

American

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Saltwater Cutts**
WASHINGTON

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Legendary Browns**
MARYLAND

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River Wild 'Bows**
CALIFORNIA

FLY FISHING

March/April 2022
VOLUME 24, NUMBER 2

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Fly Fishing Classes

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Rough Water Skwala

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From the Editor

Frank Alvin Moore, 1923–2022

On January 23 of this year, Frank Moore, Oregon's greatest conservationist, passed away a week shy of his 99th birthday. He was a singularity, perhaps the most enthralling, inspirational person I've ever known. He was the legendary guardian of the famous North Umpqua River: in the middle of the 20th century, the North Umpqua's iconic steelhead, along with the river's native salmon, were increasingly imperiled by brutally destructive logging practices. The steep slopes of the watershed were being stripped of their verdant forests with no regard for the tributaries where anadromous fish found the cool, shaded gravel beds needed for spawning. Frank took up the cause, fighting for his beloved river with a doggedness and passion that would lead him all the way to the halls of Congress—a story to be told in a forthcoming issue of this magazine.



Like so many of his friends, I used to take people to meet Frank and his wife, Jeanne, at their rustic, memorabilia-laden cabin high on a forested ridge above the North Umpqua. Often I would warn those visitors that meeting and spending time with Frank might very well fundamentally change them for the better. Frank exuded a palpable love of people in general, and through some magical combination of his charisma, gregariousness, passion, mischievousness, and intellect, he made you want to be better, made you view the world with more empathy. He changed you.

He also crushed every bone in your hand with his famous handshake, threatened to collapse your ribcage with his invigorating bear hugs, effortlessly cast 100 feet of fly line, and held sway as the only angler on the river who could be excused for holding up highway traffic: one day while I was walking down the shoulder of the road, Frank spied me and stopped on a long straightaway for one of our many joyous mini-reunions. Soon another car stopped, and another, and another—anglers who were also in Frank's massive circle of friends. Even the log truck driver we inadvertently delayed didn't mind; when the little communion finally dissipated, the driver called a hello down to Frank. Despite his valiant battle against logging practices, which led to the Oregon Forest Practices Act, Frank never treated his adversaries as enemies.

His deep sense of empathy, derived from his Depression-era upbringing, was intensified by his horrific experiences fighting the Nazis in the European theater, from his landing at Utah Beach during Operation Overlord until V-E Day 11 months later. Those wartime memories haunted him the rest of his life, but in Jeanne, his wife of nearly 80 years, he found his rock and his salve. At times, Frank would speak openly of his war experiences, and often the tears would well in his eyes as his mind returned to memories still fresh after 60 and 70 years, but he had learned to let the tears flow, as do mine when I ponder what we have lost with his passing.



John Shewey
Editor in Chief

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From the Creel

Fly Fishing 101: College Classes on Fly Fishing

By Jody Martin

A brief online search for “learn to fly fish” or “fly-fishing classes” quickly reveals myriad options for learning this wonderful sport. Instructional YouTube videos are ubiquitous, many posted by shops or individual instructors. Indeed, at times it seems as if every fly shop and guide in the country is offering instructions of some sort on how to begin. Dig a little deeper and you can find websites that offer a wide array of online and even in-person lessons on casting, fly tying, reading the water, and just about every other aspect of the sport. Examples include private organizations such as Joan Wulff’s Wulff School of Fly Fishing and Todd Tanner’s School of Trout, as well as the Orvis Fly Fishing Learning Center (and the company’s in-person schools at various locations across the country), Sage’s On the Water Trout School, and the Fly Fishers International Learning Center.

Most of them offer excellent instruction and good advice, although the quality of the instruction, topics covered, length of classes, and costs are highly variable. Many of these courses include “school,” “college,” “university,” or “academy” in their name, which can be a little confusing. Moreover, the genre also includes quite a few so-called “guide schools,” most of which serve to prepare students for a career as a fly-fishing guide, with as much focus (or more) on the importance of customer relationships, business savvy, and boating and personal skills as on fly-fishing techniques.

