



4th Corner Fly Fishers

President's Message

Dear 4CFF Members,

With spring in the air you can sense the renewal of everyone's spirit and zest to – well, at least pull out the fly fishing equipment to take inventory.

This elevation of spirit was evident at the Fly Tying 101 table at Saturday's fly tying session where Ed and Bruce Ruckey captivated their pupils with the basics of fly tying. Good job grasshoppers!

Earlier in the week Brian Faloon, Gary Jones and I took a road trip to Coquitlam, BC and had a great evening joining a few of the Osprey Fly Fishing Club members for dinner and later attending the Osprey's monthly membership meeting. Tom Johannesen (<http://heritageangling.com/johannesen.htm>) was their guest speaker and he delivered a notable presentation on fly fishing for sea-run cutthroats. Gary grabbed his card - so sit back in anticipation! After a final reminder that their \$70 club dues were due, the meeting ended promptly at 9:40 p.m., hmmm, now I'm not feeling so bad about our meetings, and unfortunately, with a bit of a drive ahead of us, we had to turn down an invite to join their members at the local pub for some wet fly camaraderie.

The 4CFF club calendar is now on our website thanks to Frank and others who have been working hard to organize club events and plan the 2012 club outings. For those of you who are Guest Status members, the club calendar is a great resource for you to plan your completion of the club membership requirements. For those members who are chomping at the bit to be involved with the club – the calendar is your resource as well.

With the Kamloops rainbow in our back door and bamboo rod builders in our front door, February's program with Ray Gould will have something for everyone – please remember to let Gary Jones know if you plan to attend. See you on the 23rd.

Regards,

Lin J. Nelson

Your Club President

P.S. Our \$35 DUES are DUE



Conservation Report

As we enter the new year, the Conservation Committee is excited about beginning two new projects. The first one will be a continuation of our work at the 10 Mile Creek School site in which we will gradually upgrade the creek habitat from the school property over to where it crosses Hemmi Road. Trees and shrubs were planted in this area years ago, but have had a hard time competing with invasive species. On the days that we work at the school site we will gradually be working on this new area as well. Darrell Gray and I are working out final details and getting permission from the appropriate landowner to access the site.



Dan Coombs

FCFE Conservation Chairman
360-398-1637, [djcmbs@nas.com](mailto:djcmb@nas.com)

Becoming a Lead-Free Organization

Our second project is quite easy, straightforward, and one we hope all 4CFE members will voluntarily participate in: making our organization as "lead-free" as we can over the next few years.

Why is moving away from lead important?

Lead is primarily a neurotoxin that destroys cells in the brain and nerve tracts. In addition, it attacks cells in the liver, kidneys, eyes, and muscles. In wildlife, even a sub-lethal dose usually means the death of the animal since any loss of function is dealt with harshly by Mother Nature. Although fish are only occasionally poisoned by lead (plumbism), many other wildlife species are common victims. Fish eaters (loons, mergansers, eagles, kingfishers, pelicans, herons, cormorants) and bottom feeding species (ducks, grebes, geese, swans) are common victims as they mistakenly ingest lead pellets thinking they are pebbles which they use for grinding food in their gizzards. The fish eating birds frequently ingest lead-toting fish that have broken off flies or lures from anglers' lines. The American Bird Conservancy estimates that 10-20 million birds and mammals die each year in the U.S. from lead poisoning caused by fishing tackle, bullet fragments, and shot. Several states, including Washington, have passed laws to help move away from lead as it is used for sporting activities. Often a single small split shot or lead-wrapped fly supplies enough lead to give these birds a fatal dose. Other victims include piscivores and scavengers including turtles, otters, coyotes, and raccoons. Not a happy thought.

Lead-Free Alternatives

Currently, there are several non-toxic lead substitutes for fly fishers to choose from, including tin, tungsten, copper, and brass. Tin is replacing lead weighting line, while tungsten is available as moldable putty, split shot, as well as in bead heads. Examples of mail order suppliers who are moving away from lead are Orvis, L.L.Bean, and Feathercraft. There is a cost differential for fishermen, which, at times, has been used as the argument to continue using lead. A current study at the University of Vermont showed that a switch to non-toxics would cost the average angler between \$2 and \$5 per year. Come on, that's the cost of one drink per year at one of our club meetings!

