



Fly Fishing Mastery

**Learn What It To Become
An Expert Fly Fisher**

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A Guide to Fly Fishing

About Fly Fishing

Remember when you were a kid sitting on the bank beside some lake or watering hole with your pole dangling in the water, a night crawler on the hook, hoping a fish would bite? Sometimes you would get a bite and other times you would get just a nibble. Your bait would be gone, but the fish didn't get hooked. People still fish that way. Some may use a boat, but they are still using the conventional method of fishing.

Sitting on the bank of a lake in the Grand Tetons, early on a summer morning, pole in hand and a night crawler on the hook it was very peaceful. It really wasn't one of my favorite things to do. The scenery was beautiful, but I wasn't one for sitting still too long. Then I got the chance to go stream fishing. We didn't go often, but I went every chance I got. I thought the scenery was even more beautiful than the scenery by the lake. My favorite part of stream fishing was walking on the rocks of stream so that I could let my hook and bait float passed the trout that may have been sitting just under a rock. I never caught anything that way, but the attempt was exhilarating.

Fly fishing is another method of fishing. It is well known as a method to catch trout and salmon, but a lot of anglers are now trying to catch different species other than trout or salmon. They are even going so far as to attempt catching one of each different species that can be caught with a fly.

Fly fishing is a challenging method of catching fish. Anglers having been introduced to fly fishing determine that fly fishing is enjoyable. It gives them a way to broaden their angling experience by learning the new tackle, the new language and methods used in fly fishing. They also discover there is no limit to the types of locations you can fly fish. The areas chosen for fly fishing are some of the most scenic places. Even if you do not catch a fish, you will be in awe of the beauty of Mother Nature.

Fly fishing has been around for years. It is noted as having been used by the Macedonians. This information was published in 1496 within The Book of St. Albans, which has been attributed to Dame Juliana Berners. The book also contains instructions on rod, line and hook making, dressings for different flies to use at different times of the year.

Some of the techniques used in fly fishing today were to have been originated on the rocky rivers of Scotland and northern England. Today fly fishing has developed from the horse hairs and silk lines of old to the modern fly fishing lines used today. Today the rods are still being made from bamboo, but the bamboo is cut into thin strips, smoothed and flatten to fit together like pieces of a puzzle and the pieces were then cemented together in order to create a lightweight yet hardy, solid rods.

The fly reels were created not long after. The first ones were rather uncomplicated mechanical pieces of equipment serving as a place to hold the fly line and backing. Some of the reels made today still use the uncomplicated method to make their reels.

Interest in fly fishing reached its highest point in the 1920s and was revived again in the 1950s because of the rise in developing of inexpensive fiberglass rods and the synthetic fly lines. The baby boomers discovered the sport spiking interest in fly fishing. With movies like A River Runs Through It, and the cable fishing shows has kept the image of fly fishing in the forefront of avid anglers. Over the years equipment has changed, and Americans keep coming back.

Choosing a Rod

Now before you run out and buy a fly rod, there are a few things you need to consider. These are some major factors in fly fishing. The first one is the kind of fish you will be fishing for. The rule of thumb is the heavier the fish, the heavier the equipment needed.

The second thing you need to consider is the body of water you intend to fish. Think of the difference between a babbling brook, and a roaring river. The differences are not just the motion of the water, but also the wind, the clearness of the water is, and the distance you will need to cast to catch your target fish.

Last, but not least you will need to consider the action of the rod. Fly fishing rods are made to flex; each different from the other. They can range from slow to fast. In fly fishing it is important to get the feel of the rod. For a beginner probably a rod somewhere in the medium range would be the best starter.

Anglers who have been fishing for years will usually have several different fly rods. Each rod is designed for a specific purpose. A number notes the size of the different rods. The larger the number the larger the rod. It also goes hand in hand with line to be cast. A 3-weight rod is able to cast a 3-weight line, and so on. You will want to remember that the rod is only a continuation of your arm. It is the line that gets cast not the rod. You will also need to keep in mind the weight of the fly. If the fly is too heavy the fly line will sag and will not cast well.

Another feature to consider when purchasing a rod, is the flexibility or the action of the fly rod. With a fast action rod only about 30 percent of the rod will bend. Whereas, with a slow action rod about 90 percent of the rod will bend. A medium action rod is in the middle. The fly rod will bend about 60 percent. The fast action rod will cast farther than a slow action rod. The slow action rod will bend much easier than a fast action rod.

The fly rods have made huge transitions over the years. They started out made out of wood, progressed to split bamboo, to steel, to fiberglass wrapped hollow wooden rods, to the graphite rods of today. With the making of the graphite rods came the faster action rods. The fast action rods are lightweight and use more of the tip to project the fly line. If the line is cast correctly, the rod does all the work for you. It is one of the main advantages of the fast action rod; the person casting does less work.

One of the most important things to remember is NEVER buy a rod that you have not cast first.

Choosing a Reel

You have selected a rod and now it is time to find the right reel to accompany the rod. A fly reel is not just storage space for the fly line. Your rod will help you fight the fish you have hooked, but the reel will help keep you from losing the fish. So, you will need to consider a quality reel. A high quality reel may last a lifetime costing a minimum of two hundred dollars, but a quality reel will last a long time and will cost over a hundred dollars. The cheapest fly reel will cost less than fifty dollars and it will work if you are only fishing for small trout. You will want to choose a reel that is resistant to corrosion. A quality reel will be resistant than a cheap one. The cheap one is likely to have only a coat of varnish on it that will quickly wear off. Another feature to consider will be the procedure of adding an extra spool. You want the procedure to be as simple as possible.

Now is when you will really have to do some reading up on reels to enable you to pick the right reel for your needs.

Retrieval Systems

The retrieval system of the fly reel is not extremely important. It is how the fly reel retrieves the line and how fast it retrieves it.

The single action is the first type; it is the most popular of all the retrieval systems and the most durable. With this reel you turn the handle one full rotation which will turn the spool as well.

The multiplying reel is the second type of retrieval system. The system combines a group of gears so one turn of the fly reel turns the spool itself more than one turn. The line will be reeled in much quicker. Because there are more moving parts involved with the use of this reel, it runs a greater risk of breaking.

The automatic fly reel is the third retrieval system. Some die-hard anglers do not like automation of the reel. They feel as if some of the challenge has been taken away. The automatic fly reel helps in controlling the line. With this system the line is reeled in with a push of a button. The automatic fly reel is heavy and not as durable as the single action because of the motorized system inside the reel. They also don't hold as much backing as other reels and does not allow you to set a changing degree of drag.

