



# FLYCASTER

## MARCH 2026

### EDMONTON TROUT FISHING CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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#### President's Message

As the AGM is done and the programs under way , the club is positioning itself to get members out fishing . March will see the club members pursue trout through the ice at Spring Lake. Meet at the Shelter at 10am on March 8. Members are welcome to bring guests. A fly tying night will be held on Tuesday March 24 at 7 pm. Location TBD. All members are encouraged to come out and help or learn.

The Sportsman show will be from Mar 19-22 The club still needs volunteers to work the show. You get free admission . The club will be raffling off a fly rod and reel kindly donated by Ken Boddin.

Also just a reminder that the gate code is changed in March, **watch for the email with the new combination code.**

**ETFC MEMBERSHIP: [2025 membership application](#)**

#### Recent Club Activities

Feb 10 – We saw a great presentation from Ross Chow around the maintenance of our fishing gear.

Feb 14 – Kids Can Catch event Wabamun Lake – Thanks to the volunteers who helped teach kids, bait hooks and untangle lines.

Feb 19 -20 Alberta Wildlife Federation Conference in Calgary – We had a few members in attendance at the conference. *Gaetan provided use the following debrief:*

“The conference was excellent. All the presentation on Friday was well done with some good information. Election on Saturday was good with all the executive remaining the same. The trout hatchery are going to be more efficient with all the renovations completed except for the Raven. We will see increase in the numbers of fish and species of fish they can provide.

Gaetan talked to Todd (aca) and there will be some opportunities for the club to get involve with the Whitewood property.

**Onoway fish and game give the trout Club some money again this year to help with cost of aeration. (ETFC greatly appreciates Onoway's continued support)**

The club also received the Neville Lindsay Memorial Award for the work we provide at Spring Lake looking after the aeration.”



## Upcoming Events

Mar 11 **Changed to a Wednesday**

Paul Hvengaard. ACA Fisheries Biologist Trout Fishing in the Peace River area via Zoom

Apr 14 Nicole Kimmel - Invasive Species Specialist via Zoom.

May 12 – To be announced soon.

## Tips, Techniques & Locations

This month we introduce the closest lake trout lake to Edmonton. **Welcome to Rock Lake.**

Described in The Atlas of Alberta Lakes as a small ,deep ,very attractive lake. With of a surface area of 2.1 square kilometres and a maximum depth of 28 meters (approximately 86 feet. Located in Alberta foothills nestled upto Wilmore Wilderness Park and Jasper National Park. It is fed by 3 creeks of which Rock Creek is the most significant . It is the source of the Wildhay River .

### *Rock Lake Fishing*

Containing self reproducing populations of Lake,Rainbow and Bull Trout, Rocky Mountain Whitefish, and Northern Pike.Shore fishing is best attempted in spring or fishing Rock creek or the Wildly River that you drive along for part of the trip into the lake. . Ab Fishing Guide indicates that Rock creek has good population of small Bull Tout and Rockies.

Most anglers target the Lake Trout and RMW . My personal experience is tiny dries on Rock Creek and small white balanced leech. Fly fishing Lake trout is a spring or early summer as after that they are deep

### *Rock Lake Regs*

The lake opens on May 15 and closes Sep 15 (2025 regs)

Bait ban is in effect. Keep limits are 3 Lake trout over 50cm and 5 Rockies over 30cm . C&R regs for Bull and Rainbow trout and Pike.

### ***Submission from Peter Little:***

#### WABAMUN WHITEWOOD CONSERVATION SITE

The Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) is working on the establishment of a new conservation site that will include some excellent fishing opportunities once all the necessary certificates and approvals are in place to complete the transfer of the TransAlta property to ACA, and it's only an hour's drive from Edmonton.

Coal mining at the site was shut down 15 years ago, and TransAlta wanted the site's 3200 acres to be used for conservation purposes. This will be the largest of the 900 conservation sites that ACA owns. Staff have already identified 86 wildlife species inhabiting the property, 18 of which are of 'special concern'. No fish there yet, although there are four lakes at the site:

West Whitewood - spring fed, 19 metres deep, great water quality suitable for cold water fish. The plan is to stock trout and possibly a new hybrid for this area – splake (more about them below)

Little Whitewood - much the same as West Whitewood but initial thoughts are to raise cutthroat trout in the ACA's new mobile hatchery trailer to stock there.

East Whitewood – this will need some work before it's suitable for stocking

Finger Lake – small and just 4m deep but ACA has some solar-powered aeration equipment that may enable a spring to fall put-and-take fishery.

Permits and preparation take time, however, so fish stocking won't start until the Fall of 2027 at the earliest.

Splake are a new species to many of us, unless you've spent time in eastern Canada where they've been stocked for over 70 years. In 1947 Banff National Park warden, J. E. Stenton, experimented with female lake trout from Lake Minnewanka and male brook trout (aka speckled trout) from Third Vermilion Lake to create a new species – 'sp+'lake'. Others picked up on the idea – the Québec Department of Fish and Game in 1948, the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests in 1951, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission in 1952.

If you'd like to learn more about splake – their diet, feeding behaviour, growth rate, reproduction, fishing tips, whether they're good to eat, etc - there's an Aug '25 article by Martin McAdam that provides plenty of information: [Splake Fish: Complete Guide to the Brook & Lake Trout Hybrid](#)

And maybe in a few years this will be you with your catch (the world record, set in Ontario, is 20lbs 11oz):

## Photo Gallery

Some nice whitefish on the ice by Gaetan, out on Wabamun.



