

# 4<sup>th</sup> Corner Fly Fishers

## President's Message

Dear 4CFF Members,

First and foremost – a special thanks to the 4CFF Conservation Dinner/Auction committee (Frank Koterba, Bob Cooper, Rob Gaeta, Jerry Gillaspay, Diana Horan, Michael Maryk, and Dennis Elwell) for putting together a fabulous event and evening! I also want to thank all club members who donated auction items, solicited auction items, purchased raffle tickets and those who attended the event to support our Conservation and Education programs. Word has it that we grossed around \$15,000! Not bad for a bunch of people who tie little knots!!

It's the end of the year and things aren't slowing down. Our last Board meeting on November 1<sup>st</sup> included several non-Board members. The discussions of many of the agenda items were lively, in-depth and productive. 2012 is already looking to be another busy year including safety and river navigation programs, Ray Gould as our program speaker in February, and celebrating the club's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The next order of business is our annual meeting at the membership meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup>. This year we will only be voting for two Board of Director positions. Each of the current club officers has committed to fulfilling their two year obligation so no officer positions will be open this year. For those of you who are interested in becoming an officer of our club, 2012 will be a good year to volunteer to be a co-chair or to assist a current officer. At a minimum you are welcome to come to the Board meetings to see the officers in action. Please let me know if you are interested

For the annual meeting we will also be discussing club programs, events, classes, outings and the related budget. Please come to the meeting with your questions, comments and suggestions. And finally the program for the November 17<sup>th</sup> membership meeting will be fly tying demonstrations by Scott Willis (Steelhead flies) and Errol McWhirk (oh - I imagine the black muddler).

Other than that – the days start getting longer in less than 7 weeks!!

Regards,

Lin J. Nelson  
Your Club President



## UPDATE ON THE ELWHA, by Hugh Lewis

The long-awaited process of dam removal on the Elwha River is finally underway, marking the culmination of two decades of effort toward restoring salmon and steelhead to one of Washington's most pristine rivers. The removal of the Elwha dams will open up more than 70 miles of protected river for spawning wild fish. Given the amount and quality of the habitat, biologists predict tens of thousands of wild salmon and steelhead could eventually return to the Elwha River above the dams within our children's lifetimes.

But dam removal is only the first step to complete recovery and an all-wild Elwha. The recovery will reach its full potential only if hatchery fish are removed from the system.



How did the hatcheries in the Elwha system get there? By virtue of a crooked deal between the Olympic Power and Development Company, which had built a dam on the river in 1912 without necessary permits or a fish ladder, and Leslie Darwin, then the Fish Commissioner of the State of Washington; that's how.

Washington's first legislature had passed a law in 1890 that required the construction of fish passage devices, such as fish ladders, on dams "wherever food fish are wont to ascend." As local author Bruce Brown noted in his book *MOUNTAIN IN THE CLOUDS*, the "deal between Darwin and [Olympic Power] was itself illegal, of course. State law still required the construction of fish passage facilities at every dam that blocked the migration of salmon. Olympic Power's Elwha Dam had been in violation of the law for five years, and should by rights have been removed at the company's expense. Darwin himself could have been charged with malfeasance in the case, based on the evidence in the State Archives. Instead, [then Governor Ernest] Lister convinced the legislature to change the law so that hatcheries could be built in lieu of fish passage facilities. With this legal issue out of the way, the flood began. During the first few years of his administration, Darwin accepted seven hatcheries in supposed compensation for the substantial runs of wild salmon lost to dam construction on rivers such as the White Salmon, Chehalis and Elwha.

[See [http://www.astonisher.com/archives/mitc\\_ch7.html](http://www.astonisher.com/archives/mitc_ch7.html) for further details - it will make you sick.]



# Conservation Report

Hi Everyone, Things are wrapping up for the conservation group's season and we ended again with a great planting party with Kae Moe's 4th grade class at 10 Mile Creek School on Wed. October 12. We had 26 students and planted 28 plants (snowberry, Oregon grape, nine bark, vine maple and cedars). The kids got to see a birch that had been very recently dropped down by a beaver and several of us returned a couple days later to place screens around some chosen trees as a deterrent to our furry friend. Thanks go to Terry Mc Ewen, Doug Marsh, Bob Johnston, Larry Grunden, Emil Ekman, Ralph Lloyd and my better half (Jane) for making the planting afternoon such a success once more. I think our efforts at the school are encouraging many young students to appreciate aquatic habitats and the richness of life that they provide.

