



Bob Taylor *hand filing a fly rod joint with the skill that only many years can create.*

Robert Taylor

Rod Maker

For 14 Years

Robert Taylor, at the age of 32, has already been a rodmaker at Leonard for 14 years. Back in 1965 when Bob started working at Leonard, he apprenticed under such famous craftsmen as Ralph Reynolds, Jim Bailey, Ed Ford, and Al Stevens. Bob Taylor is one in a line of Leonard rodmakers that can be traced back, continuous and unbroken, from Master Craftsman to Apprentice to Master Craftsman, etc., all the way to Hiram Leonard.

For many years Bob was in charge of all the repair work done at Leonard. Only the most experienced craftsmen are able to do this demanding job. To be competent at this exacting craft, a craftsman must not only know Leonard rods, but also must intimately know how other companies or rod builders constructed their rods, how they looked, what varnishes were used, etc. If the repair or refinish is to appear original, a great deal of knowledge is required. Bob Taylor is considered one of the very best artists at this demanding craft.

Bob, a quiet, intense man, is now working on new Leonards and has had a strong influence on the new Leonard tapers and cosmetics. He is one of our links with the past and his experience and suggestions are vitally important if we are to keep Leonard rods truly traditional.

Bob Taylor

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Bob's hobbies are fishing, playing the guitar, and wood working, but most of all Bob Taylor is a Leonard rod maker. He will talk shop, tapers, grips, and reelseats, as well as other craftsmen at the drop of a hat anytime, day or night.

We at Leonard are very fortunate to have Bob Taylor here. At only 32 years old, he has many, many years left as a rod builder, a uniquely different type of occupation. As Bob put it, there is no other occupation in the world I would rather do.