



## President's Message

Hello fellow fly fishers. I hope you are having a good summer and finding enough time to get in some fishing. I've been lucky enough to go on some good fishing trips and I'm already starting to think about more trips and how I might approach new and old fishing spots differently.

Just when I think I have my fishing gear dialed in I notice something new or decide I should rethink something I didn't think I needed before. One thought leads to another and before I know it, I'm into the rabbit hole of researching equipment and doubting how I manage to even catch any fish. I start thinking about one piece of equipment which then seems connected to another piece which I would also have to change and before I know it, I'm thinking we need to buy a new house (*not going to happen*) to store my new boats. We will see what kind of modest changes I eventually decide to make.

We have a new Education Chairperson. After more years than I can remember Klaus Lohse has stepped down as chair and Mark Munn is taking over. Mark has spearheaded club efforts to teach an Introduction to Fly Fishing class (*see article in this newsletter*). I would personally like to thank Klaus for all he has done over so many years. Klaus has helped make being in our club both fun and rewarding.

Stay tuned for information on our club picnic on August 23rd and you should have already received notice of a special beer night with our local Trout Unlimited chapter on August 14th which I hope you can attend. Also, if you haven't checked out our website you might want to see what's new. Let's go fishing!

A special thank you for all of our members who contributed to this newsletter. Your stories, poems and trip memories help make this a true reflection of our club. -Mike Riber



# New Business

## Board Resolution/Articles of Incorporation

***By Hugh Lewis***

The Club was incorporated in 1978 under one of two possible Washington statutes that govern nonprofit organizations. Traditionally, social clubs like 4CFF were incorporated under Chapter 24.06 of the Revised Code of Washington [RCW] which governed corporations designed for “mutual, social, cooperative, fraternal, beneficial, service,...and other purposes....,” but for whatever reason, we were incorporated under the other law, Chapter 24.03 RCW, which typically governed charitable nonprofits.

The Legislature recently substantially changed Chapter 24.03 RCW to make charitable nonprofits more transparent; the replacement statute now includes voluminous provisions that are nonwaivable and overly burdensome to social clubs like 4CFF.

The Board learned that it is possible to amend our official corporate charter such that we would become subject to Chapter 24.06 RCW, the law that was designed for social clubs and is generally consistent with how the 4th Corner Fly Fishers has traditionally operated and presently conducts itself. Electing to make this change would free the Club from the overly burdensome requirements of the new law governing charitable nonprofits.

The 4CFF Board of Directors believes that this change to the corporate charter for the Club should be made. Accordingly, at its August 5, 2025 meeting, the Board adopted a formal Resolution that approved the filing of an amendment to our corporate charter, legally known as “Articles of Incorporation,” that would cause the Club to be governed henceforth by Chapter 24.06 RCW rather than Chapter 23A RCW. Nevertheless, the amendment to the charter cannot become effective unless and until it is approved by a vote of the 4CFF membership at a formal Club meeting, following written notice to the membership that this vote will occur at the meeting.

The Board has decided to give the members the opportunity to vote on this change to our corporate charter at our September 25, 2025 monthly meeting. The Notice of the September Club Meeting sent to the membership via Zeffy will include this explanation, a copy of the Board’s Resolution approving the change to our charter, a copy of the Amendment to Articles of Incorporation that would effectuate the change following an affirmative vote, and an opportunity to vote electronically through the Zeffy system to approve the amendment. A two-thirds vote of the Members attending the Meeting is required by law. The Board strongly recommends that the membership vote in favor of filing the Amendment to Articles of Incorporation.

---

## 4CFF Calendar of Events

---

---

### ***August 12-14 Upper Skagit , BC Outing Ross Lake Provincial Campground***

Upper Skagit River- BC Highway 1 to Silver Skagit Road before Hope, dirt road to campground.

---

---

### ***August 14- Raise a Beer and Cast a Fly, North Sound TU & 4CFF Terramar***

Terramar Brewing and Distilling 5712 Gilkey Ave., Edison, WA 98232. Drinks and an evening filled with friendly fly casting challenges.

---

---

### ***August 23- Club Picnic at Lin Nelson's***

Lin has kindly offered to host the picnic again. You must register on Zeffy to attend. Details regarding your food contribution will come with the Zeffy invitation. 526 Fern Road, Bellingham.

---

---

### ***September 4- Skagit for Pinks Howard Miller Steelhead Park***

John Sanders will host this outing meeting at Howard Miller Steelhead Park. Head toward Rockport and follow signs to Howard Miller Steelhead Park. This outing is for all club members and interested parties but will be especially helpful for those who have never fished for Pinks.

---

---

### ***September 13- Introduction to Fly Fishing Class 9:00AM-4:00PM***

The course will be held at the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association building 3057 E. Bakerview Rd., Bellingham, WA 98226.

---

---

### ***September 15-21 Kelly Creek NF Clearwater River / St Joe River Outing***

Steve Wimer will host this outing to North Idaho. Steve is an Idaho native and certainly knows this area. A description is provided below and Zeffy registration is required.

---

---

### ***September 25th -Devin Olsen from Tactical Fly Fisher on Euro Nymphing***

Devin is a significant figure in the world of Euro Nymphing. He has held 14 consecutive berths for Fly Fishing Team USA with successful competitions here and abroad. He owns Tactical Fly Fisher. Before starting his business he spent 3 years working as a fisheries biologist.

---

---

### ***October 2-5 Chopaka Outing***

Mike Riber will host this very popular fall outing at Chopaka Lake. The lake typically fishes very well that time of year and it will be a good way to get back to stillwater fishing after a late summer of moving water. Details to follow on Zeffy.

---

## Summer Casting Clinics Continue

Marion and Frank are offering a series of casting lessons to focus on fishing moving water. Topics include: how to make various casts and mends, how to take advantage of windy conditions, gaining greater distance, and better accuracy. Sessions are scheduled for Wednesdays and Saturdays. Topics covered Wednesday will be featured again on the following Saturday.

Then on Sundays, through the remainder of August, you are welcome to come and work on specific casting goals of your choice that we call a Walk-in Clinic.

Zeffy sign-ups will arrive in your email some time in the near future.

### Wednesday-River Clinic

6:00-8:00 pm

July 30

August 6

### Saturday-River Clinic

9:00-11:00 am

August 2

August 9

### Sundays-Walk-in Clinic

9:00-11:00 am

August 24

August 31

September 7



## Raise a Beer and Cast a Fly! August 14

Join **North Sound Trout Unlimited** and **4th Corner Fly Fishers** for a casual get-together where you can mingle over drinks and enjoy an evening filled with friendly fly casting challenges. It's a great opportunity to build camaraderie with fellow anglers—raise a beer and cast a fly.

Casters will be challenged on their accuracy, distance skills, and ability to tackle everyday fishing scenarios. All casters will face a fair and exciting challenge, regardless of their experience level.

Casting challenge equipment, including fly rods, line, leaders, and yarn flies, will be provided by 4th Corner Fly Fishers, ensuring that everyone has an equal chance to enjoy the competition.

Time: 6:00 - 9:00

Location: Terramar Brewing and Distilling  
5712 Gilkey Ave., Edison, WA 98232

Questions?

Marion Hiller (360) 739-0186

Brandon Sly-The Confluence Fly Shop (360) 312-7978



# Better Casting with Frank, Marion, and Steve

**By John Egbert**

***Frank Koterba and Marion Hiller, Certified Casting Instructors, Fly Fishing International; Steve Hiller, FFI Instructor Candidate***

*Self-taught fly casters develop bad habits that can become deeply ingrained and are hard to correct. A fly cast is just as challenging as a good golf swing; but whereas good golfers get lessons, most fly casters wing it---rather literally.*

*Taylor Streit, Instinctive Fly Fishing*



After decades of winging it, I swallowed hard when I read that passage because for me, Taylor is right. I enjoy casting. I catch fish, so why bother going to school?

