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Subject: : Gear Talk

Topic: : Good Small Stream Rod

Re: Good Small Stream Rod

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So, now we have lots of complicating factors (all valid). Summary.

Taper differences ensure that line weights cannot be standardized on a per foot basis. An aggressive taper will vary more than a modest one. For instance, an aggressively tapered 4 wt line at 10 ft might be equivalent to a flat 6 wt at 10 ft. At 50 ft, it may act more like a flat 2 wt line at 50 ft. While a more modest taper might will have a lesser differential, maybe a 5 wt in close and a 3 wt out far. A flat line should always act like what it says it is.

Ratings are merely "guidelines", not rules, and in the age of marketing are abused often. Not all rods nor lines are rated as they should be.

The rod itself can create the effect of a heavier line by being slower action, and vice versa.

The caster can create the effect of a heavier line by accelerating the casting stroke, and vice versa (I think we all instinctively know this one, even if we don't know we know it :)).

Any rod should be able to handle multiple line wts at multiple distances. i.e. a 5 wt will likely do just fine with anything from a 3 wt to a 7 wt line anywhere from 15-45 ft, any improvement at a specific distance is marginal.

Bottom line: Experiment with your equipment, at the distance and in the situations you expect to use it. Forget what's printed on the rod or line, go with what performs the best.