



4th Corner Fly Fishers



Jim Darden Memorial Edition



General Monthly Meeting

Via ZOOM August 26, 2021 (wish we were at...)

Bellingham Golf and Country Club
Wet Fly: 6:00 pm

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

Virtual Board Meeting

September 7, 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

Jim Darden in Memorium

Jim Darden (1943-August 1, 2021)

Part of our heritage is no longer with us. As I was starting to write this, it occurred to me that I should check on Jim's history with our club. While he did not renew in 2018, it turns out that it goes back almost to the beginning. He was our 2nd President, and a member for 43 years and Jim also served terms on the club board. There are very few who have been in the club longer. He was one of those who helped us to get to where we are.

His CV included references in the first Les Johnson tome on fly fishing in the salt for salmon. He knew his tools! 1 hand, 2-hand, matching line to rod, leaders, and oh, and by the way the man could **CAST !!!!!** On one of our outings on the lower Methow, we all watched him roll cast to the opposite bank to rising fish. And yea, he hooked one. There is also a tale about a casting contest in Idaho that Jim couldn't pass up. He walked away with top honors. He didn't keep his skills a secret, he was always willing to get involved in our programs teaching casting in the schools. And Jim was ready with advice regarding how to set up your rod. He was also a good source of information regarding where to find a big bonefish in Hawaii.

Jim was also very good to have around a campfire and with an adult beverage and a story to share. Many of us were able to share time with him and Becky. He will be missed.

Frank Koterba, Treasurer

James (Jim) Donald Darden February 3, 1943 - August 1, 2021



Bellingham, Washington - James (Jim) Donald Darden, 78, of Bellingham, WA, passed away on August 1, 2021 at his home, surrounded by family.

He was born in Cheyenne, Wyoming on February 3, 1943, son of the late Donald and Lucille Darden. Jim graduated from East Senior High School in Rockford, Illinois.

Jim was a determined and hard worker. Not only did he work his way through college, but he also served in the Naval Reserve. He received a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Idaho. He was a member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity. He began his 25 year career as a mechanical engineer in Eastern WA at Kaiser Aluminum (Spokane, WA) and Hanford Site (Tri-Cities, WA.) Then, Jim moved west to work at Arco-Cherry Point (Ferndale, WA) and Anvil Corporation (Bellingham, WA).

Every summer during his childhood, the family would

travel to their cabin on Twin Lakes in Idaho, with a stop-over at Yellowstone National Park. These trips inspired Jim's interest in fishing and the outdoors. Jim loved the challenge of new adventures. His many interests included hunting, scuba diving, sailing, ski instructing and traveling the world. Jim is most remembered as an avid fly fisherman who enjoyed a good campfire with great friends.

He is survived by his spouse, Becky Darden, and eight children: Mike (Becky) Darden, Lisa (Kerry) Hunter, Brian Darden, Laura (Mario) Cabrera, Cindy Gresen, Kristi Kent, Chad (Katie) Bedlington, Tiffany (Adam) Buck, 18 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren. Jim was preceded in death by his brother Gregory Darden, and survived by his sister Maryann Vanwert and brother William (Lisa) Darden.

A memorial reception will be held from 1-3pm on Saturday, August 21, 2021 at Moles Farewell Tributes - 2465 Lakeway Dr. Bellingham, WA. Donations can be made in his name to: Whatcom Hospice Foundation.

To share your memories of Jim, please visit his online guestbook at www.moles-farewelltributes.com.



MOLES FAREWELL TRIBUTES
& CREMATORY
BAYVIEW CHAPEL

Jim Darden in Memorium



President's Message

President's Corner

First, it is with a sad heart and deep sympathy that our thoughts go out to Becky and the family of Jim Darden. He was a huge part of our club and made casting look like child's play. His passing saddens us all. He will be missed!

When are we getting together again? And how can I get involved?

Its summer in Bellingham, the weather is great, the creeks are fishing well, high altitude lakes are opening up, and the humpies will be here soon.

As vaccination rates have increased and COVID infections decreased across Whatcom County in recent months, more of you have been asking when we will start meeting in person and having more in person events. Many of us were optimistic and expecting to be back together soon but as cases locally doubled in the last few weeks that is now in question. The club will be making plans with the assumption its not going to get bad again, but will continue to follow local guidelines and new information as it becomes available.

Reports from the Methow outing last month were all stellar, great to fish together and see each other's faces, so let's do more. See Kevin's write-up in following pages. We have more group activities on tap, with additional outings, the Casting Challenge, trying to arrange a Saturday local outdoor BBQ potluck in September, and our first big indoor group event will be the December meeting, traditionally the club holiday dinner party and raffle.

