



Northern Lights Fly Fishers (NLFF)

October 2025 Newsletter

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

(At Queen Mary Park Hall, 10844-117 St., Edmonton, doors open 7:00pm, program starts 7:30 - unless otherwise stated. Programs at Queen Mary Park will be shared on [Zoom](#) subject to technology and speaker permissions.)

Oct 5th 10:00am – at Muir Lake for the annual Clean-Up around the shoreline, the signage and the parking lot, followed by a barbeque (all supplied) and some fishing for those interesting in finding out if there are any rainbow or brown trout still alive in the lake. The weather forecast for that day is ‘sunny’ but should things change and we need to postpone we’ll put notice on our [Forum -Upcoming Events](#)

Oct 8th - Fly tying with Dennis Southwick one of Alberta’s most prolific and accomplished fly tyers. Dennis has a wealth of experience in what makes flies effective and how to tie them. He’ll demonstrate some patterns and techniques and is happy to answer all your tying questions. Bring along your vice if you’d like and tie while he talks.

Oct 22nd – Bull Trout presentation by Tara Lepine (U of Calgary, currently U of Auckland, New Zealand) Stephen Vamosi (U of Calgary), and Jessica Reilly (Environment and Protected Areas, AB) – “an experimental test of bull trout production dynamics in the wild, with implications for conservation translocations in Alberta”. Including perhaps for our Arctic grayling work in the upper Pembina??

Nov 5th - Volunteers Needed! To help with introducing students at **Vimy Ridge High School** (near Bonnie Doon Mall) to the world of fly tying and fishing. First class 8:45 to 10:50 and second from 12:35 to 3:00 pm. We’ll have tools and materials there and will be helping the students tie a Woolly Bugger.

If you're willing to help out please phone Dick Slobodian at 780-868-2393 or email us at nlft.tu@gmail.com. Lunch costs covered if you're willing to help with both sessions.

Nov 12th - Fly tying with Amber Serbin – fishing guide, multi-species angler and expert fly tyer



Nov 26th -Ken Kranrod, VP Alberta Conservation Association, will present an update on the new **Conservation Site** West of Edmonton, plans for its fishery, and more.

Dec 10th Pizza Night - Holiday celebration evening
Everyone welcome!

Membership in Freshwater Conservation Canada is not required to attend our meetings either in person or [via Zoom](#) (we couldn't achieve our Aims and Objectives if we did). You need that membership, however, in order to vote and/or serve on the chapter executive.

ARTICULATED FLIES

Mention of these fly pattern in the last newsletter generated some questions and led to a recommendation from one member to check out methods for tying these flies as

reported in  **FLY-FISHERMAN**

<https://www.flyfisherman.com/editorial/how-to-make-jointed-flies/152940>

It describes three methods of constructing them but the 'Hook to Hook' method is the easiest place to start and is probably the most widely used articulation method. It requires one vise and no special tools, and is useful for constructing streamers, nymphs, and even dry flies. In a nutshell, the rear portion of the fly is tied on one hook and then a length of monofilament, fly line backing, or wire is looped through the eye of the hook and then lashed to a forward hook shank with the hook bend removed. There's also plenty of instructional videos online.



Any reports on tying them and/or on their use would be much appreciated – please post on the [Fly Pattern section of our forum](#)

SOME PAST PRESENTATIONS AVAILABLE ON YOUTUBE

Some you may have missed or perhaps might want to review again - numerous fly-tying demonstrations, brown trout in the Red Deer river, impact of beaver dams, what 'Trout Trust' is all about, native trout in the NSR, aquatic invasive species and much more! [Northern Lights Fly Fishers - YouTube](#)

CATCH and RELEASE – What's New

KEEP
FISH
WET



Sascha Clark Danylchuk, executive director of Keep Fish Wet, who made a presentation to NLFF this past February, sent us an update on the organization's work to promote awareness of the best practices for Catch and Release fishing. "Science shows that even small changes in how an angler catches, handles, and releases a fish can have positive outcomes once that fish swims away. Not only does using best practices increase survival rates of fish, but it also helps fish return to their normal behavior as quickly as possible after release. Using best practices for catch-and-release is a quick and effective way to put conservation into practice."

Keep Fish Wet has just developed a [KFW Mini-Lesson](#) on those best practices for use in helping us inform others. Please share it with anyone you think might be interested – friends, other fishing clubs, your kids' Outdoor Ed teacher etc.

Northern Lights recommends that, if you practice 'catch and release', carry a hook remover with you. It can be a great help if the fish has the hook stuck somewhere that your fingers cannot easily reach. There are a number of styles – here's a couple that have been recommended by [ATF Fishing](#):



SUPPORT FOR NORTHERN LIGHTS CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION PROJECTS

Freshwater Conservation Canada asks that we acknowledge our supporters whenever we can. We certainly do and for NLFF there's two in particular without which we would not have successfully completed so many diverse projects over the last dozen or so years:

ALBERTA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION (ACA) – since its foundation in 1997 we've worked closely with the Association and it's staff on a multitude of conservation and education projects – firstly volunteering for redd counts, stream bank restoration, tree and willow planting etc. along central Alberta streams and then, starting in 2012 on major projects of our own but funded by ACA's Conservation, Community and Education (CCE) grants.



