

The Fifth European Rodmakers Gathering

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The 5th European Rod Bamboo Makers Gathering took place in Carcassonne, France from November 9th – November 11th, 2012.

Organized by the Club Mouche Audois around Alix Antoni.

Carcassonne is located in the South Westerly part of France at the foothills of the Pyrenees Mountains. Famous for its delicious food and wines the area is as well rich on many splendid waters, not only holding trout and grayling but also Atlantic salmon. So everything was set for a great meeting, and a great meeting it was. Regarding the late date of the season it was very foresighted to choose a location where everything was indoors. The dome de Carcassonne, where the meeting was held, is an assembling/sports hall large enough for the display tables, seminars, social functions and casting .

From novice makers who proudly displayed their first rodmaking jewels to masters of our art, rodmakers from all over Europe showed up and brought in many various aspects to our passion. They were trying to open our minds and bring rodmaking forward to the next level. Obvious was the search for alternatives to our traditional and well served nickel-silver ferrule. We saw many kinds of bamboo ferrules from the FIBH Bjarne Fries style to the Italian Streamlined style with many aspects in between. The making of carbon fiber ferrules was demonstrated and the honored spliced connections seemed to live through a revival.

On Friday evening we all met for an unofficial diner at the hotel for first contacts.

The meeting itself was opened by the representative of the city of Carcassonne Monsieur Christophe Fanjeaux on Saturday morning.

The schedule for seminars and demonstrations contained:

- Making of a bamboo section by Paul Agostini and Pierre Perrot
- Scrimshaw and coloration of titanium by Jean Santos
- Nodeless building by Patrick Maleig
- Carbon ferrules by Christian Burger
- Making of a real seat insert without turning tools by Mihai Stanciu
- Nodes and properties of bamboo by Gabriele Gori
- Bamboo ferrules by Alberto Poratelli
- Where does our bamboo come from...by Andy Royer

Besides the official part of the gathering, the displays and discussions among the makers could not have been more inspiring. Jigs for making planing forms, nodeless blanks and spliced connections, self made reels from wood to titanium or self made silk fly lines that were unbelievably supple and a dream to cast.

The gathering ended on Sunday afternoon with a raffle where everyone got the chance to go home

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with a real treasure.

The 6th European Bamboo Rod Makers Gathering will be held in Switzerland, in October 2013. Details are still to be announced. See you there.



Pic 1: From left: Opening by Monsieur Christophe Fanjeaux, Philipp Sicher, Moreno Borriero, Gabriele Gori, Alix Antoni



Pic 2: Friday evening diner

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Pic 3: Casting area



Pic 4: Paul Agostini explaining his rods

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Pic 5: Scrimshaw by Jean Santos



Pic 6: Titanium reel by Leen Huisman

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Pic 7: Discussing cork. From left: Leen Huisman, Josselin de Lespinay and Andy Royer



Pic 8: Explaining carbon ferrules

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Pic 9: jig for spicing



Pic 10: River Aude. About 20 miles south of Carcassonne

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Pic 11, 12: did I mention the food.....



Pic 12a: Splicing connection

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Pic 13: Wonderful Italian stripping guides.

