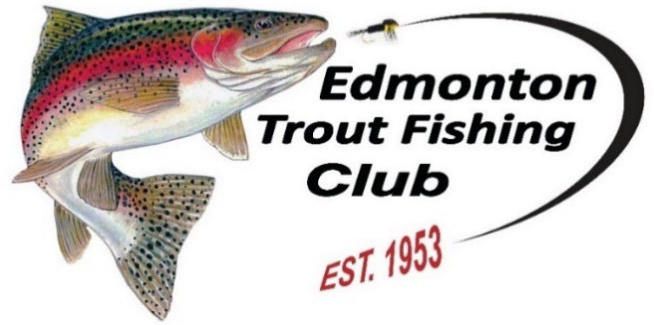


# FLYCASTER

April 2024 Edition



THE FLYING SCUD

On **April Fools' Day**... believe nothing you hear! However, here's a well-kept secret known only to long-time members of ETFC: Spring Lake has a rare population of flying scuds, freshwater shrimp that fly in swarms on moonlight April nights! If you're tying an imitation, make sure the wings are translucent – trout are selective and prefer them that way.

## UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS at Jefferson Armouries:

(**11630 - 109 Street NW** - on the west side of NAIT)

- **Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm – Special Speaker “Josh Gelinas”**, fishing guide, author, member of Team Canada Fly Fishing, and purchaser for the Fishin’ Hole will share some of his experiences in fishing for Lake Trout and Tree River Char
- **Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 7:00pm** – A Fly Tying evening with guest fly tyer, **Phil Rowley** demonstrating how to tie the popular Blob, Booby and MOP flies at the Jefferson Armouries classroom.
- **Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm** - “I will be conducting a condensed beginners’ fly-tying course at the Jefferson Armouries classroom. I will also be providing all tools and materials to go along with the introduction of fly tying. There will be no cost for this evening, however the participation will be limited to 12 who have no tools, so please pre-register by sending an email to [communications@edmontontrout.ca](mailto:communications@edmontontrout.ca) “ (**Chuck Harvey**)
- **Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm – Special Speaker “David Trew”** - will feature retired government water scientist, David Trew, 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! Apparently, there’s some great and under-used trout fisheries out there!

## NEWS:

- **2024 membership** currently stands at 60 and each has received the new gate code, is covered by AWF insurance, can receive discounts at the Fishin' Hole and Marks and enjoy the full benefits of membership. If you're not one of them please don't wait, get your membership paid and enjoy those same benefits now – here's how: <https://www.edmontontrout.ca/membership/>
- **Rod Raffle** - All 250 tickets on the **2024 ETFC Raffle** have been sold with the exception of fewer than 20 that are currently being sold at our main sponsor, *The Fishin' Hole*, West side location. Stop in there for a chance to win a custom rod package, built to support the club's aeration project at Spring Lake, and while there show our appreciation for their support.
- **Boat and Sportsmen's Show** - the club successfully staged an information booth at the 2024 Show between March 13-17. Chuck Harvey, Ernest Kitt, and Ken Bodden set up and took down the booth which featured information on the club's activities, the membership process, examples of communications, fly tying demonstrations, a PowerPoint presentation on past fishing and club activities, and the sale of raffle tickets for a custom-made fly rod, reel, and line.



Volunteers, including members with past experience at previous shows as well as the welcome addition of some new members, manned the booth for over 36 hours. The commitment of time is significant and appreciated. Special thanks to the Edmonton Fish and Game Association club volunteers who provided refreshments, snacks, and baked goods.

- **March Dinner** - 35 came to the dinner, had a great meal, a drink or two, shared some stories, and met some new members. Many thanks to Chuck for all his work in arranging this and to those who helped setup the tables and wash the dishes!!



- **Camping at the Property** - You may have seen in the ETFC Property Usage Rules (Appendix D to the Bylaws) the message that “no overnight camping is permitted on the property”. Seems a pity, as with the shelter, the proximity to the lake and the usual peace and quiet of the area it would be a great place to park your trailer for a night or two. So in response to a member who asked ‘Why?’ and with help from longtime club member, Ron Sohnle, we checked into it. Turns out that this rule applies to all Village residents, not just us. One of the Village’s 43 Bylaws states “The placement of any recreational vehicle on a lot is for storage purposes only. The recreational vehicle shall not at any time serve as any form of dwelling or dwelling unit.”. So, it’s ok to park it by the shelter for the day, but please don’t ‘dwell’ in it!
- **Boat Storage** - the option to store your boat at lakeside, near to the ETFC pier, is currently available to members. However, as the club does not own that area of land, it is a privilege that we don't want to take for granted and possibly lose. We need to be able to identify which boats belong to current club members and which do not and thus the requirement that you obtain a boat sticker to identify it as member-owned. There are 32 boats and 2 trailers currently stored there but only 11 of them are identified with stickers as belonging to club members. Whether the unregistered belong to current or past members, to other Village residents, or to someone else who has just found a way to store or abandon a boat there, we have no way of knowing. The Club Executive is looking at ways to reduce the total number, to move registered boats as close to the pier launch area as possible, and unregistered boats further away. Please make sure your boat is on the list of registered boats that are approved by ETFC for lakeside storage, in case that question should arise with the Village administration and/or a reduction in numbers is required. New Boat stickers are being made up, so as soon as they are ready, we’ll mail them to you.

