

How A Fly Fishing Rod Differs From Bait Casting Rods

Contributed by Todd Gibson
Monday, 15 September 2008

When it comes to fishing, novices often think the gear is the same for just about every type of fishing. This, of course, is no more true than saying all golf clubs are the same and usable in any circumstance.

When it comes to fishing, novices often think the gear is the same for just about every type of fishing. This, of course, is no more true than saying all golf clubs are the same and usable in any circumstance.

Golf is a good walk ruined in my opinion, but that does not mean even I do not know the clubs. To say a putter should be used for driving the ball in the fairway would be nuts. That simply is not what it is designed for.

As with golf clubs, fishing rods are also designed for particular occasions. A spinner rod is not going to work for fly fishing. It just is not set up for it. Closely reviewing the design shows us why.

The first difference is the grip. Fly fishing involves an entirely different casting technique than bait casting. This can result in friction on your hand. To prevent this, the fly rod has a longer grip area usually built with a less abrasive cork material.

A fly fishing rod design has to account for heat caused by friction. Your basic bait casting rod does not have this problem. The movement of the line is not frequent, so any heat derived from friction dissipates.

Fly fishing involves nearly constant line movement so rubbing and heat can be a big problem. Limiting the negative impacts of this friction is a central theme to consider in the design process.

Subtlety is the name of the game. The first thing to note is the strip guide is ceramic instead of metal. This is the first loop off the reel. This will cut down on the heat, but also limits the length of the cast.

Moving up the rod we find some odd looking wire guides. Most rods have simple and traditional metal loops. The purpose is simply to make sure the line moves efficiently up and down the rod.

On a fly rod, the guides are placed in similar areas, but are not circular. Instead, they are more of a spiral shape and are thus called snake guides. By using a spiral design, friction is diffused and heat is not nearly the issue it would be with circular guides.

Fishing is like any sport. There are specialty tools for every situation. If you are going to fly fish, knowing how your rod is designed and why it works the way it does is vital. Now you have an idea.

About the Author:

Looking for unique fly fishing gifts that will not break the bank? Try the fly fishing journals at NomadJournaltrips.com.