The Drag System

Drag refers to the resistance applied to the reel spool. This helps you maintain control of the fish by not allowing it to strip the line away too quickly. You want to maintain enough slack in the line to allow the fish a short distance, but if you give him too much line, you will lose control by allowing the fish to go anywhere. On the other hand if you have the drag set too tight, you run the risk of fish snapping the line or the tippet.

As an angler you will have the choice of two different types of drag systems.

The spring-and-pawl fly reel is the traditional drag system, but it is not perfect for most fishing situations. If you are using light tippets, the spring-and-pawl fly reel is the best for the situation. There is no jerk or uneven tension, if you are using a quality spring-and-pawl fly reel. The line is pulled very smoothly.

If you have a large fish on your line and the fish starts pulling out fly line at a rapid speed, the tension will normally increase and decrease suddenly. If you are using a light tippet, the sudden increase in the tension will part the tippet and your fish will be gone. Although a spring-and-pawl fly reel was designed for very large fish, they don't work as well on the large fish as the newer disc-drag system fly reel.

The newer disc-drag system fly reel is the second type of drag system. The materials used in this type of fly reel cause them to perform as a brake on a car. The drag adjustment on the fly reel adjusts the pad inside the fly reel to move up or down, which applies more or less pressure to the fly line. The only problem with the disc-drag fly reel is the unevenness of the tension is increased when compared to the spring-and-pawl fly reel.

Although the fly reel is not as important as the fly rod, it is important on playing and landing the fish you have on your hook at the end of your line. Prices of reels can range from less than twenty dollars to thousands of dollars. They can be made from

aluminum or titanium and probably several other types of material in between. The more expensive reels are made with the more expensive material. Also the fly reels that are saltwater proof have a hefty price tag on it, but just because the fly reel is expensive doesn't mean it is saltwater proof. If you have plans to use your reel in saltwater, you must have a reel that has protection built in to the reel. Reels that are not protected by a protective coating will seize up because of corrosion. Fisherman that fish regularly in saltwater rinse their reels in clean freshwater after every use, even if the reel has been coated with a protective sealant. When salt water dries, it dries into crystals which adhere to treated or untreated metals.

Choosing a Fly Line

If trout only fed on food on the surface of the lake waters, fly fishing would be easy. Since they feed in water as deep as almost 9 feet, fly fishing becomes a little more challenging. Especially, when it comes to selecting fly line. You need a section of sinking fly lines and also a floating line to sufficiently supply the stillwater anglers tackle bag.

Floating lines actually have multiple uses because of the versatility of the fly line. You can use floating line when fishing with dry flies as well as the fishing nymphs or insect larvae from just below the surface to the deep waters of the lake. Floating lines have their limitations. How deep you can fish with the floating line is dependent upon the length of the leader and the fisherman's patience. A fisherman must wait for the fly pattern to sink to the optimum depth. With leaders as long as 7 ½ feet in length, floating lines are efficient when fishing in waters about 5 ½ to 6 ½ feet. It is extremely difficult to cast if you use a leader longer than that. The floating line can be used in the shallow shoal or littoral area of a lake where trout feed the most and is also a good choice when using fishing chironomid larvae and pupae, mayfly nymphs, damselfly nymphs, caddis pupae or any of the adult form of these species. No matter the length of the leader used just make sure it is tapered. This enables the fly to turn over after you have cast.

The Intermediate slow sinking fly line sinks about 1 to 2 inches per second. When fishing in water that is less than about 6 ½ feet deep, this fly line is a good selection because of the slower sinking rate of the line. Learning to be patient is important for a beginner with the use of this line the amount of time you have to wait for the fly to sink is decreased.

The fast sinking fly line sinks about 3 to 5 inches per second. This type of fly line is perfect for fishing in the drop-off area of the lake. Trout like to occupy these drop-offs because of the cooler water temperature closer to the bottom. This can be very important to the trout during the warm summer months. The plants in most drop-off areas are still photosynthesizing, so the plants are still growing making for the abundance of insect or fish food.

Because a normal drop-off is about 6 ½ to almost 9 feet in depth, the use of the fast sinking fly line makes more sense than a slow sinking fly line. You want to make sure that you are retrieving your line as close to the bottom as possible. So you will need to do some calculating. Time the time it takes for the fly to reach the bottom using the specifications on the package. This will help you know when you should retrieve your line, however, if you are constantly getting snagged on the vegetation at the bottom, you will want to wait less time before retrieving your fly line.

When I was a kid going fishing, I learned absolutely nothing about the equipment I was using. As a kid, you went to the local store. A rod and reel sometimes came in the same package with fishing line already on it. Of course that was the conventional tackle not fly fishing equipment, but I never really knew there were so many different sizes and types of fly line, fly rods or even the fly reels to choose from. The good thing when looking into fly line, even though there are several different manufacturers that make fly line, they all have the same name and classifications for their lines. If you choose a 6-weight fly line from one manufacturer it is the same as the 6-weight fly line from another manufacturer. The difference in the fly lines are in the core, the outer material or how high the floating line ride, if you are choosing a floating line.

In choosing a fly line you must know several factors before making the purchase. What fly are you casting? Is it a wet fly or a dry fly? Will you be making short casts or long casts? Will you be making a delicate presentation or slogging nymphs or streamers?

So while you are taking all of that in, I will tell you about some of the different types of fly lines you will have to choose from. The “DT” line is designed to be tapered at both ends. It started out a budget line. Since both ends are tapered, when one end wore out, you could take the line off the reel and rewind the worn out end first. It has been used for a number of years as a dry fly line.

Then there is a newer line called the “TT” or Triangle Taper, which has a longer distance of taper. It is a good casting line and rolls out smooth. This not only makes it a good dry fly line, but also a great line for roll casting.

The “WFF” also known as Weight Forward Floating line is used for fishing nymphs, streamers, and artificial bait. Some people do use it for dry flies where constant winds cause you fly line to collapse without any additional weight.

“Level” line is used for steelhead or blue-water fishing from boat or shore. It is a specialty distance type of line. It is used as running line for shooting heads. Shooting heads with lead cores can be very heavy.

A “WFS” also known as Weight Forward, Sinking is good for some special uses such as fast bottom fish or lakes. When you start pulling up a full sinking line out of the water and casting the line can be tough. These are the disadvantages to a sinking line, other lines would be able to do the job better.

A floating line with a tip section, about 10 feet or so, will sink and take your fly with it. There are sink-tips that sink fast or very fast and you can also get the ones that sink slow and even slower than that.

It all boils down to matching the type of fish, fly and water you will be fishing in to choose the best line.

