



4th Corner Fly Fishers

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

March President's Message:

It's amazing what mental changes we go through this time of year. With a startling swiftness, I find I have more energy and optimism. Not only does the sun start to make longer appearances, we start gaining daylight in noticeable quantities. Our planning for the angling opportunities shifts into a higher gear. There are a number of your fellow members that are putting together some help along the way.

As I write this we are on the eve of the first annual "Fishapalooza" that is the first outing of the year. Tom Langley, Dan Coombs, as well as a number of presenters are set to give you a chance to sharpen your skills and pick up a pile of tying materials. Tom has also scheduled a robust series of outings to give you opportunities to hit a variety of waters and species.

The programs at our membership meetings are another source for inspiration. Last month we heard about techniques for smallmouth bass and this month Rick Todd will be spreading the word on one of our favorite areas, The Methow Valley. I know Marion Hiller has another couple of aces in the upcoming schedule. There should be a real good one on fishing for Sea Run Cuts coming up.

And for those of us that have a personal vice or two, the fly tying session schedule is still underway. Thanks to Dan Coombs, Ken Kloehn and Marion and Steve Hiller for hosting the earlier ones. Check the following schedule for next ones up. These are great to expand your stocks of flies, learn some new techniques, or just spend some time with your fellow members.

And finally we will be convening regular meetings of a "Casting Club" to fine tune different aspects of your stroke. This will be fleshed out by the meeting on March 22nd. The second iteration of the Casting Games will be in July.

During the course of the year keep an eye on your emails as new events are announced throughout the year. And thanks to all of you who have spent your time making the club a better one.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued)

Fly Tying Schedule:

If you are interested in participating in one of our spring Fly tying sessions here is the current list along with the Eventbrite links.

I have heard mixed results on the Eventbrite so I am adding the hosts phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

March 17 – John Leighton: 1:00 – 4:30pm

360 724 6381 <mailto:leightonjohn49@yahoo.com>

Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fly-tying-casa-leighton-2018-tickets-43036907549>

March 28 – Klaus Lohse: 1:00-4:00pm

360 671 8453 <mailto:kpstnlohse@gmail.com>

Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fly-tying-casa-lohse-tickets-44053435010>

April 14 - Frank Koterba: 1:00-4:30

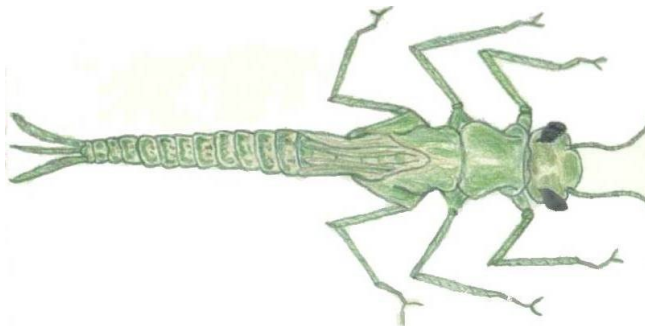
360 927 0544 <mailto:fwkiii17@gmail.com>

Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fly-tying-casa-koterba-tickets-44054503205>

I look forward to creating more stories with you on the water this year.

