


TUFTS & BATSON



A close-up photograph of a bamboo fly rod lying horizontally across the frame. The rod is positioned over a thick, textured bed of green and brown moss. In the background, a shallow stream flows over rocks, with a blurred forest of green trees and a blue sky visible. The lighting is natural, highlighting the texture of the bamboo and the moss.

Tufts and Batson Bamboo Fly Rods located in Maplewood, Missouri (a suburb of St. Louis) are makers of several series of beautiful, high-performance fly rods. The story of how Amelia Tufts and Gabe Batson came to form their company is as unique as their rods.

Obsessed with fly fishing and its history, Gabe started collecting books on the subject and learned that most authors sang the praises of bamboo as the best rod making material. That's when he met Ed Hartzell, a bamboo rod maker who hosted a weekly meeting on the subject. Despite numerous requests to learn from him, "He did not invite me . . ." says Gabe. Finally, after two days of weed trimming on Hartzell's property, Ed tutored Gabe through his first few rods in 1999.

Amelia's path to becoming a rod builder was much different. It's Gabe that introduced her to fly fishing and lent her books and his rod and reel. After weeks of practice casting in the park, she returned to Gabe's house to demonstrate her new casting abilities. They began as fishing partners, and soon she was ready to build her own bamboo rod. After starting on that rod, they realized they didn't have enough bamboo to finish the rod. Amelia noticed a section of bamboo used as a curtain rod which enabled the rod to be finished. Now she most enjoys the part of rod building that she calls "being in the zone," when time stands still and nothing else exists except you and the task at hand.






AMELIA TUFTS & GABE BATSON - MAKERS

BAMBOO FLY ROD

TUFTS & BATSON
- MAKERS -
7'9" 3/2
1708
NOVA INTA



Together they understood that from amateur to professional rod builder is a steep learning curve which led them to their greatest mentor: Daryl Whitehead. Their lessons were well learned. When you pick up a Tufts and Batson rod, you'll first notice the finish which is tight and flat. The glue seams are invisible with no gaps or jagged edges. Each rod demonstrates a sense of proportion. Every detail is well thought out so that every rod is consistent.

If it's finally time for you to begin fishing with a classic bamboo rod you should begin your search for the perfect fly rod by visiting their very cool website: tuftsandbatson.com.

