



4th Corner Fly Fishers

President's Message

*Dear Members,
Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday season.*

Warmest regards,

Lin J. Nelson and the 2011 FCFE Board



From left to right: Larry Irwin (Treasurer), Brian Faloon (Secretary), Lin Nelson (President), Gary Jones (Program Chairman), Nathan Weston (Director), Frank Koterba (Outings Chairman), and Sid Strong (Director). NOT pictured but extremely important, Klaus Lohse and Ed Ruckey (Directors)



"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.

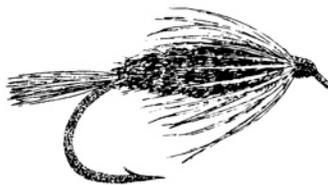
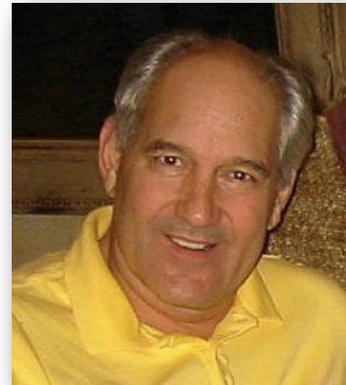
The cost is \$30 per person for a "sit down" dinner including tax. I must have your reservation by Friday, December 9th. REMEMBER, A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID. The club will be charged for no-shows and therefore we expect payment if you make a reservation. I ALSO NEED TO KNOW HOW MANY WOMEN 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 Reddington 10ft., 7 weight, 4 piece with a compatible sage reel and clear intermediate sinking line. The raffle tickets for the Fly Rod will be sold that night for \$5.00 each.

Gary Jones, 425 239 4193



"For the fly-fisherman on the Pacific coast, December is the beginning rather than the end of the year. In November even the most enthusiastic fly-fisherman may decide to lay his rods aside, dry off his lines and tie up some flies against a new season. Then in December, with the running of the first winter steelheads, the new season starts."

Roderick Haig-Brown, "A River Never Sleeps"

Conservation Report

It's been a banner year for the Conservation/Education activities at 4CFF. From the Conservation standpoint, we almost have reached an annual maintenance position as far as work goes at 10 Mile Creek School site. Most of the difficult pruning, weed control, and berry removal have been accomplished over the past 2 years, and I want to take this opportunity to personally thank each member who has been involved at our work parties out there. In October we also had another planting party with the students and came away from that event

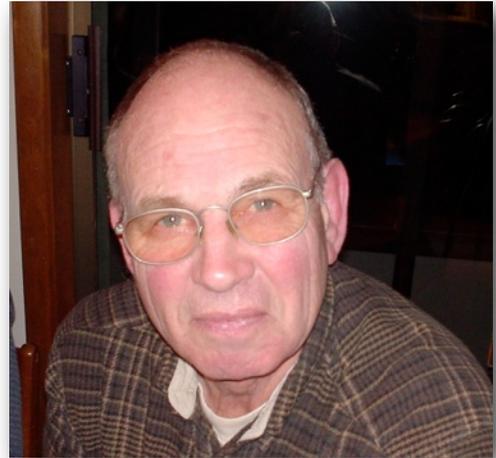


with the strong feeling that many of those students will take an active interest in conservation efforts even as they move along in life. Along this same line, several of us attended a stream rehab day on the headwaters of the Samish River south of the Acme Valley which was sponsored by the Whatcom Land Trust, CCA and the Skagit Salmon Enhancement Group. A lot was accomplished and we hope to participate again next year. General maintenance as well as some new improvements were accomplished at the Squalicum Lake access site this year. Terry McEwen repainted the parking lot sign, collected and tabulated the creel census forms, and generally gave me a lot of help when needed. Thanks to you, Terry, for stepping up when asked. On a downer note, as you know Pete Lamb underwent major spinal surgery this past year and will no longer be able to serve as an active member of the Conservation group and has stepped down as my assistant. Thank you so much Pete for being there when you could be, and so I'll be looking for a new "right hand person" to fill his shoes. With the help of Darrell Gray at NSEA we are currently looking into taking on a bit more of 10 Mile Creek if he can obtain the permission from certain landowners near the school site.

