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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 destinations. 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 RAINBOWS OF JURASSIC LAKE

One of our New Zealand clients (who will get on an airplane to investigate exciting fly fishing possibilities anywhere on the globe) sent most of the rainbow photos below from a trip to a place that has earned the nickname “Jurassic Lake” in Argentina. His comment was, “This is definitely a must do on anyone’s bucket list. It was worth the trek into it.”



This is one of those cases where the photos do tell the story. It has been called the “greatest wild rainbow fishery in the world.” Exploratory trips by our outfitter began in 2005 to this isolated, unique fishery in southern Argentina. Since then, they have established a rudimentary, but adequately comfortable, lodge/camp at the most productive area of the lake, near the one and only inlet river.

What make this fishery so special? The lake is a biological sensation with zillions of protein-enriched fresh water shrimp. The fish grow to huge sizes eating these shrimp year round. The rainbows have created their own ecological system and the unending food source has created year round spawners, using the one inlet stream that flows into the lake. The fish enter this lone inlet all year to spawn, providing there is enough water in the river.

We have chosen to work with the original outfitters who discovered the lake and have spent considerable time test fishing and sampling the entire 20 km long lake. After concluding that the area around the inlet river was by far the most productive water, they decided to locate their camp near this stream. During November/December /early January and March/April, there's a good flow in the river and fish are moving in and out of the stream constantly. During the mid-summer months of late January/February, the fish are more dispersed throughout the lake, often feeding in deeper water – but even then, the density of fish is best near the river mouth.

In addition to the easy access wading near the shoreline and fishing in the river, when conditions are right, there are flats where you can sight fish these brutes. Other camps/lodges have sprung up on the lake, but there is only the original camp near the river outlet.

This spot can tie in with a stop to fish the giant sea run browns of Southern Argentina. Hit "reply" if you'd like additional information.

AQUA BOA AMAZON LODGE – RANKED #1 IN WORLD

This press release just received from the Agua Boa Amazon Lodge: "We are proud to announce that our continued efforts to provide both an excellent fly fishing experience and service to our guests from around the globe have resulted in the Agua Boa Amazon Lodge occupying the number one slot in *Forbes* magazine list of the Top 10 Fly Fishing Lodges in the World." While we recognize that this type of list is certainly not sacred (I've seen enough lists of this sort that had little to do with reality), we have a number of clients who would put the Agua Boa Lodge at or very near the top of their fly fishing experiences. Also, it is noteworthy that we have a business/booking relationship with 7 of the *Forbes* top 10.....indeed our favorite Seychelles destination is #2 and the Alaska lodge we recommend the most is #4 as well as one of our favorite NZ stops, etc.



BELIZE REPORTS.....MORE "FIRST" AND "LARGEST" PERMIT



We've had to keep space in our newsletter each month for the many reports of "first permit" and "largest permit" coming from the flats of Belize. There are just more permit available than at any time I can recall in my 25 years of fishing Belize using a mothership as my base of operations. And, there are outstanding guides who are expert at getting newcomers on the fish and talking them through this most exciting of fly fishing endeavors.



Almost forgotten have been the Belize tarpon as most mothership trips recently are going south in pursuit of permit as the primary target. However, while fishing with Mac Noble (at left), Chico Fish First fly shop manager, while anchored near Belize City one evening recently, we had an incredible tarpon encounter – details on this in the July newsletter along with another good tarpon trip report that just came in.

"We've fished Belize many times before, but using the Rising Tide as our base was the most comfortable experience we've ever had in the tropics. The food was great, the accommodations spacious and comfortable, and the crew and guides outstanding. Even the permit cooperated.".....comments from Belize veteran Scooter Walters after his first trip on the Rising Tide. Scooter was accompanied by Shawn Wendell, Chris Ellis, and Bryce Miller (Bryce above right with his largest permit ever).

Shawn Wendell took his first permit ever and followed that up with his second on the last day. Shawn, on his first Belize mothership adventure, stated: "The accommodations aboard the Rising Tide were spectacular.....The guides were fantastic.....Dean gave me a personal fly casting tune up with out which I would not have been able to catch the two permit that I did. The friendly and personable demeanor of the whole crew put this trip over the top."