I will be calling a meeting of the Conservation Committee fairly soon at which time we will discuss and vote on which conservation projects or groups will receive donations from 4CFF in 2012. You need not be a committee member to let us know which groups you favor. Just send me an E-mail or attend the committee meeting. Frank called me the other day to let me know that the club raised a very substantial amount during our semi-annual fundraiser. I want to thank each of you for your contributions to this effort. You all tend to make my job fairly easy in the financial department.

Your loyal servant, Dan Coombs  
Conservation Chairman, 4CFF



# November Outings Report

The year is just about wrapped up. Our final major outing to Chopaka Lake took place the second week of October. As usual for a trip there this time, of year we couldn't be sure if we would need sunscreen or a tent heater. The forecast was for rain, possible snow and wind. Nine brave souls decided the opportunity to wrestle with the trout was worth the risk. It turned out it was. We did see a couple of very early morning showers and there was a bit of frost on the tent one morning. We did run into a fair bit of wind that rounded from a northerly to out of the south over the weekend. The best day for wind was Sunday, the day most of us left. All in all, the weather didn't bite much but as we expected, but the fish certainly did! And to ensure this, WDFG had a truck at the lake mid week and added another 7000 catchable critters to the pool. Every once and a while you had to shake one off. On the plus side I think the weather caused a lot of people to go looking elsewhere for entertainment. When we came over the hill on Thursday there were only 6 boats on the lake! We were even able to secure 2 of the wooden shelters and when we left only about 20% of the campsites in use.

There wasn't much surface action and I don't think there were any hatches coming off. Everyone was getting into fish using the usual stars, leeches and buggers (the flesh fly in particular), Errol's rolled black muddler. There were a few new wrinkles though. Ed Ruckey had a lot of fun nailing them on one of his baetis soft hackles on a floating line. And Errol has tied up a little bead head bugger with a prop on the front. He fished the olive and I fished the black, the trout liked them both. There were several year classes in the population. As I said before there were some around 9-10 inches that had just arrived, there were a bunch of real healthy fish of 14-18 inches that really put on a show when they hit. And there were a number of fish 19 inches plus that had been there a while that put a good bend in the rod. I don't think that anyone landed one over 20 inches, but I had 3 or 4 that were pretty close.

The fly box tied by Ed went to a long-time member who has spent a great deal of time on the lake, congratulations Tom Farnell!



## More Chopaka Pics....



*"You'll also meet a lot of non-fly-fishing types on the ponds..... Most of these people won't be automatically impressed by you; some will be curious, others amused. If you persist in wearing an up-downer hat over a clean chamois shirt and a bulging, jangling fly vest, you'll begin to feel overdressed. All you need is a Harley Davidson T-shirt, baseball cap, and a small box of wet flies. If you catch fish you may attract some favorable attention, but even then someone will sooner or later kindly inform you that a spinning rod is a hell of a lot easier."*

*John Gierach, "Trout Bum"*

# November's Program!!!

The 4th Corner Fly Fishers November Meeting and Program are a **WEEK EARLY** due to Thanksgiving.

The November meeting is important. We decide on the new 4CFF Board and many important club decisions.

The meeting will take most of the night but will be followed by two amazing fly tiers.

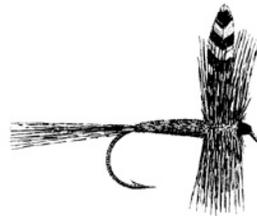
Errol McWhirk will demonstrate his techniques in tying the Dry Fly and Scott Willison will be tying a few of his deadly Steelhead flies.

Once again, the gracious and spacious Bellingham Golf and Country Club will host our monthly meeting.

The Wet Fly starts at 6:00 PM, followed by dinner at 7:00 PM (\$17.00), the Business Meeting at 7:45 PM, and then finally the fantastic fly tying demonstration by two very gifted fly tiers.

PLEASE contact Gary Jones (425) 239-4193 [gary-jones@comcast.net](mailto:gary-jones@comcast.net) if you plan to attend.

