



President's Message

I'm so happy this message is coming to you from our club newsletter. I want to thank Bob Jorgenson for stepping up and putting this all together. The plan at this point is to send out a newsletter quarterly or maybe a bit more, depending on how much club activity is taking place. The only way this works is if we all contribute, so please consider sharing stories, photos and/or other worthy content.

At the April club Board meeting, after considerable research, we reviewed our meeting venue options along with meeting/dinner fees. The Bellingham Golf & Country Club has understandably raised their meal costs along with the minimum number of dinners we have to purchase for each meeting. So far in 2025 we have not yet met the new minimum number so the club is covering the difference. After considering what we felt was the best current alternative, we have decided to continue our meetings at the BGCC for the foreseeable future. Reliability of service was a major deciding factor. We also considered charging a non-meal fee for attending meetings, but decided against this at this time.

Decisions around all of this were greatly helped by the survey response so thank you for providing input. Survey results will be made available to everyone in the near future. Please see a Board member if you have questions about the survey, concerns involving meetings, or other matters you would like the Board to consider.



We know not everyone likes to use Facebook, but we are working to make our private club page the best source for sharing impromptu fishing opportunities and other information among members. The sites are listed below and are a work in progress.

If you have not already purchased tickets for our Auction on April 19th, please do so soon and consider inviting friends and relatives. You can sign up and preview what is being auctioned via our web page. This is our only major fundraising activity with most of the proceeds going toward conservation efforts. It is also just a fun event!

Let's go fishing. See you on the water.

-Mike

4CFF Calendar of Events

April 6, 2025 5:00pm. Join us for Beer Night!

Larrabee Lager 4151 Guide Meridian Road #100. Great beer and reasonable Pizza

April 17, 2025 Conservation Project Deer Creek Whatcom County (Meet at NSEA offices 3057 E. Bakerview Rd. Bellingham, WA) Bus to the site just off Hanegan Road leaves shortly after 8:30 a.m.

April 19, 2025 4CFF 25th Biennial Conservation / Education Auction (Bellingham Golf & Country Club) Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Silent auction until 7:00 p.m. followed by dinner and live auction

April 24-27, 2025 Omak Lake Outing (Omak WA. Details in description below)
April 27-30, 2025 Chopaka Lake Outing Extension

April 27, 2025 Washington State Fly Fishers International Fly Casting and Tying Annual Fair (Pickering Barn Park Issaquah, WA) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Conservation Project April 17, 2025

We have been asked by NSEA to complete a project on Deer Creek in Whatcom County. This project will restore a section of Deer creek for coho and cutthroat trout to spawning and rearing potential. Deer creek is a tributary to Ten Mile Creek in Whatcom County. Planted and placed tree protection on 50 evergreen trees in November 2023. On going work project on conservation easement with oversight from NSEA.

I suggest that you wear waterproof foot gear and outdoor clothing appropriate to the weather. Pack a lunch or snack as we will be engaged to past 12:30. Please register through the Zeffy app so we know how many to expect. There will be a bus waiting at the NSEA offices at 3057 Bakerview Rd. Bellingham, WA to shuttle you to the site. The bus leaves shortly after 8:30 a.m.

Contact Ralph Lloyd. 360-201-9940 if you have questions.

To member candidates.....this activity meets one of your membership requirements. **Sign up through Zeffy**



-RalphLloyd Conservation Chair

4CFF 25th Biennial Conservaton/Education Auction

April 19,2025

Greetings fellow conservationists!

As I write this, our fundraising auction is less than one month away! If it seems like I am pushing member participation hard, it is because this auction is our club's single largest source of revenue. A successful auction means greater financial support to local education and conservation projects; and a portion of the proceeds goes to supporting club activities between auctions. We only do this auction once every two years, so it is really important that we make the most of it.



