



The **Conservationist**

Potomac-Patuxent Chapter

February 2012

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June, July, August and December



Tenkara - How a Japanese style makes fly-fishing simple. February 15, 2012

According to Tenkara USA, Tenkara is a traditional Japanese fly fishing method and has been used for centuries in Japan's high mountain streams. It reduces fishing to three basic elements – a rod, a line and a fly. Tenkara is all about simplicity. It is described as ideal for those fishers who fish for brook trout in mountain streams.

Tom Sadler, our program speaker, has a number of roles. As a dedicated conservation activist he runs a public relations business, the Middle River Group, LLC, often working to protect fish, fishing and fish habitat. Tom sits on the board of the American Fly Fishing Trade Association and chairs the Government Affairs and Affiliates committee. He guides tenkara trips in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley for Mossy Creek Fly Fishing. Recently he was asked to join the Tenkara USA's Tenkara Guide Network, a new directory of guides using tenkara as their preferred method of fishing. Tom was one of the first guides asked to join the network and considers it both a great honor and recognition of his experiences and support for tenkara fishing. You can read more about Tom, his business and his tenkara experience on his web site, MiddleRiverDispatch.com.

Needless to say Tom's A to Z knowledge of tenkara will provide an unforgettable experience and you will come away wanting to try this new old method on trout. Come with a couple of extra dollars for a raffle ticket on a complete tenkara outfit at the meeting.

– *Nick Weber*

Monthly Chapter Meetings

Time and Day: 7:00 PM, Third Wednesday except June, July, August and December
Place: Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring, Maryland

DIRECTIONS TO THE SENIOR CENTER

From Capitol Beltway: North on Georgia Avenue (Rte. 97). First Right on Forest Glen Road, then go past Holy Cross Hospital and across Sligo Creek Parkway. The Center is on the right.

Visit our website: www.pptu.org

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President's Column - Dennis Covert

February seems to be the month when I drag out all my fishing stuff; emptying out vests, bags, drawers, and closets and take annual inventory. It can be surprising the stuff you find. Wadded up candy wrappers and trail mix bags stuffed deep into the corners of pockets are pretty common, and to a lesser extent dried bugs or bits of dried bugs collected on stream packed in whatever was convenient at the time stashed away and forgotten about. This year my Orvis *Streamside Guide* by Dick Pobst resurfaced out of a side pocket of my wader bag. I was really glad to see it, not only is it a great little book to have on stream, but it's my oldest piece of fly fishing paraphernalia still in regular use and I consider it lucky. I don't know where I stand on the superstition scale, but I do have certain charms I like to take fishing with me. Included with that little book are some small rocks and a coin. Maybe none of this stuff is really lucky but who knows, why chance it leaving it behind?

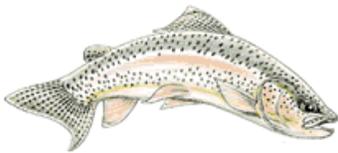
Winter fishing has its own rewards. The landscape seemingly quieter and compact can give the illusion of solitude even in easily accessible places. Seeing stonefly nymphs crawling around dark against the snow, or finding a fish or two rising to midges in a sunlit pool can seem surreal in the dead of winter. Bright winter days, especially if you're out of the wind can be very comfortable, but late afternoons can transform all that warmth and brightness into weak yellow shafts of light and stinging fingers. That's usually when thoughts of hot coffee or a steaming bowl of soup thick with noodles pull me off the water.

When this comes out the Chapter will still have two winter outings left on the schedule. On February 25th we will be going to Big Hunting Creek. This has been our February destination for

a few years now, and while we have experienced snow, cold, and chilling winds we as a group have never been skunked, one or more of us has always caught fish. March 22nd through the 25th we will be heading back to Lake Erie tribs for Steelhead. Anything can go on these trips weather wise so pack for all conditions.

