

FIRST ANNUAL

# BAMBOO FLY ROD CLASSIC



The First Annual Bamboo Fly Rod Classic, held May 17, was quite a hit by all accounts. Bamboo-rod makers and enthusiasts from Virginia, Pennsylvania and Maryland were in full force as were bamboo fly rod aficionados from Colorado, New York and New Jersey. The event was held at Rose River Farm, a popular private fly fishing only trout water, and was sponsored by Albemarle Angler in Charlottesville, *The Virginia Sportsman* magazine and Rose River Farm.

More than 50 people enjoyed displaying their old and new bamboo rods and learning from some of the fine craftsmen who still make cane rods today. The works of Chris Bogart, Dreamcatchers, Joe Sheer, and Ben and Jerry Nonnemacher were all on display and available for casting demonstrations. Gordon English, the owner of Albemarle Angler, brought out a dozen or so classic Orvis and other assorted famous-maker bamboo rods that he carries in his store.

After an afternoon of fishing the gin-clear waters of Rose River Farm, the guests reviewed the angling art of renowned Virginia artist Michael Simon and tasted the wines of Madison's own DuCard Vineyards. Scott Elliff, the owner of the vineyard, gave brief tasting notes as attendees enjoyed a number of his award-winning wines.

Proceeds from the event sponsored a children's fly fishing clinic held at the farm the following day. About 10 children





and their parents came out from the local Boys and Girls Club to learn the finer points of catch and release fly fishing. They received one-on-one instruction from English and Douglas Dear. Although the weather got a little wet, the kids never gave up and caught quite a few fish—all with fly tackle. This next generation of conservation-minded anglers is the future of Virginia fly angling.

To receive information about next year's event please add your email to the newsletter list at [www.roseriverfarm.com](http://www.roseriverfarm.com)

Reported by Douglas Dear  
Photos by Chris Bogart and Hay Hardy

