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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.

JUNGLE FISHING – SOUTH AMERICA

In 2005, we made our first trip to the Amazon.....our first time ever fishing the jungles of South America. We stayed at the Agua Boa Amazon Lodge, still today the one fly fishing ONLY stationary lodge in the Amazon. The peacock bass and the other species, the wildlife, the isolation, and the lodge.....all were amazing as we learned that the Amazon is one of the fishiest places on earth. The Agua Boa set the standard for isolated, remote, jungle lodges. Since then, we have sent well over 75 anglers to the Agua Boa and this week, there are 12 FFA clients there.....we’ll have their report in upcoming newsletters.



THE RIO MARIE´, AMAZON - in 2014, exploratory trips were made via mothership into this remote, northwest corner of the Amazon, near the Columbian border. The five weeks of trips done in the fall of last year netted over forty peacock bass in excess of 20 pounds – an incredible number of fish topping the twenty mark (Sarah Kitson at right with 23.1# peacock). One of the most interesting aspects to the trips in ´14 was that conditions were very poor due to high waters (the killer in rain- forest tropical fisheries because the big fish move into the brush in pursuit of the little fish). The excess waters were due to a unique El Nino weather pattern which impacted this entire area of South America. The early part of the season also had some difficulty with numbers of bees, which were a major nuisance. However, the potential of this fishery was established. This coming season (late Sept to early Dec) still has some weeks with open space. The mothership used for the exploratory trips had a great cook and the food was excellent, but the air conditioned quarters were a little cramped. They are having a custom mothership built for upcoming trips.

Below: l to r – Brent Kitson with big peacock from the Marie´; three photos on right are giant arapaima.



STEVE ORNDORF – JUNGLE ADVENTURES.....GUYANA, COLUMBIA, ETC – Steve Orndorf, who resides in our Napa Valley, has been chasing fish in the jungles of South America since 1974. Steve is a multi-tackle guy so his choice of rod may be something besides a fly rod. You might say this is an obsession of his.....at least a

passion! Steve pursues all the jungle species, but he really is keen on the giant arapaima. He has been on jungle rivers where 300+ pound arapaima's were taken. The arapaima in the photos above were taken on a trip last year with some friends to Guyana. As this is being written, he is an isolated part of Columbia and is accompanied by a few fly fishers we know well.....should have some interesting feedback on this trip soon.



TSIMANE, BOLIVIA – a few years ago, some outfitters in South America (who have a proven reputation of finding and developing remote, isolated, fisheries) discovered these unique rivers where the eastern edge of the Andes level out into tropical jungle. What was really special in this location is they found large golden dorado migrating into spectacular streams that remind an angler of New Zealand or Rocky Mountain waters. The Tsimane lodges were born. The migration of the goldens is triggered by the pursuit of their favorite baitfish that move into the upper reaches of these rivers by the millions to spawn. In July of this year, there is a group of eleven of us who will venture to Bolivia and the Tsimane lodges (Jack

Edick, who will be joining us, has been here twice – at left with a large Golden from one of his previous trips). Photos below from the waters of Tsimane.



NEW ZEALAND REPORTS: FAMILY TRIP AND “FULL- OUT FISHING” EXPERIENCES

It is the time of year where New Zealand reports begin to come in from early season trips. We have two distinctly different types of reports for this newsletter. First are the Ellis Brothers, Dave and Dan. This was their third visit to NZ and their interest was to fill all their time with the best fishing possible. The second report is from William Owens, on his third trip to NZ with his wife, Laura, but this time having their daughters, Michelle and Leanne, join in.



On last year's trip during late November, Dan and Dave Ellis (at left, Dan in red hat) experienced mostly good conditions and hit it right with several great days on the water, including a ten-pounder for Dan (he wrote an exciting recap of the locating and taking of that ten pound fish in the May '14 newsletter). Returning in late November in 2014, conditions not so good.

