


FOURTH CORNER FLY FISHERS

President's Message

Fundamentally, a President is a custodian, an in-place administrator of routine issues and responsibilities. In times of uncertainty or crisis, however, he must be prepared to rise to the big-L level of Leadership, as he employs the powers of his office and the accumulated wisdom of a lifetime. He must hold the body politic intact in the face of any challenge to its stability or survival, putting the stamp of his unique gifts on his era.

But enough about Barrack Obama.

As the only surviving FCFF founder, I fervently hope to serve a quiet, orderly term in office, making the best of our existing system, perhaps improving the Club incrementally before passing it on.

There is one quiet crisis, however, that is coming to a head in the present. Frankly, I barely have a clue as to its possible solution. But I'd like to encourage the club to recognize the problem and to do what we can to respond to it.

We anglers in the Pacific Northwest have been the beneficiaries of a magnificent natural heritage: the mighty cycles of anadromous fish species that have blessed this region since before the first bone hook was deployed in these pristine waters. We've had countless salmon, charr and cutthroat trout literally at our feet, year in and generation out, nature's gift to the angling Everyman. And placing the others in its shade was one of the natural world's supreme achievements: the native steelhead, a magical creature of power, speed, beauty, and noble courage.

Somehow, we've allowed them to be taken from us, year by year after year. Or worse, we may have collaborated in their extirpation. We are the last generation of fly fishermen who enjoyed the delights of fishing for and catching, with some regularity, these uber-gamefish. And we are, in all probability, the first generation to begin to shrug and turn to other angling opportunities, while our steelhead tackle began to gather dust.

(Continued from page one)

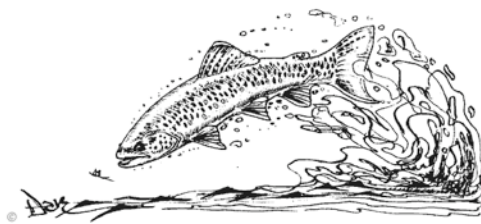
Some malevolent concatenation worked its evil just below the level of our attention and alarm. Make no mistake: we're not suffering from "lower returns in recent years." Native steelhead - the only true steelhead with the biological resiliency to survive and prevail - are slipping rapidly toward extinction.

Where's the blame? The clues are scattered over a large slice of the globe: the teaspoon of soil, formerly stabilized by a few tendrils of tree root, that liquified in midwinter rain because the stream bank was now treeless; the nets, stretched longer than a mini-marathon, deep in the North Pacific, out of sight of tourists and TV cameras; the murmuring voices in boardrooms and committee rooms, as the pragmatic and self-serving prioritized one "logical," "inevitable" decision after another.

I suspect that solving this crisis would be more costly and complex than reversing the current economic crisis du jour. There would seem to be little that a few dozen members of a "special interest" club could do. But perhaps the pivot point could be a change of resolve, an individual determination not to accept a tragic loss as one's inevitable fate and future.

Get mad as hell; don't take it any more. Fill your lungs and become the mouse that roared."

Wayne McLemore, *President FCFE*



"I know January for the best of all winter steelhead months. The fish have come in in good numbers by that time, but they are still fresh and silver and clean. There may be snow on the ground, two feet of it or more; and if so, the river will be flowing darkly and slowly, the running water below freezing but not ice, just flowing more slowly, as though it meant to thicken into ice... which it never does. Steelhead fishing can be good then, and there is a strange satisfaction in the life of the river flowing through the quiet, dead world..."

*Roderick Haig-Brown,
"A River Never Sleeps"*

Steelhead Fishing Regulations

Folks,

You're included here as a party of interest to proposed changes in non-resident steelhead fishing regulations for the Skeena River and tributaries Kispiox, Bulkey, Babine, Morice, Skawala; also the Zymoetz (Copper).

Some of the options recommended by select Ministry of Environment "Working Committees" are extreme enough to cripple or bankrupt hundreds of BC businesses, with thousands of employees, by restricting non-resident access to premier rivers, or by allowing access only if accompanied by specific local guides.

The article linked below is now up on the *FR&R* website. It was originally assigned to me as an 800 word "Short Cast" for the March print issue, typically released in February.

By February this cow may be out of the barn, slaughtered, eaten, excreted. With that in mind, FR & R Editor Joe Healy has agreed to offer it gratis to individuals, organizations, to commercial and personal websites, in part or whole. Feel free to distill or summarize as long as you don't distort facts or context. Kind of you to identify the source: a link is appreciated but certainly not required.

This piece focuses primarily the process by which the Ministry of Environment developed an Angling Management Plan for this area. There is more to the story. If you would like to see a follow-up--if one needs to be written--please let me know. Likewise, if you want off this list.