Our focus has shifted from acquiring auction items, to recruiting like minded conservationists to attend the auction. The goal is a *minimum* of 70 attendees. As I write this we have sold 14 tickets, and while it is still early we have a long way to go! I'm told that ticket sales will surge just before the cutoff date which is April 16th. At this rate we are definitely going to need a surge! We are advertising via traditional channels (including social media) however word of mouth has historically been the most effective method. Please spread the word, and do whatever you can to advertise our event. And buy your tickets as early as you can!

While our focus is now *primarily* on recruiting individuals to attend the auction, that does NOT mean that we are done soliciting auction items. Please continue to look for items to donate, or be donated (by others) to the auction. The sooner I get them the items the better, but I will accept them right up until the day of the auction!

Another way to support the auction is by participating in the raffle. I recently picked up additional books of tickets so I am well supplied.

- If you need tickets I will have them at the monthly meeting on 3/27. I can also deliver them to you. Remember that you don't have to sell the tickets, you can simply purchase them for yourself and/or your significant other.
- If you have already taken books of tickets, you can return the stubs with payment to me any time before the auction.
- There will also be tickets available for purchase the night of the auction.

This should be a really fun event, and I am really looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Auction : <https://event.auctria.com/8ad85b6f-182d-45b7-8adf-54904447002b/>

-Kevin Formway-Auction Chair

Omak Lake Outing April 24-27

Possible Chopaka Extension April 27-29

Fish Species: Lahontin Cutthroat Trout

Rods: 4 – 7 weights

Flies:

- Articulated bunny leech
- Pumpkin Head
- Holo Worm from Phil Rowley
- Dali Lama in olive/white
- Sculpzilla
- Smoke and Mirror Streamer olive

Lines: floating and sinking or intermediate We often strip leeches in the AM and use a floating line with indicator for balanced leeches or chironomids later.

Boat: A Pontoon boat can be a nice addition but this is Eastern Washington and if the wind comes up it can be a liability. Most people fish from shore. The steep shoreline in some places makes an effective roll cast most important as there is often insufficient room for a clean back cast.



Accommodations: The Okanogan Fair Grounds has a space for us in their full hook up RV area down by the trees. Tents are allowed for \$15 and full hookup is \$30. Make your reservation online or just call them and mention that you are part of our club. **Do not just show up!** There are also several hotel accommodations in the area including the 12 Tribes Casino. It can get cold then so tent heaters are in order. If I remember correctly cell coverage is pretty good there.

Meals: On Friday, April 28 we will have a no host group dinner at either a Mexican restaurant in the area or at Loggers in the 12 tribes casino. Prices seem the same for both. Otherwise we sort of text each other to see where they people are eating. The key is that no one should feel obligated to eat together as a group every night but we don't want anyone to feel excluded either.

Directions: Leave Omak on Highway 155 toward Nespelam. Cross a small bridge (Omak Creek) and immediately turn right on Columbia River Road. Once you see the lake there is a dirt road turn off that in 8 miles takes you down to one of the two areas to fish depending on the wind and how busy it is. (Nicholson Beach also known as Beer Can Beach) If you continue on along the lake on Columbia River Road you will see another turn off at about 11 miles and turn on Omak Lake Road which takes you to the South end of the lake. The beach is evident from the road. There is a closed area along the southern shore but it is clearly marked. (This access may be closed due to construction)

Chopaka Lake Extension:

Because opening day at **Chopaka** is on Saturday the 26th some may want to move to Chopaka on Sunday to fish there. It could be busy but hopefully people will leave Sunday making room for us? Please sign up using Zeffy Questions? **Call Bob 360-961-9877**

April 27, 2025 Washington State Fly Fishers International Fly Casting and Tying Annual Fair

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Pickering Barn Park, Issaquah, WA