If you missed the fly-fishing show in Somerset NJ in January, then you have another chance this month at the Lancaster Pennsylvania show February 18 & 19th. The Mid Atlantic Council will also be holding their yearly banquet March 24th at the Marriott Inn close to the BWI airport. Tickets are \$75 and available at any Chapter meeting between now and then. The Mid Atlantic Council, or MAC, is the State level Organization that in our area includes six Maryland Chapters, and one each in the District of Columbia and Delaware. The MAC is comprised of all the Chapter presidents and their delegates. It serves a wide variety of functions and is the cohesive force that binds all the chapters together from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Chesapeake Bay. Look for additional information on this event on the Mid Atlantic Council website.

On March 3rd and 4th PPTU will be present at Bass Pro's Arundel Mills location during National Fishing Week. We will have a sign up and information table outside the fly shop, and plan to sell hotdogs and drinks outside on the 3rd. So come out and enjoy the day, stop at our table and visit awhile, then show your support by buying a hotdog. 🍌



PPTU Mentor Program Beginner's & Beyond

Ken Bowyer provides one-on-one streamside fly fishing instruction to PPTU members. Participants must show commitment by having waders or hip boots, a rod and reel outfit, and leader. Discussions will include equipment, knots, casting, flies, dry fly and nymphing techniques, entomology, reading water, conservation, etc. at nearby streams. Instruction will be tailored to individual needs. Members who have not made an Annual Supporting Contribution will be asked to contribute \$20. Contact Ken 301-627-7154 or E-mail: kenbowyer@verizon.net 🍌

Patuxent Report - Jay Sheppard

Stocking of local streams should be under way by the second half of February. We help in the stocking of the special regulation areas nearby: Patuxent River near Triadelphia Reservoir and the Middle Patuxent in South Columbia that is Delayed Harvest. If you have not received an email invitation by the time you receive this Conservationist, get in touch with me jmsheppard@aol.com and I will send you the details on this early stocking effort. We float stock the trout away from the bridges. This is especially important for the major brown trout stocking, usually near the end of this month. Browns survive in higher numbers on our local waters than the rainbows. A sign-up sheet will be at the February meeting, also. Over the past 30 years or more this chapter has helped float stock over 75,000 trout. It is a great way to learn more about the waters we fish when one has to walk up or down the middle of a stream!

We plan to have removed most of the fencing along the Patuxent below Brighton Dam that is now on State or County lands by the end of January. If the weather cooperates, you should be able to fish this section of the Patuxent with a lot less concern about barbed wire!

The chapter is still actively researching how to fund a modification to Brighton Dam that will supply water directly off the bottom of the reservoir during the hot summer months. Right now we have limited access to the available cold water. As soon as we can find the estimated \$80,000 to make this modification we will do it. Stay tuned! 🌻

**Address changes? Moved?
Please keep us up to date on your
addresses.**

Please send any notices of corrections or change of address to: PO Box 2865, Wheaton, MD 20915. If we do not have your current address, including email for those being notified electronically, we cannot send you future issues of the Conservationist.



**Tackle and Tactics
- Jay Sheppard**

It is supposed to be winter, although the weather man talks more like it is early spring! Likely many fishers have already been out on a stream this year. In case you do find yourself forced inside for a weekend, here are a number of suggestions for getting your tackle ready for serious spring fishing. Carl Smolka suggested most of these topics—Thank you, Carl! If anyone has suggestions for future columns, please let me know. I am always trying to think what trout fishers want to learn. Much of this month's material has been mentioned in the past, but a little reminder can never hurt if one wants to extend the life of their gear and be ready for that first hatch of mayflies. We also have a fair number of new readers to this publication.

Waders need to be checked for leaks and repaired as needed. I find one of the most certain ways to find leaks is to suspend the waders outside or in the shower with some rope and fill up one leg with water. Then shift the water to the other leg, and finally hold both legs up and check the butt. Knee and butt areas are the most prone to leaks. A grease pencil or crayon can mark the leak, if used an inch or so away from the hole. Repair as suggested by the manufacturer. There are any number of adhesives that will do a long lasting job.

