



FLYCASTER

May 2026

## EDMONTON TROUT FISHING CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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### President's Message

As you receive the May newsletter, the good ice out season is about to start . Hopefully you had time to prepare the leech , scud and chironomid flies. April was another good month for the ETFC. Nicole Kimmel's presentation to the club very informative . The club's fishing trip to Spring Lake saw better weather but the fishing was slow . 7 members were out and enjoyed the trip despite the fish not being cooperative.

This months presentation will be in person and will feature Paul Christianson talking about trout streams in central and southern Alberta. Onway F&G members have been invited to attend the meeting.

It appears that this winters snow will bring up the lake level enough to allow launching from the dock. With Spring Lake opening soon , the club will be looking for some volunteers to help take out the aerators. Date and time will be sent out by email.

It appears several local lakes have had some winterkill . Lamont Pond, Bellis Lake and Shemeluk lake

### Recent Club Activities

April 12 – Fishing at Spring Lake. Lots of good conversation but fishing was slow.

April 14 Monthly Meeting – Nicole Kimmel. Great presentation and great Q&A after with Kim and ETFC members. Here are a few interesting slides from Kim's presentation.

### Prussian Carp Distribution



Figure 1. Known global distribution of *Carassius gibelio*. Map from GBIF Secretariat (2019).

Suspected to have arrived to Alberta in ~2000 but only confirmed by DNA advancements in 2014.

Now in SK too.

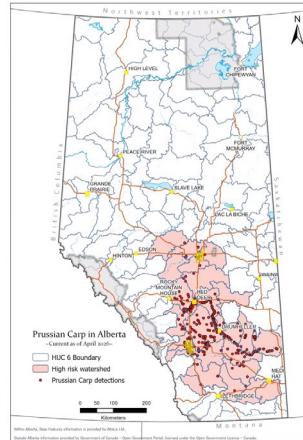
*Alberta*

## Prussian Carp Distribution

- North Saskatchewan River
- Red Deer River
- Bow River
- Oldman River
- South Saskatchewan River



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April 28 - Fly Tying night.

## Upcoming Events

May 12 – 7 pm – In person at Edmonton Public Library – 3210 118 Ave NW. Paul Christianson talking about trout streams in central and southern Alberta

June 28 ETFC - BBQ – Spring Lake – more details coming soon.

- Come fish with club members at Spring Lake
- Fishing Garage Sale.

### **Oh behalf on Onoway Fish & Game Ladies League,**

we would like to invite women (over the age of 18) to 2 of our upcoming events that we are hosting:

- Saturday, May 9th location Onoway Fish & Game - archery and range day will run from 1pm to 3:30pm and for those who wish to stay and visit, a bbq and bonfire social time to follow. Whether it's your 1st time shooting a bow or gun, we will have instructors available this day to assist and answer any questions you may have. All equipment will be supplied, including ammunition. Cost is free for Fish and Game members of your club. Should your member wish to bring along a non-member, female guest with them, there would be a \$15.00 fee.

- Saturday, June 27th from 9am to 4pm we will be hosting a Car Care Clinic with potluck lunch. Location: just outside of the town of Onoway. We have a heavy duty mechanic instructor from NAIT who will be teaching us many things like how to check fluids, change oil, change a tire, etc. Cost is free and is open to Fish & Game members of your club only. Please note there are only 30 spots available for the course.

