



Remember the 14th! What you do or don't do on Valentine's Day may affect the number of days you get to go fishing this year!

FLYCASTER February 2024

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- **Tuesday, February 13th, 2024 – 7:00pm** - A short business meeting followed by a presentation by Phil Rowley on his **Fly-Fishing Adventures in Chile and Argentina**.
 - **Meeting Place: 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 109th. 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.

- **Saturday, March 9th, 2024 - "ETFC Members Night" Dinner (plus spouse or guest)**
 - **When**
 - Saturday, March 9, 2024 from 6:00 – 10:00 pm
 - Cocktails @ 6:00pm
 - Dinner seating @ 7:00pm
 - **Where**
 - Warrant Officer & Sergeants mess J.C. Jefferson Armouries 11630 - 109th, St. (NW)
 - **Dinner**
 - Table seating Buffet style
 - **Menu**
 - Crusty Rolls & Herb Butter, Shaved Hip of Beef with Rosemary Jus, Whipped



Potatoes, Yorkshire Pudding, Horseradish, Sauteed Baby Carrots with Herb Butter, Buttered Green Beans & Roast Peppers, Sauteed Red Beets or Roasted Brussel Sprouts, Perogies with Sauteed Onions & Cream.

- Assorted Squares – 2 Per Person
- Assorted beverages and coffee
- *Note: the wet bar will be open all evening for alcohol beverages / wine (payment by cash or card)*
- **Cost**
 - \$35 per person (must be 18 yrs or older)
- **RSVP**
 - send RSVP email and payment via e-transfer to troutseeker@shaw.ca.
 - Please include the names of the people attending in the email.
 - You will receive a reply of confirmation and printable ticket(s) to bring with you.
 - If you are unable to pay by e-transfer, please email troutseeker@shaw.ca to let us know that you would like to attend and the names of the people attending and we will make other arrangements for payment.
 - Please note that once you commit, you are committed to paying

ALL RESERVATIONS / PAYMENTS MUST BE CONFIRMED NO LATER THAN FEB. 29, 2024

- **Tuesday, March 12th, 2024:** Rick Passek is presenting on some fly fishing and tying techniques that should help you to attract and hook more fish. 7:00pm again at the Armouries

The speaker for the **April 9, 2024** meeting is not yet finalized but **May 14, 2024** will feature a guest speaker who has been researching some little-known stocked fisheries in Alberta, some on private but a number of public land.

CLUB ACTIVITIES:

- We need **feedback and suggestions** for what we could or should do - at meetings, the property, in the newsletter etc. please give it some thought and respond to communications@edmontontrout.ca

- AFGA's **'Fisheries Initiatives'**: we received just 3 responses , insufficient to provide any valid indication of how members would like to see changes to the management of our provincial government. They're still on the ETFC website in the December Newsletter if you'd like to see them and respond.

SPRING LAKE NEWS: no reports received

FISHING NEWS and REPORTS: no catch reports received – is nobody catching? The Fishin' Hole, however, has some reports on fishing lakes and streams at: [Alberta Lakes: Fishing Reports 2024 from The Fishin' Hole Canada \(thefishinhole.com\)](https://thefishinhole.com)

For those who like to keep a fish or two for dinner, 'Healthline' has provided a list of the 8 [healthiest fish for your diet](#). In rank order: Alaskan salmon, cod, herring, Mahi-mahi, mackerel (other than king mackerel), perch, rainbow trout, and sardines. Spring Lakes brown and tiger trout didn't make the list!



END OF THE RAINBOW

Nothing heard from Alberta's Fisheries Management about engagement sessions this year to let us know what's planned for the 2024-25 Fishing Regs. Rumour is that there will be increased opportunity to retain what you catch.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

- **Kids Can Catch** - The Alberta Conservation Association is looking for volunteers for their Kids Can Catch event at Wabumun Lake on Family Day weekend **Saturday, February 17, 2024.**
 - Contact Laura Volkman at [KidsCanCatch](https://KidsCanCatch.com) to volunteer your time.
- **Edmonton Boat and Sport Show** - ETFC has a booth and will be at the Edmonton EXPO Centre @ 7515 - 118 Ave NW
 - Thursday, March 14th 12:00pm - 9:00pm, Friday, March 15th 12:00pm - 9:00pm, Saturday, March 16th 10:00am - 6:00pm and Sunday, March 17th 10:00am - 5:00pm



- But we need lots of volunteers to help at the booth by answering questions about the club, chatting with visitors, maybe selling a raffle ticket or two and encouraging some new members to join.
- Your admission will be free and there's lots of parking and/or LRT at the site.
- You'll have time to wander around the show before and/or after your shift - morning, afternoon, or evening.
- Please consider helping us out. If you're able and willing to help or have any questions please email communications@edmontontrout.ca with your name and the time(s) you would be able to attend, and we'll send you confirmation and details.

