



# 4<sup>th</sup> Corner Fly Fishers

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When we put together our annual budget we allocate money to support the "aims and purposes of the club". The funds from the general club accounts cover our usual activities, such as outings, programs, and special events like the picnic and the Christmas party. They also cover our efforts for education of others and our members. Expenses are also generated by the management of the club's organization. The latter could be reoccurring like our insurance or unique like the website development. These decisions are based on reviews of by the Board and the input of the manager of the budget.

There is also a group of expenses that are related to our conservation activities. The funds come from the conservation account. The budget is reviewed and approved by the Conservation Committee before it is submitted to the Board for approval.

Every year we get donation requests from a range of organizations. Most have some connection to fly fishing, conservation, and education or use fly fishing to facilitate another goal. These are not covered by the Conservation Fund and are in the general club budget. Examples are *Reel Recovery*, (a program for men who are recovering from cancer), *Casting for Recovery*, (a similar program for women with breast cancer) *The Native Fish Society*, and *Northwest Youth Conservation Fly Fishing Academy* (which offers a weeklong camp to introduce kids aged 12 to 16 to all the aspects of fly fishing and conservation).

At the last board meeting the discussion of the donations underlined the lack of any criteria the club uses to evaluate the requests. We will be putting them in place. Before we do so we would like some input from you the members. What are the requirements that an organization need to meet? You can contact me or any other board member to discuss it. You could even attend a Board meeting. Looking ahead be sure to check out the "Loop Control" event on June 20<sup>th</sup>. Molly Semenik will be running us through our paces at the Ferndale Pioneer Park from 9:00-12:00. There is more information and a link to sign up on our website calendar.

This is a great time of year to hit all kinds of water. So as a former president stated....."GO FISH"

Frank Koterba President, 4<sup>th</sup> Corner Fly Fishers



# In Memory of Tom Farnell

His interest in fishing developed fishing the Toutle River and other waters near his home town of Centralia. Or so I came to understand his history in the cab of my Ford F150 during long fishing trips to destinations in Canada, Eastern Washington and Montana. I purchased the truck from a friend of his and he helped me with repairs. On his application to our club he proudly reported that he had fished with worms, and many times. Tom was never afraid to say what was on his mind, even when his companions wished he wouldn't.... like the time he got us kicked out of a fly fishing shop in Bend, Oregon. Tom Farnell was many things, motorcycle and auto racing enthusiast, baseball fan, Beatles fan, veteran, art major, drummer and, like so many of us, a complex mix of compassion, friendliness and curmudgeon. Tom Farnell was many things, but for me he will forever be my fishing partner and friend.

Mike Riber, *Member of the 4CFF*



"I build a fire and stare into it, to be with you. To hear your stories, your laughter, your sadness. Come sit with me by the fire. Let me sing you a song. Your laughter shook your whole body. You were strong and quick to help people in trouble. Life is lonely, we can, any of us, get too lonely. I feel those who loved you gather round. I hear us singing for you. When we gather round, you are there by the fire. So don't be so lonesome now. We hold you in the circle. Hunker down. Lean in."

Greg Brown,  
"The Evening Call"

# Conservation Report

Fellow Members,

Just to let you know that we have completed our work at Lily Point and have decided to move on to an alternate project on Smith Creek near Nugent's Corner. NSEA crews have cut back the berry bushes and planted along the North side of Smith Creek. We will "baby sit" these new plantings and keep the berries at bay for as long as it takes for the new plants to take over. In the past, there have been Steelhead and salmon redds on this creek, so this work will give these species a direct benefit. We'll let you know when our work parties will happen on this new site.

Our club received a nice thank you note from Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association for our monetary contribution this year. I quote "Thank you for contributing toward our operations and to our endowment fund. It means a lot that you invest in our longevity and help us do the work that we love best. Many thanks for supporting our mission." Signed, NSEA Board and Staff.

