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Trout Unlimited Canada



Northern Lights Fly Fishers



## Welcome to Northern Lights Fly Fishers Newsletter

October 2023 News & Upcoming Events!

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# *Get Involved!*

### Upcoming Programs

We will meet in person at Queen Mary Park Community League Hall ([10844-117 Street](#)), as well as continuing to stream our meetings on ZOOM when possible. We will be meeting on the second and 4th Wednesday of the month. The meetings start at 7:30 pm.

On the alternate Wednesdays we will have a ZOOM only meeting for a Tie and Talk session. This is an informal meeting where you can see what others are tying and show off your flies.

Our ZOOM meeting id is 668 142 7482, and the meeting password is 306090. More information about joining [ZOOM is available on our webpage](#).

**Wednesday Oct 11 at 7:30**

We will have two programs.

David Fields from Trout Unlimited Canada will talk about [Cooling Streams](#). This program focuses on restoring riparian areas – the buffer of vegetation that connects land and water along streams, rivers, and lakes. By planting trees and shrubs along lakes, rivers, and streams we can help take carbon from the atmosphere and then these riparian areas act as heat buffers for plant and animal species, providing refuge from higher temperatures. David will talk to us about what our chapter can do to support this program.

The second part of the evening will be a Roundtable on Why I Fish. This is a chance for you to share the reasons why you fish. Whether it's just to catch big fish or to commune with nature we want to hear your answers.

**Wednesday Oct 18 at 7:30**

Tie and Talk meeting on ZOOM. Florin Sabac will be hosting and we expect the usual cast of characters to contribute their flies and tips. Join us to find out what works.

**Wednesday Oct 25 at 7:30**

Mike Rodtka, Senior Biologist for the Alberta Conservation Association, will talk about 'Stocking Alternative Species'. This is sure to be a controversial topic as some ponds are being stocked with perch and the ACA is considering using channel catfish as an alternative species to stock.

**Wednesday Nov 1 at 7:30**

Tie and Talk meeting on ZOOM

**Wednesday Nov 8 at 7:30**

Bruce Dancik will give a slideshow about his trip to Patagonia.

**Wednesday Nov 15 at 7:30**

Tie and Talk meeting on ZOOM

**Wednesday Nov 22 at 7:30**

Dick Slobodian, NLFF Outside Events director, will present a slideshow on Why I Fish and What I do when I fish.

**Wednesday Nov 29 at 7:30**

Tie and Talk meeting on ZOOM

**Wednesday Dec 6 at 7:30**

Tie and Talk meeting on ZOOM.

**Wed Dec 13 at 7:30**

Pizza and fly swap. We get together at Queen Mary Park Hall to have pizza, exchange stories, and hold a fly swap. To participate in the fly swap bring a dozen flies and see which flies you get in exchange.

As always we are looking for program ideas so please send any suggestions to [program@nlft.org](mailto:program@nlft.org)

