickly AIS can spread and the various species that are of concern right here in Manitoba. SVSFE was also privileged to have Park Patrol staff attend camp to inform campers on their responsibilities as anglers and how to use the Manitoba Angler Guide. Park patrol has attended every camp since 2011 and their presence opens up a lot of dialogue on proper angling practices. We feel the campers took all these messages home and would share their new knowledge with others. Other informative presentations/activities included; boat safety, knot tying, casting contest, minnow trapping, fishing basics, fish species id and behaviour, wilderness exploring, plant id, fire & shelter building, geocaching, and fishing!



Sharing the passion and sport of fishing with our youth is really what camp is about. Thanks to dedicated volunteers and presenters over the years, it does just that! Ryan Suffron, local Stillwater fly-fishing guide, amongst many other "outdoor orientated" professions, has been coming to camp since the beginning. He not only educated, but motivated campers to pursue all types of angling and everyone was able to learn the basics of fly-casting. Ryan even took the time to show some of our more advanced fly-fishers some extra angling techniques. Unfortunately due to illness, Don Lamont was unable to attend our camp again this year, but volunteers and camp staff used their knowledge to help the campers onto some exciting fish.





2016 SVSFE Fish Camp

Camp Support:

Camp would not be possible without the continued community support. Every year SVSFE raffles off a Lund boat, motor and trailer. Funds raised through this raffle fund the main expenses for camp. In addition, the Fisheries & Wildlife Enhancement Fund partially funds the camp to various degrees, fully funded during the first few years camp ran to funding camp educators (SVSFE technicians) for the 2016 camp. Fisheries education, outreach and stewardship are project categories funded under the FWEF mandate.



Developing a strong base of camp sponsors and volunteers is key to the continued success and ability for SVSFE to offer the camp every year. This not only helps reduce camp expenses but also is what makes camp what it is today. Campers have the opportunity to explore nature right here in our "backyard", learn from some of the best, and take home some souvenirs to inspire them on their journey of recreational fishing. SVSFE is thankful to all are current and past sponsors and volunteers.

2016 Fish Camp Sponsors



2016 Fish Camp Volunteers & Camp Staff

Camp Staff: Cole Brading, Abby Black, Ben Burick, Jessica Urban, Linda Cober

Camp Organizers:

SVSFE Technicians - Brock Koutecky, Megan Paterson, Holly Urban & Nick

Connolly, ISFE Technician - Nicole Yerma

Volunteers: SVSFE directors & volunteers - Jeff Connolly, Elgin Barnett, Darby Blazenko, Matt Harris, Tammy Forsachuk, Chris Stock, Taylor Bednarski, Trevor Urban, AIS - Eddie Shao, Steven Rivard, PaddleSmart - Patti Atwell, Park Patrol - Kyle & Sonya, Alpine Outfitters - Ryan Suffron