



FLYCASTER

September, 2025 Edition

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

It's been a while since our last club activities in June. I hope the summer has been productive, relaxing and you have had the opportunity to wet a line somewhere nice. The cooler than normal weather has helped with reduced evaporation on the local lakes which still need more water. Wetter than normal conditions has meant the mountain streams have not had to have any closures due to warm temperatures and low flows. We will be starting up again in the following months with our first meeting to be scheduled in November. However, we would like you to start thinking about a number of activities we will need to start planning for in the coming weeks. Our Annual General Meeting will be held in January and as usual we are looking for volunteers to relieve some of the long serving members of your executive. Volunteers for any of the positions would be welcome and provided with some sage guidance if needed. As a recognition of their efforts, members of the executive have their membership costs covered for the year. Over the next few months ponder what you could contribute and consider volunteering to keep the club relevant to your interests. All members are encouraged to bring forward ideas on how to continually improve our presence in the angling community. Suggestions for possible speakers, program elements, and content for the newsletters are always welcome. Speaking of long serving members, we have lost one of our life members recently.

Les Campbell, one of our senior club members and past member of our executive, passed away in mid August after a lengthy illness. Les was present at our last in-person meeting as well as the fly tying sessions this spring. He continued to support the club despite failing health and will be missed. His memory of past club fishing trips, successful fly patterns, and stories of past club activities and members was still sharp at our last session this spring.

The club sold all of the tickets for our raffle early. We were able to have Darrel Boe of Europa Canopy and Marine, our generous sponsor, draw the winning ticket on June 13. Jeff ? of Edmonton picked up his boat and accessories at the Europa location. In addition to creating a happy angler we were able to generate funds for this fall's aeration program.

Gaetan Richard will be looking for volunteers for this fall install, likely in mid-October. We will need at least 6 volunteers to install the 4 aerators and hook them up to the power. It will likely be mid week and take less than 4 hours to install. Contact Gaetan at 780-926-8043 or fun_outdoors@outlook.com if you can help. The club sent a letter to the village requesting a review of their contribution of \$3,000 for aeration costs. We asked for them to consider covering the entire power costs while the club members would install and maintain the pumps. We have not received a acknowledgement or reply to our request. Members are encouraged to keep the pressure on the Spring Lake council to step forward and raise their commitment to the health of the fishery and the lake for its residents.

We have gotten a reflective aluminum information sign on the carp from our last Fisheries presenters. Hopefully members of the village council will be present so we can discuss where it can be placed within the community for best coverage. One of the main benefits of the fair is it highlights

the role residents and the village can play in funding aeration and other efforts to improve the quality of the lake.

At our last AGM we voted to end the sponsorship of the Alberta Wildlife Federation/Fish and Game trophy for the largest trout caught on a fly. One of the ideas floated by our members to encourage youth involvement in the club and angling was the opportunity for people attending the fair to try fly casting and ask about fishing in the lake. We have not had time to organize any formal program for the fair. I will take a few rods with me to do some demonstrations time permitting. There is a large grassed space behind the booth where we might be able to showcase our limited skills and teach the basics. I do need at least one volunteer to man the booth. I will be out of province until just before the fair but can be reached at Kenr.bodden@gmail.com. Clean, Rinse and Dry. We all have seen the posters. Club members are the spring lake anglers likely to fish the other trout lakes in the area. We need to be especially vigilant in how we treat our gear to avoid the transfer of organisms that could contribute to the transfer of Prussian carp to other waters. Review the poster and information and take extra time. <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/ais-eae/prevention/clean-drain-dry-decontaminatelavez-videz-sechez-decontaminez-eng.html> .

UPCOMING MEETINGS: Final dates and speakers are being finalized

SPRING LAKE: The village of Spring Lake is having there fall fair on Sept 13. It's a chance for the club to meet the neighbours and get our message out to the town. Anyone interested in helping out ? Jason Doucette has reported large groups of carp on his electronics . Carp spawn several times a year , so ensure all boats, gear and waders are thoroughly dried between different water bodies (as we do for whirling disease).Remember :Don't let them go

ETFC MEMBERSHIP: [2025 membership application](#)

SMALL FORAGE FISH SPECIES IN SPRING LAKE:

In the 1950s when the Trout Club purchased the Spring Lake property, the lake used to be stocked with yellow perch (along with rainbow trout starting in 1953). The perch population expanded rapidly for many years but winter kills and maybe fishing pressure seem to have eradicated them now. Spring has rainbow, brown and tiger trout together with the invasive Prussian Carp are know seem here to stay, and the province plans to stock another 5000 diploid rainbow trout between Sept 15th and 30th this year. The only two indigenous species in the lake that have been currently documented are fathead minnows and brook stickleback. They're available year round as a food source for the trout, and for loons, herons and pelicans as well when there's no ice cover.

The *BROOK STICKLEBACK*: can grow to eight or nine cm and has four to seven short spines in front of its dorsal fin making it easy to recognize. It varies from dark brown to olive green with mottling on its back and sides and a beige belly. Spawning males are typically dark green to black. They spawn from late spring to early summer and their offspring rearing habits are 'interesting' - the male builds a nest using algae mixed with aquatic plants and then does a tail-waving dance to attract females. After she has deposited her eggs in the nest, he chases her away and protects and aerates the eggs himself.



The *FATHEAD MINNOW*: is slightly smaller than the stickleback, 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. If it weren't for the fish and birds that eat them they would multiply rapidly as the female produces up to 200 eggs four to five days throughout the summer.



Both of these fish can survive low-oxygen, high-temperature waters. They tend to stay in the shallows near weed beds. As they're a food favourite of the larger trout in the lake, here's some:

FISHING TIPS: (from 'What Fish Eat') – "Fishing success with imitations of small fish is usually greater on overcast

days and just before sunrise and after sunset. 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. Bullet-head flies are effective because of the disturbance they create when stripped through the water. Hardware lures, such as spoons, spinners, small crankbaits, or jigs create a similar effect. 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 in murky waters or under cloudy skies. If you spot a swirling fish, cast the lure in the direction you think it may be moving and retrieve using a short strip, a pause, then another strip. Many anglers, however, prefer to just hang a minnow pattern under a strike indicator or a casting bobber, and let it wind drift with an occasional twitch or a slow, short pull. 'Balanced' fly patterns, that hang horizontally when tied on with a loop knot, represent the profile and motion of the natural fish quite well. If you use this technique, make sure you watch the indicator closely for any movement and set the hook quickly. It's easy to get distracted by the wildlife, scenery, or other anglers nearby. Or, as one ETFC member told me, 'My secret is the same as Larry's. A 5 of diamonds and a piece of pork chop.'

For more information on minnows and sticklebacks and how to imitate them when fishing: BCFISHN - [Fly Fishing with Spinning Gear](#) and BioKids Critter Catalog - [Brook Stickleback](#)