On another note, Frank made me aware of a great opportunity to help local hatcheries to refertilize nearby chosen streams with spawned out salmon carcasses. I am hoping this will take shape for next year's runs.

Your Conservation Committee met recently to vote on where conservation monies should go in 2012. The most exciting aspect of our budget is to donate some of our monies to the preservation of the wild fish populations once the dam on the Elwha River is taken down near Port Angeles. Our club is rarely given an opportunity to so directly help a wild salmon population. Our entire committee wishes to sincerely thank Hugh Lewis and Joe Kelly for taking the time to inform the 4CFF Board and our Committee about this rare opportunity.

Before your eyelids close for a short nap, I will step over the organizational line (Klaus is out of town) and hit the high spots for the Educational portion of our organization: Numerous fly tying /flycasting sessions at Ferndale HS, Blaine HS, Lynden HS, and 4H Super Saturday at Meridian HS etc. Liam Woods Flyfishing School via WWU, as well as Squalicum Lake outings with Options HS.. Then there are the Christmas Ornament making session with children of the BP company held at Lynden, Club member fly casting instruction with Scott Christensen, and learning sessions for students of other schools again under the auspices of Nooksack Salmon Enhancement . I'm probably just scratching the surface of Klaus's repertoire, but he has done a wonderful job of placing education and community outreach at the forefront of our club's activities. The best way you can thank him for his huge contribution to our club is to make a resolution to volunteer for one or more of his activities.



Klaus Lohse

Happy Holidays To All, Dan Coombs



Treasurer's Report...

It's not too early to think about 2012 Dues. We already have five paid up members for next year and that's a great start! \$35 for regular membership, \$45 for a member, spouse and minor children. I like to get checks so I can update address and telephone information. If you've had such a change in the last year or so, please send me an e-mail with the current information. e-mail changes are most important since that is our way of communicating.

If you want to bring a check to the party that would be fine, cash will be difficult to manage that night but I'll try to get you a receipt. You can always send your check to PO Box 1543, Bellingham, WA 98227



Larry Irwin, *Treasurer FCFF* larryandbarb@comcast.net

New Members Stepping UP!

The board is proud to announce two new members who are also new to the board. Matt and Craig are the new Directors on the 2012 4th Corner Fly Fishers Board. Please say thanks and buy them a beer.

Craig Carlile

Born and raised in the Greater Seattle area, graduated from WWU, and stationed as a Fisheries Patrol Officer at Copalis, Pt. Townsend, and Bellingham, I have enjoyed being a Washington resident all of my life. I retired ten years ago with plans to take advantage of the natural resources I had been protecting for 32 years, especially by doing more flyfishing. I first joined 4CFF about 2003 and served on the Board and as the chair of the Conservation Committee. After a brief hiatus for health reasons I returned to membership last year and am now serving on the Membership Committee. Of my narrow circle of close friends, nearly all are in 4CFF. I tend to be a team player, not an executive, and enjoy contributing to group efforts. My wife Jill is supportive of my involvement in 4CFF and fishing because it is the only activity that takes me away from home.



Matt Roelofs

I have been a fly fisher since 2004 and a member of the Fourth Corner Fly Fishers since 2006. I enjoy all types of fly fishing - from chasing wild trout in small streams and creeks to pursuing winter steelhead in the rivers of the NW. I have spent time on still waters in the region, have dabbled a bit in fishing the salt from the beach and have traveled to fish in Montana, Oregon, BC and Michigan. I am a dedicated father of two boys, Adam (7) and Ryan (5), and am still madly in love with his high school sweetheart, Sherri (who, thankfully, is also his wife). In my non-fishing time, I enjoy skiing, hiking, climbing and camping. My day job as a professor of economics at WWU gives me something to do when the rivers are blown out.



