



## 2017 year in Review

2017 started off on **Jan 4<sup>th</sup>** with President **Dennis Southwick** demonstrating the Yvon Chouniard's collaring method on a Pheasant Tail & Partridge and Tup's Indispensable Nymph. The following week saw more tying demonstrations from **Mike Dell, Terry Dyck, Ross Chow and Dennis.**

As usual the **AGM** was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Weds of January and with sufficient members either attending or voting by 'poxy' (as typed on the forum) there was a quorum in attendance. Michael Dell with assistance from Barry White did a superb job of recruiting a full slate of nominees for the executive and, after many years in which a number of positions were not filled the following were elected by acclamation:

President: Karen Harris

VP: Alex Molenkamp

Treasurer & Newsletter: Peter Little

Secretary: Emmerson Dober

Membership: Kristi Kinoshita

Programs: Robert Depradines

External Events: Michael Dell

Librarian: Terry Dyck

Our **Annual Mid-Winter Seminar** was held at Grant MacEwan on January 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. George Daniel had to cancel his presentations but Landon Mayer did a great job of offering extra sessions over the two days. Unfortunately, attendance dropped to 39 from the 70+ of last year. We subsequently decided to run a survey to try to find out what topics, speakers, format etc. might attract more interest for future years.

Our speaker for **Jan 25<sup>th</sup>**, Josh Gelinis a fishing guide on Great Bear Lake & The Tree River in the NWT also had to cancel but **Michael Dell** filled in with a tying demonstration of 3 different Green Drake Emerger patterns.

The **February** Business Mtg included the usual reports and Ken Monk advised he was applying for grants from ACA and from the Habitat Stewardship program to continue our grayling monitoring program on the upper Pembina. Peter Little also announced that a grant application had also been submitted for riparian protection work on the Raven River. On **the 8<sup>th</sup>** we were pleased to welcome **Brian Greenwood** who provided a presentation on Spey Casting with particular reference to the North Saskatchewan River. He also invited members to meet him at certain times on the river bank for some personal help in learning or improving spey casting techniques.

**Megan Posein** came to the 22nd meeting and passed on some very helpful tips for improving our outdoor photography and showed us how to make that 12" rainbow look a little bigger! The membership also approved up to \$ 1,000.00 to purchase T-shirts for volunteers with the Trout Unlimited Canada/ Northern Lights Fly Fisher logo on the front and 'volunteer' on the back of the shirt.

The **March** business meeting was followed by a "**FIRE SALE**" with members selling off (or in some cases giving away) surplus tying materials, books, shirts, flyboxes, TUC emblomed buffs etc. On the **15th Jason Doucette** came in to tell us more about about competitive fly fishing in northern Alberta and led a discussion on the pros and cons of competitive angling.

As in previous years we had two booths at the **Edmonton Boat and Sportsmen's Show on Mar 16 to 19** – one for kids' fly tying and the other to run the Lloyd Shea Memorial Conservation Fund Raffle to raise money for conservation projects. The Alberta Conservation Association sponsored the tying booth this year through the donation of grant monies for hooks and materials, parking and meal subsidies for volunteers and the development of a brochure on introducing kids to fly tying. 23 club volunteers provided about 190 hours of volunteer time at the tying booth. 320 young folks aged 3 to 55 signed in and tied a woolly bugger - some on a hook and some on a safety pin - and there were probably another dozen or so who tied but didn't sign. In addition, 3 other club members put in over 90 hours of volunteer time in setting up, working at and packing up the Lloyd Shea bucket raffle booth paid for by '*the fishin' hole*' and with prizes donated by Show exhibitors.

**On Mar 22 – Craig Copeland** drove in for a visit from Cold Lake. Craig is responsible for the provincial government's Fish Hatcheries. He provided an overview of what's been happening at the hatcheries since last he was at the club, info on the rainbow trout adult brood program (there are two new strains being developed for the first time in 40 years), a Tiger Trout update, and an update on whirling disease and hatchery modernization projects. Craig also talked about lakes stocked in the Edmonton area and asked for our feedback

**On Mar 29 – Shona Derlukewich**, Senior Fisheries Protection biologist with DFO, came long to provide some interesting information on cold water species. Her book is now in the club library.