From Dave (with guide at right/below): “Our stays (a home stay and small lodge) were excellent as far as accommodations, food etc. However, the weather was really bad. We had winds at 50-60 knots all of our first three days which made finding a place to fish very difficult. How our guide managed was nothing short of a miracle. He couldn't have worked any

harder than he did to find us places where there was even a hope of seeing or even casting to fish. Fortunately, each day we were able to find such a place and Dan and I each landed at least one fish per day. Needless to say, each fish was very memorable. Our travel day to our next location had rain and sleet going over Arthur's Pass. The next area had had lots of rain with many rivers blown out. However, our guide found water that fished well during this type of weather. The first day we caught 31 fish, many of which were in the 1-3 lb. class, but also a couple of 6+ pound fish. The weather was so bad.....reports were phoned in from other guides who were blanked. The second day we caught 21 fish. A highlight was taking a walk up a small spring creek emptying into the river we were fishing and found a couple of rising fish. I was able to hook and land on a dry fly a nice 4 1/2 pound brown. Overall, we took over 60 fish with this guide.....our largest was a 8.5 pound brown taken by Dan. In summary, while the numbers of larger fish were definitely down from our previous year, due to the conditions, we still had good fishing due to excellent guide work (the reports from other guides in the area were mostly fishless days throughout our time here). I completely agree with



your assessment that a good guide is an absolute necessity in NZ, regardless of the experience or expertise of the angler, and that's especially true if conditions are not ideal."



Laura and William (at left) used the Christmas and New Years holiday period for their New Zealand family trip allowing for their college aged daughters to accompany them. This trip included time on both islands and had a little of everything from a copter tour of Milford Sound to fly fishing, and even included golf on one of NZ's world famous courses. Their two daughters, Michelle and Leanne, each spent a day on the water with Dad enjoying for the first time the thrill of stalking trout. Neither had any previous fly casting experience except for some backyard casting lessons. Both were able to get a photo with one of NZ's trophy browns. Generally, the challenging angling in NZ is not the ideal place to learn to fly fish, but with the "right guide," there have been many newcomers enjoy their introduction to fly fishing here. As far as the flow of events for their family trip, William put together an excellent report on their trip which can be accessed through this link: [William Owens Family NZ Adventure](#)

Below: Leanne (left) and Michelle (right) with beautiful NZ browns. Leanne captured the photo in the middle of Dad bringing a lively fish to the net.



FERNIE AND ALBERTA COMBO

The area near the border of Alberta and British Columbia is home to some spectacular Canadian Rockies scenery and, also, to some of the best North American trout fishing south of Alaska. These waters provide an immense amount of diversity. Within 100 miles of the border to the east are some of Canada's top waters for rainbows and browns ranging from tailwaters, smallish streams, and spring creeks.



The giant rainbow at right was taken sight casting by Paul Souza while fishing with one of Alberta's top independent guides on a private spring creek (Paul has fished this area with this guide for several years).

On the British Columbia side of the border, the fishery in the Fernie area provides access to what most believe to be the best remaining Bull Trout (right) fishery. These large, aggressive lunkers average 25+ inches in some waters. While the Bull Trout supply the opportunity to hook a monster, the native, surface oriented West Slope

Cutthroat provide the numbers. It is a great combination of native fish.

With less than a two hour drive connecting these two fisheries, it can make a great combination if you spend 3 or 4 days on each side of the border with a relaxing day between them. And these waters provide both an excellent opportunity for the novice fly fisher and also challenges for an experienced veteran.



FEBRUARY MEMORY PHOTO

The sister atolls of Alphonse and St. Francois in the Seychelles are arguably the best place to take large milkfish. Heather Mycoskie took this beautiful 40# milkfish on a 9 wt rod while visiting this marine wonderland. 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 while Heather gets ready to plant a "thank you" on the nose.

PHOTO CREDITS: (top to bottom): large peacocks – Brent Kitson and Sarah Kitson by Dave Fudurich; arapaima – Steve Orndorf and Dave Coffin; 1st Golden – Jack Edick; Tsimane – Rodrigo Salles; New Zealand – Dave and Dan Ellis; New Zealand – Michelle, Leanne, and William Owens; Alberta rainbow – Paul Souza.

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