



Chilean Spring Creek

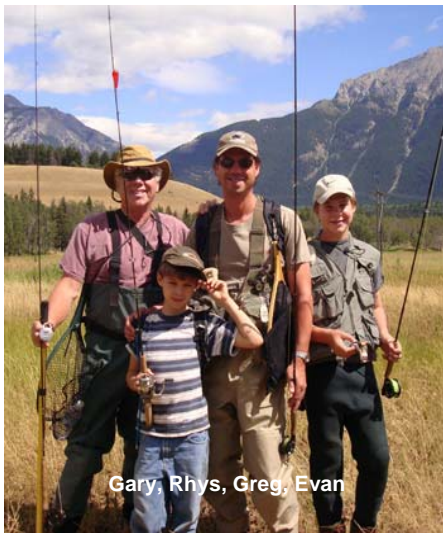
[www.flyfishingadventures.org](http://www.flyfishingadventures.org)

## TOPICS IN THIS ISSUE:

- PLACES FOR KIDS TO BEGIN
- JAN - FEB OPENINGS IN THE CHILEAN ANDES AND THE AMAZON
- MORE FERNIE/ELK RIVER REPORTS
- NEW ZEALAND: 2009 PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS
- OUR NEWSLETTER: YOUR PHOTOS AND MESSAGES WE LOVE TO HEAR

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.

## PLACES FOR KIDS TO BEGIN



Gary, Rhys, Greg, Evan

We are sometimes asked this question: "if you were going to get on an airplane and take your son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter on a trout-based fly fishing adventure, where would you go?" Of course, an exotic location like Alaska is ideal if you have the time and resources. There are some places remaining in the lower 48.....but my two favorite spots would be on the eastern and western edges of British Columbia. My criteria would be eager, native fish with good numbers available for lots of activity, and, most importantly, fish that were surface oriented. Also, a spot where we could find guides who were excellent at working with kids. One of those two spots would include the very active, dry fly inclined, native West Slope Cutthroat of the Elk River drainage in the town of Fernie, near the crest of the Canadian Rockies in eastern B.C. (the other spot will be covered in the November newsletter).

Gary Daniels was in Fernie this summer with his son and grandsons. He put together a wonderful story on his experiences (actually, capturing the essence of the joys that have accrued from a lifetime of sharing the outdoors with his growing family). From that story (too lengthy to reprint in the newsletter), we've taken the liberty of cutting and pasting together this narrative of a fly fishing thrill that Gary's nine year old grandson will never forget.

"My son, Greg, joined us this summer with grandsons, nine year old Rhys and young teenager Evan, on the Pat Patterson trip to Fernie (in eastern BC). There are several world class fisheries within an hour of Fernie. The most popular and accessible is the Elk River which flows through the middle of town. It is known for its football sized Cuts and the number of "Bull Trout" that hit double digit figures. I can't begin to describe the beauty and majesty of this country. It's comparable to the Jackson Hole area in Wyoming, but without the crowds of people.

This is Rhys' first year of fly fishing on his own. Up until then I would hook fish and hand the pole off to him. He caught his first trout on a fly on his own earlier this year on our camping trip. On this particular day of our Fernie trip, everyone in the group kicked in \$2 to form a pool for the largest fish of the day.

Rhys was fishing about 50 feet downstream from his Dad, Greg, and their guide, John. Rhys yelled that there was a big fish following his Woolly Buggler. Greg passed it off as a 16 inch Cut seen through 9 year old eyes. That was until his next cast of about 15 feet



Rhys – Bull Trout

brought a strike that almost ripped the rod out of Rhys hand. He was standing in about two feet of water and the fish immediately screamed out 50 yards of line. Between John's coaching and his Dad holding on to him so he wouldn't topple over, Rhys brought the large Bull Trout to the net. It was truly one of those once-in-a-lifetime experiences for all three of them.

That evening, at a group dinner, to the sound of hoots and hollers, the \$30 pool was handed to the top fisherman of the day. It was questionable as to whether the fish meant more to Rhys at that moment or the \$30 that he held tight in his fist. When he is my age, I know what the answer will be."

(Note: if you'd like to read the entirety of Gary Daniels story, click on this link. I think it would be a better world if there were more of us sharing the love of and passion for the great outdoors with youngsters who are spending much of their youth in front of computer screens.

[http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/tr\\_memories.htm](http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/tr_memories.htm) )

## JAN - FEB OPENINGS IN THE CHILEAN ANDES AND THE AMAZON



For those that can travel on short notice and are still looking for a great adventure in the summertime of the Southern Hemisphere, here are some remaining openings in South America for this season.

**PATAGONIA:** Our favorite Patagonia destination in the Chilean Andes is full from the beginning of January through mid-March with the exception of two weeks. Both the weeks of Jan 11 – 18 and Jan 18 – 25 have space for two rods.

