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We are in the sixth year of publishing our monthly newsletter with updates on great fly fishing venues, trip reports and insights for our traveling fly fishers. We want to help you match the right location with your fly fishing goals and objectives and properly prepare you to fully enjoy the experience. We've been to most locations and pride ourselves on our ability to research new sites. One of our services is to compare and contrast different lodges/outfitters. Whatever unbiased information on timing and locations we can provide comes at the same cost to you as booking direct – i.e., NO EXTRA COST.

DEVELOPING FLY FISHING SKILLS



There are many varieties of skills and levels of expertise in fly fishing. Most of us got our start with a trout rod and situations which required short casts, often from a drift boat piloted by a good guide who could compensate for our lack of distance and accuracy by their positioning of the boat. From those humble beginnings, some fly fishers proceed through all the learning phases, graduate to salt water flats skills, and learn how to sight cast flies to finicky permit or 50 to 100 pound tarpon on shallow, windy, flats. At every step of the way, there are instructors available to assist in the next phase of your fly casting progress. For example, in the San Francisco Bay Area, the guys at Fish First are excellent casting teachers.

We are always excited about newcomers to fly fishing who are interested in learning the skills necessary to enjoy the sport to the fullest. Virtually every week, we discuss a fly fishing trip with a fly caster who may not yet have the skills for that particular destination or form of fly fishing, but want to develop those skills. As this is being written, there are four guys departing on a Belize mothership trip who are going to be experiencing the challenges and excitement of fly fishing the salt water flats for the first time. In preparation, they have been taking lessons and practicing their casting. There is no better way to take your casting to the next level than to use the motivation drawn from preparing for an exciting fly fishing adventure, studying the casting skills necessary, and then using a full week on the water to hone those skills (the key is to be sure before departing that you have the CORRECT basic fundamentals - practicing the wrong things isn't going to help you improve).

Ken Webb (at right with a silver salmon caught on the surface) provides a nice story about his evolution from being a spin fisherman to a fly caster. For a destination, he used an Alaska lodge where both spin and fly fishing was possible so he had his spin casting skills as a back up while learning to cast the fly. "I actually had bought a fly fishing video, took some time to practice in my backyard (not nearly enough) and snagged my guide and whomever was un-lucky enough to get paired with me in the boat for the first 2 days. All in all, by end of day 1, with this amount of casting and coaching from the guides, I was respectable with no wind. By day 4, I was respectable



in different conditions. By day 7, I was double hauling, into the wind, respectably and was able to shoot the line pretty darn well.... developed a decent roll cast and feel confident enough to try this on my own now.....in fact, I wouldn't want to go back to spin casting again.....it's just not as intimate or as exciting as when that fly line goes tight and the reel takes off and busts your knuckles as you try and get control of a big rainbow or silver.” Double hauling....shooting line....Ken now has the basics of fly casting in his grasp well enough that he can literally travel the globe with his fly rod and take advantage of the many different and exciting forms of fly fishing.

There are destinations that are good for beginning fly casters and other places that provide challenges to help you go to the next level of fly fishing proficiency. When planning a trip, gaining an understanding of the skills necessary to be successful should be an important part of the process. The best way to enhance your enjoyment of fly fishing is to increase your casting skills so you can take advantage of more opportunities – fortunately, the tools to do that are easy to access.

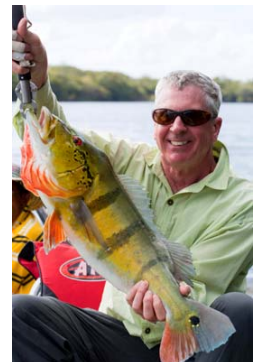
MORE FROM THE AGUA BOA IN THE AMAZON



What is the value of having good fly fishing friends? The article below about the group in the Chilean Andes is a good example of this value. This story from the Agua Boa River in the Amazon revolves around a group of four guys who actually have a name for their group – the Prime Time Advance Party.

Dan Re had these comments on their Amazon adventure: “I had a great time at the Agua Boa. The fishing was very good and I also enjoy photography and got a lot of good macaw, stork, and caiman photos. The lodge, the staff and the service was excellent.”

Regarding the fishing, Steve Rewick related this info: “As far as numbers go, each of us caught between 20 – 50 fish a day. Most were butterfly bass in the 4 to 6 pound range, but every day a number of double digit fish were landed, with the biggest going 18 pounds. Plenty of fun was had with floating lines and poppers, but more fish were caught on flies fished at the end of a 200 grain sink tip. Bring some extra sink tips, because piranha can turn a 200 grain tip into a 95 in a snap. We all settled into 8 wt rods except for Dan, who splintered a few cane rods in an attempt to bamboozle the bass.”



