



### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Jan 14 - ETFC's AGM 7:00pm** at the

Jefferson Armouries (food and door prizes) Chuck will try to set up Zoom but it's not guaranteed - Meeting ID: 311 840 7613 Passcode: 20641 **If you can't attend but want to vote by proxy, the form is available by emailing [etfcnews@gmail.com](mailto:etfcnews@gmail.com)**

The agenda will include an annual reporting from each of the areas including finances, membership, ACA and aeration, Alberta Wildlife Federation, property management, sportsman show, village fair, and communications.

New business will be discussed after the election of officers for 2025 for which volunteers are encouraged to step forward. New agenda items will include approval of any Honorary memberships proposed, aeration, review of membership fees, spring work party and dock repairs, schedule of speakers and meeting dates, and members dinner, and a review of the club's Objectives: i.e. "to provide for a community in which members may develop their angling knowledge and skills, to maintain property at Spring Lake for the benefit of its members, and to support the mission and objectives of the Alberta Wildlife Association."

**Jan 28 - "Tie and Swap"** An evening of tying flies & sharing patterns. We will have plenty of spare vices, tools and materials for anyone who wants to join in. There will be plenty of us willing to teach.

**Feb 8 – 9am to 4pm - George Daniel Seminar** at MacEwan University. Northern Lights Fly Fishers extends an invitation to ETFC members. Early bird tickets just \$60 available on [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com). George is a former competitor and coach for Fly Fishing Team USA, author of many books about fly fishing. He is currently director of the Fly-Fishing program at Pennsylvania State University.

**Feb 11 - club meeting** with special guest Craig Copeland who will be presenting the latest news on the Alberta Fish Hatchery programs

**Feb 15 - 10am to 3pm-** give **ice fishing** a try at Wabamun Lake [kids can catch](https://www.kidscancatch.com) . With pre-drilled holes, loaner fishing rods, and no fishing licences required on Alberta's Family Fishing Weekend, there's never a better opportunity. Place: Wabamun Lake, at the end of 50th Street in Wabamun,

Parkland County **Register online at [albertakidscatch.com](http://albertakidscatch.com).** **Volunteers Needed:** as always, having enthusiastic fishing mentors is a crucial part of making these events a success. Anyone interested can contact Laura at 780-410-1999 with any questions or to sign up. Even if you can only participate for part of the event, your support would be greatly appreciated.

**Mar 11** - meeting at the Jefferson Armouries classroom - presentation by Chuck Harvey on how a fishing rod is built

**Mar 20-23 - Boat & Sportsman Show** -please let us know if you're willing to help at our booth

**Apr 5** - Member Dinner at the Jefferson Armouries WO & Sgts Mess (details to follow)  
With the exception of the AGM and Members Dinner, all other meetings/gatherings will be in the 1st floor classroom at the Jefferson Armoury.

## ETFC NEWS:

**Aeration** – aerators are running fine and fencing and signage now installed thanks to Chuck, Ray, Gaetan, Ken, Ron, and Ernest (who also took the photo).

We have received a reply to our letter to Spring Lake Council which included an apology for their delay in responding and a request for the last year of power costs. With the assistance of ACA we were able to confirm that the '23-24 period was \$4,530. We have not received any confirmation of their receipt of the information or when the matter will be tabled for review.

We also offered to put a decal on the warning signs about thin ice and aeration of the lake identifying the village as a participant of the project along with the club and ACA.

**Fishing reports** - Gaetan reports, "have fished Spring half a dozen time and seen no sign of perch or carp. The fish are smaller, not as many big fish. Balance leaches are working good and many people used bait. Hasse lake is slow - don't seem to be that many fish. Chain lake fished well, including a rainbow about 20"and nice tiger." We need reports from more of you to [etfcnews@gmail.com](mailto:etfcnews@gmail.com)

**Membership** - Your membership in ETFC **expired on December 31<sup>st</sup>** along with your insurance coverage provided by AWF You may want to renew your membership by joining now for 2025.

**Here's how:** [2025 ETFC Membership Form](#) Any questions - please email Jacqueline [communications@edmontontrout.ca](mailto:communications@edmontontrout.ca)

**FISH and FISHING: Tips on walleye fishing** – there's a new website that looks to be a promising site for useful information - [Angler Area](#) . Here's what it had to say about finding walleye – now all you've got to do is figure out how to get them interested in what's on your hook: If any members have additional information on finding and catching walleye and are willing to share, please let us know at [etfcnews@gmail.com](mailto:etfcnews@gmail.com) Won't use your name without your permission!



