



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

BEGINNER'S FLY FISHING

Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR - SUMMER 2023

INSTRUCTOR: Steve Harvey

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY: Steve Harvey built his first fly rod at the age of 12 and has spent a lifetime chasing trout and a variety of other fish all over the world. Now, with his true passion clear, he now lives 3 miles from the park boundary and 25 minutes from the Lamar River. Certified as a casting instructor in 2001 and continuing that education through the Wulff Casting Instructor School in 2015, Steve has taught fly fishing for the Yellowstone Institute since 2015. As an experienced mountaineer, SAR volunteer, climber, skier and hiker, Steve's passions revolve around his outdoor experience and familiarity with Yellowstone and the surrounding mountains.

ACTIVITY LEVEL: This course is an activity **level 3** and students enrolled in this course are expected to be active participants. Be prepared to hike up to 5 miles per day, comfortably, with occasional elevation gains up to 1000 feet in undulating terrain.*

**All field activities will be conducted as a group. If you cannot meet the activity level expectations during your program, you may be restricted from participation in daily outings. We will not alter program itineraries or activities to accommodate participants who cannot meet the expectations of the stated activity level.*

LOCATION: Lamar Buffalo Ranch – Yellowstone National Park, WY

PROGRAM DATES & TIMES: The program begins at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 9, and ends on Wednesday, July 12, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

LODGING CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT: Lodging check-in begins at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 9, 2023, and lodging check-out is at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 13, 2023.

MEALS: You will need to bring your own food; lunch should be able to travel in the field with you.

For general information about the facilities, preparing for classes, what to expect, cancellation policies, and more, please see the [Lamar Buffalo Ranch - Summer General Information](#) document.

FROM THE INSTRUCTOR

Fly Fishing for Beginners course will provide an excellent opportunity to learn new skills while experiencing the breathtaking beauty and wildlife of Yellowstone National Park. After leading this course since 2015, my best memories have come, not from the fish people have caught, but from the Yellowstone experiences. Connecting to the Park through fly fishing and activity is the very best way to experience everything it has to offer.

This program will provide a balance between classroom, dry-land instruction, and time spent on Yellowstone waters. Mornings on the first two days will be spent in the “classroom” learning about safety, equipment, and more. Afternoons on the first two days and the whole final day will be spent on Yellowstone waters. Casting basics and techniques will help you present the fly. Entomology and fly selection will help you understand why. And connecting and humanely releasing fish will help you understand how you impact the fishery. On top of that list, we will speak in length about the fishery, ecosystem, and challenges facing Yellowstone in an effort to build greater stewardship of this incredible resource.

Although guiding has its place, our goal is to teach you the skills to enjoy the challenges and rewards to this exciting sport on your own. At the end, our goal is that you have learned those basic skills and have built a better appreciation for Yellowstone and what it has to offer.

I can be contacted via e-mail (castingthefly@gmail.com) for advice about basic gear requirements or to answer other questions regarding this field seminar.

With anticipation!

- *Steve Harvey*

PROGRAM ITINERARY

The itinerary is designed to take advantage of the best opportunities in the park, but may be adjusted to adapt to weather conditions, wildlife activity, holidays, and road construction. *The details and timing of the agenda are subject to change.*

Day 1	Evening Orientation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to the LBR• Instructor/student welcome and introductions• Discussion of the program outline, gear, stream conditions and what to expect.
Day 2	
9:00 a.m.	Meet at Lamar Buffalo Ranch Gear and casting Basics Basics - knots, flies, leaders, tippetts, etc.
Late Morning	On-the-water casting instruction
Field lunch	Pack your own lunch for our streamside meal
Afternoon	Aquatic insects sampling Approaching the stream and Fly Fishing basics Fishing, Casting and Practice
Evening	After-dinner discussion, slides and videos
Day 3	
8:00 a.m.	Meet at Lamar Buffalo Ranch Insect Life cycles Fly types and presentations Wading
Late Morning	On the river Stream structure More Casting techniques Fishing on the River
Field lunch	Pack lunch for streamside meal
Afternoon	Hooking, Playing, Landing, Releasing Fly Selection and various techniques Fishing and practice
Evening	Quick after-dinner fishing or in class fly tying (TBD)
Day 4	
Morning	In-class "putting it all together"
Mid-morning	On-stream fishing, casting, ecosystem, and entomology.
Field lunch	Pack lunch for streamside meal
Afternoon	Streams, fish and the greater Yellowstone Ecosystem -their future and challenges Fishing and practice
Day 5	Check-Out Check out of ranch by 9:00 a.m.

PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

For a full list of recommended equipment for all courses see the [Lamar Buffalo Ranch - Summer General Information](#) document.

Required:

- Yellowstone National Park Fishing License valid for all days
- Copy of the current Yellowstone Fishing regulations
- Fly rod - 5-6 wt recommended 4-7wt acceptable
- Fly Line - Double Taper or weight forward floating line matched to your rod
- Fly Reel - Capable of holding the complete fly line with adequate clearance for free spinning action. Your reel must have a functioning drag.
- Barbless Flies - suggested selection: *Royal Wulff (#12-16)f, *Elk hair caddis (#12-16); Dave's Hopper (#10-14); Ants & beetles (#14-16) ; Para-Adams; PMD; *Stimulators (royal/red/yellow) ; *Bead Head prince(#12-16); *Salmonfly(#4-6); golden stones; gray and/or green drake. Note: We should strive to use natural materials where possible. Foam and plastic do not degrade and contribute to watershed pollution.
- Fly box
- Floatant
- Forceps/hemostat
- Polarized sun glasses: single vision if correction is needed
- Reading or correction glasses for tying knots and close work
- Nippers (on retractor)
- Strike indicators - biodegradable
- We prefer tools such as the Ketchum Release over landing nets: <https://www.waterworks-lamson.com/product/ketchum-release/> and are happy to instruct you on their use.
- Knife- New YNP regulations REQUIRE killing any non-native (rainbow, brown, brook) trout caught in the Lamar drainage streams. It is illegal to return these fish to the water alive. Check the current YNP fishing regulations for details.
- Fly-fishing Vest, fishing shirt with multiple pockets, or pack
- Carry Device to carry any non-native trout killed if desired
- Wading system:
 - o Important! Clean all wading equipment that has been used outside the Lamar/Yellowstone drainage. Follow this link for simple guidelines: <http://www.rockymtnflycasters.org/articles/disinfect.php>
 - o In midsummer I prefer to wet wade with neoprene wading socks, light wading shoes or boots and quick-drying synthetic pants.
 - o Full waist or chest waders can be necessary for cool weather fishing (as it is so often apt to do in the Park).
 - o Use your waders, boots or wading system several times prior to your visit to Yellowstone to ensure proper fit and comfort. We will be fishing for several hours each day in this gear and it is essential it is comfortable. (Honestly, walk around the house if that is your only option. Improper fit or comfort can spoil your experience.)
 - o Breathable (not neoprene or impermeable) waders are necessary as some days include significant walking or time in potentially hot weather.
 - o Aquaseal wader repair glue or equivalent
 - o Wading staff - highly recommended.

*Provided (The following are included with your program)

- Flies
 - o A limited assortment of seasonally appropriate flies. Bring your own from the list above. More than one participant has had to spend an entire day or evening driving all the way to Gardiner and back for gear (1 hour each way).
- Leader & Tippet
 - o 1 ea. 5x tippet spool
- Miscellaneous
 - o Biodegradable strike indicators
 - o *Casting The Fly* - Instructional book

Optional:

- Magnifying glass or hand lens
- Camera
- Binoculars

RECOMMENDED READING

No prior reading is required, but participants might enjoy the following publications, that complement the program. Most publications are available at Yellowstone Forever's online store at shop.yellowstone.org Yellowstone Forever supporters receive a 15% discount and proceeds directly support the park.

- Anderson, Sheridan. *The Curtis Creek Manifesto: A Fully Illustrated Guide to the Strategy, Finesse, Tactics and paraphernalia of Fly Fishing*. Frank Amato, Pub.1978
- Schweber, Nate. *Fly Fishing Yellowstone National Park: An Insider's Guide to the 50 Best Places*. Headwater Books. 2012
- Parks, Richard. *Fishing Yellowstone National Park*. The Lyons Press. 2007
- Wulff, Joan. *Joan Wulff's New Fly-Casting Techniques*. 2016

WHOM TO CONTACT

For any questions, concerns, or additional information please contact the following:

- Program itinerary, health forms, payment, and activity questions please contact Yellowstone Forever at institute@yellowstone.org or 406-848-2400
- Road updates, park conditions, and general park information please contact Yellowstone National Park Service at <https://www.nps.gov/yell/contacts.htm>
- If running late for a program, please contact 406-848-2400