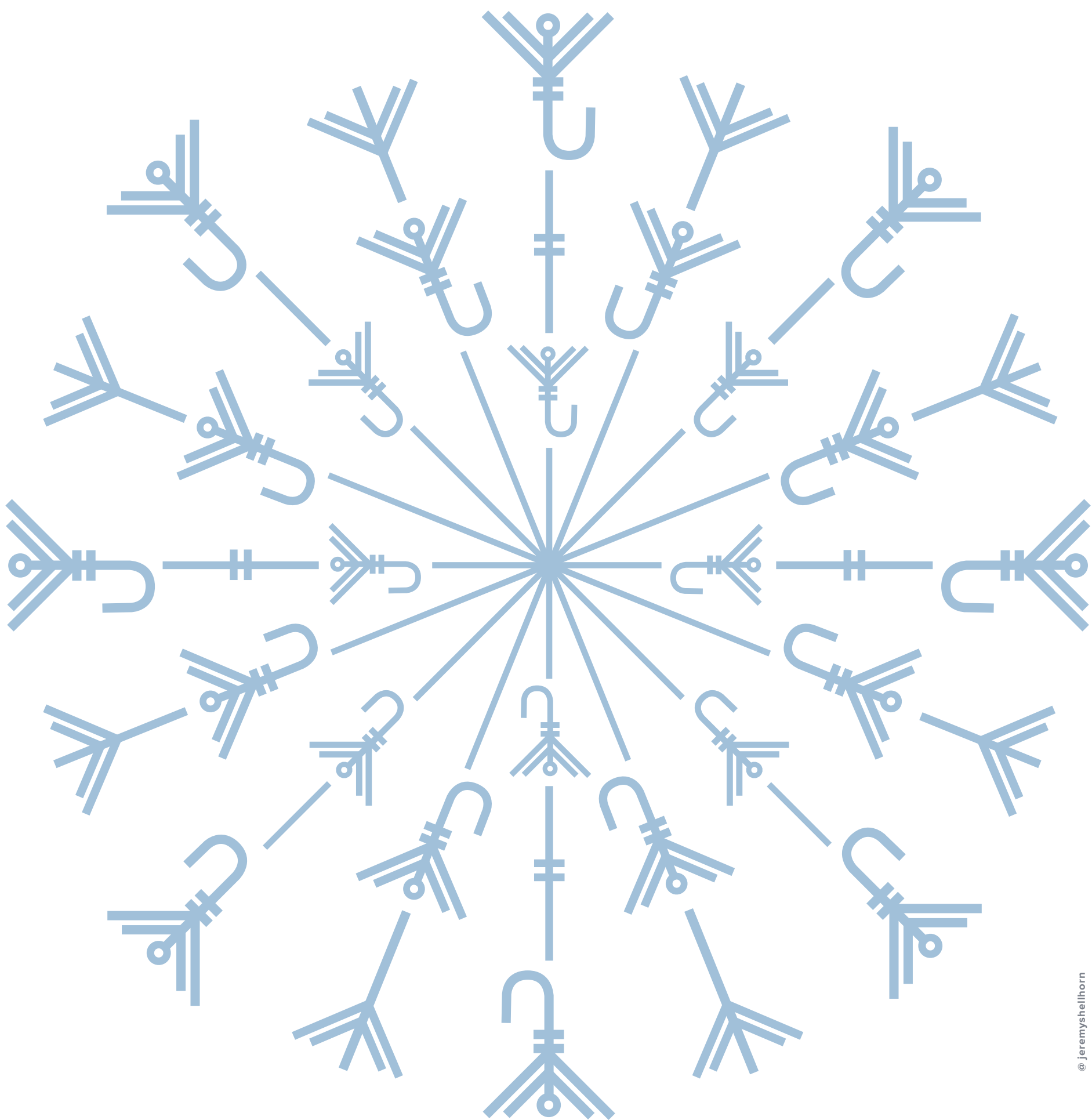


Ice Shelf Fishing
Iwana Sashimi
#myTenkaraStory

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Bamboo Rods
Carry More Stuff
Tenkara Comic

the official magazine of tenkara usa



@jeremysheihorn

december
2018

I C E

shelf
fishing

FROM THE TENKARA USA ARCHIVES
JANUARY
2013
TENKARAUSA.COM
BLOG
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED

Fish seek two things in particular: shelter and food. Both of these elements shift in the winter; as temperatures drop, the stream freezes and the places for fish to hide change, along with food-generating potential.

