Subject: : Gear Talk
Topic: : Thinking about stepping up. Bamboo
Re: Thinking about stepping up. Bamboo
Author: : afishinado
Date: : 2006/11/16 9:41:41
URL:

I'm not sure what your expectations are for "stepping up" to a bamboo rod. A bamboo can cost more than even the high-end graphite rods, but I don't believe that many would say that they are a step up in performance. The best analogy I can think of is in bow hunting. You can use the latest, greatest, fastest cam bow with lighted multiple sights tuned to perfection with carbon arrows, or use a wooden recurve bow with cedar arrows. Both work, the cam bow is a more efficient weapon, and in some ways easier to become proficient with, but is complicated and is butt ugly to many compared to the recurve. The same could be said for a classic antique car versus the latest models.

Bamboo rods are heavier, and have a slower action than most modern graphite rods. They can cast a line well at short and medium distances. Bamboo rods can be a work of art, even the "plain Jane" models are beautiful to look at and handle. They are said to be more forgiving than the faster action graphite rods. Bamboo rods are beautiful and have been used to catch fish for hundreds of years, it just depends what you are looking for – aesthetics vs. efficiency.

Don't just order one from a builder – cast a bunch of rods and see how they fish before you spend a lot of money. Since you said are looking for "a good functional rod not bells and whistles," I assume you are buying it to fish with and not just look at. Actually fish with some bamboo rods if you can. All rods are different from each builder and each model they make. JoeE responded to your post. He appears to have a lot of knowledge about bamboo rods. Look at all the questions he raised, and options he gave you. Research it well before you plunk down your cash. Good luck – good fishing.