

4th Corner Fly Fishers

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear 4CFF Members,

It's interesting to reflect on our collective good fortune, living in the relative comfort of the Pacific Northwest at a time when much of the country: North, East, Midwest and even South, is buried in snow and otherwise feeling the uncomfortable power of winter's remaining presence. And it's also interesting to reflect that humankind in those other areas of the country, North, East, Midwest and South, have managed to nearly entirely extirpate wildlife of all types, including wild game-fish, from their midst.

Again, reflecting on our collective good fortune, it appears that it is not too late to save our part of the world from suffering a similar unhappy and nearly irreversible fate.

Interestingly, a companion to the efforts of NSEA, Native Fish Society, Wild Fish Conservancy and other organizations dedicated to protecting what's left of our wild fish is the enduring presence of beaver colonies in our part of the world.

Well-respected NOAA biologist George Pess, a periodic speaker at 4CFF Meetings, and others recently conducted a study to determine how to restore coho salmon in the Stillaguamish River. Historical data showed a natural summer Smolt Production Potential [SPP] in the Stilly of 2.5 million smolts, and a winter SPP of 7.1 million smolts, for a total of nearly 10 million coho smolts annually. Pess' team assessed the current and historic distributions of beaver ponds and other coho salmon rearing habitat in the Stilly and found that the greatest reduction in coho salmon smolt production capacity originated from the extensive loss of beaver ponds. They estimated that current summer smolt production potential (SPP) was only 965,000 smolts, and found that summer habitat capacity had been reduced by 61% compared with historic levels, and that most of the reduction resulted from the loss of beaver ponds. A more dramatic reduction in winter habitat capacity was found; current winter SPP was estimated at only 971,000 smolts, or 13%

(President’s Message continued)

historic abundance. In terms of winter habitat capacity, Pess estimated a 94% reduction in beaver pond Smolt Production, a 68% loss in SPP of sloughs, a 9% loss in SPP of tributary habitat, and an overall Smolt Production Potential reduction of 86%. Most of the overall reduction resulted from the loss of beaver ponds. Pess’ analysis suggests that increasing beaver populations may be a simple and effective means of restoring the slow-water habitat that these salmon depend on, without large expenditures of public funds.

To read George Pess’ paper on the use of beavers to restore damaged habitat and jumpstart salmon recovery, see: <http://duff.ess.washington.edu/grg/publications/pdfs/Pollock.pdf>

To read more about beavers, and the role that they may play in essential habitat restoration, see: <http://blog.ecotrust.org/beavers-natures-first-river-restoration-engineers-2/> .

The Board of Directors and I continue to work on policies and procedures for membership and awards, and to help deliver educational opportunities and conservation benefits to our local communities. It is humbling to watch the collective spirit present on our Board and in our Committees. If there’s an aspect of our Club that appeals strongly to you, I’d urge you to contact a Committee Chair to see how you could help. It will reward you in ways that are unexpected but ultimately inspiring.

Be well,

Hugh Lewis



“February is likely to have splendid days of bright sun after frost, with the first faint feeling of spring in them, for the sap is rising in the maples again and the willow shoots are scarlet with it and the alders and fruit trees budded with it. By the middle of February some of the December and January fish may have lost the perfection of their ocean loveliness, but it is not likely that you will catch a really ugly fish. This is February’s great advantage over March...”

Roderick Haig-Brown, “A River Never Sleeps”

FEBRUARY MEETING

This month's general meeting of the 4th Corner Fly Fishers will be held at the Bellingham Golf and Country Club on **February 27, 2014**. The Wet Fly will begin at 6pm with dinner at 6:45pm. The program will begin at 7:30pm and will be followed by the general membership meeting.

This month's meeting is Part I of a two-part series on fishing with chironomids (see flyer on next page). Our presenter is Jerry Buron. Jerry is an accomplished fly fisher and expert on stillwater fishing in general, and chironomids in particular. His presentation(s) will cover everything from a discussion of chironomids as a food source for trout, when and where to fish them, fishing techniques using chironomids, how to tie a successful chironomid pattern and tips and hints on setting up your gear to be successful.

Jerry is a member of the Evergreen Fly Fishing Club and frequent presenter to other clubs and organizations around the northwest. He will speak this month and then will return for our April meeting (April 24, 2014) for Part II of the series, so make plans now to attend both presentations!