In addition, many fly-fishing clubs and state fish and wildlife agencies offer courses and seminars for prospective fly anglers. Many of these are low-cost or even no-cost and are typically taught by veteran fish fishers. Beyond these many options, accredited colleges and universities across the

country provide hands-on fly-fishing courses, and in many cases these classes can be applied toward a college degree.

In 2013, Zach Matthews compiled a Top Ten Fly Fishing Colleges list, which resides on the Itinerant Angler website (www.itinerantangler.com/blog/podcasts/2013/07/17/top-ten-fly-fishing-colleges). It is a list of universities where students have easy access to good fly-fishing waters, not a list of universities that offer classes on the sport (although there is some overlap). The University of Montana and Montana State University are co-leaders of Matthews’s list, followed by the University of Oregon, Boise State University, Tulane University, University of Tennessee, University

of Miami, San Diego State University, Arkansas State University–Mountain Home, Pennsylvania (aka Penn) State University, and Colorado State University, respectively (yes—the list includes 11 schools).

As you might guess, the comments that appeared following Matthews’s original post included suggestions for other schools that readers felt could have been listed in the top 10, including Humboldt State University, Hendrix College, Brigham Young University, Virginia Tech, University of Alaska Anchorage, Central Washington University, Washington State University, Eastern Tennessee State University, and Brigham Young University–Idaho.

This crew of anglers traveled from Colby College in Maine all the way to California to fish the Owens River as the capstone to their fly fishing coursework.



PHOTOS BY JIM STIMSON

On-campus fly-fishing clubs are a related, but distinct, topic. For example, Milligan University in Tennessee recently announced the formation of a fly-fishing team, but the school doesn't offer fly-fishing classes. Similarly, Colorado State University, Montana State University, and the University of Colorado Boulder all have active fly-fishing clubs, but to my knowledge do not offer college classes on the subject.

Quite a few colleges that don't happen to be located near excellent fisheries do offer classes on fly fishing. Perhaps because of the vast body of literature associated with fly fishing, several of these classes are taught by professors in the English departments. Other departments through which these classes are taught include history, religion, literature, kinesiology, outdoor recreation, and physical education. Some classes are offered only rarely; some classes focus on the literature or history of fishing, but not on fly fishing itself; some focus mostly on fly tying;

some consist of a single day's exposure to the sport; some are offered to the public as well as to enrolled students, etc. The list I've assembled is based on simple criteria: the topic of the class has to be something to do with fly fishing, and the class has to be offered currently or at least within the last few years.

My list does not distinguish between for-credit and noncredit courses. The range of thoroughness in these classes is vast, from one-day seminars and workshops to full-semester classes, often with well-planned field trips as part of the curriculum. (Colby College wins for the most ambitious field trips, with students of Dave Suchoff's class flying from Maine to California to fish the Owens River each January; Western Kentucky University is a close second, with Raymond Poff's students traveling from the Bluegrass State to Montana every fall.) One trend that emerged from my search is that these classes tend to be ephemeral. All it takes is one motivated person to

start such a class, but if that instructor leaves, there is no guarantee that the school will continue to offer the class,

For anyone wishing to start a class, at a college or elsewhere, the internet offers links to information about previously offered classes and even about how to structure a college-level class on fly fishing. See Ken Lokensgard's site, *The Literary Fly Fisher*, <https://theliteraryflyfisher.com/university-level-fly-fishing-course>, which includes two syllabi for different classes on the literature of fly fishing. Sites such as Lokensgard's, the classes on the list below, and responses I received from enthusiastic and dedicated teachers give me hope that colleges and universities will continue to offer and expand classes on fly fishing.

Inclusion in the list I've compiled should not be seen as an endorsement of the thoroughness or quality of the class. This list is bound to be incomplete and should be seen only as a starting point.

