

Bamboo rod making classes FAQs

Q. Do we actually finish a complete bamboo rod during the 6-day class period?

A. Yes, you leave the class with a 100% complete and ready to fish, hand crafted bamboo fly rod.

Q. I have no experience in woodworking. Will I be able to do this?

A. Yes, we teach more bamboo rod making students than anyone in the world, and no one has ever failed to complete a rod they can be proud of.

Q. What size and length rod will I make in the class?

A. Because you have your own individual workbench and planing form, you may build any size, weight and length 2-piece rod that you desire. We have tapers 0-12 wt. In fact, our saltwater tapers (8-12 wt) are almost as popular as our fresh water tapers.

Q. What is included with my tuition?

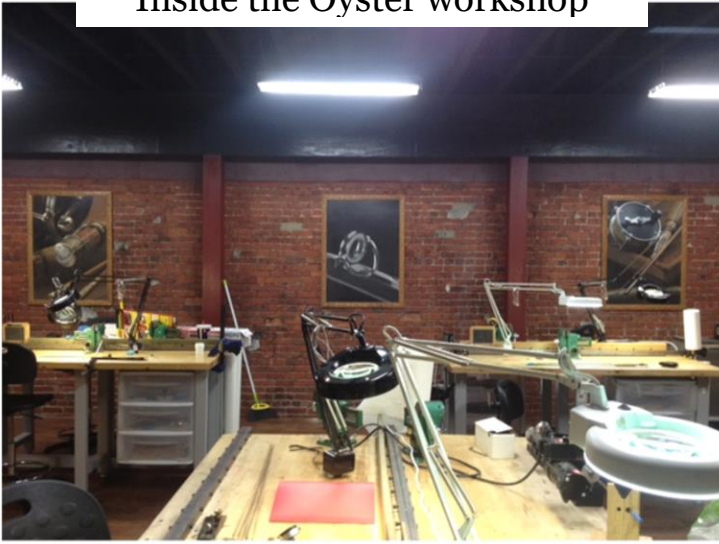
- six days of instruction at the workshop of Bill Oyster
- you choose length, line wt. and taper
- you customize all cosmetic options from reel seat, to thread wraps, grip shape, and cane tone
- all tools, components, hardware, and materials provided
- take home a **COMPLETE AND READY TO FISH** bamboo rod you made yourself!
- rod bag and tube with label included
- **NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY**

Q. Is Bill Oyster your instructor?

A. Yes, every Oyster Bamboo Rod Building Class is instructed by Bill Oyster.



Inside the Oyster workshop



Q. Where is your shop located?

A. We are located at 494 East Main Street in historic downtown Blue Ridge, GA 30513. [Click here to see our location by map](#). Blue Ridge is (you guessed it) nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains. It's a cool little town full of interesting shops, bistros, antique stores, orchards, an authentic drive-in and it's very own operating scenic railroad. Most importantly, Blue Ridge, Georgia has recently been designated the **TROUT CAPITAL OF GEORGIA!**

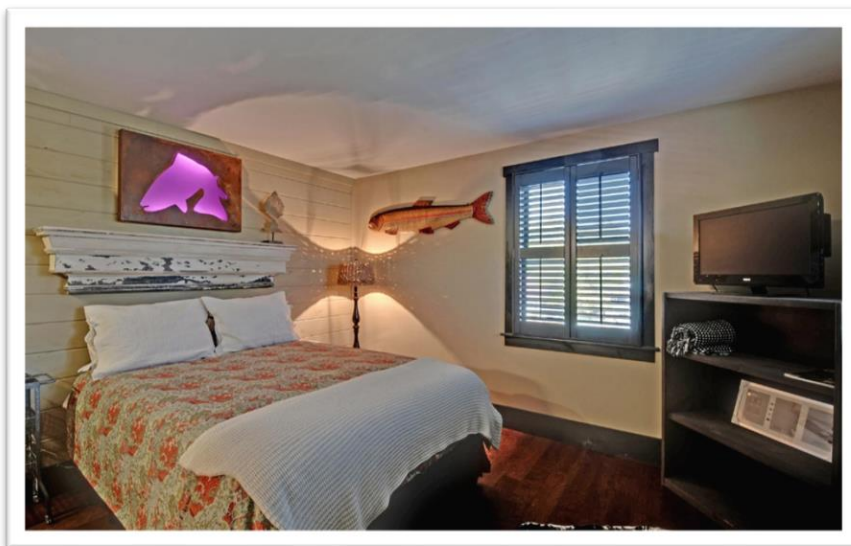
Q. What are the fishing opportunities in Blue Ridge?

A. Nestled along the temperate northwestern edge of the southern Appalachian mountain chain, Blue Ridge, GA is surrounded by year round trout fishing opportunities. While the mountains of the Cohutta Wilderness Area and Chattahoochee National Forest offer an abundance of small stream fishing opportunities for wild rainbows, browns, and native brook trout, it's the Toccoa tailwater and numerous private trophy trout streams that draw the majority of anglers to the area. To learn more about the area fishing opportunities or to book a guided trip to try out your new rod, we recommend Cohutta Fly Fishing next door...[Cohutta Fly Fishing](#) 706-946-3044.



