



4th Corner Fly Fishers

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear 4CFF Members,

Although it's now March, snow is still falling at my place. Punxsutawney Phil's prognostications last month have proven valid once again. But the prospect of real spring, and all that comes with it, looms nigh, tantalizing the spirit. The neighbor's birch trees are budding; a hummingbird stopped at my deck, whirring through the snowflakes, wondering why my feeder wasn't out, and some midges rose above the deck into the eyes.

Transitions everywhere!

I know that many of you are already at the bench, tying flies in anticipation. Less worthy types, myself included, may just tip back a glass and contemplate some adventure that begins by attaching to the end of our line a little something yanked from the vise of someone of greater talent, or less sloth, and then flicking it into a riffle, enticing a splashy rise from the depths. The word "dreamer" comes to mind, but when snow is all you see around you, dreaming ain't such a bad thing, especially if the flies you last tied [maybe 15 years ago, maybe more] look like something out of a Comedy Central skit...

Conservation-minded members might be interested in seeing a video now going viral on the web, showing what happened after wolves were reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park after being extirpated nearly 70 years ago. A remarkable "trophic cascade" resulted, affecting not only the biota in the region, but also the underlying geology. It's all pretty fascinating. George Monbiot explains the concepts of trophic cascade and how wolves change rivers in this video remix of his presentation on TED: <http://www.coolystone.com/media/8021/How-Wolves-Change-Rivers---For-The-Better/#.Uwvn9LuYaUI>

The Club's Conservation Committee is working on projects that are designed to accomplish similar, if less all-encompassing changes to natural environments in Whatcom

(President's Message continued)

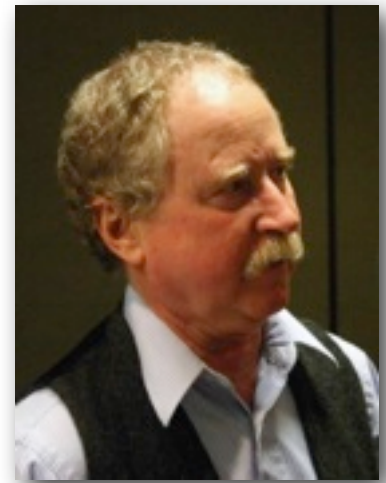
and nearby Skagit County areas. We may not be reintroducing wolves around here, but you could help be a part of those projects. Contact Dan Coombs for more information if you'd like to make a difference.

And your Board and I are still working on Policies and Procedures designed to clarify the membership application process and other interesting facets of the Club's operations, along with changes that could be made to the Bylaws designed to further clarify them and accommodate changes to the way the Club will provide services to its members and the outside world. On an interim basis, Emil Ekman has volunteered to be in charge of coordinating items relating to internal education/development for members [casting classes, river safety, fly-tying sessions, etc.], to separate these functions programmatically from "outings" on the one hand, and "education" on the other, where education has come to mean providing educational instruction in schools, cancer-recovery settings and the like. This Club is really something to be proud of these days!

Be well....

Hugh

Hugh Lewis



"'Carpe Diem' does not mean 'fish of the day'." ~Author Unknown -

"....of all the liars among mankind, the fisherman is the most trustworthy." ~William Sherwood Fox-

"The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable, a perpetual series of occasions for hope." ~ John Buchan

MARCH MEETING

This month's general meeting of the 4th Corner Fly Fishers will be held at the Bellingham Golf and Country Club on March 27, 2014. The Wet Fly will begin at 6pm with dinner at 6:45pm. The program will begin at 7:30pm and will be followed by the general membership meeting.

This month's presenter is Rich Bowers. Rich is the Pacific Northwest Coordinator for the Hydropower Reform Coalition, a consortium of more than 150 outdoor recreation and conservation organizations nationwide that have effectively reduced the footprint of hydropower dams on rivers. Rich provides regional and national coordination and communication with more than 36 members in the Northwest, as well as industry, agency and tribal partners regarding individual project licensing, and on issues such as hydropower strategy, training, and policy. Rich is the former Executive Director of American Whitewater, and before that, Conservation and Hydropower Program Director. He is a founding steering committee member for both the Hydropower Reform Coalition and the California Hydropower Reform Coalition. In addition to Northwest Coordinator, Rich has been a nonprofit consultant, board member and a volunteer river advocate for many issues since moving to Bellingham, WA from Maryland in 2001. Rich currently serves on the Board of Directors for both American Whitewater and the Whatcom Land Trust.