FISHING A DROPPER:

- In this [video from RIO](#), Simon Gawesworth runs through a number of reasons why you would fish a dropper on your leader and shows 4 different ways of making a dropper - using a surgeon knot, a tippet ring, the "New Zealand" dropper and the swiveling dropper from Poland. Very clear and informative!

ETFC FLY TYING:

Chuck will be holding **a series of fly-tying evenings** for members at the Jefferson Armouries on the last Tuesday of Jan – April 30

- January 30 @ 7pm (I will demonstrate how to tie a HeadTurner BMW fly. I will provide the materials. Participants will need to bring their own tools, olive and black thread and marabou if they have.
- February 27 @ 7pm (Tie, talk and swap) bring what ever you are tying and enjoy sharing patterns and trading flies
- March 26 @ 7pm (special guest TBD) We will have a special guest to demonstrate and share several patterns
- April 29 and 30 @ 7pm. I will be conducting a condensed beginners fly tying course. I will also be providing all tools and materials to go along with the introduction of fly tying. MTF



FLY OF THE MONTH:

- The **GRIFFITH'S GNAT** – by **Chuck Harvey**: This month's fly is an oldie but goodie and should be in every angler's arsenal of flies when heading out onto the waters, no matter flowing or still.
- At times, the trout are solely focused on midges and when so, that is the only thing they are feeding on. You need to be ready with an imitation or wait it out and enjoy a sandwich. Its namesake is from its creator, George Griffith, who is one of the co-founders of Trout Unlimited.
- Because it is primarily a midge imitation, it is small. In fact, the example is in a size 18 but they are tied and effectively fished at even size 24. You will also have to be prepared to downsize your tippet accordingly to 6 or 7X. They are much easier to see once cast in still or calm waters. Many times, I've cast it on even slow currents on rivers or streams and had to rely solely on the tug. A possible remedy for this is tying in a piece of bright yarn on the top and midway, but to say this is difficult is an understatement, for my eyes anyway.
- These flies are not long lasting so an alternative way to tie this pattern is to add in an extra small brass wire and cross-wrap over the body to secure the fragile peacock herl and the stem of the hackle. This is a lot of work and personally, I don't like the way it folds down hackles even after zigzagging so I just tie lots of them. They don't take much space. They are simple but small. Have fun tying these and don't go blind if you dare to try a size 24.



Hook: - Mustad 3906 sz 18-24 (or equivalent)

Thread: - Semperfly Nano Silk 12/0 Black (great, strong & thin thread for tiny flies)

Body: - 3 or 4 strands of Peacock Herl

Hackle: - Grizzly Rooster Saddle (size so that the hackle protrudes just past the hook gap when wrapped)

Optional: - XSm brass wire

Optional: - bright coloured indicator yarn

If you want to know just about all there is that an angler needs to know about chironomids, aka midges, there's plenty of information on ['Fly Craft Angling with Phil Rowley'](#). There's many other chironomid fly patterns on the site too!

Also, BC's Brian Chan has a useful video on [Chironomid Fly Fishing Strategies](#)

2024 AGM - Your elected 2024 Executive

That's Ernest Kitt (boat custodian) standing by the fireplace at our new meeting location and seated, going clockwise, are Chuck Harvey (Co-Pres.), Alex (new member), Gaetan Richard (Zone Fish Chair), Larry Campbell (Aeration), Ron Storrier (VP), Jacqueline Harriman (Membership and Communications) and Ken Bodden (Co-Pres.). Missing from the photo are Randy Collins (AFGA/ACA), Peter Little (Newsletter), Ray Kelsey (Treasurer), and Michael Suiah (programs).



And . . . if you haven't yet renewed your **'MEMBERSHIP'** for 2024 please do so asap as the **insurance coverage provided as part of your AFGA membership expires on Jan. 31st, 2024**, and is not reinstated until AFGA hears from ETFC that you have rejoined.

- The ETFC Membership Application Form is on the ETFC website at [ETFC MEMBERSHIP](#).

Next Newsletter will be March 1, 2024

PSL/