


FOURTH CORNER FLY FISHERS

President's Message

Silver Creek, in southern Idaho, may be the most famous spring creek in the West, or in the U.S., or in the Northern Hemisphere. Every trout devotee has heard of it; most want to fish it someday. And there are millions of us.

So why is it that, from the looping hillside road that sits above the mile or so of publicly accessible Nature Conservancy water (site of many a calendar photo), on a typical day you may see perhaps a dozen anglers? Why aren't we all there? Primarily, the screening mechanism is great distance. Silver is a convenient 45 minutes from Sun Valley, and a significant factor for many who have homes there. But Silver Creek is a long, long way from where most of us hang our waders; about 750 miles from Bellingham. It's conveniently on the way to Yellowstone Park, but not to much of any other angling destination.

There is another barrier between us and this legend: perceived difficulty. And that's no myth. Every rainbow within its mossy folds has been painfully educated by the top echelon of fly anglers. I find these trout to be, if anything, more difficult to connect with than the first year of my guileless courting. Silver Creek is like those Hollywood beauties who get asked out less often than seems possible, because the intimidation factor is so high. I keep charging once more into the breach because, if I'm going to be rejected, I might as well be rejected by the best.

There aren't many movies made about fly fishing, and they hardly ever get it right. I think one of the best movies for fly fishermen is "Rudy," which mentions fishing not at all. It's the iconic story of a young man who, despite a lack of size and athletic talent, was determined to play for Notre Dame. After four punishing, face-planting years on the practice squad, he finally gets to play for a few glorious downs.

Silver Creek isn't the only shining light on our destination lists. They all require determination, a congealing of wishes into plans, a focused prioritizing of time, money, and energy. Then it's just a matter of pointing your hood ornament toward your dream water, and keeping your foot on the pedal for as many hours as are required.

Wayne McLemore,
President, FCFE



Conservation Announcement!

I just talked with Russ Pfeiffer-Hoyt and he's making preparations for us to do our Spring cleanup at Nessel farm on Saturday, June 6. Carpoolers can meet at 9 AM at the old Parks and Rec offices near intersection of Smith Rd and Mt. Baker Hwy. We will begin work at the farm at 9:30. Bring weed eaters and rakes, the rest will be provided. Good News Lunch will be served after job is done. Call me or sign up at the May meeting so we will know how many mouths we are feeding. In the meantime, get in some great flyfishing.

On Saturday, April 11, fourteen 4CFF members descended on Squalicum Lake for our annual clean up project. In less than 3 hours we had tamed the weeds and berries, pruned numerous tree limbs near the boat storage area and generally tidied up the launch and boat storage areas. I'm happy to report there were no casualties, and due the good number of volunteers, I can't be charged with being a slave driver. The reward for our efforts was one of Frank's delicious chili and cornbread lunches served at lakeside. Thanks to all who participated..... Hope to see you at the Nessel Creek work morning later this spring.

Dan Coombs, *Conservation Chair, FCFE*



MAY PROGRAM

Our speaker this month is Doug Rose who is a full time outdoor writer and fly fishing guide based on the Olympic Peninsula. He is the author of:

- The Color of Winter--Steelhead Fly Fishing on the Olympic Peninsula
- Fly Fishing the Olympic Peninsula
- Fly-Fishing Guide to the Olympic Peninsula, Revised Edition
- Washington River Maps



His articles have appeared in Fly Fisherman, American Angler, Flyfishing and Tying Journal, and Northwest Fly Fishing. He specializes in steelhead and cutthroat on West End rivers and saltwater cutthroat near Port Townsend. Doug will provide an overview of fishing the peninsula. You can check out his website at <http://www.dougroseflyfishing.com/>.

Our meeting is Thursday, May 28 at the Bellingham Golf and Country Club. Please send your email to fcff@verizon.net and let me know whether you plan to attend and if so how many will be in your party. If you don't have access to email give me a call at 312-9856.

