



Working Fallen Timber, Agua Boa, Amazon



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We are in the ninth year of publishing our monthly newsletter with updates on the great fly fishing venues, trip reports and insights for our traveling fly fishers. We've been to most locations and pride ourselves on our ability to research new destinations. 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.

A PATAGONIA ADVENTURE – PHOTO ESSAY



This essay begins at the end, with the story of the last cast of the trip as reported by John Landis: “My largest brown was 25 1/2 inches and taken on the last cast of the trip, close to the lodge. There was a confluence point above the pool where we saw a large brown rise. I cast a #6 gypsy king and instead of the brown, hooked a rainbow. I cast the same fly again and missed the large brown. We added a dropper and on the next cast got the brown.”

On his third trip to Patagonia Base Camp, John was joined by a veteran fly fishing friend, also on his third trip here, Rob Pizzie. Rob's wife, Annette, was on her second trip, having learned the basics of fly fishing on her first trip. Two more friends, Gretchen and David Cantor, who had never fly fished

before rounded out the group. This lodge has become a Patagonian favorite of many globe traveling fly fishers for several reasons, maybe the most important, the feel of exclusivity. On the isolated nature of this fishery, Rob made this statement, “In my three trips here, 24 days fishing collectively, I can probably count the other anglers I have seen on the fingers of one hand.”

Of the many selections of waters available, the large rivers are accessed using drift boats while the smaller streams and rivers are walk'n'wade. John stated what keeps him returning, “I never see another fisherman and the main appeal is the variety of the fishing menu.” Some high country streams and lakes can only be accessed via hiking trails or horseback. John's largest rainbow (26.5 in) was taken from a day-trip hike.



In addition to the main lodge, there are three other possible optional overnight stays that are a part of the operation. One is a small cabin at the half way point of a two day float down the Palena River. The second is a stationary tent camp on a high country river – first two photos below. Note the wood framed beds – this is really NOT roughing it. The third option is new for this year – a sister lodge across the crest of the Andes in Argentina. This lodge is part of a large estancia which is a working cattle ranch. It's this new third option in Argentina that has caused John and Rob to increase their stay from the standard seven night package to a new ten day program.



One of the joys of our fly fishing passion are the spectacular pristine environments where the best fishing takes place. Patagonia consists of these environments.



Regarding his enjoyment of his time at Patagonia Basecamp Lodge, Rob had this to say: “Marcel and his team run a top notch operation. The fishing is great, the lodge is very comfortable, the food is excellent and the atmosphere is friendly. Couldn't hope for a better experience.” Annette added, “Although I like to fish, the high spots for me were the scenery, the horse riding, and the many white water sections of the rivers.”



Patagonia is a designation for a large geographical area which encompasses the south-central part of both Argentina (left) and Chile (right). Different from a political entity, it designates a culture present in this part of South America.



For more photos, quotes, and details, clicking on this link will take you to the full photo essay.....
[Patagonia Photo Essay - 2015](#)

LOOKING FOR PARTNERS – ASCENSION BAY, KAMCHATKA, BELIZE

We run this column occasionally when we have a single angler looking for a potential partner(s) for a fly fishing adventure. We currently have three such situations:

ASCENSION BAY: This trip is already reserved and set for May 30 – June 6 at the renowned saltwater flats lodge, Casa Blanca. The single angler is a Casa Blanca veteran on his third visit so he understands the fishery.

KAMCHATKA: This is a trip for adventurers on the rugged Kamchatka Peninsula with some of the finest rainbow fishing on the planet.

BELIZE: A veteran, who understands the options of the Belize mothership trip, is looking for a partner (or partners) for a trip in July.

If you have interest in any of these opportunities, hit “reply” and let us know.

A SPECIAL SPRING CREEK EXPERIENCE – PHOTO ESSAY

After 13 years of enjoying New Zealand and all its delights, the number of “special” fly fishing experiences begin to stack up – so many truly amazing stalking scenes are still vibrant in my fading brain cells. However, on our recent trip, there was a day on a spectacular tiny spring creek in the middle of a cattle paddock that must have a spot among my top NZ memories. This day had nothing to do with numbers or trophy-sized fish. Oh, they would have been trophies in the waters of the USA, but by NZ standards, nothing special (fish between 4 and 6 pounds). This was all about the experience, the scene, and the stalking in an incredible fly fishing environment. Also, it is a story about a guide and his angler who had fished together for a dozen years, were good friends, and shared a passion for great fly fishing photography.



Below, l to r: taking a photo of my guide who’s taking the photo of the fish in the shot on the right. The third photo is me getting ready to blow the cast to the same fish. This tiny creek offered many challenges in getting the fly in the right place and then getting the right drift. Finally, in the late morning, I had my first hook up.



Below, l to r: that first fish (hooked up in above right photo) to the net after a struggle that involved him tangling under a submerged log and a very lucky moment when he swam free. We had lunch with this view and, in the next photo, watched a large brown eat off the surface just to the right of the corner. Next, after lunch, a few waves created when that big brown ate a size 16 spider imitation.



Photos below: As the afternoon wore on, we worked our way upstream to near the source of the spring. The water got narrower and narrower and was only about 6 inches deep over a mostly grass-bed covered bottom. We began seeing more fish than at anytime during the day. The wind picked up and was blowing downstream directly at us with gusts up to 30 mph. There must have been an afternoon hatch happening of something very tiny as we couldn’t see any evidence of bugs on the water. Every 50 or 60 feet, we would find a fish sipping on the surface, some of them in places impossible to get a cast to (overgrown with bushes or trees). In one open stretch about 50 yards long (photos below) we could look up the creek and see three fish working, almost equally spaced. The width was so narrow, it was difficult, at least for my casting skills, to hit the water. The wind was often redirecting my casts onto the grassy bank. My guide began chiding me – “Don, the fish are in the water.” Finally, after spooking the first two, I finally did “hit the water” and the third fish in the lineup made the photo at right below (my guide’s hat for the picture).

Just four fish to the net, but an incredibly challenging and exciting day in the middle of a NZ pasture.



TWO DISCOUNTED SPOTS FOR TSIMANE, BOLIVIA

There was a couple who were booked for an early July trip this summer to this famous Golden Dorado fishery on the eastern edge of the Andes, the Tsimane lodges. Medical issues have arisen preventing them from traveling and they are willing to discount their two spots by 25%.

OOPS – CORRECTING AN ERROR

The text with the Memory Photo in our February newsletter at right stated “Heather Mycoskie took this beautiful 40# milkfish..... She may have had what it takes to get the fish to the net.....but she couldn’t lift it. Her guide is assisting with the lifting.” Wrong. The handsome guy “assisting with the lifting” is her husband, Blake.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

In preparing for his upcoming New Zealand trip, John Part stated what he was hoping for: “Keeping my fingers crossed for kind weather and stupid fish!” Who could wish for anything more!!

MARCH MEMORY PHOTOS



“Cute couple” flyfishing shots don’t usually come in twosomes, but this month we have a pair who shared a trip in the Amazon for peacock bass. Left is Sally and Brent Kitson; right is Sarah Kitson and Dave Fudurich.

PHOTO CREDITS: banner photo – Matt Goff; Patagonia – John Landis, Annette and Rob Pizzie, Gretchen and David Cantor.



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