ALABAMA

New College at The University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa)

Recent course titles: Special Topics: The Arts and Science of Fly Fishing
Information: Michael Steinberg (instructor), mksteinberg@as.ua.edu

ARKANSAS

Arkansas State University Mountain Home

Recent course titles:
Introduction to Fly Tying
Information: John Berry (instructor), berrybrothers@infodash.com

CALIFORNIA

College of Marin (Kentfield)

Recent course titles: Fly Fishing 101
Information: Larry Lack (instructor), larry.lack17@att.net

COLORADO

Colorado Mountain College, Edwards Campus

Recent course titles: Intro to Fly Fishing
Information: Eric Phannenstiel (instructor), ephannenstiel@gmail.com or infor@vailvalleyanglers.com
Note: Colorado Mountain College's Leadville campus offers an entire fly-fishing guide certification program overseen by Mark Cole, <https://coloradomtn.edu/programs/fly-fishing-guide>.

Front Range Community College (Larimer campus, Fort Collins)

Recent course titles:
Introduction to Fly Fishing
Information: lcadmissions@frontrange.edu

Red Rocks Community College (Lakewood campus)

Recent course titles: Fly Fishing I
Information: rrcc.edu/admissions

IDAHO

Idaho State University (Pocatello)

Recent course titles: Introduction to Fly Fishing, Beginning Fly Tying, Intermediate Fly Fishing, Intermediate Fly Tying, How to Catch Fish in Southeast Idaho & Everywhere Else
Information: Cedar Hulet (instructor), isuinfo@isu.edu

IOWA

Hawkeye Community College (Waterloo)

Recent course titles: Fly Fishing 101
Information: admission@hawkeyecollege.edu

KENTUCKY

Western Kentucky University (Bowling Green)

Recent course titles:
Fly Fishing Montana
Information: Raymond Poff (instructor), Raymond.poff@wku.edu

MAINE

Colby College (Waterville)

Recent course titles:
The Art of Fly Fishing
Information: David Suchoff (instructor), david.suchoff@colby.edu

MICHIGAN

Alpena Community College (Alpena)

Recent course titles: Introductory and Intermediate Concepts of Fly Fishing
Information: Catherine Abraham, abrahamc@alpenacc.edu

Central Michigan University (Mount Pleasant)

Recent course titles:
Steelhead Fly Tying
Information: pes@cmich.edu

MONTANA

Flathead Valley Community College (Kalispell)

Recent course titles:
Fly Casting Techniques
Information: Jerry Smalley (instructor), smalljn@centurylink.net

University of Montana (Missoula)

Recent course titles: Introduction to Fly Fishing, Fundamentals of Fly Fishing, Fly Fishing for Women
Information: George Kesel (instructor), G_K@fourivers.net or crecop@mso.umt.edu

**University of Montana
Western (Dillon)**
Recent course titles:
Beginning Fly Fishing/Fly Tying
Information: outreach@umwestern.edu

NEBRASKA

**Southeast Community
College (Lincoln)**
Recent course titles: Intro to Fly Fishing
Information: Mark Forster (instructor),
continuinged@southeast.edu or ccw.nebraska@yahoo.com

University of Nebraska–Lincoln
Recent course titles: Angling I and
Angling II (Intro to Fly Fishing)
Information: Eric Einspahr (instructor),
eeinspahr2@unl.edu

NEVADA

**Truckee Meadows Community
College (Reno)**
Recent course titles:
Fly Fishing for Beginners
Information: Chris Wharton (instructor),
chris@out4trout.com

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Dartmouth College (Hanover)
Recent course titles:
Fly Fishing/Fly Casting
Information: Steve Rowe (instructor),
sjrrrowboat@aol.com

**Granite State College, Osher Lifelong
Learning Institute (Concord)**
Recent course titles: Fly Fishing
Information: Tori Berube (program
manager), tori.berube@granite.edu

**University of New Hampshire
(Durham)**
Recent course titles: Fly Fishing
Information: John McKernan (instructor),
grnleech@yahoo.com

NEW MEXICO

Clovis Community College (Clovis)
Recent course titles: The Compleat
Fly Fisherman, Fly Tying, General Fly
Fishing Techniques
Information: Allen Potthoff,
allen.potthoff@clovis.edu