EXCERPT – from www.tenkarausa.com/ice-shelf

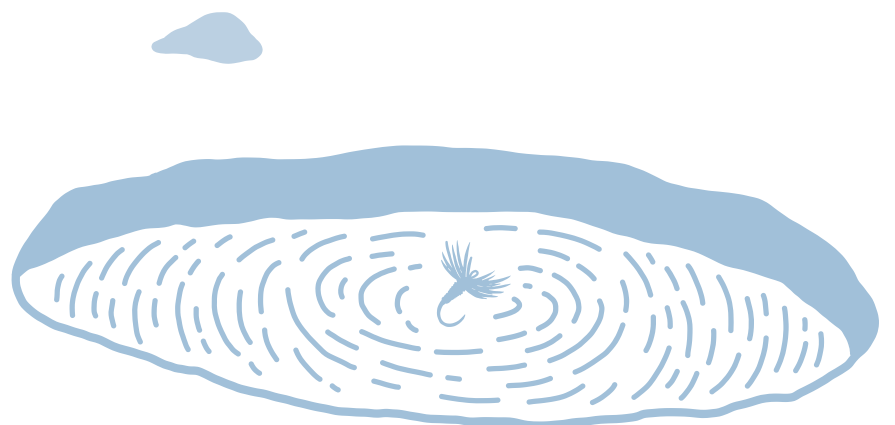
Fish seek two things in particular: shelter and food. Both of these elements shift in the winter; as temperatures drop, the stream freezes and the places for fish to hide change, along with food-generating potential. But, when it warms up enough, the ice opens up and reveals a new kind of structure that anglers can target: ice shelves.

Fish tend to bulk up in the fall, knowing when the temperatures drop that food will become scarce and they will need to do their best to conserve their own energy by ‘lying low’.

Most streams and lakes will not freeze all the way to the bottom, so there are likely plenty of places to hide underneath the shelves of ice.

Areas where water is flowing with a stronger current may stay open and are likely to have a better amount of food coming in.

For example, take a look at the foam line in the picture (on opposite page) where you can see on the opposite side of the stream the ice is much thinner. And, as they say “foam is home”, for it often indicates places of stronger turbulence that may carry food. This is always a good place to look for feeding fish.



I have also noticed fish cruising under ice in places with slower water. On multiple occasions I've seen their shadows gliding underneath, and they often "sip" right by the edge of the ice shelves, where there can be concentrations of bugs.

Can you spot the fish in the picture below?
This was one fish I did not catch, on purpose.



He was very close to the shore, a greenback cutthroat. I saw him coming up from below and eating every time he swam out of his protected ice cave. He seemed to sip down a bug precisely every minute.

I just watched him, in awe, and somehow was able to resist the temptation to cast my fly to him. Too easy, I thought. It is one of the few fish I have not cast a fly to, but remember clearly. I still get as much joy from that memory as from any fish I have ever caught.



But, I couldn't resist his neighbor...



FROM THE TENKARA USA ARCHIVES
AUGUST
2011
TENKARUSA.COM
BLOG
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED



ishigaki sensei

Even those who really like Japanese food and enjoy eating raw fish, known as sashimi, are often surprised to learn that trout can also make awesome sashimi.

EXCERPT – from www.tenkarausa.com/iwana-sashimi


Even those who really like Japanese food and enjoy eating raw fish, known as sashimi, are often surprised to learn that trout can also make awesome sashimi. This includes people from the big cities of Japan, who are accustomed to eating ocean fish.

In the more isolated mountain regions of Japan, trout are raised in farms with cold and very clean water. Here, iwana is the preferred fish for sashimi as they have a slightly higher fat content. Other trout, such as amago, can also be used and are delicious to eat as well, but their leaner meat tends to have less flavor. If you ever have the chance to try the iwana, I'd highly recommend it as it's my favorite kind of sashimi.


I would like to mention, near the end of one of my trips to Japan, the opportunity to enjoy fresh sashimi stream-side arose. Although it is a favorite of mine, I struggled with the idea of eating even one of the few wild trout left in Japan and decided against it in this situation. The concept of catch-and-release is still not a normal part of their culture, and I didn't want to contribute to the diminishing stock of fish in the streams. It's something to be aware of and think about.


