



FLYCASTER

April 1, 2025 Edition

On April Fools' Day believe nothing you read or hear!

SPRING LAKE NEWS: unknown until recently, Spring Lake was stocked last November, as a special favour to the club, with a new species being considered for stocking on a wider basis in Alberta. The province is unwilling at this time to identify the specific species. However, we were able to photograph our youngest club member catching one on a muddler minnow pattern. Unfortunately he was unable to land it for identification purposes, However, we believe it to be a triploid member of the species **piscis incredibli**. Take a big net just in case you catch one, and let us know,



UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS at

Jefferson Armouries (11630 109 St NW - on the west side of NAIT).

Unfortunately, because of the nature and purpose of the Armouries facilities, Zoom connection is not possible.

Apr 5 - Members' Dinner to be held in the at the Warrant Officer and Sergeants mess, Jefferson Armouries (6-11 PM). Cost \$40 per plate. There may be chance to still get a ticket or two. If interested, phone Chuck at 780-953-1616 no later than April 2nd.

Apr 8 - Phil Rowley - 'Inducing a Take' and 'Stillwater Presentation Techniques that Catch Fish' (last free presentation to the club by Phil)

Apr 29 - our last fly-tying/swap night, again at the Armouries 7pm

2025 CONSERVATION RAFFLE - got your tickets yet?

The owner of the winning ticket will receive a:

Quicksilver 365 HD PVC boat with aluminum frame and flooring, capable of holding 1598 lbs and support a 25hp motor (not included). Value \$2,373 Also comes with a carry bag, repair kit and paddles. Generously donated to us by **Europa Canopy and Marine (15915-116 St., Edmonton)**.



There are 500 tickets only at \$10 each (you have to be 16+ to buy them) available at any of our meetings including the dinner in April or by Interac e-transfer to ETFC.finance@outlook.com. (In the comment box please provide first and last name, address and phone number and number of tickets). Tickets will be completed and held until the draw unless you indicate you want the hard copy. Otherwise a photo or email with ticket numbers purchased will be sent to you. Please consider taking a book of 25 (these can be split) and sold to others. Books are available at meetings or from Ernest Kitt (780-945-1668) in north Edmonton or Ken Bodden (780-237-8327) in south.

2025 BOAT AND SPORTSMEN'S SHOW - March 21 to 24 - Report from Ken Bodden at the ETFC Booth:

'It was another successful Sportsmen's Show - promoting the trout club, getting club information out to the public, as well as moving a large number of raffle tickets. Last year we sold all 250 tickets at the show and this year we were able to sell a similar number. This means we still have 200 tickets left to sell to fishing partners, friends, relatives, and the public. Tickets will be available at club events and through electronic sales. In addition we sold several new memberships and had a few past members rejoin for 2025. Over the four days, fifteen club members helped man the booth that displayed club banners, raffle posters and various slideshows highlighting members' past fishing adventures. Colourful decals, stickers and information on Native Trout were provided by Craig Copeland and helped lure young and old to make contact and ask questions. Booth volunteers had the opportunity to help out and promote the club, renew old acquaintances, find out what the public thinks about our fisheries and even tie a few flies. All the volunteer time was greatly appreciated with special thanks going to Jim and

Ruth Shewfelt from the Edmonton Fish and Game for organizing the various club booths and keeping a steady flow of coffee and treats throughout the show.'

FISH AND FISHING:

Brook Trout - not found in Spring Lake but considered by many to be Alberta's most colourful trout species - dark green back with pale wavy lines, its sides have a purple sheen with blue-haloed red spots, and the lower fins have a black stripe behind a pale leading edge. *My Wild Alberta* has the following to say about them: Because they are an introduced species, brook trout are classified as 'Exotic/Alien' in Alberta. It is originally native to eastern Canada, was introduced into Alberta's waters around 1903 and now you can find them in many Alberta foothill streams. They're also stocked in some pothole lakes where the low concentration of oxygen doesn't favour other species of trout. They are more capable of handling our warming waters than our native trout. Researchers at Penn State suggest that brook trout are capable of mounting a protective genetic response to thermal stress that can be passed on from one generation to the next.



Their diet includes aquatic invertebrates (insects, shrimps, etc.), and other fish. They spawn in October and the eggs hatch in the spring. They can first spawn when they are 18 months old and only six centimetres (2.4 inches) long. This trait causes many brook trout populations to overcrowd their habitat resulting in individuals becoming stunted in size. However, their colouration and the beauty of the streams in which they usually live still makes for some great fishing.

Fishing at Night: not many seem to do it for much longer than a few minutes after sunset, but I'm told that if it's big trout you're after, it's worth a try. I remember a former employee in the fishing section at Cabela's telling me that the biggest browns he's ever caught were on a small deer-hair mouse pattern after midnight on Stauffer Creek and the Raven. It's probably true that fish are less wary at night, and I read somewhere that bigger fish tend to be less active throughout the day and take advantage of the cover of darkness to feed.



There are some advantages for the angler too: wind speed tends to decrease at night; you can use heavier leaders as the fish can't see the line as easily as in the

day, and there's less likely to be someone else fishing your favourite pool.

But be careful! It's easier to trip and fall in the dark. Carry a wading stick and a flashlight just in case. Or, for more advice on nighttime fishing you could try listening to this [fishing in the dark video](#). If you have any tips or experiences with nighttime fishing that might benefit other members, please share them with us at etfcnews@gmail.com

ETFC Membership - is currently about 60. If you're planning to renew, please do so soon - [2025 membership application](#). Also, some members have sent in the membership fee but without providing all necessary contact information - address, phone, and/or email. If you have any reason to think that might apply to you, please resubmit the application with a note that payment has already been made.

Next Newsletter – May 1st - We have received no responses to the request in last month's *Flycaster* for suggestions on how to increase membership, especially of new and younger members. Please give it some thought as our future as a fishing club depends on it. And we're 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 - we won't share any identifying data unless you indicate otherwise.

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