My two lessons have been decades of stream-born trial and error, plus the time Tom Macy and I were driving between Las Vegas, New Mexico, and the Sangre de Cristo village of Sapello. Tom, an avid flats fisherman, stopped his car at dusk on an empty country road, took out his fly rod to demonstrate a double haul. Since the 1980's, I've played with one corrupted version after another. Along the way, I may have invented the triple haul, a faster version of ripping line off the reel between hauls, working in an extra tug when I imagined handstripping more line out

during back and forward strokes would lead to an extra-long cast. I pulled it off, sort of, but lost any semblance of accuracy, only proving that with hands, line and fly rod, I could be a finger painter or opt out until I got proper lessons.

I've believed that I'm an adequate enough caster to ride out my fly fishing life without lessons, but why not head over to Cornwall Park and find out what I might pick up from Frank, Marion, and Steve? I have no doubts they have much to offer, and I want to learn how to double haul.

It's an August 2nd morning and Marion has just finished teaching the single and double haul on this sunny, green grassy field surrounded by towering fir and cedar. We students have been focused on Marion showing us the whole cast, then breaking it down into hands, rod, and line which becomes a swing dance, a

smooth operation like opening and closing a book: hands together fueling and feeling the rod load the line on the backcast, the line hand snapping down, the pause of the back cast, hand back up to the rod and swiftly, smoothly pulled down for the second haul. Marion's casts are rhythmic, a coordination of hands, line, and rod, a little song, a couple of energetic whiffs that can beat the wind. Frank chimes in, "Watch my hand. It's like putting money in your pocket."

Now comes our turn to perfect the double haul, to put this cast together. We split into our singular casting lanes replete with marked distances and targets. Marion, Frank, and their assistant Steve follow us to our stations to observe, critique, and praise.

I'm reflecting about a windy day on the Upper Skagit where I might need this cast to drop a fly softly behind a distant boulder, an eddy across the river, or through a headwind to a rising rainbow. On a calm warm June day at Tunkwa, I want a long cast with a damsel nymph to drop along the weed bed edge. If I learn to double haul, I can increase my chances of the big thrill of enticing a trout at an easy fifty feet.

Marion, Frank and Steve are now coaching the five of us one-on-one. I'm practicing; yet close by, I overhear Steve complimenting Rick Lingbloom. A retired elementary school teacher, Rick is new to fly fishing, but unlike me, has no questionable habits. I can see that Rick is already double hauling, that Steve is pleased and smiling. Rick is proving, as Marion has put it, that he can master a tricky move like patting your head and rubbing your stomach. If Rick can do it, I can, too.

Steve comes over to help and quickly sees that I'm in transition between old and new, my line hand out of sync with the rod, anxiously trying to muscle my way through the syncopation. I'm patting my stomach and rubbing my head. Our target is the size of a dinner plate and I'm slapping the table. Like Frank and Marion, Steve interrupts me when I need it most. He emphasizes soft, clean moves, and "John, don't force the cast." It is time to mirror Steve, Marion and Frank. I'm thinking, "Breathe, it's only fishing. Breathe deeply, as you buddy, can do this."

I have got to respect the rod, a rather invisible flexstick that I've underestimated. While I feel it, I feel the line more and don't bother to pay attention to false casts winging overhead; but as emphasized here, a power tool that can rip a cast to slack and shreds or a tight looping butterfly that drops gently for a drink. I find the proper rhythm; the double haul becomes natural, using the rod to form long tight loops that Marion had taught us at the first class, still mindful of Frank's relaxed, simple strokes, his tight, upfront backcast, a near duplicate forward stroke as he lifts his hand to his ear "like answering the telephone, picking it up, then putting it down to end the call.

**-John**



# Introduction to Fly Fishing

Taught by 4th Corner Fly Fishers

Whether you are new to fly fishing or have limited experience join us for a one day course. You will acquire valuable knowledge and practical skills to start your fly fishing adventures and enhance your fishing experience.

## Course Outline:

- **Fish Identification and Habitat:** Learn the various fish species and their preferred habitats.
- **Fish Food and Fly Mimicry:** Discover the role of aquatic insects and other food groups in the diet of fish, and learn how to use flies to mimic these effectively.
- **Fly Fishing Equipment Overview:** Gain understanding of fly fishing equipment, including rods, reels, lines, and knots. Learn how to assemble your own fly rod.
- **Safety Precautions:** Learn essential safety measures on rivers and lakes.
- **Basic Casting Instruction:** Learn foundational skills for the basic fly fishing casts from certified casting instructors. Note that eye protection is required for all fly casting activities.

**Date:** September 13, 2025

**Time:** 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, lunch will be provided.

**Location:** Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association  
3057 E. Bakerview Rd., Bellingham, WA 98226

## Course Cost:

Adults: \$40

Students (over 18): \$20

## Registration:

Use this link to register: [Introduction-to-fly-fishing-from-the4th-corner-fly-fishers](https://www.4thcornerflyfishers.com/registration/)



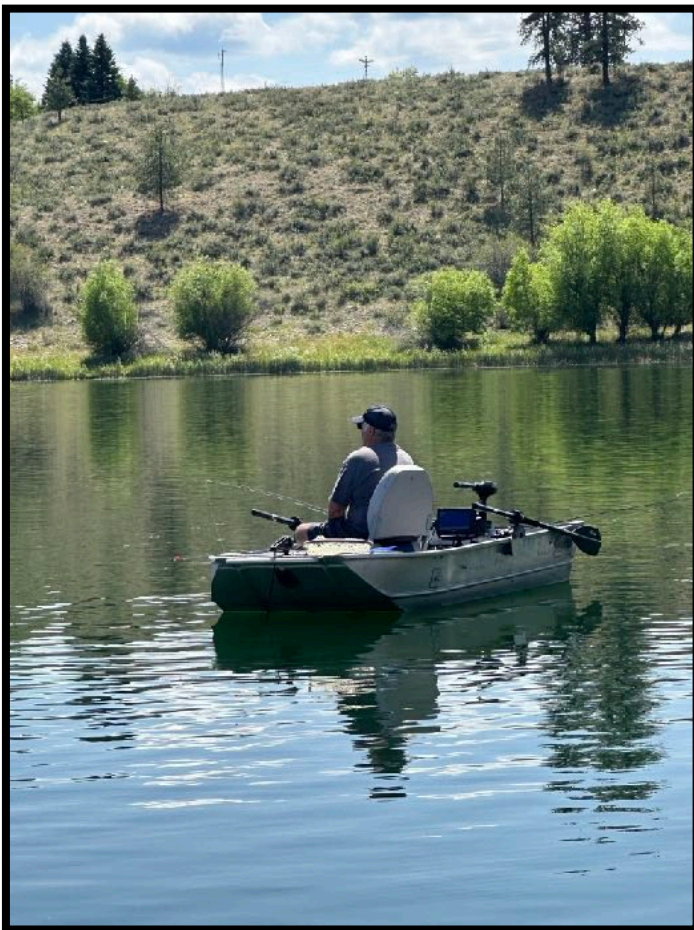


## Big Twin Outing June 12-14

Big Twin is a beautiful little lake in a great location with a large campground that is very well maintained. The lake is stocked annually and has an aerator to stop winterkill. There are some very nice 18" holdover rainbows that are eager to take a Chironomid or leech. What more could an angler ask for? A mid June outing should be early enough. Well....it wasn't. The previous week the temperatures hit well over 100F for several days and the result was a lake that was unusually warm for June and the fish were necessarily deep. John Sanders, Susan Swetman, Brian Duim, and I fished a couple of short days but it was uncomfortably hot on the lake and tough on the fish. Outing participants had the usual issues from forgotten oars to Brian re-injuring his leg playing Frisbee in the dark with some other fishermen in the campground. (really Brian???)

