

CRESSY CANE

A CELEBRATION OF MAKING BAMBOO FLY RODS

International Guest and keynote Presenter
Bob Clay
Bamboo Rod Maker

This year our invited international rodmaker is Canadian rodmaker Bob Clay. Bob and his wife Kathy own and run "Riverwatch" fly rods, from their base in the Kispiox Valley in northern British Columbia. The Kispiox and wider Skeena system is a legendary Steelhead water, and Bob's is renowned for producing two handed bamboo fly rods for fishing this demanding water.

Bob started flyfishing the Kispiox in 1971 and later moved there in the spring of 1977. Kathy arrived on the scene in 1977 as well and they were married in 1978. Raising four children and guiding has kept both Kathy and Bob busy. Bob guided through the 80's and 90's, later selling his guiding business, to Wilfred Lee, to pursue rodbuilding. Bob continues to guide for Wilfred and when the kids grew up Bob started guiding on the Lower Dean for the Blackwells. Instructing a flyfishing course at the local college has also help pay the bills.

Always interested in Bamboo rods, Bob had the good fortune to meet Tom Morgan , formally of Winston Rod Co., who became his rod building mentor. Tom asked Bob to come to Montana and work on the first prototype of the Tom Morgan Handmill. Since then Bob has pursued bamboo rodbuilding, continually learning from other rodbuilders such as Marty Karstetter, Per Brandin and Glenn Brackett. The work and theories of E.C. Powell have also influenced Bob's style.

Kathy, besides having four children, Jed, Jessica, Kateri and Kaili; has also been busy with Riverwatch. She designed the Riverwatch artwork and logos and makes the rod bags and keeps the records. Also an instructor at the First Nation High School in Hazelton, Kathy is an avid fly fisherman and speycaster who regularly fishes with our acquaintances, who come from around the world to fish the Kispiox.

<http://www.riverwatchrods.com>