December Outings Report

Before we look at the whole year we should cover the last of the outings. The trip to the Cascade was attended by a dozen of our cohorts. It was a great day on the water tucked in between the numerous fronts rolling through. However the river still was about 2 feet below last year and the fish while visible had a case of lock jaw. The lunch was a predecessor for the all important drawing of Ed's fly box. It now belongs to Mac Carter, one of the more recent guests to our activities.

The trip shortly thereafter went over the border. A few of us covered some new ground for an outing, though not new ground for some members of the club. We hit the mouth of the Harris and the Nicomen Slough. It was more about checking out the water than really hitting some fish; which we didn't. On a happier note, I ended up adding another of Ed's Boxes to my collection.

2011 has been an eventful year. I have been keeping track of number of attendees to all our outings. In raw numbers we have had a major increase. In the table below you can see the changes.

	<u>Outings (number of events/total attendance)</u>				
	Training	Fly Tying	Major	Day trip	Total
2010	2/28	4/28	6/102	5/50	17/208
2011	7/66	6/76	6/84	5/68	24/294
(Change In attendance)	136%	171%	-18%	36%	41%

Some high points for the year:

We held the first "Classic" outing at Big Twin Lakes. It was a great time for fishing ,hanging out and eating!!

Our first Small Stream Course fostered a lot of new interest in that type of angling. *(There is one location on the Eastside that received particular attention. It has become almost a "home waters" relationship! (If I told you where it is, I would have to kill you!))* It was unfortunate that the runoff was so prolonged that many of the opportunities for small streams on this side were unavailable. Maybe next year we will get there.

We also rolled out the first "impromptu" outing to the "Flybar" on the Skagit River.

These are trends we will build on next year.

Not include were the 2 biggest events the club has ever hosted. Our picnic had 95 attendees and the conservation auction had 101 of us in the room!!! Just the other day I was checking directions on Google maps and it was near Dan Coomb's house so I just checked it out. We have made a mark, although only a temporary one. The aerial view of the house was updated the day of our picnic and you can see everything set up for the event including the lamb on the cross! You guys are over the top, really! Thank you!!!

(Outings Report Cont.)

It is now time to take a look at our future. I will be making up next year's schedule this month with the help of the Outings Committee. While it will not be written in stone, the matrix will be set.

So if you have a hankering to go somewhere, fish for a species, etc., I need to know now!! This also goes for when we fish. Do you want more day trips, trips to locations for fly tying materials, how about a spey session? Is there still an interest in continued casting classes and the small stream school? Are there any other topics or skills that we should put together? All of these requests should come sooner rather than later.

The beginning of the year is the season for most of fly tying sessions so the schedule will be put together. If you want to host one or if you have a pattern you want to learn or teach let me know!! This has been a great way to get to know other members of the club and see what they are tying for the coming year.

And last but not least I could use some help. I don't want to see the quality of our outings drop. And we are at the point where there is too much to do. Ed Ruckey has been a stalwart source of hundreds of flies and a dozen and a half fly boxes given away every year, as well as advice on locations. We all owe him a great deal thanks. And at the outings there have been many hands helping put together and breakdown our extensive array of gear. It has made things very easy. Thank you all!

The area that is a bit wanting is the planning, preparation and afterward. Research for each outing or proposed outing needs to identify, locations, camping, opportunities, fishing and recreational other opportunities, and special requirements for each venue. Additional planning is required if there is food involved. We have also added the outing detail document and results report which need to be created and filed. And there are always those things that just come up. Like say, our Conservation Auction this year.

To keep the quality of our program going, it would be a great help if I had one or two others to assist in this. It will ensure that the work gets done, new ideas will be included in the program and everyone will benefit. Also having such a large club function in the hands of just one person is probably not a smart thing to do.

