

4th Corner Fly Fishers



4CFF MEETINGS CALENDAR



General Monthly Meeting (Christmas in January)

March 23, at Bellingham Golf and Country Club
Wet fly: 6:30 pm
Dinner: 7:15 pm
Auction begins: 8.00 pm

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

Virtual Board Meeting

April 4, 2023

Own home or Trinity Lutheran Church (maybe)
119 Texas Street
Bellingham, WA
6:00 P.M.

4CFF Board Members, Chairs and Directors

- President:..... Steve Kopp
- External Vice President - Outings:..... Kevin McClurg
- Internal Vice President - Programs:..... Dean Bates
- Secretary:..... Paula Faulkner
- Treasurer:..... Frank Koterba
- Conservation Chair:..... Mike Riber
- Education Chair:..... Klaus Lohse
- Library:..... Wayne Mclemore
- Website:..... Marion Hiller
- Newsletter:..... Jamie Harrington
- Raffle Chair:..... Susan Swetman
- Membership Chairs:.....Cassandra Spitzer
- Directors:.....Angus MacArthur, Mark Munn, Susan Swetman, Kevin Formway
- Events:.....Bob Cooper

President's Message

President's Corner

Welcome to March and the first club fishing outing of the year. We'll be at Pass Lake on the 31st. In addition to fishing, Frank Koterba is making his famous chili lunch, and there's a fish census going on during this time you can contribute to. Hopefully these bits of warm sunshine from the last few days will also make an appearance. In addition to Pass Lake, Kevin McClurg has put together a great calendar of outings for the year, and I hope to see you at many of them.

The 2023 salmon forecasts were published last week, and the November floods of 2021 didn't have quite as bad an impact as feared. The Pink forecast for the Nooksack is similar to the previous couple seasons (down from the 10 year average), the Skagit forecast is down with a little more than half its recent average (but still over a half million fish). The bright spots are the Stilliguamish, forecast to have about 4 times its normal Pink return, and the Green blowing it out with over 800,000 Pinks forecast! The Puget Sound Chinook forecast is up compared to the last few years but still lower than the 10 yr average, with the Nooksack and Stilliguamish ranked as Good and Skagit as Neutral. The local Coho forecast is mixed with the Nooksack ranked as Good and Skagit as Poor. The Chum forecast is down compared to recent years and the 10 year average, with both the Nooksack and Skagit ranked as poor. If you like to fish the Fraser basin, the Sockeye forecast in 1.6 million and Pink forecast in 6.1 million. More information on the salmon forecasts can be found at https://pnwbestlife.com/puget-sound-salmon-forecasts-2023/#Puget_Sound_Chum_Forecasts_2023

Getting back into our old pre-COVID activities, we're also returning to more educational activities. So whether you were looking to help out teaching or learning, we have opportunities on the horizon. Klaus Lohse is coordinating activities with NSEA and local schools and will be looking for volunteers to help this summer. For those looking to improve their casting, Marion Hiller and Frank Koterba are planning some regular casting improvement opportunities for members.

The presenter for this month's meeting will be our very own Jack Salstrom, talking about lake fishing techniques to get us ready for Pass Lake on the 31st. and the May 25-28 club outing to Tunkwa Lake, BC.

See you soon! Steve Kopp, President



Outings Report

4CFF Newsletter Outings Report March 2023

Greetings fellow fly fishers. I've been passing the time this winter tying some flies and listening to a couple of fly fishing podcasts, The Orvis Fly Fishing Podcast and Troutbitten. I highly recommend that you check these out if you haven't already come across them. These are two really great podcasts where I've learned some very useful fly fishing tips. But now I'm ready for winter to end and I'm looking forward to getting out for some fishing. Check out the outings that have been posted on the Club website. To get info on each outing go to the Outings section and for each outing listed there is a link to click on that takes you to the Event Brite page where you can read the description of the event and you can also register for the outing. Upcoming outings and some additional potential events are listed below. Hope to see you on the water.

2023 Fishing Outings:

March 31st, Pass Lake. This has been a longstanding annual outing for the club.

April 20 – 23rd, Dry Falls.