I do like to wonder, however, how often the professional tenkara anglers of old times were able to enjoy uncooked, fresh iwana and amago sashimi to nourish their bodies during a day of hard fishing. How delicious that must have been.








 **lortiephoto** • Following

lortiephoto Can't wait till runoff is done!
#fishingkids #tenkarausa #colorado
#catchandrelease

weberkristin Awesome photo! 


tenkarausa 🙌 

nancyclane1943 Ruby got yourself a beaut. Love your hat 

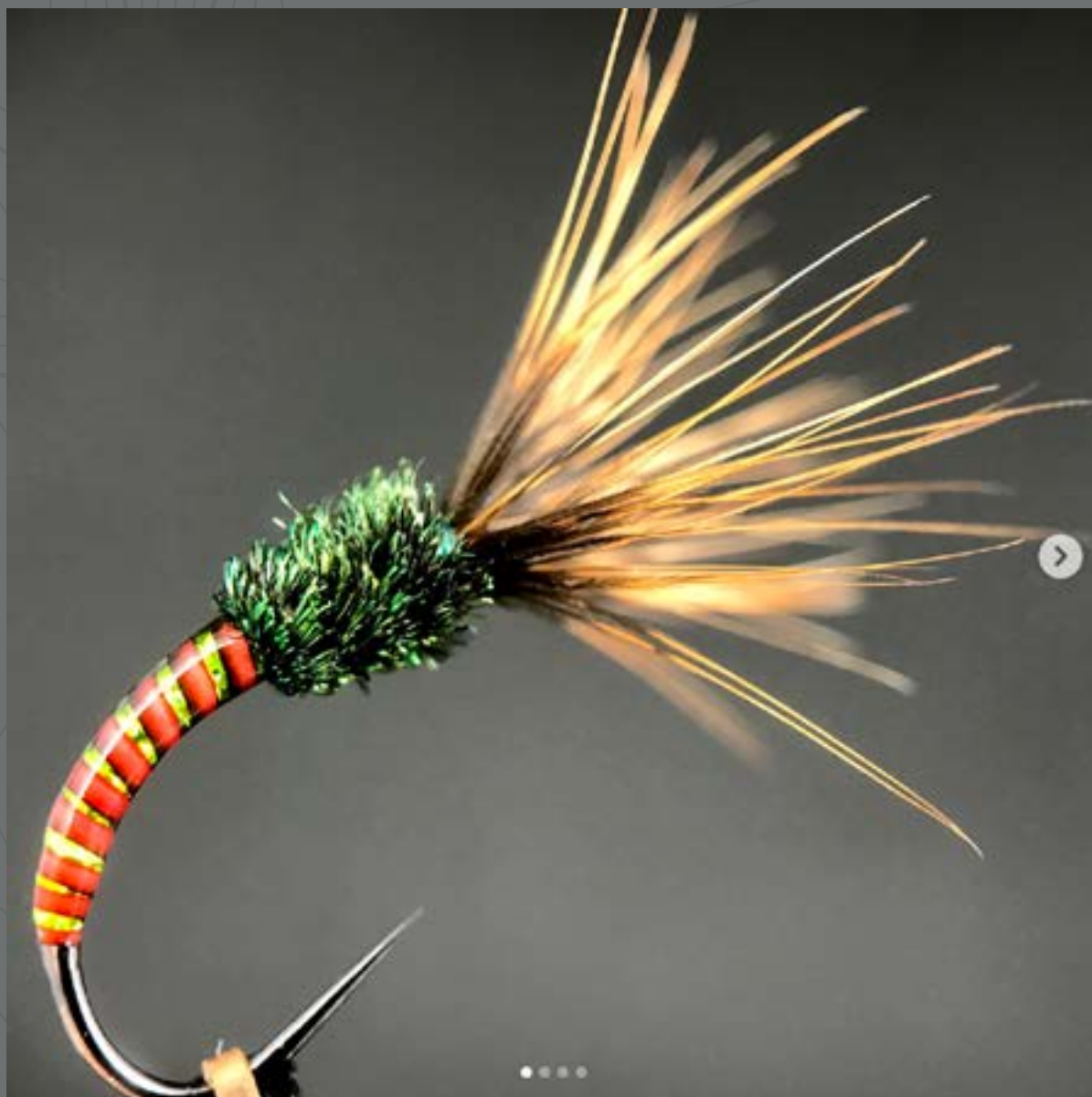
   


53 likes

MAY 24

Add a comment... 