FFI Certified casting Instructors will offer a variety of group lessons for all levels of single or double handed anglers. During the noon hour 4CFF member Molly Semenik will demonstrate accuracy techniques. Throughout the day the FFI Casting skills Development Course (FCSD) welcomes all participants to work through a range of casting challenges that have real life fishing application, along with a walk-in casting clinic. Several casting specialists will be on hand to provide analysis of your cast. Bring your own 9ft 5 wt rod with a 7.5' leader, dry line with a yarn fly attached or use rods provided for the event. Marion and Steve Hiller, Molly Semenik, and Frank

Koterba, 4CFF members will be teaching and facilitating events throughout the day. Registration is open through mid April,

Registration link: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/washingtonflyfishersinternational/1546362>

Frank Koterba 360-647-9715 or Marion Hiller 360-739-0186

4CFF Memory From a Past Outing

This Story Provided by Lin Nelson...

Lin recalled a great Chopaka Lake trip. Bill Hall and Errol McWirk were at the outing. (both active members who have sadly gone to that lake in the sky). Errol won the coveted outing fly box raffle. After a night around the camp fire, he left the fly box on his chair when he went to bed. Lin had the same style of fly box, so he emptied his box and put the empty box on Errol's chair and took the box that Errol won and all of the flies.

In the morning Errol was looking for his fly box, found it on the chair and to his dismay it was empty! The others on the outing told him that before he went to bed he offered everyone to take a fly out of the fly box! Errol scratched his head saying "Did I!"

After they all had a good laugh- Lin gave Errol the fly box he won with all of the flies in it. Errol could always be counted on for a good story and this one was retold by him many times.....





Fly of the Month- Jigged Micro Leach

By Steve Wimer

Recipe:

Hook: Hanak 400 Jig hook, Size 10-14

Thread: UTC 70d color to match body

Tail: Marabou or Rabbit Strip

Body: Ice Dub, Semperfli straggle string or Hardline UV micro polar chenille

Rib: UTC small wire, color of choice

Bead: 3mm Inverting tungsten bead

Tying instructions.

1. Place bead on hook. When using inverting beads, the concave side goes towards front of hook.
2. Attach thread.
3. Secure tail material. Can add just a bit of flash by adding crystal flash if desired.
4. Tie in wire rib followed by tying in body material.
5. Wind body material forward in touching turns and tie off just behind the bead.
6. Counter wind rib forward, generally 5-6 turns and secure behind the bead, twist off wire.
7. Whip finish and apply favorite head cement. May add a Hotspot of UV thread behind the bead if desired.

Fishing Method.

One of the best qualities of this fly is the variety in which it can be tied and fished. My favorite colors are black, brown, olive and maroon. While this fly is a great small leach imitation it is also a very good damsel nymph imitation when tied in olive or tan. A neon bead can be used if you wish to add some bling. One of the most effective methods of fishing this fly in still waters is under a strike indicator. It can be fished anywhere from 3-20ft deep. When attaching this fly to your tippet use an improved clinch knot rather than a loop knot. Attaching with clinch knot the fly will ride in a horizontal position just like a balanced leach. This fly is incredibly effective when fished along weed beds and drop offs. Wind drifting this fly under an indicator just adds to the effectiveness of this fly.

Additionally this fly can be fished on a long leader without an indicator. Simply cast out, give the fly time to sink to desired depth (count down method highly recommended), and start your retrieve with short strips followed by a pause. Vary the depth and retrieve until you find the depth and retrieve that gets you the fish.

This fly can also be fished as anchor fly on your euro nymphing rig!! Just tie with a larger 4mm tungsten bead. BC Skagit River bull trout love this fly.

Pass Lake Outing Report

The Pass Lake outing was a success in terms of fairly good weather during an otherwise cold and rainy stretch. We missed high wind and driving rain by one day on either end of the outing. The water was still cold and the fishing was slow for some but a few folks were able to coax the fish to come out and play. You could tell when a fish was on the line because the resident eagles came to visit. It was fairly crowded on the water, especially at the south end of the lake near the boat launch. The usual flies were used (buggers, leach patterns and chironomids). Frank once again treated us to his fabulous chili verde. Thanks Frank! Despite some fishers being skunked it was overall a great day to be out with friends fishing. I plan to go back as soon as it's a little warmer. Hope to see you out on the water soon.