May 25 - 28th, Tunkwa and Leighton Lakes, BC.

June 23rd, Fazon Lake.

July 27 – 30th, Methow Classic.

August, small streams clinic and outing, date TBD.

August /Sept, fishing for Humpies on the Skagit. Date TBD.

September upper Skagit River (if road from Hope is open) vs Yakima River.

Also, some other potential outings that have been proposed include; Searun Cutthroat Trout fishing off Whidbey Island vs south Puget Sound, Kettle River WA and Chopaka Lake fall fishing. These outings would require that a member step forward to be the outing host as I will not have vacation time to host any additional outings this year.

Cheers,

Kevin McClurg



Education Report

Casting

Hi folks,

Here's a great casting tidbit from Frank Koterba to help you and folks you might be trying to teach how to cast: <https://www.sexyloops.com/flycast/the-triangle-method/> Something to keep in mind when you start your morning routine of practicing fly placement and muscle memory (most of us can use that!).

Frank brought this clip to the attention of the Education group to use at Blaine Middle School tying and casting sessions with Ken Johnson's class.

We have been invited to teach casting and fly tying at the following events:

Blaine MS for after school classes with Ken Johnson.

Here are the class dates:

March 8, 15, 22, 29

April 19, 26

The Silver Lake day will be May 13th.

Classes are from 3 to 5, on those dates.

We meet in town about 2:15 in the Sunset parking lot to carpool.

Anyone interested and willing to help, call Klaus (360) 739-1739

Lynden Christian Middle School

We have begun our planning for the 2023 6th Grade Outdoor Ed. Program.

Thursday, May 4, 2023 (9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

4 sessions of approximately 8 students

Mt. Baker Bibleway Camp

8444 Mt Baker Hwy. Deming, WA 98244

We would meet at the Sunset Parking lot at 8:00 to go up.

Anyone interested and willing to help, call Klaus (360) 739-1739

Conservation Report

Greeting from Your Conservation Committee,

First, I would like to thank John Leighton for leading our Conservation Committee the past few years and for helping me orient in becoming the new committee chairperson. Thank you John. John has agreed to remain our main contact with the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group and I'm sure/hope he will remain active in conservation projects.

My initial focus will be to add a Whatcom County project into our mix. Ideally I'm seeking a smaller project for which our club can take ownership. I've already reached out to NSEA to help identify projects. If you are interested in working on such a project please email me at MichaelRiber@comcast.net or give me a call. There will be further opportunities to volunteer once I have more details, but I want to get a sense of how big of a crew me might have to call upon.

Squalicum Lake Update: I've compiled the creel census cards from Squalicum Lake for 2022 and also talked to WDFW. The number of anglers submitting cards was down considerably in 2022. The catch rate also dropped slightly to 0.81 fish/hour with the average fish ranging from 8-12 inches. There are a few reports of bigger fish. WDFW confided in me that they have not done what they consider to be a full plant in the lake the last two years because of access issues. They have assured me that this year there should be a full plant (1,500 rainbows, 11-13") in the May/June. I informed WDFW that if access issues remain our club would be willing to take that on as a project. Our club has three boats at the lake and the combination lock in the club PO Box number (1543). I find the lake a great opportunity for an easy/short evening outing. If you have questions about the lake let me know.

Thanks. Mike Riber, Fly Fishing Gadabout

"...perhaps the greatest satisfaction on the first day of the season is the knowledge in the evening that the whole of the rest of the season is to come."

Arthur Ransome

"The First Day At The River"

Rod and Line (1929)



Treasurer's Report

March Treasurer's Report:

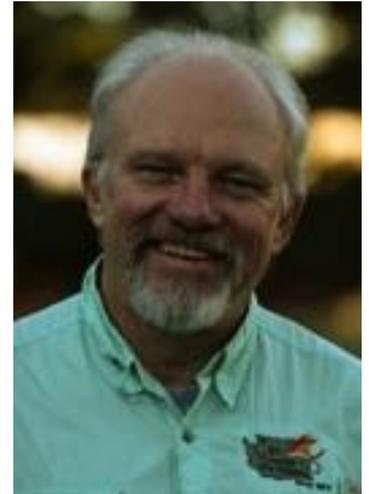
As you who have attended are well aware, we have moved into a new era with the dinners we buy at our monthly membership meetings. 4CFF now collects for them and we pay the Country Club. The total includes the base cost + service charge + sales tax. The total will be included in the Eventbrite invitation. It helps if you bring a check. The club is paying for a minimum of 18 dinners per meeting, so it is important to make and keep reservations vis Eventbrite. We are working on taking credit cards as payments. There will be an additional expense for this convenience.

