

4th Corner Fly Fishers



4CFF MEETINGS CALENDAR



General Monthly Meeting

Via ZOOM July 22, 2021

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>

Virtual Board Meeting

August 3, 2021

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:..... Marion Hiller
- Secretary:..... Bruce Aigner
- Treasurer:..... Frank Koterba
- Conservation Chair:..... John Leighton
- Education Chair:..... Klaus Lohse
- Library:..... Wayne Mclemore
- Website:..... Marion Hiller
- Newsletter:..... Jamie Harrington
- Raffle Chair:..... Scott Willison
- Membership Chairs:..... Cassandra Spitzer
- Directors:..... Angus MacArthur, Dean Bates, Kevin Formway
- Events:..... Bob Cooper

President's Message

President's Corner

Summer arrived with a vengeance and let us know. It was a good excuse to be on the water if you could find some reasonable flows. As its now definitely summer, its worth a reminder that as water temperatures approach 65 degrees, for trout its important to use heavier tippet to shorten the fight, keep 'em wet the whole time, and take a little longer to revive them. And when the water temperature hits 68 its time to stop trout fishing and switch over to bass or other species.

I escaped the heat back to the Midwest (ironic) for a family visit and had the best topwater bass action in probably 30 yrs. For a bit of nostalgia, I fished my father's old Shakespeare Wonder-glass fly rod and Pflueger Medalist reel combo I used as a kid (its older than me). Walking around the family farm pond seemed like unlimited 10-12" largemouth, and whatever bluegill were big enough to get hooked on a bass popper. I also spent an evening on my nephew's bass boat at his neighborhood lake with he and his nephew showing them how a bass popper could keep pace with any baitcasting and spinning gear. They were a bit surprised when I pulled 3 fish in 3 casts off the same rock. The fishing highlight of the week was us all being there to watch my dad catch his biggest bass ever. He caught it while bank fishing on his own pond which for him probably made it more special than anything he's caught in Canada or Alaska.

A bit of club business updates. It was asked at the last meeting when we can get back to meeting in person at the Country Club, which will be December. More on that in the following pages from Marion. After an overwhelmingly positive response to the Squaticum Lake boat email from Kevin Formway, the board voted to replace one of the boats and consider a second boat after we see how much this one gets used. More news on that coming soon.

Steve Kopp, President 4CFF



Monthly Zoom Meeting

July Zoom Presentation 7:00 PM

Grace Freeman is a master's candidate in the Marine and Estuarine Biology Program at Western Washington University. While working on a bachelor's in biology and environmental studies from St. Olaf College in Minnesota, she spent summers working as a camp counselor and backcountry guide across the western mountain states and in Maine. After graduation, Grace held a variety of field and research tech positions before returning to a role in environmental education and academia. Today, she continues to mentor students as the lab manager for the Marine Mammal Ecology Lab at WWU. Within the work of the lab, Grace's research focuses on the foraging ecology of harbor seals and their predation on Pacific salmon in Whatcom Creek in Bellingham. She hopes to develop this work into actionable science that can have a positive effect on the co-management of two highly iconic and protected species.



Program details: The relatively recent decline in salmon stocks in the Salish Sea have pushed some to search for reasons and call for conservation of the iconic and economically valuable species. One form of this management occurs in the form of culling campaigns. Modern culling campaigns have operated under the assumption that all predators of a given species are equally likely to impact their prey population. Put another way, managers assume that those individuals who visit a site more often will consume a larger proportion of prey items than those who visit less frequently. I examined the hypothesis that visitation rate can explain foraging success and, as such, is an appropriate indicator of the impact of an individual predator. To address this hypothesis, I used a long-term dataset to estimate salmon occurrence, identify individual harbor seals, and describe harbor seal occurrence and foraging success.

- ♦ harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*)
- ♦ Pacific salmon (*Oncorhynchus* spp.)

Grace's Blog: <https://www.wvu.edu/faculty/aceveda/Blogs%20HTML%20files/October%202019.html>

Marion Hiller, 4CFF Internal VP, Program Chair
Bob Cooper, 4CFF, Programs, Eventbrite Manager

Monthly Un-Zoom Meeting

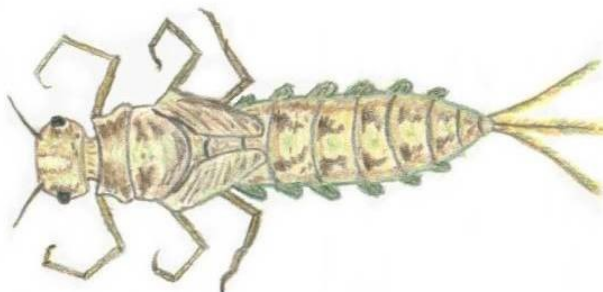
Meeting Again In Person? When Will It Happen? Save the date:
December 17, 2021.

Yes, it's going to happen. Traditionally, December's meeting has been a members and guest Christmas Party, but due to the Covid pandemic last year's party was cancelled. Fortunately, the Bellingham Golf and Country Club will be welcoming our club back to in-person events in time to participate in our holiday tradition. So, save the date: December 17.

The board will begin planning traditional in-person meetings for January 2021. Just to remind you the evening's events begin with a Wet-Fly social hour, followed then by a dining-in buffet dinner, a speaker presentation, a club business meeting, and a raffle. We will look forward to shaking hands, telling fishing stories face-to-face, and catching up with friends we have not seen for way too long.

Marion Hiller, 4CFF Internal VP, Program Chair
Bob Cooper, 4CFF, Programs, Eventbrite Manager

"...before 70 we are merely respected at best and we have to behave all the time. But after 70, we are respected, esteemed, admitted, revered, and don't have to behave unless we want to." ...
Mark Twain



Outings Report

4CFF Newsletter Outings Report July 2021.

