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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.

50TH PERMIT IS A VERY SPECIAL FISH FOR ART HINCKLEY!



If you have fished for permit a few times, you may question the sanity of a fisherman who spends a lot of time pursuing the permit with a fly rod. It is simply the most difficult fish to catch on a fly – bar none. Everyone who has ever fished for permit remembers exactly how many they have caught, if any. If you want to get a sense of why presenting flies to a permit on shallow flats is so difficult, click on this link.....
http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/tr_difficult.htm

Art Hinckley recently joined a very exclusive club – fly fisherman who have taken, on shallow salt water flats, 50 permit on a fly. Each year, Art and a few friends take an 11 day trip on the Meca mothership, exploring the finest permit flats on the globe inside the barrier reef, off the central coast of Belize. This years trip proved to be very special with Art taking four fish, one of which was his largest ever (photo at left) and coincidentally, was the 50th permit he's caught and released. Indeed, a very special fish!

How does one catch 50 permit in a lifetime of fly fishing? There are several parts to the answer. It starts with spending a lot of time fishing waters where you can get numbers of shots at fish (and those places are very limited). Next, you must be an accomplished caster who can cast accurately in difficult conditions. And, you must develop patience and a very high level of tolerance for frustration and rejection. Lastly, you've gotta love a challenge because there is none greater in the realm of fly fishing.



How do you describe a great morning of permit fishing/catching? It happens rarely so most anglers never get a chance to conceive what a truly great morning of catching permit can be like. Art does a nice job of explaining just how that experience can happen in the following narrative of the first day of his February trip:



“I was fishing with Noel the first morning and we didn’t see anything until about 7:30 when we saw two fish tailing. After 3 or 4 conservative casts trying not to spook them, I finally put the fly about a foot away and one promptly ate it. Before I had him unhooked, Noel spotted another one about 150 feet down the flat. We moved down to him and caught him on the first cast. He was small so I landed him while I was still wading. Again, before I got back in the skiff, Noel spotted another pair tailing. We waded in range of them and, on my second cast, hooked another one. He was on for about 2 or 3 minutes, but came unhooked. Noel and I commented that permit fishing can’t get much better than this. I figured it was going to be an epic day, but I only got a couple more mediocre shots the rest of the day. Steve also caught a nice one of about 15 lbs. before breakfast.” (Steve Littig was Art’s fishing companion and was fishing with a different guide that morning)

SMALL STREAMS IN THE ELK RIVER WATERSHED



Usually, when people think of the Elk River near Fernie B.C., what comes to mind is the Elk itself and its giant Bull Trout and healthy, dry fly oriented, native West Slope Cutthroat – no planted fish here. Additionally, an hour north there are some great rainbow and brown trout waters easily accessed from Fernie. But some of the real nuggets of this area are the small walk’n’wade “feeder streams.” Our Fernie guides and outfitter are local boys who grew up in this area and are constantly digging around for new gems. This report, from the outfitters season report, will give you a sense for the possibilities. – this story sounds like it could have taken place 50 years ago in some parts of the lower US where the waters are now over-pressured and native fish scarce.

“We moved around southeastern British Columbia more than ever and found some unknown new tributaries near Fernie, some that even the guides had never fished. The great part about Fernie is that it is such a new fishery that there are still many unexplored waters. At the end of August last year, I had a couple days off and took a drive up the Elk River with two of our guides, Spencer and Joel. We took a short hike up a fast flowing creek.

Although the water sure didn’t look very good from the road, once we moved upstream this little gem turned into one of the best small creeks I have even seen. A glacier melts into the water year round leaving the waters temps in the creek very cool. At about 2 in the afternoon, a huge hatch of ants and drakes carpeted the water and every pool was filled with large, healthy, native trout. I’m sure these native Cutthroat had never seen a fly before as all of them looked pure and untouched! As you can see in the photo, these fish were fat and healthy. It’s really amazing that there are still waters so close to Fernie that we are still exploring.”



Fernie is located in spectacular country west of the crest of the Canadian Rockies. It has become a popular summer target for families or groups of fishing friends looking for a wonderful outdoor experience. The Fernie area is one of those fly fishing destinations that is equally good for novice fly fishers and veterans. There are a variety of attractive options for lodging, depending on what you’re looking for. Over the last few years, this area has been a “win” for many of our clients and it will be again this summer.

