

Bamboo Rodmaking Course

Make your own Bamboo Fly Rod with Nick Taransky

Fly fishing is a rewarding pursuit in its own right. Catching a trout with a fly that you've tied yourself, or a rod that you've made up from a blank can add another dimension to your fishing. Then imagine your satisfaction when you catch a fish on a bamboo rod that you've handcrafted yourself from a raw culm of bamboo! Long considered a "lost art" limited to a few makers, this is your opportunity to handcraft your own rod and become a bamboo rodmaker.

The smooth power, accuracy, feel and beauty of bamboo has made it the choice of many anglers - past, present and future - for their stream fishing. The intuitive feel of bamboo makes it an ideal material for all levels of experience - from beginner to the most experienced anglers.

There are many separate processes that go into making a bamboo rod, but the course is structured to cover each step at a manageable pace. There will be as much or as little help as you need to progress through each stage. No previous rodmaking or woodworking experience is necessary to attend the course - anyone can make a rod that they can be proud of and will be a joy to fish with. Each class is limited to 4 students, to ensure maximum knowledge transfer and one on one tuition. Whether you decide to go on and make more rods, or just treat the class as a once in a lifetime experience, it will certainly be something to remember. You will leave the class with your own rod, ready to put the finishing touches on and fish with.

The Cost

- Introductory cost for 2015 (including 4 nights meals and accommodation at "Hayes on Brumbies" is \$2995 (**1)

What you will get for your investment

- A beautiful bamboo rod that you have made yourself, to take home, fish, and maybe one day hand down to your children!
- All materials to make a 2 piece, 1 tip bamboo fly rod (you will have the choice of a "dry fly" action 7 foot rod, or a smooth, fuller action 7 foot, six inch rod)
- Use of all tools needed to make your rod (**2)
- 5 days of hands on rodmaking under the instruction of Nick Taransky
- Comprehensive Course Notes, including references for future rodmaking projects
- Learn new and lifelong woodworking skills in making your rod
- Course Certificate
- Course photographs of you making your rod

- All meals and single room lodge accommodation at 'Hayes on Brumbys' fly fishing lodge
- A guest speaker at dinner one evening
- Evening, after class, fly fishing on the private stream
- Personalised 'Casting with Cane' lessons from world acclaimed Master Casting Instructor - Peter Hayes
- Meet other budding rodmakers and make new friends with a shared passion
- Have a lot of FUN!

What You Will Learn

- How to make a bamboo rod, of course! but more...
- Learn about Tonkin Cane – “The Rodmakers Bamboo” – why it is the baest bamboo for fly rods, where it grows, and how it gets to Australia
- The history of bamboo rods, including some famous makers and their contributions to rodmaking
- How to cast and fish with bamboo - some bamboo specific tips and techniques
- How to care for bamboo rods, including maintenance and minor repairs

Course Outline

You will begin with a raw, 12 foot long piece of Tonkin Cane...

The main processes covered will be:

- Culm Selection
 - Culm Cutting to Rod Section Lengths
 - Flaming (and learn about other heat treating methods)
 - Node Filing
 - Splitting the bamboo into strips
 - Straightening strips
 - Enamel removal
 - Rough Planing
 - Final accurate planing into tapered splines
 - Glueup of planed splines into a blank
 - Making a cork grip
 - Prepping and fitting ferrules
 - Fitting the reelseat and grip
 - Varnishing/finishing (several options will be covered) (**3)
 - Guide and tiptop prep, wrapping and varnishing (**3)
- ... And finish with a beautiful bamboo rod of your own!!!**

Your Instructor

Nick Taransky has been a full time bamboo rodmaker since 2004. He has made hundreds of rods, and has been teaching rodmaking and sharing his knowledge in the craft over this time.

NOTE - The courses are being run in the two weeks prior to the “Cressy Cane” Weekend at “Hayes on Brumbies”. Stay on for the event, and you can meet other makers and passionate bamboo anglers, build on your new knowledge, and of course, show off your new rod!

(**1) For those planning to continue rodmaking, the option of purchasing a complete set of rodmaking tools will be offered, so that you can use, and get to know your own tools during the class

(**2) Because of the time needed for varnish or oil to dry, the final finishing will be completed in your own time after the course. We will have plenty of time to go over and practise finishing options and guide wrapping and varnishing, and you will be provided with guides and thread to finish the rod.