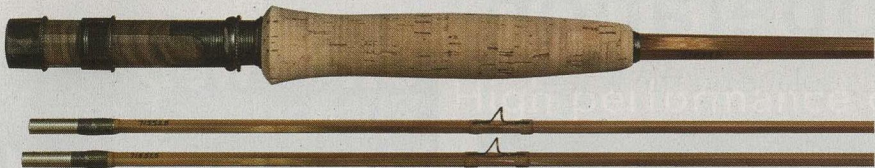


[NEW GEAR]



Highland Mills **Bamboo Rods**

You're got a fair amount of gray in your beard if you can remember walking into a fly shop and seeing production bamboo rods lining the wall; it's been a few decades since Wright & McGill Granger and others made bamboo rods for the masses. But what's old is new again and Highland Mills Rod Co. has introduced a full range of affordable bamboo rods. Newest is the American Series of hand-split, hand-built rods in three lengths, all with hollow-built swelled butts, agate stripping guides, Bailey Woods ferrules, REC reel seats and English gunstock walnut reel-seat inserts, priced at \$1,299. The company's Original Series rods carry a retail price of \$549 and the Signature Series is based on noted tapers by Jim Payne and Hiram Hawes with upgraded components by REC, rich flamed cane and an \$849 retail price. www.highlandmillsrods.com.