Frank Koterba

President, 4th Corner Fly Fishers

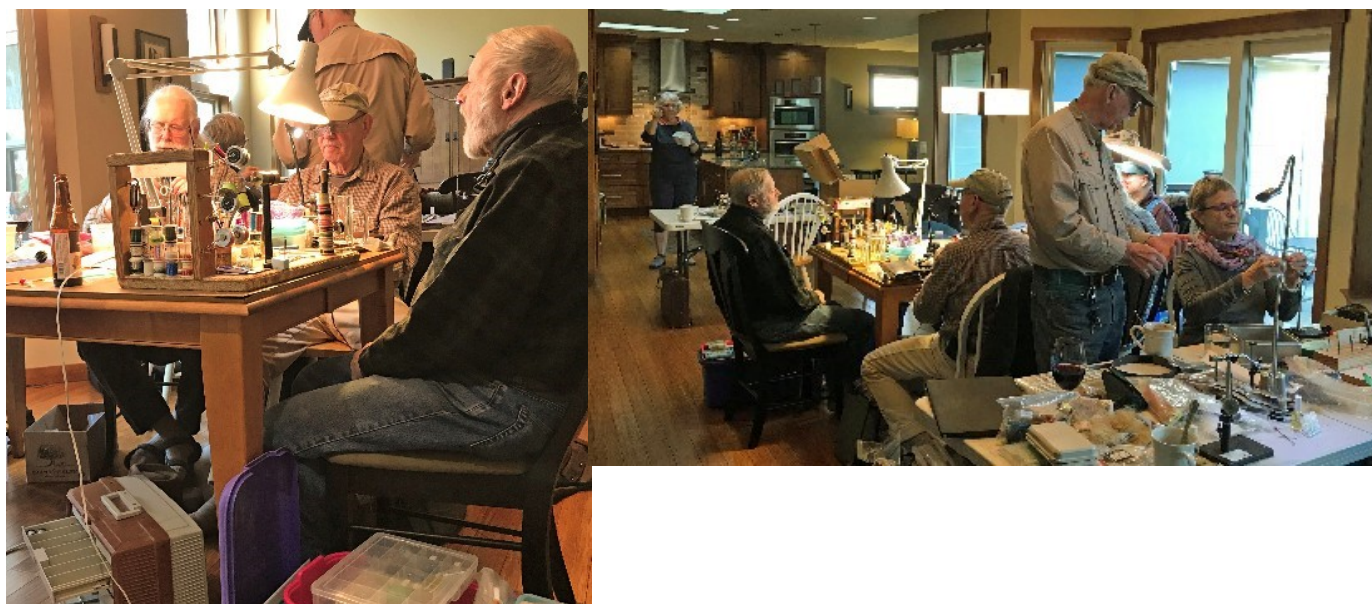


Tying Sessions

Dan Coombs event:



Hiller House event:



Monthly Meeting

General Membership Meeting: Thursday, March 22

This month's general membership meeting takes place at the Bellingham Golf and Country Club on Thursday, March 22, 2018. The evening begins at 6:00 P.M with The Wet Fly, a social time/open bar. Dinner follows at 6:45. The evening's program begins at 7:30 P.M. with fish stories, introduction of guests, announcements and the evening's program. After the program, members are invited to stay for a business meeting of various committee reports and such. It concludes with a raffle for ticket holders who are in attendance.

The March program will be presented by Rick Todd. Most of you know him as a long time (i.e. old!) member of FCFF! He and his wife Patty have a cabin on Big Twin Lake and they have fished the waters around Winthrop for many years. This program will review many of the lakes, rivers and streams around the Methow (Met-how) River and a little beyond. This area is one of exceptional scenic beauty and once the North Cascades Highway opens in the spring, is a short 3 hour drive from Whatcom County. The lakes of the area have an ideal alkalinity to support a robust insect life, and the trout are well fed and strong. There is also excellent fishing in the Methow River and its tributaries, the Twisp and Chewuch. In years of good steelhead runs, the Methow is also a very good place to fish for them in the fall. Additionally there are many creeks in the area that support abundant populations of cutthroat and occasional brook trout. This program will point you in the right direction to enjoy the opportunities of targeting trout in this area.

Bob Cooper manages the Eventbrite invitations and RSVPs. He asks you to make your reservation with an RSVP on Eventbrite by Wednesday, March 21, 8:00 A.M. at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fcff-dinner-meeting-march-22-2018-tickets-43895069334>, by email at bxxcoper2010@gmail.com or by phone at 360-961-4398. Getting your RSVP in on time helps provide an accurate count for the kitchen and is highly appreciated. Please indicate if you desire dinner or just attending the meeting. Remember a dinner reservation made is a binding commitment to pay.

Marion Hiller, 4CFF Internal VP, Program Chair

Bob Cooper, 4CFF, Programs, Eventbrite Manager

April Program:

Please note the date change for April. **Wednesday, April 25.** Jim Coxs from Western Rivers Conservancy who will speak about their current projects and efforts river to protect those western streams in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and California.