It was a success for me because I renewed my friendship with Susan, and met Brian who has not been able to participate in outings for several years. Most of our time was spent reminiscing of past trips to Big Twin and committing to scheduling future trips at least a month earlier.

-Bob Jorgenson





# Methow Classic Report

## July 10-12

By John Sanders

This year's Classic was well represented with 16 members and guests attending despite it being a particularly hot eastern Washington weekend. Winthrop peaked at 106 degrees on Sunday!



A few people arrived early and were surprised by a spectacular moonrise over the Methow River on Wed evening. It was a peaceful time by the river with friends watching the moon come over the hill.

On Thursday seven people made a one-mile hike into Beaver Lake north of Loup Loup Pass. They were rewarded with beautiful Rainbows and Cutthroats for their efforts.





On Friday most attendees floated the Methow. Angus MacArthur and Steve Wimer in particular enjoyed great days Euro Nymphing (although their success caused some stress to less fortunate anglers). For new attendee John Connel and member John Sanders the day was highlighted by both of their oarlocks delaminating from their rafts, leaving both with two oars not connected to their boats with four miles still to float! What is the chance that this would happen to two people on the same outing? Pro tip: always carry a couple of long straps (John S) or at least 25' of rope (John C) to make on-water repairs.





People then did a mix of activities on Saturday during the day. Longtime member and past-president Frank Koterba very selflessly drove to Winthrop and back to Bellingham on Saturday just to cook his now-famous Paella for the Saturday potluck dinner. It was excellent, as always, and everybody enjoyed the camaraderie and storytelling.



Many people escaped the heat early on Sunday, but four members hiked into Upper Rock Lake just past Loup Loup Pass. This could have been a pleasant short hike, but these four decided to try a "new trail" on the other side of the lake, which turned out to be a 500' descent over a quarter mile to the lake ending with a march through a mud bog and then devils club thorns. Their efforts were rewarded with some pretty Brook Trout, followed by the hike up the same slope they slid down to get there (intelligence is not a requirement for club membership!).





## Bearpaw Lake Report

### July 22

Bearpaw Lake is a 6 acre fishing lake at 4425 ft elevation off of the Canyon creek road. The hike was 3/4 miles in with a 650 feet elevation increase. Six of us met up at the trail head and hiked in, having to duck under and around a couple of fallen trees. The trail was uphill all the way but very doable considering we were packing float tubes. We arrived to find cutthroats rising to a beautiful lake. The fishing was fun with the average size 8 to 12 inches and Jeff Taylor catching the largest at 17 1/2 inches, way to go Jeff. The water was on the cool side but the fishing was hot with 30 fish being caught by our top producer, Mike Riber, using a fly he got from Dan Coombs. The hike out was all downhill so at the end of the day we easily coasted to our trucks. Overall the trip was great with great friends and will definitely be going back. We have had several hike in lake trips this year and have been very successful. We will be doing more next year and if you have any suggestions on future lakes drop me a line. I plan on having a meeting this winter on hike in lakes, lakes to go to, gear you need, and generally an educational session. I will announce in the future when this will happen.



**Tight lines, Angus MacArthur**



# Upper Skagit Fly Tying

## August 12-15

With the Upper Skagit BC Outing coming up on August 12-15 we are fortunate to have two flies suggested for success.

***The first comes from Mark Hurlbert:***

### **Marc's' Upper Skagit** **Green Drake**

**Hook:** standard size 10 dry fly hook (at times if very large *Drunella Grandis* are hatching it can even be a size 8). For the smaller *Doddsii* or *Coloradensis* a size 12 may be more appropriate.

**Thread:** Olive 6/0 or even a bit thicker.

**Tail:** Medium to dark dun, tied rather short, about the length of the body.

**Wing:** I first used dun colored Cul de Canard, but found it rather bothersome to use as after each fish caught, due to the fish slime, it required rinsing, drying, and the application of a very light coating of a light, liquid floatant before reuse. I finally switched to rabbit's foot, specifically the water repellent and very curly fur from the foot pads of snowshoe hares, in natural or dun. The rabbit's foot wing requires only a quick rinse and then false casting to dry it. The important feature is a certain "indistinctness" that better represents how it appears if the insect is fanning its wings to dry them off. The wing should be tied about 20% longer than typical and canted slightly forward.

**Body:** Olive dyed squirrel body hair, or even better, an olive dubbing blend incorporating translucent mohair. It should be loosely spun-dubbed rather than closely packed, allowing some light to pass through it to imitate the translucence of the natural's body. If tying to imitate the smaller *Coloradensis* or *Doddsii* then one may incorporate some brown into the dubbing mix.

**Hackle:** Medium blue dun. If one clips some of the hackle at the bottom of the fly it will float in a more natural position.



***The second fly is from Steve Wimer:******Lance Egan's Red Dart***

**Hook:** Hanak 400 or Hanak 450 jigged nymph hook. Size 14-18. Or use your favorite jigged nymph hook.

**Bead:** Slotted gold bead 2.5mm to 3.5mm sized to match hook.

**Thread:** Red UTC 70 denier.

**Tail:** Red Glo-Brite #3 thread. The original fly is tied with red hackle fibers, but I like the Glo-Brite material better. It is much more durable and adds just a bit more UV pop to the fly. Use 2 short strands of Glo-Brite and double them over when tying in for added durability.

**Body:** Peacock Ice Dub in a dubbing noodle.

**Rib:** Brown or Gold medium wire.

**Hackle:** Whiting Farms Brahma Hen hackle in natural brown.

**Collar:** UV Shrimp ice dub.



A tying video presented by Lance Egan can be found on the Fly Fish Food website or YouTube

**Fishing Tips:** This is a great attractor style nymph for fishing on a euro setup or as a dropper on a hopper-dropper setup. This has been a top producer for me in BC, Washington, and Idaho for the last 2 years. I generally fish it as my upper fly on a euro rod. Size 14 with a 3mm bead or size 16 with a 2.5 mm bead are very effective. While it doesn't imitate any nymph very specifically it seems to imitate many trout food sources closely enough that it produces well. Or, maybe it's the "bling factor" this fly has that gets a trout's attention. Either way make sure to have some in your box!

# Kelly Creek / NF Clearwater River / St Joe River in North Idaho September 15-21

**Host:** Steve Wimer

**Fish Species:** West Slope Cutthroat / Bull Trout / Rainbow Trout

**Note:** Steve grew up in Idaho and has fished these rivers many times. He plans to hold a planning meeting to answer questions and coordinate activities in early September.

**Equipment:** 3-5 wt single hand fly rods, 3-4 wt euro rods, 3-4 wt trout spey rods. Floating lines.

**Flies:**

**Dries:** Chubby Chernobyls, Stimulators, hoppers, Parachute Adams, Purple Haze, foam beetle, black ant, BWO's, X-Caddis. Cutthroat love dry flies!

**Nymphs:** Prince, hares ear, Copper John, pink squirrel. You probably don't travel to Idaho to fish nymphs very often, but best to have some with you. Have some nymphs with a "hot spot" as well.

**Streamers.** There are Bull Trout in these rivers and some very large Bull trout. A few streamers in your box is a good idea. Big cutthroat eat streamers as well.

**Timing:** September is a special time on Kelly creek and NF Clearwater as the Kokanee migrate up the river from Dworshak reservoir to spawn. You will see thousands of bright red Kokanee. Something about the Kokanee migration gets the Cutthroat active and the Bull Trout can get aggressive. The water is generally low and clear and the summer crowds have thinned, there are cool nights and nice days. No guarantees on weather!