#mytenkarastory





 **son_tao** • Following
Tao Fish Therapy


son_tao Sakasa Kebari Fly. I met my friend Daniel Galhardo from @tenkarausa at the Sowbug Roundup. He told me he loves my Instagram feed but there are no Tenkara flies! So this is for you Daniel; my first Tenkara fly. Polish Quill over chartreuse holo tinsel body, peacock herl and Whiting Brahma hen hackle #tenkara #tenkarausa





View all 24 comments

thegrowlery Oh damn! 

lojadecamping 🙌 


michael_zecca How does this look in the water? Does the hackle flow backwards 

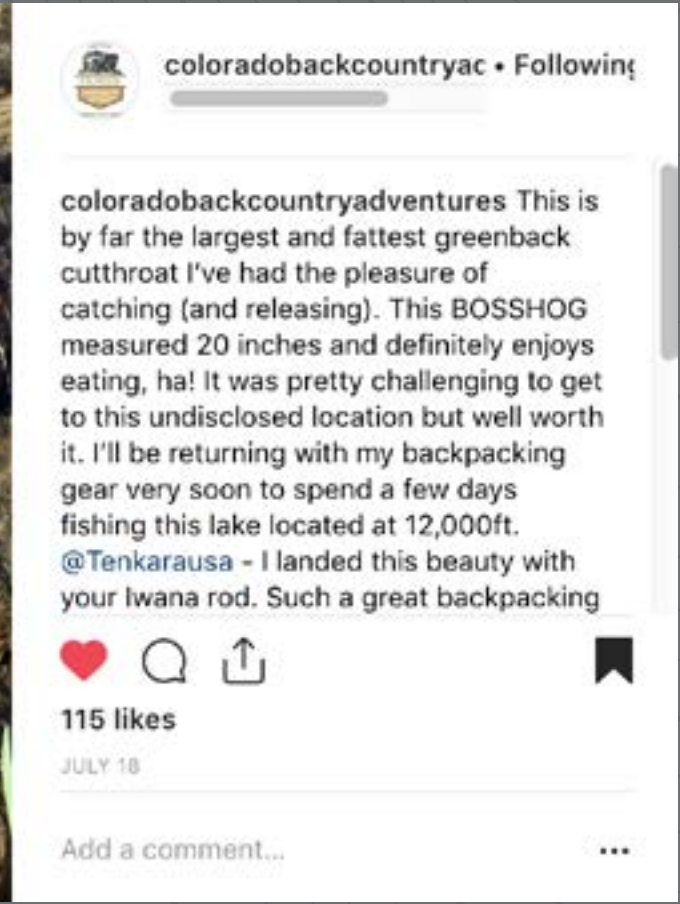
son_tao @michael_zecca yes 

1,320 likes

MARCH 27

Add a comment... 



Follow us on Instagram @tenkarausa

Tag us & use hashtag #mytenkarastory so we can follow your tenkara adventures too!
Enjoy a few of our favorite shots from our awesome tenkara community.





danielpritchie • Following

danielpritchie I never thought fly fishing was ever going to work out for an armless guy but some good coaching from @joeresque and a good rod from @tenkarausa made the shoulder cast go better than I ever thought.

Watch out trout, I'm coming! #Dominion #MyTenkaraStory

View all 11 comments

joemharrison I'm totally impressed! Way to push on my friend!

upperpalmettoflyfishing Awesome and inspiring stuff, brother! Tightlines!

abriisphotography What a beautiful day 🌞🌞

phwff Awesome

303 likes

MAY 10

#tenkarausa



nomadwolf360 • Following
Snake River

unexpected development is how much fun this little lightweight Tenkara Rhodo rod has been. We keep it on the outside of the pack, and while one of us is filtering water the other can fish a creek for ten minutes to break up the monotony of walking. It is so simple it takes seconds to set up. The mental slowdown, chance to relax by a creek and be able to catch and see some beautiful fish has really enhanced the hike. It's making the trip all the way to Canada. 🇺🇸🇨🇦 #hikethtcdt #cdt2017 #hiking #fishing #tenkara

71 likes

AUGUST 18, 2017

Add a comment...



chriskearnsphoto • Following
Popo Agie Wilderness

chriskearnsphoto Perfect day for an impromptu wet wade...

