



Photo Credit: Wally Lutz



# NORTHERN LIGHTS FLY FISHERS MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

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## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Doors at Queen Mary Park Hall (10844-117 St) are open at 7:00pm and coffee is on. Presentations begin at 7:30pm. If you can't be there in person our ZOOM meeting id is 668 142 7482, and the meeting password is 306090 (or just Click [this link](#) )

**May 13 – Fly-Tying night hosted by Rod Boisvert.** Bring your equipment and tie along.

*Hair Straight Back Damsel - Materials Required:*

- Hook: Togen - 48628 Size #8
- Thread: Size #6 Olive UTC or Veevus
- Eyes: 25lb Mono. Maxima
- Tail: Yellow Olive Marabou + Yellow Crystal Flash
- Body: Lead Free 0.02 Wire + Yellow Marabou
- Thorax: Yellow Olive Marabou
- Head Cement: Wapsi - Fly Tyers Z-Ment



**May 27 – Lesley Peterson, Director of Conservation, Freshwater Conservation Canada.**

Lesley will brief the club on FCC's plans on the North Saskatchewan River.

**June 10 - Club BBQ/Season Wrap-up. Start at 6 pm.**

Come join us at the hall for a BBQ and our last gathering before the summer break. We will also have some of our library books brought up from basement storage for anyone interested in giving them a new permanent home.

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## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's time to renew for the 2026-2027 year! 2025-2026 memberships expired March 31st, 2026. [Renew Today!](#)

Please note that membership in FCC is required to vote at chapter meetings and/or become a member of the chapter executive, but we encourage any interested anglers and conservationists to attend our meetings and participate in our activities.

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Northern Lights will continue its tradition of participating in the Kids Can Catch event in Fort Saskatchewan, occurring 13 June. We will require a large quantity of flies for the kids, specifically woolly buggers and small nymphs.

If you are interested in donating flies, for every dozen flies you provide, your name will be entered in a draw for a \$100 gift card from the Fishin' Hole. As mentioned above, fly collection will begin at the Hall on April 8th. If you have any questions, please email [events@nlft.org](mailto:events@nlft.org).

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## Alberta Conclave 2026

The 2026 edition of the Alberta Conclave (FF@, Northern Lights, and a growing contingent from Kilpatrick's club in Saskatoon) will be held August 10 through 16 on the North Ram River. We have tried to conclave on the North Ram for the last two years but we were flooded out in 2025 and smoked out by a nearby wildfire in 2024. This will be the year! Our base camp will be at a place called Nice & Easy ([here](#) on Google Maps). We have gathered here several times in the past, and it never fails to impress. Stay tuned to the forum for more details.

## 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. Stocktake.com



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. When the water temperature hits 67°F, their feeding habits decrease significantly. 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!

## Timber Harvest & Trout Habitat on Upper Oldman

In case you missed it, Michael Short recently posted a video speaking about a recent report prepared for the Alberta Wilderness Association on damage caused to trout habitat due to forestry activities in the Upper Oldman drainage. Please follow the links for more details.

Let's go Outdoors Alberta story: [Protecting Alberta's Native Trout Habitats](#) 🐟🌿

The report: [with Observations on Species at Risk Trout Habitat](#)

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### To our Incredible Members & Supporters

**This will be our final newsletter of the season.**

Thank you to all our club members for your participation, your contributions, and the sense of camaraderie you bring to our community-it truly makes a difference.

Wishing you all a fantastic fly fishing season ahead. We look forward to reconnecting in the fall and hearing your stories, both the triumphs and the challenges.



Thank  
you!



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