



PO Box 415
Twin Bridges, MT 59754
406-684-5440

April 12, 2012

RE: Your Sweetgrass Rod and Walking Stick

Walt & Shirley Jakubowski
4511 E. 42nd Ave.
Spokane, WA 99223-1590

Dear Walt & Shirley,

Congratulations on receipt of your new Sweetgrass Rod and Walking Stick. This walking stick represents the culmination of years of playing with bamboo and making both rods and other crafty things. In this case, the walking stick is an 8-sided, hollow, bamboo shaft, wrapped with kangaroo leather at the top and twine on the grip. The metal at the top is brass and the knob is walnut wrapped with more kangaroo leather. The lanyard is hand-made by a local leather craftsman whose work is of very high quality, and the material is also kangaroo leather. We chose this type of leather because of its flexibility and durability.

This rod inside is a 6'3" 3/4-weight rod with a pentagonal cross section. Any brand of trout line will work on this rod, although the nature of bamboo rods is such that smaller diameter, supple lines seem to perform particularly well. Cortland's "Sylk" line is an artificial line that has been demonstrated to perform admirably.

Regarding your rod's construction, the process began in the town of Aozai, in Southeast China. Glenn and Dave Delisi went there in January of 2009 to sort and select bamboo culms. The Cai family was our host and provided us with excellent hospitality and the opportunity to choose from bamboo of unparalleled quality.

From there, your rod's cane traveled, quite literally, on a slow boat from China, to Twin Bridges, MT, where it was split, milled, and glued by Master Craftsman Glenn Brackett. Dave cut and sanded the walking stick, made the brass top, and wrapped the twine grip. Dave also cut and sanded the rod, and then fit the ferrules and turned the cork grip. Dana Escott wrapped the guides on and Jason Fox finish-coated the rod. Finally, Dave made the cork reel seat for the rod. Bill Holden, of Line Camp Saddle Company near Twin Bridges, MT, did the stunning leather work.

On that day when you, or the final recipient of this staff/rod combination, venture out in search of finny prey, and place the reel into its time-honored position, know that the time and effort that went into your experience was considerable. We tell you this not so much so you can appreciate our hard work, but because we are proud and happy to contribute to your happiness fund.

Made for the Tremble Clefs, we hope this package, valued at ~~\$2200~~ ^{#2400 7/26/12}, will raise funds for your important cause. With several employees whose family members have been affected by diseases like ALS, MS, and Parkinsons, we are happy to support efforts to ease the suffering of those afflicted by such illnesses as well as to assist with fund raising. It is a small way to give back.

With care, your rod will last a lifetime and beyond. Keep it dry when stored. Clean the ferrules with steel wool (0000) and alcohol and then add a little paraffin to keep them sliding properly. Call us any time if you have questions, and know that we appreciate your business and support!

Sincerely,

Glenn Brackett, Jerry Kustich & Dave Delisi