Submitted by Clumpy Tippet (Gary Jones personal and extremely under paid assistant)



*“Who but an angler knows the magic hour when the red lamp of summer drops behind the blackening hemlocks and the mayflies emerge from the dull folds of their nymphal robes to dance in a ritual as old as the river itself? Trout appear one by one and the right angler begins his game in movements as stylized as Japanese poetry. Perhaps he will hook that wonder-spotted rogue, or maybe he will remain in silent pantomime long into the night with no visible award.”*

A.J. McClane

*“The Song of the Angler”*

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# Doc Hackle's Fly Tying Corner

## *So You Want To Tie Flies.....*

So you want to try your hand at fly tying. Some of the questions I would ask are," Just how serious am I ? Do I have the patience to go ahead with it?" There are other factors to take into account such as time allowable and space to work in. Not every one has a lot of time in which to sit down and tie flies. They also may not have the space available due to family needs. As to time available, if you are raising a family, you may not have as much time, as your family's needs come first.

So let's say you do have some time available and you have a space where you can lay out your tying tools and vise. The next question is," What will I need to get started?" We will start with vises and then go on to tools. For a vise I would recommend one that is well built and easy to adjust for different size hooks. On the low side cost wise you have the Thompson AA vise. This vise has a cam lever adjustment to hold different size hooks. On the high end you have several vises that range in price from \$185.00 to \$650.00. The decision is yours to make but I will give you my thoughts on which vise to buy.

I have as a vise the Renzetti Traveler. The cost for that vise is \$195.00 plus. Another vise I have as a backup is the Regal Rotary, the cost of which is approximately \$165.00. The differences between the two are, the Renzetti is a true rotary vise with cam operated jaws that are infinitely adjustable and lever operated. It will hold hooks from 28 up to 3/0.

The Regal on the other hand will rotate 360 degrees and has a 220 up and down movement. There is no need for adjustment, it has a spring loaded arm that you squeeze to open and let go of when you have the hook inserted. My choice for most of my tying is the Renzetti.

Regal does put out another model with the same style of jaws and clamping ability called the Inex. The only difference is the Inex is a fixed head with a C Clamp. The Price on this vise is \$ 119.00, but it is worth it. Renzetti puts out a non rotating vise called the Apprentice which cost about \$99.00. Both of these vises would work for a person who would be just tying occasionally.

Now as to the tools lets start with a simple set of tools. In this set you would have a bobbin, a bodkin, a whip finisher, hackle pliers, scissors, bobbin threaded, and a hair stacker. Now this is just a basic set that you may or may not want to expand on. I will give you a brief look at what I have done so that if you wish to expand you may do so.

First we have the Bobbin. Ideally you will want to have a bobbin for your threads, one for your floss and one for your wire. The one for the thread should have a ceramic tip. The one for floss should have a flared tip. The bobbin for wire could have just a straight tube or one that is flared at the tip. I have about 6 bobbins with ceramic tips so that I can have all my primary thread colors all set for use. I also have 5 or so with flared tips for use with floss or wire. Ideally, as a starting point I would go with 3 bobbins. One for thread, one for floss and one for wire. If that seems a bit much, go with one bobbin, but make sure that it is a good one with a ceramic tip. It will be worth the little extra that it will cost.

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(So you want to tie flies...Cont.)

The next tool is a Bodkin. It is also called a dubbing needle / half hitch tool. It is used to finish off a fly by creating half hitch knots at the eye of the fly. The needle end is used to pick out the dubbing on the fly, to make a rough looking body or legs under the fly.

The next tool is a Whip Finishing Tool. It is used to finish off the fly by creating a nice smooth head. I like the Matarelli style of whip finishers. I find it is the easiest one to use and it comes in standard or long. I have both, for the long one comes in handy when you are tying down something at the bend of the hook when the fly is near completion and the other is for whip finishing at the head.

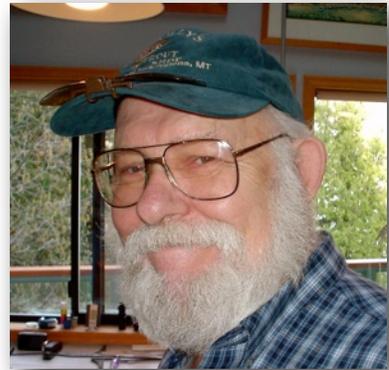
The next tool you have on the list is Hackle Pliers. This tool comes in handy when you are wrapping hackle on the fly. There are several styles to choose from. You have the Dorin Teardrop style, the English style, ones with swivel heads and some with brass pads on one side rubber pads on the other side. The main thing is that they all grip the feather for ease of wrapping.