Rich's talk is on protecting and restoring rivers, and changing the way rivers are harnessed for energy. He will look at hydro dams in the region – statewide, in Whatcom County, and in British Columbia. He will also talk a bit about a proposal to seek 'wild and scenic' designation for the Nooksack River. This promises to be a informative and thought-provoking presentation. I hope you can attend.

Please RSVP by Tuesday, March 25 by visiting <http://4cff.eventbrite.com> or by contacting me via email at msr@deepsnow.com or by phone at 360-319-1350. Be sure to indicate if you'll be having dinner or just attending the meeting, and remember that a dinner reservation made is a binding commitment for you to pay. Also, a reminder that getting your RSVP in on time helps us provide an accurate count for the kitchen. Thanks for your help in placing your reservations on time! I look forward to seeing you on the 27th!

Tight lines,

Matt Roelofs
4CFF Internal Vice President and Program Chair



CONSERVATION REPORT



Fellow Members,

Members from the club worked on renovating the Squalicum Lake boat rack last Monday.

Also, four of us went to scout out Lily Point nature preserve yesterday (near Point Roberts) and will be approaching the Board with a recommendation that our club get involved up there as well.



Plases note that I will be canvassing the membership to see who will be participants at Lily and Whitehorn Points in the near future. Many thanks to Bob Johnston, Terry Mc Ewen, John Boblett , Don Anderson and John Leighton for their participation on these two projects this week.



Dan Coombs
Conservation Chairman
360-398-1637
djcmbs@nas.com



March Outings Report:

It look like we are getting around toward spring and the pace will pick up. It's time to start hauling out all that gear and getting it ready for this year. The first orders of business are the upcoming outings to Pass and Silver Lakes. The first will be Pass Lake on the

General Information: If you are planning to attend Pass or Silver Lakes and want to be included in the food provided please let me know.

Phone :(360)647-9715

E-mail : fwkphotography@comcast.net

Outings:

Pass Lake: This will be held on the 29th, with lunch served at 1:00pm. Ed will be raffling off one of his fly boxes at that time. This is always a good way to start your season (if you have not already done so.) Be sure to check out the outing detail document for the directions and make sure you have a WDFW or Discover Pass displayed in your vehicle. To provide a lunch for everyone I will need to know you are planning to attend. I have 16 of you who signed up at the last membership meeting.

Silver Lake Breakfast: Next month we will celebrate opening day with our pancake breakfast. In the interests of those fishing that day we will try for an early start to the meal: say 7:30. As we have done in the past there will be a \$5 charge to cover the food, payable that morning. Currently we have 14 signed up. If you are not on the list please let me know.

Hwy 24: This trip takes some planning. I need to know how many of you plan on making the trip to get the lodging worked out. I would like to base around 100 Mile house as there are some amazing lakes near that end of Hwy24. We will need to get set up as soon as possible to be able to be close to each other. We can investigate and share information about the fishing a little later. (The possibilities are endless and pack the heavy artillery; there are some big fish around!)



March Outings Report (cont.)

Fly tying session:

My house: I will be hosting a fly tying session at my house on Saturday March 22nd from 1-4:00pm. In addition to the fly tying recipes I will be preparing a little island fair as well some Northwest vitals. I have a limited amount of space so I need to find out who is interested in coming. Get your reservations in as it will be first come first served.

More to come: Keep an eye out for more sessions to come.

Member Development:

Historically the Fourth Corner Fly Fishers have focused on conservation and education activities for those not in our membership. Our commitment to the art of fly fishing and all it entails indicates that we need to also work with our membership to improve their skills and understanding as well. I can speak from personal experience. I just made a trip to Crooked Island to chase bonefish and I can tell you that much of my success in that trip can be traced to the casting classes I took from Scott Christensen sponsored by our club.

There is an incredible body of knowledge within our membership and elsewhere. We are going to develop as many avenues as we can to make it available.

