Subject: : Gear Talk
Topic: : Tenkara Fly Fishing
Re: Tenkara Fly Fishing
Author: : CM_Stewart
Date: : 2009/5/17 18:43:15
URL:

They don't telescope to any length. Most of the models he has are 12' and one model is 11'.

I hear a lot of guys comparing it to a cane pole, but my cane pole won't cast a size 16 elk hair caddis with a line light enough to keep it all off the water so there's no drag to worry about, and also protect a 6x tippet (and my telescopic fiberglass crappie pole won't either). Just because tenkara doesn't use a reel doesn't mean it's anything like cane pole fishing. It's fly fishing, just with a very long, very light rod and very light line. Well, I think it's fly fishing - the state of Pennsylvania disagrees, though, so you can't use it on "fly fishing only" waters. Their definition of fly fishing requires the use of a fly reel. (Luckily I mostly fish in New York.)

I like it for pocket water and places where there are tricky currents. I think a tenkara rod is good for nymphing, with two limitations: the rods are too light to handle really heavy nymphs, and you may hook fish you can't land. With a modestly weighted nymph, however, the extra length of the rod really helps. What I like most about it is the simplicity. That's not why I got into it. I got into it for how it could present the fly. What I found, though, is that I really like not having all the extra line wrapped around my legs, or stepping on it, or having to worry about getting the fish on the reel. Somehow I just enjoy fishing more with the simpler gear. I also catch more fish than I did before and I really do believe that the improved presentation more than offsets the reduced casting distance.

I got into it more than a year before I'd heard of Tenkara USA, when you couldn't even buy a tenkara rod in the US. I can't tell you how much I wish he'd opened a couple years earlier.