👤 : @dawnkearns8 .

#windrivercountry #wyominglife #wyoming #thatsWY #lander #landerwyoming #outdoorfamilies #childhoodunplugged #raiseawildchild #gooutsideandplay #kidsinnature #hikingwithkids #getoutside #iwasbornwild #outsideeveryday #wildandfree #getoutstayout #choosmountains #plantwildroots #wildrootsrundeep #outdoors_mentality #FindYourself!Outside #familytrails #childrenofmountains #startlivingsimple

70 likes

JULY 2, 2017

#fishsimply



pixiek8 • Following

pixiek8 We've been studying Tenkara this week at school, and right before I was about to snap the damn thing over my knee in frustration, I hooked into this brown. Thank you @tenkarausa for supplying these rods to the @cmc_leadville program!

View all 28 comments

pixiek8 @whitedogtrail thank you!!!! Yes, it felt like towards the end of the class I ended up having a feel for it

1,356 likes

JUNE 15, 2017



sipstrongwater • Following
Crested Butte, Colorado

sipstrongwater Cocktails and Tenkara seem to go hand in hand. Bourbon and Golden bitters all day. Thank you @tenkarausa.
#flyfishing #tenkara #tenkarausa #whiskey #cocktails #coloradococktails #golden #bitters #cocktailbitters #rivers #crestedbutte #gothiccolorado #cocktailporn #strongwater #sipstrongwater

View all 5 comments

- lpoutdoors Awesome
- brandonglampley Really really want to be fishing and sipping with yal soon!
- travelcrestedbutte 🍷🍷
- twofoverland I am still savoring every last drop of my Golden bitters



211 likes

JULY 3, 2017

#opttenkara



jhartfw • Following
Sequoia National Forest

jhartfw An afternoon trip to the higher country after some lowlands carping and I ran into some fish friends I haven't seen for 9 months. Such intense fighters for their size, blasting dries on the surface and intercepting midcolumn kebari from out of nowhere, these kern river rainbow hybrids are stunning. Happy to have shared the afternoon with them. #tenkara #barbless #catchandrelease #southernsierraflyfishers #troutonthefly #wildkrv #flytying #trout #moreinoproblem

- eric_sanchez_ I gotta get up there again
- ontheffy_tillidie Nice John
- ryanspanel Beautiful fish!



122 likes

MAY 28

Add a comment...

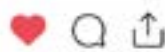


getcoloradical • Following
Eagle-Vail, Colorado

getcoloradical Skiing then fishing is a strange and new biathlon... but I like it :)

#rainbowtrout #troutfishing #nymphs #skiing #colorado #eagleriver #tenkara #tenkarausa #hane #mountains #mountainlife