Tips for Caring for Your Rod, Reel and Fly Line

Caring for Your Rod

The equipment or tackle for the fly angler has progressed over the years to be the high tech gear that comes with a price tag. Even though your tackle is made from high quality materials, the sport of fishing is performed in the worst circumstances. There

is humidity, salt spray, UV rays, mud, sand, coral and extreme heat. All of these elements can damage your high quality equipment. During normal use your fishing tackle will take a beating. It will suffer scratched on rocks, dropped in the sand, and knocked around on boat decks. Even the fish will push your tackle to the limit. A running fish will make your fly reel spin at extremely high speeds, just imagine the heat the bearings are withstanding.

Of course, you still need to pay the large ticket price for your tackle, but there are some things you can do to help reduce the effects of normal wear and tear, and keep your tackle in good condition so it will last you for years to come.

Let's start with some tips on how to take care of your rod.

Avoid knocking the rod against hard surfaces. Small scratches and nicks can cause damage to the rod.

Always rinse your rod and dry it with a soft cloth after fishing before you put it in its sheath.

You will contaminate the sheath if you put your rod back in it still wet with saltwater. If it can not be helped, wash out the sheath as soon as possible.

Do not use the tube to stow a rod. Humidity can get trapped inside and cause corrosion to the guide rings on your rod.

Check your rod guides often for small scratches or nicks. This can be accomplished by running a wad of cotton through them. Small pieces of cotton will remain behind in small scratches, which means it will also damage any line that runs through it. The guide rings should be replaced immediately.

Check for water seepage under the wrappings for it will corrode the guide ring legs. If rust starts replace the guide rings immediately.

After fishing, wash the rod with lukewarm soapy water and a soft sponge. An old toothbrush will remove any dirt that may collect around the guide rings and the reel seat.

The cork grip on the handle of your rod can be made to look new again. Take a piece of waterproof sandpaper and soap, hand soap will do. Wet the rod grip and sandpaper well and apply soap on the sandpaper and gently rub the grip. Take care not to scratch the rod itself or the reel seat. Rinse, and let dry thoroughly.

If your cork grip has developed small holes, these can be filled in with natural colored wood putty or with a mixture of cork fillings and wood glue.

Once the rod has been cleaned and dried, spray it with a plastic renovator or furnishing spray. A very light coating of fine oil can be applied to the reel seat.

The best way to stow a rod over long periods is to hang it in its sheath on a nail or clothes hanger inside a closet.

Caring for Your Fly Reels

Reels are not 100% corrosion proof. We want our reels to be lightweight and yet we want them to be strong and durable. We want them to look good and resistant to saltwater. Of course the drag must be smooth and have the stopping power of a train. Above all we want them affordable. Reel manufacturers have to make a compromise with the design of the reels. The reels design compromises between what is needed

and what can be done and accomplish it all at a reasonable price. Aluminum is lightweight, but corrodes easy. Titanium is better but unaffordable. So, most are made with aluminum that must be covered with a protective coating. Paint isn't much good in saltwater. A powdered coating is better or anodizing the aluminum. There are many other parts such as screws, nuts, washers, springs, etc. that have to be made from another metal whether it is stainless steel, brass, bronze, etc. Because of the combination of metals corrosion can be caused by electrolysis. There are some simple tips you can follow that will help eliminate the corrosion process.

Avoid dipping the reel in water as much as possible, especially saltwater.

Don't hit the reel against rocks, the boat deck, hard floors, or any other hard surfaces. Bare metal can be exposed with the scratches and dents made in the metal and will corrode.

When fishing on a boat, always place the rod butt down in such a way as to prevent sliding. Using a damp cloth under the butt of the rod is one of the ways you can prevent the rod from sliding.

DO NOT drop the reel in the sand. Sand is a hard surface and can cause scratches to the inner housing. It will also damage the discs and the bearings.

When the boat is moving, put the reel in a place so it is not exposed to the water spray. The force of the spray can get water into the reel where it will affect the bearings.

The housing of the ball bearings is made of stainless steel, but the ball bearings themselves are not. When the bearings corrode they will heat up and seize right in the middle of a fight with the catch of your dreams.

Immediately after fishing rinse the reel under a stream of low-pressure tap water. Remove the spool, shake off the excess water and set aside to dry before putting it back on the reel. If you have been fishing in saltwater upon returning home, give the reel a thorough cleaning with hot soapy water to remove the salt crystals, rinse and dry with a soft cloth. The reel is then ready to be put away for any length of time.

Reels should never be soaked for long periods of time. The fresh water will not remove the salt crystals and the water will start corroding the ball bearings. The cork drag plates can be distorted when soaked in water making a jerky drag.

Follow the manufacturer's instructions when applying new grease and lubricate. A light coating of oil or car polish is required for the housing. If you fish year round in saltwater, this needs to be done at least 4 times per year.

Saltwater reel should be stored empty. The backing can be left on if it has been thoroughly cleaned to remove all of the salt crystals.

Always disengage the drag when storing the reel.

A handcrafted fine leather reel pouch with sheepskin lining should not be used with saltwater reels. They will trap salty moisture and can not be cleaned. As with the rod, a reel should never be put into a pouch wet especially after saltwater fishing. If it happens, the pouch must be cleaned and all the remnants of salt removed.

Store the reel on a shelf in a cabinet not in the pouch.

Caring for Your Fly Lines and Backing

No matter which kind of fly line you choose to use, you will need to take care of your fly line to ensure that it will last you a good long time. Fly line is not indestructible, and it will need a little care and a few precautions to ensure the life of your fly line.

Fly lines get damaged in several ways. Most of the time a fly line will get damaged through mechanical wear and tear. Ripping through the ring guides, getting stepped on, running the line across coral, sand and mud. Even the UV rays from the sun along with excessive heat can be damaging. We can't forget that exposing the fly line to chemical substances, such as suntan lotion, gasoline or insect repellent will damage the fly line. These chemicals can also damage the finish on your fly rod, so you will want to take extra precautions when using these products around your fly fishing equipment.

Fly line manufacturers create the fly line so there is a lubricant inside the fly line coating. The porous coating allows the lubricant to slowly release which will keep the line sticky and leave it with the ability to float. Sand, mud and dirt will clog the pores blocking the lubricant so it can't do its job. It is important to keep your floating line clean.

When the outer coating starts developing small cracks, it will be your first visible sign that a fly line is reaching the end of its life. Once you see the cracks, water will get into the line and the deterioration will progress rather quickly.

Leaving the fly line wound on a small spool, usually the reel, for long periods of time will create line memory. When the line will stay coiled when removed from the spool. If your line is coiled like the tail on a piglet, casting ability is hampered in turn it will affect the fly delivery.

Without proper care a fly line will only last for one season. With the proper care fly line will last for several seasons. It only requires a small amount of effort to take care of the fly line.