A 25th ANNIVERSARY COMBO – FIJI AND NEW ZEALAND



For their 25th anniversary, Linda and Gordon Stanley combined a New Zealand tour with a “second honeymoon type” stop in Fiji and came home through Hawaii. Fiji and NZ are a unique combination of destinations in the South Pacific that are less than four hours flying time apart, yet 1000’s of miles apart as far as environment and fishing opportunities. While New Zealand presents it’s unique brand of stalking trophy trout with a five or six weight rod, this particular isolated Fijian out-island resort offers a chance at Giant Trevally with an eleven weight rod. My wife and I are especially in touch with this combination as we have combined a South Pacific tropical stop on five of our six NZ adventures and have found our favorite to be the same spot Linda and Gordon visited in Fiji.

On combining Fiji and NZ in one trip, Gordon commented: “Being part Hawaiian, I

have always been attracted to the romance and adventure of the Pacific Islands. Visiting New Zealand and Fiji together captures all of best in one trip. We visited exotic climates from the snows and cold wind of Mt. Cook, to the crystal clear rivers with large brown trout, finally to the sultry heat and warm ocean of Fiji with its beautiful living reefs. In addition to the scenic beauty of the land, what made the trip most interesting were the extraordinarily friendly people of both locations coupled with the world class fishing. It just doesn't get much better."

This collection of photos points to the contrast of Fiji and New Zealand:



40% DISCOUNT ON JUNE MINIPI RIVER TRIPS AND OTHER OPENINGS



Occasionally, there are family matters which cause foregoing a deposited fly fishing adventure. We have such a situation at Anne Marie Lodge on the Minipi River in Labrador for the week of June 20 – 27, '08. A group of four who've had this prime space reserved for almost two years has to cancel. This is creating an opportunity for someone who can travel on short notice and would like to cast dry flies to the giant brookies that have made this fishery famous for over 40 years and do it for an incredible price. Anne Marie Lodge on the Minipi River is one of the world's classic fly fishing destinations – fly fishers who have fished here reads like a "who's who" in the world of fly angling. And, it's our favorite lodge on the Minipi. Scott and I are returning there this June 27 for our sixth trip. Late June through mid-

July is considered prime time at this location. The price for the week is \$5,000+ (inc taxes) and four spots for this particular week (6/20 – 27) are available for just \$3,000 per person. More info on the Minipi is on the Labrador page on our website or you can hit "reply" and ask for our Minipi Report.

AMAZON: The hottest destination on the fly fishing map the last two years has been the Agua Boa Amazon Lodge and their houseboat operation upriver (check out our Amazon page on the website for further info – see photo essay at bottom of the Amazon page). This is a special adventure with outstanding fly fishing. There are still a few prime time openings for early next year – both the houseboat and the lodge.



BELIZE: The Seaduction mothership in Belize is available for a party of two for either June 26 – July 3 or July 19 – 26. A captain/guide and cook/steward accompany just two fisherman for this salt water adventure pursuing tarpon, bonefish, permit, snook, and barracuda in the shallow waters inside the barrier reef. Belize newsletter available – just ask.

SEYCHELLES: Our February newsletter carried an article titled "If The Seychelles Is On Your Wish List??" and described the change of ownership at Alfonse Island and the possibility that this famous flats fishery may be in it's last year of being accessible. Space is now full through the end of the year. There is some accessibility during the first four months of next year, but weeks with openings are dwindling as fly fishers try to get one last shot at this exotic bonefish, trevally, and milkfish destination.

PHOTO CREDITS (top to bottom): big permit – Art Hinckley; dinnertime – Val Atkinson; Small streams... - Jeff Mironuck; NZ brown, fight and fish – Gordon Stanley; Mount Cook – Gordon Stanley; Peacock Bass – Jerry Saltzgaber; Redfish – Steve Mitchell

Notes on photos: we like to think our newsletter is a good gathering spot for photos of memorable fly fishing experiences, like Steve Mitchell's big redfish at right. If you have a photo that you think could fit in this space, submit it – never can have too many great fly fishing photos.

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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