Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum
Topic: : small stream fishing
Re: small stream fishing
Author: : pcray1231
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URL:

I can understand the FUN of light rods, like 2 and 3 wts, on big or little water. But I never understood the notion that small stream = finesse. The opposite typically seems true to me.

If you're on some larger, slower spring creek, with ultra picky trout, feeding selectively on midges, in complicated micro-currents, well, that's finesse time. I get it. When I picture the epitome of finesse fishing, I picture the Letort.

But on a small stream, in a rhodo tunnel, with a fast tumbling stream and overly aggressive fish that'll hit anything if you just get it to them before spooking them, this is the opposite of finesse to me. This is about powering a super tight loop with no backcast through a tiny window, taking leaves and branches with it if necessary, to splash a large dry down somewhere in the sort of general vicinity of the non-picky, non-line shy, non-drag shy trout that'll move all the way across a pool to hit a poorly presented offering. Ok, exaggerating a little. But still, about as finesse as using a sledge to pound in a finishing nail. My main tool is a 4/5 weight graphite stick, fairly fast and stiff at that, and I toss a 7 wt line on it, and typically 4x tippets with size 12's, almost never smaller than a 14. Yes, on those streams you can straddle.

What matters is making a 15 foot cast instead of an 12 foot one, without a backcast. That'll catch you more fish.