Dues, Dues, Dues.

We are now past the regular dues period, if your dues are still unpaid, please add the \$10 late fee. (There are about a dozen of you). The updated roster will be added to the website as soon as the collections are finished.

For all of the above you can reach me at 4thcornerfly@gmail.com

Frank Koterba,
4CFF Treasurer



“If you don't know where the fish lie but can cast well enough to cover all the water with finesse, you are likely to solve the mystery and catch fish. If you know where they lie but can neither reach them or present the fly naturally, you are not even in the game.”

Joan Wulff

Club COVID Protocols

COVID Notification Guidelines:

We managed to go 3 years without a club event having a COVID transmission, and congratulate you all for that success. Following the February 23rd meeting three people tested positive, notified the board, and the club sent an email to all meeting attendees to inform them.

We didn't have a plan for how to handle this, but the board agreed we should. Our COVID notification guidelines will follow the pattern we used last month. We ask that if you test positive for COVID within 72 hours of a club event, that you notify the board immediately. The club will send an email to all attendees informing them someone tested positive who as at the event.

That email will include the email address of everyone at the event. This is to make it easy for anyone testing positive to reach out to others and let them know "*I was the person*" who tested positive. The club does not want to be in the position of sharing members' medical information so its up to you - if you choose to reach everyone who was there and say "*it was me*", or just those who you spent time in close proximity, or no one.

Fingers crossed this is all moot and may never happen again, but at least now we have a plan.

"Fly Fishing seems like an unlikely object of obsession/madness. You just put a fuzzy sharp thing on a piece of string at the end of a long thing to catch a slimy thing out of the wet stuff that you then do not keep. What's so compelling about that? It certainly would be explicable to be obsessed with food, sex, or something along those lines. There is a long history of pleasant feelings and experiences associated with those hobbies, not to mention the fact that they are necessary for human survival. Fly fishing, sadly, is not necessary for human survival."

Jack Ohman, "Angler Management"

Special Upcoming Events

4CFF Casting Skills Development Sessions

With a new fishing season approaching its time to get your gear in order. We (Marion Hiller our own Certified Instructor and I) suggest you add a casting tune up to the list! No matter what piscatorial pursuits you have planned this year, improving your casting will make all your other tools work that much better. Especially if you are venturing into a new fishery.

The current sessions are scheduled on:

Saturdays: March 25, April 1, 8, 15.

Sessions start at 10:00 am and run to noon.

The location is Cornwall Park, 3424 Meridian St, Bellingham, WA

Use the southern entrance off Meridian St.

We will be setup in the field near the pickleball courts.

As a primary format, we will be using the FFI Casting Skills Development course. More detailed on the format is available at: https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Portals/0/LearningCenter/FCSD/FFI_FCSD_Program_Angler_Guide.pdf

We will be starting with the **Bronze** level and once everyone has had a chance to complete it, we are available to work on specific casting interests you wish to address.

There is also a description of the gear you should bring. We will have some of the club rods available as well.

Another opportunity (see next page) to get some casting work with some of the great instructors in the state is the **Casting Fair the Washington State FFI is hosting on April 29th**.

Class list and signup: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/washingtonflyfishersinternational/838754>

If you have questions, please email me at 4thcornerfly@gmail.com

Frank Koterba

Special Upcoming Events

The Fly Casting and Fly Tying Fair offers learning opportunities.

For fly casting, **two all-day casting offerings** are held at "no charge" to participants. One is a **Walk-in Casting Clinic** with one-on-one casting help provided by certified instructors and/or instructor candidates.

The other is a **Casting Skills Development** program which provides the opportunity to evaluate casting skills when applied to realistic fishing situations targeting all anglers from new-beginners to advanced casters. Click **Casting Skills Development** for details about the program.

