



LITTLE SHOP. BIG HEART.

1998

By 1998, we had a fully functioning 200 square foot, one man bamboo fly rod making shop in the basement of our home complete with sheet metal walls and a homemade hinky bench. We sold our first custom rod and never looked back. By the end of 2001, we expanded the shop to 1500 square feet including an office, lounge area and 3 additional benches to spread out.



2000

THE GREAT EQUALIZER

"Thanks to the internet, you no longer have to be the biggest. If you are the best, they will find you."

WWW.OYSTERBAMBOO.COM was born in 2000. This was the year we opened our official on-line e-commerce site.



2003

CLASSES

"If I ever get truly adept at this...I am going to teach others."

Bill made good on his promise and starting teaching bamboo fly rod making classes. He started with a single student. These classes take on a life of their own.



2006

HAND ENGRAVING

When the Carter Center called and commissioned an Oyster rod for President Carter, they requested a hand engraved Presidential Seal, inspiring Bill to learn to engrave. This turning point elevated the craftsmanship and LEGACY aspect of Oyster rods to another level.



2008

WORKSHOP IN THE WOODS

In 2008, Oyster went all in...we built a workshop B & B style for our students deep in the woods of North Georgia surrounded by nature and most importantly, trout.



2009

MAIN STREET

We quickly outgrew our little dream above "little red" shop in the woods and knew the next natural transition was a store front. And while we moved to Main Street for professional reasons and more exposure for Oyster, we ended up with a lasting community.



2012

THE HOUSE THAT BAMBOO FLY RODS BUILT

In 2012, Oyster completed construction on our 6000 square foot brick and mortar that includes an expanded workshop, showroom open to the public, offices and lodging for our students staying with us for the week. The INN is situated above the shop overlooking Main Street.



2018

20 YEARS

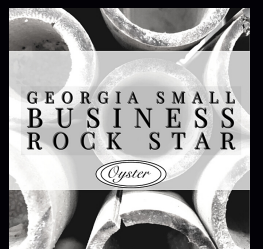
2018 was a landmark achievement for Oyster. We celebrated 20 years. WE PERSEVERED. We flourished in the struggle.



2019

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

The Georgia Department of Economic Development named Oyster Bamboo Fly Rods the Small Business of the Year (retail) for the state in 2019. This was a particularly significant accolade because making a successful business from a passion is a rarity, let alone receiving mainstream recognition.



2023

25 YEARS

Today, Oyster continues to thrive on Main Street in Blue Ridge, Georgia, with an unbelievably talented crew of full-time craftsmen and engravers. In addition to making the finest bamboo fly rods, Oyster has taught more people to make bamboo fly rods than anyone in the world.