Practical Steps

To encourage the use of non-toxics, the Conservation Committee has purchased non-toxic samples to be raffled off monthly by Errol and Craig. In addition, we will be more than willing to collect your old lead wire, split shot, etc. at club meetings and have it re-purposed to a safer use. We hope that the hunters

among us will see long term value in moving away from lead ammunition. Many have already done so. Just saying "No to lead" represents only a small step, but it is definitely in the right direction and will hopefully serve as an example to other user groups. Our club is primarily focused on fishing, but I'm sure most of us feel a connection to being good stewards of our natural environment and its resident wildlife. Just saying "No to lead" is just one aspect of that stewardship.

Thanks to all of you members (more than 30) who signed the letter send in support of wild steelhead on the Elwha River. Let's hope this affects the decision makers on that project.



February's Meeting Program

Ray Gould will be the presenter at our upcoming membership meeting. Ray's been an avid fly fisherman and fly tier since 1958 when he first visited Glimpse Lake B.C., now his favorite spot on earth. His most recent book *Fly Fishing for Kamloops Trout* (2009) has led to a speaking tour about fly fishing in BC.

In 1978, Gould began building and repairing bamboo fly rods, designing and building the necessary equipment including the use of computer programs to design his rod tapers. He has presented cane rod programs and exhibited his work in Washington, Montana and British Columbia. He co-chaired two Bamboo Rod Builder's workshops at Corbett Lake B.C. and has become known for his "double parabolic tapers". He's authored two books on the subject: *Constructing Cane Rods: Secrets of the Bamboo Fly Rod* (1998), *Cane Rods Tips and Tapers* (2004).

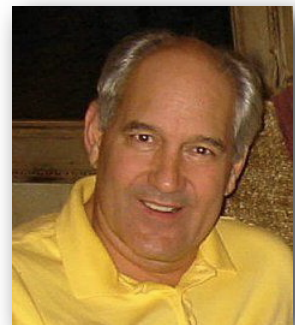
Gould is a past President of NFA and has taught fly tying for both the NFA and the Olympic fly clubs. His service has been honored by the Northwest Fly Anglers Club with the Dawn Holbrook Memorial Award and by the Washington Fly Club with the Letcher Lambuth Award. Gould and his wife Susan (former State Senator) reside in Bothell; they have three children: Kevin, Meredith, and LeaAnn.

When: Wet fly at 6:00pm, Dinner at 7:00, then Ray's presentation.

Where: Bellingham Golf and Country Club.

Please let me know if you plan to attend.

Gary Jones, FCFE Program Chair (425) 239-4193
or gary-jones@comcast.net



February Outings Report

OK, the holidays are long gone except for the bills, the big snow is over, and the Super Bowl is history, SONOWWHATDOWEDO?

Plenty! 2012 has just gotten started! It's time to start planning. What skills do you want to add or improve? Do small streams finally get your attention? Will you actually start pitching a fly off the beach? Maybe its time to start casting flies you've tied yourself. And maybe you just want to hang out with a bunch of people who enjoy each other and the place we live!!

Go to the calendar on the website (4thcornerfly.com) to see what is planned at this time. Note that there are some events (mostly Impromptu and Day trips) that have no dates. These are in the schedule to indicate potential places and times for 1 day trips. They are dependent on weather and water conditions and the fish. As the time in question approaches we can schedule them or not. There are also some outings that have a date but no or multiple specific destinations. As a case in point, the outing scheduled for April 19-22nd could be to the Yakima River, to an Eastern Washington Lake or a low lake in British Columbia. At that time of year the conditions will dictate where we go.

I will be updating the calendar on an unscheduled and continuous basis. (The date of the last revision is at the top left of the schedule in the header.) So I would recommend that you check it often. This is true especially if you are planning on making the trip.

Fly Tying Sessions:



The inaugural session at Dan Coombs residence brought together 14 members of our tribe. Their skills could be measured on several levels. We had a few just starting, some a bit better, and so on until we hit the peak. All had one attribute in common: Enjoy the company and get a bit better at the task.



The next session was at Lin Nelson's on Saturday the 11th (12:00-4:30). He served a light lunch and Ed Ruckey did the second session of Fly Tying 101 featuring the woolly buggler and hare's ear nymph. It was a lot of fun.

The next 2 sessions will be on:

Saturday February 25th at my house (360.647.9715) from 12:30-4:30 As usual I will be whipping up some food to go with the feathers.



Wednesday, February, 29th at Tammy Findlay's house (360.220.-7879) from 5:00-9:00 She has room for 10-12 tiers and we will be concentrating on salt water flies for the tropics. Delicious food will be served so as usual let her know if you will be coming.

Outings:

The first outing will be a tune up event at Pass Lake on March 31st. As usual I will be putting together a pot of something for lunch, so an RSVP would be much appreciated. Directions and information is up on the website under Pass Lake.

