

Trout Unlimited Canada



Northern Lights Fly Fishers

2018 year in Review

The year started off on **Jan 10** with a fascinating and informative presentation from **Mike Sullivan**, fisheries biologist with AEP, "Trout recovery in Alberta's streams; things that make a real difference." Mike is a Provincial Fisheries Science Specialist with the Fish and Wildlife Division of AEP. A lot of what Mike presented formed the basis for the North Central Native Trout Recovery Plan.

On Jan 17th our AGM saw the election of Michael Dell as president, Karen Harris, VP, John Marple, Secretary, Dan Tulik, External Events, Bob Depradines, Programs, Kristi Kinoshita, Membership, and Peter Little as Treasurer and Communications.

The Annual Mid-Winter Seminar on Sat. Jan 20th featured **Phil Rowley** on "Fly Fishing Lakes in the Edmonton Region". It was a great success with about 80 in attendance. Phil also donated a guided trip for two which was won by Barry White.

The rest of the month was taken up with tying sessions, individual help on patterns and techniques, and socializing. We did, however, **write to the Premier** with a request that she ask Transportation, Energy, Forestry, Solicitor General and Finance to provide assistance to AEP in addressing the habitat and enforcement issues related to the decline in native trout populations along the east slopes.

Early **February** meetings had to be cancelled due to some damage at the hall but on the 21st we held a High-Tech night. **Ken Monk** was there to help us preview some fishing related apps including the new Stillwater Fly Fishing App that Brian Chan and Phil Rowley had just released containing a wide range of information on equipment, tactics, entomology and some of their favourite fly patterns along with tying instructions. On **Feb 28 - Dennis Southwick**, whose original fly patterns are featured on the Canadian Llama Company website, talked about and demonstrating the tying of FLYMPHS – wingless wet flies.

In February the Executive also decided to advertise that you don't necessarily have to be a member of Trout Unlimited Canada to come to the Chapter meetings. Although only TUC members may vote on motions affecting club policy and operation and we will encourage you to join the national organization, anyone interested in fly fishing, conservation of freshwater fisheries and/or fly tying is welcome to come. The membership also agreed to donate \$5000 to the Alberta Conservation Association towards the purchase of the Porter Conservation site on the Raven River.

The **Mar 7** Business meeting featured a general **discussion/information sharing session** on possible venues and times for some joint fishing trips. It was said that we talk a lot about fishing but we don't go fishing as a club too much, so we started to develop a plan to arrange some fishing trips to local areas.

On Mar 14 **Ruben Breitreutz**, our long term friend and rep for Rio and various other manufacturer's, came by to talk about fly lines how fly rods have changed and developed over 4 generations of rod families.

Once again – it's been about 15 years now I think - volunteers from Northern Lights Fly Fishers operated two booths at the **Edmonton Boat and Sportsmen's Show from March 15th to**

18th. At one we offered over 300 show visitors, primarily kids, the opportunity to tie a woolly bugger with individual help from one of our members and to talk fly fishing. At the other we ran the Lloyd Shea Memorial Conservation Fund Raffle with prizes donated by the Fishin' Hole, other Show exhibitors and the Chapter, with all proceeds to be used for conservation or education projects related to Alberta's fisheries.

On Mar 21 we were paid a visit by **Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Officers**, but not because we had done anything wrong. **Officers, Dennis Proddan and Morgan Rosadiuk**, were invited to tell us some things about their work in the Edmonton area and to answer questions. They focused primarily on fisheries related issues within the Edmonton region, especially regarding the North Saskatchewan River and the stocked trout ponds in the area. Our fishing buddies in the Edmonton Trout Fishing Club were also invited to this meeting and a public invitation was extended via an ad in the Edmonton Examiner. The Chapter also received funding approval from ACA for continued work with regard to the grayling population and habitat on the upper Pembina and also for more riparian protection efforts on the Raven River.

The **Apr 4** Business Meeting and Tying Session was followed on Apr 11 by a **Spring SALE!!** and then on the 18th by a '**Mid-Life Flysis**'. Kirby Coderre from Okotoks came up to share some of his knowledge and experience in fishing the streams of southern Alberta and some of the flies that he found to be most effective. Kirby is a teacher, coach, avid flyfisher and outdoorsman and has a number of excellent YouTube videos with some great photography at 'Mid-Life Flysis'.

No meeting on the 25th because many members were volunteering at Trout Unlimited Canada's annual Edmonton Water Conservation Dinner Auction at Edmonton Marriott, River Cree Resort. On April 28th and again on May 12th the Chapter held its annual '**Introduction to Fly Fishing**' courses, ably led by **Rick Lang**. Both were a great success, virtually sold out and received lots of praise and thanks from participants.

The **May 2** Business Meeting was one of the most significant ones in the Chapter history. **Silvia D'Amelio**, TUC's CEO, was in attendance to answer questions about the Chapter Charter which would confirm our status as a Chapter of TUC and our commitment to some specific obligations between the Chapter and TUC National. It was a lively meeting but we approved the motion, "That the membership reconfirm affiliation with Trout Unlimited Canada (TUC) as per the terms of TUC's Chapter Charter."

