



4th Corner Fly Fishers

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear 4CFF Members,

Can it be April already? As I start this missive, an early-bird robin is calling repeatedly from a nearby tree-top, advertising his readiness for love or its avian equivalent. Will Spring in the air bring a spring to your step?

Something that warmed my heart over the weekend was an ad placed in a Mount Baker Theater performance Program by PeaceHealth, our local hospital and medical services provider. Right there, in full color, was a photo of our own Kelli Cole-Vadjic, that warm smile of hers beaming, under the title "Genuine Kindness." They got that right. Way to go, Kelli!

March could have been better, when you think of things like the massive slide at the Hazel hole on the Stilly. Try as we might, we cannot undo the devastation and loss of life that occurred. But we can certainly help in other ways [<http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2014/03/28/3557842/more-whatcom-county-groups-helping.html?sp=/99/100/&ihp=1>]. And we can and should demand greater accountability from our public officials when decisions regarding land use and natural resources management are made.

But then there was good news for the future of wild fish in the Elwha River. A Federal District Court Judge ruled in favor of Wild Fish Conservancy's lawsuit that sought to stop massive releases of hatchery fish from the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe's new salmon hatchery. The Tribe had proposed to release 7.5 million smolts this year from its new hatchery, recently constructed with \$16.4 Million of federal funds. The Court found that the National Marine Fisheries Service approval of such releases was arbitrary and that it violated essential provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act. See <http://www.flyrodreel.com/blogs/tedwilliams/2014/march/hatchery-releases-violate>.

(President's Message continued)

Unfortunately, as you may have supposed from reading the article linked above, the Tribe has already released some of the smolts that were the subject of Judge Settle's ruling, and an emergency appeal is now scheduled for April 10th. It's hard to say how all of this will shake out, but there is now at least a reasonable likelihood that it will be predominantly wild fish that recolonize the newly-opened pristine Elwha watershed that contains 70 miles of free-flowing river and tributaries. Assuming that large hatchery releases are stopped, it will be interesting to see how quickly the recovery of wild salmon will occur. We do know that fish ARE coming back already, and that they are coming back in significant numbers: [http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2022276484_apxelwhariversalmon.html] So, it's a “stay tuned” situation. We'll revisit this later, at some point when we know a little more.

Well, let's talk about things a little closer to home. The Opening Day Pancake Feed, heralding the beginning of fishing season in lowland lakes in these parts, will take place at Silver Lake on Saturday the 26th. It is fun, no matter what the weather might be like. There's camaraderie, a crackling fire, fabulous flapjacks and other tasty morsels rustled up by Frank and his motley crew of sous chefs. It's something not to be missed. Here's what it was like last year: [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MyzLiF1II3w>]]

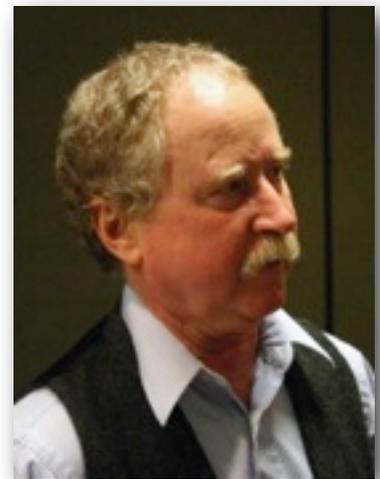
For folks who haven't attended a Board meeting in awhile, again I urge you to break away from Oprah, put down your Chardonnay or P.B.R. and join us. It's the first Tuesday of the month at Trinity Lutheran Church, a block each way off of Alabama and Cornwall in old Bellingham. We continually need that input.

And we also need people with energy and a wee bit of spare time to consider running for a position on that Board of ours. There will be some vacancies on the Board come this fall. It's not a huge commitment of time and energy, in light of that old adage that “many hands make short work.” We'll be talking about this in greater detail next month.

Be well....

Hugh

Hugh Lewis



APRIL MEETING

This month's general meeting of the 4th Corner Fly Fishers will be held at the Bellingham Golf and Country Club on April 24, 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 we welcome back Jerry Buron for Part II of his two-part series on fishing with chironomids. Jerry is an accomplished fly fisher and expert on stillwater fishing in general, and chironomids in particular. For Part II, Jerry will focus on chironomid-specific fishing techniques, how to tie successful chironomid patterns, and tips and hints on how to set 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. If you were fortunate enough to attend his first presentation in February, I'm sure you'll be coming back for more, and if you missed him last time, now is your chance to catch the encore!

Please RSVP by Tuesday, April 22 by visiting <http://4cff.eventbrite.com> or by contacting me via email at mrsr@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 to pay. Also, a reminder that getting your RSVP in on time helps us provide an accurate count for the kitchen. Last month we pressed the staff at the country club with a larger-than-normal number of walk-ins and I'd like to see us avoid putting unnecessary pressure on the kitchen – so thanks for your help in placing your reservations on time!

