The Joe Humphreys' Fly Fishing Stream School - Video Scripts Master Volume

Scripts 1-22 (Trout Track) and 23-28 (Warm Waters Edition). Rebuilt August 8, 2026 from the corrected website edition; supersedes all earlier copies.

The Joe Humphreys' Fly Fishing Stream School

Video Scripts Master Volume

Trout Track Scripts 1-22 - Warm Waters Scripts 23-28 - Joe's Actual Words

"The secret of life is having something exciting to look forward to. And fly fishing is that - you're going fishing."

- Joe Humphreys

Trout Track - Scripts 1 through 22

"My purpose and intent of this video is to have you enjoy this sport to its fullest - and that is meaning, at times, catching more fish." - Joe Humphreys

How to Use These Scripts

Word-for-Word Scripts are Joe's actual language from his own teaching and from the documentary Live the Stream (2018). These are not paraphrases. These are his words. Deliver them as close to his phrasing as possible.

Talking Points are the key ideas if you need to be more conversational. But whenever possible, use his exact words. Joe's words are the curriculum.

Production Notes

Film at streamside in authentic locations. Natural light. Natural water.

Conversational. Not a lecture. Think of him talking to a student beside the stream.

Stories: linger on them. Let the camera show what he describes.

Reference film: Live the Stream (2018). Required viewing for all instructors before delivering any program.

Video 1: Welcome to The Joe Humphreys' Fly Fishing Stream School

3-4 minutes | Program Introduction

Full Script

I am Joe Humphreys. I am 97 years old - 97 years young.

I have been fishing since I was six years old. From that moment on, I have lived, breathed, taught, and competed in the wonderful sport of fly fishing.

We are now following the mainstream of Spring Creek. My father took me to Spring Creek when I was a child. I was six years old. Neither of us had ever fished or picked up a fishing rod.

We were fishing worms with bamboo fly rods. And my first cast - the worm luckily landed in the water - and then I felt a tug. And I pulled. And out came a trout. It flew up over my head and landed in the weeds behind me.

I was just in awe of the beauty of that fish. The halos. The spots.

So this is the beginning. After my first experience with my father, it was a quest. I wanted to fish.

I guess you could call Spring Creek one of my major classrooms. When I was probably 8, maybe 10, I would get on my bicycle - fly rod across the handlebar - and I would pedal to Thompson Run. Thompson Run is a tributary to Spring Creek. There was so much I learned from Thompson Run. I would view trout. Watch them feed. Watch where they went, how they lifted, how they positioned themselves. It was like they were laying out a plan for me - how could I capture these fish? How could I catch one of these?

What happens to people if they don't have proper instruction and they don't have any direction and they try it unsuccessfully on their own? Frustrations build. But when nothing succeeds like success - when you have instruction and you say, whoa, this is kind of fun - when you catch a fish, you're off and running. You never forget.

I've made fly fishing my livelihood. I've taught thousands of students over a period of many years. I will continue to teach until I finally reach the bottom of that mountain.

Kids are the future of this wonderful sport.

The secret of life is having something exciting to look forward to. That is the secret of life. And fly fishing is that.

Welcome to The Joe Humphreys' Fly Fishing Stream School. Let's go to the stream.

Key Talking Points

Joe's first fish at age 6 on Spring Creek - the awe of the fish

Thompson Run as his classroom - self-taught, the stream was the teacher

Nothing succeeds like success - why instruction matters for young people

The secret to life: having something exciting to look forward to

Kids are the future of this wonderful sport

Video 2: Why I Don't Cast 10 to 2

4-5 minutes | Short Stroke Introduction

Full Script

90% of the people in this nation are casting with a 10-to-2 casting stroke - it is what fly fishing instructors teach. The 10-to-2 casting stroke is fine for line control and loop control.

But if you really want to catch fish in rivers and streams and moving water - where the mangroves might be, where you have to get back under them along the coast in saltwater - then your cast must change.

The very short casting stroke - from not 10-to-2 but from 11 to 12, right in here - it's a very short casting stroke. And these are the reasons: the very short casting stroke can get me into a tuck cast on the stream where I can get the nymph to the fish. The very short casting stroke gives me the slack leader cast. The very short casting stroke gets me back under brush where you don't have casting freedom.

"The very short casting stroke are the keys to the kingdom."

And this is the way it is. Watch my hand. The thumb comes up into the cast and stops. My elbow - my elbow is right next to my body. The arm is out. The hand and the wrist is in. From my thumb to my elbow, right here, is one solid piece. The wrist never breaks. You never hitchhike.

So we take the thumb up into the cast and stop it straight up. We drift the hand forward. And then we tap it.

"Stop it. Drift it. Tap it."

Now let me show you something. My hand is going to be light on the rod and open when I come up, and stop the rod abruptly up. The hand squeezes. Now we drift the hand forward and we tap it. It's a very short, sharp tap.

Now watch the thumb. We take that hand forward, we tap it, and the thumb pushes down. What this does - it takes the line over the rod. And you do not have a tailing loop. This is how you cure the tailing loop - right here. With the thumb pressing down.

There are two words to delete from your vocabulary: always and never. What we never do - on this cast - we never take the thumb back into the cast. This is called hitchhiking. If you break your wrist on the back cast, what happens is you're throwing a wide tailing loop. You've lost line control. We never hitchhike. We never break the wrist.

Where the thumb and knuckles go - the rod tip goes. That's where the cast goes.

Bill Koll was Penn State University's wrestling coach. I worked under Bill for two years as an assistant. Bill was a three-time national champion with a record of 72-and-0. His words to me were these:

"The most basic fundamentals refined to perfection are your most advanced techniques." - Bill Koll

And so we take this in context. The most advanced techniques - going under the trees, going back under brush, working in tight cover - these strokes are almost imperceptible. It's called conditioning. We drill and we drill to perfection. We refine these skills. And then you become an excellent caster.

Key Talking Points

90% of people cast 10-to-2 - why that limits you on real trout water

The very short casting stroke are the keys to the kingdom

From thumb to elbow is one solid piece - never hitchhike

Stop it, drift it, tap it - the three-word sequence

Thumb pushes down - cures the tailing loop

Bill Koll: The most basic fundamentals refined to perfection are your most advanced techniques

Video 3: Observe Before You Cast - The Orange Shrimp

3-4 minutes | Observation Foundation

Full Script

There's a trout stream I fished as a boy called Thompson Run. It was a tributary to Spring Creek. That stream taught me something I have never forgotten.

I had tried to catch a particular trout on Thompson Run. Every time I approached, I spooked it. After I spooked that fish the last time, I did something different. I waded into the water and grabbed a handful of streambed vegetation.

It was alive. Crawling with freshwater shrimp. And some of those shrimp had a little touch of orange on them.