**Directions to Kelly creek / NF Clearwater:** From Bellingham to Kelly Forks Campground is 550 miles via I-90. Take I-90 east to Superior, Montana. In Superior, get gas as it is the last service. From Superior it is 54 miles on mixed pavement and gravel to Kelly forks campground. Take Diamond Road, which becomes Trout Creek Road, up to the summit at Hoodoo Pass which is where you cross back into Idaho. From Hoodoo Pass down, follow Deception Saddle Road down to the NF Clearwater where you meet the river near the Cedars Campground. From there it is 12 miles down the Black Canyon Road along the NF Clearwater to Kelly Forks Campground. NOTE: Large RVs and trailers are NOT recommended through the Black Canyon as there are concrete water crossings and narrow sections from previous washouts. If you wish to bring your large RV or trailer, you can stay at the Cedars Campground or you can get to Kelly Forks Campground traveling through Lewiston, Idaho and up the Clearwater River. Please see Google Maps.

**Location:** Plan to camp at Kelly Forks Campground, at the confluence of the NF Clearwater River and Kelly Creek. Kelly Forks Campground has water and vault toilets; it has a pay station. There are 18 sites at Kelly Forks. Kelly Creek is a fly-fishing-only catch and release West Slope Cutthroat stream. It was the first catch and release only river in the state of Idaho. It was made catch and

release only in 1971. From Kelly Forks Campground you can fish 12 miles up Kelly Creek to the end of road access. A trail continues for many miles upstream from there if people are looking for a bit more remote experience. Moose Creek is at the end of the road and can have some great small water trout fishing. From the campground you can fish 12 miles up the NF Clearwater up the Black Canyon Road. Downstream you can fish nearly 35 miles to Dworshak reservoir. So from the campground you can fish 3 different directions. The road follows the river in all 3 directions with many pullouts to access the river. There is lots of dispersed camping along the NF Clearwater River above the confluence as well. Above the campground is mostly walk and wade fishing, below the confluence the river is larger and a pontoon boat or other personal water craft is an option, although the road still travels right along the river.

Some of us will spend 3 days on the NF Clearwater and Kelly Creek and then head back out to Superior Montana over to St. Regis for gas and a "worlds best" huckleberry milkshake before going over another pass to access the St. Joe River.

The St. Joe River is a popular river for cutthroat for good reason. Again the road travels right along the river for nearly 50 miles. The best fly fishing water is upstream from Avery all the way to Red Ives ranger station.

**Directions to the St Joe River:** From St.Regis, Montana (on I-90) take the Little Joe Road which travels south over a pass and back into Idaho. It is 30 miles yet takes approx 1 hr to reach the St. Joe. Multiple campgrounds are available on the St. Joe. Conrad Crossing, Gold Creek Campground, Tin Can Flat and Turner Flat campgrounds are also located right on the river above Avery. Downstream in Avery, there is gas, groceries, and cabins available as well. Fishing the St. Joe is very much like Kelly Creek and the NF Clearwater. It is classic Cutthroat fishing. Hopper - dropper is hard to beat.

**Things to think about on all 3 rivers:**

Although the road travels right along the river, accessing the river may require steep banks and or scrambling / bush whacking. The best fishing is generally not at the easiest access points. It generally pays to access the river and spend some hiking to find some less pressured water. If you plan to spend several days driving up and down the river accessing the mile after mile of water, think about bringing an extra gas can.

**Tips:**

- This is classic Hopper-dropper fly fishing. In the morning a nymph under a big dry fly will produce fish, when it warms up and the fish start eating on top you can ditch the dropper.
- If you raise a big fish and it turns away from your fly at the last second. Do NOT cast right back at it. Take a minute, switch to smaller fly and go back after it!
- Nymphs with a "hot spot" will often outfish nymphs that don't have a hot spot, especially if the cutthroat are eating drifting Kokanee eggs. Bull Trout love Kokanee eggs too!
- While a drag free drift is ideal most days, sometimes skittering a Caddis or twitching a hopper will be the ticket. Swinging soft hackles, especially in the evening, can produce some fantastic fishing.
- Think about eating dinner early and being back on the water for the last 1-2 hours of daylight. Sometimes a pool that did not produce much during the day will come alive with rising fish the last hour of the day.
- When in doubt, throw a black foam ant!



# Kelly Creek / NF Clearwater River / St Joe River Fly Tying Suggestion

**By Steve Wimer**

**Hook:** Your favorite dry fly hook in size 14-16.

**Thread:** UTC 70 denier, color to match body.

**Body:** Pre-cut foam ant bodies from Wapsi. Color black, brown or cinnamon/red. 2mm sheet foam can be used but the body then has to be cut to size. The pre-cut bodies make the process very quick.

**Rear Wing:** EP fibers (natural color) or Antron.

**Legs:** Extra fine black rubber legs. Black crystal flash can be used as an alternative.

**Hackle:** Dry fly hackle – size and color to match.

**Tying Tips:** Secure thread to hook and add a small amount of super glue before securing foam body to the hook. This will increase durability and keep foam body from rotating on the hook. Avoid using 8/0 uni-thread as it tends to cut into the foam. The pre-cut foam bodies can easily be trimmed to the desired size for the hook. After securing the foam body, tie in the short rear wing of EP fiber or Antron; the rear wing helps with flotation and makes the fly easier to see. Next tie in the legs, one piece of rubber leg on each side. Finally tie the hackle in towards the rear of the fly and Palmer forward. Secure the hackle just behind the front foam and whip finish right behind hook eye. I trim the hackle flat with the bottom of the fly so the fly rides correctly and sits right in the surface film just like the naturals do.

**Fishing Tips:** The Black ant is a fly pattern that has been around for decades. The foam body version is a recent upgrade that makes this fly float really well. Do not underestimate the fish catching qualities of the black foam ant. This is a great moving water or stillwater pattern that should be in every fishers fly box. If you've ever been on a lake when an ant fall occurs you have to have a few in your box. On moving water it is simply a deadly terrestrial pattern to fish in the fall, especially when the trout have seen hundreds of big hopper patterns. Many times when a trout has refused my big Chubby Chernobyl or other hopper pattern, a quick switch to a small foam ant will do the trick.



## My Week at Tarpon Cay

### ***A trip reflection by Steve Hiller Tarpon Cay Lodge, Rio Lagartos, Yucatan, Mexico***

I had the opportunity to fish for Tarpon at Tarpon Cay Lodge in Rio Lagartos (Alligator River) in July on a Confluence Fly Shop trip. Also in attendance were Ralph Lloyd and past club members Scott Willison, and Nathan and Trevor Weston. This was the second year that I have attended this fishing adventure.

First of all, what you need to understand is that when these juvenile tarpon (15-30#) take a fly, they don't sip it. They explode!. Runs and jumps are all part of the action.



Last year, the first day I think I landed 1 Tarpon out of about 10 takes. This is not like a typical fresh water fishery. When these fish are feeding they destroy the fly. This year I was more prepared, but the fish were not as cooperative.

On my best day, I landed 6 Tarpon and because this is fishing, on my worst day I did not land any. There was a full moon the week we were there so the general consensus was that the fish were feeding at night and digesting during the day. What was interesting though is that everyday someone did well, but others didn't have their best day. For example, the last day I fished with Scott (we rotated guides and fishing partners) and our guide found a huge school of tarpon. On my first cast I hooked a large one, played it for 5 minutes and lost it. There were many jumps and runs, but on one of the jumps I misplayed it and he got off. Such is life with these fish.

From then on, they were the most spooky fish I have ever seen. Cast by them and they spooked. Cast over them and they spooked. They even spooked themselves while we were just watching. Other times we were casting right at the edge of floating weed beds and you would see the tarpon come out and grab the fly. Other places, we were in the multiple "creeks" in the Mangroves, casting in slots or under branches. Catching a tarpon in one of these "creeks" is a challenge to keep the fish out of the Mangrove roots. It was a very enjoyable chase.

