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We are in the seventh 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 destinations. 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.

**MONTANA – THE WAY IT SHOULD BE**



I've experienced the Montana that much of the general fly fishing populace sees when they visit.....and it ain't pretty. Four or five other drift boats constantly in sight or anglers wading above and below you in what I consider a claustrophobic environment. Frankly, "that" Montana never did get me excited about returning.

Those of you who are long time readers of our newsletter know that we place a high value on our fly fishing experiences having a certain feeling of solitude and exclusiveness. We have discovered an operation that provides a Montana experience "the way it should be."

This is a 15,000 acre working cattle ranch in a very rural area that is surrounded by generational ranches.....over 100,000 acres of adjoining private ranches as a buffer. Twenty miles of outstanding "private water" stream and river fishing is available on the host ranch with access to another thirty miles of rivers, streams, and spring creeks on the adjoining properties.

**Here are some details:**

- Location: a little over an hour away from Bozeman and an hour from Livingston (daily direct flights on United from San Francisco to Bozeman).
- Lots of wildlife - elk, deer, ducks, etc.
- Horseback riding.
- Two private lakes on property with trophy fish



- Can arrange hostess for non fishing spouses.
- Primary on property waters:
  - headwaters of the famous Smith River (8 miles)- trophy brown trout fishery (above right).....2-4 fish in a day over 22 inches.
  - Sheep Creek (above left photo), 12 miles of access.....fish from 10-16 inches - 10-20 per day per angler.
  - Buckingham Lake- over 130 ft deep- browns and bows- 14-24 inches- 10-15 per angler per day

- Bozeman and Livingston are traditional old western towns – fun to visit.
- Accommodations are in a two bedroom cabin. It's a little on the rustic side, but clean and comfortable with good home cooked ranch style meals. Can sleep up to 8.

- Price would be under \$2,000 per person (based on double occupancy and sharing a guide) including tips and miscellaneous (not including air) for a four night stay with three days of fishing.
- Enough fishing options to supply a solid week of fishing – or more if you have the time.

There are still many open dates for this summer and fall. If you have interest, hit “reply” or give a call.

## BELIZE REPORTS: TURNEFFE ISLANDS AND INSHORE FLATS



Lots of exciting reports coming out of Belize. The most challenging of all fly rod targets, the elusive permit, has been present in good numbers on many flats.....and some of them are actually eating the fly!!! Many “firsts” have been taken.....first bonefish, first permit, etc. More permit are being taken in Belize by both old time pros and first time flat’s fisherman than at any time I can recall in my 25+ years of fly fishing the flats.....it has been amazing.

On the Meca (45 foot mothership at left), Belize veteran Rich Hosley, with his wife Janette (with Jack Crevalle below, right-center) were sharing the aqua wonders of Belize with friends Russ and Lucky Leavitt. Rich has had some memorable (one truly incredible experience which I shared with him) tarpon encounters on past trips. On this trip, he would take his first and second permit (below left). The Leavitt’s were combining their first flats fly fishing experience with scuba diving utilizing one of the top dive shops on the reef. Some of Russ’ comments on the overall experience: “Belize was great. All had a wonderful time. The Meca, while not fancy, was entirely adequate. The flats fly fishing learning curve was steep, but Lucky (orange shirt below with one of first bonefish) and I both caught lots of bonefish. Had a good try at several permit. One took well - be sure to advise future fishers to avoid standing on the fly line when a permit takes off. Two good grabs from tarpon, but no real hook-ups, but fun all the same. Diving off of Caye Caulker was excellent. I would love to go again.....an outstanding week.”



Tom Brutsche, Lee Lewis, and Ron Knowles had what Tom termed “a great trip” on their annual Belize adventure, their first on the new luxury Belize mothership option, the Rising Tide. Within a 5 minute run from the anchored mothership, Tom took his 5<sup>th</sup> and largest permit to date, weighed at over 20# (photo at right above).

