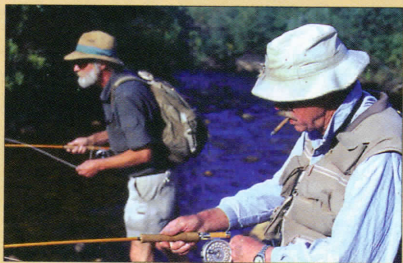


ATTENTION CANE-IACS

There's a new organization out there for the angler with a bamboo rod fetish. The American Bamboo Rodmakers Association is a not-for-profit trade co-op for professional bamboo rod makers whose mission is to "promote the use of finely crafted bamboo rods to the general fly-fishing public."

That's a tall order when you consider the dominance of graphite and the impression many anglers have of bamboo—old-school, soft and fragile—let alone the expense. But ABRA president Jeff Fultz says dispelling such "myths" about bamboo is one of his group's chief aims. "We're trying to show people that bamboo rods being made today have come a long way," he says. "We've got techniques today that make rods that are lighter and faster. We are constantly improving."

Although ABRA was initially conceived as strictly a professional organization, Fultz says there has been such tremendous interest from bamboo-rod users that ABRA



PHOTOGRAPH BY PAUL GUERNSEY

FR&R's A.K. Best (right) and John Gierach are total cane-iacs

is looking to set up an associate-level membership for these folks as well.

Interested rod makers and cane-iacs should visit the ABRA Web site to find out how to join the organization and to locate rod makers in their state. www.goabra.org.