Please RSVP by Tuesday, February 25 by visiting <http://4cff.eventbrite.com> or by contacting me via email at msr@deepsnow.com or by phone at 360-319-1350. Be sure to indicate if you'll be having dinner or just attending the meeting, and remember that a dinner reservation made is a binding commitment for you to pay. Also, a reminder that getting your RSVP in on time helps us provide an accurate count for the kitchen. Thanks for your help in placing your reservations on time!

Tight lines,

Matt

Matt Roelofs
4CFF Internal Vice President and Program Chair



TREASURER'S REMINDER

Dues for 2014 club membership are \$60 for individuals and \$90 for families. Several members have opted for the family membership this year anticipating food charges and class charges for non-members will possibly make it worthwhile if they have a spouse or children who regularly attend 4CFF events. Give it some thought.

You can send your check to the 4CFF, PO Box 1543, Bellingham, WA 98227 or hand it to me at the next meeting. If any of your contact information has changed, please make note of that change so we can get our records brought up to date.

Remember to add an additional \$10 for any payment after February 28.

Non-payment by April 1 will result in being dropped from membership. If, however, you have decided not to renew your membership, please let me or another Board Member know how the club might have better met your needs or interests.

Larry

Larry Irwin
Club Treasurer
larryandbarb@comcast.net



Education Classes for 2014

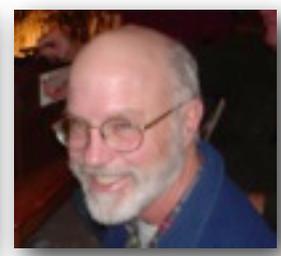
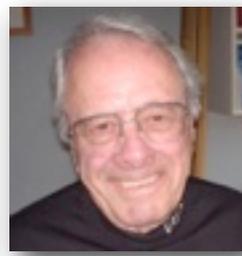
Blaine Middle School Beginning Tying Class, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

- Feb. 20, 25, 27
- March 11, 13, 18, 20, 25
- May 30

Fishing Day = May 31st from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Your Education committee,

Klaus Lohse, Bill Hall, Joe Kelly



February Outings Report:

Outings 2014:

want to welcome you all to the new Outings program for this year. Given the mix of all the new members with the experience of those who have been around awhile, it is about time we utilized them both. It is also time to free up the program by getting more people involved in choosing and planning the events.

Earlier this month our new outings' committee put together a schedule that is more robust and extensive. We are keeping some of the old standards like Pass Lake, the Silver Lake breakfast, the trips to the Methow area (including the Classic), the upper Skagit, and the salmon trips here and in BC. As a matter of fact, we will probably have more trips for salmon than we have had recently. And with the new structure we can go to more of the waters that we have only visited sporadically.

The Yakima is back, as well as Chopaka Lake, and we will have several forays up to Peterhope Lake and the Hwy24 area in BC. In addition there is a float on the lower Skagit and a steelhead trip to the Stilly. As far as new additions we have added a guided saltwater trip to the South Sound beaches, a Sandy Point saltwater trip to chase Coho and finally a run over to Montana to sample some of those waters you have read about. All in all it should be a memorable year.

The key to working will be the guest host. This year we will have at least one guest host for each outing. They will be responsible researching and providing the basic information on the trip. Where are we going? What are the accommodations? What is the schedule? Is there a potluck? And last but not least, what are we fishing for and how do you catch them? They will also be the host for the event and write up a report on how it went. All this information will be collected in the "**Outings Detail Document**" (ODD). This will be available online shortly and you can use it to plan your outings. They are also good sources of information to plan a trip to the location whenever you want to go.

It should be noted that as far as how we have done things in the past do not assume that they will be the same this year. The food and the fly boxes and all the rest are going to be optional and check in the ODD to confirm the details.

This will be the year to shake out the wrinkles. So as this unfolds feel free to make any suggestions or comments as we go through the schedule.

February Outings Report (cont.)

Member Development:

One of the other changes has occurred is the creation of a committee that will work on member development. This will include scheduling the casting classes, the small stream course, and the fly tying sessions. It will also include any other courses like boating safety, spey casting, educational trips that we devise in the future. Since my load as the outing chairman will be diminished I will be co-chairing this with Emil Ekman. (Thanks Emil for stepping up!)

Frank Koterba

Your External Vice President/Outings Chair

Thanks to Phil Terzian and Kevin McClurg, we again have a working calendar again!