Lastly, many of us were saddened by news of the loss of our member Tom Farnell. For many years in the 90's Tom worked diligently on club conservation projects including Nessel Creek, Boyd Creek Interpretive center and Squalicum Lake. Newer members wouldn't know that Tom took over the position of Conservation Chairman when Fred Miller retired from that post. Tom kept the Conservation work going in our club and is partially responsible for the vitality of our Conservation work even to this day. On a personal note, I have enjoyed many a fishing trip that Tom was a part of. His quiet humor, his fishing capabilities, and his willingness to always pitch in made Tom welcome in any fish camp. Adios amigo, you will be missed very much.

Dan Coombs, *4CFF Conservation Chair*



".....let me introduce an idea, just something to kick around: Maybe your stature as a fly fisherman isn't determined by how big a trout you can catch, but by how small a trout you can catch without being disappointed, and, of course, without losing the faith that there's a bigger one in there."

John Gierach,  
Fly Fishing Small Streams

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# June's Program

This month's general meeting of the 4<sup>th</sup> Corner Fly Fishers will be held at the Bellingham Golf and Country Club on Thursday June 25, 2015. The Wet Fly will begin at 6pm with dinner at 6:45. The program will begin at 7:30 and will be followed by the general membership meeting.

This month's program will feature our very own 4CFF member, Scott Willison, owner of the Confluence Fly Shop. Scott will take you on a journey to highlight the nearly year-round fly fishing opportunities for our Native Bull Trout in Northwestern Washington and Lower Mainland British Columbia. Our native char are a truly special fish, having thrived in many of our area rivers, wild and unfettered by hatchery supplementation throughout their existence. You will understand the life cycle of the bull trout, their habits, diet and seasonal migrations throughout the year from the headwater streams of the Western Cascades to the fjord-lands of Northern Puget Sound and all points in between. Scott will share some of his favorite rivers, flies, equipment and techniques for targeting bull trout throughout the season for this fantastic fishery in our own backyard.



Here's a bit about Scott and his fishing background:

Scott Willison owns and operates the Confluence Fly Shop in Bellingham, WA, now into its third year. He grew up in Renton, WA and has been fly fishing and tying flies since the age of 12. Much of his early fishing focused on trout, from the Cedar River cutting through the valley just a few short miles from his home to the fertile high desert lakes east of the Cascades and blue ribbon streams of Montana and Colorado. Aside from trout exploits across the West, Scott's fished in the Bahamas, Mexico, Costa Rica and France.

Since discovering steelhead on the swung fly in his early twenties, Scott's become a self-proclaimed steelhead fanatic and spends much of the year fishing a spey rod from the NF Stilly to the Olympic rainforests and lower mainland BC. He spends more and more time exploring the beaches of Puget Sound these days and has an immense love for saltwater sea run cutthroat and coho salmon as well. Beach fishing can be the puzzle of all puzzles in fly fishing but deeply rewarding.

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(June's Program Cont.)

Scott also enjoys fly fishing large and smallmouth bass throughout Whatcom and Skagit Counties during the dog days of summer. He loves to tie flies for the fisheries he enjoys and tied commercially for several years through his company, Willy Dog Flies. He has also worked as a fly fishing guide on the Skagit, Stillaguamish and Olympic Peninsula rivers.

Beyond fishing, Scott is a Native Fish Society River Steward for the Stillaguamish River and former educator for the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association. He has written several articles for Northwest Fly Fishing along with chapters in some upcoming books from Stonefly Press. Scott is also an active member of the Fourth Corner Fly Club and honorary member of the Whidbey Island Fly Fishing Club.

Please RSVP for the meeting by Tuesday, June 23 (midnight deadline) by visiting <http://4cff.eventbrite.com>, by email at [msr@deepsnow.com](mailto: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 to pay. Also, a reminder that getting your RSVP in on time helps us provide an accurate count for the kitchen and we very much appreciate your help in placing your reservations on time.

Tight lines,

Matt Roelofs  
4CFF Internal VP and Program Chair



"The whole purpose of summer fishing,' the Old Man said, 'is not to worry about catching fish, but to just get out of the house and set and think a little. Also, the womenfolk are very bad-tempered in the summer. The less you hang around the premises the less trouble you're apt to get in."

