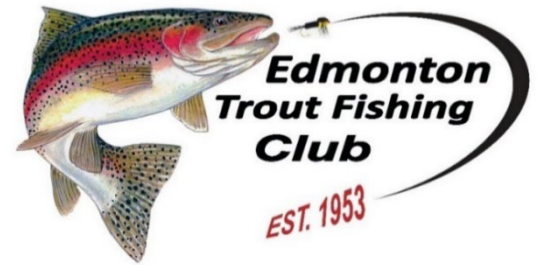


# FLYCASTER

March 2024 Edition



Don't forget to wear green and try to catch some green fish on St. Patrick's Day!



## **DON'T MISS OUT:**

**Last chance!** to reserve your place at the ETFC Dinner

- **When:** Saturday, March 9, 2024, from 6-10 PM
  - cocktails at 6 pm dinner seating at 7 pm
- **Where:** Warrant Officer & Sergeants mess
  - J.C. Jefferson Armouries @ 11630 - 109<sup>th</sup> Street, Edmonton
- **Cost:** \$35 per person (must be 18 yrs or older)
- **RSVP:** send RSVP email and payment via e-transfer to [troutseeker@shaw.ca](mailto:troutseeker@shaw.ca).
  - Please include the names of the people attending in the email. You will receive a reply of confirmation and printable ticket to bring with you.

**ALL RESERVATIONS / PAYMENTS MUST BE CONFIRMED NO LATER THAN  
FEBRUARY 29, 2024 - the caterer allowed us an extra day!**

## **UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS at Jefferson Armouries:**

- **Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm** - Rick Passek aka 'The Flyfish Fanatic' - Rick Passek is presenting some fly fishing and tying techniques that should help you to attract and hook more fish. More information about Rick is available at ['Ask About Fly Fishing'](#).
- **Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm** - still working on this one but mark the date in your calendar!
- **Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm** - will feature a guest speaker who has been researching some little-known stocked fisheries in Alberta, some on private but a number on public lands. He's willing to share what he's found - at least to ETFC members who come to the meeting!

## NEWS:

- **The VILLAGE of Spring Lake** has installed two new radar signs 'to keep track of the Municipality's traffic statistics' but beware! "Reports are also shared with Parkland County Enforcement Services'!!
- **The MINNOWS of Spring Lake** - According to the May 2021 Biophysical Assessment of Spring Lake there are two minnow species in the lake for the stocked trout, loons, pelicans, and the occasional cormorant to feed on. Both are well worth imitating by anglers:



The **BROOK STICKLEBACK** - usually found in a group, close to the shoreline darting in and out of the vegetation. It varies from dark brown to olive green with mottling on its back and sides and a beige belly, has four to seven short spines in front of its dorsal fin, and can grow to eight or nine cm.

And, the slightly smaller **FATHEAD MINNOW** - usually dark olive-brown with a dark stripe along its back and sides, a lighter belly, and a vertical line in front of its tail fin. It has a distinctive blunt snout and the front of the dorsal fin appears clipped.



## FISHING TIPS:

- According to the pros, fishing success with imitations of small fish is usually greater on overcast days and just before sunrise and after sunset. That's because trout are safer from aerial predators at those times and more likely to move into the shallows where small fish congregate. Troll or cast along a drop-off or close to the weeds. Try flies like the Muddler Minnow, the Clouser Minnow, and various streamer patterns like the DS Butt Monkey. Hardware lures, such as spoons, spinners, small crankbaits, or jigs, create a similar effect also work well as they create a disturbance when moved through the water - the trout's lateral line senses the vibrations and alerts it to a possible meal. Lures with silver and gold metallic colours tend to be more effective in clear water and on sunny days. Colourful patterns are usually better when the water is murky or under cloudy skies.
- Many anglers, however, prefer to just hang a minnow pattern under a bobber, and let it wind drift with an occasional twitch or a slow, short pull. Check out [Phil Rowley's flytying website](#) for some great patterns.

## GETTING READY:

- A tip from co-president, expert rod builder, and fly tyer Chuck Harvey:
  - “As we get ready for lakes to become ice free and rivers to flow, it’s a good time to clean your gear. One of the best ways to clean the cork on your rods is to use **Mr.Clean Magic Eraser pads**. They will not only erase all the dirt but get rid of all the contaminants that are harmful for the cork like sunscreen and bug repellent. The finish will make your rod handles look like new and you can even continue down the rod to bring it back to life.”

## 🎵 'Take A Chance On Me' 🎵 . . . . AND BUY ONE OR MORE TICKETS

- For the **2024 ETFC Raffle** of a custom built 9ft – 6wt North Fork Composite (NFC) rod with a 6wt floating fly line on a Reddington Behemoth reel (total value \$1,000)

*“Prizes may not be substituted for cash”*

Draw date: June 15, 2024 at the Spring Lake Property

*Must be 18+ to purchase ticket(s)*

- \$10.00/ticket      All proceeds go to ETFC’s conservation fund      License #676517
- Purchase tickets at [ETFC.finance@outlook.com](mailto:ETFC.finance@outlook.com)
  - **In the comment section please write:** Rod Raffle, your First and Last Name, Mailing address (so we can send you the tickets), Email address and Phone number (so we can contact you immediately if you’re the winner), and # of raffle tickets being purchased. Thanks!

## FLY of the MONTH - The Redd October

- Thanks to Mike Monteith, member, fishing guide/instructor, and owner of [Alberta Stillwater Adventures](#) for sharing this one.

