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Subject: : Gear Talk

Topic: : silk fly line

Re: silk fly line

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URL:

I have a bunch of silk lines, though no Terenzios (yet). I mostly use plastics though. As gene says, maintenance is no big deal. It's probably a sin, but I use silicones as well as the red tin Mucilin; and the lines float ON the water, tip and all, not IN the water as do all the plastics, even the ones with microballoons.

This makes a difference if you roll cast pickup and like to mend without inducing microdrag. The thin diameter makes the line cut through the air better. When I switch back to plastic, the line feels like it's floating around in the air above and behind me, which is a bit unsettling and makes me less certain where my backcast is.

I dry out the lines on the way home by stripping it out on my back seat.

I'm ecumenical with rod substrates, since I like plastics (glass old and new as well, in addition to a mess of real borons - not just the ones marketed as such by Winston [not a knock since they are my favorite production rod maker in cane, glass and graphites]). There are many more taper possibilities with cane since a maker doesn't have to worry about pulling the mandrel out of a hollow tube, so cane can produce a much wider range of sensuous actions.

I consider my canes MORE durable than hollow plastic tubes, most especially the super fast Generation XXX's - these I love to cast, but they are not as good in the main as fishing, especially catching and landing, instruments. If I'm floating in a boat with a metal gunwale, I will not use a high modulus graphite - this is the realm of Hexagraphs or the old Fenwicks and Orvii that were built like tanks.

To illustrate the catchability factor, I was Tricoing this last few weeks, and one session with an 8'3wt Loomis IMX would deliver only about a 50% landing rate, while the 7'6" 3wt hollow hex Sigman landed the first eight (have to check my tape for the rest of the results - the would-be ninth decided my tippet belonged in a logpile and my mind got distracted on some other metrics).

BTW, both silk lines and the right bamboo rods have an ineffable feel that plastics just do not have, even Russ Peaks or those from the many incredibly fine modern makers.

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