



Fly fishing is for anyone—young or old, male or female, city dweller or country resident. This volume portrays individuals such as the legendary casting instructor Mel Krieger alongside the younger generation of fly fishers, which includes the filmmaking trio Brothers on the Fly and the artist collective Tight Loops. The fly fishing world of today includes an increasing number of women, and individuals such as Coloradan guide Maddie Brenneman are helping to generate fresh interest in the sport from

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new audiences online. A contemporary movement of urban fly fishers who go angling in revived city streams surrounded by the concrete furniture of the city—a surreal twist on a classic fishing scene—sits here alongside iconic equipment manufacturers such as Hardy, who in 1891 created the Perfect reel, a part produced for nearly 60 years without change. Each piece of kit used in the centuries-old pastime—the rod, the reel, the flies—has its own unique history and aesthetics, but these relate very firmly to the present. Rare plate illustrations from the mid-nineteenth century display tying patterns that can still be used today.

STARTING OUT

Spending a day at the water is a great gift—socializing with friends, lighting a bonfire, drinking good whisky, talking about the ones that got away (surely the biggest of the season) are all priceless. Though this book showcases some of the most remote and hard-to-reach angling locations, the sport can, of course, be performed closer to home; sometimes the best waters are on one's doorstep. Large amounts of money are not required in order to start fly fishing. However, investing in good gear is key, and asking for help is useful advice for novices to remember. Local clubs or



handle a rod. There are core principles regarding technique and stance that a beginner needs to be aware of—but the rest is practice. Fly fishing may look complex and elegant as the line flies weightlessly through the air and the fly lands on the water like a feather, but what appears difficult can feel very normal after a short while. Everybody is a learner—a lifelong learner.

NATURE STUDIES

No two days are the same when it comes to water. No two fish are the same. No location is the same from one morning to the next. Nature changes, so fishers have to. The need for continually adapting tactics, flies, lines, rods, and behavior means that there are always new adventures in store when the angler arrives at the waterside. What awaits is never clear. Could the water be too high or too low? What will the climate and current do this evening? Which flies are around? What type of nymphs are in the water?

After setting up their tackle, a fisher must follow one first instruction: wait, watch, and then wait again. Patience is a central component of the pastime. Suddenly flies that were not there a →

fishers are often happy to share their experiences and even show off their nearby river. Beginners should choose equipment wisely, and questions such as "What do I really want to fish?" and "What is the most common situation for me at the water?" are ones all fishers should ask themselves before purchasing the tools that will accompany them to the water.

Many gear manufacturers take their environmental responsibilities very seriously and so produce in an ecofriendly manner or work to preserve endangered species. Buying good-quality products means that equipment will work at the right moment and potentially last a lifetime. Aside from the basic kit, one's first forays into the sport require practical information—details on how to set up the fly rod and line, instruction on tying a classic dry fly, and a clear idea of the tools and materials necessary for putting together the bait that will tempt in the desired quarry.

To help the user present a fly efficiently, this book illustrates the four basic casts on which all others are based. The essentials are there, but these details are no substitute for investing in a course with a good casting instructor. This can prevent recurring mistakes in technique and allows newcomers to learn how to

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