**Please RSVP to [ladies@ofga.ca](mailto:ladies@ofga.ca) for either or both events.**

## Tips, Techniques & Locations

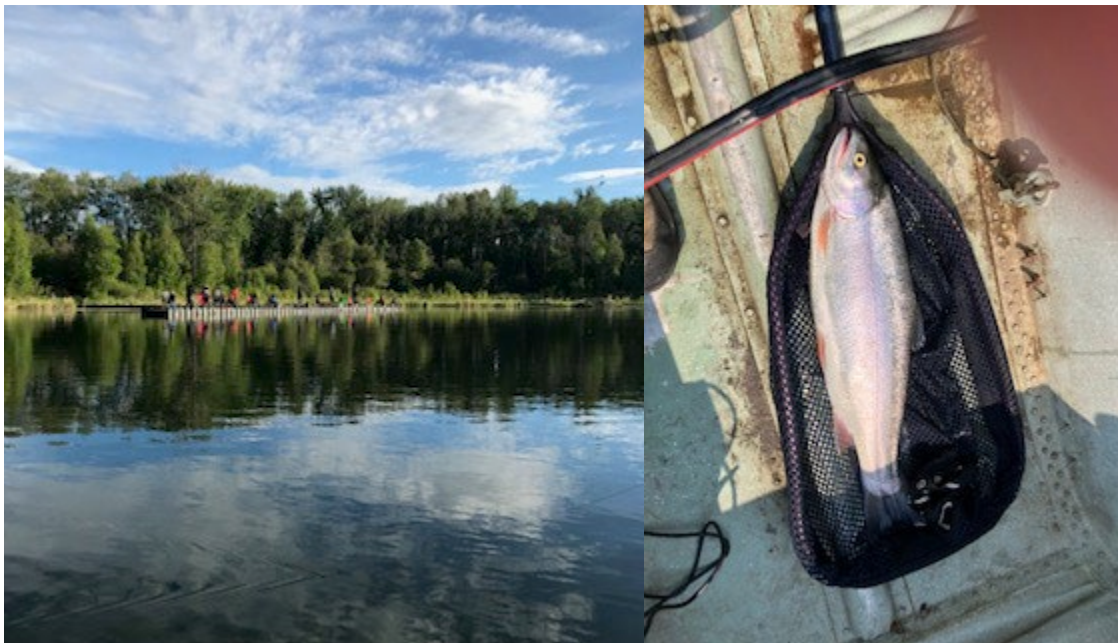
### Membership discounts:

A reminder that as part of your ETFC membership, you can bring your membership card into the fishing hole and receive 10% off your purchases on regular priced items.

Your ETFC membership also includes membership with the Alberta Wildlife Federation (AWF). In the most recent email from the AWF – March newsletter. You can shop on rapala.ca and save 25%! Thank you Randy for getting us the access code. Enter the following code at checkout (O= letter O): OFAHOFUJG7XJAB

**Thank you for all your responses. I am just working on how we get everyone's accounts set up on the AWF webpage, so you can access all the resources available.**

### Location: Hasse Lake



Hasse Lake is situated in Parkland County and is a very popular destination during summer and winter. A short distance from Edmonton, the day use provincial park and large fishing pier sees lot of traffic. Last year the boat launch was no longer usable due to low water; we will see what this year entails.

Back in the 90's a trip to Hasse lake could lend you a beautiful 10 pounds Rainbow trout. After 2012, the illegal introduction of Perch, plus Pike and Walleye stocking didn't get any positive result; combined with poor water quality, resulting in consistent winter kill, year over year.

A few years ago ACA came on board and installed a new aeration system to rejuvenate the lake and improve the water quality. Now the lake is stocked annually with Rainbow and Tiger trout and is a very popular place to fish year long.

Fishing from the pier, tube, kayak or canoe, Hasse is a good place to relax and wait for a nice 20" trout to get your attention.

### **Location: Fairfax Lake**

Beautiful lake located south of Edson on the Trunk Rd.

Stocked annually with Rainbow and also some Brookies that was stocked in the past and still reproduce naturally.

There a campsite by the lake very nice location easy access.



### **Conservation Corner / Volunteer**

From Peter Little:

#### **Catch and Release in Warming Waters**

Over the last few years we've seen a gradual increase in summer water temperatures, particularly in our lakes and ponds. Last summer water temperatures of 20°C (68°F) were common in the greater Edmonton area lakes and throughout central Alberta. The Old Farmer's Almanac says 'this summer (2026) is expected to trend even warmer across much of the country, including the Prairies, and southern British Columbia. Environment Canada agrees.

Fish don't like it. When the water temperature hits 67 degrees, their feeding habits decrease significantly. It's not the warmth so much as the fact that warmer water contains less oxygen than colder water, so as temperatures rise, dissolved oxygen decreases and fish begin to experience more and more stress, potentially leading to lethal limits.

Being hooked of course adds to the stress - fighting against the pull, netting, time out of water, handling, injury from the hook and its removal. Conscientious anglers do all they can to minimize that stress if they plan to release the fish. Regardless, some released fish die, not always immediately but even up to one or two days later. It raises the question of when, if at all, we should stop fishing unless we plan to keep the fish.