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# *Fly Of The Month*

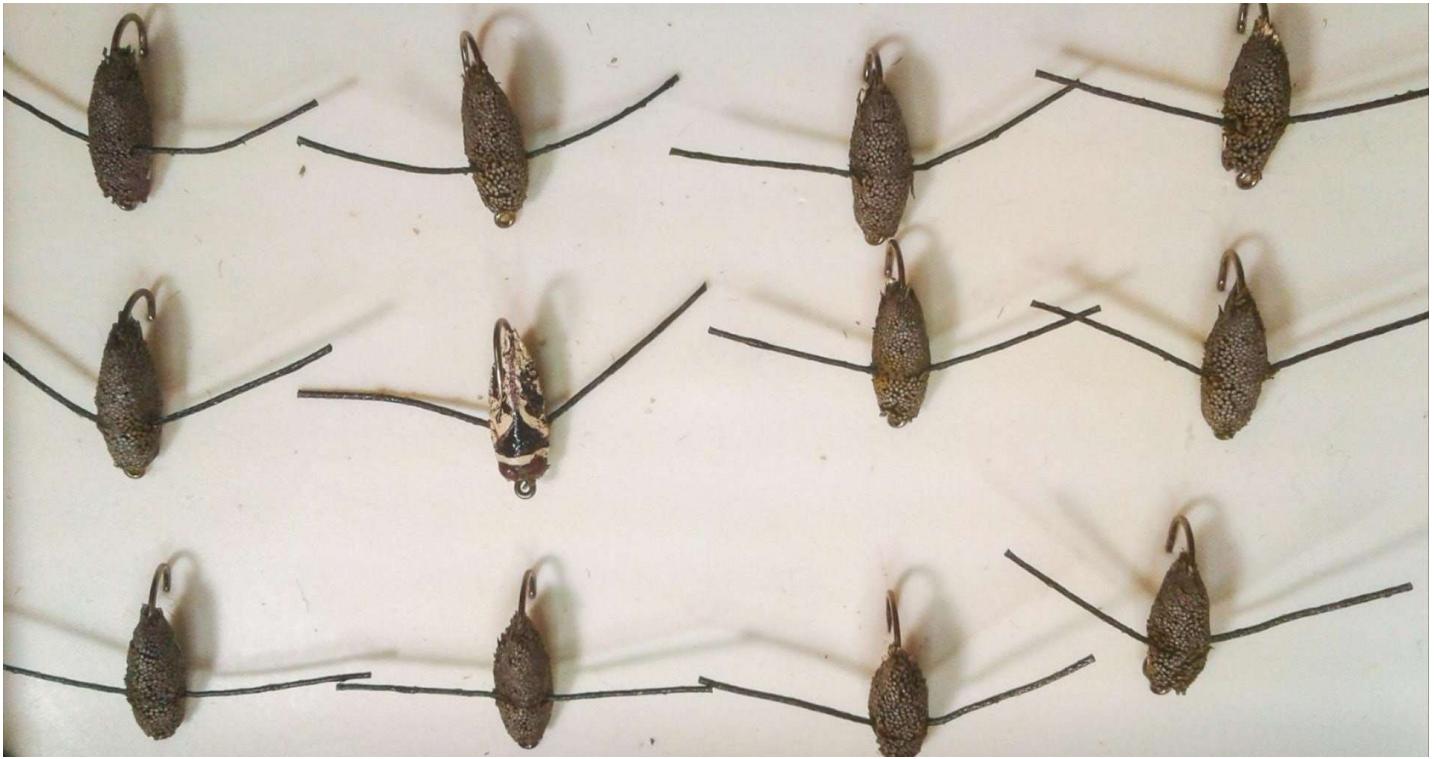


## The Takswimmer

- Hook: Dry fly size 10-16
- Thread: Black
- Body: Spun deer hair
- Legs: Rubber hackle



There are hundreds of backswimmer patterns to imitate the Backswimmer and smaller Water Boatman. This pattern is by Tak Shimizu, a renowned salmon fly tyer from Edmonton. Tak uses specially dyed green deer hair to spin around the hook shank which is then clipped to shape. He adds round rubber legs to give the fly motion in the water. Either the top or bottom of the fly is painted white and then markings are added. Tak donates a box of these Takswimmers to our silent auction each year



[Watch a video](#) from our YouTube channel showing Tak tying a dragonfly to see his deer hair spinning technique

## Update on Projects



### Hasse Lake Cleanup Oct 1

Thanks to the dozen volunteers who came out to Hasse Lake to clean up around the park and shoreline. Thanks are due also to Dick Slobodian who organized the event and barbecued the hot dogs.

### Rainbow Park Pond, Westlock

Our grant funded work in support of ACA's Pond Rehabilitation Project at Rainbow Park Pond, Westlock, is just about done. It's one of many stocked lakes, shallow and enriched with nutrients, where high summer water temperatures and resultant low oxygen levels have resulted in trout not surviving beyond mid summer. The pond has been treated with alum in an attempt to inactivate phosphorus and pond sediment and reduce biochemical oxygen demand. Hopefully this will improve DO concentrations so that trout are able to survive beyond mid-summer and through the winter, which they haven't been able to do at that and other ponds for the last few years. 250 rainbows have just been stocked and all we can do now is wait to see if the alum treatment will allow them to survive.

### Water Temperatures

As you're probably aware, "all three major trout species (brook, brown and rainbow) begin to experience some level of stress at around 68°F (20°C), with that stress increasing rapidly as the temperature rises further." As part of our work we tested water temperature at a number of stocked trout fisheries in the Edmonton region. In every case we recorded temperatures at and above that level at various times through the summer. If you found fishing to be slower in these lakes this year, those temperatures are a good reason why! The added stress to the fish of being hooked and played is causing some catch and release anglers to consider staying off the water when temperatures get beyond 68°F. Survival of trout in lakes that are not aerated through this coming winter may be even more difficult – thus the consideration of stocking alternative species so there's something to go fishing for.

### Peace River's Spring Lake

Meanwhile, our support of ACA's work to replace the 40-year-old+ diffuser system used to aerate Peace River's Spring Lake with surface aerators is on hold. The CCE grant money allowed us to buy two aerator motors with 600ft. cables (ACA is supplying the other four needed) but the other partner with ACA on this project, Saddle Hills County, can't get power to lakeside to operate them because of the persistent wildfires in the area.

### Grayling Projects

Forest fires and flooding prevented completion of the work planned for the Arctic Grayling conservation project. In early May, lightning sparked a massive forest fire in the Upper Pembina area. Much of Rat Creek and Dismal Creek were within the perimeter area of the fire, which totalled over 200,000 hectares. The fire is still listed as under control, but not yet extinguished. Rains in June helped control the fires, but there was so much rain that significant flooding occurred. On Dismal Creek, a bridge near our data logger location was washed out, and on Rat Creek another bridge was washed out and the Environment Canada water gauge was destroyed. We attempted some volunteer angling in September, but conditions were not suitable. The planned activities will be carried over to next summer.



# Coming Soon!



Stay tuned and visit [TUCanada.org](https://TUCanada.org).



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