I found some orange sewing thread in my mother's sewing basket. I wrapped it with that thread and some fur and fashioned what I thought looked like one of those shrimp. I went back to the stream. Got into position. Made the cast. The fish traveled several feet for that fly. It was a 14-inch fish - one of the biggest I had ever taken.

I pedaled my bicycle home with that prize.

Now I knew: they took the fly underneath as well as on top. And this is called nymphing.

Before you pick up the rod - observe. Watch the water. Look at what is moving in it, what is hatching from it, what is drifting in the current. The stream is giving you the answer. Your job is to pay attention.

Key Talking Points

Thompson Run - childhood classroom for observation

Freshwater shrimp with touch of orange - found in streambed vegetation

Orange sewing thread from mother's sewing basket - first nymph pattern

14-inch trout on first-ever nymph - now I knew they took it underneath too

Observe before you cast. The stream is always talking.

Video 4: My Spring Creek Story - What One Person Can Do

5-6 minutes | Conservation - From Live the Stream

PRODUCTION NOTE: This story is documented in Live the Stream (2018). Film at the Thompson Spring diversion if possible. Joe recorded the "still entering the Duck Pond" lines before the diversion was completed in 2022 - update or frame them to reflect the finished work and the plaque at the site.

Full Script

I want to tell you about Spring Creek. My lifeline. The stream where I caught my very first fish. And how I watched it almost die.

Spring Creek flows 22 miles from a source near my home in the mountains. My childhood. My parents. My siblings. My wife and children. I raised my family on this stream. It runs behind my property.

Spring Creek means everything to me.

Here in central Pennsylvania, we are in limestone country. The runoff from the mountains - the freestone streams go down into the valleys. A lot of the streams go underground and come up as major springs. Clear, cold top-of-the-mountain water. Your trout population - their metabolism demands temperatures in the 50s and 60s to survive. This is why we have such wonderful trout waters.

But then came Thompson Spring. This is Thompson Spring that comes right out of the bowels of the earth - right up through in here. This is the future of Spring Creek right there.

Just adjacent to it is a pond called the Duck Pond. The Duck Pond is a storm sewer runoff holding pond. You have chemicals, mercury, oils - every contaminant imaginable that flows from the streets of State College and surrounding areas. They relocated the highway. That relocation pushed Thompson Spring into the Duck Pond - pushing all of that contaminated water into Spring Creek.

The water temperature started to climb into the 80s and 90s. Killing the fish. Spring Creek went down as a major trout producer. Seeing its demise was heartbreaking - because I had so many wonderful childhood memories. I couldn't stand it.

And so I said: what can I do? What can one man do?

In the early 1970s, I pulled five guys together. We sat at a table right here and formed Spring Creek Trout Unlimited. We determined that we would divert that big spring back around the Duck Pond. It was a nightmare to divert Thompson Run.

We had to punch a hole through a concrete wall with a jackhammer. Then I needed a huge pipe to go through the hole we were making to divert that spring. We got it done.

Spring Creek came back on its feet. It was a major undertaking for a few crazy guys who didn't know when to quit.

"We beat the odds."

Here's the thing: my major conservation effort is Thompson Spring and the Duck Pond. This is why they call Spring Creek - Spring Creek. But it is never finished. The dike has eroded. A good third of Thompson Spring is now entering the Duck Pond again, which we've got to correct.

You have to be aware of what is happening. People are aware now. It takes a lot of thought and a lot of effort from a lot of people to get it done.

Without water quality, you don't have fish. They have to have a food chain. They have to eat. Everything we can do to keep the contaminants away from the clean water - we have to do it. And it starts right here. It starts at home.

You have a challenge. You've got to take care of those streams that you so enjoy. Because there are a hell of a lot of people out there that won't protect it.

Key Talking Points

Spring Creek as Joe's lifeline - 22 miles, feeds from limestone springs

Duck Pond contamination - mercury, oils, chemicals from road runoff

Temperatures hit 80s and 90s - wild trout disappeared

Five men around a table, founding Spring Creek Trout Unlimited

Jackhammer through concrete, pipe installed - the spring diverted

Spring Creek came back. A few crazy guys who didn't know when to quit.

It starts right here. It starts at home.

Video 5: Getting to the Bottom - My Nymphing Philosophy

4-5 minutes | Nymphing Core Principle

Full Script

I want to talk about nymphing. And specifically about depth. Because depth is everything in nymph fishing.

Watch this cast - this is called the tuck cast. I stop the rod. Where? The rod stops high. Now I wait till I feel the pull of the weight behind the rod. And I watch - the tip will bounce. When that tip bounces, it says to me: go. Then I can make the forward cast. But not until then.

So this is what happens. I come up into the cast. I stop it. I wait till it bounces. Then there's the tuck, and the nymph drives down into the water. Now I have control of that nymph from the impetus of that cast, back to me, the whole way through the drift.

Now, when we have weights on the business end and weighted nymphs - we have to wait till we feel the pull of the weights behind us on the back cast before we can make a forward cast.

Your line can just hesitate. It can just stop slightly. So it's difficult at times, because the bottom and the trout can be synonymous. But you don't want to take that chance. So you strike a lot without catching fish. That's the name of the game.

Key Talking Points

The tuck cast - wait for the bounce before the forward cast

We have to wait till we feel the pull of the weights

Your line can just hesitate - bottom vs. trout take distinction

Strike frequently - you strike a lot without catching fish, that's the name of the game

Video 6: The Tuck Cast - Putting the Fly Where the Fish Are

4-5 minutes | Tuck Cast Instruction

Full Script

This is called the tuck cast. And it is one of the most important casts in all of nymph fishing.

The rod stops - high. Straight up at 12 o'clock, right in front of me, lined up on my nose. Arm next to the body. The rod stops high for a deeper tuck.

I stop the rod. I wait. The tip bounces. That tip bouncing says to me - go. And I make the forward cast. And the nymph drives down into the water.

Now I have control of that nymph the whole way through the drift.

Here is the second thing about the tuck cast with weights: we have to wait. Normally the cast is stop, drift, stop. But with weights on the business end - we now have to wait until we feel the pull of the weights behind us on the back cast before we can make a forward cast.

The check - George Harvey, my mentor, emphatically stressed checking the forecast with a sharp tap of the wrist, squeezing the rod handle at the same time. It's checking or shocking the cast. The rod stops high. Then you check the cast. And immediately drop the rod tip down. This stacks the leader and gives you S-curves right up to the fly for a drag-free drift.

"Shock it. Drop it. And we have a fish."