“Different seasons call for different methods to catch walleye. Here are our recommendations for every season.

**Spring** - Spring is the best time to fish for walleye, especially during spawning season. Water temperatures rise during the springtime, which means school of walleyes will gather together in sandy, shallow waters to lay their eggs. The walleye can be found 3-10ft from the shore or along river currents. The idea is to look for rocky, sandy spaces. During the evening walleye is easier to catch due to them being less defensive.

**Summer** - the water becomes even warmer and the walleyes will head into 15-20 ft of water to hide in thick layers of weeds. This is where you'll find the big ones. Walleyes can also be found in 5ft-10ft of water, but these will be smaller weighing around 1lb-4lb. During the nighttime, the fishes will rise from the deep waters and come closer to shore, making them easier to catch.

**Fall** - As the water becomes colder, the walleye dive deeper and become less active. They can typically be found in 10ft-25ft of water. During this time, they can also be found in upstream waters or rivers. Female walleye tend to be bigger and they will come out to feed between 10pm-3am. This is the perfect time to fish for them as they will be 2ft-3ft offshore around rocky waters.

**Winter** - Winter is not the best time to fish for walleye. The water is too cold, and they tend to hibernate during this time. If you really want to fish for walleyes during this time you want to pay close attention to where you are fishing. The less cold the area and water is, the easier it will be to catch a walleye. During this time the walleyes will be 10-25 feet deep and will come out as the sun tends to heat up the water. 10am-1pm tend to be the best time to find walleyes in sandy, areas

### • **Chuck's Fly of the Month - Rolled Muddler Minnow**

A couple years ago, while fishing Dolberg Lake, I noticed one particular angler who was having great success, casting right to the shores. I met him later that evening and asked what pattern he was using, and he told me it was a Murray's Rolled Muddler. I was surprised with it as I've only known it to be used on the beaches of the west coast to primarily catch Sea-run Cutthroat trout. I was also delighted as I actually had some of these patterns in my arsenal. Needless to say, I've had great success when the trout were feeding on small minnows in the shallows. It



would be beneficial to have this pattern in your fly box while fishing Alberta stillwaters.

**Hook** - Tiemco TMC 9394 Sz 10 (or equivalent) Mustad 9672 sz10 works

**Bead** - 7/64 Silver brass (not tungsten)

**Thread** - UTC 70 red

**Tail** - mallard flank

**Body** - #12 Uni-Mylar gold/silver (can be x-wrapped with oval tinsel)

**Underwing** - pearl or olive crystal flash or flashabou

**Wing** - mallard flank

**Overwing/head** - natural deer hair (trim down to form collar but leave a couple hairs longer to join the wing).

**Head cement** - recommend Sally Hansen's *Hard as Nails* (or UV resin, super glue etc) to coat Mylar body. NOTE: after the fly is tied, roll it between your thumb and finger to condense, hence the name 'Rolled' Good luck!



- **Fly Line Care:** Chris Walker, from RIO's R&D department, recommends as follows:  
"In the off-season and occasionally when needed, Rio recommends a three-step process. Depending on how much attention your line needs, you may only need to perform one or two of these steps. Step one requires nothing more than a little mild dish soap, a couple of buckets of warm water (or the bathtub), and some clean rags. A brief soak in the soapy water, pass it through a clean rag, then transferring it to clean water before a final dry-off.

The second and third steps can be performed when a line is especially dirty, and the step one soap bath process didn't get you all the way there. These steps will not only clean but will also condition your line and utilize a couple RIO products: The RIO Wonder Cloth and RIO's Agent X cleaning solution. Essentially, all you're doing in these steps is a run-through of step one with these specific RIO cleaning products." (Ed Note: the Fishin' Hole carries both products and others as well – at a 10% discount to ETFC members who show their membership card for the year)

- **Whirling Disease - maybe there's hope!**

[Colorado Outdoors](#) reports that "after more than 20 years of study, frustration, experimentation and dogged persistence by Colorado Parks and Wildlife's aquatic researchers, the tide has turned in the fight against Whirling-disease. . . . since 2003, the researchers have been crossing a strain of rainbow trout resistant to the disease with other strains of rainbows in the hope of developing a trout that would fend off whirling disease. Now, after more than 20 years of study, frustration, experimentation and dogged persistence by CPW's aquatic researchers, the tide has turned in the fight against the dreaded disease. Whirling-disease resistant rainbows are now thriving in the wild and the agency is collecting their spawn, enabling hatcheries to propagate millions of fish that will be distributed to rivers and streams throughout the state."

