

The Technology of Fly Rods

by Don Philips

Don Phillips is certainly qualified to produce this excellent book, as not only is he a mechanical engineer, and fly fisherman, but he actually designed and manufactured the first boron fly rod. In late 1971 he started experimenting with fly rods made from boron fibres and epoxy resins and caught his first trout on a boron rod in April

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1972. He closed his small one-man business in 1985 after producing over 700 fly rods.

The reader is taken through the history, technology and evolution of fishing rods from the ancient Egyptians and Chinese to the present day. The use of various materials such as cane, metal, fibreglass, boron and graphite and fly rod design over the years is dealt with in detail as well as the various components such as eyes, tip tops and ferrules.

There are chapters on fly rod manufacturing, design, materials properties, taper and cross-section geometry as well as casting the line and the fly. Coupled with the chapter on casting the line and fly this book covers all aspects of the mechanics of the fly rod.

This comprehensive, well written book, covering the workings of the fly rod, which is an extension of the casting arm, although of special interest to the technically minded fly fisher, is an easy, fascinating as well as enjoyable read for the layman. Don Phillips has produced a book which is difficult to put down and makes a valuable addition to any fishing library.

Frank Amato Publications are to be congratulated on publishing this excellent book.

DLJB

Editor's Note: At my request, Don Phillips wrote an article, Boron: From Scouring Powder To Fly Rods for the 1982 edition of Piscator. I have several of his rods and the tips are quite literally needle thin.

