



IN THIS ISSUE:

- GIANT BROOK TROUT OF THE MINIPI, LABRADOR – TRIP REPORT
- BELIZE REPORTS – TARPON AND SNOOK
- ALASKA – KING SALMON ON A FLY
- BELIZE TARPON AND LARGE SHRIMP (con't from June)
- JULY MEMORY PHOTO

We are in the eighth 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 BROOK TROUT OF THE MINIPI, LABRADOR – TRIP REPORT

There are not enough places remaining on the globe where everything is the same as it was centuries ago. This is one of those places.....wild and natural. Every creature and every finned critter reacts the same way they have for eons because there hasn't been enough human intervention to disturb the natural balance. Most important, the big brook trout still come to the surface seeking large mayflies as they always have.



We've returned every other year for the last 15 years to one of the three lodges on the Minipi River system. Each of the three lodges has a different personality and, while the main attraction at all three is the trophy brookies, each lodge has a distinctly different fishery with different options.

If the size of the fish taken is a measure of success, this year's trip was a success. Our group released 43 fish that weighed over six pounds! The entire catch and release results are in the photo essay report that can be accessed through the link below. Having registered that fish count, this is not a "numbers game;" rather it's about the experience of stalking a big brookie as it cruises, occasionally rising to inhale a fly off the surface. It is about watching that big nose come up and take down your imitation and knowing that the odds are good that the fish that just ate is truly the brook trout of a lifetime.



The hatches of mayflies, stoneflies, and caddis are an attraction themselves. At times, the hatches can be immense, blanketing the water, or come in the form of a caddis blizzard. Over 30 species of mayflies and 20 species of caddis have been documented by entomologists that have studied the insect life in the watershed. It's this vibrant insect life that has caused these giant brook trout to look up for their food for centuries.

This link will take you to a photo essay report of this years trip to the Minipi River.....
http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/Fishing_Report_Labrador.pdf

Booking space during the prime hatch times can be challenging as there are repeat clients like us who have been making this pilgrimage for many years. Some prime weeks for 2011 are already almost sold out. The lodges run between 5,295Can and 6,295Can per week. If you'd like to hear about hatch cycles, timing, and the differences between the lodges, let us know.

BELIZE REPORTS – TARPON AND SNOOK

So far in 2011, the Belize highlights have primarily been focused on the high numbers of permit available and the many that have been taken. This newsletter brings reports highlighting tarpon and snook by two of our most established, long time Belize groups, both taking their first trip this year on the Rising Tide, the new luxury option mothership in Belize.



Bill Pitman and his party chased Grand Slams all week, but couldn't get a permit to cooperate to complete the needed threesome. Bill's report on their trip: "Bonefish were easy and permit obstinate. It was an afternoon bite for tarpon.....Fast and furious, many hook ups..... Frantic from 4:00 til dark daily with fish to 120#. We never moved the boat - stayed in one area the entire trip. The Rising Tide was a trip highlight.....really a lovely boat. Look forward to being on it next year. The entire crew (Dean, Noel and Carol) couldn't have been more accommodating."

John Bobbitt was accompanied by his four sons (Mike, Brian, Kelly, and Sean) for another Bobbitt family Belize adventure. They arrived on the heels of Tropical Storm Alex and had very tough conditions, especially in the early part of their week. Many of their favorite flats were still churned up and not as productive as in past years. Good snook and baby tarpon action near the mainland the last half of their week saved the trip, even with waters that were, for the most part, murky. John's comments: "We had a pleasant trip.....I managed to land one small permit and lost a larger one when my backing somehow got out of my reel causing a break off. We then moved back to the Belize City area for the last few days and had more success. Mike managed to get an IGFA Grand Slam with a bonefish, a tarpon and a snook. The water around Belize City was very colored because of runoff from Alex, but it didn't seem to affect the tarpon and snook fishing. We caught more and bigger snook than ever before. Mike had a 13lb and 9lb and I had a 9lb. The new boat is very good. The accommodations are excellent. Dean, Noel and Carol were great as usual. All in all, it was a successful trip. The fishing was great, but the catching was a little below standard."