**April** started off with the usual Business and tying session. A proposal to try a one-day seminar in Jan 2018 featuring Phil Rowley and focusing on local lakes was approved, there was some discussion about the whereabouts of the more valuable books in our library and also of the damage caused by OHVs, although no action was planned. On the 12<sup>th</sup> **Mike Blackburn**, AEP biologist for the Edson area, came in to give us an update on the area with particular reference to the grayling population and the ongoing project work in which we're involved.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> we offered a Saturday '**OPEN HOUSE**' at the Queen Mary Park Hall to promote fly fishing. It was advertised as an opportunity to drop in between 10:00am and 4pm to ask questions about the how, where and whys of fly fishing, to learn to cast a fly, tie a fly or see some tied, to see some of the bugs that trout eat and find out about local fishing locations. Hot dogs were served around lunch time!

The last meeting of April featured **Janine Higgins**, Community Engagement Lead with Alberta Environment and Parks, speaking about the invasive species threatening Alberta, and how we

can all work together to keep them out! Did you know that, for example, an economic impact assessment estimates annual costs to Alberta in the event of an invasive mussel infestation to be more than \$75 million!

A **Beginner Fly Fishing** course was offered on Apr 29 and again on May 6 by **Rick Lang and Ross Chow**. These were very popular and received lots of positive comments from those who attended.

The **May 3rd** Business meeting was longer than usual and included debate and approval of the new club logo, planning for ACA's Kids Can Catch events, request for volunteers to help out at the Edmonton National TUC Dinner/Auction at the River Cree on May 11<sup>th</sup> and an update from Ken Monk on this year's grayling work.

On **May 10<sup>th</sup>**, **Dave Park**, Head of Fisheries Management for Alberta Fish and Wildlife came to answer questions on:

- Tiger trout – regulation update, stocking plans and public consultation on locations
- Possible impact on walleye stocks of recent lobbying for an open harvest rather than catch and release or controlled harvest (tags).
- Harvest on the Crowsnest River and other neighbouring waters, especially given the recent confirmation of whirling disease there
- the importation of leaches in containers of water that will be drained into our walleye lakes when they may contain invasive species and/or disease?
- declining catch rates of Rocky Mountain Whitefish and management plans in place or pending?
- possibility of Bass stocking in Alberta
- recommendations from the Stream Temperature Closure working group and plans regarding possible need for closures this year
- status of plans to develop Fishery Management Objectives for all provincial fisheries this past year.

On **17th Wally Lutz** came in from Edson to demonstrate his renowned mesh-tube fly and Wally Wing and then on the following week we held a fly-tying evening to tie up a few for the Kids Can Catch events, learn some techniques and patterns from other club members, and find out who's been fishing where.

On **31st – Michael Dell**, who has fished and guided on central Alberta's streams extensively and with many other expert anglers shared some of his knowledge on fishing the region with particular attention to Stauffer Creek.

**June** was a quiet month with Business, tying, chatting – the usual stuff for the first Weds of the month – and a barbeque to win up the first part of the year. Some members volunteered to help out at the ACA's "*Kids Can Catch*" events at Fort Saskatchewan on June 10<sup>th</sup> and Beaumont Pond on the 11<sup>th</sup>. They helped out kids around the pond with equipment and casting and also gave away casting bubbles and flies

We also learned that the International Federation of Fly Fishers' Buz Buszek Fly Tying Award, the most prestigious award in the world of fly tying, was awarded for 2017 to **Tak Shimizu**, a member of the Northern Lights Fly Fishers Chapter of TUC. Tak was on hand at the annual FFF

Fly Fishing Fair in Livingstone, Montana to receive the award together with a one-inch gold recognition feather.

