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Subject: : Gear Talk

Topic: : Old South Bend bamboo fly rod

Re: Old South Bend bamboo fly rod

Author: : JoeE

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URL:

I don't really know where to start but with that said I'll dive in: There is a difference for me at least when it comes to cheap and lower end rods. Cheap for me is bad craftsmanship and subpar bamboo used to make the rod. Lower end is good quality bamboo, node spacing, taper design and good craftsmanship (no glue line) with low end components (big difference). To me junk is a tomato stake and if you want to design your own tapers you will end up with enough for everyone in town.

I think Orvis had a lot more going for them than just the impregnated process. While I've cast tons of Orvis rods I like their longer rods. Whitey was a super nice guy and very helpful when I talked to him about bamboo. As far as tipped wraps and aluminum reel seats that is just cosmetic to me it has nothing to do with the feel of the rod period. Now if you are taking them to a beauty contest then cosmetics count. I agree you need a good set of ferrules but they don't have to be Super Z's.

All bamboo rods are solid built unless you want to talk about double built or hollow or fluted each have advantages and have nothing to do with being cheap or quality. The War hurt more than just the bamboo rod companies and materials were hard to find. Unfortunately a lot of them were just rod makers and not businessmen.

It was common during the time if a rod maker went out of business that someone would buy out their stock and finish out the rods. Trade rods we big at the time as well and more were blue collar cane finished out and sold under multiple name brands.

A good rod is a good rod built by a man or women I don't understand your point. Women were running most of the industries and the men were fighting in the war?? There are several women makers today and they are making excellent rods.

I've seen several books on the history of Orvis. Why bust on Greg with the Orvis data base I think it is awesome. If you call Orvis they will let you know who built the rod and when it was made. Greg is keeping a data base.

You can buy Orvis reel seats. Now if you want one to replace an older Orvis that they don't have in stock they will not sell you one. But I know when Whitey (Ron White) was there he probably would replace it with the correct one and only charged you minimal dollars for the reel seat and repair he was a good guy IMO.

I don't believe you can buy Orvis Bamboo blanks or Kits any more you can only buy finished rods. Hey that is up to them and some makers today will not sale blanks.

We can talk tapers all day. But forget about this fake thing you have going. Most makes will say the taper is

based on X maker. If the Maker is still alive most of today's makers will not use/make/post that taper out of respect. Most cannot afford an original from Makers like Payne, Garrison, Gillum, Dickerson and Carlson...etc. but what they can afford is a rod from a maker that has worked and apprenticed under one of the older makers.

I've casted some tapers that were better than the original so I won't knock them for smoothing out an original taper because it is not sold as an original only based on a taper. If I was a collector yes I would want an original but I'm not, I make a rod to fish. I don't understand your cutting rods down for profit unless you are talking about banty rods made from the mid and tip section. If someone wants a short rod buy a short rod that is designed to be a rod under 6'.

I hope this helps, I don't think bamboo lovers bust on any rod they just like some more than others. I find them all interesting even the tomato stakes.

Joe E