We are reintroducing the pancake breakfast at Silver Lake on opening day April 28th. We have rented the large gazebo at the county park. This is open to families and guests and you don't have to fish to get in on the fun. There will be a nominal charge to cover the cost of the breakfast. So to plan I will need to know if you are coming and how many of you there will be. I will also be putting together teams to handle the cooking and the cleanup.

The breakfast was the result of a member (Errol McWhirk) asking for it. This is something any of you can do. Check out the calendar, if there is something you would like added or changed let me know. We can see if it is feasible and put it in. That is also why we are going to Chopaka Lake earlier to get in on the hatches and the crowds.

Training:

I have been in contact with Scott Christiansen and he is willing to teach his casting classes again. There will be at least one class for novices and another for intermediate casters. If you are interested, let me know which one you want. Each class will be limited to 10. If there are more than 10, we will hold a raffle to fill the course. Preference will be given to members, and those who have not taken the course. These will be early in the year. I will get some dates and we can get it in the schedule. There will be a \$15 charge.

We will again be offering a small stream course. This will be later in the summer when the runoff dies down (we hope!). This will be filled using the same process as above.

One of the outings we are going to put together is a float down the Skagit River. To do this safely we are putting together a course to go over boat handling, equipment and safety procedures. Watch the calendar for these. This is something we all should know and practice. Its too late to think about after you have been thrown in the water or your boat fails.

We have a pretty full year ahead. So I hope to see you out there!

Frank Koterba

Your External VP



Upcoming Outings

Pass Lake 3/31 Silver Lake 4/28

Upcoming Fly Tying Sessions

Saturday, Feb 25th, 12:30-4:30
RSVP to Frank Koterba (647-9715)

Wednesday, Feb 29th at 5-9:00 pm.
Email RSVP tammy(@)bbaybrewery.com

February Culinary Corner

I had some friends over and for an Asian menu. As one of the courses I did several types of “gyoza” or Japanese dumplings. Making them was an option however time constraints led me to purchase frozen varieties. The key was to make the dipping sauces from scratch. The ingredient list is short and simple. Which make the individual items that much more important. This was also true for the main dish, Pho Bo.

A list of key staples is as follows:

Fish sauce or nuac mam is a ubiquitous part of Vietnamese cooking. As with many things there are definite levels of product each with their own benefits. Like olive oil the first draw from a batch of fermented anchovies or other small fish is highly prized. This is a lighter more flavorful sauce that is great in dipping sauces or other uses where there is no cooking. Later pressings are darker and have a higher salt content. Several brands that are great for sauces are “Three Crabs” or “Flying Lion”. They are a bit more expensive (\$4) but you can really tell the difference. For cooking, I like the “Squid” brand. Although I now usually just use the good stuff.

Soy sauce also plays a roll in many dipping sauces and again there are many styles and brands. Our most familiar types have a Chinese or Japanese origin. In this case the lighter Chinese soy sauces are used. After searching the web and using it for a while I have settled on The “Happy Baby” brand.

Fresh ingredients include ginger, lemon or lime juice, garlic, shallots, bird or serrano chilies, scallions, cilantro, culantro (Vietnamese cilantro) and mint. Freshness is again the key. These ingredients add aromatics and depth to the sauces. This is not where you want to use lemon or lime juice from a bottle!

When looking for all these ingredients I head for the Asia Oriental Market (2408 Meridian St, Bellingham). They have everything you need and if you can't find it, just ask. They have sauces, condiments, produce, and many other items to catch your taste buds. One thing I did notice is that the high quality soy and fish sauces are on the very bottom shelf! Make sure you look in their freezers; I bought the gyoza here and there were numerous other temptations available. While most of the labels are unreadable to my western brain, there are labels in English and enough information to get you what you need (the dumpling label indicates which are MSG free). If you enjoy this cuisine you will find yourself going back on a regular basis. I should mention that the prices are much lower than you will find in the regular grocery store.

Preparing the gyoza:

There are several methods used to cook the dumplings. They can be steamed, sautéed, deep fried, or my favorite, sautéed and then steamed.

I use a heavy non stick sauté pan on medium high heat, with a couple of tablespoons of vegetable oil. Let the pan heat until the oil shimmers and then add the frozen gyoza with the flat side on the bottom. Do not crowd them or they won't brown.

Let them cook until the bottom gets color and then turn them onto their sides and repeat the process. This should only take a couple of minutes a side. Check the process and raise or lower the heat as necessary.

To finish, add a generous $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of water, cover the pan leaving a gap to release the steam and let the gyoza steam until the water is gone. This should take 4 or 5 minutes.

Plate them up and serve with one of the dipping sauces below.

