

HCA GEAR BAG

BY BRIAN LA RUE



BOLD BAMBOO: BRUSH CREEK CANE

I recently had the privilege of fishing with Frank Drummond of Brush Creek Cane. I had two goals in mind: 1: Put his high-quality bamboo rods to the test on RMNP trout, and 2: Enjoy a fun outing with a great guy who not only specializes in making these unbelievable rods, but also shares his intrinsic knowledge by teaching classes to help others create masterpieces.

I brought my 12-year old Barrett with us, so I thought of the outing as old-school fly fishing meets the next generation. We put a few creations to the test: a 3-weight and a 4-weight, a couple of Drummond's favorite rods. As someone who rarely has been exposed to bamboo, raised on a Fenwick Feralite and now with a fast-action rod, I was curious to put this bamboo to the test.

We began our morning upriver from Moraine Park, and before long, my son had a cutt on. Fun way

to start the morning. I fished downriver from Frank and Barrett. The 4-weight threw line with ease. I expected it to be super slow and not very sensitive, but was quickly reminded how special bamboo is with effortless, accurate casts. The rod felt a bit heavier than graphite, but I felt every bump when I hooked a cutthroat myself. It was nice fishing with natural material in my hand. It gave me the feeling of enjoyment in fly fishing while the beautiful rod performed nothing like anything basic.

We moved on and switched to dry flies as the sun became higher in the sky and fish were looking up. We soon hooked and played a half dozen brookies, and then came upon what appeared to be a sizable

For more information on the Simms Contender Insulated Jacket or what my wife has affectionately called "A Riverside, Heated Seat," see www.SimmsFishing.com or try one on at the next outdoor show. Stay warm and inside, my fair-weather friends!

brown feeding. I tossed a smaller CDC emerger/dry pattern, slumping down in the film with each drift that Frank and I figured would be hard to pass up. The rod allowed me to present the fly effortlessly until the brown couldn't take it anymore. The estimated 15-incher exploded onto the surface. It wasn't meant to be as I allowed for a long line release, but I was impressed to say the least—both with a fish of that size in this skinny water, and the command of presentation I was enjoying with Frank's creation.

See Frank's works of art for yourself, or better yet, take a class with him and learn to build a rod. From tying flies to building a rod and catching a fish—what a sense of accomplishment. For more information see www.BrushCreekCane.com or reach out to Frank at (303) 810-4538, or at Frank@BrushCreekCane.com

Simms Tames Elements with Contender

Wet shoulders, faulty zippers, and chilled to the bone...no thanks! I'm a believer in quality gear and enjoying the moment—whatever mother nature throws at me. Whether I get caught in a hailstorm, downpour, or a Dream Stream nightmare with sideways snow and 30 mph wind, the new Simms Insulated Contender warms me, allowing for comfortable fishing in the nastiest of elements.

Don't be that fair-weather guy! If the thermometer drops to 25 and there's a little breeze, Simms has your back! Check out the company's latest insulated Contender jacket. Armed with a 2-layer GORE-TEX shell, you'll feel as if you've got your feet up in the easy chair by the fire when you're really waist deep in the best pool of the morning. What flurries? Get it done!

Why is it so warm? Besides a GORE-TEX shell for unparalleled waterproofness and breathability, the insulated Contender also is loaded with toasty Primaloft Gold insulation. Throw in shingled-cuff construction and Lycra inner cuffs

to eliminate snags and improve fit, and you'll find that there are no more exposed snags grabbing your leader, costing you valuable fishing time. Cold hands? Warm your hands in the spacious micro-fleece-lined pockets. A durable, 3-point hood also shields you away from sleet while holding tight—allowing you to read water and make decisions—not fight your hood.

Simms has also included top notch YKK Aqua-Guard zippers on key connections, keeping you and your fly boxes warm, dry, and sealed from the blustery wind and flakes. Two chest pockets are ideal for your dry fly and emerger boxes. About the only bad thing I can say about my new cold weather wingman is: if too many guys get this jacket, then the winter solitude I find on the region's rivers might be a thing of the past!

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Bamboo Rod Making Classes

Create Your Own Classic



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