**Hook** - Mustad C49S Size 16 -10

**Thread** - Black 8/0

**Bead** - Gold 3/32

**Body** - Small Red Holographic Tinsel

**Rib** - Fine Gold Wire

**Coating** - Sally Hanson’s



- “One of my KISS (keep it simple stupid) collection of patterns. I came up with this bloodworm pattern 20+ years ago and the trout's response to this pattern was simply unbelievable. I've never had as much success with any other fly before and this is still my go-to to this day and remains my starter fly with a small leech pattern above it. The best way to fish this fly is with a strike indicator and enough leader to set the fly one to two feet off the bottom.

### **EDITOR'S NOTE:**

- Mike also has reports of its effectiveness in rivers too! And if you want to improve your fly casting one evening at Muir Lake, are looking for a guided stillwater fly fishing trip and/or want to learn more about equipment, techniques, or the bugs and small fish that trout feed on in Alberta's stillwaters, email: [mike@albertastillwaters.ca](mailto:mike@albertastillwaters.ca)
- Or, if you have any questions about Redd October or Stillwater Adventures, Mike 'DJ' Monteith will be at the March 9th ETFC Members Dinner.
- If you're not familiar with the varying depths in Spring Lake check out the [Spring Lake Fishing Map](#). Hydrological maps of other local lakes are also at that same address.

### **Crowsnest River in Trouble:**

- We knew water levels were low, especially in southern Alberta, but not to this extent. We had already heard that the Oldman was at one third of its normal flow, but News came out on Feb 23 that the Crow, an essential source for the whole South Saskatchewan River system has run dry upstream of the village of Cowley. Alberta author and conservationist Kevin van Tighem writes "Once one of the prettiest rivers in Alberta, and with an earned reputation as a blue-ribbon trout fishery, today we learn that there's not enough water to keep it flowing through the reservoir. Imagine. A stretch of an Alberta River that always flowed before has dried up. And the Alberta government has no plans to restore and protect the mountain and foothill landscapes that are meant to keep it supplied with water. Just the opposite."

### **AFGA 2024 Conference:**

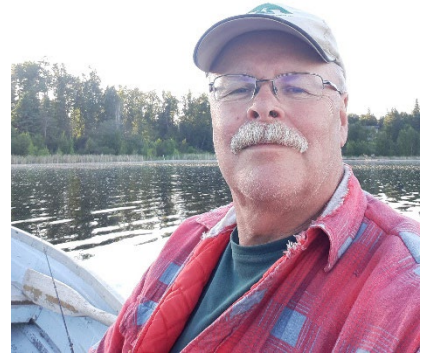
- Was held in Medicine Hat on Feb 22 to 24. ETFC's Director-at-Large, Gaetan Richard, was in attendance and reports that Todd Loewen, Minister of Forestry and Parks, addressed the meeting and aims to improve our fishing experience, provide more catch, and keep opportunities, simplify our fishing regulations, improve fish stocking, and be more responsive to angler concerns and recommendations.
- In addition, Gaetan reports that a resolution calling for a youth fishing licence was withdrawn, but one calling on government to create an Alberta Sport Fishing Licence for age 65 and older at a reduced rate was passed by 61% of members present.

### **Fish Chair Report:**

- We asked AFGA's Fish Chair for our Zone, Randy Collins, about his role and other involvement in the Alberta Conservation community:

"I have been involved for many years with the Edmonton Trout Fishing Club (ETFC). My first contact actually was through Peter Mapplebeck as he at one time in the early 2000's and late 90's was a Zone 4 Fish Chair also.

AFGA is comprised of six zones, each from different quadrants of the province. Zone 4, which we are affiliated with, runs from Edmonton to the mountains, south to Drayton Valley and north to approximately Fox Creek. It has numerous AFGA (AWF) clubs; some which are from Stony Plain, Devon, Spruce Grove, Barrhead, Wildwood, Whitecourt and two in Edmonton: The Oldtimers and the Edmonton Trout Club.



As your Fish Chair I mirror the position that is on the senior AFGA executive but bring a perspective to the association and the zone from our area. We have a provincial fisheries caucus which we belong to, and are kept informed by our provincial chair, Dr. Darryl Smith out of Valleyview. The Zone meets 2 to 3 times a year and has an executive just the same as the provincial body. My role is to be aware and inform of any pertinent fisheries issues that might affect our club, our zone and area anglers. As an active angler I have had this position for the past five years. I have also been on the zone executive as a director, back in the late 90's, and then became the AFGA president from 2005 to 2007. Since then, I have also been a representative for the association on the Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) board, for the past 15 years, and just a few years ago became the Northern Liaison on the board and passing my role of AFGA rep to another member from Lethbridge. I have belonged to the St Albert AFGA club since 1980, the Edmonton Oldtimers, the Narrow Lake Executive and Club and belong to the Wabamun Watershed group and the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance. I have been an active and vocal member for over 40 years on the Alberta Conservation scene.

Each summer you can find me and my old tin boat cruising around Spring Lake trolling for the elusive "big" one, or in the winter I love ice fishing, especially on all our area lakes. Please feel free to reach out to me with any fish related concerns or if you have questions on the AFGA or ACA I will gladly try and answer." Randy Collins

#### **NEXT NEWSLETTER:**

- Open to suggestions, questions, and contributions for future monthly editions. Let us know what you'd like to see included, fishing questions (we'll do our best to research answers from reputable sources), fishing reports, discussion topics, the ETFC property, boat storage, membership et al. Email us at [etfcnews@gmail.com](mailto:etfcnews@gmail.com) - we won't use your name unless you indicate otherwise.

**Next Newsletter will be April 1, 2024**

PSL/