I look forward to seeing you on the 24th!

Tight lines,

Matt Roelofs
4CFF Internal Vice President and Program Chair



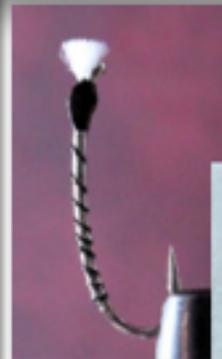
Part II “Successful Chironomid Techniques for Stillwater fly fishing!”

By Jerry Buron

Part II of Successful Chironomid Techniques for Stillwater will cover the following topics:

- Chironomid fishing equipment & how to set it up to be successful!
- Water craft essentials!
- Successful techniques on how to fish chironomids!
- Demonstration on how to tie “Jerry’s hard bodied chironomids!”
- Chironomid tying prior to meeting with tips & techniques you’ll want to learn!

Date: Thursday, April 24, 2014 Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Bellingham Golf & Country Club, Bellingham, WA
Presenter: Jerry Buron



4th Corner Fly Fishers February Mtg.
Bellingham, WA

CONSERVATION REPORT

Fellow Members,

Our Conservation group is currently taking on two new projects in addition to Nathan's new Whatcom Creek cleanup project. After visiting the Lily Point Nature Preserve (Point Roberts area), we polled the members at the March meeting and discovered there are quite a few of you who are interested in helping with minor upkeep at this beautiful site. Lily Point is owned by the Whatcom Land Trust, and is operated by Whatcom County Parks and Rec. Our role will be to prune down small groupings of invasive species including English Holly, Scotch Broom, and a few small clumps of blackberries. In addition, we will periodically pick up small flotsam debris on the beach consisting primarily of plastic, glass, rubber, and non-natural wood. These jobs can be accomplished in 3-4 trips per year, so there should be plenty of chances for interested members to visit the site and enjoy it's beauty. On the beach area there are remnants of the old salmon cannery that was a going concern in the 1920's. Just off shore beyond the old pier pilings, there are eel grass beds where herring and other bait fish still spawn. And, yes, there are some flyfishing opportunities on or near the Lily Point site, so we may plan a work party/fishing function up there come late July or August. All volunteers for work parties to Lily Point must have a Nexus pass, enhanced drivers' license, or current passport for border crossing. We are also on track to a lesser degree at Point Whitehorn Park, which is closer to home. Our function there will be minor trail maintenance, and pruning down any non-indigenous plant species as well. These work trips will be accomplished on separate days from the Lily Point trips, and will involve less travel time.

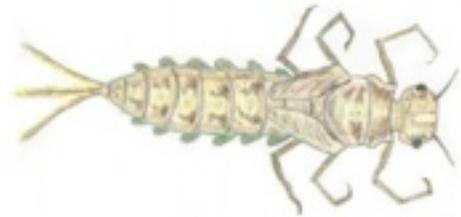
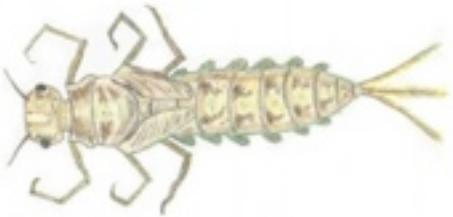
By the time you receive this newsletter, we will already have had our first work party outings to Lily Point (April 8th) and 10 Mile Creek school site (April 12th). Those of you who missed these trips should tune into May as there will be opportunities then.

Last month's program by Rich Bowers of the Hydropower Reform Coalition was quite interesting. As we all learned, quite a few minor dams are way past their lifespans and decisions are now being made on their fates. In addition, Rich spoke about the proposal to give the upper reaches of the Nooksack a "Wild and Scenic river" designation. The primary aims would be to preserve the valuable natural resources and recreational uses at the upper reaches of each of the three forks of the Nooksack. More importantly, it would help ensure the purity of the water in these upper reaches by limiting commercial or residential development adjacent to these streams. The interpretive map shows "Wild and Scenic" could end just above the town of Glacier on the North fork also including Canyon and Glacier creeks. The middle fork ends at Mosquito Lake Rd. including Clearwater and

Warm creeks. The south fork designation would end a bit below where Howard Creek comes in also including Bell and Wanlick Creeks. I will post this map at the next meeting for members to review. At some point in time we will be passing a letter of individual support for signatures of people in the club who view this "Wild and Scenic" designation favorably.

Lastly, I want to recognize Ed Dahl for his excellent work on restoring one of our two club boats kept at Squalicum Lake. Not only did Ed repaint and re-fiberglass the hull, but he completely re-did the flotation chambers so it is a fine fishing machine for our members. If you care to use it, call me for the combination number for its lock. We would love to make available pairs of oars (6-7 ft. long) for each boat, so call me if you have a pair to donate or loan out.