The Executive met on **Sept 7<sup>th</sup>** to plan the balance of the year and to start dealing with what would become a major issue and one that would take up a lot of executive time. That was a request from TUC to all Chapters to standardize their logos to establish a common recognizable brand across Canada by some time in 2018 and to sign a new affiliation agreement with TUC Corporate based on a Chapter Charter specifying certain requirements and obligations for both parties to the agreement. We had opportunity to help formulate that Charter before it was finalized and also had some input into the new logo design. The executive began work too on revising the Chapter Constitution to reflect the new organizational model and standards.

**Weds. Sept 13<sup>th</sup>** was the first club meeting after the summer break - primarily a social get together to catch up on news, get reacquainted with other members, find out who's been catching what, where and how, etc. We also made available the chance to fulfill an ambition of a lifetime - pick up a FREE rock snot collection kit to help Leslie Peterson, TUC biologist, collect more data on didymo (rock snot) distribution in Alberta, particularly north of Red Deer. **Sept 20<sup>th</sup>** was a free fly-tying night and on **27<sup>th</sup>**: **Skylar Robertson** demonstrated the tying of his 3 favourite minnow patterns - Lefty's Deceiver, Skylar's Minnow and the Colenutt Special

The **Oct 4<sup>th</sup>** Business Meeting was interesting and lively as Karen outlined the new requirements from TUC including the need to change our logo once again. Alex presented a slide show on what the logo might look like. The membership also approved a \$5,000 donation from the club (now more properly referred to as the Chapter) to the ACA towards the purchase of the Porter property along the Raven River for establishment as a conservation site.

Clay Errikson was scheduled for a fly-tying presentation on **the 11<sup>th</sup>** but unfortunately was unable to make it so we ended up tying and chatting and planning some late season fishing trips.

**Leslie Petersen**, Alberta Provincial biologist with Trout Unlimited Canada, was in Edmonton on **18<sup>th</sup>** attending the whirling committee meeting and came to visit us in the evening. In addition to a news update, Leslie wanted to get our views on the North Central Native Trout Recovery Program (discussed briefly at the Oct 4 meeting) and get input on some possible projects for 2018 using funding that she had access to. It was another lively and interesting discussion. The month ended up with a visit **on 25<sup>th</sup>** from someone well know to the club by reputation but not so well known in person – **Superfly Joe**. In addition to updating us on what was new at Superfly he taught us a few new tying techniques as he demonstrated some of his favourite patterns.

Our annual **Dinner and Auction** was held at Kenilworth Community Hall on Sat. **Nov 4<sup>th</sup>**. It featured a dinner of chili, cold cuts, buns, salad and deserts, cocktail/dinner music provided by Spin City Music, opportunity to bid on a wide variety of donated goods and services, participate

in a 50/50, and draw tickets for some great prizes. Craft beers and wine were also available to the 80 or so people who came out to support the Chapter and have a good time.

**Nov 8** was a short Business meeting and a chance to share information on fall fishing trips and then on **Nov 15** Kevin **Gardiner**, ACA's regional manager for Central Alberta came to talk about the ACA purchases on the Raven, the ongoing riparian work, aeration plans and other Red Deer area ACA projects. Members of the Edmonton Trout Club were also invited to this meeting.

**Nick Sliwkanich**, avid fly angler, outdoor writer and photography was invited on the **22<sup>nd</sup>** and gave a very interesting and informative presentation on sinking line angling techniques.

To wrap up the month **Dennis Southwick** demonstrated some patterns on **the 29<sup>th</sup>** using a new material called Kreelex. He also demonstrated his 'dennisized' Vampire Leech and a Chuck Kraft CK nymph.

We kept the **Dec 6** Business meeting very short to allow plenty of time for a presentation by two senior biologists with AEP **Jessica Reilly** and **Mike Blackburn** on the need and plans for native trout recovery along Alberta's east slopes.

And as usual the year's meeting concluded on **Dec 13** with the Members' Pizza Night and fly swap. A great year!