When fishing even in clean water there are microscopic particles of dirt that will stick to the floating line adding weight that will prevent the natural tendencies of the line to float. Some manufacturers include cleaner pads in the package with the line. They recommend that the working part of the line be wiped with the cleaner pad every time before it is to be used. The pads clean the surface of that line and leave behind a thin layer of lubricant to assist the line in moving through the rod guides. Other manufacturers suggest washing the line using a mild soap and water and drying with a soft dry cloth afterwards. The floating line will ensure the expected performance of the line no matter how it is cleaned.

Backing hardly needs any maintenance when being used for freshwater fishing, but saltwater can effect the backing along with the UV rays and mildew. Backing should be inspected often for damaged or weak spots. When drying up, salt crystals can encrust the backing together.

Here are some other tips for line care.

Rinse the fly line in tap water before the salt and dirt dry. It should be stored on a large arbour, vented spool until the next fishing trip.

Fly line and backing should be soaked in hot soapy water for several hours several times a year, more if you are saltwater fishing. This will loosen the dirt and salt.

The soap used to clean the fly line should be baby shampoo or natural hand soap.

Read the manufacturer's instructions when apply a silicone based dressing to the fly line. Sometimes they can do more harm than good.

By stretching the line before you take it out fishing, casting the line will be much easier.

Pick up the line rather than dragging it over rocks, sand, docks and deck which will cause damage to the coating.

Try not to step on your fly line.

When you need to practice casting, practice on a lawn, not dirt or asphalt.

When your fly line is not in use, keep it covered not exposed to the sun.

If you are using a double taper fly line, it is best stored on a large arbor, vented spool during you fishing down time. Do not leave on your fly reel.

When twist and kinks develop in your fly line, they can be removed by removing the leader and fly. Allow the line to troll behind the boat for a few minutes. If you are on a river, let it hang in the water. Then take a soft cloth and remove the twists by pulling the fly line between your fingers always from the rear to the front taper. This procedure may have to be repeated to remove all the twists and kinks.

Never store fly line wet. The damp fly line and backing place in an enclosed space can cause the line to become stained and mildewed. This will attack the outer coating resulting in poor casting and floating ability. Fly line is best stored on a large arbor, vented spool.

Catching a large fish is only possible with fishing gear that is in perfect working order. Use these tips to keep your fishing gear in the best condition possible, so that you will not let the BIG ONE get away.

Leaders and Tippetts

A "leader" is a length of tapered monofilament; the thick end is tied to the end of the fly line. The "tippet" is a length of level monofilament, one end is tied to the thin end of the leader and the other end is tied to the fly.

The leaders are about nine feet long and transfer the power of the cast gently toward the fly. A numbering system was designed to match the diameter of the end of the rod because this is the part that is important. When looking for a leader the number system is backwards. The smaller the diameter the larger the number. It makes it easy that the tippetts are number the same way. A 6X leader will fit with a 6X tippet. An end of the tippet is tied to the smaller end of the leader. Most of the knots that develop close to the end of your line near the fly are called "wind knot" and since you get these when casting in the two feet ahead of the fly. The knots weaken things. If the knots develop in the leader, it can get expensive cutting off the knots, and changing flies. By tying on about 2 feet of tippet material, you can save your leader. The tippet material is not expensive and when it gets too short, you can just ties on a new length.

Filling a Reel with Line and Backing

On the loose end of the fly line you will find a tag reading "this end to reel". You can tie it directly to your reel if you prefer or you can add backing to the fly line. Most reels are design to have backing wound onto the reel before the line is. Since the fly line can not fill a reel, backing helps to fill it up. With the backing on the reel first,

the fly line will not reel out in small circles making casting more difficult. Plus you might need the backing if you ever hook a large fish.

Tie the end of your backing to the center of the arbor of your reel with an arbor knot. Wind the backing around the arbor at least two times to ensure it doesn't slip. Tighten it well and carefully reel the backing to about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the top edge of your reel and attach the fly line at the "this end to reel" tag. Tie the backing to the fly line using an Albright knot. Then carefully wind it on the reel. The reel should be full and the loose end ready to be attached to the leader. Tie the fly line to the thick end of the leader with a nail knot. A blood knot is often used to tie on a section tippet material.

Putting it All Together

You have a rod, reel, line and leader; the tippet is optional, now you need to put them all together. Don't rush and put it together just yet. First things first. You will need some paraffin. You can use some from a small white candle or you can buy a block in the canning section of a grocery store. Now rub some of the paraffin on the male parts of the rod. This will keep the sections from coming loose and will also keep it from getting stuck together. The sections can break if they come loose, and when they stick together, it seems like they have been glued. Any excess paraffin can be wiped off, so don't worry about using too much.

Next, we are going to put on the reel. No, we are going to put the rod together yet. Below the handle on most rods there is a reel seat. The reel fits into the reel seat. One piece of the reel that looks like a foot slides into a slot on the reel seat. The reel is fastened to the rod with the sliding or screw rings.

Before you attach the reel, you may want to decide which hand you want to turn the reel handles with. If you set the reel with the handles on the right or the left side of the reel and find it does work well for you, you can always change it. Most right-handed people will cast with their right hand and reel with their left.

Now we are going to put the rod together. First you start with the eyes misaligned and twist the sections together. After you have done that make sure they are all aligned. This will seat them properly. Check your rod section often to make sure they have enough paraffin. The paraffin will wear off during the course of a season.

Okay, your rod is together; your reel is filled and attached. Now place the butt of the rod on the ground, fold a small loop in the fly line and poke it up through the guides. The tiny little loop by the cork is a hook keeper, do not run line through it. When you get to the ring guides closer to the top of the rod, you will want to angle the rod enabling you to finish stringing the rod.

Now you will need to hold the tip of the rod with your right hand and carefully pull out the leader and the fly line. Rods can be broken during this time. So take extra care when pulling the fly line beyond the tip. After picking up the rod, pull line straight off the reel toward the stripping guide, not against the edge of the reel. The fly line will be damaged if you pull the line against the edge of the reel. Now, you are ready to cast.

Casting for Beginners

The Casting Grip

Hold out your hand as if you are going to shake someone's hand. Think of that when you grip the rod, and place your thumb on the top of the rod grip. You will need a good grasp on the rod so hold it firmly. As you are learning to cast keep the rod butt in line with your forearm. The rod needs to be in that position when you cast. If the rod deviates from that position during the cast the tip will wander; the line will follow the tip. All of this wandering will spoil the cast.

Pull the line straight off the reel and up through the ring guides. Keep it going out the tip of the rod. Tie a 9-foot leader onto the end of the line with a tube knot or a nail knot. Tie a small piece of yarn to the end of the leader. Assuming that your practice field is a lawn as has been recommended, stand on the lawn with your feet spread slightly apart. Pull line straight from the reel about 20 feet and lay it on the lawn to the right of you (to the left if you are left-handed). The line needs to be pulled straight on the grass with no S curves in it. You need the line straight for a good cast.

