

## **Discover how fun and inexpensive fly-fishing can be**

LIBERTY, N.C.—Looking for a new way to spend your free time? How about trying fly-fishing? Even as a novice, getting starting in fly-fishing can be relatively inexpensive depending on the level of equipment you buy.

Brandon Price, head fishing guide at Wing & Fly Company, said it is possible to get started in fly-fishing for as little as \$50 in equipment. “The basic essentials that any person would need to fly cast to catch fish would be a fly rod, a fly reel, a fly line, a leader and the flies,” Price says.

Price says that \$50 is the baseline price for a complete pack, but “the better quality gear, the higher the success rate.” Price also said that a fly-fishing starter pack is only slightly more expensive than a starter pack for conventional fishing, so why not give this different type of fishing a try?

The guides at Wing & Fly Company can take you out for as little as \$110 for half a day if you go to a local pond, but if you’re more experienced, they offer other full day trips. They want to make sure you get what you want out of the experience, so they will cater to your needs and wishes. If you’re not ready for a full trip, you can spend a few hours getting a personalized lesson!

The primary difficulty that beginners face is learning how to cast. In order to learn this technique, Price recommends beginners take a lesson, or at the very least watch instructional videos online.

Orvis, a retail and mail order business that has specialized in high-end fly-fishing and other sporting goods for over 150 years, is a great resource for fly-fishing instruction. They have videos with nearly every step needed to learn how to fly-fish.

There are also fly-fishing festivals you can attend to meet others who are interested in the sport. There is one coming up this Feb. 5 in Winston-Salem!

Price says that fly-fishing is “simply a segment of fishing utilizing a fly rod and a fly reel.” The main difference is that in fly-fishing you use a cast line that pulls a weightless lure to the fish, rather than having a weighted lure stay connected to a weightless line like you would in conventional fishing.

So if you love the idea of being outdoors fishing, but get bored with all the waiting involved with traditional fishing, fly-fishing may be just what you need. With fly-fishing, instead of simply casting the bait into the water and waiting, you have to flick the rod to imitate a bug in order to gain a fish’s attention.

If you're not sure fly-fishing is for you, Price suggests that you take a lesson with a guide using their equipment. "Don't buy the equipment before you try it and find out you hate it," he says. Price also suggests that you join a local fly-fishing club to interact with people who share the same interest as you.

He recommends you try fly-fishing if you're more interested in the pursuit of the catch rather than just impatiently trying to catch as many fish as possible, but don't fear, you can still catch quite a few fish.

While you can fly-fish for nearly any species, trout is most often caught in the North Carolina Mountains. You can fly-fish most times of the year, but Price says, "The greatest demand for trips is mid-March to early June."

Wing & Fly Company wants to ensure you fully understand the sport before taking it on. They will make sure that you enjoy the activity before you spend your money. They offer equipment at a reasonable price and guides that will take you out to experience fly-fishing firsthand.

According to the Outdoor Industry Foundation, there are more than 18 million people who participate in fly-fishing each year. That means there are plenty of people you can learn from. Or take one of your friends out and learn together!