



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

BACKCOUNTRY 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 5** and students enrolled in this course are expected to be active participants. Be prepared for brisk aerobic, destination-oriented hiking up to 12 miles a day. You should be physically conditioned to do these hikes comfortably. Elevation changes up to 2000 feet on dirt trails or off-trail. Loose rock, uneven footing, steep hillside traverses, and stream crossings are possible. Good coordination is required.

**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 Thursday, August 15, 2024, and goes through Sunday, August 18, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

LODGING CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT: Lodging check-in begins at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 15, 2024 and lodging check-out is at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, August 19, 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

This is the traditional backcountry trip for you hearty souls interested in hiking the distance necessary to experience fishing the waters in Yellowstone where few go. This seminar is for you, if you are an experienced angler. If this is your first time in Yellowstone or you are a seasoned Park angler and would like to fish the backcountry with a group, this is your opportunity!

You will spend three days fishing different waters within the Northeast Region of the Park. Your round-trip hikes each day will include up to twelve miles with a 2000-foot elevation gain to three different locations. The surrounding beauty and the fishing opportunities in the backcountry of Yellowstone are often worth every step needed to get there as you travel to some of the iconic waters that Yellowstone offers. Please make sure you are up for the challenge!

We're excited about this course, and we hope that you are too! As a group, all of you will have the opportunity to share your knowledge and experiences while fishing some of the most beautiful trout waters this country has to offer. You will be among the wildlife and scenery of Yellowstone National Park as you anticipate a cutthroat or grayling strike.

This seminar will require physical conditioning, so get started preparing early and come join us as you explore the backcountry of Yellowstone National Park. Please note that you will need to provide your own rod, reel, flies, and other necessary equipment. We will provide you 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

Tonight you will be learning fishing history of the Park and the efforts being made to preserve and protect the Park's fishery. A short review of the YNP fishing regulations will conclude the evening.

Day 2

Today you will hike to the second meadow and the large cutthroats of Slough Creek. The hike to the second meadow is five miles with a good climb in the first mile and offers fantastic fly fishing water. You will fish up river for up to a mile before returning trip to the trailhead.

Day 3

Today's fishing will be at the upper meadow of Pebble Creek. The creek runs through a series of spectacular meadows with amazing mountain views. The fishing is small water fishing with frequent creek crossings. The start of the hike is challenging with a thousand foot elevation gain in the first mile and a total of eight miles round trip.

Day 4

Today you will be fishing lake water that includes Cascade and Grebe lakes. Here's where you might bring in a grayling or two. This hike is a nine mile round trip and what a surprise, the scenery and wildlife are spectacular!

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.
- Mathews, Craig, and Clayton Molinero. *The Yellowstone Fly-Fishing Guide: An Authoritative Guide to the Waters of Yellowstone National Park*. The Lyons Press, 1997.

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.