- **Spring Lake Aeration** - Thanks to Larry Cambell and his crew, the aeration has gone off without a hitch so far apart from some of the fence being knocked over recently, probably by a local deer or moose, as there were no human tracks nearby! Power will be turned off by April 1<sup>st</sup> and we'll soon need volunteers to pack up the fencing, signs, and motors for summer storage back at ACA's facility.
- And for those who've been asking who the new executive member is:

**MEET Jacqueline:** "Hi, I'm Jacqueline Harriman and I am your Membership and Communications Director and the Club Secretary. Let's see, I have not been fishing since I was a teenager and have never tried flyfishing, so you ask what interests me in joining, well that is easy. My amazing next-door neighbor has been a member of the group for a very long time and always talked about it. He was telling me how they needed someone to help, and I said, sure why not. So here I am. Since joining, I have learned a lot and think it would be fun to give fly fishing a go, so that is my plan for this summer is to get out and go fishing and as long as my 7-year-old granddaughter doesn't scare the fish away, lol. I just finished up my nursing and will be writing my provincial exam in the next couple of months and then will be an LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse). I have 2 kids and 3 grandchildren. If that doesn't keep me busy enough, I also have 2 big dogs that constantly need my attention. Since I wasn't busy enough...lol, I took on the responsibility of membership, communications and secretary for the group and I am having fun doing it and glad that I joined. I look forward to meeting and talking to everyone and if you have any questions or suggestions for the group, please feel free to send them to us."



- **Muir Lake Signs** – due to water damage, the graphics and plexiglass on the 8 Education and 5 Alberta Angler Walk of Fame signs have been replaced under warrantee. However, two of the stands have also been damaged, possible by vehicle contact. We're waiting on a quote for repair costs but if anyone is able and willing to take on the work . . . .!?

## FISH and FISHING:

- **Get Ready!** – open water coming soon! So, check your waders and your boat for leaks because it will still be cold. And a tip from co-pres, expert rod builder, and fly tyer, Chuck Harvey: "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."

- **The MIDGES of Spring Lake** - are much the same as most other lakes in the area and start to become quite active as the ice begins to melt. These little bugs are often mistaken for mosquitos but don't bite and they're a staple diet item for trout at this time of year. The larvae, known as bloodworms, start to mutate into pupae about now. These are comma-shaped, come in a wide variety of colours, but all have distinct white gills. They hang around the lake bottom for a few days and then slowly rise to the surface, hang there for a minute or two, then their body splits open and the adult form emerges. It too sits there for a minute or two while its wings dry and then off it flies, often in clouds of hundreds and more. But it only lives for a few days then returns to the water skittering across the surface to lays its eggs and die. At all stages it's an easy meal for trout as they cruise around sipping them in. For pictures of them at each life stage, more detail and some great fishing tips have a look at [What Trout Eat: CHIRONOMIDS](#), a digital, expanded version of the Muir Lake sign on this staple of the trout's diet.



- **Fly of the Month - The Zebra Midge**



**Hook** - Daiichi 1120 sz 16 or 18

**Bead head** - 1/16" Silver

**Thread** - UTC 70 Black

**Rib** - UTC Silver wire sz small

"This month we have another very simple yet effective pattern. It can be fished in a variety of ways: as a small chironomid in still water; as a dropper fly underneath a dry fly, or on its own as a dead drift or swung through

a current. The Zebra midge is a nymph that imitates midge pupa, emerging midges, or an emerging chironomid pupa. The most common colour combination is black & silver as I've tied in this photo but other variants like red, olive or even cream are also good to have in the fly box. Some tiers also add peacock herl behind the bead, but I find that with the size being so small, it took up too much space." Chuck Harvey

- **New LURES from Len Thompson:** Red Deer's Len Thompson confirms that its best-selling lure is still the yellow and red five-of-diamonds. They're not sure why but suspect that the high contrast paint job triggers aggressive behaviour in all game fish. "Subtle isn't in our nature" they say. And that's evident in their new 2024 product line – here's a sample:



- More colours in the same dimpled construction format are shown on the website: <https://www.lenthompson.com/> or drive down to 5860 Len Thompson Drive in Lacombe and see them, along with the world's largest fishing lure!