Kevin McClurg-Outing Host



Upcoming Activities

May 6, 2025 May Board Meeting 6:30 (Trinity Lutheran Church 119 Texas St)

Meeting starts at 6:30 all members welcome.

Speyapalooza- Sat. May 3, 2025

It's been a long, cold, lonely winter, but here comes Speyapalooza 2025!

Come together with Te Confluence Fly Shop and North Sound Trout Unlimited on the banks of the mighty Skagit to celebrate all things Spey! Join us at Howard Miller Steelhead Park in Rockport, WA on Saturday, May 3rd from 10am-4:30pm. We welcome everyone of all skill levels from the newcomer to the seasoned pro. We'll have something tasty for lunch,, gear demos, fly thing, small group casting lessons, awesome raffle prizes, and much more.

<https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/Speyapalooza-2025-105572>



Big Twin Outing- Sat - Sun May 17th - 18th Kevin McClurg Outing Host

Camping at Big Twin Campground, reservations advised. This is supposed to be a very good year on this popular lake near Winthrop.

Club Meeting - Thursday May 22nd 5:30pm -9pm - Project Healing Waters

“Guiding Veterans In Need To Healing Through Comraderie, Connectedness and Fly Fishing”
 Bellingham Golf and Country Club
 3729 Meridian St.

Red Lake, BC Outing- May 28-June 1. Ralph Lloyd Outing Host

Details to follow

Market Place

If you have some equipment to sell or trade this will be the place to advertise. Send a description of your gear along with a photo to Bob Jorgenson. jorgensonrobert@me.com and I will do my best to post it in the next newsletter. **SEND YOUR ENTRY IN TWO SEPARATE EMAILS. ONE ON ANY WORD DOCUMENT AND A SEPARATE MAIL WITH YOUR PHOTO.**

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Confluence Fly Shop- Tarpon Cay Lodge July 5th-12th

Scott Wilson from the Confluence has one spot available on a hosted tarpon trip this summer. You will fish the northern Yucatan peninsula of Mexico on shallow turtle grass flats that are teeming with juvenile tarpon in the 10-25 pound class. This is a great trip for beginners and advanced anglers alike. Several club members have enjoyed this trip in the past.

Email. scott@theconfluenceflyshop.com for more information or to sign up.

Help Wanted!

It seems that everyone is interested in having a newsletter but past editors have made the point that getting content is like pulling teeth! Here is what we need:

- Reflections on past club outings..the older the better (see Lin's reflection above)
- An individual to write summaries of presentations at meetings with photos. If we hope to increase our meeting attendance members need to know how valuable our meetings are.
- Poems or short stories that you have written to celebrate your love of fly fishing.
- If you have attended an event or know of an event that others may enjoy...a film, a fly casting and tying fair, an outdoor show please write it up....photos are a must.
- If you are fortunate enough to have enjoyed a fly fishing trip to an out of the way place that others may enjoy then please write up a story and provide a photo. (Keep it to 1/4 - 1/2 page) and include something interesting that happened.
- If you are an artist...gifted or not...please send me a graphic that I could use in the newsletter.
- Send me your favorite fishing photo and I will include it in a page called "MY FISH" and will publish a number of them for content filler at the end of a page.
- If you tie and have a favorite fly please look over Steve Weimer's great "Fly of the Month" and write up one of your own. Please be sure to include where it has been effective.
- Do you use a favorite fishing gadget? Maybe a fly tying tool? We want to hear about it.

All submissions in Word with photos on a separate mail please



Jeff Taylor Omak Lake March 2025



Kevin McClurg Yakima River Fall 2024

4CFF Board Members

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Mike Reiber
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Visit our public face book page: 4th Corner Fly Fishing Club
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