Thanks for your attention,

Seth Norman
Contributing Editor, FR & R

<http://www.flyrodreel.com/Fly-Rod-and-Reel-Online/Online-2008/Access-Denied/>



January's Program

Don Anderson and Dan Coombs will be giving the January program entitled, "Flyfishing for Dorado, Baja Style". Their slide show will cover destinations, equipment and techniques to help members plan a trip to fly fish for one of the most beautiful and exciting saltwater fish in the world. Whether you call them Dorado, Dolphinfish, or Mahi Mahi, these fish will test you and your equipment when you head south of the border.

See you there.



Dues Reminder

It's probably time to remind everyone of upcoming dues for the 2009 year. Sending a check to P.O. box 1543 is the surest way to "Get 'er dun". It's sometimes difficult to sort out who all gave me cash during a busy meeting, so I appreciate checks whenever possible. \$35 for regular members, \$45 for family (Spouse, minor children) members.

March 1 is the no-penalty deadline and April 1 is the automatic drop from membership. Three members were subject to the re-apply clause of the constitution this past year. Hopefully, with plenty of notice this process can be avoided.

What I Had to do for Christmas!



I'm sure everybody in the club will feel sorry for me when they hear how I spent my Christmas.

JoAnn and I flew out of Seattle on a Tuesday just before the snows really got started. We arrived on Crooked Island on December 17th. It's winter in the Bahamas. That means that all of those storms coming down the eastern seaboard taper off in the Bahamas. It's so cold (70 to 80 degrees) that this time of year the Bahamians are seen wearing coats, hats, even gloves when they venture out in the evening. They wouldn't dream of swimming in the 70 degree water. And Northeast winds blow almost daily. So while all of you were having the best snowfall of the year including a very rare white Christmas, I was suffering in the Bahamas.

JoAnn had to swim, bike, run, kayak, read books, and have daily naps. She was so busy, I had to go fishing with Scott Christensen. We fished Turtle Sound, the Cove Flats, Thompson's, Airport Flats, and Cripple Hill Creek for bonefish. We walked sand and rock beaches to fish for trigger fish, barracuda, jacks, and anything else that would hit a fly. We went out bone fishing with the guides on four days. It was a little windy and frequently cloudy. But there were no other fishermen on the flats.

We could fish anywhere we wanted.

One day with Kenny (the stalker) I caught a 7lb bone fish. The next day I caught a 9lb. bone fish. We fished big flats, sometimes seeing large schools, sometimes singles or pairs. There are big fish out there. Sometimes I thought a school of fish was approaching, but the big mass of nervous water was just a single big fish. After two days fishing with Clinton (the jovial), he said I should write a book about the hundred ways not to catch a bone fish. I'd say it was more like a thousand.

Then there was the day we went live bait fishing. The women caught the most and the biggest. I stupidly tried to compete. Scott wisely baited hooks and netted fish.

So while all of you were relishing a near once in life time snowstorm, I was suffering on Crooked Island. I had to put up with the cold Bahamas winter. I had to suffer through innumerable blown opportunities to catch bone fish. I had to endure the screams from the ladies, "I've got another one, it's even bigger." The ladies were even giving each other high fives while I just held my rod and watched the fun.

Man, I sure wish I could have been in Bellingham for Christmas.

Dave Johnson,
Member of the FCFE

January Outings Report

It is time to turn another page. I hope you all had a great Holiday Season and spent some quality time with family and friends. And maybe you even wet a line up here in the cold or someplace farther south.

I am looking forward to a new year of outings and tying sessions. I will be putting together the schedule this month, so if you have any trips or areas you want to include be sure to let me know. I have had several suggestions on new ways to schedule an event. One of which was to pick an area and let you decide by vote on where to fish. Another was to schedule a joint event with another club. I am willing to try whatever it takes to hold events that you will enjoy. We are also looking at ways to "pool our transportation" so the costs are a bit more reasonable. (The economy may have taken care of that already.) I hope to have a tentative schedule out for our February meeting.

I am also looking for hosts for tying sessions this winter. I will start and host the first one January 31st. There might be some snacks lying around the place as well as the tying materials. To help me plan please RSVP 647-9715. And I just received a call from Dan Coombs and we will be having a tying session at his studio on February, 21st starting at 1PM.

Frank Koterba
Outings Chairman



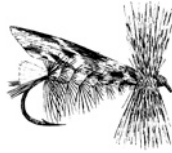
Whatcom Creek Work Party Monday, January 19th 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Join NSEA and the City of Bellingham Parks Volunteer Program to plant native trees and shrubs along Whatcom Creek at Red Tail Reach from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. We'll be completing the first round of planting at this new site along the Racine Trail, which runs north from Fraser St. to the south end of Racine St. just below Whatcom Falls Park. Parking is available in the softball field parking lot at the corner of Fraser St. and Puget St. Look for signs and check in at the NSEA tent.