Dan Coombs
Conservation Chairman
dwmcoombs@gmail.com
360-398-1637



April Outings Report:

Pass Lake:

We initiated our 2014 season with the trek to Pass Lake. It initially looked like a questionable endeavor. As I was leaving town, the clouds were low, the rain was pretty heavy and the forecast was not good. Living where we do it doesn't pay to let the forecast rule the day. Besides we had 2 brand new canopies to try out! As a matter of fact, the sky cleared as I topped Bow Hill going south and the rain held off until we had lunch. By the way, Susan Swetman is the proud owner of a new fly box loaded with examples of Ed Ruckey's tying skills. Her husband Richard was responsible for most of the photos of the event. While no one really caught a lot of fish almost everyone caught a few. Small chironomids seemed to rule the day. There were also a number of

April Outings Report (cont.)

us who came for the company and maybe the chili. I was breaking new ground by filing the nodes on some split bamboo for a 3 wt.! For a more detailed a report will be forthcoming from our host for the outing, Klaus Lohse. This will be a new format for the rest of the year.

Opening day Silver Lake Pancake Breakfast:

Our next outing will be up at Silver Lake on opening day April 26th. The hosts will be Errol McWhirk and Brian Faloon. They will be providing the outing detail document and will be there to advise you on all things fishy. You can find all of these detail documents on our website.

The breakfast will be around 9:00am in the large gazebo at the Silver Lake campground. I suspect that we will have the usual 30-35 attendee's. There is a fair amount of work to put this together and I will be contacting the usual suspects to pitch in on the cooking crew and the fire starters. As in the past the cost is \$5 for everyone. The menu is pretty standard: pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon with the usual accompaniments. Since we are buying everything for this event off budget, it is important for you to let me know you are coming. This has become a great way to kick off the lowland lakes season and spend some time with your fellow members until the fishing gets really serious!

Peter Hope Lake:

We will be there from May 7th to the 11th with a potluck on Saturday night. The host is yours truly and I will be getting an updated detail document shortly. This is a joint outing with the Ospreys and Totem fly clubs From BC. Peter Hope is an interesting body of water with a lot of structure. There are some hot spots, but there are a lot of fish to be caught once you find them. It is also pretty big so eat your Wheaties before you go! (Wow I am really dating myself with that one!) I will be sending out blanket a e-mail to those on my list. So if you are not sure you are on it, let me know if you want to go.

Big Twin Lake:

This year Rick Todd will be the host. The outing will be held on the weekend of May 16-18 and you can arrive as early in the week as you want. Please call Big Twin Campground as soon as possible to reserve a space. Rick has set aside some spaces for us so mention you are with 4CFF. If you have questions, see the attached outings detail document or contact Rick at 360-961-3539.

Hwy 24:

As I said last month, this is a potential personal best kind of trip. The dates are June 23rd-29th. It takes some planning and I need to know how many of you plan on making the trip to get the lodging worked out. I will send out an e-mail to those who I have on the list shortly. If you don't

April Outings Report (cont.)

get it next week let me know to add you. I would like to base around 100 Mile house as there are some amazing lakes near that end of Hwy 24. We will need to get set up as soon as possible to be able to be close to each other. We can investigate and share information about the fishing a little later.

Casting Classes:

Consider! As we all know this is a relatively technical sport. And one of the primary challenges is getting the fly to go where we want! And there is a litany of other considerations that are in the mix as well. It takes a while to add the craftsmanship to your pursuit.

We all have seen the reps at shows throwing really small loops and casting the whole line. And there are all those videos out there! How does that happen? It takes time and if you are lucky, you can find an instructor that will shorten the trip! We have one! This is not the cliché about "If you can't do—Teach!"

On another level, how much do you invest in your gear and all the fishing you do? How do you evaluate the gear you buy? What rod will work for the current situation? How do you evaluate what you are going to buy? When I was down on Crooked Island, Michael our guide finally said "when are you going to really start driving the rod?" My trip changed. I had spent over a week, a bunch on the plane, a heck of a lot more on rods, reels, and \$175 for the privilege of his advice! It opened my eyes to a new horizon for the sport. By the way I think I spent less than I would for a good line on the classes I took as part of the club.

We are scheduling classes for novice (a must) and intermediate classes (also a must) with Scott Christensen, a certified Fly Fishing Federation certified instructor. These are the best deals around! (Members- \$15, Guest Status members \$20, and non-members \$25)

We are going to add some small advanced classes that go beyond the intermediate level. The details are to be worked out. If you are interested taking more advanced casting instruction contact Emil Ekman 9360)738-2913 or myself (360)647-9715.

This is going to be another remarkable year for outings. So I hope to see you out there.

