

Springtime Intermediate Fly Casting Clinic for Single Hand Rods
Mid Island Castaways
March 8 and 15, 2020

The weather on Vancouver Island begins to improve in March; daffodils are up and it is not uncommon for cherry trees to be blooming by the middle of the month. It is time to get ready for lake and stream fishing and to search for sea-run cutthroat trout along shallow rocky shores near freshwater outflows into Georgia Strait.

Casting and presenting a fly to a fish are acquired skills, requiring practice even if you are an accomplished caster. In March, the Mid Island Castaways Fly Fishing Club is offering its members an opportunity to hone their casting skills with single hand rods. The course is divided into two three hour sessions. It is not intended for those just beginning fly casting. There will be a course for beginners in May 2020.

The course will include:

1. **A review of essential casting mechanics and the pick-up and lay down (PULD) cast.**
This cast is the building block for other casts and for efficiently getting a fly to the fish.
2. **False casting.**
Good false casting is another important building block toward fishing effectively. This cast introduces the fly fisher to using the line hand in conjunction with the rod or casting hand.
3. **Casting from the vertical to the horizontal.**
It is important to be able to cast in various positions other than the vertical. For example, being able to cast off vertical can be helpful for combating the wind and presenting a fly under low hanging branches where a fish is laying. It requires having good false casting skills.
4. **Mending and shooting line**
Often in fishing we have to be able to extend the line to reach fish at different distances and angles. An important skill for learning to mend and shoot line is to be able to false cast effectively.
5. **Introduction to distance casting.**
Depending upon the type of fishing we are doing, we sometimes have to make longer casts. This is particularly true when beach fishing. Distance casting starts with having good false casts. Learning to haul can help tighten loops and increase line speed, which are also useful when casting into the wind.
6. **Roll cast and change of direction casts**
Many times there isn't room for a back cast. When this is the case, being able to do a roll cast on either side is the ticket to catching or not catching fish. Being able to do a good static roll cast is the basis for learning dynamic spey casts that allow you to change the direction of your cast.

Dates and times: Sundays March 8 and 15, 2020 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Location: Ball field immediately adjacent to the parking lot at the south end of Park Road in Qualicum Beach.

Required equipment: single hand rod; matching weight forward floating line; 8 foot tapered leader (12 to 15 lb tippet); yarn for a fly. Sunglasses (eye protection from sun and objects), folding chair, water, and clothing suited to weather conditions.

Cost: \$20 for 6 hours of instruction. A club membership is required.

Application forms are *only* available at Coast Sport Fish fly fishing store - 202-891 Island Highway West Parksville, BC.

Enrolment is limited to 15 club members.

For inquiries contact: Cormack Gates, Education Chair, ccgates@nucleus.com, Phone (250) 752-1129