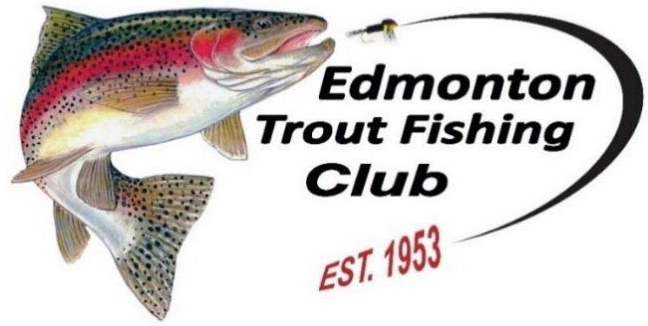


FLYCASTER



May1, 2024 Edition

UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS at Jefferson Armouries:

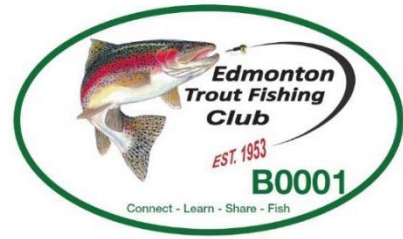
(11630 - 109 Street NW - on the west side of NAIT)

- **Tuesday, May 14th @ 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!
- **NOTE: May 14th will be the last meeting until October** - Meetings at the Armouries will resume again in October and details on speakers will be announced when finalized.
- **JUNE 15th Barbeque and ‘Take Members Out in Boats Day’** - some have no boat or little fishing experience; others have years of experience and love to fish but don’t have the physical ability to launch and manage a boat - so we’re hoping to get those with room in their boat to take another member with them on a fishing trip at Spring Lake. **If you’d be willing, please contact Michael at 780-667-6456.**
 - **Ernest is arranging details for the barbecue, and we’ll get those to you as soon as they’re finalized. Meanwhile set the date in your calendar!**

ETFC NEWS:

- **Aeration** – Larry Cambell and volunteers, along with two ACA staff members, have taken out the aeration equipment, fencing and signs by the time you read this. Thanks to them for what was a very successful aeration season! No evidence of how the fish have overwintered yet but Larry and crew have done all they can to give them the best chance possible.

- **Boat Storage** - new boat stickers will be mailed out to those who have requested them in the next few days. If you have a boat stored at the lake and haven't received a sticker before the meeting on May 14th please pick one up then or contact Jacqueline at communications@edmontontrout.ca We don't want to consider your boat as 'abandoned'!



- **Membership** - as of writing we have 80 members including the executive, 2 honorary and 4 life members. A few more would be welcome so please mention to any anglers you might know the benefits of membership in ETFC/AWF.
- **Fire Ban within Spring Lake Village** - The Village has announced that no outdoor fires are permitted until further notice, including screened fire pits, burn barrels/incinerators, recreational fire pits and charcoal briquette barbecues. **Only gas and propane appliances** such as barbecues, stoves and fire pits **are allowed**. All fire permits are suspended or canceled, and no new fire permits will be issued.

ALBERTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION (AWF) NEWS:

It's taking many of us time to adjust from AFGA to AWF but as another step in the transition, the AFGA website is no longer being used – check out the new one:

AWF website <https://www.albertawildlifefederation.ca/>

On the new site you'll find a Member Clubhouse where you'll be able to:

- Review and update your [contact information](#)
- Stay updated by managing your [communication preferences](#)
- Manage your event registrations
- Access surveys (as available)
- Participate in discussions (in development)

There's also an Online Store and a news update on the Alberta Habitat Fund. While you're on the site, [register for the AWF Newsletter](#) and, if there's any jobs going at AFGA, they're also posted there!

Zone 4 Fish Chair Report: We're fortunate to have our AWF Zone Fish Chair, Randy Collins, as a member of ETFC. Randy is extremely active and is involved in a number of committees. I've just received the latest report on all his recent activities – so many that to include it here would triple the size of the newsletter! If you'd like a copy,

we'd be please to email it to you separately – just email etfcnews@gmail.com. And, by the way, Randy has taken on an additional job as our rep on the Spring Lake Environmental Committee.

FISH and FISHING:

- **A heads-up from 'My Wild Alberta':** Alberta Fisheries staff are encouraging all anglers to brush up on their [fish handling](#) techniques

Here's why, (I think) - last summer was tough on trout as water temperatures were hovering around 20°C by the end of June in many of our stocked lakes and ponds. Trout like the temperature to be above 7°C but start getting stressed when the water temperature reaches 18°C. At 20° and above some lakes experienced fish kills, many saw the trout moving to the lowest levels that had enough dissolved oxygen for them to survive and were not actively feeding. Forecasts for this coming summer are similar. So, if you plan to release, please brush up on fish handling skills as the extra stress of being caught and then taken out of water where they can't breathe may be enough to kill them on or shortly after being released. Better for the fish and your catch rate to fish early morning and/or evening if possible.

- **An Alternative to Trout** - although not a pleasant thought for most of us, it's a reality we'll have to face. Alberta has 800 fish bearing lakes with about 300,000 active anglers each year (Saskatchewan has 50,000 fishable lakes!). Most of our lakes have low winter dissolved oxygen and are unsuitable for put-grow-and take fisheries. Many of the trout stocked do not consistently overwinter and more recently are dying of natural causes by the end of summer in many put-and-take waterbodies.