Frank Koterba

Your External Vice President/Outings Chair



PASS LAKE OUTING REPORT

The annual Spring club outing of March 29 on Pass Lake was, as in the past, a success in spite of a poor weather forecast. As I was leaving Bellingham around 8 a.m. that morning with boat in tow in heavy rain, I thought that if this keeps up, I need to stop and bail out the boat. And whose idea was this anyway, and why am I out here to start with? Then it occurred to me that as the outing co-host, I had to be there even if no one shows, which is a left-handed way of thinking that others may have better sense than I do.

As I rolled into Burlington, the rain became a drizzle. At the Anacortes turn, it stopped. I pulled into the parking lot with about a dozen vehicles there and people milling around. Some were rigging up to fish and some already on the water.

Frank Koterba and I set up the canopies and his cooking gear and hogged the table for the club's lunch—always a draw along with Ed Ruckey's fly box.



For fishing the fly of choice was a size 12-14 chironomid with a copper bead head and copper wire ribbing, fished as a double dropper rig or single, about 12-18" off the bottom. A good double anchor system was helpful due to shifting, gusty wind. Fishing for the most part was slow. I picked up a size 12 slate gray chironomid which I think the low flying swallows were feeding on during a lull in the wind. The fish I heard of being caught were mostly in the 12-13" range for both rainbows and browns.

As the morning approached lunchtime, we even had a few sun breaks. At 1 o'clock Frank served his now famous chili with all the condiments, complemented with corn bread and a honey/butter dip provided by Emil Ekman. During the meal, with about 26 of us in line with plate in hand including 10 none-fishers that day with many having seconds of everything, we had the drawing.

The lucky ticket for Ed's fly box wound up in Susan Swetman's hand. Her husband Richard was taking lots of pictures during the entire outing, which can be seen here:

[Pass Lake 2014](#)



After lunch with a few sprinkles, many hands helped with the breakdown and packing of Frank’s gear along with the club’s awning. A lot of folks called it a day right about then, myself included. Though it was cold and blustery much of the day, and not withstanding my earlier misgivings, I believe we all had a good time.

Klaus Lohse

Pass Lake Co-Host









And in other news...

Somewhere on the Owyhee River in Oregon, Charlie Scaief caught a nice brown!

(Picture courtesy of a certain lawyer familiar with the incident.)



April Education Report:

Auction Item:

The Education committee would like to call your attention to an auction on April 24th at the next regular membership meeting, to benefit the budget for the club's education projects.

A Mr. Bob Jones donated his fly tying gear to the 4CFF. He lost interest in tying flies, and wanted to dispose of his tying equipment and materials. His wife, a patient at the Bellingham Cancer Center informed him of the 4CFF classes at the center. After his wife passed away Mr. Jones got in touch with the club. Ed Dahl accepted his donation and passed it on to Bill Hall.



The bulk of the material, feathers - fur - yarn - hooks - and dubbing stuff we passed on to students in classes we are involved with. The tools and hooks we feel were not suited for student use are the object of this auction and include:

	<u>Retail cost</u>	<u>Opening bid</u>
1) a new "Nor-Vise"	\$295.00	\$195.00
2) a new "Auto Bobbin"	\$65.00	\$40.00
3) tying table & gallows arm	\$60.00	\$30.00
4) 200+ var.size hooks & 2 bodkins	<u>\$35.00</u>	<u>\$20.00</u>
Total	\$450.00	\$285.00 or \$275.00 for the lot.

In order to be the stewards the membership would want us to be, we are looking for this to be the minimum. In the unlikely event these items fail to get this, we plan to put them on E-bay or Craig's List to maximize the benefit for the Club's budget line item for education.

Whatcom Community Foundation:

The 4th Corner Fly Fisher's request of \$5,000 was approved for the upcoming year. An official invite to the grantee awards on Thursday, April 24th will be coming soon. Congratulations are in order for all those involved in making this happen!



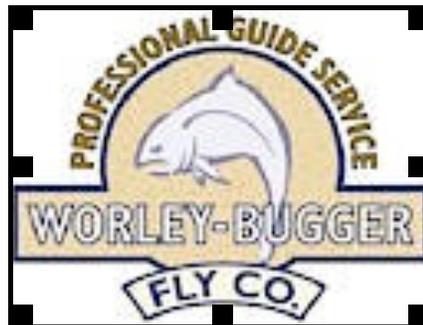
“Fishing is a very flexible sport. You can make of it almost anything you will, from a considerable athletic effort to a quiet mood of observation and introspection. You can even combine these extremes and at the same tie enjoy many of the gradations between them, such as delight in the streams and lakes 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.

April's

Meeting

THURSDAY,
April 24, 2014

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

RSVP to Matt for reservations:

<http://4cff.eventbrite.com>

mstr@deepsnow.com

360-319-1350

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

May's Board Meeting

May 6, 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>