Your First Cast

The principles of casting will always stay the same. The first cast you need to learn is the side arm cast before progressing to the other types of casting. The horizontal side arm cast starts by flicking the tip of the rod forward from your right to your left (if you are right handed). Watch as the line forms a loop before rolling out to your left to settle on the grass. Starting from your last finishing position, use your forearm and a flick of your wrist, as if you were throwing a Frisbee. Flick is first back to your right starting position and then to the left again. When casting to your right or your left, try to make the line form a candy cane. The loop is your end results of your cast. The tighter the loops, the better the cast. As you continue to flick the rod back and forth, keep your wrist firm and stop the rod sharply after each flick. Stopping the rod is the action that causes the loop to form in the line. It also causes the rod tip to release the energy you put into it on the line. You must practice stopping the line to become a good caster.

Once you have practiced long enough to feel comfortable with the rod and the line try casting at a 45-degree angle and then try casting vertically. You will achieve a different end result for each position of casting. At some point you will be using them all when fishing. You will want to practice enough that your stance becomes second nature, so pick one that works best for you. The sidearm cast is good to help you learn timing and loop formation because you are able to watch the line better.

Aiming the Cast

Assuming you are still practicing on your lawn, for a short cast you will aim about 4 feet above the lawn or water. As you try for a longer cast, you will have to aim higher to allow more time for the line to reach the target. Learning to hit your target with your cast is the label of an expert caster. Much of your time practicing should be at aiming and hitting the target on your lawn. Within your first hour of practice, using this exercise, you will be able to hit your target from 15 to 30 yards away. Casting takes practice to become an expert. So practicing every day for about 15 to 20

minutes and before you know it you will be an expert caster. When practicing you might want to keep these pointers in mind.

Protective glasses or polarized sunglasses will help to prevent an eye injury.

When practicing your casting, attempt longer and longer distances with the piece of yarn on the hook, but only after you have mastered smaller distances.

It doesn't hurt to have your casting critiqued by someone who is more of an expert than you are. You will probably learn some pointers.

Here are some of the errors often made in casting and how to improve them.

Problem: Back cast not staying in the air.

Fault: The tip of the rod is pointing too low, making the cast go straight down.

Correction: Keep your wrist firm when you stop the rod while it is high.

Problem: Distorted loops

Fault: Putting too much force or rushing the cast

Correction: Slow down when casting and try not to use so much force. Give the line time to become completely straight after you pull the line backward before you start projecting the line forward.

Problem: The fly breaks the fly line when pulling the rod and line back.

Fault and Correction: It is the same as for the distorted loop.

The Importance of Casting

If you can't cast your line, then you can not fly fish. Fly fishing is all about casting. Any kind of fishing is all about learning the proper technique to do that kind of fishing. If you want to succeed at fly fishing you must learn how to cast. Casting is all about landing the fly so that it appears to be a natural fly landing on the water. Anything less is just grabbing some rays, enjoying the scenery and you will have a sore arm for your efforts.

To those that fly fish, fishing is all about "hope". They "hope" to have a good time. They "hope" to catch a fish. And they "hope" to feel that connection with nature. They feel it is a waste of their time to fly fish with the ability to cast. There is a rule of thumb to follow when casting. First, you must STOP the rod, to make the line GO. If you are still having trouble with your casting, you can always watch a video about casting, or read a book about the techniques or last but not least, take a class. The people who take these classes range from the raw beginners to the experienced. Even the experienced can have casting faults they have not been able to correct. Chances are good that what ever your level of ability in casting is there is someone else in the class that is in the same boat you are.

Casting Basics

If you are use to spin casting, then you will know that the weight of the lure pulls the line. However, in fly casting the weight of t he line carries the fly. So in learning to fly cast you must learn to use the rod to cast the weight of the fly line. With these basic principles you will be able to accomplish that quickly.

The line follows the direction the rod tip is pointed during the cast.

Fly casting is based on timing not on strength. Practicing the timing of the cast is on the road to being a good fly caster.

The fundamentals of good fly casting are the correct stroke and stopping of the rod. You as the caster load the energy into the rod during the cast stroke. The energy is then released by the rod into the line during the cast. The amount of energy loaded into the rod by the caster makes the cast. Short casts need small low energy stroke, and so on.

Casting arcs are small for short casts and large for large casts.

Stopping the rod after the casting stroke is important to forming the casting loop plus it gives the rod the opportunity to unload and cast the line.

Fly fishing rarely need to cast more than 50 feet when fishing, however becoming proficient at long-distance cast will improve your overall casting. Once you have mastered the shorter distance then keep adding more distances to your cast. Master a distance before progressing to a higher distance.

Learning the Roll Cast

The roll cast is necessary when there is some thing behind you that would prevent you from doing a back cast. The key to the roll cast is proper timing and controlled application of energy.

Step #1 - Begin with the rod tip parallel to the water's surface.

Step #2 - Lift your arm up-and-back in a slow and smooth movement, allowing the line to come toward you across the water.

Step#3 - Tip your wrist back until the rod is in the one o'clock position and the line hangs by your side.

Step#4 - Make a karate-chop forward motion to roll the line out in front of you. Stop high to give air to the line. Stop low to keep it on the water.

To make a roll cast, begin with the rod tip parallel to the water's surface. Lift your arm slowly and smoothly in a back and up direction until your hand is next to your face, with your wrist tipped back of the rod is in the one o'clock position. It is critical that you do not put the line in the air because it must slide smoothly across the water until it hangs by your side. To prevent the line from tangling with the rod, tip your rod arm slightly away from your body. Once the line has stopped sliding toward you, make a karate-chop forward motion to roll the line out in front of you. Because the line is held by water tension, extra down and forward speed is needed in contrast to the overhead cast to achieve the same distance. Do not slap the water with the tip of the rod in an attempt to break the water tension. Just add speed during the acceleration of the cast. Everything else stays the same.

The roll cast is not limited to offering the fly. It is also used when there is too much slack in the line or the sinking tip line makes a pick up hard. A quick roll cast will straighten out the slack in the line and help lift immersed line to the surface, which allows you to make a normal pick up in the air to offer the fly, or for a second roll cast.

The roll cast is also good in situations of casting to spooky fish that won't tolerate line spray or false casting. This give you the opportunity to feed the line down until you

have enough line to reach the fish. Now you will make a down current roll cast, stopping high enough to put the line in the air. When the roll is complete, before the line falls into the water, you turn and make one accurate up current cast to the fish. This move reduces line spray over the fish, and allows for only a single cast to be made.