(Nuoc Cham) Vietnamese Dipping Sauce

Keep a jar of this sauce in the refrigerator; it will last for a month. You can find ground chile paste (my favorite is Rooster brand) and fish sauce at many supermarkets but always at Asian groceries.

Yields 1-1/2 cups.

Ingredients:

1 clove garlic
2 to 3 Thai bird chiles (or 1 small jalapeño or serrano chile), cored, seeded, and minced; to taste
1/2 tsp. ground chile paste; to taste
2/3 cup hot water
1/4 cup granulated sugar
1/4 cup fish sauce
2 Tbs. fresh lime juice
2 Tbs. shredded carrots (optional)

Directions:

In a mortar and pestle, pound the garlic and fresh chiles to a paste. (Or mince them together with a knife.) In a small bowl, combine this garlic and chile mixture with the chile paste, hot water, and sugar. Stir well. Add the fish sauce and lime juice and combine. Float the carrots on top. Let sit for at least 15 minutes before using.

(Nuoc Mam Gung) Ginger-Lime Dipping Sauce

Ingredients:

2 tablespoons chopped fresh ginger
2 teaspoons chopped garlic
3 tablespoons sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
3 tablespoons fish sauce
3 tablespoons freshly squeezed lime juice
2 tablespoons water
1/2 teaspoon chili-garlic sauce, dried red chili flakes, or chopped fresh hot chilies

Directions:

Combine all the ingredients in a blender or mini food processor, and blend until you have a fairly smooth sauce. Transfer to a small bowl, stir to be sure the sugar has dissolved, and set aside until serving time. Or combine the ginger, garlic, sugar, and salt in the bowl of a mortar and grind to a



(The rosemary helps cut the sweetness of the sugar and balsamic vinegar and cooking them for just a few minutes left just a bit of crunch to the slices.)

Pull the chicken out of the oven. Using those same wooden spoons (or a meat fork), tip the chicken so any juices inside the cavity run into the Dutch oven.

Set the chicken on a cutting board and cover with foil for a few minutes.

Strain most of the vegetables and other chicken parts (wings, heart, etc) out of the pan, keeping all of the juices.

Boil the juices over high heat for 5 minutes, stirring frequently, to thicken.

Serving

Carve the chicken.

Top with pears and balsamic glaze, and then spoon some of the pan finished juices over the whole thing.

Enjoy!

Frank Koterba

Campsite Chef of the FCFF



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.

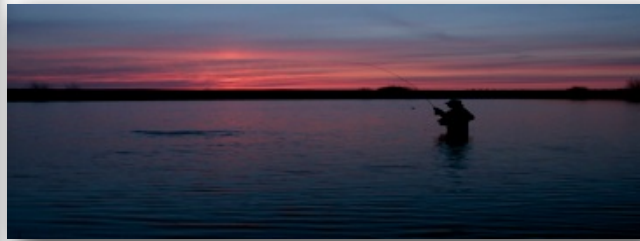
It is important that I receive the articles and photos as soon as possible so that I can put some of them in the monthly newsletter. That way, everyone has a chance to read and see the entries before the vote.

Sid Strong, *FCFF Communications Committee*
swstrong@comcast.net

Steve Runge, *Newsletter Editorial Ass.*
srunge@logos.com

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

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.





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.

February's Meeting February 23, 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
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"!

March's Board

March 6, 2011

Trinity Lutheran Church
119 Texas Street
Bellingham, WA
6:00 P.M.

4CFF Board

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

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swetmans@comcast.net

Website

Tammy Findlay

<tammy@bbaybrewery.com>

Newsletter

Sid Strong (360) 220-0099

swstrong@comcast.net

Membership Chairmen: Brian Faloon and Nathan Weston

Raffle Chairmen: Errol McWhirk, Craig Lang

Directors Klaus Lohse, Craig Carlile, Nathan Weston, and Matt Roelofs

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.



4th CORNER FLY FISHERS



Aims and Purposes

The Members of the Fourth Corner Fly Fishers (located in Bellingham, WA) are united by our enjoyment of the sport of fly fishing 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 purposes for which the Club was formed are:

- To operate a social club for the pleasure, association and recreation of its members engaged in fly fishing activities.
 - To work to protect wild fish and the habitat which sustains them.
 - To work for the betterment and preservation of angling waters and surrounding land.
 - To improve the "State of the Art" of flying fishing and to keep members informed of developments of interest.
 - To develop and carry out programs of education designed to encourage individuals of all ages to become fly fishers and to promote ethical use of the resource.
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P.O. Box 1543
Bellingham, WA 98227

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