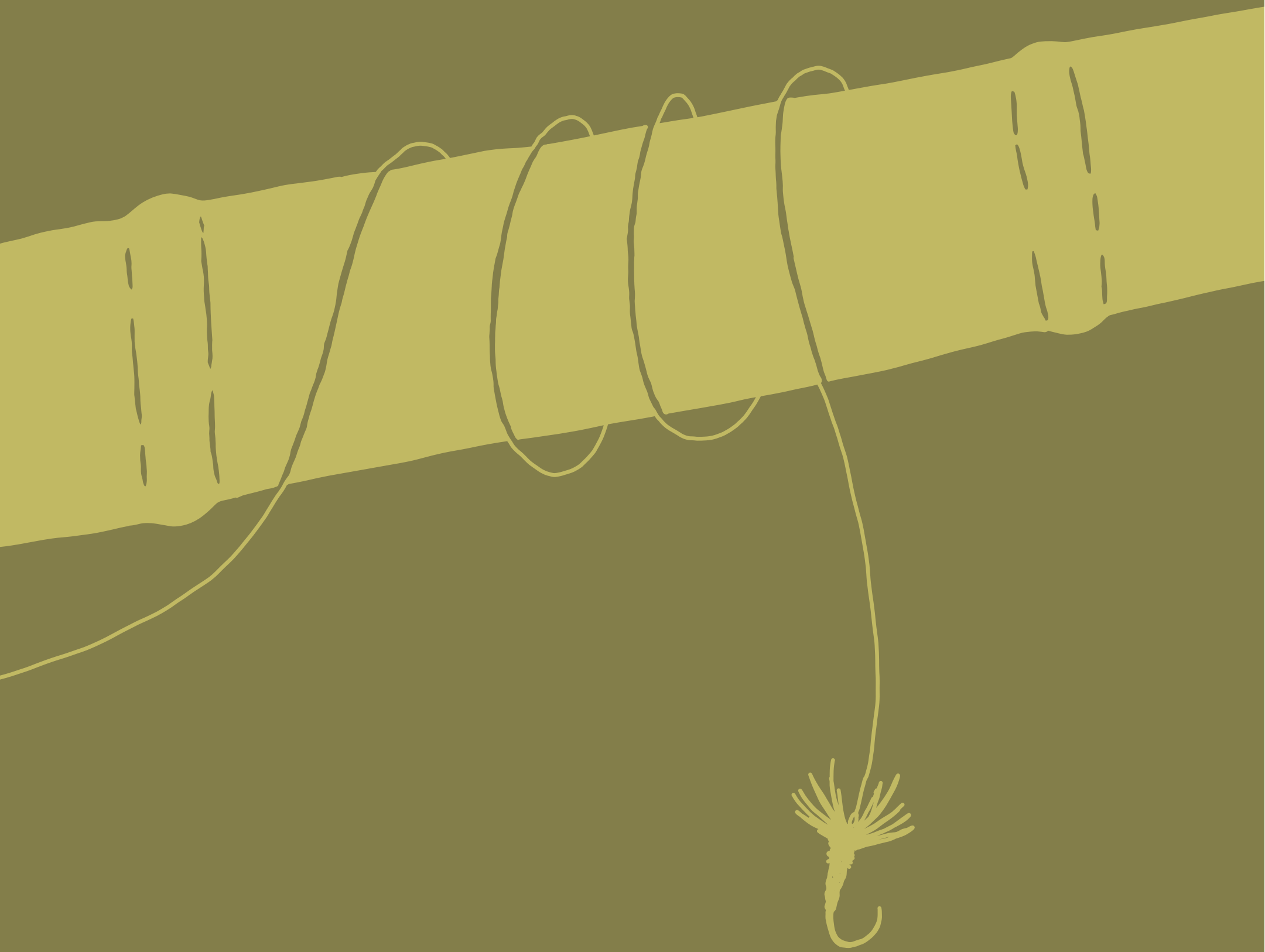
- billyskee Nice fish!
- ride.with.nate You're awesome!
- ride.with.nate #skifishing
- tenkarausa Love it!! 🍷



67 likes

MARCH 30

Add a comment...



There is something to be said about using
a natural material as a tool.

EXCERPT – from www.tenkarausa.com/tenkara-bamboo-rod

There is something to be said about using a natural material as a tool. Particularly if it is simply crafted; where the focus is not on manufacturing it, but on selecting the best, most natural and suitable material there is, and just touching it up to make it into a long-lasting tool.

Such is the bamboo tenkara rod, as well as the original tenkara net (more on this later). Non-split, non-manufactured, very rare and just incredible.

I had briefly seen a bamboo tenkara rod when Ishigaki sensei visited the Catskills, and I had also read about them, but had not until this point, had a chance to actually feel one.

“Feel them and pick the one that fits you best”, said Dr. Ichihashi, 市橋 寛, a local pediatric doctor who has been crafting bamboo tenkara rods for several years. What, pick one, how could I? They were incredible. But, how could I possibly say no and mean it? A bit nervously, I picked up each of the rods until I found my match, or as the cliché goes, it found me.

All I could think to say was, “Domo arigatou gozaimasu”, while bowing very deeply for such a generous gift and expressing my gratitude with a few small gifts I had with me.

These are not the usual cane-pole rods. Yes, they are cane, but their action, weight and balance are similar to those of a fly rod. These bamboo tenkara rods are made with three or four pieces of bamboo, from different species; selected to be used as the rod butt, the middle, or for the tip. Plus the handle, which is often made from the bamboo rhizome (roots).

The selection and matching process is long. Dr. Ichi Hashi goes on his “expeditions” to the hills of Gifu prefecture, not far from Gujo, and selects the best bamboo for his rods. He does this during the late fall/early winter, when the humidity level in the bamboo is at its lowest.