Key Talking Points

Rod stops high - centered directly in front of me, lined up on my nose

Wait for the bounce - then go

With weight: wait till we feel the pull of the weights

George Harvey's check/shock: sharp tap of wrist, squeeze rod handle

Shock it, drop it - S-curves in the leader for drag-free drift

Video 7: The Downer-Upper Cast - Advanced Delivery

4-5 minutes | Downer-Upper

Full Script

One cast that is imperative to nymphing is the Downer-Upper cast. The nymph drives down. The rod tip stays up.

This is a pocket water technique. The cast is extremely compact. Elbow tight to the body. The backcast stops up at 12 o'clock. And the forward cast is the check - the squeeze of the rod handle and a sharp, nearly undetectable tap of the wrist.

George Harvey - my mentor - emphatically stressed checking the forecast with a sharp tap of the wrist, squeezing the rod handle at the same time. The rod stops high. Then check the cast. That sharp downward stop fires the nymph into the water - that is the Downer. Then the Upper: immediately lift the casting hand and forearm fast, thumb and forefinger pointing up, to drive the nymph to the bottom after entry. Both parts are required. The down stop alone is half a cast. The slack that stacks in the leader gives you S-curves right up to the fly for a drag-free drift.

And for tight places - think about this. Take your rod tip to the level you want to go under. Right here. Drift the rod tip beyond it. And then simply squeeze. That's how you get back under.

"You're not throwing the fly under. You're throwing a tight loop under. You're throwing the line under. And the shorter the squeeze, the tighter the loop. That's the secret of getting back under tight places."

Key Talking Points

One cast that is imperative to nymphing - the Downer-Upper cast

Nymph drives down, rod tip stays up

Pocket water technique - elbow tight to body

Check/shock: sharp tap of wrist plus squeeze - the Downer fires the nymph in

The Upper: immediate fast lift of the casting hand and forearm, thumb and forefinger pointing up, drives the nymph to the bottom. Both parts, every cast

Getting under brush: You're not throwing the fly under, you're throwing a tight loop under

Video 8: The Slack Leader Cast - Drag-Free Drifts

3-4 minutes | Dry Fly Cast

Full Script

If I'm dry fly fishing and I need an excellent slack leader cast for drag-free drifts, then watch what I do. The rod again stops up. The casting stroke is extremely short. Look where the rod tip is - the rod never came down. It stayed up.

So I climbed the angle on the cast. I shock it. I drop it. And when I dropped it, I had shocked all the slack into the leader at the end of the cast. And when I dropped it, I dropped all that slack on the leader for a drag-free float.

George Harvey taught me this when I was a youngster. He handed me from infancy to adulthood. He embarrassed me more times than I would like to admit. But this was one of the keys to the kingdom that got me into more fish - the hard fish, the fish that were difficult to catch, that had been really the wise guys of the trout world. These fish you could finally out-slick. Because you could finally get a perfect drag-free drift.

"Shock it. Drop it."

Key Talking Points

Rod stops high - never comes down

Climb the angle; shock it; drop it

Slack stacks into the leader for drag-free float

George Harvey taught this - one of the keys to the kingdom

Out-slicking the wise guys of the trout world

Video 9: Reading the Water - The Map Before the Cast

4-5 minutes | Water Reading Foundation

Full Script

Before you pick up the rod - look. Watch the water.

I learned to read water by watching. I was a boy on Thompson Run. I would lay on the ground in my bib overalls - the dew on the grass - and I'd be soaked, crawling around. Because I knew the approach to the water. There was a lot of water clarity. The fish did spook easily. So to get into position - it was an arduous program. But then I learned line control. I learned what the insect population was. Freshwater shrimp and cress bugs, basically, on the limestone spring creeks.

And I did catch fish. And it was a wonderful experience.

Watch the trout. Watch where they go. How they lift. How they position themselves. They are laying out a plan for you - how would you capture these fish? Pay attention.

These streams are some of my favorites to fish in all of the world. And I've been fishing since I was six years old.

Key Talking Points

Lay on the ground, crawl to the water - approach is everything

Watch trout: where they go, how they lift, how they position

Limestone streams: freshwater shrimp and cress bugs are the food chain

The stream was laying out a plan for me

Video 10: The Roll Cast

4-5 minutes | Roll Cast Instruction

Full Script

There is one cast we have to make to catch more fish - and that is a roll cast.

First, you have to load the rod. Have the line behind it. Elbow in. Take your hand - your casting hand - out in front of you before you make the casting stroke. If you do this, if you take the hand out in front of you, now you have a roll cast.

The rod is back. The rod is tilted just enough to free the line behind it. The rod is going to be loaded because we have the line dropping off the rod behind us. So many times people have the line here and they start the roll cast and the rod is never loaded.

Elbow in. Drift the rod forward. You're going to take this as a hammer. You're going to take your hammer out to the nail. This is the nail out here. You're going to take the hammer out to the nail before you tap it. And once you tap it - it's gone. Now you're a caster.

"The tighter the squeeze, the shorter the stroke, the tighter the loop."

If you want the line to go up in the air - as for a dry fly cast when you roll cast - take the hand forward and push the thumb up into the cast. And now it's going high.

If you want a tight loop and you want to go back under that bush, drift the rod forward and make a very short stroke. The tighter the stroke, the tighter the loop.

Key Talking Points

Load the rod first - line must drop behind the rod

Hand out in front before the casting stroke

Hammer and nail image - take it to the nail before you tap

The tighter the squeeze, the tighter the loop

Thumb up for high cast; short stroke for tight loop under the brush

Video 11: Aquatic Entomology - Your Secret Weapon

4-5 minutes | Insects and the Food Chain

Full Script

This is a hellgrammite. That's a larva stage of an insect. Lunch and dinner for a trout.

How many aspects of this fly fishing game are there? So many. This is a stone fly. It has two wing cases and two tails. The nymphs you see right now - they crawl from the stream bottom, crawl up on the vegetation or on the rocks, and fly away.

There are so many insects that the trout inhale. This is a caddis pupa. They build a case around them. And it is an amazing thing. We can tie these, imitate them, and they catch fish.

The dark part is the case. The little white is the head coming out - like the caddis is crawling out. That is another part of what the game is - so much fun. You can find this stuff in the bottom of the rocks. And then you go back to the vise and you tie a fly, and you tie and you tie until you get exactly what you think it is. And then you go out and try it. And it works. You catch a fish on something that you made with your own hand to imitate a glorious little insect.

"Isn't nature wonderful?"

With fly fishing, you're imitating insects. You're imitating the food chain in which the trout feed upon.

Key Talking Points

hellgrammite, stone fly, caddis pupa - trout food chain in hand

Crawl from streambed, emerge, fly away - the life cycle

Tie the imitation, go try it, catch a fish on something you made

Isn't nature wonderful?

Fly fishing is imitating the food chain

Video 12: The Night Game - When the Heavyweights Come Out

5-6 minutes | Night Fishing - From Live the Stream

Full Script

Night fishing to me is one of my favorite games. It's when the heavyweights come out to feed. Your big trout - world record fish - they're nocturnal.

