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We are in the fifteenth 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.

BIRTH OF A FLY FISHER – WHERE IT BEGINS



In our February newsletter, [PART 1 - ALL ABOUT KIDS AND FISHING](#), John Gans described the role an Alaska trip played in the evolution of his son, Henry, as a fly fisher. The numbers of fish, wildlife, 'raw nature,' and the option to both spin and fly fish – Alaska is a great beginning point for youngsters if you have time and the budget. In Henry's college admission exam, he choose to write his essay about how he got started in fishing and the role it now plays in his life.....a great beginning point for this newsletter. At left, John with Henry and his baby tarpon taken on a fly in Mexico:

When I was 4 years old, I caught my first fish. As a young adult looking back on my younger years, it's hard to recall anything below the age of 5, yet I remember this moment vividly. My father and I woke up at six am on a balmy day in late July.....The ride was ten minutes to the gas station, where we bought some worms, and another ten minutes to where we planned to fish. As we unloaded our poles, tackle box, and sandwiches I knew it was going to be a great day. I remember the wind wafting in smells from the nearby swamp and the way the small waves batted against the pebble beach wetting my velcro sneakers. After my father baited my hook, I threw my line as far as I could. My cast fell a little short, but long enough that my line could sit among the lily pads. As my bobber plunged under the surface, my heart skipped a beat. From the moment I reeled in that little six inch perch, I knew I was hooked.....

..... Not only do I personally enjoy fishing but it's also a way that my father and I bond. My father's father died when he was 16 years old, and as a result, my father feels inclined to spend as much time with me as possible as if tomorrow was his last day. When my father and I are on the water we have this silent bond that binds us to the moment and nothing more. We aren't thinking about our troubles back home or anything negative for that matter, we exist only in the calming present and think only of our next fish. We've traveled all around the world fishing for different types of fish, and no matter where we fish, I feel the same sense of serenity.



Above: at left, Ben Chapman with one of his first bonefish. Ben and brother Jack have been accompanying Dad Nick on Rising Tide trips in Belize since they were 8 and 9. Now they're 16 and both fly fish. Dad sums up what most parents would like to have – “sequestered” time with their kids. From Nick: “As they get older, I look for opportunities to have them sequestered. Some of our best times have been on those Rising Tide fishing trips with Captain Dean and the crew. Its now an established tradition that I hope we can continue for years to come. Thanks to Taylor and Bob for introducing us to the Belize mothership trip.”

Center – left: a carp taken by Nico Muelrath on a “bread fly” with an assist from Dad Scott in Las Vegas. Not many trout streams in Vegas!

Center: Nico and sister Sophie with a stringer of trout for the frying pan. Fish were “planters” taken at a lake within driving distance of Vegas during a family campout.

Center – right: Pretty in Pink!! Sophie shows off one of her first fish/trout ever – note the Barbie closed face spin reel. At right, a few years later, Sophie displays her first trout taken on a fly!

Appreciation of our natural world begins with experiences like these. Birds and wildlife are usually present.....much more healthy than sitting for hours in front of a computer or game monitor!

THE ROLE OF THE DRIFT BOAT

The banner photo at top depicts a fly fisher using a drift boat on the Elk River, Fernie, BC. The Elk provides numbers of surface oriented, feisty, West Slope Cutthroat and is one of those rivers best fished with a drift boat. For newbie fly fishers, a drift boat is an excellent approach since “casting” is not necessary. The real work is done by a good guide at the oars so the fly gets positioned in the right place.....an excellent place to begin, even if the parent has no fly fishing experience themselves. Parent and child can learn together!



Photos above, L to R: Gary and Terry Butts have ‘raised’ their children and grandkids in waders with a fly rod in hand. Terry with grandkids Garrett Hayden, Hattie Butts (back right) and Sophie Butts (green waders). Wading the river with Gary are the same three – “walking in the river with Grandpa is fun!” Center left: Hattie with good rainbow as Garrett and Sophie look on. Center right: Hattie with a great rainbow! Garrett learns how to release little fish and advances to big fish – a very healthy rainbow!



From Gary on the value of a drift boat trip: “As far as switching from spinning gear/bait to the fly, Terry and I have found that a float trip down a trout rich river will bring out the fly fisher in most kids. We rig a 4 wt rod with a nymph below an indicator. Not much for teaching casting, but it does get them used to a fly rod and reel. And, on a good day, they may boat more than 20 fish. A patient guide is also critical.”