First, he dries the bamboo for up to two years in the attic of his clinic. At that point he matches the bamboo pieces to be used for the different segments of the rod. Next, he cleans the inside of the rod, opening the nodes to allow the thinner pieces to slip in.



Dr. Ichihashi, tenkara bamboo rod maker

Gorgeous handles, made of natural bamboo, or wrapped.



long line tenkara

Then, he wraps the ends of the segments for strength, and lacquers them. Finally, he applies his mastery to finishing each rod. It's pretty incredible that his rods look like they are all made from one single bamboo, the nodes often look identical, and the taper is flawless.

Dr. Ichi Hashi enjoys fishing with his bamboo rods the most, and I can see why. They are generally slower rods, but like our Tenkara USA rods, bamboo comes in a variety of flavors: thin/light rods that are soft, stiffer/faster, and even some heavier rod options as well.

Regardless of their action or weight, one striking feature of bamboo tenkara rods is their recovery.

This is also different from the good ol' cane pole. Since a bamboo tenkara rod is made for casting a line, the bamboo selected and used for them has to have great recovery.

When you shake them (e.g. cast) the rod will flex as much as it's made to flex, but it will recover and stop shaking promptly, so it will not dampen your cast.

There are not many people who make these nowadays, and after finally seeing and feeling Dr. Ichi Hashi rods, I believe there is a lot to be learned from them that can and should be applied to modern rods. Domo arigatou gozaimasu, Dr. Ichi Hashi.



A 4-piece rod.

Pieces are alternated to fit inside a thicker one.

Incredibly, the nodes of these rod were perfectly aligned. A hard feat.





**carry
more
stuff**

FROM THE TENKARA USA ARCHIVES
JUNE
2012
TENKARAUSA.COM
BLOG
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED

“Tenkara is simple; it allows you to carry less stuff.” What can we do with that potentially underutilized carrying capacity?

EXCERPT – from www.tenkarausa.com/carry-more-stuff-day

I’ve been thinking deeper into the message of, “Tenkara is simple; it allows you to carry less stuff.”

I truly love being unencumbered by gear. I love not having to take something (or forget it on an outing) that other anglers may perceive as vital, and not having to deal with too much stuff. But then, I have been thinking: what can we do with that potentially underutilized carrying capacity?

So, I’d like to ask you to join me on a mission to “carry more stuff” on your next outing. Let me tell you what I mean.

Next time you go fishing, bring with you an empty (or nearly empty) backpack. Line it with a trash bag if you wish. And, as you walk to your favorite fishing spot, along that fishing trail that fills your spirit with goodness, pick up trash along the way and stuff it in. Heck, just use your vest, all those pockets left empty by the absence of your spare fly boxes, floatant and packs of leaders can come in very handy now.

As you walk, instead of looking at the water – you will reach it in a second – look at the ground a bit, look for faded beer cans that were discarded a long time ago (if you pay attention you will find many of these), look for crushed plastic bottles, for pieces of fishing line, and reflective Cheetos bags.

When you’re on the stream, look at the branches hanging over the water, there will be some lost tippet in there, maybe even a lure at the end too. Pick these up, and stuff them in a pocket.

When you walk back to your car, take satisfaction in that heavy load you’re carrying in your pack. Tenkara has opened the door to remind people how little they can carry with them, but now I think we can start making better use of carrying less fishing gear with us by actively and purposefully carrying more trash out.

p.s. I probably don’t have to write this, but if you are wondering when the “Carry More Stuff Day” is going to be, it should be noted that it is every day!



“A perfect gift for anyone who loves the outdoors, is inviting them on an adventure.”

BEN STOOKESBERRY

Celebrating 10 Years of Tenkara USA in 2019!

Tenkara Fishing Coupon

TO:

FROM:

This coupon is good for spending a day out on the water with me & enjoying tenkara.

