



New Year's Resolutions:

Go Fishin' more; Join ETFC; Try a size 28 chironomid!

FLYCASTER January 2024

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- **Tuesday, January 9th, 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, or one of the Director positions with responsibility for Communications, Membership, AFGA and Zone representative, etc – all are open, and some current executive members are retiring.

⚠ NEW MEETING LOCATION: This meeting (and future meetings if members agree) will be at **Jefferson Armouries ~ 11630 - 109 St 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.

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

- **Tuesday, February 13th, 2024 – 7:00pm** - (at the Jefferson Armouries) A short business meeting followed by a presentation from Phil Rowley on his **Fly-Fishing Adventures in Argentina**.

- **Saturday Evening, March 9th, 2024 - "ETFC Members Night" Dinner** at the Jefferson Armoury WO & Sgt mess. Location and caterer are both booked. More details to follow.
- The agenda for **upcoming meetings** on March 12, April 9 and May 14 will feature guest speakers and be included in the February edition of *Flycaster*.

CLUB ACTIVITIES:

- Feedback and suggestions needed for what we could or should do - at meetings, the property, in the newsletter etc. to communications@edmontontrout.ca
- **AFGA's 'Fisheries Initiatives'**: as provided in the Nov. Newsletter (check the ETFC website if you missed it). We've received a question or two but very little feedback and are looking for more before reporting back. Please let us know at 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.

SPRING LAKE NEWS: **Volunteers at work!**



Thanks to Larry Campbell and his crew of Paul, Ken, Randy, and Gaetan, the fencing and signage is now up around the aeration polynia. ACA 's Troy and Ariel were also there to pass on their expertise and help get the job done!

And, in response to requests from some members, the boat launch access has been widened. You still won't be able to back a truck to the water, we need to protect the riparian area as best we can, but it will be easier to unload a boat nearer to the lake.

FISHING NEWS and REPORTS:

No ice fishing reports received yet! Have heard that winter fly-fishing in Nov. and Dec. has been productive on a few streams in south and central Alberta – Bow, Oldman, Raven and North Raven, Red Deer. Some sections always have open water, and as Chuck Collins writes in *Game and Fish Magazine*, “winter trout fishing can be fun, productive, and better still, somewhat predictable, famous rivers lack crowds, and trout haven't been harassed of late. Perhaps best of all, you're fishing, who really cares if you're catching?”

Reports are that fishing near bottom with nymphs, a woolly bugger, leech patterns, San Juan worm, cased caddis or a small spinning lure is usually the most productive strategy. Lloyd Shea's *Stauffer Special* is also a reliable year-round pattern. For dry fly purists there are midge hatches on the slower sections on warmer than average winter days. They're small though, sizes 18 to 26 mostly. Stoneflies can also be at least semi-active and worth a try. For some, just being outdoors by water and carrying a fishing rod is, by itself, a great way to help get through the long winter months.



If you'd rather wait for ice-out in spring, it's not too early to start getting ready: sorting and cleaning your gear; tying or buying a few flies; making lures, or checking out some online videos to learn something new about the fish, knots, places to fish, etc. There's a helpful video on how to care for and clean your fly lines at:

<https://howtoflyfish.orvis.com/video-lessons/toms-short-tips/1706-how-to-care-for-your-fly-line>



If you do go ice-fishing, check out [ACA's Safety Reminder video](#) beforehand and please share what you saw/caught, where and how, with other members via communications@edmontontrout.ca. If it was at Spring Lake, we'd also be really interested to hear if you noticed an aerator not running, or if you saw or caught any fish other than trout.

From Our AFGA Zone Fish Chair: Gaetan reports that, from what he's heard, the Minister would like to see more fishing opportunities created in the province; that the Alberta government will be holding meetings in January throughout the province with regard to 2024/25 Fishing Regulations (make sure you take part); that more lakes will be open for retention of one or two pike and/or walleye, and the Cold Lake Fish Hatchery Renovations are now complete (a little later than anticipated).

Editor's note: About the same number of trout will be available for stocking by AEPA this coming spring as last. For Spring Lake in '23 that was 7,490, about a third of the number stocked in 2022 (23,291). ACA stocking numbers, however, will likely remain at about the usual levels in the 65 or so ponds that it stocks.

FLY OF THE MONTH: *"Fly-tying: an art form combining creativity, patience, and fly-fishing."*

Lloyd Shea's **'Stauffer Special' and how to fish it** - as described by club member, Dick Slobodian.

Hook: Mustad 3399 or any short-shanked nymph hook size 10,12, or 14.

Body: Black Sparkle Chenille or standard black chenille with a fine silver tinsel wrapped through (not ribbed). Try colours like olive green, dark purple - they work too.

Hackle: Black India or similar hackle swept back.

Head: UTC 70 Black

Tail: (Optional) Black India hackle fibres.



- “A simple tie, but Lloyd’s very effective fishing method is more involved: wade upstream while roll casting to the fishy-looking spots; when the fly lands, wait for about a count of one-one thousand for the fly to sink sub surface; draw back on the rod and line simultaneously (not stripping) to pull the fly only a little faster than the water flow; when you feel a strike or bump wait for a one-one thousand before setting the hook by lifting gently.
- If you don’t fish the fly with this method, you likely won’t be as successful. The fly can also be cast to rising fish and fished with the same motion. There are times when the bite will be hard and immediate. The roll casting method works very well in willow and grass lined creeks as you greatly reduce catching trees etc. Often the fish will follow the fly downstream toward you forming a V-wake as you pull back on your rod. Lloyd fished this method on the creeks in the West Country for over fifty years as well as in New Zealand and South America. After he introduced me to this method my success rate went up big time!” **Dick Slobodian**
- (and a **note from Chuck**: the head-turner bead for the balanced leech pattern in the Dec. Newsletter should be 1/8th (not 7/64th)!



And . . . last but not least, ‘**2024 MEMBERSHIP**’: The ETFC membership fee for 2024 will remain at **\$100** which will **include the gate fee, and membership in AFGA**. **Please note:** that the AFGA registration fee is per club, so even if you’re registered with a different AFGA affiliated club, you still need to pay the full \$100 for ETFC membership.

2024 Membership renewal starts now, although the property gate code will remain the same until March 1st. We hope you’ll stay a member and **here’s how** from Jacqueline, our Membership Coordinator:

- With changes that are happening we are in the process of updating the membership form. As soon as we have it updated, we will send out the information on how to renew your membership. Please stay tuned.

Next Newsletter February 1, 2024

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