Conservation Report

Greetings to all 4CFF'ers from your Conservation Dept,

Many of you already have read in the Bellingham Herald that our state legislature just voted to phase out all Atlantic Salmon net pen operations in marine habitats in Washington state. The last net pen operations are due to expire in 2022 so this phase out should be an important step towards keeping Puget Sound a more healthy environment and will eliminate potential competition and pollution created by these fish farms. Our legislators in Whatcom county (Doug Erickson, Vincent Buys and Luanne Van Verveen) all voted no on the phase out as the health of our offshore resources again play second fiddle to their personal interests. Let's keep that in mind next time elections are held.

Our first minor work party will be held at Squalicum Lake on Friday April 14 from 10:00 AM till 12. More details at the March meeting.

We received very nice Thank You notes from Whatcom Land Trust, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group , Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association and the Wild Fish Conservancy for our timely and important financial support for each of these organizations. Our club is making concrete improvements for salmon habitat via these earmarked donations. We can all take pride in how we help each group work towards it's goals.

Thanks to all, Dan Coombs and John Leighton.



Conservation News **Whatcom Land Trust Provides Update** By Mike Reed

At our January, 2018 General Meeting, Gabe Epperson, Conservation Director and Jennifer Mackey, Stewardship Director for Whatcom Land Trust updated our Club on Whatcom Land Trust's progress.

Thank you members for supporting the Club's generous \$500.00 donation in 2017 and same in 2018.

For members unable to attend the presentation, here is a summary of their presentation. As you read the summary, you can see the good work being accomplished in our own backyard! We can be proud that 4CFF's donation is being used wisely.

Conservation Report (continued)

If considering setting up conservation goals for your own real property, Gabe and other staff can act as a skilled resource that may help. For example, possibly a Conservation Easement should be considered. A conservation easement is a recorded, legal agreement between landowners and a land trust that places restrictions on the use of the land to protect its conservation values. WLT can answer questions and help you strategize to achieve your goals.

Another way of supporting WLT's conservation impact is to pitch in, helping out at Field Fridays and Work Parties.

Presented by Gabe Epperson, Conservation Director: "2017 Summary of Accomplishments in Land Conservation:

California Creek Estuary acquisition: we purchased a 12-acre property at the mouth of California Creek where it enters Drayton Harbor. This project was a joint effort with the Blaine-Birch Bay Park District and will be the future site of their first park that will allow water access to Drayton Harbor for beach-combing and shellfish harvesting as well as non-motor boat access via a kayak-launch. This is important shorebird habitat and juvenile salmon rearing habitat.

Lower Middle Fork acquisition: we purchased 10 acres of forested floodplain in the lower Middle Fork Nooksack River where Canyon Lake Creek enters the floodplain. This acquisition involved 6 different parcels with old cabins and mobile homes that had been built in the floodway and were degrading salmon spawning habitat. Once acquired, we had the structures demolished and removed and are now working to restore this important piece of spawning and rearing habitat. We've already seen Salmon of all life stages on the property, which has several braids of Canyon Lake Creek traveling freely through it.

2018 Goals:

2018 and 2019 look to be one of the biggest acquisition/conservation periods in WLT history. We're poised to acquire a 2,300-acre conservation and recreation easement on Galbraith Mountain. We have a purchase agreement with Weyerhaeuser to acquire 1,200 acres of salmon habitat along the Skookum Creek corridor in the Upper South Fork watershed and several other large projects that may be announced in the coming months. Stay tuned for an exciting year!"

Conservation Report (continued)

**Presented by Jennifer Mackey, Stewardship Director:
Stewardship Field Work**

Stewardship is accomplished with volunteers supporting "Work Parties" and "Field Fridays".

"While the management of each property is unique, California Creek Estuary is especially so as we will transfer ownership to the park district in the next few years. Phase 1 of restoration will involve the demolition of the two old outbuildings. Once these are removed, planting restoration efforts can take place to improve the habitat for various fish and wildlife species. The final phase of the project will involve site improvements for public access and opening the area as a public park. When Blaine-Birch Bay Parks and Recreation District takes ownership of the property to manage, Whatcom Land Trust will be the holder of the Conservation Easement to ensure habitat protection and public access in perpetuity.

