



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

FLY FISHING YELLOWSTONE'S BACKCOUNTRY

Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR - SUMMER 2023

INSTRUCTOR: Ron Amendola and Mark Amendola

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY:

The Amendola brothers have been fly fishing Yellowstone National Park for over twenty years. Since 2019, they have spent months each summer working and fly fishing out of the Lamar Buffalo Ranch. They have logged countless hours fishing the waters of the Northern Range and other locations within the Park. Ron is a retired aerospace project manager and wrestling coach while Mark is a retired hospital director of physical therapy and therapist to professional and Olympic athletes.

ACTIVITY LEVEL: This course is an activity **level 5** and students enrolled in this course are expected to be active participants. Be prepared to hike up to 12 miles per day, comfortably, with elevation gains up to 1500 feet. Some off trail hiking will be part of the experience.*

**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 Monday, August 7, and ends on Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

LODGING CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT: Lodging check-in begins at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, August 7, 2023, and lodging check-out is at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, August 11, 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

We're excited about this course and hope that you are too! We have the privilege of exploring together in some of the most beautiful trout waters this country has to offer. Think of it; fly fishing the backcountry of Yellowstone National Park, what could be better? Together, we will be among the wildlife and beautiful scenery as we anticipate a cutthroat or grayling strike. As a group, all of us will have the opportunity to share our knowledge and experiences while fishing these protected and highly regarded waters.

Our lodging at the Lamar Buffalo Ranch is perfectly located in the heart of the Lamar Valley surrounded by unprecedented fishing opportunities. This private ranch will be the perfect jumping off point for our adventure. You will likely have the chance to view bison, grizzlies, wolves, pronghorns and many other creatures from this secluded historic ranch.

If you have ever thought of fly fishing Yellowstone National Park, now is the time. All you need are basic fly fishing skills and a desire to experience the seldom seen waters of the Park. We can help you as necessary to improve your skills and make this an enjoyable memory for years to come.

-Mark and Ron

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 in Lamar

Early evening welcome, introductions, background information, a review of our scouted waters and an evening fishing opportunity.

Day 2 Backcountry hiking and fishing

Our first backcountry day will take us to Cache Creek. This creek is classic small creek water with plenty of little pools to search for fish. Getting there is a relatively easy three-mile hike in and gives us the opportunity to spend time on the creek and the Lamar River.

Day 3 Backcountry hiking and fishing

Our ultimate destination is the second meadow and the large cutthroats of Slough Creek. Along the way, we will have the opportunity to fish tight canyon pools, cascading riffles and meandering slow moving runs. The hike to the second meadow is five miles and offers fantastic fly fishing water. We will fish upriver for a couple of miles before our return trip to the trailhead.

Day 4 Backcountry hiking and fishing

Today we will be fishing lake water. The one-way excursion will include Cascade, Grebe, Wolf and Ice Lakes. Here's where we might bring in a grayling or two. This hike is twelve miles start to finish and what a surprise, the scenery and wildlife are spectacular!

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 -

Hiking List:

- ☐ Backpack
- ☐ Good hiking boots and socks, consider bringing an extra pair of socks on each hike
- ☐ Rain gear and hat
- ☐ Extra layers for colder weather
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Sunglasses, polarized preferred for seeing into the water
- ☐ Mosquito netting and/or repellent
- ☐ Lots of water!
- ☐ Lunch and snacks for the trail
- ☐ When hiking, we prefer quick dry pants, wading shoes and neoprene socks but waders and wading boots are optional

Fishing Gear:

- ☐ Yellowstone fishing permit
- ☐ Fly fishing rod and matched reel, suggest having a rod case for protection, 5 to 6 weight rods
- ☐ Extra leaders
- ☐ Tippet; 4x and 5x suggested
- ☐ Floatant and possibly drying powder
- ☐ Forceps
- ☐ Nippers
- ☐ Indicators

Flies:

Possibilities are endless so bring what you prefer; we recommend these basic flies based on our experience on these waters.

- ☐ Adams
- ☐ Purple haze
- ☐ Gray drakes
- ☐ BWO
- ☐ Black midge
- ☐ PMD
- ☐ Elk hair caddis
- ☐ Hoppers
- ☐ Hairs ear nymph
- ☐ Pheasant tail nymphs

**Dry flies it is good to have some up to size 18*

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.

- Sheridan Anderson. *The Curtis Creek Manifesto*. 1978.
- Craig Mathews and Clayton Molinero. *The Yellowstone Fly-Fishing Guide*. 1997.

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