

# Demarest Challenge 2017

## “The Brookie Challenge”

There will be changes to the traditional format that will take place this year in an effort to further the original goal of the Demarest Challenge of advancing the art of both building, casting and fishing Bamboo Fly Rods. The Demarest Challenge wants bamboo rodmakers to advance their skills, knowledge and abilities on all levels.

Fishing small streams for Native Brook Trout requires short, accurate and precise casts. It is also the type of fishing where a good bamboo fly rod excels over all other materials. The rod must be able to load quickly, make a cast that turns over a short leader and be able to present the fly precisely under various conditions. In addition, small streams present numerous challenges to the caster with tight quarters the norm. Most casts are within 10' – 15' and a 30' cast is exceptionally long and unusual.

There will be important changes to the casting segment this year that focuses on what these rods must accomplish:

- The first thing to note is there will be no distance component of the casting segment – only accuracy at shorter distances. 10', 13', 16', 19', 22' and 25' with smaller hoops sizes 1' (10' and 13'), 2' (16' and 19') and 3' (22' and 25') hoops will be used.
- Second, the casting segment will be in two parts. First round is without out any impediment to the caster and then a second round with a horizontal bar placed at 5' in front of the casters and all casts must go under this bar. This is intended to replicate the tight casting conditions frequently found on Freestone Brook Trout streams.
- Third component will have the makers of each rod will cast own their rod in the first round of the casting segment. Then two professional casters will then cast the rods in rounds two and three of the challenge. The rods will be given a total score of all three rounds. The tie breaker, if there is a tie in the final scores, will be the round one score by the maker.

The Demarest Challenge Rod to be entered will be a 6' 6" (plus or minus .5") for a 4wt. A 7 ½' 4X leader will be used in the casting segment. The brand of fly line to be used in the challenge will be announced at a later time but it will be a WF4.

The Demarest Challenge casting segment limited distance requirement will enable rodmakers to be able to set up their own casting course at home to practice their skills and also to be able to evaluate their rod design.