While not fishing, we were well taken care of by the staff at the Yum Ha Hotel which is in the town of Rio Lagartos. This is where Tarpon Cay Lodge operates. The food was great, the octopus and barracuda were especially good. One of the fun things about this area is it is that it is by the Rio Lagartos Biosphere Reserve which is the home of thousands for nesting Flamingos. It is really interesting to see pink birds feeding in the shallows. The company of my fellow fishermen was great. This is a trip that I think you would really enjoy, and it is a great introduction to salt water fishing in the tropics.

# Clearwater Creek Clean Up

## July 3

*By Jeff Taylor*

When Hugh Lewis sets his sights on a project, you can count on it getting done. Concerned that the trail into Clearwater Creek near Mt. Baker had become overgrown and unsafe, Hugh took the initiative to organize a cleanup. He rallied fellow 4th Corner members, and three stepped up to help : Bob Jorgenson, Kevin Formway, and Jeff Taylor.

On the morning of July 3, under Hugh's leadership, the group set out for a half-day of hands-on trail maintenance, armed with saws, mattocks, pruners, and spades. The trail was indeed heavily overgrown and boggy in sections, but by noon, they had cleared the most troublesome parts of the roughly half-mile stretch. The team took a well-earned break along the creek to enjoy a snack, some water, and a photo, all while taking in the stunning natural beauty of the area. There was shared excitement about returning someday to wet a fly in those inviting waters.

With the job done, the group celebrated with pizza and beer at the North Fork Brewery, courtesy of Hugh's generosity. Projects like this one reflect the spirit and commitment of 4th Corner members in supporting and preserving our natural surroundings.





## Returning to Alpine Lake Fishing

**By Bob Jorgenson**

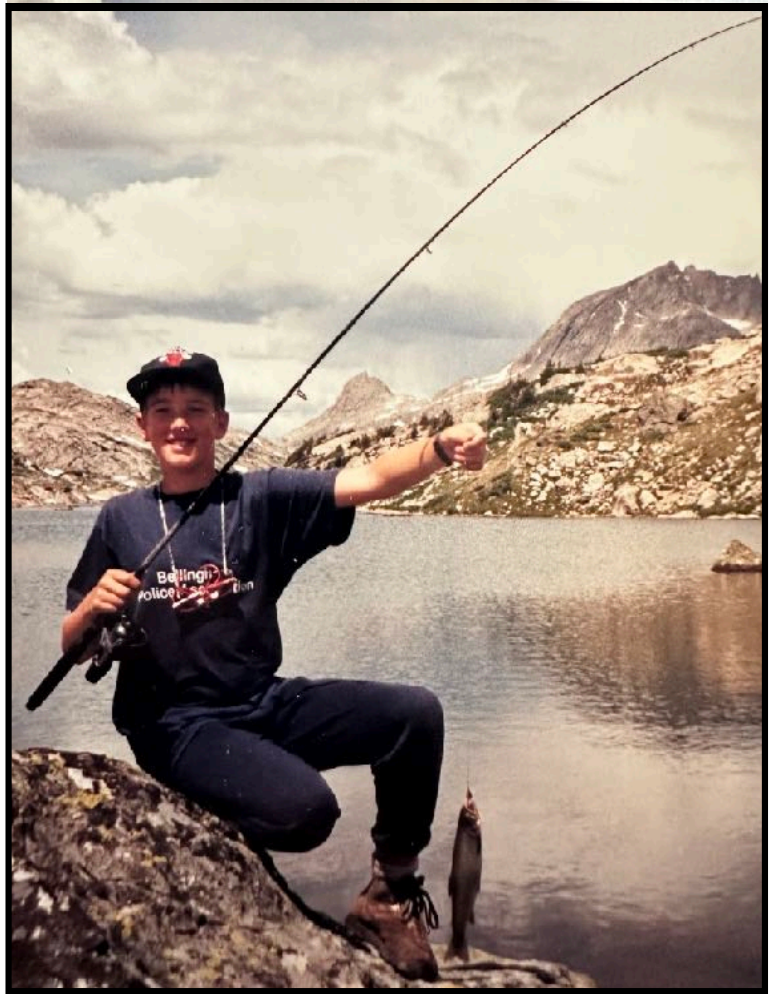
My interest in alpine lake fishing began in about 1996. I was quite involved in mountaineering and my wife, our son and I would often

take backpacking trips for a week or longer in the summer. Entertaining a nine year old for a couple of weeks in the Cascades or in the Wind River Range in Wyoming took some creative effort. A solution came to me when I found the book Wind River Trails by Finis Mitchell.

Finis lost employment during the great depression and he and his young wife bought a tent and set up a fish camp in the Wind River Range of Wyoming. In the seven years that he lived in the hills he was able to purchase trout from a hatchery and carry them to a variety of lakes in milk cans on horseback. While planting fish in lakes where they do not naturally occur is not legal now, Finis needed a reason for people to frequent his fish camp at Big Sandy Openings near Pinedale, Wyoming.

His camp was visited by hundreds of anglers during the depression era. His clients rented horses for \$1.50 a day and he provided guide service for free. Meals were \$.50 and he was surprised to earn \$300.15 his first summer. Many trout of various species were caught by customers in the 3-5lb range. He planted Rainbow, Cutthroat, California Golden, Brook or German Brown, and stocked 314 different lakes that still hold those fish today.

While preparing for another trip into the "Winds" my son and I went to H&H Sporting goods. I explained that I needed a small all-purpose rod that we would pack 40 miles into the Wind River Range. Mr. Howell showed us several rods but they were 9' two-piece rods. I explained that I wanted a 4 piece rod and apparently they were not that common in the 90s. He finally came out with a 4 piece 8 ½ foot "backpacking rod" and a very inexpensive reel and that became my fly fishing rod used infrequently for the next 25 years. I remember a conversation with fishing friend, Dr. Dave Johnson, when he was convincing me that I might want to consider





buying another rod. I simply could not understand why someone needed more than one rod. Well , things have changed on that front but I still use my 1996 Sage when I hike into alpine lakes.

Our son became quite adept at catching fish on a fly suspended below a bobber and he had several 15 fish days. I remember telling some unsuccessful fishermen how we were catching our fish and later watched them walk up our hill with a dozen fish from the pool that we had been fishing, and taking them to their camp. We usually took two fish a day for dinner and released the others. It was a good lesson for me about sharing fishing secrets and it took quite a few days before our son could forgive his "big mouth" dad.

Time has taken a toll on my physical abilities and I am no longer able to enjoy mountaineering. Thanks to the new ultra light float tubes, light waders, improved backpacks, and membership in the 4CFF club I have been able to enjoy alpine fishing again. I have hiked into lakes on five occasions this year and enjoyed great success catching brook trout and cutthroat trout on the fly. My fishing partner Angus is doing his best to teach me techniques to use structure and sight fishing to catch more fish. I am also learning what the phrase "tight lines" really means when landing an active 14" brook trout. The hikes in have been entertaining as we sometimes go off route and the banter that ensues really makes the day enjoyable. A good laugh is sometimes all that is needed to take me away from the worries of the day. I have yet to take an overnight fishing trip in the hills but I have one planned in the fall. It has been great to close the circle and start alpine fishing again.

I look forward to more club organized hike-in trips. I hope you consider signing up for one of our outings.

*Ed Note: Member Hugh Lewis is a master bamboo fly rod builder and if you were at the auction you had a chance to view his work. He has agreed to write a series of articles about the history of rod building for our newsletter. It is a great "rainy day cup of coffee read." Many Thanks Hugh!*

## **Bamboo in Bellingham**

### **A Lengthy Tradition of Making Bamboo Fly Rods in Bellingham Part 2 (see issue 3 for Part 1)**

#### ***Fred Miller***

Corliss Frederick Miller [1918 – 2010] was a member of the 4<sup>th</sup> Corner Fly Fishers and, with innate leadership skills and a strong background in science, served as the Club's Conservation Chair for a dozen years. He worked at the Mobil Oil Ferndale Refinery as its Operations Manager at Cherry Point from 1962 until his retirement in 1983. Retirement allowed Fred to attend Dawn Holbrook's rod-making classes in Seattle in 1985, along with two other 4CFF members, Lyle Hand and Hugh Brown.

