

High Sierra Rod Company's Brookie Rod

Although I admire bamboo fly rods and the anglers who use them, I grew up with graphite, and I am comfortable with a rod built of man-made material. On those occasions when someone has stuck a bamboo casting tool into my hand, I've found them to be interesting, beautiful and not without other charms as well—but

weights 3 and 5.

I fished the 3-weight rod first, and though I wasn't surprised at how light it felt given its diminutive length, I was astonished by how responsive and quick it was. In fact, I've fished plenty of lighter graphite rods that were nowhere near as lively as this one.

The 5-weight was every bit as

also a little heavy, and a bit slow.

Recently, however, I had the chance to fish a small, overgrown central Maine brook- and brown-trout stream with a couple of High Sierra Rod Company bamboo rods built specifically for this sort of close-quarters fishing, and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. These were two different models of the Brookie Rod from High Sierra's Trout Scout Series—5'6" 1-piecers, in line

snappy and fun to cast, but with more backbone for longer casts.

Another surprise for me was the price of these nicely finished rods: Although they're handcrafted in California, they retail for \$499.99—quite reasonable compared to a lot of bamboo rods. High Sierra also offers a 2-piece version of the brookie rod for \$599.99; and \$799.99 for a 2-piece rod with an extra tip.

—Paul Guernsey