These two patterns - I call them my stone fly patterns. These flies are big. They move water. They represent large insects like a stone fly. We're going to go give these a try and see if we can't find something larger than a foot long.

Here's a tip for anybody fishing at night: never go on a stream that you don't know after dark. Because it can be very dangerous. You can lose your life.

Your casting stroke and your casting ability comes to play. It's called pinpoint casting in darkness. You have to know when to squeeze that stroke off to get back under those trees and next to that bank. If you don't spot that fly in very few inches - it's difficult to take them.

Lights out.

I have a big fish - oh, I have a fish - fish on!

When you have the take of a large fish at night, you feel that heavy weight and the power of a fish - it's really exciting. Because you don't know on the take how big that fish is. It could be 20 inches. It could be 20 pounds.

Now - I want to tell you about the state record. It was late evening on Fishing Creek. I heard a tremendous explosion in the water. It went stone quiet. I knew it had to be a heck of a fish.

I stalked that fish for three years. Going night after night after night.

One night my telephone rang. It was my buddy Al Hag. He said: Joe, I'm antsy. Why don't you go fishing? I'll just go along. And I said okay.

So I went back to the pool. I went down through the first time and I took a pretty nice fish - 18, 19 inches - and it was okay. But I was excited. It was one in the morning. Al said to me: don't you think it's time to go home? I said: just let me run this top end one more time.

And I chucked those two flies across that stream into that backwater and I gave them a little tip to get those flies into motion - and all at once they stopped. And the rod tip goes down. It sounded like somebody rolled a washtub over. And I put the hammer to this fish.

I had no net. I said: I've never seen a fish this big. Al said: neither have I. I think I've got a record.

The warden measured it. A 16-pound, 34-inch brown trout. The previous record was 33 inches. For 11 years it was Pennsylvania's record trout. It is still the fly-caught record brown trout in Pennsylvania.

And I've always wanted a 20-pound brown. That's been my drive through life. I want a world record. And this is one reason that I really got into the night game.

"Not a bad fish. I knew there was a reason I didn't sleep in today."

Key Talking Points

Night fishing: the heavyweights come out to feed

Stone fly patterns - big flies that move water

Never fish at night on unfamiliar water - it can be dangerous

Pinpoint casting in darkness - the squeeze matters even more

The state record story: three years of stalking, one night at one in the morning, the washtub roll

34 inches, 16 pounds - still Pennsylvania's fly-caught record

I've always wanted a 20-pound brown. That's been my drive through life.

Video 13: The Book That Changed My Life

3-4 minutes | Ray Bergman / Inspiration

Full Script

The Christmas of 1941. My parents - being so frustrated with their son - bought me a book. *Just Fishing*. Written by Ray Bergman.

I wrote this inside so that nobody would steal my book. And I even have my phone number. I still have it.

This very first chapter was so influential. Bergman wrote: "My first experience trout fishing dates back to 1903, when I was a boy of 12. I saw my first living trout at a brook - I had been wandering through the woodlands near my home - and by some chance I had approached a pool of a small brook without disturbing its occupants. As I looked over the bank I saw six spotted beauties fanning their fins in the cool, clear water. The sight of those fish reacted on my nervous system strangely. I did not know what they were. But some latent instinct within my being informed me that they were game to be prized highly."

I was a left-hander. My first grade teacher was a very strict woman. When I would pick up the chalk with the left hand at the blackboard, she had a ruler - back in those days - and so she would smack my hand. And she had me so mixed up I didn't know whether I was writing forwards or backwards. I didn't have an interest in school. The only thing I wanted to do was fish.

And then this book turned my life around. I started to have an interest in reading - through Ray Bergman and fly fishing. And it gave me a drive to succeed.

Now if the teacher would ask me to write a paper - I had some direction. I would write about the brown trout. I would write about how to fish the wet fly.

I think about this when I'm working with children. How can I help these kids? That book gave me a new start on life. Hopefully my books - I hope maybe they give somebody direction.

Key Talking Points

Christmas 1941: *Just Fishing* by Ray Bergman

First grade disaster - the teacher, the ruler, the left hand

I didn't have an interest in school. The only thing I wanted to do was fish.

The book gave him direction - to write about trout, to tie flies, to learn

That book gave me a new start on life

His own books: hoping to give other kids that same direction

Video 14: Look Up - Live the Moment

3-4 minutes | Mindfulness and Nature - From Live the Stream

Full Script

When I'm fishing with people - one thing I say to them at one point during the day:

"Look up."

You've been staring at the water from the moment we made the first cast. I'd like to stop and live the moment.

One of the most beautiful sounds in the spring to me is a red-winged blackbird on its song. Or it can simply be the change of the clouds above. It can simply be the sun reflecting on a log.

And those are cherished moments. The good Lord has given us such a beautiful place to fish. When you don't take time to recognize and enjoy it and appreciate it and be thankful - you're missing part of the game.

I love the sound of this little stream. I love the sound of the water. It's therapy for me. How picturesque. How beautiful. What a gift to be here. Just to witness this.

Sometimes I feel that the streams and rivers run through me. The flow of the waters - it's been my soul. It's been my heart. And I want to protect it.

These are my reflections when it's awfully quiet and nothing moves.

Key Talking Points

Look up. You've been staring at the water.

Red-winged blackbird. The clouds. The sun on a log.

Those are cherished moments. The good Lord has given us such a beautiful place.

When you don't take time to recognize and enjoy it - you're missing part of the game.

Sometimes I feel that the streams and rivers run through me.

Video 15: The Quest - Why I Never Stopped Trying

4-5 minutes | Persistence / Philosophy - From Live the Stream

Full Script

I am still going to take a 20-pound brown. If I have to come back from another world to do it - I will find a 20-pound brown.

Through the years of knowing Joe - he only knows one speed: 110. Give it all you got. There is no quit in that guy at all.

When I was filming on the White River and on the Little Red in Arkansas, I hooked what we thought could have been a new fly rod world record. It was an absolutely huge fish. I saw it roll in the light. The memory still is burning within. It's been 10 years and I'm going back to Arkansas. It's called determination. I'm going to catch that fish.

A 38-pound brown trout would be a fly rod world record. I'm still pursuing this. To take a fish like this would be a dream of a lifetime.

You can't be discouraged in the fishing game. Or no matter what you do in life. Sometimes we don't understand why things aren't going smoothly. But nothing is easy. You have to be flexible. If you're persistent and stay with it - it'll pay off. In time. Not right away. But in time.

I'm tenacious until my goal is fulfilled.

At this late stage in my life, I'm still building memories. Whether it be that big buck someday - or simply an eight-inch brook trout on a wonderful mountain stream. You always have those things to look forward to. There's a real purpose in life.