With encouragement from GoA, Alberta Conservation Association took on the task of identifying possible alternatives. Mike Rodtka, ACA senior bio based in Rocky Mountain House, did most of the research.

Mike identified four basic requirements for success of a stocked species in an intensive put-and-take fishery and added a fifth out of necessity.

1. fish species selected should be suitable for available habitat.
2. species selected should be large enough to attract anglers and be easily caught using relatively simple tackle.
3. species selected should be relatively easy to culture.
4. fish stocking should be affordable.
5. negative ecological impact.

He assessed a candidate pool of twenty sport fish species and hybrids common to the prairie and parkland region of North America as alternatives (including largemouth and smallmouth bass), and the most promising species, based on the criteria identified was the Channel Catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*). They don't occur in Alberta, although it's a popular angling species in Ontario. They would need to be triploid to meet requirement #5 although apparently no fish hatchery in North America currently raises triploid catfish. However, Mike has found a facility in Lethbridge will be continuing his work on the project with them this year.



Ensuring angling opportunities for the future, even if not for the species we've grown to love fishing for, is important and necessary work. Stay tuned and perhaps do some research in advance on channel catfish flies!

Chuck's Fly of the Month – Dragon Lake Special



John Kent is the designer of this fly. He is a renowned fly tier with many famous chironomid patterns that are used and tied by Stillwater fanatics. Its namesake is from Dragon Lake in BC but it is a very productive chironomid pattern that is a must have in your fly box to fish the lakes, especially in the spring time.

Recipe:

Hook- Any curved nymph 2XL (Sz 12-16) - Alec Jackson's Silver Covert is preferred
 Bead - Silver tungsten 5/64 - 1/8"
 Gills - White Uni Stretch
 Body - UTC Wood duck thread
 Thorax - UTC Rusty Brown thread
 Rib - UTC Silver wire Sz X-small
 Coating- UV SolarFlex Bone Dry or Sally Hansen's

***note** - the original pattern has a tuft of white Uni Stretch at the tail on the larger patterns. He also uses the Uni Stretch to build a taper in the body toward the head instead of building up with thread.

P.S. Chironomids are quite active already in lakes through southern and central Alberta, maybe further north too, haven' heard. Tie one on! And if you need a refresher on how to fish them, Phil Rowley has an informative email: [How to Fish Chironomids](#)

WANTED! DEAD OR ALIVE - REWARD Offered!



As you probably know, a few, actually very few, fish that looked to be Prussian Carp were caught in Spring Lake last year. But the jury is still out on whether, in fact, they were Prussian Carp or someone's pet goldfish that had been released into the lake some time before (incidentally there's a fine for doing that, up to \$10,000). To be absolutely

sure, the scientists need an actual carcass to do a DNA analysis, because goldfish lose their orange colouration in the wild, making them indistinguishable from Prussian carp. Unfortunately, all carcasses were disposed of and none, to our knowledge, have been caught since. The government's Aquatic Invasive Species Team took water samples from the lake to test for traces of carp DNA. It provided some evidence of their presence, but they need an actual carcass to be sure. So, **please, if you catch anything this year in Spring Lake that looks anything like the picture above, keep the carcass and phone Nicole Kimmel** (Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist) at: 780 427-7791. She'd be pleased to come pick it up from you and probably provide a few rewards from your provincial government!

A New Tying Material: Semperfli has introduced yet another innovative material – Eggstatic. It's a super-furry chenille, made with a blend of micro-thin nylon and acrylic the company refers to as "Slush Fibre." To create a perfect egg fly, just wrap the yarn-like material along the hook; in the water, it appears shiny, translucent and organic, just like a natural fish egg.



Eggstatic is available in 20 colours,

Learn more: Semperfli, www.sempfli.net



has its **Spring Opener Sale** starting at the beginning of May– lots of bargains – some come with a free F.H. hat. Also there's still some spaces left in the Fishin' Hole's Fly-

Fishing School held at Stauffer Creek's Lazy M Ranch on June 7 to 9 and July 12 to 14.

Remember -have your membership card with you when buying at 'The Hole' or you won't get the discount. Managers Randy at the West Store and Rob at the South have had to ask for proof of membership because some non-members have been pretending otherwise and claiming the discount.



From Laura at ACA -I am right into the swing of planning **Kids Can Catch Fort Saskatchewan** this year for **Saturday, June 8, 2024 from 10am – 3pm**. 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 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!

Laura Volkman, Event Coordinator, ACA | Sherwood Park PHONE 780-695-3462

Hot off the press – Local stocking by May 21st '24

Hasse Lake RNTR 20cm 2N 4,000, RNTR 9cm 2N 10,000, TGTR 17cm 3N 500

Muir Lake BNTR 19cm 3N 500, RNTR 23cm 3N 1,506

Salter's Lake RNTR 20cm 2N 3,000 TGTR 17cm 3N 2,000

Spring Lake BNTR 19cm 3N 500 RNTR 20cm 2N 4,000 TGTR 17cm 3N 1,500 RNTR 9cm 2N 7,500

Star Lake BNTR 19cm 3N 500 TGTR 17cm 3N 1,000

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), discussion topics, the ETFC property, boat storage, membership et al. Email us at etfcnews@gmail.com - we won't use your name unless you indicate otherwise. And especially please share a fishing report or two – some of our members are new to fishing and any comments on what worked or didn't would be helpful.

The gate is openable if you have the code, so hang the sign upon your door!

PSL/