One reason I took this on was to learn more about the fishing opportunities available in this area. And I happy to report that it worked! I also discovered the only real requirement for the job is the willingness to jump in.

I am looking forward to having an exciting 2012.

Frank Koterba, *FCFF External Chairman*



CCA, the Fourth Corner Fly Fishers and the BP Christmas Fair

Friday December 2nd The Coastal Conservation Association and FCFE joined forces and manned a booth at BP's annual Christmas Fair. This is an event set up to celebrate the holidays with the families and children of the firm's employees. It was held at the fairgrounds in Lynden. And our participation was sponsored by our own Chris Thomas, a BP engineer.

We assisted the kids in tying flies and then installed them in Christmas ornaments for them to take home. In all 17 of the 20 who turned out were members of our club. And we needed every one. From the 9 vices in action a steady stream of tiers brought over their creations to the group finishing the ornaments. Things started slow but once the kids and their parents figured out what all these old guys were doing, they hit the booth. There were very few empty chairs until the event ended. And as was the case last year, there it seemed there were more girls than boys stepping up. For a lot of the kids this may be their only exposure to fly fishing and fly tying. If that is it they, gave a good accounting of themselves. It's amazing to watch the youngsters concentrate on their projects. There were a lot of photos taken by a lot of proud parents as well And there were a number of comments like "wait until dad sees this."

When the some cleared there were less than 40 ornaments left. We began the day with 200. All in all, everyone had a great time. We are becoming one of the favorite booths at the event and we have been invited back next year.

Thank you Bill Hall, Jim Darden, Bruce Ruckey, Emil Ekman, Paul Bodenshot, Larry Irwin, Gary Jones, Ken Kloehn, Terry McEwen, Errol McWhirk, Lin Nelson, Craig Carlisle, Bill and Paula Faulkner, Ron Hydorn and Chris Thomas for you efforts to make this another successful event.

Frank Koterba, *External VP and CCA Board Member*



December Culinary Corner

I find myself spending a little time each day trolling the internet and the library looking for new and old ideas about food. It could be regional (Argentinean BBQ), ethnic (Asian), an ingredient (celeriac) or in this case, a new way to accomplish a task.

There is an axiom that says that taste begins long before anything reaches your mouth. I was working with something else when I got a look at the picture. You can see the flavor resting on and under the chicken. You can also see that the bird is "butterflied" that is, the backbone is removed. All good reasons to jump to the recipe and see what was happening!!

This was all on a blog I have mentioned before FOOD52. The subject was roasting chicken. I have been recently reviewing techniques other than the old reliable "Beer can". Amanda is one of the primary editors and she covers some of the background in the dish. This is one that has everything. The meat comes out moist, the skin is crispy, it is easy to carve, and you have a great basis for a sauce. (I did make on change and went to Meyer lemons to drop the bitterness.)

Enjoy,

Frank Koterba



Spatchcocked and Braise Roasted Chicken

About a decade ago, I went to a cooking demonstration at Macy's by Christopher Hirscheimer. She showed the crowd her trick for making it easy to carve roasted chicken -- she simply cut out the chicken's backbone before roasting, then she reshaped the bird and trussed it to hold it together. Spatchcocking is a similar technique except instead of re-shaping the bird, you flatten it, making it possible to grill or saute a bird in one layer. Fast forward to this fall. At a dinner with some fellow food52ers in Boston, our conversation touched on chef Gordon Hammersley's technique of "braise-roasting" poultry -- where he submerges the meat in broth and leaves the skin exposed to the oven heat. I thought it was time to get in the kitchen to try the combo of spatchcocking and braise-roasting. As usual, rather than do any research, I winged it, occasionally calling out to Merrill for advice. Here are the results!

(Spatchcocked Cont.)