San Juan College (Farmington)
Recent course titles: Learn to Fly Fish
Information: San Juan College Commu-
nity Learning Center, (505) 566-3214

NEW YORK

**Columbia-Greene Community
College (Hudson)**
Recent course titles: Fly Casting
and Trout Fishing
Information: admissions@sunycgcc.edu

**SUNY Broome Community
College (Binghamton)**
Recent course titles: Fly Fishing Clinic
Information: Kurt L. Nelson (instructor),
avkurt@me.com

**SUNY College of Environmental
Science and Forestry
(Newcomb campus, Adirondack
Interpretive Center)**
Recent course titles: Introduction
to Fly Fishing Workshop
Information: Rick Kovacs (instructor),
rkovacs@slic.com

**Tompkins Cortland Community
College (Dryden)**
Recent course titles: Fly Fishing
Information: SMA2@tompkincortland.edu

NORTH CAROLINA

**Asheville-Buncombe Technical
Community College (Asheville)**
Recent course titles: Fly Fishing
Information: Brinda Caldwell,
brindawcaldwell@abtech.edu

**Haywood Community
College (Clyde)**
Recent course titles: Fly Tying 101
Information: Brian Wurst,
bwurst@haywood.edu

OHIO

Hiram College (Hiram)
Recent course titles: The Ethos
and Practice of Fly Fishing
Information: Willard Greenwood
(instructor), greenwoodWP@hiram.edu;
Chris Bamford (instructor),
chrisbamford41@me.com

**The Ohio State University
(Columbus)**
Recent course titles: Introduction
to Fly-Fishing
Information: Jonathan Horn (instructor),
horn.179@osu.edu

OREGON

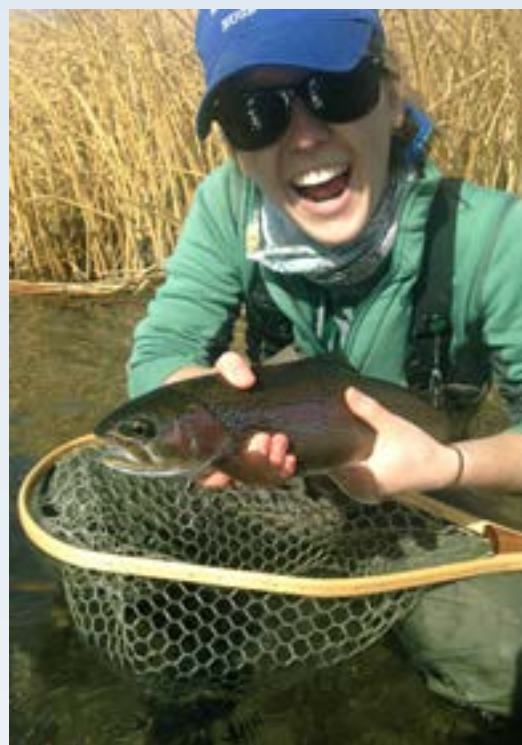
**Eastern Oregon University
(La Grande)**
Recent course titles: Fly Fishing
Fundamentals
Information: John Appleton (instructor),
outdoor@eou.edu or
alpinearcheryllc@gmail.com

**Oregon Coast Community College
(Lincoln City)**
Recent course titles: Fly-Tying & Fly-
Fishing, Fly-Tying & Fly-Fishing–Level II
Information: occc@oregoncoast.edu

Oregon State University (Corvallis)
Recent course titles: Fly Fishing I,
Fly Fishing II
Information: Dylan Gorman (instructor),
gormand@oregonstate.edu

**Portland Community
College (Scappoose)**
Recent course titles: Fly Fishing 101
Information: [www.pcc.edu/
community/contact](http://www.pcc.edu/community/contact)

Southern Oregon University
Recent course titles: Fly Fishing I,
Fly Fishing II
Information: admissions@sou.edu



Sophie with a nice rainbow from the Wild Trout section of the lower Owens River in California