The roll cast is a good casting technique to have in your repertoire. It can be used in several difficult situations. By learning to use the many aspects of the roll cast, you will be on your way to more successful fly fishing.

Choosing the Best Waders for You

Do your homework before you go shopping for a pair of waders. Do not go to the nearest sporting goods department of a large department store and buy a pair. You might want to consider are you buying these waders just for fishing or will use them when you duck hunt? Most people can only afford to buy one pair of quality waders, so you will want to think of these things before making a purchase. If you will be fishing more than you will be hunting, then the type of wader along with the thickness and color of the wader will be important. You will also want to consider the type of fishing you will do. It would stand to reason if you are fishing from a boat, you don't need waders. The same holds true if you are out hunting more days than you will be out fishing. What is the temperature of the water going to be the largest part of the time when you have waders on? You will probably prefer to be a little warm on a hot day than extremely cold on a chilly one.

There are several different types of materials waders can be made from giving you a variety to choose. This is where you really want to keep in mind where you will be when wearing these waders.

Neoprene is probably one of the most popular wader materials. It is very durable; it will withstand a fair amount of abuse. It comes in different thickness. The Neoprene is available in a variety of colors. You can choose from the more traditional dark brown to green, blue and even camouflaged. With the exception of the dual purpose of hunting and fishing where camouflaged might be the wisest choice, color does not make a difference. It is your own preference that counts.

Breathable waders have grown in popularity over the last few years. In some cases they are replacing the Neoprene waders. Breathable waders are constructed from a permeable membrane such as Gore-Tex®. This material allows moisture to escape through the wader even in water. One of the other advantages to the breathable wader is the fact they can be worn in the hot summer months and sweat won't be a problem. Also, they can be worn in the cold winter months with warm clothing underneath while you stay dry and warm in the water.

Nylon waders are also a good choice for the beginner fly fisherman. Nylon waders are better than the rubber waders most beginners start out with these waders. The nylon wader is going to be lightweight. They will keep you warm and dry, but they can get hot because they are not breathable. If sweat builds up during the winter months clothes will get damp or even wet. Hypothermia can be a problem because of the extreme cold in the winter months or even in the summer month when standing in an ice cold mountain stream for an extended amount of time.

Rubber waders are still an option, but they are fast losing ground as the price of the Neoprene and the breathable waders come down. However the price can be attractive to those on a tight budget, but even with that you might consider the advantages you would be giving up with the rubber waders. They are not breathable, there is no flexibility, and rubber waders tend to weight more than the other types of waders. The construction of the waders can also pose as a safety hazard. Always make sure you are wearing a belt with rubber waders. Belts are needed for all the waders, but especially for the rubber ones.

Once you have selected the type of material you want your wader to be. It is time to look into the fit of the wader. Keeping dry and warm is an important factor with waders, but having them fit right has got to be second on the list. In ill-fitting waders you will be uncomfortable to the point of tiring easily. This could easily lead to a wading accident. Also, ill-fitting waders can restrict your movements while trying to climb rocks, climbing in or out of the boat which could also contribute to a wading accident or a fall causing bodily injury or equipment damage.

You don't want waders that fit too tight. You want them loose enough to layer clothing during those cold winter months. Plus during that hike 1-mile hike to your fishing spot, you won't be fighting with your waders.

Now days we do a lot of ordering from the Internet, so finding the right fit could be a little more challenging. You could email the owner of the site giving them your height, weight and shoe size and they should be able to fit well. If you go to the nearest Bass Pro shop or another store, you will be able to try them on. Make sure to do a couple of knee bends and walk around a little bit. Are you able to put your foot on a stool in them? Double-check the length of the waders. You don't want waders that are too long because you will have folds, which can rub and wear out causing leaks.

The boot and sole selection is about the same as the wader selection. You will have to consider again what the waders will be used for. In what kind of outdoor conditions will the waders spend most of their time? The boot foot waders are waders with the boot attached. If you will be spending a large amount of time in cold weather and water, these waders would be your best choice. They will provide the best protection during those cold winter months and you won't have to worry about sand and gravel getting into your boots, so gravel guards won't be necessary. The built in boots have no laces, they are low maintenance and are very easy to put on and take off.

The most popular wader seems to be the stocking feet waders. They weight less than the boot foot wader does and you are able to wear different soled boot for different terrain. The stocking foot waders have a neoprene sock attached to the bottom of the wader. You do however have to stop and clean out your wading boots if sand and gravel get in there. If not cleaned properly, the sand and gravel can wear holes into the foot of your wader resulting in leaks. When buying boots for these waders, you will want to buy lugged sole boots for fishing in muddy-bottomed water and felt soles on rock or gravel-bottomed waters.

When choosing a wader, buy a good name brand, or if you know someone that has had good results with waders try that brand. I know you don't want to hear this, but there is no guarantee that your brand new waders won't leak. If you purchased a wader from a good manufacturer, they will stand behind their products. To be on the safe side, check that out before you make the purchase. Make sure you read and follow the manufacturer's instructions on the care and proper storage of your waders and boots, if you want them to last a long time.

Read Your Surroundings

Experienced fishermen carefully watch or "read" the water. They will fish the areas that have all the requirements the fish want and skip over the areas that don't have everything the fish need. So, what keeps fish in a certain part of the water? Fish like the rest of us have basic needs these are food, cover, and a resting place. Fish sometimes will look for warmer water in the spring when the water is uncomfortably cold and sometimes they will look for cooler water in the summer when water temperatures rise. When fish are looking for warmer water they will go to a shallow area of the stream where the sun has warmed up the temperature of the water a few degrees. In the hot summer time they will look for the mouth of a small feeder spring where the water is cooler. These are examples of fish seeking comfort. It is helpful when you are fly fishing if you will start thinking like a fish.

Since you are thinking like a fish, now let's find out what they will bite at. Forget the notion that one fly works better than the others. Some of the flies may work better in the summer than other flies because the flies you are using are around that time of the year. Trout may bite at hoppers during the month of August because hoppers are around that time of year. If you tried them in March, the fish won't bite them. The fish will only eat what they see on a regular basis.

One of the first steps to becoming a successful fly fisherman is not fishing. You need to observe what is going on around the area you want to fish. Watch how the fish are behaving, what they are doing. Look around for clues that any new hatches that have occurred. Check on and around the grass stems and weeds near the shoreline for clues of a recent hatch. Stonefly nymphs crawl out of the water to hatch into adults. The transformation will occur on a grass stem, weed, rock or anything close to the shoreline. Mayflies shed their outer covering after they hatch. This also happens on grass and weeds. Look around for clues. You might also look for any aquatic insects crawling around on nearby bushes. The bushes are a great hangout for aquatic insects that have recently hatched and are waiting until it is their time to lay eggs. When you see a lot of a certain kind of insect hanging around the bushes, you will know that to use that particular insect pattern imitating that insect will do well when fishing with them in the stream.