Fred made two or three rods in the manner taught in Dawn Holbrook's classes. Fred didn't have a lathe or other power tools of any sort, so he used sandpaper and a steady hand to grind down the ends of completed hexagonal bamboo sections to accept metal ferrules and reel seat hardware, as he watched television with his wife. He also laboriously formed cork grips in the same fashion, turning them with one hand against sandpaper gripped in his other hand over a period of hours, with newspapers in his lap to keep accumulating sanding dust off the floor and furniture. He wrapped guides onto rod sections by hand using silk thread under tension in a fly-tying bobbin. He applied warmed varnish to completed rod sections with his fingers in the bathroom in the lower level of his house, where his wife couldn't see what he was doing. That bathroom floor was often covered with newspapers to sop up errant drops of rod varnish.



Fred liked the heavy rods that Dawn Holbrook favored, and used 8 weight rods when fishing for trout. He also restored some antique rods, using the finishing techniques he learned from Holbrook. I am fortunate to own an old 14' Leonard two-handed rod that he restored that is lovely to behold, albeit a bit heavy. It has two mid sections, one shorter than the other, and two tips, one shorter than the other. Both length options of the rod throw an 11-weight line with authority. A photo of the butt portions of its several sections, meticulously wrapped by Fred using translucent gold silk thread with fine black tipping, appears on a following page. I later acquired several useful rod-making tools from Fred's estate. Unfortunately, I have been unable to locate a photo of a rod that Fred had made for himself.

## ***Lyle Hand***

Lyle Leslie Hand [1930 – 2016] was an early member of the 4<sup>th</sup> Corner Fly Fishers who worked for the U.S. Postal Service. Along with fellow 4CFF members Fred Miller and Hugh Brown, Lyle learned how to make bamboo fly rods from Dawn Holbrook in 1985. Lyle was already a woodworker and was accustomed to making furniture and other items on the Shop Smith wood-working machine that he kept in his garage, so he readily took to the process of making bamboo rods.

To make the process of planing bamboo strips less laborious, he asked local machinist Guy Foster, from the former Circle F Machine Shop on Mt. Baker Highway, to make him a set of adjustable steel planing forms. The finished product was not perfectly aligned, but it was serviceable, and Lyle used it to make at least 20 rods. He made a jig that let him use the sanding-disk attachment on his Shop Smith machine to grind down the “nodes” in the bamboo strips. Nodes consist of gnarly outside portions of the internal dams present in all bamboo stalks where straight-running cellulose fibers in the stalk bend inward to form dams that provide hoop strength for the growing plant; nodes must be straightened and flattened in the process of preparing strips for final planing. Lyle also developed a characteristic thread color combination [color-preserved yellow and rust-brown] that he wound onto most of his rods to hold guides in place, using a Thompson-style rod-winder. See: [Thompson Style Herter's Rod Winder I #171746692](#)

Lyle principally made just two types of rods: a 7 ½ ft 4 weight, and an 8 ft 6 weight. The short 4 weight rods are delightful to cast, and several current 4CFF members are fortunate to own one. By contrast, the 8 ft rods cast poorly and are less desirable. It's unclear from what source he derived the taper design for the 8-foot rods. The measurements are unusual; the butt end of the tip section was considerably larger in diameter than the tip end of the butt section at the point where the two sections are joined together with nickel-silver ferrules; such a state of affairs produces a structural weakness in the middle of the rod that makes it less powerful. Lyle didn't seem to notice; he was not fishing much at that point in his life and had never taken casting lessons. He just enjoyed the process of building rods.

A videotape of Lyle building a rod from start to finish was made by Sid Strong. The video can be found on YouTube, here: [Lyle Hand Bamboo Fly Rod SD 480p](#). It's well worth watching; it captures not only Lyle's approach to building a rod, but also his gentle, generous nature that is apparent in his folksy delivery during the film.

Lyle also made attractive wooden landing nets from walnut and maple. I'm fortunate to own one. I hope to acquire photos of a rod made by Lyle Hand. If anyone reading this article has one of Lyle's rods, please let me know so that I can capture it for posterity.

## **Hugh Brown**

Hugh J. Brown [1922 - 1990] was a member of the 4<sup>th</sup> Corner Fly Fishers who worked in communications electronics and lived a block away from me off Lakeway Drive in Bellingham. He liked to fish small streams, and was partial to Clearwater Creek, a tributary to the Middle Fork Nooksack River. I was often his fishing buddy on such excursions. In 1985, along with Lyle Hand and Fred Miller, Hugh took Dawn Holbrook's evening classes in bamboo rod-making in Seattle. Like Lyle Hand, he purchased a set of steel planing forms from Circle F Machine Shop. Like Lyle's forms, Hugh's forms were not perfect, but they were serviceable enough. Hugh also had a small metal lathe and used it to turn down ferrule stations on bamboo rod sections, to shape cork grips, and to make reel seat components.

Hugh made a couple of rods and restored several others. Eventually, he attended the first Corbett Lake Bamboo Rodmakers' Gathering in 1988 with his chums Lyle Hand and Fred Miller. The initial Corbett Rodmakers Gatherings took place at Peter McVey's Corbett Lake Country Inn outside of Merritt, British Columbia. The Gathering was organized by three Canadian fellows who had independently learned the craft in the 1970s, but had become intrigued by engineering insights and unique building processes found in a then recently-published book on bamboo rod construction, i.e. *A Master's Guide to Building a Bamboo Fly Rod*, by Everett R. Garrison with Hoagy B. Carmichael in 1977: [A Master's Guide to Building a Bamboo Fly Rod: The Essential and Classic Principles and Methods: Garrison, Everett E., Carmichael, Hoagy B.: 9781634508087: Amazon.com: Books](#). This 300-page book, well-illustrated and exquisitely detailed, became a classic; that took a while in the pre-internet period, but a 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the book is now available.

The first Corbett Gathering was also held before the advent of the internet, and only a handful of bamboo makers in Canada and the U.S., including Dawn Holbrook, were identified as potential invitees. Parenthetically, the Corbett Rodmakers Gatherings were always international events, first involving individuals from just Canada and western States in the U.S. However, more recent Gatherings have included rodmakers from Europe, Australia and other states and provinces across north America.

Hugh Brown's experience with the first Corbett Rodmakers Gathering motivated him to make one final rod before his death in 1990. It was a 7' 6" 4 weight Garrison Model 206 copy. I watched him complete many of the steps in the process he followed to build that rod, which was intended as a gift for his son Sandy. It cast nicely but Hugh had experimented with a pure tung oil finish on it that never cured properly. Unfortunately, Hugh died before he could strip it down and refinish it with something more durable.

Current photos of an 8' 6" 7 weight rod that Hugh made for his brother Jim in 1989 appear on the next page:





Details of the cork grip and the reel seat barrel that Hugh turned on his lathe, along with the tight silk thread windings holding guides in place:



Later, I was fortunate to be able to purchase Hugh's metal planing forms, his notebook, and some other useful items from his estate, and became inspired to make bamboo rods of my own. The first bamboo rod that I completed back in 2000 was patterned after Hugh Brown's unfinished Garrison 206 copy.

### ***Joe Kelly***

Joseph Michael Kelly [1945 - 2017] was a member of the 4<sup>th</sup> Corner Fly Fishers. He was trained as a geologist, but ended up working as an operator at the Arco Refinery at Cherry Point. He was an avid outdoorsman, fly tier, and wood-worker, who served for several years as the Conservation Chair of the 4CFF and, later, its President. Joe also served for a dozen years on the Board of the Wild Fish Conservancy.

