



## FLYCASTER – Dec. 1, 2023

Firstly, welcome to Jacqueline Harriman, who has joined the club and offered to take on the Membership duties and the work of distributing the Newsletter, pending confirmation by the membership at the Annual General Meeting. Her knowledge and expertise in the communications field will be a great asset to the club. Both Paul, who has been the Communications Director, and Norm, our Membership director, need to take a break after many years of service on the Executive. We owe them both a debt of gratitude for many, many hours of work on our behalf.

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

Despite decreasing membership in many other organizations and a drop in angling licence sales, membership in ETFC increased in 2023 from 77 to 103. And we're looking for ways to increase that number further in '24 – please let us know of any ideas you may have for doing so.

Membership renewal starts in January and the property gate code will remain the same for at least a couple of months longer. Details for renewal will be provided in the January newsletter. The fee will still be \$100 which will include ETFC membership, the gate fee for all, and membership in AFGA. Please note that the AFGA registration fee is per club, so if registered with a different club, you would still need to pay the \$100 for this club.

And a **note from Randy Collins, our AFGA rep:** All Alberta Fish and Game (AFGA) members have insurance included in their membership. That being said, the Edmonton Trout Club also has insurance to cover off activities it does under the AFGA umbrella. Activities done at the Trout Club property are covered such as club meetings, barbeques, and social gatherings. The club has ensured that undertaking the aeration responsibility is also covered and as such is so as long as members act in a conscientious manner. Stepping over the fence surrounding the aeration is not a responsible act, and if you do so and fall in open water you are not only NOT insured, but you are probably going to drown to death!

## **SPRING LAKE NEWS:**

The aerators are installed and running thanks to Larry Campbell and his crew, guided by Troy Furukawa, the ACA biologist who has managed the work for many years. We need the ice to be 4" thick before taking the next steps – drilling holes and installing posts then erecting the fence the following day. **Anticipated dates for the work are Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.** We need volunteers for the work – so **please consider offering (if only for an hour or two) and give Larry a call at 780-995-1550.** When the lake freezes over, we're legally obligated to have fencing in place or turn off the aerators.

The trout in Spring and the aquatic organisms they feed on will thank you as well – not only will aeration give them a far better chance of surviving the lower dissolved oxygen levels that ice cover brings to the lake, but it breaks down stratification, helps prevent eutrophication, and helps improve water clarity.

Meanwhile, Spring Lake Village Council is considering its budget to include the costs of electricity for running the aerator pumps – we hope to hear its decision soon.

And **one more request** – when the ice is thick enough for drilling holes, please let us know if you see any of the Prussian carp that are now known to inhabit Spring Lake.

## **NEWS FROM ACA:**

From **Laura Volkman:**

- I am right into the swing of planning **Kids Can Catch at Wabamun Lake** for Saturday, **February 17, 2024**, from 10am – 2pm. As always, having fishing mentors is such a pertinent part of the success of these events. I was wondering if you would be willing to put the word out again this year to see who would be willing to assist at this next event? Anyone interested can contact me directly with any questions or to sign up! I am open to anyone who can come even if it's just for a portion of the event! I will never say no to more help with mentoring. Thank you so much and I look forward to hearing from you! **780-695-3462** or EMAIL: [laura.volkman@ab-conservation.com](mailto:laura.volkman@ab-conservation.com)

And, from **your Executive:**

- If you haven't done so already, go to [ACA Sign-Up Publication Form](#), and see what's freely available. It's well worth it!
- We would like to know if members are interested in becoming involved in a **fisheries-related community, conservation and/or education project** supported by funding from an **ACA CCE grant**. If so, grant applications must be submitted by January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The priorities for grant approval are listed on ACA's website

and include: enhancements of habitat aimed at increasing recreational angling opportunities, initial evaluation of water quality aspects of existing ponds to determine suitability for fish stocking; purchase of equipment required to ensure suitable water quality for fish stocking (e.g., aeration equipment); fish stocking in public ponds; and promotion of rural and urban fisheries (including natural waterbodies), impacts of non-native species, projects related to the retention, recruitment, and education of anglers (especially youth), fishing for kids, generating awareness of the angling opportunities available to the public, and anything related to outdoor conservation education.



Photo courtesy from a Club Member

If you have a project you'd suggest and with which you'd be willing to assist, let us know asap at [communications@edmontontrout.ca](mailto:communications@edmontontrout.ca)

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

#### **Tuesday, Jan 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 7:00pm - The Annual General Meeting**

- Reports and activities from 2023 and election of the Executive for 2024. Please consider standing for any position – President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Communications, Membership, or one of the three Director positions – all are open.
- This meeting (and future meetings if members agree) will be at a **NEW LOCATION: Brig. James Curry Jefferson Armouries @ 11630 - 109 Street NW (Located on the west side of NAIT)**. Due to the new LRT platform construction, all traffic must come from 107 St - turn west on 118 Ave then south on 109<sup>th</sup>. The armoury is on the right-hand side and parking is in front. Or, come by LRT as the NAIT platform is very close by.
- If unable to be there in person, you may still vote by completing a **Proxy Form** giving another member authority to vote on your behalf. The form can be emailed to you by request to [communications@edmontontrout.ca](mailto:communications@edmontontrout.ca)

#### **Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 7:00pm**

- A short business meeting and then a presentation from **Phil Rowley** on his **Fly-Fishing Adventures in Argentina**. Again, at the Mess Hall, Jefferson Armouries.

The agenda for upcoming meetings on Tuesdays, March 12, April 9, and May 14 will feature guest speakers and be included in the January '24 edition of *Flycaster*.

We're also exploring interest in and options for a **Club Dinner** with raffles and door prizes in March '24 for members, spouses, and/or significant others, at Brig. James Curry Jefferson Armoury (Chuck has connections!). Cost: approx. \$30/person. More to come!

**AFGA's 'Fisheries Initiatives':** as provided in the Nov. Newsletter (check the ETFC website if you missed it). We've received some feedback and a question or two but are looking for more before reporting back. Please let us know at [communications@edmontontrout.ca](mailto:communications@edmontontrout.ca) what you support, what you don't, and how you think ETFC does, can and/or should support any or all of them.

### **ICE FISHING FOR TROUT:**

- You may like to check out a recent article from Ontrack Fishing, "[Ice Fishing for Rainbow Trout, Tips and Tricks for catching more](#)" that has some interesting and possible useful information depending on your level of experience and expertise: baits, lures, where on the lake to fish, equipment, effect of noise, etc.
- And Outdoor Canada has some suggestions too at '[11 Basic Ice Fishing Tips](#)'.
- And most importantly: when ice fishing on Spring Lake or any other water body, make sure to take the proper precautions. You know what they are, but if not - [ACA's Safety Reminder video](#).

### **FLY OF THE MONTH:**

#### **A Chuck Harvey favourite Balanced Leech**

Hook - Daiichi 4640 Sz 12

Head – Head-turner bead Sz 7/64 chartreuse

Thread – UTC thread black Sz 70

Tail – black marabou with 2 strands of blue crystal flash each side

Body – dubbed Arizona Semi-Seal (blue-black) A year-round fly!



Cartoon courtesy from a Club Member



Photo by Chuck Harvey

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ONE AND ALL!** and a **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**Next Newsletter Jan. 1, 2024**

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