**AMAZON:** The arrowana (photo at left) and the peacock bass are the two main attractions in the gin-clear waters of the Agua Boa River. The lodge

with exclusive access to this unique Amazon experience has under gone a name change (new European ownership) and is now called the Agua Boa Amazon Lodge (formerly the Royal Amazon). There is now one more bungalow at the lodge and this addition for the upcoming season opened up two more spots that are still available in select weeks. He has also made some other improvements such as the houseboat operation upriver. There are some prime Jan, Feb, and March weeks still open at the upriver houseboat at the special introductory year price of \$4,000. Lodge weeks with space for two in the new bungalow are: 11/5 – 12, 11/24 – 12/1, 1/5 – 12, 1/19 – 26, 2/2 – 9, 2/9 – 16, 3/1 – 8. [www.aguaboamazonlodge.com](http://www.aguaboamazonlodge.com)



## MORE FERNIE/ELK RIVER REPORTS



Some destinations you just gotta love.....Fernie, B.C. is one of them. Scenery is stunning, uncrowded waters protected by government limitations, comfortable accommodation options to fit most budgets and comfort levels, and the fishing – numbers of dry fly oriented native West Slope cutthroat spiced by the occasional opportunity to take a large Bull Trout.

Pat Patterson put together a group of 16 friends, family, and business associates for a five day "fly fishing party" in Fernie this summer. The range of the group spanned generations – from 9 year olds to their grandfathers. The "fishing gods" have a special place in their heaven for anyone who can coordinate this many people

getting together on one fishing trip! This newsletter has tributes to Pat for his good work – above in the "Places For Kids To Begin" article and the following comments.

"Great time in Fernie on the Pat Patterson trip. My dad and I had our fill of great dry fly fishing for cutthroats. Lots of big ones. Also, last day I landed a 27 inch (photo at right) and a 25 inch bull trout. Great way to wrap up. Jeff and his guides do an excellent job. I'd recommend the trip to anyone."

Brian Stranko, CEO, Caltrout

Gary Neal and a group of friends do a fly fishing trip or two together each year. This year, one of those trips was Fernie. Gary's comments: "Fernie was a great trip. Everyone enjoyed themselves. Area was beautiful. Fishing was very good. I don't like to quantify our trip with numbers of fish and their lengths, but let it be said they were big



enough and plentiful enough. The condo was great and so were the guides.”

Reservations for guides and lodging in the Fernie area for summer and fall of '08 are now being taken.

## NEW ZEALAND: 2009 PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS



Early Season New Zealand  
Brown Trout Taken This Month

Yep....you are reading it right. While the dawn of 2008 is still a few months away, we're already working on New Zealand itineraries for 2009. The reason is that NZ has become one of the most desirable travel destinations on the globe.....even *without* considering the unique stream sight fishing for trophy rainbows and browns. Also, this is the finest couples destination we know of that has "world class" trout fishing. The top lodges and independent guides often book up for the prime time (late January through March) a year or more out – actually, this is also becoming true for their spring and early summer time frame (October, November, and early December). When we plan a New Zealand itinerary, we like to have all the best options available for our clients....and have them available for the time frames we need them. Of course, we can always throw an itinerary together with 4 or 5 months notice, but the most preferable method is to plan far

enough in advance that all the best possibilities are open to us.

What makes NZ so special has been detailed in past newsletters and in the special reports and client recaps at the bottom of the New Zealand page on our website ([www.flyfishingadventures.org](http://www.flyfishingadventures.org)). Over the last seven years, we have become specialists in putting together New Zealand itineraries, both the hard core fishing variety and couples trips which combine fishing with experiencing the wonder that is NZ. We have many sample itineraries available – if you'd like to see, just hit reply.

If you'd like to view some photos and detail on one of the most interesting and exciting days my wife, Marte, and I have had in all of our NZ travels, the link below has a report on that day. Keep in mind, this is the sort of adventure that is very limited in availability (as explained in the report).

[http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/69\\_plan.pdf](http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/69_plan.pdf)

Additionally, the following link will direct you to our NZ newsletter published earlier this year.

[http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/59\\_special.pdf](http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/59_special.pdf)

The planning process involves discussion of the possibilities followed by putting together tentative itineraries .....and then adjusting and fine tuning to meet budgets and time constraints. If geography allows, we can get together and view a detailed NZ slide tour which covers the best options on both islands. We love putting together NZ trips....it's the most fun thing we do!!!

## OUR NEWSLETTER: YOUR PHOTOS AND MESSAGES WE LOVE TO HEAR

As you've noticed in the past six months, our newsletter has been enhanced by the photo submissions of several clients (like the super Truckee River rainbow shot at right from Colin Hensley). We do appreciate these submissions – nothing tells the story better than photos. Each month, after we've completed writing the newsletters and selecting the photos to accompany it, we hit the "send" button. I often wonder what happens next....are the cyber space gremlins eating it or does it actually get delivered to everyone on our "opt in" list? We do enjoy comments like the following from Jim Henry, a recent New Zealand traveler: "Don, I love your newsletter. It's a vicarious trip--and cheaper."



### PHOTO CREDITS

"Kids" article – Daniels family; Wading The Wigwam – Jeff Mironuck; big Bull Trout - Brian Stranko, CEO Caltrout; NZ Brown Trout – George Bisharat; Truckee Rainbow – Colin Hensley.

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)

888-347-4896

[flyfish@napanet.net](mailto: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.