Meeting at the Bellingham Country Club before December is not possible due to a staffing shortage. For making decisions about next year, everyone will receive an email link to a survey from Marion asking your thoughts on getting back together for regular face-to-face meetings. In addition to staffing at the Country Club as a primary factor, we will consider your thoughts to ensure safety while being sensitive to your concerns to determine when we will begin to hold regular monthly meetings in person. Virtual meetings are working out and we've had some good guest presenters and great conversation, but we all miss being with each other. More information on that in coming months.

As the club becomes more active and has more events happening, we need your help. Its always great when people volunteer, but with all the things being planned you might also get recruited.

First on the list is we have a few board positions to replace for next year, the Programs Chair who organizes speakers for our monthly meetings, and also Director positions, which have no predefined tasks. If you think you might want to be on the board in the future but want to ease into it, being a Director is a good introduction. In addition to looking for people to fill these board positions, you might also be recruited to be part of the nominating committee that goes

President's Message

The Christmas party is a big event with quite a raffle, so we're looking for people to help with wrapping raffle items, working with the Country Club organizing dinner, helping run the raffle, and doing set up and clean up.

And finally, the club conservation auction and dinner we missed last fall, we are thinking we will hold in March 2022. This is our big club fund raiser we have every 2 years. The Conservation Auction committee has similar tasks as the Christmas party (*minus gift wrapping*), plus a need to solicit businesses, vendors, and club members for donations to the raffle. There is also time and effort needed to catalog and list all the donated items, organize them into raffle tables, run the raffle, take tickets, handle payments etc. This event truly takes a village and needs some new blood. Prior attendance or participation in the Conservation Auction isn't needed, all skills are needed if you want to help.

Steve Kopp, President 4CFF



".....Fly-fishing is a sport in which fish are caught properly only in a certain way, often against all odds, and that using rods made from a weird kind of grass that grows in China seems somehow appropriate."

John Gierach, Trout Bum

Monthly Zoom Meeting

August Zoom Presentation 7:00 PM

Douglas Thomas, CEO & owner of Bellingham Cold Storage: Proposed salmon hatchery. A Conservation Committee Pick

Douglas Thomas, a second generation executive, CEO, and part owner of Bellingham Cold Storage, the largest portside, full-service public refrigerated warehousing company on the West Coast, will present the proposed development of a salmon hatchery pilot project at a site on Bellingham Bay near the mouth of Whatcom Creek.



The model for this proposal is the Douglas Island Pink & Chum's (DIPAC) Macaulay Salmon hatchery in Juneau, Alaska. DIPAC started operations in 1976 and today is one of the most successful salmon hatchery programs in the world. The Macaulay facility releases well over 138 million juvenile chum, chinook and Coho salmon, and rainbow trout each year for commercial, sport and subsistence uses. Annual returns range between 2.5-5 million harvestable adult salmon with an estimate value of \$6-20 million. For more about the Macaulay facility: [Macaulay Hatchery in Alaska](#).

His presentation will include aspects of the Alaska hatchery that have made the model so successful, why Whatcom Creek was chosen as the site for the hatchery project, how it relates to fisheries co-management between WDFW and the Puget Sound Treaty Tribes, the impact on native stocks, how it will help the southern resident Killer Whales, the stakeholders, the cost, and what the current proposed legislation (Salmon Repopulation Act, Senate Bill 6509 and House Bill 274 includes.

As a club our mission and purpose is working to protect wild fish and the habitat which sustains them and working for the betterment and preservation of angling and surrounding lands. It is in our best interest to gain knowledge and information to better understand the issues, form educated opinions and work towards our common goals. Learn more about this proposed bill and hatchery project.

[Bellingham Cold Storage Project Overview of the hatchery plans \(White Paper\)](#)

[San Juan AREA Sea Life](#)

[Tri-City Herald article, 'Orcas don't have that much time.' Hatchery bill could save them](#) | Editorial. February 2020

[King5 News January 2020](#)

[SB 6509](#) An act relating to increasing the abundance of salmonids in Washington waters.

[HB 2741](#) Increasing the abundance of salmonids in Washington water

Monthly Zoom Meeting (con't)

Doug Thomas, born in Hillsboro, Oregon, graduated from WSU and worked at Allstate Insurance Company corporate management from 1987-1992 and eventually returned to Washington state and joined Bellingham Cold Storage as Special Projects Manager with multiple promotions that followed, eventually being recognized in 2016 as Business Person of the Year for Whatcom County by Business Pulse Magazine.