The new Lower Middle Fork parcels will require a little more long-term love. We will continue to own and manage these added parcels for habitat protection in perpetuity. The complex contains the lower portion of Canyon Creek (from Canyon Lake) and side channels of the Middle Fork of the Nooksack River, which have been used by Chinook, Coho, and Steelhead. That said, there are still restoration efforts that will need to take place over the next several years to improve habitat and sustain species that utilize the site. There's plenty of English ivy that will need to be removed in order to protect the coniferous trees that are currently occupying the upland portions of the property. The lower elevation portions, which are within the Historical Channel Migration Zone, are dominated by large cottonwoods and red alders. This stand structure particularly signifies where the Middle Fork Nooksack had previously flowed at one time, which is why there are currently few coniferous trees. Once the invasive plant species that pose an immediate threat are removed, various native plant species, including conifers, will be installed to improve habitat for fish and wildlife."

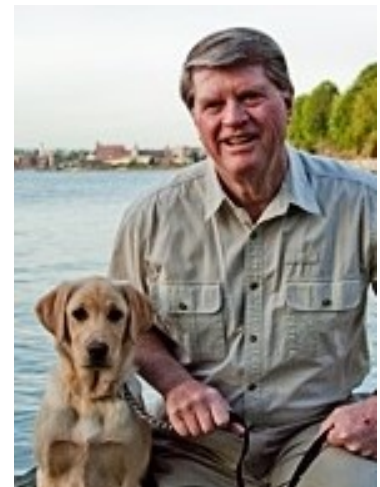
**Conservation Volunteer Opportunities... Your help is needed...
Guest Status Members, your chance to participate with Conservation!**

Volunteer for a few hours or more to help conserve these protected lands! Make friends with other conservationists like NSEA and Whatcom County supporters. Go to <http://www.whatcomlandtrust.org/stewardship/> for listing of events. Especially, don't forget **to mark your calendars for May 5th, 2018, when 4CFF returns to help improve the Ladies of the Lake Property located at South Lake Whatcom.**

Outings Report

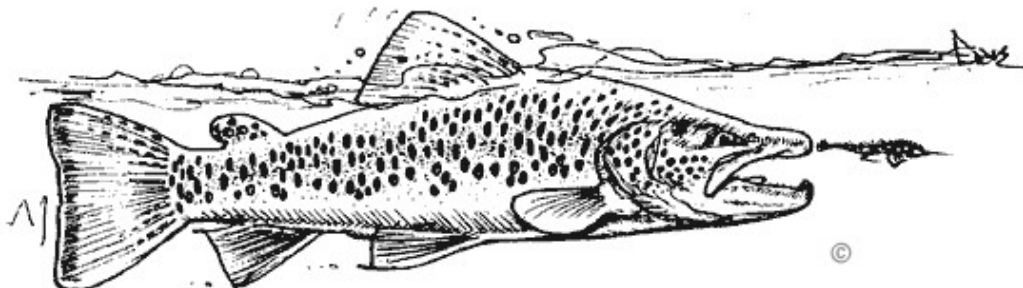
Our first annual Fishinar was held on Saturday March 10th. The event sold out quickly and everyone who registered showed up plus a couple club members who didn't register making our attendance 107 % of registered attendees. The four presentations were received with great enthusiasm based on several comments during the event. The total amount of knowledge that was delivered by Jack, Trevor, Scott and Bob was truly remarkable.

Also, I'm going to be sending out an email about our new tab on the club web page .."MEETUP NOW" Watch for it.



Tight Lines

Tom Langley



2017 Squalicum Lake Creel Census

Total fish killed and kept = 21 about the same as 2016

Total number of cards returned= 178 about the same as 2016

Best or most common fly used was the famous Wooley Bugger by far- black, brown or purple

Compiled by Terry McEwen...Thank you Terry!!