Robert Ruark, *The Old Man and The Boy*

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# Outings Report

We had a rollicking good time at the May outing at Big Twin Lake near Winthrop, WA. There were 15-20 members and guests in attendance and we had good weather for most of the trip until rain hit on Saturday night, making life a bit challenging for the tent campers in the crowd. The scenery at this spot, especially early in the morning, is particularly relaxing. (photo). The fishing was excellent with a lot of 17-20 inch rainbows caught. (photo) Frank K reported at the general meeting that he had a REALLY good time, reeling in a fish every five minutes or so once he cracked the code.

Thanks very much to Rick and Patti Todd for hosting the event and also hosting a casual cocktail party at their beautiful home on the lake. We look forward to a visiting again in July. (River Bend Campground, Winthrop)

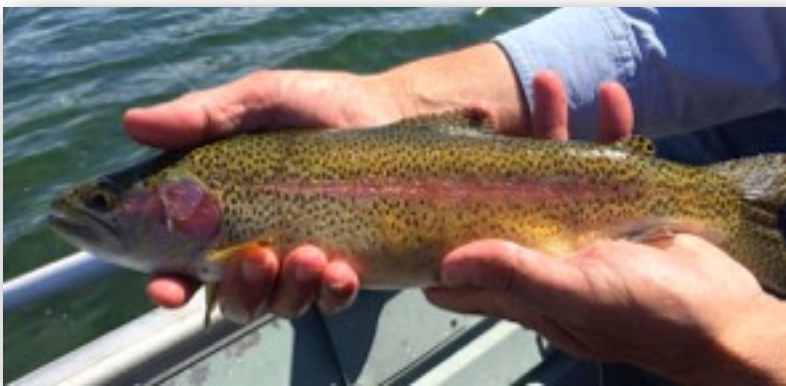
Coming up in June we have the Fazon Lake Kids Derby hosted by Nathan and Scott. Sign ups have been light so far, so please consider signing up and helping out.

June 22-28 will be the 100 Mile House fishing week hosted by Frank K. Please sign up soon and contact Frank for details if you are planning to go.

July 4-10 is the big Montana trip to Duck Lake hosted by the Hillers. It looks like a lot of club members don't mind the long drive since we already have 18 folks signed up.

I hope to see more members and guests at the upcoming outings. Please contact me or the outing host if you have any questions or comments.

Phil Terzian, 4CFF Outings Chair



## CONSERVATION AUCTION

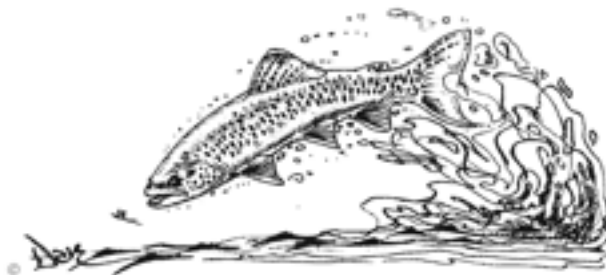
### This is a 4CFF Conservation Auction Year

We have a 2015 auction committee in place. I would like to thank those that have volunteered to be on the committee. They are Bob Cooper, Dan Coombs, Dave Johnson, Paula Faulkner, Frank W Koterba, Jerry Hill, Larry Irwin, Mike Reed, Mike Riber and Pete Lamb. We had a meeting earlier in the year but now is the time to start picking up the pace and become more active in making it a successful event. We can always use a few more people to help on the committee. Could you help? Give me a call at 360-734-2712 or 360-201-1105

The time and place have been set. The auction will be in October at the Bellingham Golf And Country Club. As always the auction committee needs the help of the membership in finding and soliciting items for the auction. I urge all of you to do that again for this auction. I am asking for each of you to solicit at least one item from somewhere in the community. The item does not have to be fly fishing related. It could be most anything. It could be something like an oil change at a local Jiffy Lube where you are a regular customer, for example. The item could be also be an "In Kind" type of donation where the donation is for a free tune up from your favorite auto or boat mechanic. As you can see almost anything is acceptable.