Q. I have a friend/friends that want to come with me. Should I wait for them to sign up?

A. No. Many people talk of this class and sincerely want to do it but we have found waiting on someone to make your bamboo fly rod is just one more obstacle between you and the experience of a lifetime. You have come this far (reading the FAQ carefully)...you are ready to come make your bamboo fly rod at Oyster. Join us. While this is a special experience for friends and family to do together, we encourage you to sign up for yourself and come make new friends.



Q. Where do I stay during the class?

A. We have [The Oyster Cast & Blast Inn above the workshop.](#) The rates are very reasonable for Oyster clients. There are four bedrooms with four private baths and a common area with a porch overlooking Main Street. This is a “first come-first serve” situation for the classes.

Please note that we reserve the Inn for classes far in advance. The site may show full when we have vacancies. Please email Shannen at shannen@oysterbamboo.com to confirm availability. Because Blue Ridge is a tourist destination, there are numerous options. We have everything from popular and moderately priced chain hotels, to luxury suites, to a very active cabin rental market. Accommodations in Blue Ridge, Georgia range in price from \$70 - \$175 a night.

Q. Once I learn to make bamboo fly rods, I want to set up my own shop. Can you help me with that?

A. Yes! Our students frequently build their own workshops and continue the dream of bamboo fly rod making well after they complete our course.

Q. Where do I eat during the class?

A. Oyster Bamboo has a kitchen for drinks and snacks for your entire class. We also have coffee brewing non-stop...really...we frequently forget to turn off the coffee maker overnight. We have a meatball dinner celebration on graduation night as your rods receive their last coat of varnish. During the remaining meal breaks, most students opt to explore the numerous quaint eateries within easy walking distance in the historic district where we are located. Of course there are also the “usual” chain-type restaurants within a mile or two of the shop.

Q. What do I wear?

A. Think comfortable.



Q. Where do your students come from? I live out-of-state.

A. We have had students from every state (except North Dakota) attend our class. In fact, we regularly have students fly in from Europe, South America and Canada! [The Hartsfield–Jackson Atlanta International Airport](#) is the most conveniently located airport (about an hour and a half drive...all highway). Because this airport is technically the “busiest airport in the world”, the flights from anywhere are more frequent and less expensive.



Q. How do I get to you?

A. Downtown Blue Ridge is easily accessible off of a major highway (515) and a straight shot by highway from Atlanta. By Air: See answer above
By Car: [click here for a map to the shop](#)
From Atlanta: [click here for directions from outside of the airport in ATL](#)

Q. What is the weather like?

A. Perfect every day...we wish! Actually, Blue Ridge has gorgeous weather most of the year. Because we are a mountain town, our days are warm and it cools off in the evenings. [Click here for our current weather in Blue Ridge.](#)

Q. What can I expect each day?

A. Once you enter the Oyster workshop, you are a bamboo rod maker. Because we complete a bamboo fly rod (100%...with 3 coats of varnish) in such a short time, the days are long but productive and fun.

Q. Should I bring my fishing gear?

A. Yes! The Toccoa is our local tailwater and has year round fishing. We suggest waders and your 4-5 wt. The local fly shop is next door if you forget anything.

Q. What are the advantages of being an Oyster Bamboo graduate?

A. Other than having an open invitation to drink a beer at the shop when you visit Blue Ridge after the class, graduates have a number of advantages including Oyster only destination trips including locations as close as our trophy home waters or as far away as Patagonia. Also, we offer returning students that are ready to develop their bamboo fly rod making skill set on a more complex level more advanced building options that are discussed with Bill in advance of the class.

Q. Do you reserve dates for private groups? A. Yes, we have private groups choose their dates and sign up together on a regular basis. Simply call for details.



Q. Will Bill hand engrave the components on my rod hardware?

A. If time allows, Bill can do some basic (initials, name or simple art) if given enough time. Send us your idea and we'll give you an estimate.

Q. How do I sign up for your class?

A. You may sign up [on-line here](#). Or, you may call 706.374.4239 and send a check.

Q. How do I know I'll be happy?

A. Because our passion is also a means of support, our success as a business is dependent on your satisfaction. We are a true family business working as a full-time bamboo rod making facility. Our entire shop is 100% dedicated to the art of bamboo fly rod making.

Question: Why do more people come to Oyster Bamboo to make their first rod than anywhere else in the world and why do so many come back over and over?

Answer: Because we teach more people to make bamboo fly rods than anyone in the world, our experience has allowed us to develop the most successful techniques for training first time rodmakers. The relaxed atmosphere and good natured fun found in our workshop masks the countless hours of intense study which has resulted in the mastery of the rod making craft. All of this information will be openly shared with all of our students. 100% of the students that have taken our class have completed the course with a complete bamboo fly rod ready to fish. Your journey begins here. We're ready when you are...