Charlie Scaief, *Programs Chair FCFE*



"May is a great and generous month of the trout fisherman.... In May I turn to a smaller rod and go to the Island Pools to find our own run of summer fish, little fish seldom over five pounds, seldom under two, but sea-run steelhead just the same and brave fish that hit the fly hard and jump freely in the broken water....."

Roderick Haig-Brown, "A River Never Sleeps"

Jimmy Green Memorial Fly Fishing Fair & Casting Expo

The overriding purpose of this event is to draw new interest to the sport of fly fishing through the cooperation and effort of as many fly fishing organizations serving the greater Seattle area.

Date: Saturday, June 20, 2009

Time: 9 am to 4 pm

Location: Lake Tye, 14964 Fryelands Blvd., Monroe, WA

Cost to the Public: FREE

Cost to Exhibitors: \$75.00 - The 4th Corner Fly Fishers is one of the exhibitors.

Exhibitor Setup: 7 am

Raffle: We will have two raffles. One for existing fly fishers who bring new, potential fly fishers to the event and one for the new potential fly fishers. Donations are gladly accepted from any organization, but it is not required for participation.

Activities: Intro to fly fishing area and demos, on the water fly fishing demos, spey casting competition, single hand competition, exhibitor area, fly casting and more fly casting.

Each exhibitor will be provided a 10' x 10' space to display their products and services as they see fit. Exhibitors may arrive as early as 7 am for setup with the fair opening at 9 am. Coffee and pastries will be served in the AM, and lunch is included for everyone attending the fair.

For this year's event, each exhibitor will be required to supply their own tables, chairs, and tent awnings for the day. This will be a very informal setup so however you decide to use your space is fine with us.

The Organizing Committee has agreed that there will be NO SELLING at this event. All exhibitors will use their time for informational and instructional purposes only. And of course we want to have lots of fun!

This event is a good opportunity to network and to make our name known in the northwest, to solicit potential program speakers for our meetings, and come auction time raffle items may be easier to obtain from various vendors.

A Topic of Conversation...

Emil Ekman was re-reading /A Fly Fisher's Life/ by Charles Ritz. He did a Google search and came up with this 1965 article about him. following is a few lines from that piece.

"But isn't it true, I asked sagely, that neither the establishment of trout fishing nor the writers of fishing tomes nor the anglers themselves want to take the mystery out of trout fishing? Isn't the mystery part of the allure?"

"Perhaps," said M. Charles. "There are many eekons in trout fishing."

"Icons?" I said.

"Yes. I don't want to disturb anyone, but some of the ideas are ridiculous. Such as matching the hatch. Of course, there are times when you should have a fly as alike as possible to the flies in the water. But the casting and the accuracy and how you present your fly and how fast it gets there and how it swims are all more important than matching the hatch.

I've never been interested in flies. Flies annoy me. I don't want to spend hours changing flies all the time. Once I had 3,000 flies. Every time I fished I took with me a whole cabinet of them. And when I had taken a fish with a certain fly I'd run up and down telling everybody, 'I've got the right fly! Here's the fly. Take it and fish with it!' I was an easy victim at first.

I don't want to take away from the fisherman the pleasure of his flies. The fellow whom ties beautiful flies, I like to look at them, I like to have some. But if I'd spent my time on flies I'd never have found out what I did about high-speed, high-line. So I use nothing but the Tups Indispensable, the Panama, the Lunn's Particular, the Bivisible and the Black Gnat. I use only these flies because I'm lazy. I put one on and I say, 'Damn it, now the fish has got to take this fly!' Sometimes I feel it would be better for me to change, but I leave the fly on anyhow, because I believe more in technique, getting on the fish as quickly as you can, letting the fly arrive there so fast that the trout doesn't know where it comes from and he's taken by surprise and he says, 'My God, that thing's gonna escape if I don't grab it.' I don't say I'm right, but with this system I don't have to waste my time fooling around with flies.