One of the things that made the last auction so successful was that some member put together outings that they would sponsor. I know that our past President Hugh Lewis put up a small stream outing for two with lunch. I bid on that and won. I believe that there were two separate float trips, one on the Yakima and one on the Skagit. There was also a trip out on the salt to fly fish for Salmon. I would ask that you consider putting together a trip, outing or tour of an area you are familiar with for this auction.

I have already solicited and received several items for the auction. I have received a commitment for a hand turned wood bowl. I also have commitments for a shadow box with fly, framed prints, and a "Discover Fishing Access Tour" of the Skagit, Sauk or NF Stilly.



(CONSERVATION AUCTION CONTINUED)

If you have something for the auction, an idea for an item, or need help in soliciting someone for an item, let me know. A committee member or I will be happy to assist you. We have a donation form that needs to be filled out for all items. These forms are available from any committee member. Several committee members have volunteered to store items until the auction.

Lets make this year's auction a very successful auction.

Ed Dahl, 4CFF Conservation Auction Chairman

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## Treasurer's Report

Work with the QuickBooks accounting software purchased this year is still progressing. We continue working to refine and simplify the club's Chart of Accounts and hope to be able to track a more detailed catalog of financial events as the year progresses.

There was rather limited financially activity during the month of May. Monthly meeting expense was only \$17. The club collected \$54 in event no show fees and \$19 in Gilly money at the May 21 meeting.

Total balance for our club savings, checking and conservation accounts is currently \$21,437.77.

Reminder: Please don't forget to register for club events using the Eventbright system or contact the event organizer.

Bill Faulkner, FCFF Treasurer

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### Getting a Fly Out of a Tree



Emil Ekman sent me this video. He has seen me cast and assumes that I catch more trees than trout.

<https://vimeo.com/129322179>

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# Squalicum Creek Smolt Trap

This past fall and winter, as many Bellingham commuters know, James Street, from Telegraph to Sunset Pond, was closed to construct a new bridge over Squalicum Creek. Thankfully this project was completed and you can now glide effortlessly from Bakerview Rd to Sunset (then wait for 20 minutes to get through nearly constant traffic snarl at the I-5/Sunset interchange). What you may not know is that the James Street bridge replacement is part of a much larger project.



There are plans to enhance the anadromous fish usage of Squalicum Creek. The creek's history is much the same as many of our urban streams with structures that block fish passage and rerouting of the creek being the major impediments to a healthy fish run. A fish barrier under I-5 was removed last year by Washington Department of Transportation. There are also plans to remove a concrete barrier at the mouth of the creek near Bellingham Cold Storage.

The significant portion of this project is to reroute Squalicum Creek around Sunset Pond and Bug Lake. These man-made lakes are shallow so they heat up during the summer. The warm water then flows into the creek and stresses the salmonoid population. The reroute will include two construction phases and run from the Irongate industrial area to Birchwood Ave. The project is funded through a grant and loan package from the Department of Ecology and upon completion over 20 additional miles of spawning habitat will be available for salmon, trout, and steelhead.



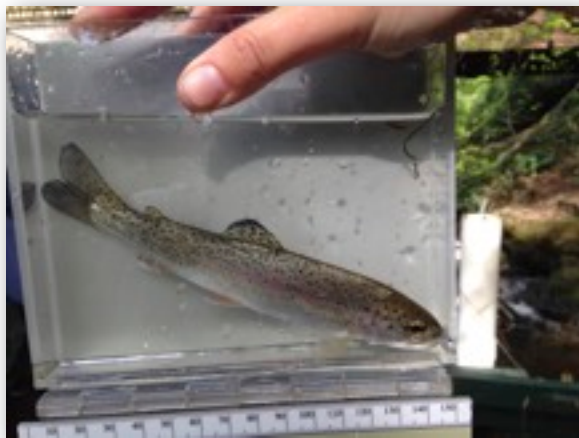
## (Squalicum Creek Smolt Trap Continued)

In order to monitor the effects of all this work the City of Bellingham has installed a smolt trap in Squalicum Creek in Cornwall Park. Designed and built by a Washington Conservation Corp crew, and monitored by the WCC crew and students from BTC, this trap has been active since April and will remain in the creek until mid June. Salmon, trout, and Steelhead smolts have been caught in the trap along with Steelhead and Sea-Run Cutthroat kelts Other aquatic species caught in the trap have included Pacific and Western lampreys, sunfish, and one slightly befuddled muskrat.