## ETFC Trophies and Awards FYI

*From Ken Boden:*

Edmonton Trout Fishing Club Trophies and Awards

I have been a member for at least 15 years and was unaware of the hardware club members are eligible to receive if they brought their angling success to the attention of the club. We have until recently sponsored a special trophy at the annual Alberta Fish and Game Association (AWF) awards banquet which is dominated by hunting presentations. The other plaques and trophies are not well known even to club members given the dates for the last year they were presented.

We do not currently have a member in charge of trophies so anyone wanting to submit for this or the other trophies should get in touch with the executive.

What follows is a brief description of the trophies and the memories they represent.

The first trophy that ended up my hands was delivered to me by a past member one summer day when I was removing my boat after a day fishing at Spring Lake. It had been stored in the past members garage and forgotten. The Art Graham Award was for the largest trout on a fly during the Spring Derby on Cottage (Spring) Lake. We have had our spring BBQ annually and the first recipient was in 1995 and it was only awarded in 2002 and 2003 after that. Two of our younger members would have been eligible last year if they had submitted a form.



The very impressive trophy plaque presented to the Alberta Fish and Game Association member who takes the largest trout taken on a fly has been presented to a few club members since created in 1977. Brown trout from Obed Lake represent many of the early winners, Swan Lake for Lake Trout and the Oldman River for Bull trout. Rainbow Trout are more widely distributed throughout the province. Our sponsorship of the trophy was terminated in 2024 after members wanted to stress the importance of the experience rather than the biggest fish. What we should do with the trophy is up in the air. We could donate it to the Alberta Wildlife Federation for their archives?



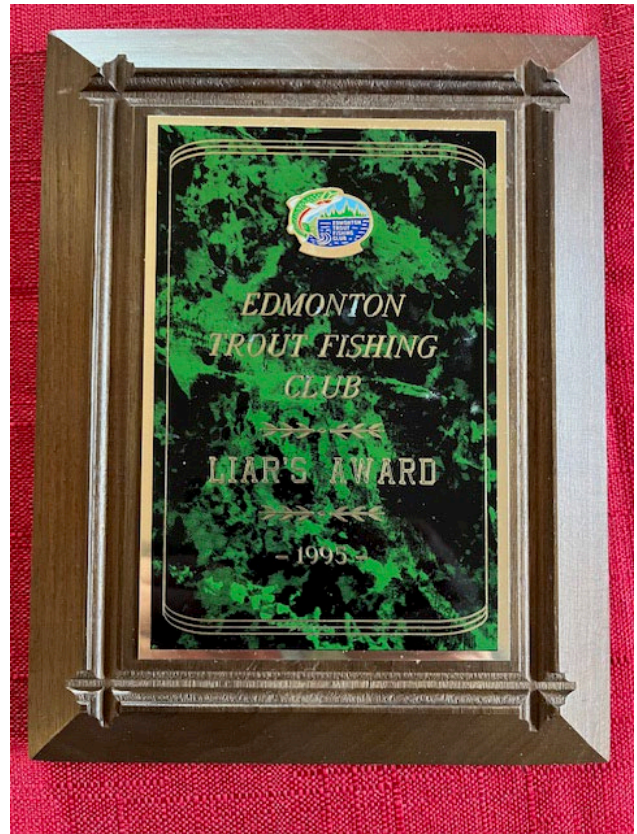
The Eric L Sohnle Distinguished Service Award is given annually to the member who is judged to have made the most significant contribution to the betterment of the Edmonton Trout Fishing Club. This was initially awarded in 1993 and has plaques up to 2007. We have many members, past and present, who should be recognized for their contributions in the interim. I would support recognizing the outstanding efforts of Ray and Doreen Kelsey to manage the finances and membership of the club, especially with the problems inherent with the shift to electronic banking in recent years. Other suggestions should be forwarded to the executive.



The club received the Outdoor Edge Communications Award in 2008. This was presented to the AFGA club with the best method of informing their members. If anyone has some background on this it would be appreciated. This issue continues to be one of the most important areas that the club executive has to deal with.



The Edmonton Trout Fishing Club has a plaque created in 1995 called the Liar's Award. There is no information to go with this plaque. If some of the older members are familiar with its background it would be interesting to find out. We have a few members who are known to be secretive about how or where they fish (Larry and his dependable pork chop) and some of their tales might warrant the reactivation of the award.



The Founding Members Trophy honouring the individuals who created the club back in 1953 has been awarded continuously from 1975 to 2018. What constitutes the "best" trout is not clear. Again if anyone members have anything to contribute to its history (or any history of any of the awards) can respond in the next newsletter or meeting.



The details provided on the annual plaques with the winners do show either weight or length for the species listed. This is in recognition of the large number of past and present members who catch and release their fish to ensure future anglers can experience the benefits from angling.

We have an impressive trophy created in 2017 by past president Mark Stalford that is in memory of Ian Bodden who lived and loved to fish. This was awarded in 2017 and 2018 to the member with the largest trout taken by all tackle. We sometimes forget that not all our members are fly fishermen and we as a group encourage the experiential benefits from all types of angling.

If you have a fish that you are proud of or that gave you a experience you want to remember consider putting forward the information to the club executive so we can continue to create a history of our accomplishments. We would also welcome a volunteer to keep our records for trophy purposes. As you can see it shouldn't be too demanding given the number of times the trophies have been awarded in the past 10 years.



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