"The secret of life is having something exciting to look forward to. That is the secret of life. And fly fishing is that."

Key Talking Points

I'm still going to take a 20-pound brown - the pursuit never ends

He only knows one speed: 110. There is no quit in that guy.

World record brown trout - the Little Red River, the memory burning within

You can't be discouraged - nothing is easy, be flexible, stay persistent

I'm tenacious until my goal is fulfilled

The secret of life is having something exciting to look forward to. And fly fishing is that.

Video 16: Brook Trout and Clean Water - Why They Matter

4-5 minutes | Conservation and Brook Trout

Full Script

"To catch a brook trout in all its regal beauty - it's gold to me."

The brook trout serve as fabulous bio-indicators for a lot of our mountain streams and cold water streams here in Pennsylvania. They're very sensitive to pollution. And a lot of the same streams where these brook trout are inhabiting - those are the same streams where we get our drinking water. So they really do serve as an early detector of poor water quality.

We have more trout streams in Pennsylvania than, I think, any other state in the union - other than Alaska. Central Pennsylvania is limestone country. The runoff from the mountains, the hills - the freestone streams go down into the valleys. A lot of the streams go underground and come up as major springs. Clear, cold top-of-the-mountain water.

This is where the brook trout live.

Without water quality, you don't have fish. They have to have a food chain. They have to eat. So everything we can do to keep the contaminants away from the clean water - we have to do it.

And it starts right here. It starts at home. It starts with your stream. The stream you stand in. The stream you love.

I saw these kids so excited. It takes me back to my childhood. My feet would not have touched the ground for probably a month. I would have been so excited. I understand these kids. I understand where they're coming from.

I hope teaching these kids something about what the environment means to all of us. They saw the beauty of this world around them. The beauty of the fish that they caught. Without clean water in which these fish live - we're in bad shape.

Key Talking Points

To catch a brook trout in all its regal beauty - it's gold to me

Brook trout as bio-indicators: sensitive to pollution, live in our drinking water streams

Pennsylvania limestone country - the springs, the cold water, why trout thrive

Without water quality, you don't have fish

It starts right here. It starts at home.

Teaching kids about the environment - seeing their excitement takes him back

Video 17: Three Peanut Butter Sandwiches - My Childhood on Thompson Run

3-4 minutes | Childhood Memoir

Full Script

Spring Creek was the stream I fished almost every day when I was a young kid. When you were out of school in the summer - every day I was on my bicycle with the fly rod across the handlebars. Three peanut butter sandwiches. Well, as I got older - five peanut butter sandwiches instead of three. Because I had a great appetite. And a jug of milk.

And so I would pedal every day to Spring Creek, or a part of it, or a tributary of it, and fish.

I was a very young boy when my father took me fishing on Spring Creek the first time. He took me down a road that's not even there anymore. The season opened at 5 in the morning. We were there the first day of trout season. This was in 1935.

I had a fly rod that was bought for about $7.50. And I made a cast - we had a can of worms - and I got the worm in the water. And I felt a tug. And I pulled. And a trout came flying out over my head.

I looked for the trout. And all at once I saw the weeds move. And I captured my eight-inch brown trout. My father hooked a trout. He had never really fished before. He threw the rod down and grabbed the line and brought the trout in hand over hand. And it was a foot long. We were both so proud of those fish.

My mother, when I took that trout home, she put it in a pan. And I just was amazed at how beautiful it was - with the red spots, and the orange spots, and the mottling. It was something wonderful that I never forgot. And she made me a sandwich from that trout. And it was the best sandwich I'd ever had in my life.

"I still today have a trout sandwich."

Key Talking Points

Bicycle every day - fly rod across the handlebars, peanut butter sandwiches

Father's first fishing trip with 6-year-old Joe - 1935, season opening day

$7.50 fly rod, a can of worms, trout flew over his head into the weeds

Father grabbed the line hand over hand - foot-long brown

Mother cooked it, Joe was amazed by the beauty - red spots, orange spots

The best sandwich I'd ever had. I still today have a trout sandwich.

Video 18: The State Record - A Fish Worth Three Years

5-6 minutes | Pennsylvania State Record Brown Trout

Full Script

I have Pennsylvania's largest trout - a fly-caught trout - for 11 years. It was a 34-inch, 16-pound brown trout. Fishing at night. This is when the big fish feed.

Three years before I landed this fish - I was fishing this patch of water. I thought a deer had jumped off the bank. There was an explosion in the water. But then I didn't hear the deer run out of the water. And I knew it was a fish.

So the quest began. I fished for this fish for three years.

One time, George Harvey - knowing I was after this fish - said: why don't you try working the riffles? This is where your food chain comes alive. Sculpins are alive at night. This is when they move. Your nymphal activity comes alive at night.

Then came the night. My telephone rang. It was my buddy Al Hag. He said: Joe, I'm sick of watching television. Are you going to fish tonight? And I said I can. And he says: let's go.

So naturally I went back to this stream. I went to this pool. I fished down through it. I did catch one fish - maybe 18 or 19 inches. And then he said: don't you think we ought to go home? It's past midnight. I said okay. I said: let me run it one more time.

And I cast back under the hemlock boughs into the backwater off this riffle. And the line stopped. And I set the hook. And it was like a washtub rolling over. Al said to me: did you hear that? And I said: yeah. Not only heard it - I have it on the other end of the line.

This fish took a run as its home was under a fallen tree - probably 50 yards down the stream. I turned the fish. Brought him back up. There was a hemlock bough overhead. I had the rod tip sticking in the hemlock bough - fearful I would lose the fish. I flipped the light on. When the light

hit the water, the fish spooked and took another run. I got the tip out of the hemlock boughs. Stopped the fish on the second run. Finally brought him in.

I didn't have a net. And it wouldn't have done any good anyhow - I didn't have one big enough. So he was floundering in the rocks at my feet. I got both arms under him and threw him up on the bank.

Al said: my gosh. That's the biggest fish I've ever seen. I said: I think it's the biggest one I've ever seen.

The warden measured it. A 34-inch, 16-pound brown trout. The previous record was 33. It is still the record today as far as a fly-caught trout.

I think of that fish often. But I've always wanted a 20-pound brown. That's been my drive through life.

Key Talking Points

34 inches, 16 pounds - Pennsylvania's overall record trout for 11 years, and still the fly-caught record

Heard the explosion in the water - stalked the fish for three years

George Harvey's advice: try the riffles at night

Al Hag's phone call - sick of watching television

The washtub sound of the take

Hemlock boughs, the light, the second run, both arms to land it

No net - wouldn't have done any good anyhow

I've always wanted a 20-pound brown. That's been my drive through life.