Carrie and Kevin Scarpelli were on their first Belize trip aboard the Rising Tide. While Carrie relaxed and did some barracuda fishing, Kevin took his first two permit ever and hooked and lost, to a break off on a coral head,

a very large fish that had taken over 300 yards of backing off.....“It was a marvelous experience to be aboard a boat and fish Belize. Captain Dean and Carol were great to be with.....It is a good thing that I didn't pay too much attention to your statistics about permit sighted, cast too, and rejected. I hooked 3 permit after making only 6 or 7 casts. Maybe it is best, while permit fishing, that one not know what he is doing and just listen to the guide!!!”

Images from Belize: top, l to r – Kevin with 1st permit, Carrie with Cuda, Rising Tide at anchor, crew with Scooter, Shawn with 1st permit. Bottom – wading, dinner on RT, sunset anchorage, Shawn with bonefish.



THE “PERFECT” INSECT REPELLENT



As we prepare to take off on our every-other-year visit to Labrador to stalk their trophy brook trout, I'm reminded of the history we have with the bugs of this wilderness. The good “bug news” is that it is the immense hatches of mayflies and caddis that bring the giant brookies to the surface that attract us back to the Minipi River watershed – the bad “bug news” relates to the occasional challenges provided by the black flies and mosquitoes.

The mosquitoes are relatively easy to control as the places where they are thick are certain marshy areas and predictable. If we avoid those areas, they are not a major problem. It's the black flies that have presented us with the most difficulty – maybe because I seem to have an allergic reaction to their bite. On our first five trips to the Minipi River, I got black fly bites that caused severe swelling. Most of the troublesome bites came from around my hairline and my forehead, near my hat-line. Deet based repellents were effective, but couldn't be used near or above my eyes (if you've ever had deet in your eyes, you know why you can't have it running into your eyes!).



In preparing for our 2006 trip, I decided to try something new. We brought all our regular deet based repellent plus some Avon Skin So Soft Bath Oil. I had heard that in addition to being very friendly on your skin, this particular bath oil was very effective as a bug repellent. Before venturing out of the lodge, I took care to apply deet to my exposed skin and applied the Skin So Soft liberally around my hair line, hat line, and my face, especially my forehead. I was “bite free” that entire trip! Was the bath oil that effective or was I just lucky? When we returned in 2008, I repeated this approach. On this trip, I got only one troublesome black fly bite on my forearm when I rolled up my sleeves during a hot afternoon and forgot to apply protection.....but the areas I had treated were not bitten. This year will be the third “test,” but based on the past two trips, I have every reason to expect positive results. (note: I just spoke with an Avon rep who explained to me the history of Skin So Soft. They now have a repellent they sell with the primary ingredient that used to be in Skin So Soft, but was removed due to a FDC ruling about 10 years ago. However, my personal experience was just with the bath oil, after that specific ingredient had been removed. It worked for me, but that may have been due to some positive synergy between my skin and the oil?).



BOOKING AGUA BOA AMAZON LODGE AND MINIPI RIVER FOR 2011; DISCOUNTED FALL BELIZE WEEKS



In the next two newsletters, we'll have our annual selection of photos of many spectacular 6 and 7+ pound brookies taken on dry flies from the Minipi River in Labrador. Two of the most difficult places to book for their prime times are the Agua Boa Amazon Lodge and our favorite lodge on the Minipi River in Labrador. While prime time at the Agua Boa lasts almost three months, it's more like three/four weeks on the Minipi. Very few spots remain at the Agua Boa for prime time for early 2011; however, there are spots on the Minipi for next summer for the best hatch times.....as of now. From past history, we know that within a few weeks, those spots will be mostly gone. If you have interest in either of these spots for 2011, best to act now.

Two weeks have been selected as discounted weeks on the Belize mothership Meca (left) for this fall. Both the weeks of 8/31 – 9/7 and 10/19 – 26 will be priced so that a party of four can go for the price of a party of three (\$8,100 - \$2,025 per person for a party of four). That price is basically all inclusive – even without a discount, the Belize mothership trip still represents the greatest value in the realm of saltwater flats fly fishing.

JUNE MEMORY PHOTO

Adam Barker accompanied a group on a Belize Rising Tide trip in March and captured hundreds of great images with his camera on his first salt water flats pursuit.....as well as his first permit. Those images are available for viewing on his website. Now he's back with us in the form of this spectacular fly fishing scenic from Montana. Finding all the elements in one place that Adam captured in this photo is truly remarkable.

PHOTO CREDITS: (top to bottom) Jurassic – Jeff Williams, Tim Pask; Belize – Bryce Miller, Scooter Walters, Shawn Wendell, Carrie and Kevin Scarpelli.

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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