Reels should be pulled apart, cleaned and lubricated (but NOT the friction drags). At least the first couple dozen feet of fly line should be pulled out and cleaned. Simple liquid dish detergent works fine as a cleaner, although there are special line cleaners and dressings also available. I have no idea if it is still available, but a Silicone Glaze by Amway still works wonders on a stretched out line: cleans and polishes the line. Suspect there are other vinyl cleaners for cars. Especially check the line tip for fraying and cracks. Move the leader loop back a few inches if severe cracking is evident. Maybe even think of getting a new line.

Consider washing your reel grip with detergent: we would like to think there is a lot of fish slime on them. Also clean the rod itself of any dirt. Check all the guides by passing a nylon stocking through them—which catches on the slightest imperfection. Carefully examine all the guide wrappings. Wax the male ferrule with a high quality wax candle; I carry a small piece inside a tiny ziplock in my vest for routine application.

Now for the tough part that the spouse will appreciate: clean out your vest and wash it! While everything is out, inventory your tippet spools and flies. You might also more carefully sort your flies to see what you need to tie later this winter. Organized fly boxes save a lot of time on the stream, especially when there is a hatch going and the light is fading. Check your other accessories on the vest. Are all the zingers, nippers, etc. in good shape or are some about to fail? If you have a breathable rain jacket, toss it and your repaired breathable waders into the

washer for a nice cleaning. Dirt hampers their functionality.

When you are through tying flies for the winter and early spring, fumigate the feathers and furs with paradichlorobenzene (PDB), not naphthalene moth balls. This is available in stores next to the moth balls. Place everything natural in air tight containers or plastic bags for several weeks of fumigation. A large trash bag only needs a couple of spoonfuls of the PDB. Beetles and moths love to eat such tying materials.

Good fishing for the coming year. Thanks, again, to Carl for the suggestions. 🌸

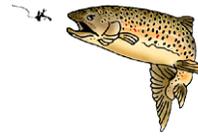


Early Meeting Segments Begin at 7 PM

- Nick Weber

Tying Bench

This month along with a tenkara program we will have a fly tied for tenkara fishing. Bob Dietz who is unquestionably our resident soft hackle fisher will share one of his favorite patterns. Bob says that he will be tying a Partridge and Orange, Tenkara style. He further mentions that it turns out that Partridge and Orange is not only the archetypal fly of Northern Britain, but has existed for hundreds of years in other traditions as well, such the Alpine regions of Italy, and in Japan. Bob continues that the Japanese tie it with the feather reversed, and the Italians tie it both ways. Come see Bob tie this always important pattern that is a must for your fly box. 🌸



Angler's Corner

Be sure and stop by the Angler's Corner and hear about the annual pilgrimage to the Yellow Breeches in January or try and get a leg up on the trip to Big Hunting Creek on February 25. Be sure and tell Dennis about a favorite fishing location that you might suggest that has not been tried by the outing group. If you can't make it to the meeting, don't hesitate to suggest a potential outing destination to Dennis at denniscovert@hotmail.com. See <http://www.pptu.org/outings/outings.shtml> for outing listings. 🌸

Contributions should be sent to the Editor as plain text in an email or as a Microsoft Word attachment. The deadline for submissions is the twelfth (12th) day of the month prior to the month of publication.

Editor: George Vincent
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Spring Outing Schedule 2012

- February 25th Big Hunting Creek MD
- March 21, 22, 23, 24 Steelhead Outing to Lake Erie Tribs
- April 25, 26, 27 28 Gypsy Fishing Pa Trout Waters, wherever the hatch is on, wherever the fishing is best!
- May TBA

Tenkara Technique



Help To Stop Poachers

Reminder - If you spot poaching please place a call to

Catch a Poacher Hotline at 1-800-635-6124



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