

Olmsted Fly Fishing Retreat Information

Instructor – Gary Kell “The Fly Fishing Coach”

Gary, a native of NW Pennsylvania, has been fly fishing for nearly 50 years. He has taught 100's of people various aspects of fly fishing. For five years, Gary was a lead fly fishing instructor for L L Bean. In 2009, he became a Master Certified Instructor through the Fly Fishers International (FFI) instructor certification program and in 2016 received the (FFI) Governors Mentoring Award. His latest achievement was as a co-author on the new Keystone Fly Fishing Guide. Currently he resides in Warren, PA where he owns and operates Gary Kell The Fly Fishing Coach providing fly fishing instructional services.

Contact Info:

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Secrets of Fly Fishing Success – Beginner Course

June 15-17, 2018

Schedule

Friday

- 5:30 – Dinner
- 7:30 – Intro to Fly Fishing – Equipment

Saturday

- 7:30 Breakfast
- 8:15 Vespers (optional)
- 9:00 Aquatic Insects, Flies, Knots
- 11:00 Casting – Pick Up & Lay Down, False & Roll Casts
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Casting Cont'd plus Stripping & Shooting Line & Fighting Fish
- 3:00 Reading water & On water Fishing demo

Sunday

- 7:30 Breakfast
- 8:15 Sunday Service (optional)
- 9:00 Prepare for Fishing
- 10:30 Depart for stream
- Practice Dry, Wet, & Nymph
- 4:00 End formal school

Friday & Saturday provides you with enough information to purchase the right equipment and the basic skills necessary to get you on the stream! In classroom and on the lawn sessions you will: 1) learn about and examine the essential equipment; 2) practice tying two essential knots; ; 3) learn to manage leaders; 4) identify aquatic insects and understand their lifecycles; 5) understand the differences in fly imitations, and how to select one; and 6) practice the secrets of fly casting and line control. No equipment is necessary!

Sunday focuses on fly fishing strategies including actual fishing time on a local stream. Sunday is a practicum that will let you apply your new knowledge and skill in real fishing situations. Together we'll wade into one of the many trout streams in the area and; 1) reveal the secrets of dry, wet and nymph fishing; 2) learn how to approach the stream; 3) how to select a fly; and 4) how to read the water and determine where fish might be laying.

Preparation

No equipment is necessary for the beginner course. I set up practice rods special, before you arrive to avoid wasted time and assure successful practice. It saves us a lot of time getting everyone's rod ready, with clean fly lines, good leaders and special flies for practice. You are more than welcome to use my equipment which is ready to go. If you still want to use your own equipment, email me for directions on how to prepare it before you arrive. (garyffc1@verizon.net)

If you already have them, bring wading gear and a PA fishing license for the on-stream fishing time. I can provide the rest of the equipment if needed or you can use your own. However, even without waders or a license you can still go to the stream and watch the demonstrations from the stream bank. I encourage people new to the sport to take the class before making any purchases including waders. The school will make you more knowledgeable as to what you need to purchase.

How to Prepare

1. Do not buy equipment beforehand! The school is designed to give you knowledge & skills to buy and set up equipment appropriate to meet your needs and desires.
2. If you want to fish or already have wading gear & PA license you should bring it – BUT you can watch and learn from the shore if you want to wait to buy the gear until you learn more.
3. Designed for adults – ages 15 and up. Youth 17 or under must be accompanied by paying adult or guardian.
4. Bring good rain gear including waterproof foot gear – we will be outside rain or shine.
5. Bring a hat and eye protection – eyeglasses or sunglasses, insect repellent and/or sun protection.
6. Let instructor know of any physical issues beforehand – reasonable accommodations can and will be made without fanfare. i.e. physical disability, cannot stand for long periods, muscular or joint problems, visual or hearing issues etc.
7. Fly Fishing carries inherent risks. Accidental hook penetration in the body, tripping hazards – logs rocks holes etc, slippery footing on rocks, banks, wet grass etc. Rough terrain. The same hazards exist in the stream and sometimes water is not clear and hazards not visible (many carry a wading staff for stability and probing the stream bottom before moving)
8. Let instructor know of any schedule problems (early departures or late arrivals)

Presentation Fly Casting & On Stream Fishing Strategies - Advanced Course

May 4-6, 2018

This is an advanced class, so students should have a few years of experience and know to tie the basic knots for the fly and the tippet. Students should have a reasonably good fundamental casting stroke that straightens the line and be able to false cast and roll cast. Participants will spend most of the time outside and a good bit of that on the water. To some extent the participants will drive the agenda, based on what they want to learn.

Schedule

Friday & Saturday

We will learn about and practice many of the fishing casts that solve the presentation issues above. I have identified 5 advanced skills or variables that in different combinations make up all the above casts. By learning and practicing these variables you can quickly be successful in making great fishing casts.

Sunday

We'll spend on the stream learning the art of fishing the surface with dry flies and the science of fishing underneath with wets, nymphs, or streamers. We'll learn and practice how to read the water, select the fly, and select the right presentation cast that will increase dead drift and catch more fish when fishing dry flies. Students will learn in-depth the primary nymph fishing techniques used today, how to construct the leaders, as well as when and where to employ them on stream. We'll also learn and practice the best casting techniques to use with weighted flies.

Friday class begins at 7:30pm. Class begins each morning at 9:00am.

For the advanced course, I expect you will use your own equipment. However, prepare it for practice ahead of time – purchase a couple 7 ½ foot 1x leaders and clean your fly line. Bring 2x – 5x tippet. Email Gary Kell "garyffc1@verizon.net" if you have questions. You can still use my equipment if you prefer.

For questions about reservations or accommodations, contact Olmsted at:

olmstedmanor.org

info@olmstedmanor.org

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