Video 19: The Bill Koll Lesson - Fundamentals Are Everything

3-4 minutes | Teaching Philosophy / Bill Koll

Full Script

Bill Koll was Penn State University's wrestling coach. I worked under Bill for two years as an assistant. Bill was a three-time national champion. He had a record of 72-and-0 in his collegiate career. Two-time outstanding wrestler.

His words to me - and his words to the team - were these. And they stayed with me. They are so true:

"The most basic fundamentals refined to perfection are your most advanced techniques." - Bill Koll

And so it goes with fly fishing. Your basic fundamentals - that very short casting stroke - this is what gets you into fish. It gets you into places you couldn't get to otherwise. These are the basics. Refined to perfection. They are your most advanced techniques.

So when we're teaching children to cast, we are not teaching them something simple that they will outgrow. We are teaching them techniques that are going to take them to water nobody else can reach. We are teaching them the techniques that the most advanced fly fishermen in the world use.

"The most basic fundamentals, refined to perfection - are your most advanced techniques."

We drill. And we drill. To perfection.

Key Talking Points

Bill Koll: 72-0, three-time national champion, Penn State wrestling

The most basic fundamentals refined to perfection are your most advanced techniques

The short casting stroke IS the advanced technique

What you teach children is not basic - it gets you where no one else can reach

We drill and we drill to perfection

Video 20: George Harvey - The Mentor Who Shaped Everything

4-5 minutes | George Harvey Story

Full Script

George Harvey was my mentor.

I first met George when I was a youngster. I was fishing a stretch of Spring Creek - it's called the Sawmill stretch - and I was fishing a snailed fly. The loop broke and I didn't know how to fix it. So I went to a gentleman who was standing there fishing along the stream and I said: sir, can you help me get this fly back on my leader? And he said: son, I can't. But that gentleman up there fishing - that's George Harvey. And I'll bet he'll be able to help you.

So I went up. And I said: sir, can you help me? George had just released a trout. He was catching trout after trout. There was a hatch - probably a sulfur hatch. And so he stopped and took the time for me. And with me, he tied the fly back on the leader.

That was one of my early meetings with George.

Through my high school years, I would go to his house. Maybe beg some hooks once in a while. He would say: now try this fly, Joe, and I think you'll have success with it. And so in time - over the years - we developed a wonderful relationship.

Then when I came out of the Navy and entered Penn State University, he was teaching the fly fishing course. I took the course naturally. And rather than just taking the course, I ended up kind of assisting George - due to the fact that I was a better fly tier than 90% of the students.

He said: you know these things. You've gone through this with me before. You can help the beginners.

My mentor George Harvey - he was a hero. He was an angler who had more insights than anybody, I think, in the United States or the world. He created the tuck cast that got nymphs to

fish. He created fly tying clinics. He was a pioneer. I learned so much from him. And we were also great friends.

George, in his eighties, could still run. One day on Young Woman's Creek I said to him - jokingly - George, it's a distance to the car, instead of walking it let's just run it. And without a word, he started to trot. And then he went into a run. And at his age - about 80 - I was having a hard time staying with him. We ran probably two or three hundred yards before he finally slowed down. He looked at me. Started to laugh. He said: yeah. I can still run.

Key Talking Points

Sawmill stretch on Spring Creek - first meeting with George Harvey

Broken loop, fly tied back on the leader - the first lesson

Brimming with fish, stopped to help a kid

High school years: begging hooks, trying flies George suggested

Navy out, Penn State in - became George's teaching assistant

George Harvey: creator of the tuck cast, leader design pioneer

He was a hero. He had more insights than anybody.

The 80-year-old running story

Video 21: Teaching Children to Cast - Three Basics Only

4-5 minutes | Children's Casting Instruction

Full Script

When I put this casting film together, I wanted to not just teach adults how to fish - but children.

Never attempt to teach children outside when the elements are not conducive to learning. Wind, cold, heat - any factor causing discomfort. If possible, take them inside where you have a controlled atmosphere. No wind. Comfortable temperatures. And personal comfort.

Never start a child out with a telephone pole for a rod. Start them out with one small enough and light enough for them to handle. Cumbersome rods causing physical pain ends any attempt to teach and learn.

Here's how we do it. Give me your casting hand. Lay your arm right on your body here, comfortable. Now take your thumb just up. From your elbow to your thumb - it's going to be one piece. And just stick it. That's half of it. Now the other half is: take it forward and tap. Tap. Tap.

I want you to put your elbow on your knee right here. I want you to stop the rod straight up. And tap.

Three basics only. That's all.

Stop up for the backcast

Go - or drift - for the forward movement

Tap for the forward stop

We're going to say: stop and go. Stop… go… and stop.

Or say: stop and pop. Or: boom, boom.

Keep their interest. Keep each segment short. They have a short attention span. And I'm not much better. Work with each child. Help them get a feel for the cast. If you don't see it - don't be concerned. It will come. Be patient. Constantly give them encouragement.

Call them by name. Keep it personal. And constantly give praise and encouragement. Sooner or later they will learn. It's conditioning.

Have a sense of humor. Even if the punch line bombs. Keep it fun.

Now - where the thumb and knuckles go, the rod tip goes. That's where the cast goes.

And think about this as you end any lesson with young people. We are not just teaching skills. We are preparing children for an activity they can enjoy the rest of their lives. These children will be the future guardians and protectors of our lakes, rivers, and streams.

Key Talking Points

Never teach outdoors in bad conditions - wind, cold, heat kills interest

Never use a big rod - telephone pole rods cause physical pain, end learning

Elbow on knee drill - gets the arm out of the cast

Three basics: stop, go, tap

Cues: stop and go, stop and pop, boom boom

Keep their interest. Keep each segment short.

We are not just teaching skills. We are preparing children for an activity they can enjoy the rest of their lives.

Video 22: Why I Fish with Kids

3-4 minutes | Youth Fishing / Why This Work Matters

Full Script

I want a 20-pound brown. That's been my drive through life.

But do you know what I've learned? The best work is with young people. Because once you understand fly fishing - truly understand it - it will give you a reason to go outside for the rest of your life.

What happens to people if they don't have proper instruction and they don't have any direction and they try it unsuccessfully on their own? Frustrations build. I'll try golf. But when you have instruction - and nothing succeeds like success - and you say, whoa, this is kind of fun - when you catch a fish, you're off and running. You never forget.

I saw these kids so excited. It takes me back to my childhood. My feet would not have touched the ground for probably a month. I would have been so excited. I understand these kids. I understand where they're coming from.

Fishing was the catalyst that moved me from the depth of despair into a whole new life. I was a problem kid. Didn't like school. The only thing I wanted to do was fish. And then that book turned my life around.

"How lucky I have been to make the love of my life my profession."

"Kids are the future of this wonderful sport."