He is a respected member of numerous community-based organizations and is the current President of San Juan AREA Sea Life, supporter of the Boys and Girls Club. Doug is on the corporate board of directors for Cascade Natural Gas, a director on the board of the National Fisheries Institute, served the Global Cold Chain Alliance as chairman of the World Food Logistics Organization, and served as chairman of the International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses. Doug was very active serving for over 15 years on the Washington State University Board of Trustees, athletic advisory board and was elected in 2010 to serve on the WSU Board of Governors from which he retired from in September of 2017. Doug and his wife Sandy enjoy boating in the San Juan's, Cougar athletics, spending time at their vacation home in Scottsdale AZ and visiting their daughter Lauren whenever possible, occurrence and foraging success.

Programs Previews: Program descriptions can be found on our club website.

August 28 **Casting Skills Challenge**-Look for details in a coming Eventbrite invitation
September-To be Announced

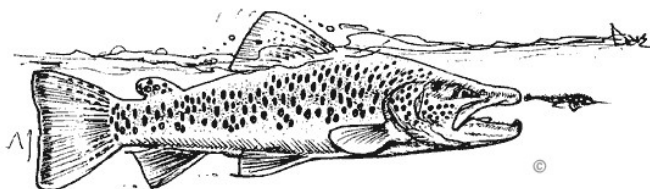
October- **Heather Hudson**, founder of Women on the Fly
Fly Fishing Northern Idaho:

November- **Dr. Rick Williams**, fisheries ecologist, author, and Research Associate in the Department of Biology at the College of Idaho: Update on the issues of salmon recovery with some focus on the Columbia River and how it applies to other waters

December- Save the date: Friday, December 17, in-person **Christmas Party** is planned.

Marion Hiller, 4CFF Internal VP, Program Chair

Bob Cooper, 4CFF, Programs, Eventbrite Manager



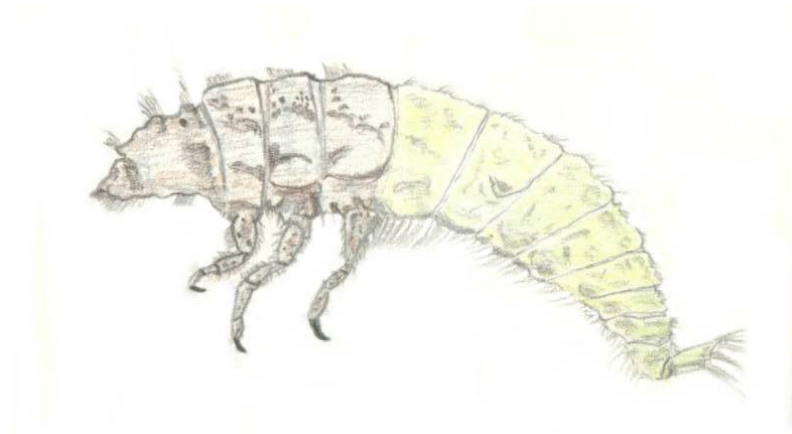
Monthly Un-Zoom Meeting

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



Outings Report

4CFF Newsletter Outings Report August 2021.

Greetings Fourth Corner Fly Fishers.

I hope you are enjoying the summer in spite of the heat and drought. Our annual 4CFF Classic on the Methow was again a success. We had good flows and good fishing. Plenty of fish in the 14 to 15" range. Angus got into some big fish on one of the higher elevation lakes. A group of us had a great time floating on the Methow River. Fishing on the Chuwuch River and Boulder Creek was good also. The weather was hot but that made the cold beer taste all that much better. Frank was unable to join us for fishing, but to our surprised he drove over just to make his famous Paella for us! Overall, it was a fantastic trip. The wildfires were just starting up and we got out before they closed highway 20.



Outings Report



Dates for upcoming outings:

Pink salmon fishing on Whidbey Island. Friday August 20th.

Fall steelhead fishing on the Clearwater River Idaho. Wayne McLemore will host this outing and will arrange dates from mid Sept to mid Oct depending on availability of those interested in going.

Check the Club website for details.

Cheers,

Kevin McClurg



"There will be days when the fishing is better than one's most optimistic forecast, others when it is far worse. Either is a gain over just staying home."