The following weekend saw a number of volunteers drive out to Dismal Creek for a riparian protection project, cutting willow stakes on the first day and planting and watering them along the bank the following. Two weeks later buds were starting to appear on the stakes

On **May 9 Ken Monk and Jim O'Neil** provided an overview of what's been happening with the **Grayling Project** and plans for use of the ACA grant given to us for continued work on the project during 2018. The following week Dennis Southwick demonstrated how to tie and fish 3 hopper patterns – the Letort Hopper, SA Hopper, and My Hopper.

Meanwhile on **Saturday, May 26th** about a dozen members went out to Muir Lake to clean up garbage around the lake and parking lot, barbeque a few hot dogs and go fishing.

The month ended with a **Journey to New Zealand - Alex and Michael Molenkamp** were there for a few weeks and shared some great stories and pictures about the things they saw and the fish they caught.

June featured the usual barbecue which was well attended and a few plans were made for summer fishing trips. During the month and over the summer some local, evening **fishing trips** were a set up, to places like Cardiff Pond, Star Lake, the North Saskatchewan River but did not attract more than a handful of members.

The summer also featured another successful **Fishing Clave** centered on the Blackstone River and organized by **Jim Fox**

Meetings started up again on **Weds. Sept. 19th** at Queen Mary Park Community Hall, with a **Social evening** to share fishing and other stories from the summer, renew acquaintances, and tie a few flies for the fall. Coffee and timbits as usual, of course.

On the 26th **Michael Dell** demonstrated **One Material Flies**. As he said "Fly tying doesn't have to be complicated. You can make flies that catch fish with minimal materials. And you can tie these patterns fast so you can easily turn out a dozen for the next day." He then demonstrated this with the **40 Second Minnow** (olive marabou), **The Usual** (rabbit foot hair), Wally Lutz's **Elk Fuzz Fly** and Frank Sawyer's **Grey Goose Nymph**.

At the **Oct. Business Meeting and Free Tye** the executive introduced some proposed revisions to the Chapter Constitution to reflect requirements of the Chapter Charter with TUC and to clean up some minor points. The following week we started the first in a number of Roundtable sessions designed for club members to share and learn about different aspects of fly fishing and tying. The first session featured **Backswimmer** Flies and Tactics. **Oct 17th - Summer Trip Reports** - was an opportunity to share info on where you fished and how it went, highlights and mishaps, bear encounters, hatches and sunsets, things you learned and things you'd rather forget! **Oct 24th** featured **The Blind Buzzer Ball** at which volunteers tried to tie a woolly bugger while blindfolded and expert judges watched their every move and awarded prizes.

November started off with the annual **Dinner Auction** at which Ken Monk presented a slide show of the year's activities. Somewhere between 80 and 90 people showed up for dinner – shepherd's pie, salad, buns, cold cuts and some of **Jimmy Dow**'s fantastic barbecued pork, and to top it off a slice (or in some cases 3, of a 40th anniversary cake to celebrate the length of time that there's been a Chapter of Trout Unlimited Canada in Edmonton. **Karen, Dan, and John** put in many hours of hard work to cater a great spread. There were 124 auction items around the room, artfully displayed by **Brian Bleakley**, and another 10 in a bucket raffle. The winner of the Fish Pull rod, **Dick Slobodian**, kindly donated it back for our next event. In all we raised almost a thousand \$ more than last year, and enough to not only cover our operating expenses for another year but to put some into our conservation/education fund.

Nov 14th - Fishing For Gold - Tanya Rushcall, an Aquatic Invasive Species Biologist with Alberta Environment and Parks shared some of her knowledge and experience with the goldfish in Alberta ponds and lakes, why it's a problem and how she pans it out. And even how to cook it. This was followed by a short commemoration of the **40th Anniversary** of the establishment of a Chapter of Trout Unlimited Canada in Edmonton in 1978. Donuts and a logoed lanyard for all were handed out. (Read up on the Chapter History at <http://forum.nlft.or...?showtopic=6098>)

On **Nov 21st** Dennis Southwick introduced us to Kreelex, a tying material that he found effective this year in some of his flies. And on the **28th** Maxwell Robinson, an Outfitter and Head Guide, presented a session on "the **seasons of the Bow**, flies/hatches we target primarily, gear we use and what to expect from a days guided trip."

At the **Dec Business meeting** there were reports from the executive and more discussion of recommended changes to the Constitution that will be voted on at the AGM on Jan 16th., This was followed by a Roundtable discussion on the topic that **if you were limited to one fly for all your fishing what would it be and why**. The year's meetings concluded on **Dec 12th** with **Pizza Night and a Fly Swap**.

That was the Chapter's 40th year. A lot was accomplished towards our Aims and Objectives but we face challenges regarding membership that we will try to address in 2019.