Lindsay Taylor
Volunteer Coordinator
Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association
2445 E. Bakerview Rd.
Bellingham, WA 98226
360-715-0283 x112
ltaylor@n-sea.org
www.n-sea.org

FRANK'S KULINARY

KORNER



When I was back in Minnesota over the Holidays, my brother dug this up and we gave it a try. It's easy, fast and it turned out pretty well.

Enjoy
Frank Koterba

Pasta with Butternut Squash and Sage

Serves 4 to 6

4 slices bacon, halved the long way and crosscut into 14 inch pieces
 8 Large fresh sage leaves, plus 1 Tbs. Minced
 1 medium butternut squash (2 lbs.), peeled, seeded, and cut unto ½-inch dice
 1 Tbs. unsalted butter
 6 green onions, thinly sliced (about 1 cup)
 ¼ tsp. freshly grated nutmeg
 1 tsp. sugar
 2 cups Swanson's low sodium chicken broth (this is just a little over 1-14.5 oz. can)
 1 pound penne or short tubular pasta
 2 Tbs. grated Parmijiano Reggiano, plus a lot more for serving (use your micro-plane for this)
 4 tsp. juice from 1 lemon
 1/3 cup sliced almonds toasted.

1. Cook bacon in a 12 inch skillet or sauté pan over medium heat until it is crisp, about 8 minutes. Add whole sage leaves and cook until fragrant, about 1 minute. Strain mixture into a small bowl, reserving the bacon fat and bacon sage mixture separately.
2. Return pan to high heat and add 2 Tbs. of the reserved bacon fat (adding olive oil if necessary) and heat until shimmering. Add the squash in an even layer and cook without stirring until it begins to caramelize, about 4-5 minutes. Continue cooking and stirring occasionally until it appears spotty brown, 3-4 minutes longer. Add butter and let it melt, about 30 seconds. Add green onions, nutmeg, sugar, ½ tsp. kosher salt, ¾ tsp. fresh ground black pepper, and minced sage: cook stirring occasionally until the onions are soft, about 3 minutes. Add broth bring to a simmer and cook until the squash is soft, 1 to 5 minutes longer.
3. While this is going on, bring 4 quarts of water to boil in a large Dutch oven. Add 1Tbs. salt and pasta. Cook until just al dente, then drain and reserve ½ cup of the cooking water, and transfer the pasta back to the Dutch oven.
4. Add the squash mixture to the pasta: stir in 2 Tbs. of the cheese, lemon juice, and reserved bacon-sage mixture, adjusting the consistency with the reserved pasta liquid. Serve, passing the almonds and cheese separately.

JOIN
CCA
WA
NORTH
SOUND
CHAPTER



January 13, 2009
6pm– 8pm @ Joe’s Sports,
Tuesday night in Bellingham
 300 E Bellis Fair Pkwy 360-756-1120

Presentation

- **Speakers:** **Brett Barkdull**, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Fisheries Manager for the Skagit, Samish, and Nooksack Rivers.
- **Topic:** “The WDFW Approach to Fisheries Management on the Skagit, Samish and Nooksack River Basins.”

Call Jason for more information 360-927-4700

Website: www.ccapnw.org

Email: northsound@ccapnw.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are ALWAYS needed in our club. Conservation projects, educational classes, and all chairman positions are always open for new and old members.

It is the responsibility of ALL members for ALL of the outings to obey ALL local, state, and national regulations.

We represent an outstanding conservation and fishing club. Let’s set a great example to ALL.

All entomology sketches are drawn by Jack Salstrom, Member of the FCFF.

All Fly illustrations are drawn by Ed Ruckey taken from, “Diary of Northwest Trout Flies” by local author and FCFF Member Dan Homel.

Calendar

February’s Board Meeting

February 3, 2009

Trinity Lutheran Church
 119 Texas Street
 Bellingham, WA

6:00 P.M.

January’s Club Meeting

January 22, 2008

BELLINGHAM
 COUNTRY CLUB

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

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

You have to make reservations.

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

Bring money for the raffles and a fly for the “Fly Plate”.

FCFF Board Members

PRESIDENT:

Wayne McLemore (676-9417)

Outings Chairman: Frank Koterba (647-9715)

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

Treasurer: Larry Irwin (752-1506)

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

Membership Chairman: Rick Todd (961-3539)

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

**Environment,
Education, and
Conservation.**

Dan Coombs (398-1637)
djcmb@nas.com

Klaus Lohse (671-8453)
kpstnlohse@nas.com

Library Chairman

Brian Duim ((398-2030)

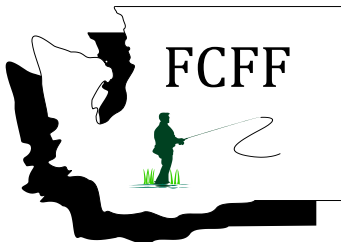
Newsletter

Sid Strong (715-8875)

Email: sidstrong@comcast.net

Raffle Chairman

Michael King (752-3217)



P.O. Box 1543
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