Appendix A - Representative Questions - Teaching

Teaching ability and experience - includes demonstration of teaching methodology and analysis of casting errors.

- What are the principle roles of a good instructor?
- How would you explain to a student the relationship of the length of the line being cast to the stroke length and haul length?
- Describe how you teach the roll cast.
- What are the attributes of a good instructor?
- What characteristics do poor instructors exhibit?
- How do you teach? What is your teaching methodology?
- What communication methods do you use with your students?
- What methodology do you use for curing casting problems?
- When would you use a kinesthetic (hands-on) approach to cure a problem?
- You have one student who has never cast before and you have only 5 minutes to teach him/her. What is your approach?
- You have 6 students and 1 hour. Please outline your approach.
- You have 10 students and an afternoon to teach them. Outline your approach. How much time would you give to each part of your outline?
- Describe how you teach the double haul.
- Your student wants to cast for distance. What do you tell the student to do to achieve distance?
- Your student has listened to your explanation of application of power but doesn't seem to understand. What would you do differently to get the message across?
- Your new student's backcast lacks adequate speed and is directed downward. How do you tell the student to fix these problems?
- Your student is creeping on the forward stroke and throwing tailing loops. How do you tell the student to fix these problems?
- In your small class of students you have progressed from explanation and demonstration of basic mechanics to practicing straight-line casts. All seem to be progressing except one student who just doesn't get it. What do you do with that student?
- What do you tell your students with regard to "style"?
- How do you motivate your students to continue learning?

Appendix B - Representative Questions - Equipment

Fly fishing equipment, including rods, lines, leaders, flies and miscellaneous items.

Rods:

- What are the major design requirements for a fly rod?
- What are the primary advantages of a short rod? A long rod? A fast rod? A slow rod?
- How do rod length and stiffness affect distance casting? Setting the hook? Fighting a fish?
- How does rod length affect line control?
- How will over-lining and under-lining a rod affect its performance?
- What does the term "modulus" mean to you?
Lines:

- What are the major considerations in selecting a particular line weight?
- What is the primary purpose of the front taper? Belly? Rear taper?
- What part of the line stores most of the energy of the cast?
- What characteristic of a line most affects long distance casting?
- What part of the line primarily determines how much line can be “controlled” during casting or while on the water?
- What are the advantages of lines with compound tapers?
  - For spring creek fishing, would you prefer a line with a long, delicate front taper or with a standard front taper?
- Why does a line “kick” when cast without a leader?
- Regarding shooting heads, what are the casting performance differences in a 30-foot head versus a 45-foot head?
- When would you use a line size lighter or heavier than recommended for a particular rod?

Leaders:

- What are the advantages and limitations of a very long leader? A very short leader?
- Why would you want to lengthen your tippet? Shorten your tippet?
- Are there advantages or disadvantages in using a very long leader with a line that has a very long, fine front taper?

Appendix C - Representative Questions - Fly Fishing

Fly fishing methods and techniques used in trout fishing, including approach, presentation casts, line handling, hooking and playing fish. Safety considerations. Equipment and technique modifications are necessary when fishing for species such as bass, pike, steelhead, salmon, bonefish and tarpon.

- You are taking a friend on her first fishing outing. How do you communicate the concepts of hooking, fighting, landing, and handling a fish?
- I’m a trout fisherman. I want to go bonefishing in the Keys. What equipment do I need? What must I be prepared to do differently than in trout fishing? The same question for steelhead. The same question for tarpon.
- Does the trout fisherman need to change his style of casting to successfully fish for saltwater species?
- Discuss the use of slack line with dry flies, nymphs, and streamers in various fishing situations.
- How do you approach a stream you have never fished before? How do you select appropriate flies, etc?
- Why do you bow to a large jumping fish?
- What are the advantages of a strip-strike?
- What techniques do you use to avoid “drag”?

Appendix D - Representative Questions - Casting

Casting, including essential flycasting mechanics and style variations of well-publicized casting teachers. A basic understanding of speycasting and overhead casting with a two-handed rod.

- Describe the parts of the casting stroke.
- What is the most important element of the casting stroke?
- Explain the importance of the path the rod tip takes during a cast, both vertically and horizontally. How do different tip paths affect the cast?
Describe the casting mechanics that govern the size of the casting loop. What causes loops to get out of parallel and why is this bad? What is the difference between "substance" and "style" in casting? Describe some different styles in casting. Is one style better than another? When casting for distance, there are some variables in the casting stroke that must be adjusted. Can you describe them? What do the very best casters—elite casters—do differently than less competent casters? Describe the difference between the single haul and the double haul? When would you use a single haul? When double hauling, should the speed of the haul and/or the stroke vary with the length of the cast? You are making long casts with a heavy line and fly. A stiff crosswind starts blowing into your casting side. How would you cope with the situation? Discuss various methods of casting into the wind. Pantomime creep. How does it harm the cast? What is the difference between the single spey and the double spey cast? The "spey moves" position the line upstream or downstream from the caster before the presentation cast. Why is this important? Should the casting stroke be modified when casting heavily weighted flies? When is drifting the rod a good idea? How would you teach drift? How do you shoot line? When might you use the Galway cast?

Appendix E - Representative Questions - Etiquette

Angler etiquette in various fishing conditions.

- Discuss stream etiquette when wading, when drifting a river in a boat or when float tubing in a lake.
- What do you tell your students about angler etiquette?

You could also review the FFF Anglers Code of Ethics

Appendix F - Study Materials

Which references should you emphasize from the following list? There is no clear answer to this question. Availability alone is a substantial limitation. Nor does inclusion in this list mean that everything in a particular book or video is 100 percent correct. We would simply encourage you to focus on the recognized masters who speak best to you, then seek out additional titles as you can in a quest to broaden your perspective.

Books


Video Tapes/DVDs

Basic Spey & Two Handed Fly Rod Casting. Jim Vincent, Scott Nelson Productions.
Fly Casting with Lefty Krehr. Lefty Krehr, Tomorrow River Press.
Joan Wulff's Dynamics of Fly Casting. Joan Wulff, Miracle Productions.
Lessons with Lefty. Lefty Krehr, Reel Resources, Inc.
Saltwater Flycasting. George Roberts, White Mouse Productions.
The Essence of Flycasting II. Mel Krieger, Club Pacific.
Flycasting - Part One - The Grass Field. Mike & Denise Maxwell, Gold-N-West Flyfishers.
Flycasting - Part Two - The Casting Pond. Mike & Denise Maxwell, Gold-N-West Flyfishers.
Advanced Speycasting. Mike & Denise Maxwell, Gold-N-West Flyfishers.
Advanced Speyfishing. Mike & Denise Maxwell, Gold-N-West Flyfishers.
International Spey Casting. Jim Vincent, Simon Gawesworth & Leif Stavmo, RIO.

Other Sources

Articles that appear in magazines, journals or newsletters represent some of the most timely or current information available, often planting the seeds of later change. Do not overlook them in your reading.

These articles are available under the Study Materials - Master Study Guide articles tab on the web site. You can also download them.