Casting Classes: Scott Christensen is available for casting instruction again this year. We will be scheduling classes for novice and intermediate levels. If you want to make a solid foundation on casting or fine tune your skills this is a great deal. The costs will be: members-\$15, Guest Status Members-\$20, Nonmembers-\$25

Other opportunities: We will be setting up classes, trips, and other events to contribute to our members in their skills, knowledge and satisfaction in our sport.

I look forward to seeing you at many of our outings, classes and events this year. As always, you can contact me to make suggestions on making our club better!

I hope to see you out there!

Frank Koterba

Your External Vice President/Outings Chair



Last Revised: 2/11/14							Cancelled
CLUB FUNCTION	DAY	DATE	EVENT	OTHER	HOST	MISC	
March							
Board Meeting			Trinity Lutheran Church 119 Texas St.		Hugh Lewis (676-5150)	6:00-??	
Education		3,10,17,24,31	Fly Tying Class at Yeager's		Klause 671 8453	5:00-7:00	
Education	Saturday	8-Mar	Fly tying class		Dan Coombes 398 1637	1:00-4:30	
Education		11,13,18,20,2	Blaine Middle School		Klause 671 8453	3:00-5:00	
Club Meeting/Dinner	Thursday	27-Mar	Membership dinner / meeting	RSVP Required!	Matt Roelofs	6:00-??	
Outing	Saturday	Mar 29	Pass Lake (See Outing Detail Doc on Web)	Lunch Provided	Klause Lohse (671-8453)	Lunch by Frank	
April							
Board Meeting	Tuesday		Trinity Lutheran Church - 119 Texas St		Hugh Lewis (676-5150)	6:00-??	
Education	Thursday	3-Apr	Fly tying class at Yeager's		Klause 671 8453	5:00-7:00	
Club Meeting/Dinner	Thursday		MEMBERSHIP DINNER/MEETING	RSVP Required!	Matt Roelofs	6:00-??	
Outing	Saturday	Apr 26th	Silver Lake opening day Pancake feed	RSVP Required!	Errol and Brian	Pancake Break!	
May							
Board Meeting	Tuesday		Trinity Lutheran Church - 119 Texas St		Hugh Lewis (676-5150)	6:00-??	
Education		10, 17	Lummi Nations High School		Klause 671 8453	TBD	
Education		19, 20, 28	Options High School		Klause 671 8453	TBD	
Outing	Wed-Sun	May 7-11	Peter Hope Lake, BC		Frank Koterba	Food TBD	
Outing	Fri-Sun	May 16-18	Big Twin Lake		Rick Todd	Food TBD	
Club Meeting/Dinner	Thursday		MEMBERSHIP DINNER/MEETING	RSVP Required!	Matt Roelofs	6:00-??	
June							
Board Meeting	Tuesday		Trinity Lutheran Church - 119 Texas St		Hugh Lewis (676-5150)	6:00-??	
Outing	Mon-Sun	June 23-29	Hwy 24, 100 Mile House BC		Frank Koterba	Food TBD	
Club Meeting/Dinner	Thursday		MEMBERSHIP DINNER/MEETING	RSVP Required!	Matt Roelofs	6:00-??	
July							

Crooked Island Fishing/Living Report

It happens very infrequently, that first time. You have heard all the tales about what it is like. You have seen the pictures and the videos. You crossed a continent and more to get here. When you got here you found a community that was part Bahamian and part B'hamster. They felt the same anxiety as you did for your first trip. You hope your preparations were sufficient. In the end you just have to trust!

After a run out to Fish Cay its ShowTime! Michael our guide, pointed and said cast right there! Cast, strip, strip, and I connected with my first silver missile! A short time later I brought my first bonefish to hand. This is something I could do again! And with the help of the guides, and others in our group I did. As a matter of fact I think, I hooked a fish on the first or second cast every day we stalked the bones.





The results were a bit different on another occasion when Ken Kloehn, Klaus Lohse and I were looking for trigger fish along the beach by Gun Bluff. It was my first fly fishing attempt and the wind was blowing a little harder than usual. Klaus spotted a fish and called me up to take a shot. I attempted to cast from downwind and let's just say that if we need an all thumbs part of the next casting class I have that covered!

The first time to Crooked Island is an education. There are so many ways to connect with the people who live there and they really want to enjoy your company! Their lifestyle includes driving on the left side or middle of the road, they are quite cordial, and you always wave. And remember to hit the horn to announce your arrival at a house.