Joe watched Hugh Lewis making and restoring bamboo rods, and imagined making rods of his own. Joe attended the 2008 Corbett Rodmakers Gathering and got bitten by the bug. At some point he acquired the contents of a retiring rod-maker's shop, including two adjustable metal planing

forms of varying quality, two gluing binders, several block planes, a curing oven, a varnish drying cabinet, a stock of bamboo culms and some other items that complemented the additional tools and equipment in his existing woodworking shop. He started tinkering around with this equipment and made a rod with it.

At the 2010 Gathering, Joe observed a demonstration of a Morgan Hand Mill, a unique device invented by inventor and fly-rod-making entrepreneur Tom Morgan that cuts both sides of a strip simultaneously, and readily produced bamboo strips of consistent dimensions. See: [Fly rod makers Tom Morgan, Gerri Carlson create 'Unity with the Universe'](#). Joe purchased one of those hand mills from Morgan, and then started using it to make some rods.

Joe made a total of three rods before his untimely death in 2017. He was a perfectionist and said that he didn't like any of them. Only one of those rods was located following his death, but it was well-built, was attractive in appearance with Chinese red silk windings, and it cast well. It went into the next 4CFF Conservation Auction, along with large volumes of fly-tying materials and other fishing-related items. I was fortunate to obtain the Morgan Hand Mill from his estate. I'm not sure who purchased Joe's rod at that auction, but I would like to obtain a photograph of it.

## ***Sid Strong***

Sidney Wold Strong [1948 - ] has been a member of the 4<sup>th</sup> Corner Fly Fishers, and worked as a set-designer and concert lighting specialist for professional musicians. Sid bought one of Lyle Hand's 7 ½ ft 4 weight bamboo rods and was enthralled with how well it presented a fly, and how its flexibility helped land fish without over-stressing them. But he worried what might happen if he were to damage that unique, hand-made rod. Lyle told him it was as easy to build a rod as to repair one. Sid eventually sat down with him in Lyle's garage workshop and videotaped Lyle building a rod from start to finish. A YouTube link to that video appears in the section of this article devoted to Lyle Hand.

Sid was hooked by that time and thought, "I could do this!" Lyle lent Sid the Everett Garrison book *A Master's Guide to Building a Bamboo Fly Rod*, and Sid imagined building a shop of his own, with block planes, adjustable planing forms and the like. But Lyle suggested that Sid consider a Morgan Hand Mill manufactured by Tom Morgan, the former rod designer at Winston Rods in Montana. The Morgan Hand Mill simultaneously shaved both of the internal-mating sides of a triangular strip of bamboo. Intrigued, Sid drove to Montana to meet Tom Morgan and tour his shop. What Sid found there changed his life. He bought a Morgan Mill and found that it was perfect for his needs, serving as the core of his burgeoning bamboo rod shop.

After obtaining a rough-beveller, a gluing binder, a thread-wrapper, a dip tank, a heating tube, a micrometer, gloves, and other miscellaneous items for his shop, he started building rods of his own. Sid built rods in various lengths for 3 to 6 weight lines, each patterned after a rod designed by a famous early maker. His favorite was a 7' Leonard 3 weight, which he considered ideal for fishing local small streams. He sold enough rods that he eventually came close to paying for what he had invested in his shop.

Sid is well-liked in the 4CFF and has generously shared his knowledge, along with time in his workshop, with many local people interested in bamboo rods. Over time, he helped 4CFF members Bill Hall, Bill Faulkner and Frank Koterba make rods for themselves in his shop. A photo of several of Sid's rods appears below:



Sid recently ceased making bamboo rods, and sold the contents of his workshop to 4CFF member Frank Koterba. We hope that Frank will eventually produce rods of his own, using those tools, equipment, and accumulated knowledge.

***A third installment of this article will appear in a future addition of the 4CFF Newsletter.***



# Project Healing Waters Follow Up

**By Bob Carney**

Many of you were at the club meeting when Jeff Sturm gave a presentation on Project Healing Waters. Below is a statement from their website, [WWW.Projecthealingwaters.Org](http://WWW.Projecthealingwaters.Org). Further information about the organization is available on their web site.

*"Project Healing Waters began in 2005 serving wounded military service members at Walter Reed Army Medical Center returning from combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. PHW has expanded nationwide, establishing its highly successful program in Department of Defense hospitals, Warrior Transition Units, and Veterans Affairs Medical Centers and clinics, serving all eras of U.S. Veterans."*



At this point you may be wondering why this information is in our newsletter. I was in the Air Force from 1969 to 1974, so I have an understanding of what veterans may face. After hearing Jeff's presentation at our club meeting and fishing in Oregon with a guide that is active in supporting PHW it struck me that maybe I/we could help some way. If you have seen me cast or try to tie a fly you know that is not how I could help, but helping gather equipment is. I attended their meeting at the Veteran's Center in Bellingham in July and it is apparent that they are enthusiastic about developing a program in the North Sound area. The North Sound group hosts events where veterans can learn about fly fishing and try it first hand. Many of the veterans are new to fly fishing and have very little or no equipment. This is why I thought club members could help. Many of us have stuff we never use, or upgraded and just hung on to our entry level equipment. The vets could use rods and reels, boots, fly boxes, flies, fly line, and a special need for fly-tying vices and other fly-tying gear. If you want to help you can contact [Jeff.Sturm@projecthealingwaters.org](mailto:Jeff.Sturm@projecthealingwaters.org) for what the group might need. If you want to donate, you can contact me at [rhc201@msn.com](mailto:rhc201@msn.com) (Bob Carney) and I will coordinate getting your donation and get it to their group. Some club members or their families may be veterans, and this is a way to show support. The group organizers are all volunteers interested in helping vets. Meetings for veterans are held on the second Monday of each month at 6 PM at the Veteran's Center in Bellingham.



## Note from Jeff Sturm, Program Lead North Sound PHW

On behalf of North Sound Project Healing Waters, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the 4th Corner Fly Fishers club for your generous donation and for supporting our upcoming Bellingham casting clinic. Your partnership reflects more than just generosity—it shows a shared commitment to fostering connection, community, and healing through fly fishing. The time, expertise, and financial support you offer create meaningful opportunities for our veterans to reconnect, learn, and heal. We are grateful for the strong bond between our organizations and the positive impact we are making together. Thank you!

***Note: In addition to Bob offering his help with PHW, Frank, Marion, Steve and other club members will be teaching PHW members at Cornwall Park on August 14 at 6:30 PM. 4CFF has made a donation of \$1000 to this important organization.***

## New Member

***At the next general meeting in September we will vote to welcome Board-Approved prospective Member Jim Swansen. What follows is a short biography:***

### **A Fisherman at Heart, A Student of the Fly**

My name is Jim Swansen, and I've been a fisherman most of my life. I can't tell you exactly why fishing gets into a person's bones, but for some of us, it just does. There's something about the water, the rhythm of the cast, and the quiet moments in between that brings a kind of peace you can't find anywhere else. That feeling has kept me chasing fish in all sorts of ways for decades.

While I've tried many styles of fishing over the years, I've only dabbled in fly fishing now and then—just enough to know it's something special. There's an art to it, a deeper connection to the fish and the environment, and a kind of mindfulness that I've come to appreciate more with time. Since retiring a year and a half ago, I've finally found the time—and the desire—to dive deeper into fly fishing, not just as a pastime, but as a craft to learn and respect.

That's what brought me to the 4CFF club. I joined hoping to learn from those who know this style of fishing well, to swap stories, gather tips, and hopefully share a few of my own experiences too. The outings I have experienced so far have been enjoyable and educational, and I'm grateful for the warm welcome I've received. I know I've got a lot to learn, and I'm excited about that. Being a beginner again is humbling, but it's also invigorating.

I look forward to learning, growing, and spending more time on the water with like-minded folks who share the same love for fly fishing.