2014 4CFF CLUB CALENDAR				
Last Revised:				Cancelled
CLUB FUNCTION	DATE	EVENT	HOST	MISC
January				
Club Meeting/Dinner	Jan-14	MEMBERSHIP DINNER/MEETING	Matt Roelofs (RSVP Req'd)	6:00 -??
February				
Education	20, 25, 27	Blaine Middle School	Klause 671-8453	3:00-5:00
Club Meeting/Dinner	Feb 27th	MEMBERSHIP DINNER/MEETING	Matt Roelofs (RSVP Req'd)	6:00 -??
March				
Board Meeting		Trinity Lutheran Church 119 Texas St.	Hugh Lewis 676-5150	6:00-??
Education	3,10,17,24,31	Fly Tying Class at Yeager's	Klause 671-8453	5:00-7:00
Education	8-Mar	Fly tying class	Dan Coombes 398-1637	1:00-4:30
Education	11,13,18,20,25	Blaine Middle School	Klause 671-8453	3:00-5:00
Club Meeting/Dinner	27-Mar	Membership dinner / meeting	Matt Roelofs (RSVP Req'd)	6:00-??
Outing	Mar 29	Pass Lake (See Outing Detail Doc on Web)	Klause Lohse (671-8453)	Lunch by Frank
April				
Board Meeting		Trinity Lutheran Church - 119 Texas St	Hugh Lewis (676-5150)	6:00 -??
Education	3-Apr	Fly tying class at Yeager's	Klause 671-8453	5:00-7:00
Club Meeting/Dinner		MEMBERSHIP DINNER/MEETING	Matt Roelofs (RSVP Req'd)	6:00 -??
Outing	Apr 26th	<i>Silver Lake opening day Pancake feed</i>	Errol and Brian	Pancake Breakf
May				
Board Meeting		Trinity Lutheran Church - 119 Texas St	Hugh Lewis (676-5150)	6:00 -??
Education	10, 17	Lummi Nations High School	Klause 671-8453	TBD
Education	19, 20, 28	Options High School	Klause 671-8453	TBD
Outing	May 7-11	Peter Hope Lake, BC	Frank Koterba	Food TBD
Outing	May 16-18	Big Twin Lake	Rick Todd	Food TBD
Club Meeting/Dinner		MEMBERSHIP DINNER/MEETING	Matt Roelofs	6:00 -??

Whatcom Creek Clean-Up

On February 1st, a group from the club started on cleanup efforts along Whatcom Creek. Bob Johnston was kind enough to send along these photos from this conservation project. Based on the load in the back of Nathan Weston's truck (last page), it was much needed!







A NEW BOOK BY A MEMBER

A 4th Corner Fly Fisher wrote a new book on a fact-based tale of the horror and brutality of war – and the compassion and courage hidden in us all to fight for survival...and salvation.

The Russian Army has invaded its long-time foe, Finland, while pursuing the German troops fleeing from Hitler's self-destructive attack on Russia. Aimo Kekkenen and the children of his village are put on a train for Nilstad, Sweden – and safety. But not for all. Aimo's sister finds a warm, loving home with Constable Sten Valheen and his family; but Aimo is taken in by the Blixdals: the Reverend Björn, a sadistic, egomaniacal collaborator; and his desperate, loveless and childless wife, Karen. And the remaining refugee children who are not taken in find themselves trapped in the hell of the town orphanage. The question isn't whether Finland will survive to welcome home its lost sons and daughters – but whether its sons and daughters will survive to return home.

In "Sunpath: The War Orphan Train," Aimo, his sister, cousin and best friend are torn from their idyllic lives in the countryside of Finland and thrust into a maelstrom. They are the "Finska Krigsbarn" (Finnish War Children): the estimated 70-80,000 children evacuated to neighboring Scandinavian countries, mostly to Sweden, throughout World War II. At war's end, over 15,000 evacuees never returned home – and of those who did, most did so to parentless lives.

