

**Christmas time always brings the opportunity to get that new fly rod you have been wanting.....so here are a few considerations that you should keep in mind while making your selection:**

**1. Fly rods sell for about \$75 to as much as \$900. Unless you are a very good fly caster who demands perfection, can afford to spend that amount of money on a high end rod and want the very best, lightest and responsive fly rod, then you may not need to purchase that kind of expensive rod. Very good fly rods are available for prices in the \$200 range.**

**2. Consider buying a rod that comes with a lifetime warranty and does not cost over \$250-\$300... you will get the most value for your money and a good fly rod to boot.**

**3. Remember that full flex or slow rods and many mid-flex rods with soft tips will generally have a greater tendency to produce tailing loops (*proper casting techniques can eliminate tailing loops, but we often see the opposite. Be sure to drop by next year if that is a problem for you!*).**

**4. Unless you know exactly what you want, try to arrange to cast the rod before you buy it. Visit a full service fly shop to make your selection or drop by the AFFS and try one of ours.**

**5. While making your selection, remember that if you intend to cast your rod with greater than 30' of fly line beyond the rod tip, that for every ~ 5' of line greater than 30' feet, you will add one line size to the line weight that is loading the rod. Good reason to cast the rod before the purchase.**

**6. If you decide that the \$600+ rod is the one for you....be sure that the girlfriend or wife is receiving a Christmas present just as nice! Otherwise you might not get too much time to use the fancy new fly rod.**

**Mack Martin**

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