# Why Southern Utah has kept me interested for 22 years

*A Trip Reflection by John Williams*



22 years ago I was content fishing a private ranch in Wyoming. The owner was a friend who had a beautiful cabin placed fifty yards away from the best dry fly fishing I had ever experienced. I would take a couple of friends with me and when the house or barn needed some repairs we did them at our expense. Because we took great care to leave the cabin in better condition than we found it Bill gave me a key and said I could use it any time. My first visit was with my family and the fishing was spectacular and as the years went on the fishing diminished greatly. Finally I told Bill that someone is over fishing the stream and it was not worth my time driving from home to this beautiful location when the fish were not where they had been.

I decided to search the internet and found a home spun drawing and information about fishing Loa, Utah. Mike James is the owner of the Quiet Fly Fisher fly shop (435-616-2319). He and I became fast friends. I went with my usual cronies and had a fantastic time catching Rainbows, Browns, Tiger Trout, Splake, and Brookies in a five-day trip. As the years went on I ventured farther south and made the acquaintance of a couple more guides who were quite good as well, one being Steve Dawson of Circleville Anglers (435-840-5617) who has access to private water along with many streams and lakes.

Back to Loa and Mike James, Mike has access to four mountains and the drainages which offer dozens of streams and lakes. He also employs some very helpful and knowledgeable guides. He also has a rental house next to the fly shop which is handy. I head every year in September to fish and stay a week with five days guided by Mike and his crew. I have never been disappointed by the fishing or the guides.

I am a new comer to the Pacific Northwest, moving here four years ago from Southern California, but with many years of experience and now looking for local waters to explore.

# Fishing Minnie Lake

## Douglas Lake Ranch, BC

### ***A Trip Reflection by Jeff Taylor***

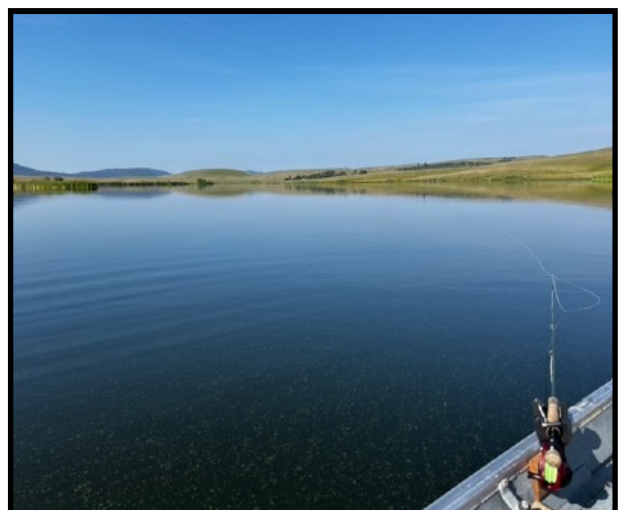
Three members of the 4th Corners Fly Fishers—John Sanders, Steve Wimer, and Jeff Taylor—had the privilege of being invited to fish Minnie Lake, located on the Douglas Lake Ranch. Situated near Merritt, BC, the ranch is the largest cattle ranch in Canada, spanning 164,000 deeded acres. Among its many lakes, Minnie Lake is one of the prime spots offered to fly anglers. Our trip, from June 22–27, was made possible through the generous invitation of fellow fly fishers from Bellingham: Curt Dahlrympl, George Bowen, Monte Bianchi, Stan Bianchi, and Dick Peterson. These seasoned anglers, all in their 70s, 80s, and even 90s, have been fishing various lakes on the ranch for years, and their stories alone made the trip worthwhile.

We stayed in a spacious log cabin that comfortably accommodates eight people. The cabin featured two bathrooms, a full kitchen, a cozy living room, and a lovely deck with a scenic view of the ranch. Additionally, there are two yurts available for rent, along with the lodge, providing options for those looking to experience this picturesque location. As part of the stay, the Ranch also supplies boats with electric motors and fresh batteries daily, which are conveniently waiting in the lake for guests' use. The cost for this experience is \$700 CAD per day, plus taxes and gratuity.

During our stay we had the lake mostly to ourselves, with only a couple of people renting the yurts. The fishing was excellent, despite windy conditions on all but one day. The lake's trout, consisting of Pennask and Fraser Valley varieties, were both abundant and healthy. They put up an exciting fight, leaping as high as 3-4 feet and diving with impressive power, regardless of their size. Most of the fish ranged between 12 and 23 inches, and we each landed between 50 and 90 fish during our visit.

Though we never witnessed a Chironomid hatch due to the cooler temperatures, the fish were still keen on taking Chironomids and leeches. Both leeches and damselfly larvae worked effectively, whether fished "naked" (without indicator) or under an indicator. One interesting event of the trip was a visit from a flock of about 80 pelicans. We also enjoyed watching loons, bald eagles, and osprey hunting for fish in the lake.

This is a truly exceptional fishery, and I highly recommend it to anyone who enjoys stillwater fishing. For more information about the opportunities at Douglas Lake Ranch, visit [douglaslake.com](http://douglaslake.com).





## 4CFF Board Members

***President: Mike Riber***



### ***Board Members:***

***John Sanders (Programs) - [waflyfisherman@gmail.com](mailto:waflyfisherman@gmail.com) 425-941-5406***  
***Angus MacArthur (Outings) - [angusmacarthur995@gmail.com](mailto:angusmacarthur995@gmail.com) 360-483-8954***  
***John Boblett (Secretary) - [jboblett@comcast.net](mailto:jboblett@comcast.net) 360-410-1772***  
***Kevin Formway (Membership) - [kformway1956@gmail.com](mailto:kformway1956@gmail.com) 360-220-0259***  
***Frank Koterba (Treasurer) - [fwkii17@gmail.com](mailto:fwkii17@gmail.com) 360-927-0544***  
***Bob Jorgenson- (Newsletter) - [jorgensonrobert@me.com](mailto:jorgensonrobert@me.com) 360-961-9877***  
***Jeff Taylor - [jeffdtaylor@comcast.com](mailto:jeffdtaylor@comcast.com) 206-271-3009***  
***Hugh Lewis - [hugh@toadhillconsulting.com](mailto:hugh@toadhillconsulting.com) 360-739-2023***

### ***Committee Chairs***

***Mark Munn (Education) - [mdmunn@comcast.net](mailto:mdmunn@comcast.net) 206-450-6779***  
***Marion Hiller (Website) - [marionhiller069@gmail.com](mailto:marionhiller069@gmail.com) 360-739-0186***  
***Dean Bates (Raffle) - [deanbates76@yahoo.com](mailto:deanbates76@yahoo.com) 360-296-8057***  
***Ralph Lloyd (Conservation) - [ralph.g.lloyd@gmail.com](mailto:ralph.g.lloyd@gmail.com) 360-201-9940***  
***Lin Nelson (Past President) - [lin.nelson@comcast.net](mailto:lin.nelson@comcast.net) 360-961-0408***

***Visit our public Facebook page: 4th Corner Fly Fishing Club***  
***Private Facebook page: The Fourth Corner Fly Fishers***

***Well....it seems that every edition gets longer but I have tried to include more personal reflections while also honoring all of the many outings and activities that our club is engaged in. Part of my goal is to help the club grow and if you know someone who is interested in fly fishing, please share this newsletter / fishing magazine with them.***

***If you have a story to tell please send it to me in a timely manner. Send it in Word, Pages, or email, not PDF, not any other weird format because it will only add to the time I spend trying to get it into the newsletter. Next deadline is September 23.***

***Special thanks to John Sanders for co-editing 30+ pages of text. Also thanks to all of you who sent me articles in the correct format and in a timely manner. I enjoy helping you tell your story.***

***When I took this job I was told that getting content would be the biggest problem. Well, as you can see it certainly is not a problem any more. No clip art, just fishing stories, keep them coming!***

***-Bob***