The next tool you have are Scissors. There are a lot of models to chose from. There are to many to name here but the following should be a guide. You want a pare of scissors that fit into you hand comfortably and has close fitting narrow blades. As you extend your fly tying skills you will find that you may want to have a pare of scissors with larger blades for cutting deer, elk, or bear hair. Also you may want to have a pair of scissors with curved blades. There are a lot of choices out there to make.

The next two tools are the Bobbin Threader and the Hair Stacker. First the bobbin threader which as its name implies helps to thread the bobbin. You simply take and run the wire down the tube, then place the thread through the wire loop and pull it back through the tube. That is all there is to it. Next is the Hair Stacker. You use this tool to even up the tips of the deer, bear, elk and whatever else you wish to even the tips on.

With that said I will end this first of many articles on "So You Want To Tie Flies". Look for more in the coming months on fly tying that I will put in the club News letter. The next segment will be on Threads, Beads, Hooks, Wire and Tinsel. My goal in the coming months is to help those who want to tie flies but don't know how to get started. I hope that I can clear the air and generally make it easy for those who are just getting started.

ED (Doc Hackle) Ruckey



*"Nearly always by November the earth is wet and the swamps are full so that all rain that falls runs off to the rivers and rivers are high. The return of salmon and steelhead is inevitable as the spring of grass or the fall of leaves; it may be delayed a little, reduced from year to year, affected in many ways, but it cannot suddenly and mysteriously fail altogether."*

*Roderick Haig-Brown, "A River Never Sleeps"*

## **Once again the Fourth Corner** **Fly Fishers Conservation Auction** **a Grand Success!!!**

The Conservation Auction Committee would like to thank [All](#) of you who helped create a very successful event. Whether you made a donation, bought or sold a raffle ticket, came to the dinner and auction opened your wallet or checkbook, we would like you to know you made the difference! The Conservation activities and the club's general fund will be well supported by your efforts.

The numbers are still being finalized. The auction took in well over \$14,000 and there are several who still owe for their purchases. If you are one of these please make out a check to FCFF and mail it in to Larry Irwin.

Once again, thank you so much!

Michael Maryk, Diana Horan, Rob Gaeta, Bob Cooper, Jerry Gillaspay, Dennis Elwell, Bill Hall, and Frank Koterba



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# November Culinary Corner

Like many of you I have a bunch of salmon in the freezer. I am always looking for ways to prepare it that end with a nicely cooked moist serving. I also love Asian cuisine as well. I ran across a reference to this recipe in [\*Into the Vietnamese Kitchen\*](#) by Andrea Nguyen it works on both counts. (The book is available from the library as soon as I give it back.)

I really like her descriptions of the tools, the methods, and the ingredients she uses. The ingredients do make a difference!!! If enough of us start to go to our local ethnic shops and not only shop there, but we ask for the best available ingredients, we can raise the bar!!!

There are a couple of tips to give you first. When you freeze your fish it is worth the money to get it blast frozen and vacuum packed. Or if you are buying from a fish monger who is selling thawed fish, (which most of them are right now,) ***don't buy the fish out of the case.*** Ask them to sell you the fish right out of their freezer. When it is time to serve it take it out a day ahead and put it the refrigerator to thaw out. What this does is minimize the amount of cell damage and moisture loss in the fish. The blast freezing accomplishes the former and the slow thaw does the latter.

The key to the steaming process is using the pan or dish inside the steamer. This keeps the juices from just running off into the pan. This then becomes a great sauce for the finished dish.

## **Steamed Salmon with Garlic and Ginger**

Based on the recipe in

### **Sauce**

- 1 ¼ t sugar
- ¼ t black pepper
- 2 T oyster sauce
- 2 T soy sauce
- 2 ½ T vegetable oil
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2-inch piece of fresh ginger, cut into fine match sticks
- Green part of 3 scallions, chopped

White part of 3 scallions slivered lengthwise

1 ¼ lb. salmon fillet (I skin the fillets so I can just serve from the steamer.)

