

## Joe Humphreys on Basic Fundamentals, Refined

"The basic fundamentals, refined to perfection, as are most advanced techniques." Bill Koll as quoted by Joe Humphreys.

Hi Gordie,

This past weekend there was a FF show held at Valley Forge Pennsylvania. Being Joe Humphreys' back yard, he was a show draw. My first books on the subject of FF were his and George Harvey's. I took tying classes with George and Casting classes with Joe my first year enjoying the sport. A pretty good foundation to build on. Now I have heard some back in forth over the years about Joe's feelings of the FFF CICP. He has given given it praise and he has offered criticism as well. Joe is deeply passionate about his opinions, as every FF manufacturer knows. I decided to take a casting class with Joe this past weekend. I thought it was a good idea to hear a contrasting POV to what I hear while on my Federation journey of casting excellence. Joe preaches a sermon, I went to watch, listen and learn. My idea was was popular, Two masters and another CI were in the same classes. At the end of the day I could say there is more than one way to skin a cat. I will say it, more than one way, and if the mean justify the extremes, the cat is skinned at days end. At 83 years old Joe is energetic and a blast to be around.

Joe's nomenclature is quite different from the FFF ( glossary?) his adherence to simplicity is charming and he drives it hard. We instructors talk about our " bag of tricks", cures we use when helping our students identify and correct casting faults.

I like to think of my "Bag of tricks to myself" so I am prepared to identify and define myself as an instructor. Joe was my sherbet, the course that was served to cleanse my palette, and prepare me to taste the next course.

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

Michael G

[GH] To sample the flavor of Joe Humphrey's style of teaching as well as his unique terminology, one need only read one of his writings ! \*

\* *On The TROUT STREAM with JOE HUMPHREYS* by Joe Humphreys, 1989, ISBN 0-8117-1156-0.