

# The Return of a Classic

If your grandfather fly-fished, there's a good chance he used a Granger fly rod. Made in the period between 1918 and 1955, Grangers were the rods of choice for anglers who could not afford high-price rods such as Paynes and Leonards but still wanted a quality fly rod. In effect, Grangers were the original "value" fly rods.

Around 1955 Wright & McGill, which bought the Granger label from Goodwin Granger's family, ceased production of the rods, and since then they have been sought after by bamboo aficionados for their quality and feel. But thanks to rod maker Gary Lacey, Granger rods are available once again.

With the go-ahead from Wright & McGill, Lacey recently began hand crafting bamboo rods to the same tapers and specifications as the original Grangers. Although his rods are almost identical replicas, Lacey said his manufacturing process is slightly different from the originals. "The difference between what I'm doing and what Granger did at the time, [is] they used a lot of stamped parts to make it fast for production

purposes. I machine everything and build it all by hand. The only thing I don't make in the shop are the guides," Lacey said.

When he's building a Granger, Lacey refers to a collection of original rods and extensive data about their measurements. "I've got many Grangers. I've archived the tapers, so I can build a customer pretty much any Granger they'd like," he said. And there certainly is a demand: "There's been a lot of people who wanted to buy Grangers, and I've sold them rods," Lacey said. "The Grangers have a reputation of being absolutely fantastic fishing



rods. People have them and love to fish them."

For more information on ordering a Lacey-crafted Granger (or to have an original restored), visit his Web site at [www.grangerbamboo.com](http://www.grangerbamboo.com).