



Book Review

Fly-Casting Finesse: A Complete Guide to Improving All Aspects of Your Casting

By John L. Field

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www.skyhorsepublishing.com

Author John Field is a Federation of Fly Fishers Certified Master Casting Instructor, president of the American Casting Association, and frequent contributor to fishing magazines. He is also the past president of the New York City chapter of Trout Unlimited.

The intent of his book, *Fly-Casting Finesse*, is “to help the reader catch the fish he or she wants”; it is not a guide to how to catch more fish. Field believes that anglers should learn all casting styles and techniques first, and then be able to adapt for any species and location. They should also know the history and purpose of each presentation so they can be more innovative in their approach to fishing. Field writes authoritatively about finesse and how an educated sense of feeling the rod in the hand can transfer into minimal effort in manipulating one’s rod and line.

The book is designed to help anglers of all skill levels learn how to achieve more and get needed assistance. Accordingly, with the use of photographs, drawings, diagrams, and charts, Field presents chapters on casting mechanics and adaptation, presentation casts and different scenarios, maximizing distance, and tackle. A final chapter, “The Fly-Casting Universe,” provides the historical context for much of the book’s contents. The book concludes with a list of internet casting links, a glossary of terms, a bibliography, and a detailed index.—*Jack W. Berryman*

rience traditional Chesapeake Bay food and culture.

Launching from Somers Cove in Crisfield puts you within an easy run of the main portion of Tangier Sound; in the summer and fall, breaking schools of bluefish and striped bass feed under flocking gulls. Just a short run across the sound, Smith Island and Bloodworth Island offer anglers some of the best shallow-water opportunities on Chesapeake Bay.

Just 2.5 miles north of Crisfield, Janes Island State Park offers clean, comfortable campsites right on the Chesapeake Bay marshland. For kayakers and small-boat anglers, the

channel separating Janes Island from the mainland can fish well, but the creeks and guts, as the locals call them, also merit exploration. Surprisingly large stripers haunt the shallow water here, and some of the year’s largest sea trout typically come from these hard-to-access areas.

A 7- or 8-weight rod handles local game fish, although a 6-weight can be more fun for anglers seriously targeting sea trout. An intermediate line, or a sinking line no denser than 200 grains, is great for working shorelines, and a 300-grain sinking line is ideal for fishing deeper water. Fly selection needn’t be complicated;

local anglers all have their favorites, but you can’t go wrong with Clouser Minnows and Deceivers.

Hiring a guide cuts down the learning curve. Captains Kevin Josenhans, www.josenhans-flyfishing.com, and Chris Karwacki, www.chesapeakeonthefly.com, know the fishery intimately and specialize in saltwater fly fishing. A day with one of them is an incredible way to enjoy this fishery regardless of your experience level. Additionally, each fall Coastal Conservation Association Maryland, www.ccamd.org, hosts its Red Trout Tournament at Tangier Sound, providing a wonderful opportunity to chat with other anglers, explore the fishery, and support the local economy. I’m not exactly a tournament guy, but Red Trout is a unique event in which wild fish are caught and released, anglers enjoy a few drinks and a delicious seafood dinner, and everyone enjoys a great weekend of fishing on Chesapeake Bay.



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