Key Talking Points

Nothing succeeds like success. When you catch a fish, you're off and running. You never forget.

Joe's own childhood: school was a disaster until fly fishing gave him direction

Seeing excited kids: my feet wouldn't have touched the ground for a month

Fishing was the catalyst that moved me from the depth of despair into a whole new life

How lucky I've been to make the love of my life my profession

Kids are the future of this wonderful sport

Warm Waters - Scripts 23 through 28

THE STREAM SCHOOL

Joe Humphreys Video Scripts - Warm Waters Addition

Videos 23-28 • New scripts for the Warm Waters Edition

These six scripts supplement the 22 Trout Track scripts. They are designed specifically for the Warm Waters Edition curriculum but may be used in Trout Edition programs as well. All scripts are written to be delivered by Joe Humphreys or by a trusted narrator if Joe is unavailable. Videos marked WARM WATER are specific to the Warm Waters Edition; videos marked BOTH apply to either program.

Video 23: George Harvey and the Boy with the Broken Leader

Duration: 3-4 minutes **| Use:** Day 1 opening, program welcome, orientation **| Track: BOTH**

Full Script

I want to tell you how I met the man who changed my life.

I was a young boy fishing the Sawmill Stretch of Spring Creek in central Pennsylvania. My fly had come apart - snailed on the leader - and I didn't know how to fix it.

A man was standing nearby. I said, sir, can you help me? He said, no, son, I can't. But he said - that gentleman up there, that's George Harvey. I'll bet he'll help you.

I walked up to him. George Harvey was catching fish after fish in a sulfur hatch. He was one of the finest fly fishermen alive. And he stopped.

He stopped fishing. He looked at my fly. He fixed it the best he could. He put it back together so I could fish with it. And then he sent me back to the stream.

I didn't know who he was that day. I found out later. And over the years - through high school, through the Navy, through Penn State - George Harvey became the greatest influence on my fishing life.

When he retired, he spent a full year teaching me everything he knew. He said: I'm giving you one class. After that, you run it. And I did - for nineteen years.

That story began because one man stopped what he was doing to help a boy with a broken leader.

That is what this program is. Someone stopping. Turning to you. And saying: let me show you.

Whatever water you fish this week - trout, bass, carp, whatever you find - that is what we are doing here. George Harvey did it for me. We are doing it for you.

Key Talking Points

The Sawmill Stretch of Spring Creek - a real place, a real moment

George Harvey: the transmission of knowledge from one generation to the next

The sulfur hatch detail - he was in the middle of great fishing when he stopped

Joe didn't know who George was - the anonymity of the gift

This is the program's origin story - and it applies equally to trout and warm water

Production Notes

Film at or near a stream with a fly rod. Joe in waders or casual dress. Gentle lighting - late afternoon preferred. No rush. This is the foundational video for both curriculum tracks.

Video 24: Why I Fish with Kids - The First Grader Who Taught Me

Duration: 2-3 minutes **| Use:** Day 1 youth engagement, parent orientation, school events **| Track: BOTH**

Full Script

I am 97 years old. And I was still out teaching fifth graders just recently. I've been doing it for about thirty years.

One day, a father brought his first-grade son to join the class. His name was Adrian.

After the casting practice, Adrian pulled me aside. He said: if you want to catch a fish today, here's what you need to do. Use a Woolly Bugger. Fish it down and across. Fish it slow.

I went to the stream with all the children behind me. I made a cast. I felt a fish. I missed it.

I said: I'm going to fish on through and come back for that one.

I came back. I was about to cast. Adrian reached up and grabbed my hand.

He said: this time, set the hook.

Here is a six-year-old - a first grader - telling the old man: this time, set the hook.

I never forgot that. I thought it was so clever, so humorous. And so true.

I love these children. I think about my own experience as a child - I was a disaster in first grade. My teacher had me so confused I didn't know if I was writing forwards or backwards. The only thing I wanted to do was fish.

Fishing reached me when nothing else did. I want to be that for someone else. I want to be the thing that reaches the kid nobody else is reaching.

That's why I'm still out there at ninety-seven. Because of Adrian. Because of all the Adrians.

Key Talking Points

Joe's age (97) and continued teaching - establishes program's longevity

The Adrian story: a child teaching an expert - reversal that sticks in memory

Joe's first grade experience: his struggle with school, fishing as rescue

Connection to parents: this program is for kids who are not reached by the classroom

The emotional core: why Joe keeps teaching

Production Notes

Quiet setting. Joe seated or standing near water. Can also be filmed in a classroom or gymnasium. This video speaks directly to parents and program organizers as much as to students.

Video 25: The Fundamentals - Bill Koll's Lesson

Duration: 3 minutes **| Use:** Pre-fishing orientation, casting introduction, any program day **| Track: BOTH**

Full Script

When I came to Penn State, I spent two years as an assistant wrestling coach under Bill Koll.

Bill Koll wrestled for Iowa State Teachers College. His record: seventy-two wins, zero defeats. Nobody ever took him down. Nobody ever rode him for a minute. Three-time national champion.

He had a saying. He said it to every team, every season. It stayed with me my whole life:

The basic fundamentals, refined to perfection, are your most advanced techniques.

I took that into fly fishing. I apply it every time I teach.

The cast that catches the most fish - the cast I used to take the Pennsylvania state record, a sixteen-pound brown trout, at night, with a pair of big night flies - that is not a complicated cast. It is a short, tight loop. Stopped high. Delivered with precision.

When you are standing in front of a tailing carp in shallow water, or trying to drop a popper behind a fallen log for a largemouth bass, or trying to hit a riffle seam with a nymph - it is always the same thing. Basics. Refined. Perfected.

Don't try to be fancy. Be precise. There's nothing fancy left to learn after you've mastered the short stroke.

Whatever you're fishing today - trout, bass, panfish, carp - go back to the short stroke. Stop the rod. Let the line do the work. That's the whole thing.

Key Talking Points

Bill Koll: 72-0 record - establishes the weight of this advice

Quote in full: 'The basic fundamentals, refined to perfection, are your most advanced techniques'

Applied to the state record catch - connects philosophy to achievement

Applies to ALL species - this video belongs in both editions

Encourages simplicity over complexity in young anglers

Production Notes

Film outdoors with Joe demonstrating the short casting stroke. Slow-motion insert of the stop-and-drop ideal. This is one of the most quotable videos in the collection - keep it short and punchy.

Video 26: Panfish - The Perfect Teacher

Duration: 2-3 minutes **| Use:** Day 1 warm water, school events, first-exposure programs **| Track: WARM WATER**

Full Script

I want to tell you something about bluegill that most people overlook.

Bluegill are not a beginner fish. They are a teaching fish. There's a difference.

A beginner fish is something you catch before you get to the real fishing. A teaching fish is something that shows you exactly what you're doing right and exactly what you're doing wrong, every single time.