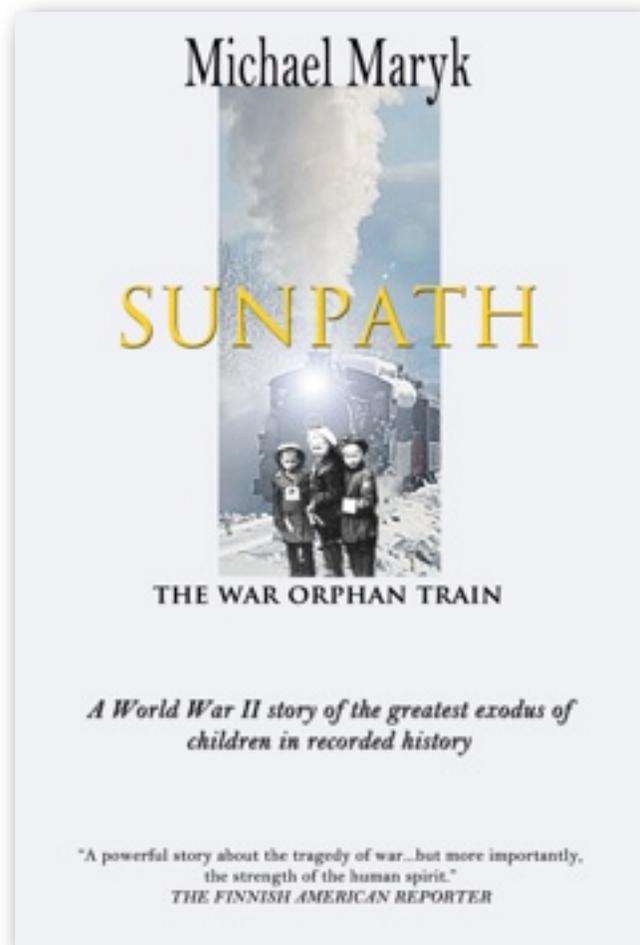
Based on author Michael Maryk's interviews with survivors and local research, "Sunpath" is, at its heart, an examination of the good and bad in all people and the too-soon shattering of childhood innocence – a theme sadly familiar in our world today.



Publication date: October 2013

ISBN: 978-0615886046

Availability: [Kindle](#) - \$3.99



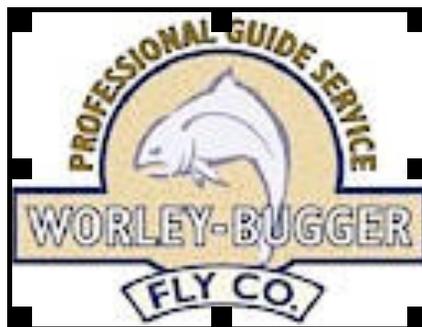
“Fishing is a very flexible sport. You can make of it almost anything you will, from a considerable athletic effort to a quiet mood of observation and introspection. You can even combine these extremes and at the same tie enjoy many of the gradations between them, such as delight in the streams and lakes and salt water, joy in recognition of birds and other wildlife or wonder at the beauty of the fish themselves and the intricate mysteries of their ways.

Roderick Haig-Brown, “The Man Behind the Rod” [1961]

A Few Of Our Club Supporters



<http://www.theconfluenceflyshop.com>





4CFF CALENDAR OF EVENTS



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. 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 Bill Hall (305-0161), Joe Kelly (384-0623), Klaus Lohse (671-8453) 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 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 hosts.

February's
Meeting
THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 27,
2014

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

RSVP to Matt for reservations:
<http://4cff.eventbrite.com>
msr@deepsnow.com
360-319-1350

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

March's Board
Meeting

March 4, 2014
Trinity Lutheran Church
119 Texas Street
Bellingham, WA
6:00 P.M.

4CFF Board Members

President

Hugh Lewis (360) 676-5150

hugh@hughlewislaw.com

External Vice President-Programs

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

Internal Vice President-Programs

Matt Roelofs (360 714 8407) msr@deepsnow.com

Secretary

Craig Lang (360) 201-1917 craig.lang@ch2m.com

Treasurer

Larry Irwin (360) 752-1506 larryandbarb@comcast.net

CONSERVATION

Dan Coombs (360) 398-1637

dwmcoombs@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Bill Hall (360) 305-0161

billfies@comcast.net

Joe Kelly (360) 384-0623

jmkellyrr@comcast.net

Klaus Lohse (360) 671-8453

kpstnlohse@gmail.com

LIBRARY

Nathan Weston (360) 306-8513

npweston@comcast.net

Website

Tammy Findlay

tflevel5@gmail.com

Newsletter

Sid Strong (360) 220-0099

swstrong@comcast.net

Steve Runge

srunge@logos.com

Membership Chairmen: Brian Faloon and Nathan Weston

Raffle Chairmen: Errol McWhirk

Directors: Sid Strong, Rick Todd, Jim Darden and Ed Dahl

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 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 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.
-



P.O. Box 1543
Bellingham, WA 98227

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