

## »NEW GEAR 2009



### SCIENTIFIC ANGLERS Waterproof Fly Boxes

Sci Anglers carefully considered how we use fly boxes when they designed their eight new boxes for 2009. For instance, they made sure the lids were see-through so you could find flies without opening the box in windy conditions. But if you did, the slit-foam inserts keep the flies (their hooks, actually) firmly in place. (See the Salt Water column in this issue for more on the virtues of foam inserts.) And waterproofness is always a benefit. "The new assortment of waterproof fly boxes includes versions in three different sizes with unique design features to handle everything from size 20 dries to big streamers to saltwater flies," says SA's Jeff Wieringa. The boxes are priced from \$22.95 to \$31.95. [www.scientificanglers.com](http://www.scientificanglers.com)—*The Editors*



### PATAGONIA SST Rev Jacket

It is difficult to revise an icon. First introduced in 1989, the Patagonia SST jacket set a standard for angling rainwear. As a native of the Pacific Northwest rain forest, I was saddened when I heard that Patagonia had redesigned the SST. How could this icon be better? Well, the new SST REV is still a serious, tough, breathable waterproof. Yet now it is cleaner, greener and more practical. The light but durable 3-layer Nylon 6 Ripstop fabric has an H2No waterproof and breathable barrier and a Deluge DWR (durable water repellent) finish. The large, waterproof chest-pockets with inside tippet pouches are set high for deep wading. The reversed StretchCoat cuff keeps water out when casting in rain or releasing fish. The smooth Velcro closures prevent line grab. A single pull fully adjusts the new integrated hood. There are corrosion resistant, waterproof Aquazip zippers on the main, back and hand pockets. Two "Beastie D-rings" on the front and one on the back attach all your danglies. A hidden rod holder snaps at the bottom and inside left chest pocket to free hands when tying on flies. Finally, the full cut to accommodate layers, the Y-joint sleeves and the anatomically curved elbows create a comfortable fit. The truth is that the SST is more new than revised. It is modern and practical. Made from 60 percent recycled fabric, the SST is now 100 percent recyclable, through Patagonia's Common Threads Recycling Program. It belongs to a greener world. \$425. [www.patagonia.com](http://www.patagonia.com)—*Darrel Martin*



### GREAT BAY ROD CO. MSR and SFT Fly Rods

Based in New Hampshire, Great Bay Rod Company brings an old-fashioned Yankee work ethic to the manufacture of rods. Each is hand-crafted and hand-tested before heading out to the angling world. I cast the MSR 5-weight graphite rod, nicely finished with an REC Premium reel seat with Amboyna burl-wood insert, and REC titanium guides, and was impressed by the soft, responsive tip giving way to some serious backbone in the lower third of the rod. Next, I tried the SFT Saxon Creek 6-foot, 6-inch, 3-weight—built on a fiberglass rod blank. This is an absolute sweetheart of a rod, with the slow, smooth fiberglass action that I forgot how much I love. Still, I could load the rod quickly to flick a small dry in a pocket or along a bank. The tulip-wood reel-seat insert is a nice cosmetic touch, too. All Great Bay rods are individually numbered and warranted for the rod's life. A rod tube and bag are included with every rod. The MSR rods are \$359.99; SFTs are \$279.99. [www.greatbayrods.com](http://www.greatbayrods.com)—*Joe Healy*