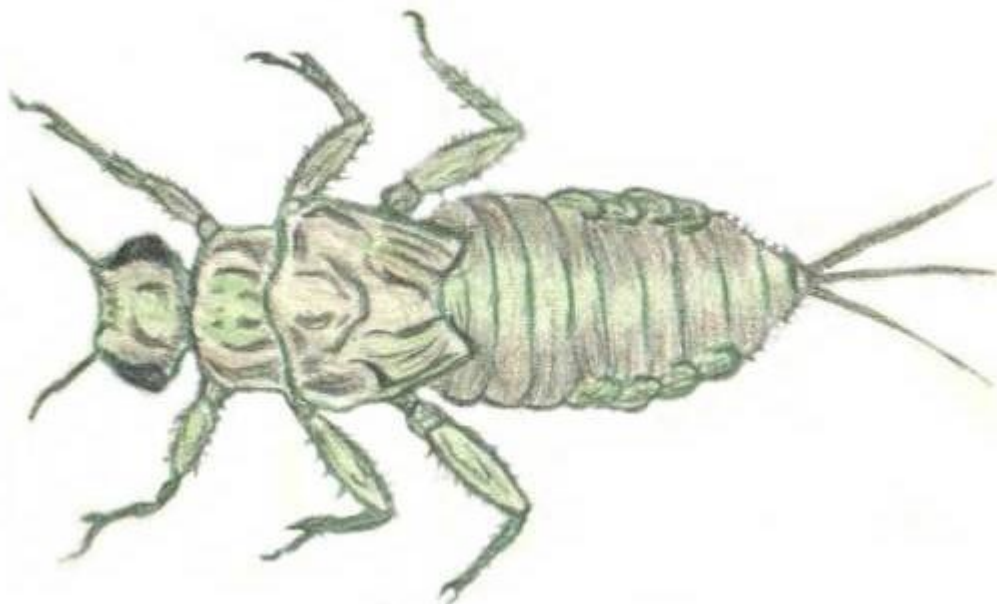
Month	# of Anglers	Hours fished	# Fish caught	Fish per hour	Rain-bows	Cut-troats	Trip-loids	Browns	Tigers
January	0								
February	22	30	18	0.6	9	7	2		
March	18	35	37	1.1	18	14	5		
April	48	82	71	0.9	39	26	6		
May	40	70	60	0.9	38	20	2		
June	28	40	84	2.1	62	19	2		
July	36	63	59	0.9	48	7		1	
August	15	24	16	1.1	14	2			
September	16	31	41	1.3	14	28			
October	26	52	96	1.9	47	41		1	4
November	8	7	17	0.1	11	6			
December	3	5	5	1.0	3	2			



A Few Of Our Club Supporters



<http://www.theconfluenceflyshop.com>



Other News Letters and Notes of Interest



[Osprey Fly Fishers](#)

Wild Fish Conservancy Northwest

[Wild Fish Conservancy](#)



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 we all love. Contact Dan Coombs to 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.

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 Klaus Lohse 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>.

Tom Langley is our present Outings Chairman.

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.

Monthly

March 22,
2018

Bellingham Golf and
Country Club
Wet Fly: 6:00 pm
Dinner: 6:45 pm
Program: 7:30 pm

RSVP to Bob for reservations:
<http://4cff.eventbrite.com>

Don't forget to bring
a fly for the FLY
PLATE!

Next Board Meeting

April 3, 2018

Trinity Lutheran Church
119 Texas Street
Bellingham, WA

6:00 P.M.

4CFF Board Members

President

Frank Koterba
(360) 647-9715

External Vice President-Outings

Tom Langley

Internal Vice President-Programs

Marion Hiller

Secretary
Paula Faulkner

Treasurer
Steve Hiller

Conservation

Dan Coombs

Education

Klaus Lohse

Library

Tom Langley

Website

Phil Terzian

Newsletter

Jamie Harrington

Membership Chairmen: Bill Faulkner

Raffle Chairmen: Scott Willison

Directors: Angus MacArthur, Cassie Spitzer, Bruce Aigner, and Wayne McLemore

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 FCFF. All Fly illustrations are drawn by Ed Ruckey taken from, "Diary of Northwest Trout Flies" by local author and FCFF Member Dan Homel



4CFF Board Members



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>

"On all the streams and little rivers and in many of the lakes there are spawning salmon in October; and the big rivers carry their own tremendous runs, becoming tributary to their own tributary streams."

Roderick Haig-Brown