You can get other clues by watching the fish. If they are rising to the surface to catch flies, maybe you can see what kind of fly they are eating. If you don't see the fish rising, it maybe a nymph would work better. Nymphs are available to the fish all of the time.

Make a net of fine mesh stretched between two rods. This tool will also help you determine what is floating in the stream. Stretch the net across the water near the

shore and then do the same thing in the middle of the stream. The results might differ some, but if you see a lot of the same type of insect in both nettings, you'll have a good idea of the type of bait you should be using.

Get a notebook to record your findings for future references. You might be surprised to see that the findings you found the first year match what you find on the second year for the same time of year and the same water spot. In a couple of years you will have a good database for you to use when selecting flies for upcoming fishing trip.

Fifteen minutes of your time spent looking for clues versus several hours of catching nothing during your next fishing trip. All it takes is a few minutes of watching without a fly rod in your hand.

Most of the fly fishermen started out as conventional fishermen with a spin cast rod rather than of a fly rod. So it is only natural that the things you learned in conventional fishing you would try in fly fishing and "hooking them" should be one of them. So if you haven't learned how to hook a fish with a fly rod, you need to start now.

Although a fly rod seems flexible, you should not stagger backward with the rod on the strike. The rod will probably break. Take things a little easier. A spinning line will stretch like a rubber band where as a fly line will not. Since you will be using a smaller and lighter wire hook than in spinning, they require almost no "hook setting" at all.

In fly fishing you want to wait for the fish to turn down after taking a surface fly. With nymphs you can still do this when you can see the color of the fish. When you see the color flash that is when you tighten up on the line. Beginners have the problem of taking the fly away from the fish. They see the fish rise up to the fly and then jerk the rod back to set the hook. They have jumped the gun so to speak.

You will have more success hooking when you have cast upstream and as the fly floats back a fish will take it. You will have a better chance at hooking a fish in the corner of the mouth.

Hooking in lakes is a whole other ball game. When the fly is dead drifting on the surface and you see a splash tighten up your line. If you can tighten up on the line without lifting the rod, you have a better chance of not taking the fly away from the fish. If you are fishing in deep water, you won't have any problems you will feel the fish.

As time goes by you will get a feel for it all, but until then this will help get you started.

About Fishing Knots

Tying an Arbor Knot

This knot is used to connect the backing to your reel's arbor. If tied correctly, the knot will not allow the backing to come loose from the arbor.

Step 1 - Tie an overhand knot in the tag end of the backing.

Step 2 - Pull the overhand knot tight.

Step 3 - Grasping the line a few inches above the tag end, tie an overhand knot around the main line.

Step 4 - With a pair of nippers, trim the left over tag from the first overhand knot.

Step 5 - Grasping the frame of the reel with one hand, pull out on the main line with your other hand tighten the knot. When tied correctly, the finished knot should clinch the arbor firmly. With the end of the backing connected to the arbor, you can now wind the remaining backing onto the spool.

Tying a Double Surgeon's Knot

The Double Surgeon's Knot is a quick and easy knot to tie with cold and frigid fingers. It is the knot most used for tying the leader and the tippet together.

Steps 1 - Start by straightening out the sections of line you wish to join. Stretching them a bit will help get rid of the memory in the line. Once they are straightened, lay out 6-8 inches of each line so they overlap.

Step 2 - Holding both ends of the overlapped sections, form a loop.

Step 3 - While pinching the line together, bring the tag ends of both lines through the loop. This is the same motion you make when crossing your shoelaces, placing one under the other, before you tie the bow.

Step 4 - Run the tag ends through the loop for a second time.

Step 5 - Moisten the knot, the knot is now ready to tighten.

Step 6 - With even pressure on all four ends, pull the lines outward to tighten the knot. The resulting knot should be compact and tight. A light tug on the two sections that have been joined together. This will ensure the knot is secure and that both lines are joined together. Using a pair of nippers, clip the tag ends close to the knot.

More about Fish Knots

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Fishing Line

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www.TheFishingSite.net

About Artificial Flies

It is important when fly fishing to choose the right fly pattern. The fly was invented to mimic flying insects, but has changed. As information was uncovered about the diet of trout and other species, the lures and flies adapted also. These can be aquatic larvae and pupae, eggs, worms, freshwater shrimp, grasshoppers, crickets, crawfish, nymphs, caddis, leeches, etc. Then there are the attractors, which were made to attract the fish's attention and lure them to a group of artificial flies. The bass popper is a type of topwater attractor fly. Another type of fly is the streamer, a long-tailed hair or feathered lure tied to simulate a leech or a minnow, and is used to fish below the surface of the water.

At one time flies were identified by the target fish, but as the sport of fly fishing became more popular in the United States, a debate ensued regarding Dry Flies versus Wet Flies and Nymphs. Today trying to identify the types of artificial flies is much more complicated. Fly fishermen no longer just fly fish for trout, salmon and maybe bass as they did at one time. They now target over 100 species of fish around the globe in a variety of different types of water. The fly fishermen needed a wider range of artificial flies. The market is now using synthetic materials rather than the natural materials to construct the artificial flies.

A woolly bugger is a streamer. Fishermen think they appeal to fish better than most because just about every kind of fish will bite with a woolly bugger on the hook. The woolly buggers are a very simple streamer to make. A feather from a marabou is tied to a 2X hook. A piece of chenille is then swathed around the remainder. A hackle is then wound on the chenille body. When it is completed, it has the appearance of a fuzzy worm when it is dry. When it is wet the fuzzy look is gone, replaced by the look of a slick baitfish.

Although the Woolly buggers are available in several colors, the buggers made with the colors black, olive, and tan are the ones chosen by fishermen the most. When fishing in deep water, the white woolly bugger is the one chosen the most often. This is because the woolly bugger looks so much like a swimming fish when it is pulled rapidly through the water.

You can get woolly buggers with or without a weight. The basic woolly buggers are very light in weight and will skim across the surface of the water.

The Figure 8 Retrieve

One of the problems that face the beginner fly rod fisherman is gathering the line during the retrieve. It is important for the line to be under control at all times. A fisherman would not be able to set the hook or have his line in a position for the next cast. When wading in moving water, one must hold the line to keep the loose line from moving downstream with the current. There are various methods used by fly fishermen for this purpose. With the rod in one hand, the fishermen will use the stripping hand (opposite from the rod hand) as a retrieving or stripping hand. They will keep the line in loose coils on the fingers of the stripping hand or they will use a

hand twist to gather the line and retain it in the palm of the stripping hand. If an orderly fashion is not used, tangles will occur when trying to release the line on their next cast.

