



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

BEGINNER FLY FISHING

Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR – SUMMER 2024

INSTRUCTOR: Ron Amendola, Mark Amendola, & Lou 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 Northeast Region and other locations within the Park. Ron coaches wrestling and is a retired aerospace project manager, Mark is a retired hospital director of physical therapy and therapist to professional and Olympic athletes while Lou is a retired dentist and dental director. Their desire is to share with others the privilege that is fly fishing Yellowstone National Park.

ACTIVITY LEVEL: This course is activity **level 2** and students enrolled in this course are expected to be active participants. Be prepared to hike up to 3 miles per day, comfortably, with elevation gains up to 600 feet. Some off-trail hiking possible.

**All field activities will be conducted as a group. If participants cannot meet the activity level expectations during the program, they may be restricted from participation in daily outings. Program itineraries or activities will not be altered 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 Saturday, August 10, 2024, and goes through Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

LODGING CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT: Lodging check-in begins at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 10, 2024 and lodging check-out is at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 14, 2024.

MEALS: This course is not catered. Participants will need to bring their own food; lunch should be able to travel in the field.

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

PROGRAM ITINERARY

The Beginner Fly Fishing Seminar is an introduction to fly fishing in YNP, and it will cover the basic skills necessary for you to fly fish for trout confidently in mountain environments. You will start with equipment setup and continue through fly fishing techniques needed for a successful day of fishing. You'll also discuss wilderness safety and environmental stewardship. The seminar will include three instructors to provide you with individual instruction as needed.

We love continuing to learn about fly fishing, and we hope that you will too! You have the privilege to experience together some of the most beautiful trout waters this country has to offer. Think of it, learning to fly fish in Yellowstone National Park.

Access to the water will require limited round-trip hiking up to three miles over uneven surfaces. You will be on the water each day, learning and fishing in the many opportunities the Lamar Valley has to offer. Please note that you will need to provide your own rod, reel, flies, and other necessary equipment. We will provide a full list of recommended equipment after your registration.

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 **Welcome**

Instruction for the evening will include rod set up, knots and a review of the YNP fishing regulations in preparation for the on water instruction tomorrow.

Day 2 The morning will be spent learning basic fly casting mechanics in the classroom and then those skills will be transferred to nearby water to learn, practice and develop confidence in casting. During the afternoon and evening, you will be back on the water for a review of the morning instruction, more practice and to start fishing for Yellowstone Cutthroats.

Day 3 Today you will spend the morning learning how to approach and read the water, mending and the roll cast. After lunch you will spend some time in the classroom learning fishing history of the Park along with the efforts being made to preserve and protect the Park's fishery. The remainder of the day will be spent practicing and fishing the Lamar Valley.

Day 4 This morning you will learn some alternative casting and fishing techniques to complete the scheduled instruction. The rest of the day will continue with practicing and fishing different locations within the Northeast Region.

Day 5 **Check-Out**

Check out of cabins by 9:00 a.m.

PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

For a full list of what is included in this course, in addition to recommended equipment check out the [Lamar Buffalo Ranch - Summer General Information](#) document.

Fishing Gear:

- Yellowstone fishing permit
- Fly fishing rod and matched reel, suggest having a rod case for protection, 5 to 6 weight rod
- extra leaders
- tippet; 4x and 5x suggested
- floatant and possibly drying powder
- forceps
- nippers
- indicators
- Insect protection for those biting critters
- Flies the 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
- black/red ants
- hairs ear nymph
- pheasant tail nymph

RECOMMENDED READING

There are books and reference materials at the ranch for the class to enjoy during the stay. In addition to those materials, the following recommended readings are not required but may enhance the visit.

- Anderson, Sheridan. *The Curtis Creek Manifesto: Being a Basic Guide to the Art of Fly Fishing on Moving Water*. Frank Amato Publications, 1978.

WHOM TO CONTACT

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

- Program itinerary, health forms, payment, and general program 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.