PENNSYLVANIA

**Community College of Allegheny
County, Boyce Campus**
Recent course titles: Learn to Fly Fish,
Intermediate Fly Fishing, Advanced Fly
Casting Techniques
Instructors: Robert Reeder and Scott
Loughner, daysonthewaterflyfish@gmail.com

**Pennsylvania State University
(State College)**
Recent course titles: Principles and
Practices of Fly Fishing for Trout,
Multi-cultural Introduction to Fly
Fishing, Masters of Fly Fishing
Information: George Daniel (instructor),
gmd149@psu.edu

TENNESSEE

**University of Tennessee
at Chattanooga**
Recent course titles: Religion,
Spirituality, and Fly Fishing
Information: Jonathan Yeager (instructor),
jonathan-yeager@utc.edu

TEXAS

**Tarrant County College–
Northeast Campus (Hurst)**
Recent course titles: Fly Fishing I and II
Information: Dutch Baughman (instruc-
tor), dutchbaughman1@mac.com

UTAH

Brigham Young University (Provo)
Recent course titles: Fly Fishing
Information: Ramon Zabriskie (instruc-
tor), zabriskie@byu.edu

University of Utah (Salt Lake City)

Recent course titles: Beginning Flyfishing, Backpack Flyfishing in Utah's Flaming Gorge, Intro to Tenkara Flyfishing
Information: Erik Ostrander (instructor), info@tenkaraguides.com; Hillary Sapp (instructor), ustaff.hillarys@gmail.com

Utah State University (Logan)

Recent course titles: Fly Fishing
Information: catalog@usu.edu

Utah Valley University (Wasatch Campus)

Recent course titles: Fly Fishing
Information: Mike Howard (instructor), info@utahflyfish.com

VIRGINIA

Dabney S. Lancaster Community College (Clifton Forge)

Recent course titles: Introduction to Fly Fishing
Information: Robin Jennings, rjennings@dslcc.edu

WASHINGTON

Central Washington University (Ellensburg)

Recent course titles: Fly Fishing 101
Information: Nathan Schepker (instructor), worleybugger@fairpoint.net

Gonzaga University (Spokane)

Recent course titles: Beginning Fly Fishing
Information: John Traynor (instructor), traynor@gonzaga.edu

Green River College (Auburn)

Recent course titles: Fly-Fishing for Sea-Run Cutthroat Trout, Fly-Fishing for Pink Salmon, Fly-Fishing for Chum Salmon, Yakima River Fly-Fishing: Walk and Wade, Yakima River Pontoon Boat Fly-Fishing
Information: John Fiskum (instructor), fiskumflyfish@comcast.net

Washington State University (Pullman)

Recent course titles: Religion, Sport, and Water: Contemplation and Play in Nature
Information: Ken Lokensgard (instructor), kenneth.lokensgard@wsu.edu

Western Washington University (Bellingham)

Recent course titles: The Art, Science and Ethics of Fly Fishing, Advanced Fly Fishing: River Stewardship, Reflection, and Native Trout
Information: Leo Bodensteiner (co-instructor), Leo.Bodensteiner@www.edu

WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia University Potomac State College (Keyser)

Recent course titles: Introduction to Fly-Fishing
Information: Tom Sydow (instructor), Tom.Sydow@mail.wvu.edu; Charlie Laffey (instructor), cld26726@yahoo.com



A budding fly angler from Colby College in Maine enjoys the thrill of hooking a fine wild rainbow trout on the lower Owens River in California.

WISCONSIN

Nicolet College (Rhinelander)

Recent course titles: Introduction to Fly Tying, Introduction to Fly Fishing and Casting, Fly Fishing for Various Species, Advanced Fly Fishing and Casting
Information: Terry Rutlin (coordinator), trutlin@nicoletcollege.edu

WYOMING

Western Wyoming Community College (Rock Springs)

Recent course titles: Fly Fishing I, Fly Fishing II, Hike & Fish, Hike-Camp-Fish
Information: mustangcentral@westernwyoming.edu



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