1 T chopped cilantro for garnish

Stove top steamer for cooking the fish



**☒ 1 For the sauce:** In a small bowl, combine the sugar, pepper, oyster sauce, and soy sauce. Stir until the sugar is dissolved. Pour the oil into a small saucepan, and turn the heat to medium. Add the garlic and cook until fragrant, about 15 seconds. Add the ginger and cook until it is also fragrant, about one minute. Pour in the sauce, stir well, and wait for it to come to a boil. Then add the scallions, turn off the heat, and stir to combine. Set aside.

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- ☒ 2 **For the steamed salmon:** Fill a large pot with a steamer tray halfway up with water, and bring to a boil.
- ☒ 3 Meanwhile, Find a heatproof plate or nonreactive cake or pie pan that will hold the salmon fillets and will also fit in the steamer tray with about one-inch left around the edges. Toss half of the white scallion strips into the pan, and then place the salmon fillets on top. Pour the sauce on top of the salmon.
- ☒ 4 Transfer the pan to the steamer tray. Cover the pot, and cook until fish is cooked, eight to ten minutes. A knife should be able to be inserted into the thickest part of the flesh easily. When done, turn off the heat, and carefully remove the pan with the fish.
- ☒ 5 Transfer the fish to a platter and pour the sauce and juices on top. Garnish with the remaining scallion strips and the cilantro.

As an accompaniment, you can serve this from the same source. If you cannot find any good looking asparagus you can substitute any number of vegetable combinations and still come up with a very good side.

### **Asparagus and Shiitake Mushroom Stir-Fry**

1 ½ lb. asparagus, trimmed and cut on the diagonal into 1 ½-2 inch pieces  
8 dried shiitake mushrooms, soaked overnight in warm water and sliced into ¼ inch strips  
Vegetable oil for stir-frying

#### **For the Sauce**

½ t sugar  
1 ½ t fish sauce  
1 T oyster sauce  
2 t vegetable oil  
1 ½ T water



- ☒ 1 Blanch the asparagus pieces for 1 minute in a large pot of salted water. Drain and plunge the pieces immediately in a bowl of ice water to stop the cooking process. Drain and set aside with the sliced mushrooms.
- ☒ 2 In a small bowl combine the ingredients for the sauce – sugar, fish sauce, oyster sauce, vegetable oil and water. Stir until the sugar has dissolved.
- ☒ 3 In a wok or large skillet heat the oil over medium heat. Add the asparagus and mushrooms and stir-fry for 3 minutes until heated through. Increase the heat to medium-high and stir the sauce into vegetables for about 1 minute until most of the liquid has evaporated. Serve immediately.

Enjoy!!!

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# "Christmas Party"



The Christmas party is Friday, December 16 at the Bellingham Golf and Country Club. The party will be in the club restaurant (same place as last year). The social time begins at 6 pm with dinner at 7 pm.

I must have your reservation by Friday, December 9th. REMEMBER, A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID. The club will be charged for no-shows and therefore we expect payment if you make a reservation. I ALSO NEED TO KNOW HOW MANY WOMEN ARE INCLUDED IN YOUR PARTY.

There will be a gift exchange for those who wish to participate. If so, bring a wrapped gift. I don't believe a price range has been decided but I would suggest under \$25 and does not be fishing related.

Bring your raffle tickets purchased at the regular meetings during the year and trade them in for the Christmas raffle tickets at the rate of 1 per five. No extra tickets will be sold.

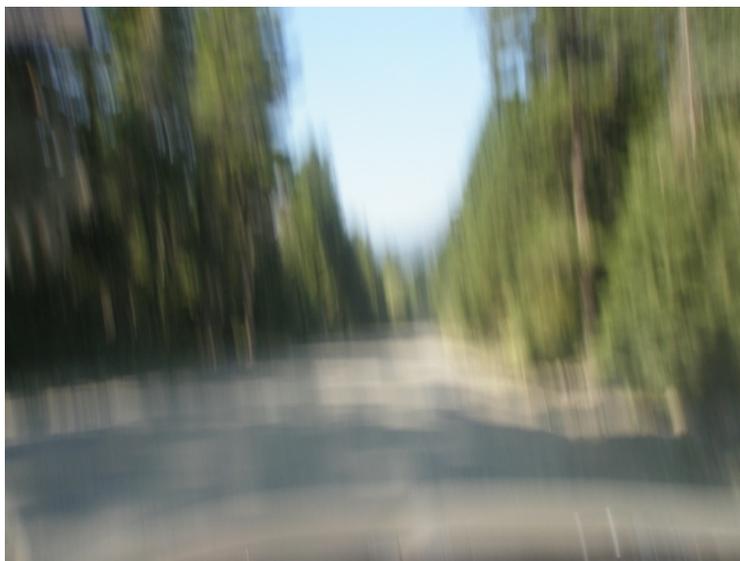
There will also be a raffle for a rod, reel and case. Tickets for that may be purchased at the meeting for \$5.00.