Carleton University in Ottawa leads much of the research on catch and release angling, how to lessen the stress on fish, and supports and contributes its work to ['Keep Fish Wet'](#). It recently added the following:

*'Cynically, the temperature stopping point for fishing is a bit like a "choose your own ending" novel with the outcome being "choose your preferred mortality rate". Instead, I've presented the concept of an angling threshold — a temperature at which mortality begins to increase exponentially (usually going above 5-10% just from temperature) and at which anglers need to start being exceedingly aware of every interaction they have with fish. Some anglers may also decide that this is when they want to stop fishing. The results of my literature review suggest the angling threshold of 68°F/20°C is too high for all the species I researched. I encourage anglers to be more conservative and start being aware of the impacts of temperature of fish much earlier, specifically at 61°F /16°C for rainbow, steelhead, cutthroat, and brook trout, 66°F/ 19°C for brown trout, and 54°F/12°C for bull trout. While the Keep Fish Wet Principles are always relevant, specific catch-and-release best practices are ever-evolving.*

*Undoubtedly, we need more purposeful research with the aim to determine or confirm species-specific best practices on water temperature, especially for brown trout and bull trout. There also needs to be much more research on the effects of water temperature, angling induced exercise, and other elements of the angling event, such as air exposure, since the potential impacts from angling are cumulative. For now, I encourage anglers to pay attention to the fish in their hands, be observant, be conservative when the science is behind, and be advocates for the use of current science-based best practices when targeting trout.'*

FISHING FOR TROUT IN WARMING WATERS - SCIENCE-BASED ANGLING THRESHOLDS **by Jamie Madden**

Food for thought!

**Volunteer – Kids Can Catch Event:**

Kids Can Catch event in Fort Saskatchewan on Saturday, June 13, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. As always, having enthusiastic fishing mentors is a crucial part of making these events a success.

Please let me know if you or anyone at Edmonton Trout Fishing Club is interested in signing up. Even if someone can only participate for part of the event, their support would be greatly appreciated.

**Sabrina Hotton**

Administrative Assistant, ACA | Sherwood Park - NE

CELL 780-991-0511

EMAIL [sabrina.hotton@ab-conservation.com](mailto:sabrina.hotton@ab-conservation.com)

*All volunteers are required to sign a waiver prior to participating.*

**Volunteer LakeKeepers – Water sampling program. Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS)**

**Summer 2026 ALMS LakeKeepers Webinar**

**May 14th, 12:00-1:00 pm**

Join us for our 2026 Summer LakeKeepers training session and discover the ins and outs of this fun program! We'll cover everything from equipment review to lake sampling protocols, probe calibration, and shipping logistics, ensuring you're well-prepared for the upcoming season. Whether you're already signed up or curious about joining, this is the perfect opportunity to stay updated on protocol changes, ask questions, and learn more about what we do at the Alberta Lake Management Society!

[Summer Webinar Sign up](#)


## Photo Gallery

Rainbow caught at Hasse Lake, early April. On a blob fly.



\*\*\*If anyone wants to share pictures of their catch, please email [scottbennet@gmail.com](mailto:scottbennet@gmail.com)\*\*\*

## Apr 1 (a bit late) – New Fish Species

 **Go Fish BC**  
2d · 🌐

🔴 BIG STOCKING NEWS FOR 2026! 🔴

Get ready, BC anglers! This spring, we are thrilled to introduce a brand-new species to our stocking program: the Pacific Flannel Trout (*Oncorhynchus lumberjackius*).

Built for our chilly, high-elevation lakes, this incredible fish has developed a natural red-and-black plaid pattern to stay warm year-round. They are tough fighters, but fair warning: our biologists report they are highly attracted to lures that smell like maple syrup and campfire smoke. 🍁🔥


We will be releasing the first batch of Flannel Trout into select lakes across the Lower Mainland and Okanagan regions starting today.



Who are you bringing with you to try and catch the very first one? Tag your fishing buddy below! 📌

⋮

Gotcha! 😄 Happy April Fools' Day from the team! While you won't find any plaid fish out there today, you can still find plenty of real trout waiting for you. Get out there and enjoy the spring fishing!

[#GoFishBC](#) [#FlannelTrout](#) [#BCLakes](#) [#FreshwaterFishing](#) [#TroutFishing](#) [#AprilFools](#) [#April](#)  
[#BCFishing](#) [#aiart](#)



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7 comments 10 shares

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