From Loren Irving (above left): “We had a fabulous trip. All worked like clockwork on the logistics, hotel, manaus transfers etc. Lodge was great - just can't say enough positive. Actually, and you already know this, the fishing was superb. I am the one of the group who always says in planning 'let's go somewhere where we can catch a bunch of fish!' Well this was the trip. All of us caught a lot of fish. I was lucky to get one 17 lbs and two other 12 pounders in the same day. Also, fished a lot with poppers and caught many as well. Not sure I have been to a lodge facility that tried harder to be accommodating of the guests.”

Joe Bankofier (right with Peacock) was the fourth member of the Prime Time Advance Party. Steve wrote a creative essay on the Amazon trip which included information on the planning process and is accompanied by some of their photos. It does a nice job of communicating the camaraderie of these fly fishing friends. Click on this link to go to this photo essay:

http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/tr_peacock.pdf

CHILEAN ANDES – TRIP REPORT



“We didn't see another fisherman the entire week,” stated Jerry Saltzgeber regarding a recent trip to the Chilean Andes. With the numbers of fishermen now plying the waters in Patagonia (it sometimes feels like Montana), that is a huge statement and one we hear often from clients visiting this remote Andes lodge, our favorite Chilean option. Jerry continued, “We had a great timefabulous service, food, and wine....wonderful lodge and people with a great diversity of fishing options. I caught mostly browns--a lot that were between 19 & 22 inches. I had a couple big ones on, but lost them in the logs. You could catch rainbows all day long. One day, Chris caught over 50 using a triple fly rig.”

A one or two night float trip through the Andes overnighting in riverside cabins is among the options available. Jerry is part of a small group of fly fishing friends who travel the globe looking for fly fishing adventure a few times a year. The group is pictured in the photo at right having dinner in one of the cabins on the overnight float – (l to r): Chris Carey, Jerry Saltzgaber, Chip Fudge, and Chuck “Disco” Ferrell.



From Chip: “I greatly enjoyed the week. I thought everything was outstanding. I loved the folks, the set up and the entire week. I thought it was ‘Top Notch.’ From my perspective, the fishing was excellent. Chuck thinks he is John Travolta after a few glasses of wine, more like Disco Chuck.” These guys do know how to have fun together whether it’s Alaska,

Mongolia, or wherever they happen to be.

AMAZON HOSTED TRIP – 2010

Each of the last two years, we’ve reserved the last week of January (generally considered the heart of the prime time) at the Agua Boa Amazon Lodge’s upriver houseboat. Each of those trips resulted in truly outstanding fly rod fishing for trophy Peacock Bass providing dozens of daily hookups and multiple shots at tackle-busting peacocks over 15 pounds.

There are many peacock bass operations in the Amazon, but only one that is strictly fly fishing, catch and release in a protected, clear water watershed. For the fly fisher, the Agua Boa River is the “cats meow” of Amazon destinations.

The comfortable Agua Boa houseboat will be the base of operations for the 2010 hosted trip. In order to provide a personal experience, the houseboat limits accommodations to six anglers at a time, one of which will be your host - Doug Lovell. Doug fishes big game species, from tarpon to striped bass to giant trevally, at destinations all over the globe. Along with his partner Leo Siren, Doug founded the Fish First fly shops. Many of you know Doug’s reputation as one of the top flyfishing striped bass guides to operate in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Doug brings his knowledge of rigging, big streamers and topwater flies, and forceful casting to this trip. More important, he is a knowledgeable and well traveled fly fisherman who is enjoyable to vacation and fish with.



For the details on the 2010 hosted trip, including photo essays on the last two years trips during the same frame, click on this link or paste it into your browser:

http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/tr_AguaBoa2.pdf

QUOTE OF THE MONTH



Given that today’s children are growing up in front of a computer monitor, this quote may have more significance now than at any time in the past.

“If you instill in your child a love of the outdoors and an appreciation of nature, you will have given them a treasure no one can take away” – Ted Trueblood

For the future, who’s going to create the interest and appreciation for the outdoors if we don’t do it? (Note: at the exotic end of beginning fishing/nature adventures, some of the top Alaska lodges have special “family weeks” each summer where children – even adult “children” – can accompany a parent at a greatly reduced price)

MARCH MEMORY PHOTO

Lots of good stuff going on in this photo of a beautiful Alaska rainbow by Jeff Reinke. First, there is the color of the fish and the markings – spectacular spotting, even on its upper lip. Second, the pose displays the fish with nothing interfering with the frontal view, but having a partial hand visible gives perspective for size (fingers showing under the fish’s belly can also provide this perspective). Lastly, photos of fish displaying only the head and shoulders are interesting. It’s not necessary to have a smiling angler involved to have a great fish photo.

PHOTO CREDITS: (top to bottom) casting skills - Ken Webb, Ben Resch; Amazon - Steve Rewick, Loren Irving, Dan Re, Joe Bankofier; Chile – Jerry Saltzgeber.



Either phone or drop us an e-mail if you have questions or would like more information about any of our destinations.

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