



Hildreth says that fly fishing isn't that hard to learn. There are really just a few basic steps that need to be mastered, but he highly recommends having a lesson before going out on a saltwater fly fishing excursion. He says that a good guide can instruct on the boat, but it is much better to practice on land. An excursion with someone who has not had this practice is often not much fun for the angler and a lot of work for the guide.

Hildreth points eager novices to Capt. Larry Kennedy Jr. Kennedy has been in business for more than 40 years as a guide, outfitter and naturalist, and is considered a "dean of fly fishermen." In 2006, Orvis named him as the national fly fishing guide service of the year.

While maybe it's not the serene babbling brook and the rhythmic sway of the line that pops first to mind, coastal fly fishing feeds the soul all the same.

There's nothing like pulling up the boat to see a school of 25 to 50 redfish on the mud flat, seeing their fins and tails up," says Hildreth. "When you see that, it gets your blood pumping. There's nothing like it." ■



Capt. Greg Hildreth