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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'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.

## 10# BROWN IN LATE SPRING REPORTS, NEW ZEALAND

Mike McGuire and the Ellis boys, Dan and Dave, ventured to New Zealand in late November to check out the late spring fishery. All three were on their second trip to the land of the Kiwi and both spent time fishing on the eastern side of the South Island Alps. Dan and Dave also crossed over the Alps and fished half their time on the west side. As is usually the case in the spring (and also often in the summer), weather conditions provided a mixed bag, but the fishing overall held up due to excellent guides who knew how to work with varying conditions and had the right choice of waters. NZ anglers who prefer the early season do so primarily because there are far fewer people there than the more popular travel time of summer. Fish are rested and unpressured. Comments follow from both Mike and Dave on their experiences.



From Dave: "Want to report on an excellent fishing trip to NZ which turned out to be a great adventure, a chance to see breath-taking scenery and an opportunity to meet wonderful people. Although the weather didn't co-operate, the fish did, but only due to the expertise of our guides. I can say for a certainty that without our guides, we would have walked past 95% of the fish we caught. They are absolutely amazing at spotting fish. Our catch rate the first few days was 3-4 fish. That improved to 4-6 fish a day as the stream conditions improved and our last day we caught 22 fish with 10 of them being on dry flies. The fish averaged in the 4-6 pound range, but we had several 7 pounders and Dan got an 8 pound rainbow and a 10 1/2 pound brown (at left). Our accommodations were excellent at both stays and the gals prepared outstanding meals. All in all I can't think of a way to improve our trip."



For accommodations, both farm/home stays were utilized with Dan and Dave combining half their time at one of NZ's finest "lodge stays." Mike (at left), who qualifies as a "bionic angler" with his replacement hip, captured the photo of the spring bloom of the Lupines (above right) and had this report: "It was a great trip. Most days got several big fish, five or six pounders. Did have it a bit tough last day. After landing three decent fish, I went on to miss about half a dozen nymph takes in a row. The accommodations were fine, both places." (note: Mike has tested his bionic hip on an aggressive backpacking trip into high mountain Golden Trout country and everything held together!)

## ASCENSION BAY GRAND SLAM

The International Gamefish Association (IGFA) recognizes the inshore/flats Grand Slam as consisting of taking, in the same day, three of these four fish – bonefish, permit, snook, tarpon.....a Super Grand Slam includes all four of these fish. There are times when a Grand Slam seems to happen effortlessly, like it's "no big deal." More often, it's difficult to imagine it ever happening. And, there are times when two of the three fish come with little effort, but the third fish just can't be had.



For Pete Tymsta on his third trip to Ascension Bay, the snook (center) and tarpon (right) came easily.....the bonefish (left) took the rest of the day and just barely happened.

From Pete on his October trip: "It was a pretty great trip. Saw lots of fish. Our guide commented that the recent rain put a lot of fresh water in the bay which brought out the tarpon and snook. I had caught two smaller snook the day before and ten bone fish, had the fly in the mouth of ten tarpon, got two to jump but couldn't land any of them. Our guide estimated that the big snook in the picture was about 15 lbs. What a thrill it was to have a good sized snook and tarpon landed by about 10 in the morning. We then went after bonefish to complete my Grand Slam. Couldn't catch one to save my life. We saw plenty, some big ones tailing. After many lined fish and flies yanked from their mouths, I finally got a tiny bonefish late in the day. By then I think my guide was pretty frantic. Crazy sport!"

Jeanne and Pete have taken three trips (one of those a family trip that included their sons) to Grand Slam Lodge, the newest of the top line lodges in this area and one with an ambiance suited for non-fishing spouses. On this trip, they included a tour to the Mayan ruins at Coba. Commented Jeanne....."All in all, a great trip. The accommodations are very comfortable, the food and drinks are very good, and everyone who works there is nice and does a very good job. And Ascension Bay is beautiful - I love spending time out on the water."

## THE "NEW JURASSIC" IN ARGENTINA



In a far flung corner of Patagonian wilderness, after years of exploration and experimenting, a new giant rainbow trout fishery has been developed in the same general geographic area as the original "Jurassic Lake." And, like the original Jurassic, the key to the immense size of the fish is the same – a perfect environment for fresh water shrimp (scuds) that supports them by the millions. Unlike the original Jurassic Lake, the watershed at Kooi Noom, in addition to the lakes, includes miles of private river and stream fishing from two main rivers and other smaller tributary streams which hold large fish year round (see banner photo at top). Much of the stream fishing takes place in intimate pocket water for fish from 3 to 15+ pounds. Largest fish to date was 25 pounds! There is a full service lodge in place to provide a comfortable experience. This is their first full season of operation and they are open into April and still have some weeks with space available.

For those who may not be familiar with the original Jurassic Lake and the sort of giant rainbow fishing available, this link will take you to a photo essay report of our trip there last year. [Jurassic Lake Photo Essay Trip Report](#)

## FEBRUARY BELIZE PERMIT TRIP – DISCOUNTED SLOT

Due to a forfeited deposit, there is a discounted spot open on a Rising Tide trip in Belize for next month, February 11 – 18. This is a mothership trip that will visit all the finest permit flats heading south from Belize City, inside the barrier reef. The original group that put the trip together consists, for the most part, of guys who are veterans of Belize mothership trips and are a good group of guys to spend time with. Price - \$2,320. Website with regular prices for this trip is [www.flyfishbelize.com](http://www.flyfishbelize.com)

## JANUARY MEMORY PHOTO

Thirteen years ago, on our first New Zealand trip, I was introduced to the joys of the NZ fly fishing scene by one of the truly great Kiwi guides and gentlemen, Dennis Ward. That first day fishing New Zealand literally changed my fly fishing life and has led us on an annual pilgrimage back to stalk the trophy browns and rainbows in its crystal clear streams and rivers. Now, that same Dennis Ward has begun spending some time fishing the salt water flats. On a recent trip in the South Pacific, Dennis took his first Blue Fin Trevally, the beautiful fish in our memory photo for this month. From Dennis.....“the fish in the photo was my first – landed a heap on my last day – the biggest around the 20lb mark!!!! Mind boggling fishing!”

PHOTO CREDITS: New Zealand – Mike McGuire and the Ellis Boys;  
Grand Slam – Jeanne and Pete Tymstra.



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](http://www.flyfishingadventures.org)

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