Serves 4

One 4 to 4 1/2 pound chicken
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 1/2 tablespoons unsalted butter
1 1/2 tablespoons olive oil
2 large shallots, sliced
4 garlic cloves, lightly smashed (skins left on)
2 rosemary sprigs
8 sage leaves
1/2 cup fino sherry or dry white wine
About 1 cup chicken broth
1 lemon, cut into thin slices (skin left on; seeds discarded)



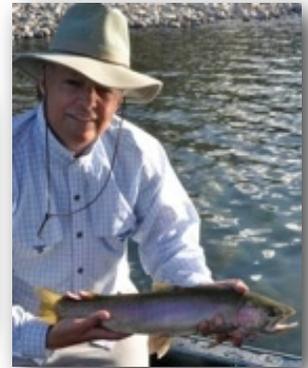
Method:

1. Heat the oven to 425 degrees. Using poultry shears, cut the backbone out of the chicken. Reserve the backbone. Turn the chicken skin-side-up and press down on the breast bone to flatten the chicken. Generously season the chicken all over.
2. In a casserole pan or other low shallow pan large enough to fit the flattened chicken, melt the butter in the oil over medium high heat. When the foam subsides, add the chicken skin-side-down, and the backbone, and brown well, 4 to 6 minutes. Remove to a plate. Pour off all but 1 1/2 tablespoons fat.
3. Set the pan back on the stove. Add the shallots and garlic, and cook over medium heat until the shallot has softened, about 2 minutes. Add the rosemary, sage and sherry. Increase the heat and boil off nearly all the sherry. Add 1 cup chicken broth and the lemon slices. Gently lower the chicken back into the pan, again skin-side up.
4. If needed, add more broth to come 1/2-inch up the side of the pan. Transfer the pan to the oven, and braise-roast until the chicken is cooked through (an internal temperature of 165 degrees), 30 to 50 minutes.
5. Transfer the chicken to a cutting board and let rest for 10 minutes -- uncovered, or the skin will soften! Carve the bird. Strain the pan juices and adjust the seasoning. Serve bird and cooked-down broth, and enjoy!



Mastering Western Rivers & Lakes

a 2-day workshop with
Rick Hafele & Skip Morris
February 25 & 26, 2012



Skip Morris and I have scheduled a 2-day workshop for fly fishers called Mastering Western Rivers & Lakes in the Seattle area and want to offer fly fishing clubs a special price.

The workshop will be held February 25 & 26, 2012, at the Hilton Garden Inn, in Issaquah, WA. Full price for the workshop is \$145 for both days, or \$80 dollars for one day.

We want to offer members of the Fourth Corner fly club special prices of \$125 for two days, or \$70 for one day.

"Note: To receive the club discount you must use the code "FCM" where requested during registration."

More detailed information about the workshop can be found at: http://www.rickhafele.com/RH/New_Workshop_Scheduled%21.html

About Rick Hafele...

RICK HAFELE is co-author of numerous books including *Western Mayfly Hatches*, *The Complete Book of Western Hatches*, *An Angler's Guide to Aquatic Insects and Their Imitations*, and his newest book, *Nymph Fishing Streams and Rivers*. His videos, *Anatomy of a Trout Stream*, *Fly Fishing Large Western Rivers*, and *Nymph Fishing Basics and Advanced Nymph Fishing* are considered some of the best on the subject of trout fishing. Rick has a Masters degree in aquatic entomology and a minor in fisheries biology. He has worked as a aquatic biologist for over 30 years. Few anglers have Rick's knowledge about the world in which trout live. For many years he has been sharing that knowledge with fly fishermen through books, articles, slide



About Skip Morris...

Skip Morris is among the most prolific fly-fishing and fly-tying authors alive and his name is known to anglers around the world. He has written twelve books, including the established standard beginning fly tier's volume *Fly Tying Made Clear and Simple*, and *The Art of Tying the Bass Fly*, *Morris & Chan on Fly Fishing Trout Lakes* (with lake-fishing guru Brian Chan), *Concise Handbook of Fly Tying*, and *Western River Hatches*.

His six videos range from instruction for tying nymphs, to tying bass flies, to tying and fishing flies for sea-run cutthroat trout.