We arrived early on Saturday, (and I do mean early, the flight from Nassau came in about an hour before it was scheduled, because they leave when the plane is full!) Scott Christensen gave us a ride to our beach cabin and we settled in. Getting provisions for the week was much like being back in Alaska. It turns out the mail boat brings in supplies 3 weeks in the month and the 3rd trip was earlier in the week, so it was get what you could or go without. The store is run by the Michael (the guide) and his wife Beulah. That happens a lot; the gift shop is run by the postmaster and is open after 6:00 pm and so on. We ended up eating at the cabin only the first night. The balance of the week we ate with the guys at Gun Bluff (Sid, Klaus, and Ken), Michael invited us over to have some of Beulah's great baked snapper, Scott and Wanda hosted a Gumbo feed and we had dinner at Gibson's.

We did do our part though. After a day of getting acclimated we had Michael take us (Pam, Sid & myself) out to do some provisioning at the local fish market -- the Bight of Acklins! After making the run down from the beach by the cabin (the guides pick you up at your door) we spent a while





acquiring pilchards for bate. Pam really enjoyed this as she got to add "flats skiff" to the list of boats she has driven. As we finished up we were treated to a flyby of one of the flocks of local flamingoes at Long Cay! Then we got down to the business of filling our cooler with fish. I hooked a nice yellowtail snapper first, then watched as Pam and Sid continued to drag in big mutton snappers. I did do my part! I tagged all the little guys we released to keep them out of the way of the pros! At the end of the day we brought in 18 nice fish that were soon all over the community. Scott got some, a couple of big ones went over to Gibson's, some went up to Gun Bluff. I kept some to make ceviche and Michael got a bunch. We ate some of that for dinner later the next day that Beulah prepared. They got to try the ceviche as well.

Over the course of a week I was able to go out with the guides 3 times. Once we went for the larder, and the rest for the sport. Michael took us out for the former and then my first trip (Klaus, Ken and me). The same trio went out with Clinton the other time. These guys are great! Clinton took it personally when the fish didn't behave normally due to a strong south wind that kept the water in the flats. That day we didn't get a low tide and the fish moved out and were not in the shallows. That's when I learned what a "mud" is. As the fish feed they stir up the bottom and you can see an area of bright color on the surface. He



found a couple and got us onto some fish. As he poled the boat we took turns casting from the bow to a school and we cycled through about a dozen fish before they departed.

The last trip was with Scott and Dave Johnson who had spent some time down there with his wife Joann. We went and fished 2 areas from the road system that are a bit of a hike. It was another day where the wind played havoc with the tides and the water just didn't leave. We covered about 3 miles of wading, part of it through some really soft bottom during the first leg. All I can say is thank you Scott for the skills you have shown me. I did hook 2 fish from the one school we saw and brought one to hand. I realized after talking with Scott that almost all the fish I had lost during that week were my fault. He also is responsible for tuning me in to what it takes to get a fly rod to perform. There were several instances with Clinton where I would not have gotten to the fish without the skills I learned in our casting classes Scott taught. (Yes that is a shameless plug for the same!)



Summation:

This was my first time to the Bahamas and the waters are gorgeous. Island life is on a different clock and the logistics can be an issue. We met some great people on Crooked Island and I look forward to going back.

I barely got to sample the fishing opportunities available. Each one was a challenge and it was satisfying to have some



success. The guides all worked very hard to get us on fish. And having done it once, I can't wait to do it again. It also requires your "A" game to get the fly where you want and it takes time to reach the point where you can see the fish. Being in good physical shape is also a plus.

Crooked Island is a special place and I look forward to going back - only it has to be longer than just a week!

Frank Koterba



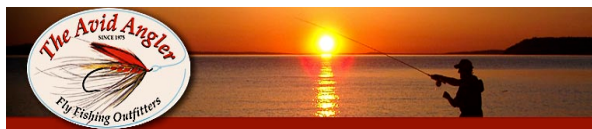
“Fishing is a very flexible sport. You can make of it almost anything you will, from a considerable athletic effort to a quiet mood of observation and introspection. You can even combine these extremes and at the same tie enjoy many of the gradations between them, such as delight in the streams and lakes and salt water, joy in recognition of birds and other wildlife or wonder at the beauty of the fish themselves and the intricate mysteries of their ways.

