

Final Thoughts:

In a sport crowded with big brands and expensive gear, working with Yellowfin Custom Rods to create a custom rod for an honest price was a breath of fresh air. Like Ascent Fly Fishing in the fly space, there are a number of startup rod, reel, fly line, and tool companies that are pushing back the veneer of fly fishing being a sport of the wealthy and elite and providing exceptional products at prices the everyday fly fisher can afford. More than 30 years into fly fishing I have more fly rods than most, but I look forward to using this new 8-weight and anticipate that it will find a special place in my heart in the years to come.



Fly of the Month • October 2019

A Note from Greg Wambolt

*A desire to fish...
A desire to achieve your goals...*

Just as a desire to fly fish draws us to the river, a desire to achieve our financial goals - everything from a lifestyle to a legacy - draws us to invest. With investing, we put our assets to work in ways we hope will grow and protect what we've earned and help us reach bigger goals, such as buying a home or starting a business.

Defining the end goal and the path to get there underlies each customized investment strategy we create at Wambolt & Associates. We review the goals, current investment positions, retirement income projections, insurance, liabilities and other financial matters to each client and their family in designing a "living" plan, one that moves and adjusts as conditions change, guiding you through the headwaters and byways in life and the financial markets. Asset allocations and individual securities and bonds are carefully monitored and proactively managed to avoid expensive products and unnecessary fees.

Learn more about our customized investment strategies or book a free consultation at www.WamboltWealth.com.



Over a lifetime on the water you are going to own a number of fly rods, but as your arsenal of rods grows, your first fly rod will always hold a special place in your heart. While decades have elapsed since I purchased my first fly rod, I remember keenly the anticipation and vast investment that went into that purchase. Having hoarded my allowance, checks from birthdays, and every penny from my first job, I decided to go big and order a custom 9-foot 6-weight rod from a Wyoming rod builder. The \$300 spent felt like a fortune, and the months of waiting seemed like an eternity, but once I received my rod and held it for the first time, the rod felt like an extension of my arm like only a custom-built rod can feel.

Continue reading inside...



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FLY OF THE MONTH • CRYSTAL METH SUCKER SPAWN • Sizes 14-8

Tied to match the egg clusters of our fall and winter spawning suckers, the Crystal Meth fly pattern is a tried and true killer for both trout and steelhead. Sucker eggs are one of the last opportunities for trout and steelhead to pack on weight before the lean winter months. During the spawn, all trout will actively feed on eggs. The Crystal Meth is too tempting to pass up and once trout and steelhead give it a try, they are sure to get hooked!

Available Colors: Chartreuse, Pink, Orange, Yellow, & White | **Dry/Wet:** Wet
Fly Category: Attractor Pattern, True-Fly Pattern | **Family:** Eggs & Worms



A Case for Custom Built Fly Rods Peter Sticher - Ascent Fly Fishing

After fishing this rod on three continents and using it to net numerous cold and warm water fish species, I decided to look into purchasing another custom rod and was pleasantly surprised at how easy and affordable the process has become.

I was introduced to Jon Hill of Yellowfin Custom Fly Rods a couple months ago and it was evident within 5 minutes of conversation that he was passionate about building fly rods. Proficient at building in both fiberglass and graphite, and able to knowledgeably speak to the specific considerations that go into small creek rods vs. light-weight and far-reaching euro nymphing rods, I wanted to address the elephant in the room and ask him how much a custom rod would cost before getting my hopes up. I was blown away when Jon told me that getting a custom rod wasn't just quick and easy (taking just 3 weeks from design to holding a finished rod), but relatively inexpensive costing just \$225 for a standard-length fiberglass or graphite rod. While the price was tempting, I had to put these rods to the test and see how they stacked up to Sage, Scott, and Thomas & Thomas rods. With the action proving incredible and the price tantalizingly low, I commissioned Jon to build me an 8 weight for Bonefish and Tiger Muskie.



above: my rod blank and component picks

Picking Your Rod Blank & Components:

With more than 12 colors of rod blanks, dozens of different reel seat and cork options, and an infinite array of thread colors to wrap and accent the rod, it is easy to create a one-of-a-kind rod to match your personality and tastes. Staying true to our no-frills brand of fly fishing and pulling colors from our logo, I chose a matte black rod blank with gun metal guides and reel seat, grey and tan cork, and burnt orange, white, and black thread for the wraps. Jon sent me a photo with the different components that matched my criteria and in just a couple of minutes, I finalized my order.

Feedback Driven Production:

When I placed the order, I had selected white thread as the primary color wrap for the guides on the line. Apart from choosing fly tying materials, I don't get to choose many colors in our home (if my wife asks me my opinion on a paint color, I trust her to give me one!). In my mind, I thought that white would look cool, but when wrapped to the rod Jon went the extra mile and shared some sample photos and provided some artistic suggestions. He allowed me to backtrack, going with a black wrap as my primary, with white and orange as accents, and the results were killer!



A Made-to-Order Fly Rod in 3 Weeks:

I was on a call when I saw the notification from Yellowfin beep through with photo attachments and quickly made my excuses to cut the call short. The rod looked better than I could have imagined, and when I received it later that day, I found that it cast like a dream as well. Standing in the street and double hauling an articulated streamer down the road with ease, I could not have been more pleased with my new rod.



See Peter's final thoughts on the back page...