Whirling disease was first described in rainbow trout in Germany in 1893, but its range has spread and it has appeared in most of Europe, the United States, South Africa, Canada and other countries from shipments of cultured and wild fish. In the words of 'My Wild Alberta', "Whirling disease is caused by *Myxobolus cerebralis*, a microscopic parasite that affects salmonid fish such as trout, salmon and whitefish. The parasite has a complex lifecycle that requires an aquatic-worm, *Tubifex tubifex*, as host. Species such as rainbow trout, cutthroat trout and whitefish are particularly susceptible to whirling disease. The severity of whirling disease depends largely on the age and size of the salmonid host. Young fish are most vulnerable, with mortality rates reaching up to 90%.

The first case of whirling disease in Canada was confirmed in August 2016 in Banff National Park, Alberta. It has since been confirmed in a number of watersheds in southern and central Alberta, including the Bow, Oldman, Red Deer, Dogpound, Crowsnest and our own NSR

Anyone know if GoA bios have anything currently planned to deal with the disease based on Colorado's success?

## **Fisheries Recommendation 2025-FR-1 - Spring Lake (Stony Plain) Catch Limits -**

Drafted by: Edmonton Trout Fishing Club and Submitted by: Zone 4

**Be it recommended that: the Alberta Wildlife Federation (AWF) request that the Government of Alberta reduce the daily catch/possession limit rate at Spring Lake (west of Stony Plain) from five (5) trout daily, to two (2) trout daily.**

Brief: Spring Lake is 75 hectares (185 acre) stocked trout fishery. The lake has demonstrated that it can provide for a quality fishing experience provided sufficient winter oxygen levels are maintained through aeration, appropriate stocking rates including multispecies, and harvest levels are managed to allow for some fish to grow for several years. The Edmonton Trout Fishing Club has property and facilities on the lake. They have been an active partner in ensuring that the waterbody continues to provide angling opportunity for its members and the public. The club currently manages and runs the aeration system on the lake. They are engaged with the local community to ensure ongoing public access and seeking partnership to support the aeration program. The village has provided public access on the north shore along with dedicated parking for 6 vehicles and additional parking near the community rink. The gated road allows walk on access to the entire community reserve which covers the north and west shore of the main lake. In summer this area supports shore based angling opportunity or hand launching of boats. Use of the access point greatly increases during the ice period when it is not uncommon to see anglers all over the lake and the parking lot full. Warm weekend days can see well over 50 anglers on the lake.

Although public access is limited to walk on access, the lake has become one of the main winter fisheries for trout in the Edmonton area. It is during the winter that most of the trout are harvested. The close location to major urban areas, and suitability of the lake for overwintering fish (aeration system) are prime reasons for its popularity.

The proposed regulation change to the harvest limit, addresses the significant increase in angler pressure (harvest) and reduced capacity of provincial fish hatcheries with goal to maintain a quality angling experience near the Edmonton metropolitan area.

Note: This recommendation was supported and presented by the Alberta Fish and Game Association Executive at previous Conferences in 2019, 2020, and 2022.

**Additional Context for Information Only:** As the regulation change requested is local in nature, the Alberta Wildlife Federation Executive has the option to submit the request directly to the Government of Alberta on behalf of the originating club and zone. For this regulation change to be considered for the 2025 Alberta Sportfishing Regulations it will need to be endorsed at the upcoming AWF Executive Meeting in December 2024. The Government of Alberta is aware of this request as it has been brought to their attention

multiple times including in the last month. There is urgency to deal with this as the Government of Alberta is currently reviewing its proposed 2025 Sportfishing Regulation change and trout stocking program including waterbodies to be stocked in 2025. There is concern that the lake may be removed from the provincial stocking program due to limited capacity of the provincial fish hatcheries and public access concerns. Foot access only or hand launching of boats is not unique to Spring Lake. Sardine Lake and Sauer Lake for example have only foot access, no docks and minimal public shoreline. The AWF Provincial Fish Chair can engage directly with the GoA and correct misconceptions related to this stocked trout fishery immediately with the support of the AWF Executive. Potential loss of such fisheries is an immediate concern. As noted, this recommendation has been endorsed in the past.

Alberta Wildlife Federation Object Alignment: Recommendation aligns with AWF Objects 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8.



## Be Safe Out There!

**Newsletter** – next one coming on or before February 1st, 2025 - suggestions, requests, questions, and contributions **NEEDED** and always welcomed at [etfcnews@gmail.com](mailto:etfcnews@gmail.com) - won't use your name unless you indicate otherwise

PSL/