Roderick Haig-Brown

Casting Challenge

Fly Casting Challenge:

Fly casting is an essential skill in fly fishing. Increased casting knowledge and proficiency improves enjoyment and success. Participating in the Casting Skills Challenge will help you become a better caster and fisher as a result of mastering the Skill Challenge levels.

The Casting Skills Challenge levels (Bronze, Silver, Gold) have been crafted to represent increasingly challenging casting situations commonly encountered when fishing. For example, accuracy casting is integral to fly fishing, so each level has an accuracy challenge. Likewise, there is not always room for a back cast when fishing, so roll casting is included. There are no "trick casts" only casts that can be used frequently when fishing. Levels increase in difficulty from novice or experienced beginner skills (Bronze), to intermediate skills (Silver), to advanced skills (Gold).

If you wish to participate, plan into your day about an hour and a half for the event: warm-up, directions, the skills challenge, coaching on difficult tasks with an opportunity to redo. The challenge itself should take about 30 minutes to complete.

When you register, you will be contacted to schedule your session.

If you have questions, you can reach Frank Koterba at fwkiii17@gmail.com or **360.927.0544**.

A description of the Casting Skills Challenge, the tasks levels, and suggested equipment, are available for downloading at the following link. [Casting Challenge Folder](#)

Fly Fishers International developed the Casting Challenge as part of its Learning Center for fly fishing. The following link will take you to the FFI website page that covers the Challenge. [Fly Fishers International website, Fly Casting Challenge](#)

By your participation you are allowing Frank and Marion the opportunity to practice their coaching skills and casting knowledge.

All participants are expected to follow Whatcom County's Covid Guidelines: [Whatcom County Covid Guidelines](#)

Here is the Eventbrite link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/4cff-casting-challenge-tickets-164656218181>

Treasure's Report

August Treasure's Report:

We used to do this in our face-to-face meetings, we have cash in our checking, club savings, and conservation savings accounts. Let me just say we are way past being solvent! If you need the specifics get in touch.

Hope to see you on the water and in our Casting Challenge

Frank Koterba, Treasurer

Bamboo Rod Tips

- ◆ *Always keep your rod clean and dry.*
 - ◆ *Never keep your rod in a tube. It's for protecting it in transit.*
 - ◆ *Hang your rod in a bag with the thin ends up.*
 - ◆ *Always point a rod straight down the line and pull the line to free a snagged fly.*
 - ◆ *Never varnish, oil, or wax a cork handle.*
 - ◆ *Keep ferrules clean inside and out. Do not coat them with grease or wax. These attract dust.*
 - ◆ *Never twist or wrench a ferrule.*
 - ◆ *To disassemble, make sure there is plenty of room around you. Hold the rod pieces a foot or so from the ferrules and pull. For a better grip, pack and use old inner tube pieces.*
 - ◆ *Most rod tips are broken around the truck or campfire.*
 - ◆ *Never leave your rod leaning against anything or store a rod horizontally.*
 - ◆ *Never stand the rod with the ferrules on a hard surface.*
 - ◆ *Never put a hook in the cork. It's best to use the hook keeper or hook it in the stripping guide, wrap the leader around the reel handle, and tighten.*
 - ◆ *You can clean your cork handle with steam and mild detergent.*
 - ◆ *Never use lines too heavy for your rod.*
 - ◆ *Never play or land a fish with the rod pointing up at an acute angle. To do so places all the strain on the rod tip and fails to bring the rods full action to bear on the fish. The lower the angle the rod is held, the more the lower and stronger sections of the rod will be able to absorb strain and apply pressure to the fish.*
 - ◆ *Try to hold a rod with the guides pointing upwards, "Guides to the Sky" when possible, particularly during protracted struggles with big fish. This will greatly reduce the chance of straining the bamboo's power fibers of the upper side of the rod. This technique is not as awkward as it sounds, and does much to promote the longevity of the rod.*
-

Jim Darden in Memorium



So long Jim, you will be missed!



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



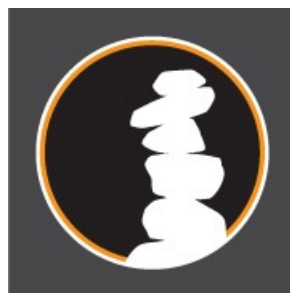
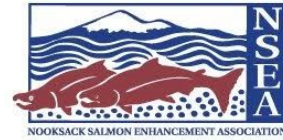
<http://www.theconfluenceflyshop.com>



Dynasty Cellars



A Few Of Our Auction Supporters



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ASLAN



We thank you all for your support!!!

Graciously,

Fourth Corner Fly Fishers