Twelve year-old Garrett (above left with large brown he took himself) has become quite the writer and one of his short stories about his favorite river has been published in *American Rivers*. The article is a “good read” and this link takes you there: [Garrett's Article - American Rivers](#)

THE DROESE FAMILY – AN ADVENTURE IN BELIZE

Shawna and Mike Droese are long time veterans of fishing from a mothership in Belize, beginning at a time before there was a “Droese Family.” Now there is Caden (8), Tristan (10) and Sophie (13) so last fall, they decided to take the kids on a Belize trip. They combined time on the Rising Tide with a stay at a resort island to have some solid land available in case the kids got restless. Wasn’t needed. They brought along an





extra crew member who's responsibility it was to entertain (and babysit when necessary) the kids allowing Mom and Dad some time on the water. Mom got her third permit (above right). Even Papa got a fish.....with baby tarpon at left. The report from Papa Mike: "The trip is still hot topic on family discussion. Caden, 8, claims best family vacation ever!!! Ask what were your highlights, 'fishing with Captain Dean and the boat.' Tristan, 10, wants to return to Belize where Captain Dean had him casting a fly rod. He asked for our 'cool' fishing shirts and pants for Christmas. Sophie (at right with first bonefish), 13, isn't into fishing as much, but gladly hangs with the boys on their Grunt fishing expeditions. I think she needs more



exposure.

All 3 kids caught and landed a bonefish. Tristan caught one without the benefit of a piece of conch.

Captain Dean was amazing! He is our family hero! Especially Caden; he'd hang with the Captain all day. We loved Noel too!! So overall, a very successful family introduction!!"

ALASKA AND BELIZE – MORE

Chris Kirsten and son, Will, spent a week in Alaska when he was 12. Commented Chris on the experience: "It is truly remarkable for a then 12 year old, who grew up in the heart of concrete-laden Manhattan, to be dropped into a remote and beautiful place which is only accessible by motorboat. Fishing for over 10 varieties of fish including salmon, rainbows, dolly varden , pike, Arctic Char coupled with sightings of Grizzly Bears and bald eagles, made the week go by quickly. Since that first trip, Will has fished a second time in Alaska along with Montana, Florida, Costa Rica, Long Island, the Adirondacks and even on the Potomac for bass, near where he now goes to college.



Lastly, the best fly fishing locations do not allow for any electronics interference, i.e. a cell phone, so the unplugged angling experience becomes all-consuming: you, the angler, the fish swimming about, and the beautiful natural surroundings. The ultimate pay-off is your kid's learning the value of patience, focused persistence, and how to pose for the camera with that big rainbow!

In addition to the fishing, Will (at right with a nice Bristol Bay Silver salmon) stated there was another significant benefit from being in Alaska: "I also developed an indescribable appreciation for wildlife and nature"



Snorkeling excursions over coral heads and on the second longest barrier reef in the world (at right) are usually part of a family trip in Belize.

Andrew and Andy Harper joined Colby and John Britt on a Rising Tide trip. Several of their barracuda photos were in last months newsletter [PART 1 - ALL ABOUT KIDS AND FISHING](#)



That's Andrew at left with a nice snook taken from the edge of the mangroves. John, who is a veteran of many trips on the Rising Tide said: "The boys both felt like their week on the Rising Tide was one of the best vacations they had taken; not only the fishing, but the interaction with the crew, the food, the entire cultural experience. It certainly created enthusiasm for future fishing trips."

WHAT WE DO AT FLY FISHING ADVENTURES

This is a new link with a description of who we are and what we do.....also, listing the destinations around the world that we can provide reliable information regarding the experience and how to prepare to visit:

[Fly Fishing Adventures - About What We Do](#)

MARCH MEMORY PHOTO

Someday, the photo at right of Hattie assisting Sophie wading into position, will bring back some happy memories.

PHOTO CREDITS: banner – Curtis Lamey; Ben with bonefish – Nick Chapman; Nico and Sophie – Scott Muelrath; Butts family – Terry and Gary Butts; Droese family – Shawna and Mike Droese; Will with silver salmon – Chris Kirsten; Andrew with snook – Andy Harper.

An enthusiastic traveling fly fisherman,
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