- **Best Fishing Times – according to the Old Farmer’s Almanac:**

- One hour before and one hour after high tides, and one hour before and one hour after low tides. Inland, the times for high tides correspond with when the Moon is due south. Low tides are halfway between high tides. (Ed. Note: may be some truth re saltwater angling but science tells us that the moon’s influence of rivers and lakes is negligible to non-existent)
- During the “morning rise” (after sunup for a spell) and the “evening rise” (just before sundown and the hour or so after).
- During the rise and set of the Moon.
- Just before the arrival of a storm, although the falling barometric pressure will eventually slow down the rate at which fish feed. Angling can also be good when the pressure is either steady or on the rise 1 to 2 days after a storm. High pressure accompanying clear weather can bring on sluggishness and reduced activity.
- When there is a hatch of flies—caddis flies or mayflies, commonly. (The fisherman will have to match his fly with the hatching flies or go fishless.)
- When the breeze is from a westerly quarter rather than from the north or east.
- When the water is still or slightly rippled, rather than during a wind.

And a tip I’ll always remember from long time ETFC, AFGA and TUC member, Lloyd Shea (see his plaque at the Muir Lake Alberta Angler Walk of Fame) – if the cows are laying down, the fishing will be poor, so jump over the fence and kick ‘em in the . . . !’

### **Report from AWF Provincial Fish Chair:**

For a copy of Darryl Smith’s full report please email [etfcnews@gmail.com](mailto:etfcnews@gmail.com) . Meanwhile, here’s some highlights:

- The **2024 Sportfishing Regulations** will be delayed as changes contemplated are significant which requires consultations with First Nations and others within the Indigenous community as the first step. My current understanding is that consultations with the sportfishing community will likely occur in April. The consultations will be online but with a different and more open format than in the past.
- The proposed regulations align with the direction that AWF has been advocating which includes increased harvest opportunity for northern pike and walleye while still meeting sustainability objectives.
- Recreational anglers will need to follow the 2023 Sportfishing Regulations for the next several months. Expecting that revised 2024 sportfishing regulations will roll out late May or June. SHL walleye draw application period will not be affected and are planned to begin on April 1, 2024. In addition, anglers will need to purchase a 2024 sportfishing licence.
- **Low water levels** may impact fish stocking across Alberta in 2024. Alternate waterbodies have been identified in the event that those regularly stocked are deemed unsuitable for stocking this year. The hatchery output remains low in 2024 at about 1.6 million trout. It is anticipated that 2025 will see a return to normal production levels.

- **Whirling Disease** waterbody closures and gear restrictions have been implemented for Kootenay, Yoho, and Waterton National Parks through 2025.

**REQUEST from Univ. of Alberta:** The U of A is trying to determine where, when and how much locally caught fish Albertans are eating, how much they eat in a meal and over the course of a season or a year. Fish species that people typically eat are included in this questionnaire. Results will be used solely for research into the effects of environmental factors on population health. The research is funded by Alberta Health to help inform advice to Albertans on healthy food consumption. They need more responses than gathered so far and are asking for our help in publicizing the survey. It only takes about 10 mins, all info gathered is treated confidentially, so please respond and get others to join in:

[https://ualberta.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_87BgjYCK15kvHr8](https://ualberta.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_87BgjYCK15kvHr8)

**INVITATION to a Dinner/Auction:** The Northern Lights Chapter of Trout Unlimited Canada has extended an invitation to ETFC members to its annual Fund-Raising Dinner and Silent Auction on Saturday, April 20, 2024 from 5-10 pm at Kenilworth Hall (7104 87 Ave NW, Edmonton). Tickets are only \$20 and available at [Eventbrite](#). In addition to over a hundred donated silent auction items there will also be a raffle or two and a 50/50 with all proceeds going towards this year's volunteer projects – data gathering and fieldwork to assist with conservation of Arctic grayling in the upper Pembina, riparian protection on a tributary to the Raven river and establishment of a student field trip destination at the site, further work with ACA on stocked pond rehab and assistance with publicizing ACA's lake aeration work in the Peace Country, supplying water analysis kits to junior high Outdoor Ed classes. It's a good time to get out for dinner with others who are interested in fishing, conservation, and related education, and pick up some great bargains in the auction.

**Next Newsletter – May 1<sup>st</sup>** - open to suggestions, questions, and contributions for this and 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 share any identifying data unless you indicate otherwise.

PSL/