 **Tenkara**
USA®

www.tenkarausa.com

UPTENKARA CREEK

number three:
anything goes

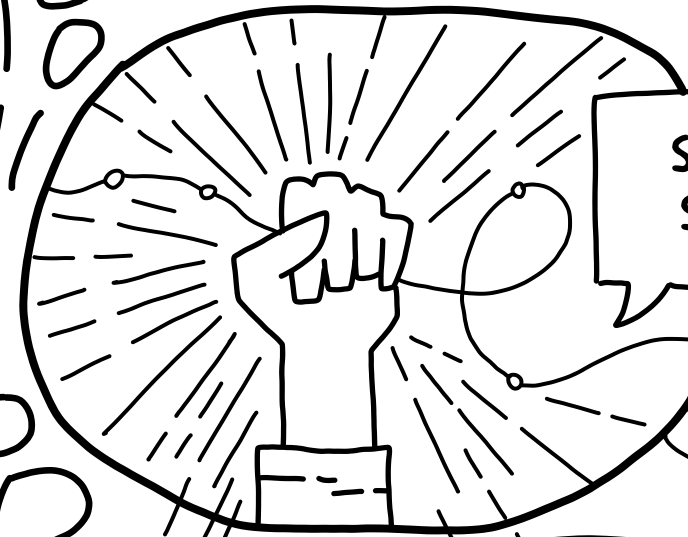


TEACHER! MR. TANAKA! TEACHER!...



MR. TANAKA!

I SAW A POSTER SAYING
THAT IN "TENKARA...
ANYTHING GOES"



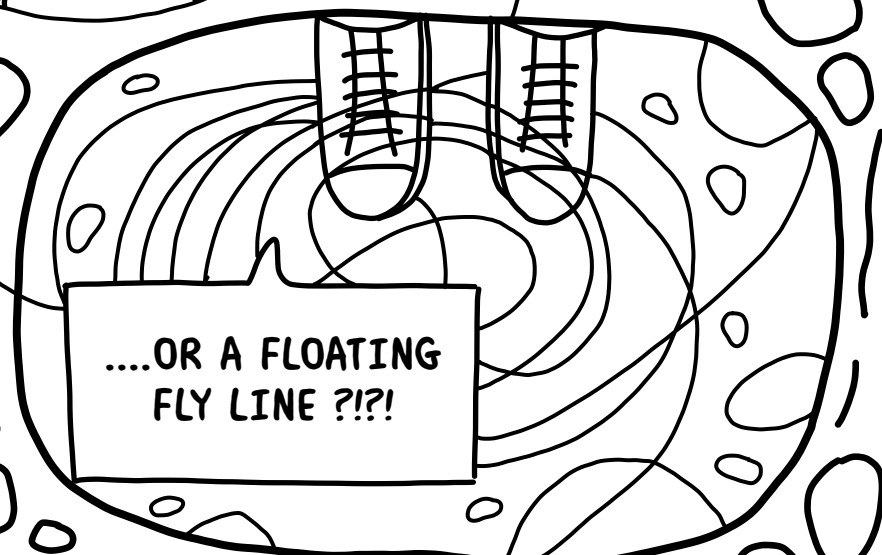
SO CAN I USE
SPLIT-SHOT?!



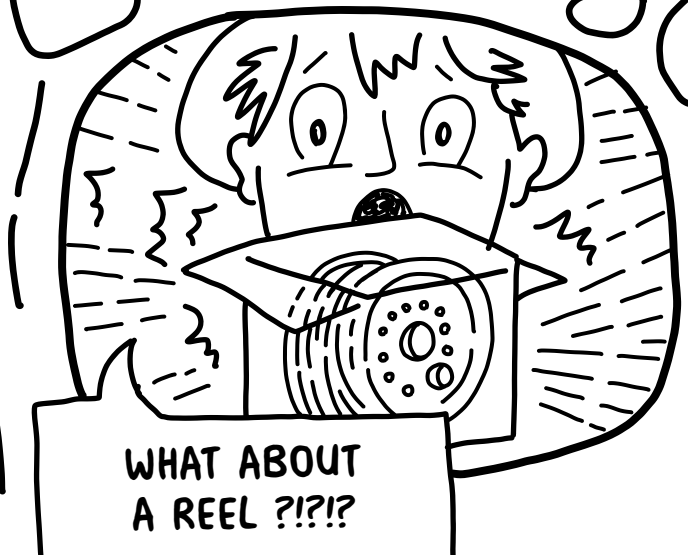
CAN I
USE MULTIPLE
FLIES ?!?!?



OR A
SEVEN FOOT
ROD ?!



....OR A FLOATING
FLY LINE ?!?!



WHAT ABOUT
A REEL ?!?!?



SURE...BUT YOU KNOW, WE CAN
ALSO KEEP IT SIMPLE TOO AND USE
ONLY WHAT WE REALLY NEED.