When a bluegill refuses your fly, it's telling you something. When it takes it, it's confirming something. The fish doesn't lie.

I grew up catching trout on Spring Creek. But some of my most important lessons about fly presentation came from watching a bluegill reject a fly and wondering why.

Panfish teach you the strike. They teach you the pause before the set. They teach you that a slow, quiet approach catches more fish than a fast, loud one - every time.

My father's family fished for bass with grasshoppers from a bridge over the Susquehanna. That was the only fishing he ever did, until I handed him a fly rod.

Every tradition starts somewhere. Yours might start here, today, with a bluegill on a Woolly Bugger.

Pay attention. The fish will teach you. That's what it's there for.

Key Talking Points

Reframes panfish as sophisticated teachers, not beginner fish

Joe's personal connection: presentation lessons from panfish

Father's bass-fishing origin - warm water heritage in Joe's family

Encourages beginner's mind even in a 'simple' fishing situation

Ends on invitation: let the fish teach you

Production Notes

Film at a pond or lake edge. Can show a bluegill being caught and released. Keep Joe's delivery relaxed and conversational. This video should feel like talking to a grandfather.

Video 27: Reading Warm Water - Structure, Cover, and the Predator's Mind

Duration: 3-4 minutes **| Use:** Day 2-3 warm water, bass introduction, habitat reading **| Track: WARM WATER**

Full Script

In a trout stream, the water shows you where the fish are. You can see the riffles, the seams, the feeding lanes. The current does the organizing.

Warm water looks different. A pond or a lake looks flat, featureless. Nothing visible in the surface tells you where the fish are.

But the water is still talking. You just have to learn a different language.

Bass are ambush predators. They live at edges - where cover meets open water. A fallen log. A dock shadow. The edge of a lily pad bed. A change in bottom depth. A rocky point that drops off into deep water.

Largemouth bass want to be somewhere where they can see their prey before it sees them, and attack before the prey can escape. Find a place like that, and you've found a bass.

Smallmouth bass behave more like trout. They live in rivers, in riffles, behind rocks, in current seams. Everything I teach about reading a trout stream applies directly to smallmouth bass water.

When you approach the water today, don't look for fish. Look for structure. Look for shade. Look for transitions - where one kind of bottom becomes another, where depth changes, where current slows.

George Harvey - my great mentor - had a saying about big fish. He said: big fish don't live in small places. They need room, cover, and a food supply. Find those three things, and you'll find the fish.

The water is talking. Listen to it.

Key Talking Points

Cold vs. warm water reading - contrast establishes the new skill set

Bass as ambush predators - the predator mindset concept

Smallmouth = trout equivalent for warm water readers

Four things to look for: structure, shade, transition, depth change

Attributed to George Harvey: ‘Big fish don’t live in small places’

Production Notes

Film at a warm water location - pond, lake shore, or river bank. Joe pointing to actual structure features is ideal. Include a segment at a dock or fallen log. No fish needed - this is a habitat reading lesson.

Video 28: The Ghost of the Flat - Carp on a Fly

Duration: 4-5 minutes **| Use:** Day 4-5 warm water, carp introduction, advanced students **| Track: WARM WATER**

Full Script

I want to tell you about the most humbling fish in fresh water.

Common carp. The ghost of the flat. Most people walk right past them. Most people think they’re a trash fish. Most people are wrong.

I have caught brown trout over twenty inches in Spring Creek. I have the Pennsylvania state record - a thirty-four inch, sixteen-pound fish that I hunted for three years before I caught it. I have fished across North America and beyond.

The carp has beaten me more times than anything else I have ever fished for.

Here is what you need to understand. A carp feeding in shallow water - head down, tail waving above the surface - can see you, smell you, and feel your footsteps through the bottom. The water is two feet deep and the fish is the size of a small dog and it is completely aware of you before you have made a single move.

The cast must land two to three feet ahead of the fish, in its path, without making a ripple. The fly must sink to the fish’s level. And then you watch - you read the fish’s body language. If it tips down toward the fly, it may take. If it turns away, you’ve failed.

There is nowhere to hide from the truth with a carp. The fish tells you exactly what you did wrong.

That is why I love them. That is why I have been fishing for them for decades.

Bill Koll told me: the basic fundamentals, refined to perfection, are your most advanced techniques. The cast that catches a carp is a short, precise, soft-landing cast. No distance. No power. Just the short stroke, delivered with absolute care.

If you catch a carp today, you have learned something that took me years to learn. If you spook every fish you see - that is also learning. Note what you did. Come back tomorrow and do the opposite.

The ghost of the flat will still be there.

Key Talking Points

Repositions carp as a sophisticated, difficult target - not a trash fish

Joe's state record context: 'the carp has beaten me more times than anything else'

Specific sight-fishing instruction: cast ahead, watch body language, read the response

Bill Koll quote applied to the hardest fishing in the program

Closes on patience and persistence - Joe's core philosophy

Production Notes

Film ideally at a warm river flat or lake shallow with visible carp. Joe wading in polarized glasses is ideal. Include a sequence of Joe spotting, stalking, and casting to a fish (does not need to land). 4-5 minutes is the right length - do not cut the patience sections.

Production Quick Reference - Joe's Essential Phrases

These are Joe's actual words. Use them in every video, every lesson, every program. These are not paraphrases.

On the Short Stroke

"The very short casting stroke are the keys to the kingdom."

On the Cast Sequence

"Stop it. Drift it. Tap it."

"The thumb comes up into the cast forcefully. You stick it. Now you drift your hand forward. And you tap it."

"Right between our eyes."

On the Wrist

"From my thumb to my elbow right here is one solid piece. The wrist never breaks. You never hitchhike."

On Loops

"The tighter the squeeze, the tighter the loop."

"You're not throwing the fly under. You're throwing a tight loop under."

On Fundamentals

"The most basic fundamentals refined to perfection are your most advanced techniques." - Bill Koll

On Teaching Young People

“Keep their interest. Keep each segment short. They have a short attention span. And I’m not much better.”

“Nothing succeeds like success. When you catch a fish, you’re off and running. You never forget.”

“Kids are the future of this wonderful sport.”

On Nature

“Look up. You’ve been staring at the water from the moment we made the first cast. I’d like to stop and live the moment.”

“When you don’t take time to recognize and enjoy it and appreciate it and be thankful - you’re missing part of the game.”

On Conservation

“It starts right here. It starts at home.”

On Life

“The secret of life is having something exciting to look forward to. That is the secret of life. And fly fishing is that.”

“I will continue to teach until I finally reach the bottom of that mountain.”

All language drawn directly from Joe Humphreys’ video transcripts and the documentary Live the Stream (2018). These are his words. Use them exactly.