Greetings fellow fly fishers,

I am currently camped beside the Methow river for our July outing. So, far fish are biting. Tomorrow we are doing a float trip down the river.

Other upcoming outings will include a trip to Whidbey Island to fish for Pink Salmon on Friday August 20th. See details on the club website. We're also working on a small streams outing that will likely happen in August. At the end of September we will try to do a lake fishing trip that might be in BC if the border opens, otherwise maybe a trip to Chopaka Lake. More details to come.

Last month we had a small group for our Fazon Lake outing. A few of us stayed and fished until after dark. It was a beautiful evening, although the fishing was slow.

Upcoming outings: (Go to the club website for details)

August: Besides beach fishing for Humpies on the 20th, maybe a small stream outing.
September...???

Cheers,

Kevin McClurg



“There is no substitute for fishing sense, and if a man doesn't have it, he may cast like an angel and still use his creel largely to transport sandwiches and beer.”

Robert Traver

Trout Madness (1960)

Conservation Report

Cedar Grove Park Project of the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group

Located 1.8 miles upriver of Dalles bridge in Concrete Washington exists Cedar Grove; a quiet wetland located in the Skagit floodplain in a channel long abandoned by the main-stem river. It may surprise some readers to learn that Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group is currently working with Skagit County Public Works, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to complete a restoration project designed to benefit Skagit Chinook and (by extension) resident orcas.

In the winter and spring The Cedar Grove swells with river water as the Skagit River expands due to rain snow melt. It's a protected place where newly hatched salmon and trout who don't stand a chance against the harsh river current can take refuge and wait out the storm before continuing their journey to the ocean. Some of these tiny juveniles, such as trout, coho and some Chinook, will seek out habitats like this one and will remain there for an entire year before they head out to the ocean, but only if the conditions stays habitable year round. These nursery habitats are not abundant enough in the Skagit, a lack of freshwater rearing habitat is one of the primary limiting factors for juvenile Chinook in the Skagit. Recent research suggest that when juvenile salmon cannot find a suitable place to rear they tend to head out to the ocean early-and perish.

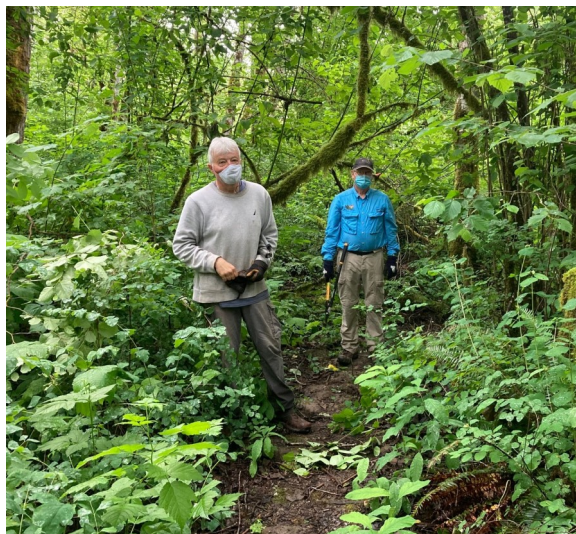
How does a construction project in Concrete WA help Orcas? Cedar Grove is an excellent place for a baby salmon to rear, however it is currently limited by a severely undersized culvert that blocks 3.5 acres of pond and wetland habitat fed year round by cool groundwater springs. This is why Skagit County Public works plans on replacing the perpetually-beaver-clogged 2ft in diameter pipe with an appropriately sized 120 ft long pedestrian bridge. SFEG crews have been collecting pre-project data since 2018 and have observed hundreds of salmon including juvenile coho, Chinook, and cutthroat trout as well as numerous native non-salmonid fish species. Many times, SFEG staff have observed these salmon congregating at the culvert outlet, unable to access the resources and space upstream. Ultimately, we expect this project to benefit hundreds of juvenile salmonids per year by opening up a large area with abundant food and safe hiding places for them to rear in and prepare for harsh open ocean life.

If you would like to see this site for yourself you are in luck!

This project is located on a publicly owned WDFW property in Concrete WA and **(thanks to the hard work donated by the 4th Corner Fly Fishers)** visitors to Cedar Grove can currently enjoy a newly built foot trail that winds through the forest and access the shore of the Skagit River. In the near future this trail will be made into a loop enhanced by several benches and an interpretive sign. We expect to complete this project by summer 2022 when SFEG will assist the County with construction of the 120ft pedestrian bridge.

Conservation Report

Cedar Grove Park work party of June 14, 2021



Jim Wilkinson, John Leighton, Jamie Harrington and Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group intern (squatting) at Cedar Grove Park.



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 John Leighton 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

Please try to contribute to folks that helped us in their time of need. Buy Gift Cards or Buy on Line!!!

[Osprey Fly Fishers](#)

[Wild Fish Conservancy](#)

A Few Of Our Club/Auction Supporters



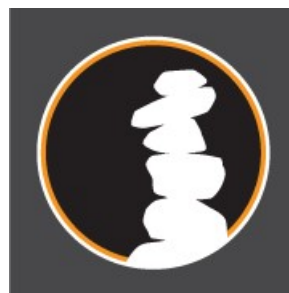
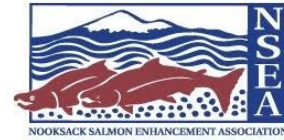
<http://www.theconfluenceflyshop.com>



Dynasty Cellars



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ASLAN



We thank you all for your support!!!

Graciously,

Fourth Corner Fly Fishers