Top row, l to r: Brian w/snook, Captain Dean w/baby tarpon, Father John w/snook, Mike w/snook, the Rising Tide. Bottom row, l to r: small permit, Mike w/snook, Sean w/baby tarpon, and Kelly w/bonefish.



ALASKA – KING SALMON ON A FLY



Alaska is one of the fishiest fresh water places on earth (maybe rivaled only by the Amazon basin?). During the course of a summer, the fishing opportunities and options change dramatically based upon the spawning cycles of all five species of Pacific Salmon. In addition to the salmon, some of the largest native rainbow trout on the globe are taken annually from Alaska rivers. Pike, grayling, char, and dolly varden are also available.

On their first Alaska trip together, Ben Resch and Gordon LaFortune and a few friends pursued primarily rainbow trout and silver salmon on the surface in arguably the best spot anywhere to take silvers with surface flies. This year, they returned earlier in the summer with the primary goal of taking a King Salmon on the fly (king in air at left). The King is the largest of all the Pacific Salmon and a load on a fly rod. They also hit a massive run of Chum Salmon and took rainbows and grayling.

Ben's comments: "We had a fabulous time.....Some memorable moments were of my first King Salmon – a 29 pounder, and of a 'near-double' giant King hookup later on during the week which had Gordon and I attempting to do acrobatics on the boat.....the Chum run was just crazy – tons of fresh and aggressive fish throughout the week. We spent a half-day towards the end of the week catching 20lb + chum on our 5/6 wts. We also caught some beautiful large rainbows and an occasional Grayling further up the river system. Great trip."

Regarding the Chum Salmon run, Gordon added: "I landed a mid-twenties chum- a surprisingly large size for that species. The chum run was just silly- they were everywhere!"

Ben with Chum Salmon at left and King on the right



BELIZE TARPON AND LARGE SHRIMP (con't from June)



We had the mothership anchored near Belize City for our last day and a half of fishing on a recent Belize mothership trip with Mac Noble (at left) of the Fish First Shop in Chico. It was dusk of our last night when we noted lots of splashes near a mangrove shoreline. As we approached, we could see baby tarpon from 10# to 30# in a feeding frenzy on or near the surface. We were soon in a frenzy ourselves casting in the midst of the commotion....and casting some more. We were using our standard Belize tarpon flies and, in spite of the apparent aggressive feeding that was happening, we couldn't get an eat. I began to get a flashback to March of this year while fishing with Frank Jackson in an area about a mile from where we were. In the early morning and evening in that particular area during March, big tarpon to well over 100# were crashing and rolling on the surface in a similar fashion to what we were now experiencing and we only had a few hookups during those

three days. Frank did get a fish of about 80# to the skiff and I had another of 100+ pounds on for over an hour before a break off.....but the hook ups we had were scarce compared to the activity level we witnessed. We began wondering if they were selectively feeding on something. On the third day, a large shrimp jumped into the

skiff and we began looking for large shrimp patterns in our fly boxes – we had nothing with us as large as what we saw.



Back to the evening referenced at the beginning of this story.....after 30-40 minutes of fruitless casting, we changed flies. We did get a hook up resulting in a released baby tarpon on a floater/diver pattern with a long white tail. Then, as total darkness enveloped us, two large shrimp jumped into the boat (photo). Into the fly boxes we went with the assistance of a flashlight and dug out the largest shrimp pattern we could find. As darkness fell, the surface activity waned and became just a fraction of what it had been an hour before. However, that shrimp pattern produced several eats, often two or three on the same cast! We released another baby tarpon before deciding it was time to get back to the anchored Meca for dinner.

Bottom line to this story based on the experiences of this year – should carry some big shrimp patterns tied on good tarpon hooks for any Belize trip that targets tarpon. Color is simple – white with a little flash.

JULY MEMORY PHOTO

All permit caught on a fly are “special,” regardless of size. However, when a permit as large as the one held by Brad Jacobs (taken in Ascension Bay) completes a Grand Slam day, it is EXTRA special.

PHOTO CREDITS: (top to bottom) Minipi photo essay – Jeff Reinke, Josh Luft-Glidden, Pat and Berniece Patterson, John Cadle, and John Marlow; Belize – Mike and John Bobbitt; Alaska – Ben Resch; Shrimp – Mac Noble.

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