We applied for and received our first grant from that fund in 2012 - \$10,000 as a start up to our Arctic grayling work on the Pembina. In each of the 12 years following that (i.e. 13 years in total so far) ACA has provided us with CCE funding for our project work – Arctic grayling conservation, 225 acres of riparian land protection, pond rehab, lake aeration, development of educational materials and signage etc. We just added it up and the amount granted to us totalled **\$411,979**. Over that time ACA has also donated many items for our annual auction, advertised our raffles and events, and its staff have always provided friendly, expert scientific and logistical support to our volunteer-led chapter work. We're proud and thankful to be recognized as an *ACA Partner in Conservation*.

OUR VOLUNTEERS – without whom we would have achieved nothing! It's impossible to truly quantify the value of their efforts (and personal out-of-pocket expenses) but using CRA's recommended hourly rate for volunteer time and labour we estimate at least \$300,000 over the last 12 years.

Other contributions to our project work have come from NLFF fundraising efforts, from Golder Associates, Aquality Environmental, UofA, MacEwan University, a federal HSP grant, Don Andersen, from Bruce Tilbrook, one of the original members of the Edmonton Chapter of TUC, and other donors. We don't ask for monetary donations, but they certainly get put to good use. (if you'd like, however, you can donate through the Freshwater Conservation Canada website and specifically state that it is for forwarding to NLFF for fisheries related projects. Alternatively, you can donate directly to ACA through its website and, if you wish, identify that it be put towards 'KidsCanCatch' or any of its fisheries related projects - it's our way of acknowledging ACA's support for us). In both cases you will receive back a charitable tax receipt.

DISTANCE CASTING

Fly Fusion recently released a short video on adding distance to your casts: [‘The Distance Cast’](#)

PRUSSIAN CARP!!

Locally they’ve spread rapidly. They have been reported as present in seven locations in the greater Edmonton area including Spring Lake, home to the Edmonton Trout Fishing Club. We’ve just heard that some have been reported in Hasse Lake too. There’s nothing can be done to remove them apparently! We thought that treating the lake with an effective poison – rotenone – and then restocking with trout would be the answer. But it’s not – rotenone is prohibitably expense to buy and apply, there are some perceived health issues, and the province, we’re told, is not willing to provide the necessary permit for its use. Netting them has proved labour intensive and ineffective. They’re here to stay, but there are two things that we can do:



1. If you fish either of those lakes or any other where carp have appeared, please do your best to ensure that we do not spread them to other local waterbodies that you may visit. The Clean, Dry, Drain your Boat and gear campaign is important for us to implement and advise others to do. Carp eggs can so easily survive when stuck in fishing flies, nets, on boats etc.
2. Find ways to still enjoy and encourage others to participate in carp fishing! After all, they’re here to stay and carp can also be a worthy opponent – in Europe, for example, where they’re often referred to as “rubberlips”, they’re the most popular of all sportfish. Although Prussian Carp do not grow as large as many other carp species they can grow to 6lbs fairly quickly and are strong; their sensitive lips help them spit out a hook quickly – they will challenge your reaction time!

So here’s a few carp fishing tips that come from [‘Outdoor Life’](#) and [Field and Stream](#):

- carp are highly sensitive to their environment and spook very easily. Keep this in mind when approaching fish.
- carp are mostly bottom feeders but although they have a downturned mouth for bottom feeding, carp are adept at eating off the surface and in the middle of the water column
- set drag lightly so carp feel little resistance when moving away with your bait/lure
- carp can be very sensitive to your line or leader, so don’t be afraid to scale down to lighter line even when targeting bigger fish

CARP LURES: This from internet research, especially [Outdoor Life](#):

Corn - one of the most, if not the most, popular baits, at least in the United States - has a sugary aroma and its bright yellow color also helps it stand out on darker mud bottoms. It's cheap and readily available.

Worms – garden variety or bloodworms

Fly Patterns:



San Juan Worm - when carp have their heads down and are rooting in the mud, they are most likely eating worms. Works well for trout too!

of the mop fly, it can imitate a wide array of different aquatic insects.

Mop Fly - depending on the color



Carpinator - tied with dumbbell weighted eyes on a wide shank hook. The weighted eyes help the fly stand upright when it is resting on the bottom of the lake. The fly stands vertical on the bottom. This creates an outstanding contrast and fly profile that makes the fly easy to see.

Clouser Swimming Nymph - designed by Bob Clouser who invented the Clouser minnow, one of the most popular streamer patterns ever created. In contrast to other carp fly patterns, which are usually tied heavy and fished in drop, drag and wait method, the Clouser nymph can be fished in an active manner. It represents both crayfish patterns and dragon fly nymphs, both well liked carp forage. It also catches trout.



Woolly Bugger - probably the most well-known fly pattern for trout, it's also a great carp fly. Choose drab natural colors in olive, black, brown and maroon. Different sizes and colors imitate a wide range of insects and forage species.

Carpe Diem – hope to see you at an NLFF meeting in person or by Zoom!

PSL/