Two father-son teams enjoyed an adventure at the premier fly fishing operation of the Turneffe Islands.....and the son’s each excelled during their first exposure to flats fly fishing.....Dad’s did OK also. On a break from college, James Andras earned the “fantasy fly fishing episode of the month” (maybe of 2010!) while joining his Dad, Jim, at the Turneffes. In his first 20 minutes EVER fishing the salt water flats with a fly rod, James hooked and, after a struggle, released the big permit at right below. We have clients that have been trying to get their first permit for several years – that’s just not fair!!!! Inspired by his son, Jim also got his first permit and both took several bones plus a third permit (Jim below center with first permit and right-center with bone). Some commentary from Jim: “The trip with my son was great. The lodge is very nice and well managed, our guide was among the best I have ever had. We caught a lot of bonefish from 1.5 up to around 4 pounds and caught three permit.....we will continue to visit Belize. In the two trips I have made down there, the fishing has been incredible, and with the new laws in effect, I agree it should only get better.”





Henry Gans used his high school spring break to join Dad, John, at the Turneffes. Henry (with one of his first bones above, center-left) and John fly fish extensively together, but this was Henry's first shot at the salt water flats (Dad took his first salt water flats trip last year). John (with first permit, above left) always does a nice job on his insightful trip reports and following are some of his comments: "Henry and I had a great time at the Turneffes. It is really well run. Guides are great, the food is delicious, and the whole place is run with a very personal touch. The option to snorkel or dive was a nice diversion for non-fishing guests, or if you run into tough fishing conditions. Henry and I had intended to snorkel once. but we were enjoying the fishing too much to bother. Henry loved catching the bonefish. He learned lots of lessons on casting, line management, and patience. He loved the challenge. The highlight is when he caught a nice 4 pound bone in about 5 inches of water. It took off and went well into his backing. He was howling with joy. He also had a lot of fun catching some sizeable barracuda. We would definitely go back." (John's entire report is available – let us know if you'd like to see it)

### IF I ONLY HAD ONE HOUR TO FISH.....



I recently read a quote by the globe hopping fly fishing guru, Harry W. Robertson, that posed an interesting question. If you only had one hour to fish, where and when would you select that hour to take place? Harry's response to the question was, ".....8pm on Anne Marie Lake on the Minipi River in Labrador during the month of July." For those of us who have spent many July evenings on Anne Marie, we can easily understand why this would be Harry's choice. It's hard to imagine the excitement of stalking, from a quietly paddled canoe, those big brookies

as they cruise, silently sipping big mayflies from the surface. Harry is hosting a week at Anne Marie this summer, June 25 – July 2, the week before we'll be at Anne Marie. If you can make arrangements on short notice, there may still be a few openings for that week.

### FOR LADY FLY FISHERS OR THOSE WHO ARE CONSIDERING FLY FISHING



Barbara Klutinis, at left with big Texas redfish, has produced, with the assistance of many others, an interesting new DVD targeted for ladies who think they may have an interest in fly fishing.....also may be a good watch for veteran lady fly fishers.

The title is *Stepping Into The Stream* and it's available for \$25 at this website [www.stepsintothestream.com](http://www.stepsintothestream.com) It's a nice piece of work with a focus on women in fly fishing.

### MAY MEMORY PHOTO

Our February newsletter carried a story about a new record brown taken from the Trafal River on Estancia Arroyo Verde in Argentina earlier this year. Some of our clients, Sherri and Dave Wood, were there at the time. Now that record has been broken again with the 35 inch beast at right taken by Tony Good.....a memory to savor for a lifetime!



NOTE: THE ARTICLE ON JURASSIC LAKE WILL APPEAR IN OUR JUNE NEWSLETTER – STILL COMPILING A FEW MORE DETAILS ON THIS INTERESTING VENUE.

PHOTO CREDITS: (top to bottom) Montana – Brian Hodges; Belize – Rich and Janette Hosley, Lucky and Russ Leavitt, Tom Brutsche, James and Jim Andras, Henry and John Gans; Texas redfish – Barbara Klutinis.

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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