To highlight a few class offerings (requirements: registration, fee, and limited to a set number of students):

- ◆ A beginner's class to learn fundamental casts, getting the angler off to a great start.
- ◆ An advanced beginners-intermediate class for women to refine the fundamental skills of a PULD cast, a overhead cast, and accuracy casts and become a more efficient angler.
- ◆ An intermediate class offering a self-help methodology and understandings to self-correct casting errors when one sees the fly line misbehaving.
- ◆ An advanced caster class designed for anglers who want to really enhance their casting ability, which teaches techniques to see his/her and analyze his/her casting errors and learn how to fix them-note taking is highly encouraged.
- ◆ A two-handed Spey class for non-beginners who want to refine TH skills.

Classes and clinics include instructors from the greater Seattle area and Bellingham. Three members of our 4CFF are providing instruction throughout the day.

For Fly tying, tying opportunities in the main building are offered thought out the day, much like what you would see at a fly fishing show. It's an opportunity to watch fly tying demonstrations, to ask questions, and to gain insights to better your tying skills.

Note: Molly, Marion and Frank will be instruction at this event! Kudos Gang!!

Fly Fishers International and Mountlake Terrace Recreation



CASTING CLASSES
FLY TYING DEMOS AND TYING CLASSES
SPEY CASTING CLASSES
WALK-IN CASTING CLINIC
CASTING SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Saturday April 29, 2023 9 am to 4 pm
Ballinger Park, Mountlake Terrace WA



Special Upcoming Events

Fly Fishing Film Tour 2023

Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, March 22nd** and join the Confluence for the 2023 Fly Fishing Film Tour at the Lincoln Theatre in Mount Vernon. It promises to be an action packed and energizing evening, a perfect way to kick off your 2023 fishing season and boost your excitement levels to the max.

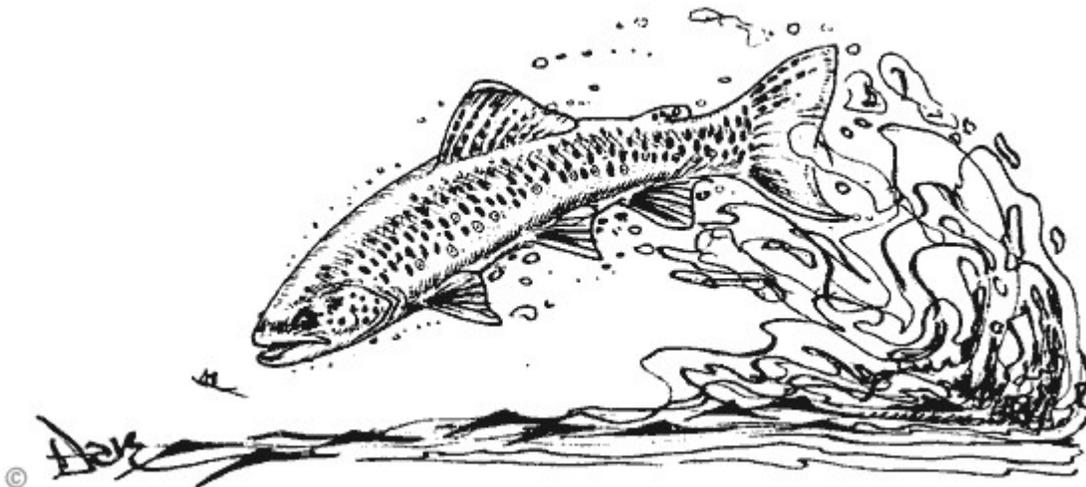
Doors open at 6pm

Show starts at 7pm

You can save a few bucks on tickets through the Confluence Fly Shop by scanning the QR code on our shop F3T poster to access a discounted ticket link. You can also purchase tickets directly from the [F3T](#) or get them at the Lincoln Theatre box office.

We hope to see you there!

Thanks to Scott Willison for this information from the Confluence Fly Shop news letter!





4CFF Activities



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.

Contact Mike Riber 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. 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

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>.

Kevin McClurg 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 outing hosts.

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