Skip has published over 200 articles in magazines from *Fly Fisherman* to *American Angler*. For three years he was among the hosts of the "Fly-Fish Television Magazine" show.

As a speaker and clinician, Skip is well-known as an entertaining, concise, and knowledgeable presenter, with a sly sense of humor and an easygoing manner that draws in the audience.



Two Fish, One Fly...

By Tammy Findlay

Tue, Nov 28th: Took an extra day off today because my "need to go fishing timer" had been going off for a week and it was driving me crazy. So I worked Thanksgiving and Sunday to swing part of the day Monday. Been swamped at work and it's killing my sanity (relative term). Eli (pictured below) and I made a trip out to the Cascade River because reports were coming in that most fishermen were doing well after these heavy rains. I didn't check the flows, but the river was running super high. The highest I've ever fished it. This actually made the spot right below the hatchery into a really nice hole that could accommodate a lot of people fishing it hard.

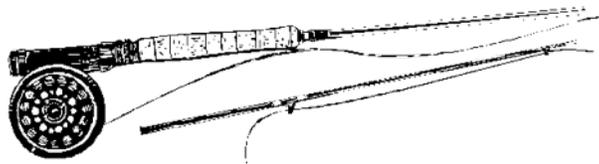


A month ago we had come to the same spot on the Cascade hoping for Coho and the river was the lowest I've ever fished it. The spot below the hatchery wasn't even fishable. We spent some time under the bridge and then moved to the mouth where the river empties into the Skagit. I really love this spot for fly fishing. There's a gravel bar with a great hole and plenty of room to cast. And I needed it, cuz look what I was trying to cast.



I tied these with the heavies barbel eyes I could find & a big #3 red hook. I originally tied this because Eli asked me to tie some jigs the night before but I didn't have any jig forms. I pulled this super bright Coho out of there and a couple more dark ones.

Today on the Cascade, I caught my first Steelhead of the year on the same fly! An extra special thanks to Klaus and the fly club for the extra long loan of the 9wt fly rod. It caught a lot of fish and had we had many adventures. If you're going to the Cascade, get there early. The bite was off by 9:30am. We saw most get one fish and some get two. I can't wait to go back. Stupid work.



Picture of the Year... 2011



Newsletter Awards!

The board has agreed to handing out awards for best articles and photos of the year. This competition will start as of January 1, 2012.

There will be three classifications for best articles. The first will be the best report on any outings during the year, the second will be memories of fishing, and the third will be any article of interest to the club such as fly tying.

There will be three classifications for best photo. The first will be the best photo fish and fishing, the second will be the best photo of any gatherings at outings, and the third will be the best photo of either flies, insects, or nature.

Photo resolution is not required...you don't need an expensive camera. However, the photo has to be taken during 2012. The pictures and articles will be displayed at the November meeting and will be voted on by the membership and the winners will be awarded prizes at the January 2013 meeting.



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.

December's Meeting December 16, 2011

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

CHRISTMAS PARTY!!!

6:00 PM

Contact Gary Jones,
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"!

January's Board Meeting

January 3, 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

Outings Chairman

Frank Koterba (360) 647-9715 fwkphotography@comcast.net

Program Chairman

Gary Jones (425) 239-4193 gary-jones@comcast.net

Secretary

Brian Faloon bfaloon@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Larry Irwin larryandbarb@comcast.net

CONSERVATION

Dan Coombs (360) 398-1637
djcmbs@nas.com

EDUCATION

Klaus Lohse (360) 671-8453
kpstnlohse@gmail.com

LIBRARY

Susan Swetman (360) 428-2016
swetmans@comcast.net

Website

Tammy Findlay
<tammy@bbaybrewery.com>

Newsletter

Sid Strong (360) 220-0099
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 FCFE.
All Fly illustrations are drawn by Ed Ruckey taken from, "Diary of Northwest Trout Flies" by local author and FCFE 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>