But trout fishermen are believers. They believe in the leader, they believe in the line, they believe in the rod, the reel, balancing the rod with the reel, matching the rod to the fisherman, matching the hatch. That's all nonsense. The fly-fisherman should learn how to cast. He should adapt to the rod. But fishermen waste time and money matching the rod when they don't understand movement and muscles. With our system the fisherman can feel when he's got it right. There's a certain feeling, like when you hit a golf ball well."



...perhaps the greatest satisfaction on the first day of the season is the knowledge in the evening that the whole of the rest of the season is to come.

Arthur Ransome

"The First Day At The River"

Rod and Line (1929)

Doc Hackle's Corner

Ed (Doc Hackle) Ruckey's SIMPLE MAYFLY NYMPH

MATERIALS:

Hook: TMC #3761 – Size 12 to 18

Thread: Olive Brown – Size 8/0

Tail: Golden Pheasant Tail Barbs

Rib: Small Copper Wire

Abdomen: Golden Pheasant Tail

Thorax: Seal or Seal substitute

Head: Gold Bead



TYING INSTRUCTIONS:

Step 1: Slip on the bead and wrap using 4 to 6 turns of non-toxic wire behind the bead. Push the wire up into the bead as far as it will go, forcing the wire and bead up to the hook eye.

Step 2: Wrap the tying thread down to the hook bend and then back up to just behind the bead. Select 4 to 8 fibers from the Golden Pheasant Tail and tie them in at the bead. Now, run the thread down the hook to the bend, binding the Pheasant Tail fibers to the top of the hook. The tail should extend about abdomen length past the hook bend.

Step 3: Run the thread back up to the bead. Anchor the rib in just as you did for the tail. Run the thread back down to the bend holding the rib on the near side. Then wrap the thread back up the hook 1/3 of the way and leave it.

Step 4: Now take 4 to 8 Pheasant Tail fibers, depending on the size of the hook, and tie them in by the tips where you left the thread on the last step. They should extend out over the bend of the hook. Take the thread and wrap it back to the bend binding the fiber on top.

Step 5: Now, wrap the Pheasant Tail up the hook to the bead. Next counter wrap the rib up to the bead and tie it off.

Step 6: Take a small amount of dubbing and wrap it on the thread. Now, wrap this around the hook just behind the bead for the thorax. The thorax should take up no more than 1/3 of the hook. The thread should be just behind the bead. Now half-hitch or whip-finish the thread to tie off the fly. Cut the thread and add head cement as needed.

Note: You can add a wing case by simply leaving the tag ends of the tail and the body up at the bead. You then dub the thorax, then grab the fibers from the body and tail, folding them over the thorax and tying them off 1/3 back from the bead. Clip them close and cement them in place.

May Outings Report

I have been consulting with Steve at the Worley Bugger Fly Shop in Ellensburg regarding the spring creeks in Eastern Washington. His recommendation is to move our outing back in the schedule to the end of June or early in July. During the early growing season over there the creeks are used to transport irrigation water so the flows are very sketchy and unpredictable. So, let's put it in on the last weekend in June, the 26th to the 28th. Wee will be fishing Crab Creek just east of Ritzville. I will give more details later.

Our next outing will be to Roche Lake near Merritt in BC. The pot luck will be on June 13th. Once again Ed and I will be going up early to secure a campsite(s).

To get there drive toward Merritt, BC on HWY5. When you get just past town, take 5A toward Quilchena, Exit 290. Once you pass Quilchena, you will have about 20 Miles to go. Just past Trapp Lake, Roche Lake Rd will be on your right. About 1.5 miles in you will come to Roche Lake Provincial Park.

There are three provincial campgrounds in the park, one on Horseshoe Lake, and 2 on Roche. There are no reservations available at these campgrounds, so we are not sure where we will be. Our first choice will be the campground on the west side of the lake about half way down. We will try for the largest campsite on Roche. The Daily fee is \$10 for the first person and \$5 for the second in each campsite.. There is a Roche Lake Resort that has camping for \$30 per night for 2.

