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Subject: : Beginner Forum

Topic: : Rods... what's the difference?

Re: Rods... what's the difference?

Author: : pcray1231

Date: : 2013/10/21 10:13:33

URL:

First, you're lack of noticing the take had a lot more to do with you than the rod.

1. A lot of times in fly fishing, you don't "feel" a fish hit. You see it. Watch the tip of the fly line. A slight pause is what you see. It takes a lot of practice to distinguish it from, say, a rock, and even experts set the hook on their share of rocks!

2. You're only gonna feel it when tight line nymphing, which takes quite a bit of practice to control drag.

All that said, yes, there are some rods that are more sensitive than others. Generally, a light, stiff rod is best for this. i.e. High modulus. And those tend to be higher end rods. Of course, sensitivity is only one factor that you look for in a rod. Like anything else, lots of trade offs, and which is best for you boils down to your strengths and weaknesses.

If trout fishing, forget about hook setting power. You're not rearing back on a bass here. You simply softly "lift" to set the hook, if you yank you'll pull it right out of their mouths.

Woolly buggers are good beginner flies, and work for the experienced too. There's no wrong way to fish them. But they tend to take aggressive fish, such as stockies, and sometimes, wild fish in the right circumstances. There are a lot of different circumstances, and no fly works in all of them. That's what fly fishing is all about. If you get a hatch or something, fish will focus in on something that you have to figure out and match to be successful.

As far as line weights. High line weights (and thus rods) are going to do better at tossing weight, like nymph rigs and streamers. They're going to do better in windy conditions. You're generally going to be able to cast them farther. They also have a stiff enough backbone to fight larger fish.

Smaller line weights (and thus rods) are going to give you a more delicate presentation, generally be more sensitive (like feeling bites), be a lot lighter and easier to handle, and be more fun to fight the fish (cause you can feel them).

I equate rods to rifles in just about every manner. You CAN use the same gun to hunt groundhogs, whitetail deer, and elk. But it ain't ideal. Just like avid shooters use different guns for different tasks, so do avid fishermen.

Saltwater - 9 or 10 wt

Salmon - 7-9 wt

Steelhead and big water trout or bass - 6-8 wt

all around option - 5 wt

small fly rod (midges, tricos, etc) - 3-4 wt

small stream brookies - some disagreement here. Some like their 2-3 wts. Others, including me, like a short 5 wt for the job.

Length is another variable. Generally, longer enables you to cast further, control drag better (lift more line off of the water), feel bites better, protect tippets, etc. Basically longer IS better, provided it's just you and the water. But, often, it's not. There's also obstacles, such as trees above, behind, and everywhere you need to cast. You also have to walk with that rod, sometimes through brush. That's where short rods are better.

10+ ft - saltwater, big open water, etc.

8-9 ft - standard all round use

5-8 ft - small, brushy waters.

My dad has a cahill, and I've used it. It's a broomstick. Thick, heavy, and stiff. Good streamer/bass rod, IMO, which includes fishing buggers like you do. Not so good if you wanna toss dry flies or for small streams.