Gary Jones, **425 239 4193**



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## Picture of the Month



*Road to the Upper Skagit....*

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# 4CFF CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## Conservation Projects

Conservation is the corner stone 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 Klaus Lohse (671-8453) or Frank Koterba (647-9715) 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 outings, it's wise to bring your own lawn chair.

For more information, please contact the hosts.

## November's Meeting

November 17,  
2011

BELLINGHAM  
COUNTRY CLUB

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

|         |      |
|---------|------|
| Wet Fly | 6:00 |
| Dinner  | 6:45 |
| Program | 7:30 |
| Meeting | 9:00 |

Contact Gary Jones,  
[gary-jones@comcast.net](mailto:gary-jones@comcast.net)  
for all dinner reservations.

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

BRING A FLY FOR THE  
"FLY PLATE"!

## December's Board Meeting

December 6, 2011

Trinity Lutheran Church  
119 Texas Street  
Bellingham, WA

6:00 P.M.

# 4CFF Board Members

## President

Lin Nelson (360) 961-0408 [lin.nelson@comcast.net](mailto:lin.nelson@comcast.net)

## Outings Chairman

Frank Koterba (360) 647-9715 [fwkphotography@comcast.net](mailto:fwkphotography@comcast.net)

## Program Chairman

Gary Jones (425) 239-4193 [gary-jones@comcast.net](mailto:gary-jones@comcast.net)

## Secretary

Brian Faloon [bfaloon@hotmail.com](mailto:bfaloon@hotmail.com)

## Treasurer

Larry Irwin [larryandbarb@comcast.net](mailto:larryandbarb@comcast.net)

## CONSERVATION

Dan Coombs (360) 398-1637  
[djcmb@nas.com](mailto:djcmb@nas.com)

## EDUCATION

Klaus Lohse (360) 671-8453  
[kpstnlohse@gmail.com](mailto:kpstnlohse@gmail.com)

## LIBRARY

Susan Swetman (360) 428-2016  
[swetmans@comcast.net](mailto:swetmans@comcast.net)

## Website

Tammy Findlay  
<[tammy@bbaybrewery.com](mailto:tammy@bbaybrewery.com)>

## Newsletter

Sid Strong (360) 220-0099  
[swstrong@comcast.net](mailto:swstrong@comcast.net)

Membership Chairmans: Brian Faloon and Nathan Weston

Raffle Chairmans: Errol McWhirk, Craig Lang

Directors: Klaus Lohse, Sid Strong, Nathan Weston, and Ed Ruckey

**Volunteers are ALWAYS needed in our club. Conservation projects, educational classes, and all chairman positions are always open for new and old members....INCLUDING THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR POSITION!!!**

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



# 4th CORNER FLY FISHERS



## Aims and Purposes

The members of the 4th Corner Fly Fishers are united by our enjoyment of the sport of flyfishing 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 following are the aims and objectives as stated in our Constitution.

- To work for the betterment and preservation of angling waters and surrounding lands.
  - To promote the creation of fly only and/or quality fishing waters and encourage appropriate management of these waters.
  - To practice and advocate protection of the resource and the natural environment.
  - To improve the state-of-the-art of fly fishing and keep members informed of developments of interest.
  - To maintain high standards of membership by selecting as prospective members those persons who are dedicated to fly fishing, are good sportsmen, and are conservation oriented; and to temper organizational growth consistent with the maintenance of quality membership standards.
  - To develop and implement programs of education designed to encourage individuals of all ages to become fly fishers and better sportsmen.
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P.O. Box 1543  
Bellingham, WA 98227

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