When you get there; look for the canopy and our FCFE banner. Be aware that there is no water available in the park and for fire wood; bring a chainsaw. You can cut wood outside the park and bring it in.

Last year we fished chronomids which worked well. But you should bring your whole still water arsenal. You can fish 2 rods up there. Be sure you have a way to secure the rod you are not actually holding. If you don't, you can loose the whole thing. Just ask Ed!

See you there.

Frank Koterba
Outings Chairman.



"Very little is known of the Canadian country since it is rarely visited by anyone but the Queen and illiterate sport fishermen. "

*P. J. O'Rourke
US humorist & political commentator (1947 -*

More pictures of the Squalicum Lake clean-up



Frank's Cooking Corner

Two Bean Salad

This salad is a great side dish for Mexican entrées or can be used as a dip for tortilla chips to start the meal. Use the measurements as a guide, but feel free to tinker. Remember this salad when you have leftover corn on the cob.

Serves 8 to 10

Prep time: 15 minutes or less

Total time: 15 minutes or less

Ingredients:

- 2 (15-ounce) cans black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 (15-ounce) can white beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 cup fresh, frozen, or canned no-salt-added corn, drained
- 1 tomato, chopped
- 1 red, yellow, or green bell pepper, seeded and chopped
- ½ small red onion, chopped
- 1 jalapeño, seeded and finely chopped
- 4 large cloves of garlic minced
- 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- ¼ cup chopped fresh cilantro

Directions:

In a bowl, combine black beans, corn, tomato, bell pepper, onion, garlic, and jalapeño. In a bowl, combine lime juice, oil, and cumin and drizzle over bean mixture. Season with salt and pepper and sprinkle with cilantro.

Frank Koterba,

Outings Chair & Culinary Guru, FCFF



Outings for 2009

March 21st

Pass Lake
Lunch and fly box

April 25th-26th

Yakima River
Pot luck and fly box

May

Spring Creek Trip
Eastern WA
Pot Luck and fly box

June 9th to 17th

Roche Lake
Pot Luck and fly box

August 7th & 8th

Methow River
Pot Luck and fly box

August

Saltwater Coho in Puget
Sound
Pot Luck and fly box

September 11th & 12th

Upper Skagit River
Potluck and fly box

OCTOBER 3rd-4th

East Side Lakes– Chopaka,
Blue, Sidley, etc.
Fly Box & Food?

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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.

Calendar

June's Board Meeting

June 2, 2009

Trinity Lutheran Church
119 Texas Street
Bellingham, WA

6:00 P.M.

May's Club Meeting

May 28, 2009

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

Wet Fly	6:00
Dinner	7:00
Program	8:00
Meeting	9:00

You have to make reservations.

Call or write Charlie Scaief.
(312-9856) fcff@verizon.net

Bring money for the raffles and a fly for the "Fly Plate".

FCFF Board Members

PRESIDENT:

Wayne McLemore (676-9417)

Outings Chairman: Frank Koterba (647-9715)

Secretary: T.F. Lambert (752-9997)

Treasurer: Larry Irwin (752-1506)

Program Co-Chairman: Paul Dudley (332-1958) &
Charles Scaief (312-9856)

Membership Chairman: Rick Todd (961-3539)

Trustees: Klaus Lohse, Sid Strong, Mike Riber, and
Ed Ruckey

**Environment,
Education, and
Conservation.**

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Library Chairman

Brian Duim ((398-2030)

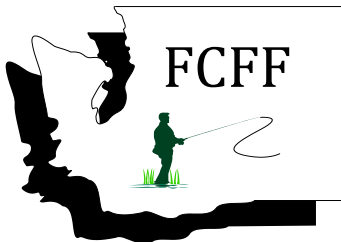
Newsletter

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Raffle Chairman

Anyone???



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