Roderick Haig-Brown, “The Man Behind the Rod” [1961]

A Few Of Our Club Supporters



<http://www.theconfluenceflyshop.com>





4CFF CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Conservation Projects

Conservation is the cornerstone of our club. Projects are continually being added to our calendar. The only thing that is needed is the willingness to give something back to the resource will all love. Call Dan Coombs at (360) 398-1637 and sign up to be put on the list of volunteers.

Fly Tying Sessions

Fly tying sessions are constantly being held. Whether you're an expert or just beginning, please join us. Check our website <http://www.4thcornerfly.com> for dates, times, and locations. R.S.V.P.'s are required.

Education Classes

We need Volunteers to help teach fly tying and fly casting at various places throughout the year. Even if you have tied for a little while, your presence is needed. Please contact Bill Hall (305-0161), Joe Kelly (384-0623), Klaus Lohse (671-8453) if you wish to participate.

OUTINGS

Our club has a constant list of fantastic outings every month. We also have smaller outings for those who can only make it on the weekends. For a list of outings, their dates, and locations, please check out our website <http://www.4thcornerfly.com>. Frank Koterba is our present Outings Chairman and can be reached at (360) 647-9715.

If you are new to fly fishing, our club has fly rods, reels, and fly tying equipment available for use. Also, if you attend ANY outings, it's wise to bring your own lawn chair. (it's better than a rock or a tailgate.)

For more information, please contact the hosts.

March's
Meeting
THURSDAY,
March 25, 2014

BELLINGHAM
COUNTRY CLUB
3729 Meridian St
Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 733-3450

RSVP to Matt for reservations:
<http://4cff.eventbrite.com>
msr@deepsnow.com
360-319-1350

Be sure to check off your name on the list when you arrive for dinner.

March's Board
Meeting

April 2, 2014
Trinity Lutheran Church
119 Texas Street
Bellingham, WA
6:00 P.M.

4CFF Board Members

President

Hugh Lewis (360) 676-5150

hugh@hughlewislaw.com

External Vice President-Programs

Frank Koterba (360) 647-9715 fwkphotography@comcast.net

Internal Vice President-Programs

Matt Roelofs (360 714 8407) msr@deepsnow.com

Secretary

Craig Lang (360) 201-1917 craig.lang@ch2m.com

Treasurer

Larry Irwin (360) 752-1506 larryandbarb@comcast.net

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Newsletter

Sid Strong (360) 220-0099
swstrong@comcast.net
Steve Runge
srunge@logos.com

Membership Chairmen: Brian Faloon and Nathan Weston

Raffle Chairmen: Errol McWhirk

Directors: Sid Strong, Rick Todd, Jim Darden and Ed Dahl

Volunteers are ALWAYS needed in our club. Conservation projects, educational classes, and all chairman positions are always open for new and old members.

It is the responsibility of ALL members for ALL of the outings to obey ALL local, state, and national regulations.

We represent an outstanding conservation and fishing club. Let's set a great example to ALL.

*All entomology sketches are drawn by Jack Salstrom, Member of the FCFE.
All Fly illustrations are drawn by Ed Ruckey taken from, "Diary of Northwest Trout Flies" by local author and FCFE Member Dan Homel.*



4th CORNER FLY FISHERS



Aims and Purposes

The Members of the Fourth Corner Fly Fishers (located in Bellingham, WA) are united by our enjoyment of the sport of fly fishing and by our desire to preserve and enhance fishing opportunities for all. To these ends, we will strive to promote conservation of angling brotherhood and to broaden the understanding of fellow anglers.

The purposes for which the Club was formed are:

- To operate a social club for the pleasure, association and recreation of its members engaged in fly fishing activities.
- To work to protect wild fish and the habitat which sustains them.
- To work for the betterment and preservation of angling waters and surrounding land.
- To improve the "State of the Art" of flying fishing and to keep members informed of developments of interest.
- To develop and carry out programs of education designed to encourage individuals of all ages to become fly fishers and to promote ethical use of the resource.



P.O. Box 1543
Bellingham, WA 98227

<http://www.4thcornerfly.com>
