

Equipment Maintenance

The effective life for all of your fly or spin fishing equipment can be improved if you maintain it correctly and diligently. If you did not do due diligence at the end of the fishing season last Fall and perform some preventative maintenance then now is the time. This maintenance is not extensive but very effective and should include the following:

1. Clean any dirt or salt residue from fly, spinning or casting rods.
2. Clean and lubricate the ferrules with some candle wax.
3. Clean cork grips with some fine sandpaper and consider applying some U40 Cork Seal to the grip after cleaning. Be careful if you use any solvent as many solvents will dissolve the cork fillers used in many cork grips.
4. Disassemble fly reels and clean dirt and any debris from the gears or internal sections of the reel. Spinning and casting reels will require some disassembly and lubrication as well.
5. Lubricate the moving parts of the reel and store in a place that is cool (ie: not in your car).
6. Remove the fly line from fly reels and clean the line with a non-detergent soap and dry completely. (The abrasive cleaning pad that comes with 3M/SA line dressing will not harm the coating on your fly lines) Also you may recall the earlier suggested use of a soap called Miracle II soap. I have found that this soap will clean fly lines (and anything else) quicker and better than any other soap. You can find it on the Internet on a number of sites and it is readily available to purchase. You can read about it at <http://home.earthlink.net/~miracle2-miracleii/>.
7. Apply a fly line dressing to fly lines (only after cleaning). Carefully inspect all lines that have welded loops. If the loop is worn or damaged consider replacing the loop with a piece of nylon leader tied with a perfection loop & nail knot. The leader section should have a diameter equal to the tip of the fly line and be as short a possible (actually the mass of the two lines should be equal but near equal diameters will do just fine). Store the line in a cool, dry location. Remember clean lines float higher and pick up easier! If monofilament lines on spinning reels are brittle or several years old, consider replacing them with new line.

Do this maintenance and you will enjoy your first day of fishing without equipment problems....

Mack Martin