The trap will be reinstalled in the creek in the spring of 2017 and 2018 to monitor the effects of the reroute project. The results will be used to evaluate the the project and to see if future projects should use the same techniques. At this time, according to Sara Benjamin of the City of Bellingham, there are "No plans for hatchery supplementation in Squalicum Creek...". It is possible that hatchery trout could migrate down the creek from Squalicum and Toad lakes.

Let's hope all this time and money effect some positive results for a our already overstressed fish populations.

Catherine Harris



"Nothing in this world so enlivens my spirit and emotions as the rivers I know. In their clear, swift or slow, generous or coy waters, I regain my powers; I find again those parts of myself that have been lost..."

Nick Lyons, "Bright Rivers"

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"June is transition from spring to summer, a month when everything has its full vigor, before anything is stale or mature. In June May flies may be thick on the water, stone-fly nymphs may still be crawling up the rocks to split their cases and fly away, midges will be dancing in clouds near the water's edge and falling spent on the water to move fish that the angler finds it difficult to tempt with his larger flies; and on June evenings may come the early sedge hatches.

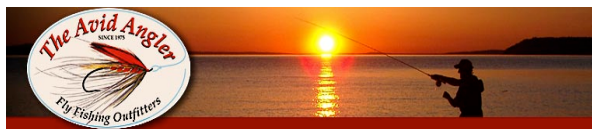
When a June fish takes, he is into his run before you can move to raise the rod, and that run is fierce and long and dangerous. Almost always a June fish is a jumping fish, a bold, wild, jumping fish, and he is little concerned to keep within the limits of the pool in which he has taken the fly."

Roderick Haig-Brown, "A River Never Sleeps"

## 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.

### June's Meeting

June 25,  
2015

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

Don't forget to  
bring a fly for the  
FLY PLATE!

### July's Board Meeting

July 7, 2015  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
119 Texas Street  
Bellingham, WA  
6:00 P.M.



# 4CFF Board Members

## President

Frank Koterba

(360) 647-9715 [fwkphotography@comcast.net](mailto:fwkphotography@comcast.net)

## External Vice President-Outings

Phil Terzian (408) 410-0969 [pterzian@pacbell.net](mailto:pterzian@pacbell.net)

## Internal Vice President-Programs

Matt Roelofs (360) 714 8407 [msr@deepsnow.com](mailto:msr@deepsnow.com)

## Secretary

Mike Reed (480) 830-3820 [reedpt02@gmail.com](mailto:reedpt02@gmail.com)

## Treasurer

Bill Faulkner (360)393-4662 [w-faulkner@wiu.edu](mailto:w-faulkner@wiu.edu)

## CONSERVATION

Dan Coombs (360) 398-1637  
[dwmcoombs@gmail.com](mailto:dwmcoombs@gmail.com)

## EDUCATION

Jerry Hill, CHAIR  
(360-371-2506)  
Brian Duim

[docspratley@juno.com](mailto:docspratley@juno.com)

Klaus Lohse (360) 671-8453

[kpstnlohse@gmail.com](mailto:kpstnlohse@gmail.com)

## Website

Tammy Findlay  
[tlevel5@gmail.com](mailto:tlevel5@gmail.com)

## Newsletter

Sid Strong (360) 220-0099

[swstrong@comcast.net](mailto:swstrong@comcast.net)

Steve Runge  
[srunge@logos.com](mailto:srunge@logos.com)

Membership Chairmen: Brian Faloon and Nathan Weston

Raffle Chairmen: Pete Lamb

Directors: Sid Strong, Paula Faulkner, Rick Todd, and Nathan Weston

**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.
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P.O. Box 1543  
Bellingham, WA 98227

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

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