The figure 8 is a way to retrieve the line. It allows you to store the line in your hand and will easily spiral off during the next cast without any tangles.

Step 1 - Reach forward and drape the line over the forefinger of the stripping hand, and then under the remaining three fingers.

Step 2 - Tilt your hand downward and route the line back between the second and third fingers.

Step 3 - By wiggling your fingers; this will work the line back toward your palm. The line is now in the form of a figure 8.

Step 4 - To shoot or release the line simply straighten out your fingers. This line will spiral off without tangling.

Step 5 - Repeat these four easy steps while wiggling the fingers to work the line back toward the palm to accommodate more line.

When you have a fish on the line, hold the line with one finger of the rod hand. Shake the spirals off the retrieving hand, and wind in to get the fish on the reel. The drag can then be used to control the running fish.

Glossary

Arbor - The arbor is the center of a fly reel spool. The arbor acts as the core of the reel spool. If you have backing, it will be tied right to it. Some people are confused when they refer to the arbor as a spool.

Attractor pattern - The attractor pattern are flies that do not resemble any insect and are used to attract the attention of the fish.

Backcast - The backcast is pulling the rod toward to end up behind you before bringing the rod forward again to complete the cast. Fly line can be picked up directly from the water that lies in front of you with a backcast. While the rod is moving backwards, you must stop the rod abruptly to enable the whole length of the fly line to straighten while it is behind you.

Backing - Backing is fishing line that is added to your fly reel before adding fly line. Backing comes in 20- and 30-pound test. The backing is attached securely to the arbor of the fly reel and is wound on. The end is securely attached to your fly line.

Chenille - Chenille is used to make flies and streamer. It looks a lot like a pipe cleaner with thread in the middle instead of wire. Chenille is usually tied to a hook and wound around the remainder of the hook to resemble an insect's body. Chenille

can be thin or thick and have strips of a glittery material blended in giving it the look of an insect with legs.

Dead Drifting - A technique used by fishermen. After casting upstream they allow the fly to float freely downstream being carried along by the current.

Drag -. Fly reels are equipped with a working part called a drag, which allows a fish to pull line off the reel to minimize the chance of breakage. It helps reduce the pressure on the leader and prevent it from getting to the point where breakage can occur. The drag needs to be set before snagging that first fish and remain in that position for the duration.

Dropper - A dropper is used at the same time along with other flies. The main fly is usually the attractor pattern whose purpose is to capture the attention of the fish. Short section of tippet is added to the main fly. One more fly is then added to the end. The tippet is either attached to the bend of the hook or to the middle of the main fly. Fly fishermen call this set-up a dropper rig.

Dry Fly - A dry fly is lightweight to enable it to float on the water. They are fashioned with a ring of hackle feathers to keep them afloat. The hackle feathers must be treated with some kind of waterproofing treatment to keep them floating.

Hackle - A hackle is a feather from a chicken's neck or back that is used by fly tiers. When wound around the shaft of a hook, the individual fibers of the feather imitate the tiny legs of an insect.

Leader - A leader is a piece of almost invisible monofilament line that is attached between the fly line and the fly. By using a leader on the end of their fly line, fishermen have a better chance at fooling the fish. Usually the leaders are 9 - 12 feet in length, but they don't have to be exact. It is up to the preference of the fisherman.

Nymph - A nymph is the worm or maggot looking stage of a marine insect, such as a mayfly. Nymphs must spend at least a year subsurface before they are ready to hatch and are a preferred portion of the rainbow trout's diet. Fish that prefer warm water will also eat nymphs. Nymph flies behave just as insect larvae. The nymph flies will sink and are used to catch fish while they are underwater.

Pattern - A pattern is used to describe a type of fly bait and usually is an indication of how the fly bait was tied.

Presentation - A term used to depict the conveyance of a fly to a target.

Sculpin - A sculpin is a small fish, which prefers the cooler waters of some streams and lakes. They can be found northern portion of the continent. Just like the brown rainbow and other trout they can grow much larger. They mainly survive on a diet of insects and sometimes, small fish.

Sink Tip Line -- A sink tip line is a fly line having section of the line that float and a section of line that sinks. Since only the middle of the line floats, it makes picking up the easier.

Spool - 1) The circular portion of a fly reel, which is the place where the backing and the fly line is wound and attached. Fly reel spools can be change out if necessary. It requires removing the spool from the outer casing. Fly fishermen own several spools supplied with line for each fly reel they own. This allows the fly fisherman to replace the spools they are using to another type of fly line. 2) Thread, fishing line and tippet line comes wrapped on small, plastic spools.

Split Shot - Split shot originated by the frontiersmen need a fishing weight to allow the hook to sink underwater. They used their lead bullets also known as shot from their shotguns. They would cut a small slit into the bullet and place it on their fishing line. The split shot of today is not unlike that of days long ago. They are round weights with a slit in it to allow the fisherman to attached it to his fishing line, for the purpose of making the line sink deeper.

Streamer - A streamer is a fly that fishermen pull rapidly through the natural flow of the waters. Streamers usually copy the action of a small baitfish or leeches. Woolly Buggers, Mickey Finns and sculpins are some of the more popular streamers used by fishermen.

Strike Indicator - A strike indicator is anything that is attached to your leader to let you know when a fish is at your line. The type of material need is some thing that floats and is visible from a distance.

Stripping - Stripping is the returning of your fly line to your non-rod hand.

Tapered Leader - The gradual decrease of the thickness of the leader from the site of its addition to the fly line to the tip, where the fly is attached. Some fishermen will construct their own taper leaders by attaching together leaders of varying thickness, however they can be purchased from your local fly shop.

Tippet - A tippet because it is much less expensive than leaders are attached to the leader to help defray the cost when section of the leader would have had to be removed to a tangle or any other unforeseen mishap.

Wet Fly - A fly used to fish underwater. Good examples of wet flies include nymphs and streamers.

Writers

John Gierach - The talented fly fishing writer of the 1990s and the early 21st Century. Author of numerous anecdotal and technical books on fly fishing.

Arnold Gingrich - Founding editor of Esquire Magazine, Gingrich's "The Fishing in Print" (1974) is the most complete review of angling literature ever written up to its time. Gingrich also authored "The Joys of Trout" (1973) and "The Well-Tempered Angler" (1965)

Innovators

Bernard "Lefty" Kreh - Creator of the "Lefty's Deceiver" style of streamer, renowned casting instructor and author, popularized a more open position side armed style of casting commonly used by many salt water fly fishermen.

Gary Bulla - Renowned guide and teacher of saltwater fly fishing and California fly fishing in the surf. Pioneered salt water and kayak fishing expeditions to Baja California, Mexico.