



TOPICS IN THIS ISSUE:

- GIANT BROOK TROUT OF THE MINIPI RIVER, LABRADOR
- GROUP GATHERING IN FERNIE, BC
- AFRICA TRAVEL AND THE WORLD CUP
- “WORLD CLASS” FLY FISHING DESTINATIONS – REVIEWING AVAILABILITY
- AUGUST “MEMORY PHOTO”

We are in the seventh 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.

GIANT BROOK TROUT OF THE MINIPI RIVER, LABRADOR



Stalking a six pound brookie while it’s cruising and, with a full head-to-tail rise, sipping large mayflies off the surface is one of fly fishing’s “must do” experiences. There aren’t enough places left on our globe where “things are the way they were.” The wilderness of the Minipi River watershed in Labrador is one of those places – it is still the way it was centuries ago. Best of all, brook trout of 4 to 7 pounds (and occasionally, 8 to 9#) still rise to the dry fly in this protected fishery. Tom Wall (with brookie at left), on his second trip to our favorite location on the Minipi, had these comments on his recent visit: “Overall the trip was great - what a special place. The new lodge is outstanding (note: they just completed construction of a new lodge replacing what was one of the world’s most traditional fly fishing lodges – it had hosted a veritable list of fly fishing’s ‘who’s who’ over the years, but was showing signs of its age). Made a good decision to fish at Little Minipi the last 2 days. That fishing was to rising fish averaging 3.5 lbs (range 2-6 lbs). 10 fish over 3 lbs on a dry the last day - not bad!”

Variable weather conditions are always possible in this remote, northeast corner of Canada. This year, they had unseasonably hot weather in late June, actually had days in the 90’s. Water temps climbed into the 70’s during the early stages of Crandell Addington’s week, before a cooling trend brought things into a more normal temperature zone. Many of our Minipi veterans are familiar with the Narrows where Crandell took the 7.5 pounder at right. “I took the 7 1/2 pound brookie in the photo from the Big Narrows (on a #14 White Wulff). Full of fight and ran down current into my backing. I liked all the people at the lodge.....with the exception of a 22 hour flight nightmare, I enjoyed it.”



Timing is critical if you want the opportunity to take these big brookies on the surface. Late June through mid July is prime time – see below for 2010 availability.

For those with more interest in this fishery, this link will take you to a detailed photo essay report of our trip in 2008. We are returning in 2010. http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/pe_minipi.pdf

GROUP GATHERING IN FERNIE, BC

It is something to treasure.....having a group of friends or family members with whom you can share your fly fishing passion. The group at right enjoy a special time each year when they get away together to enjoy each others company with the trip built around rods, reels, beautiful waters, and pristine environments (left to right: Pat Winther, Jane Ryan, Kit Bedford, Nancy Johnson, Evie Cranston, Jackie Voigt, Betsy Bingham, Ann Lake). We at Fly Fishing Adventures consider ourselves fortunate to have several such family groups and friends that we attempt to match up with destinations meeting their objectives.



This year's trip was to Fernie, British Columbia, on the west slope of the Canadian Rockies, a destination with a reputation for productive dry fly fishing. A spectacular setting, this area offers a great variety of fish and waters. From the Elk River itself (a river best accessed via drift boat to move between riffles), to a number of small walk 'n wade tributary streams, the numbers are provided by surface oriented, native, West Slope Cutthroat Trout. To complement the numbers provided by the feisty Cutthroat, a big fish option are the Bull Trout, a char which can exceed 15 pounds.

We used a group of local guides through our favorite outfitter for the area. Kit (with Bull Trout at right below) reported on the approach used by the group and the guides: "We traded off fishing partners and guides each day – I had 3 different guides....Joel, Derek, and Ken....all very, very good – knowledgeable, attentive, fun, 'with it'.....We drifted, walked-and waded, and had varied experiences..... thoroughly enjoyed myself."

The group used Island Lake Resort (below left) as their headquarters. Pat (with Bull Trout at left below) had these comments on some of the issues at Island Lake: ".....The young people working there lacked experience and training. However, that said, it is in one of the most beautiful locations imaginable and has lots of potential to be a 'world class' resort. I would return even as it is because of the location and because I loved the variety of fishing opportunities.....Each day brought a different experience which made the trip so memorable and enjoyable."

Other photo descriptions: top row – healthy West Slope Cut, small stream stalk. Bottom row – Ann with small stream Cutthroat before release, Bull hook-up in the Wigwam River, fly rods and wild daisy's.



(note: next months newsletter will carry details on this very unique Bull Trout fishery – many consider this to be the finest remaining Bull Trout fishery.)

WORLD CLASS FLY FISHING DESTINATIONS – REVIEWING AVAILABILITY

Travel in general is reflecting the economic times and is down somewhat. However, the top fly rod adventures on the planet continue to be unique enough to maintain a full or close to full status.

Minipi River, Labrador: Prime time for taking the giant brookies on the surface is late June through mid-July. For 2010, there are five open slots still remaining, spread throughout these three weeks, at our favorite lodge on this watershed.

Amazon: Our Fish First hosted trip the last week of January '10 is now full. There has been additional interest in a hosted trip to this “fly fishing only” destination in the Amazon. We are considering attempting to obtain a second week – if you have any interest, let us know ASAP.

Goodnews River “Silvers On The Surface:” A waitlist has begun for 2010 space for the prime weeks to take silver salmon on the surface at Alaska’s Goodnews River. If you have interest in this surface oriented silver salmon fishery, now is the time to get it booked.

New Zealand: Air fares are lower than we’ve ever seen and the exchange rate is still OK making NZ a bargain. It’s a little late to be booking for the height of the season, but if you have flexibility in your travel schedule, great itineraries can still be arranged including top lodges and guides.

Patagonia: Still possible to assemble a wonderful Chile or Argentina adventure for early 2010. The economic times have left some openings available at many of the top operations.

Pecos River Ranch, New Mexico: This unique part of the southern tip of the Rockies normally fishes very well through September and October. Open slots still remain for this fall and the spring - usually best in March and April.



AFRICA TRAVEL AND THE WORLD CUP



We have an associate relationship with a South African travel company who assists us in providing options for clients visiting Africa. Recently we received this message from them to pass on to anyone considering Africa travel for 2010:

“The World Cup will be held in South Africa in June of 2010. Over 100,000 tickets to the World Cup have been sold already to USA citizens. Most of these visitors to Africa will be touring different parts of the continent before or after the Cup. It would be advisable that, if you are planning Africa travel in 2010, you avoid this time of the year.”

This link will take you to a photo essay of our trip to Africa and the Seychelles in 2008:

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

AUGUST “MEMORY PHOTO”

Regular readers of our newsletter may remember George Toledo and his fabulous Seychelles Grand Slam captured last October while we were at Alfonse Island (Giant Trevally of 50+, Milkfish of 30+, and bonefish – photos are in the link above under “Africa travel”). “Grand Slam” George is back at it with a traditional salt water flats grand slam of permit, tarpon, and bonefish. Creative collage of the three fish assembled in one photo captures a memorable fly fishing day with an interesting flair.



PHOTO CREDITS: Minipi brookies – first photo, Tom Wall; second photo, Crandall Addington; brookie flank, Jim Nix. Fernie photos – Pat Winther. Peacock Bass – Jerry Saltzgeber.

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

An enthusiastic traveling fly fisherman,
Don Muelrath
Fly Fishing Adventures
www.flyfishingadventures.org

888-347-4896
flyfish@napanet.net

If you want to be removed from our e-mail newsletter list, just hit “reply” and let us know – you’ll be removed immediately