



**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- GIANT BROOKIES OF THE MINIPI RIVER – TRIP REPORT
- LOOKING FOR PARTNERS – CHILE AND BELIZE
- THE MYSTIQUE OF PERMIT EXPLAINED – WINSTON MOORE
- WHAT WE DO AT FLY FISHING ADVENTURES
- AUGUST MEMORY PHOTO

We are in the sixteenth 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.

**GIANT BROOKIES OF THE MINIPI RIVER – TRIP REPORT**



Some destinations are all about the overall experience and the chance to capture the “fish of a lifetime” of a certain species. Its not about taking numbers of fish – it is about the overall experience and that “special fish.” Certainly, the Minipi River fits this definition. This watershed is unique, a black spruce covered land tucked away in the wilds of Labrador in the far NE corner of Canada, with a series of shallow lakes and connector streams and rivers. No where on earth are your chances better of taking a colorful trophy brook trout of five pounds or larger on a dry fly.

The Minipi outfitters (who have operated the lodges here for over 35 years) say that “the way it was is the way it is.” Son, Scott, and I will be making our 10<sup>th</sup> trip to the Minipi in 2019 and, based on our previous experiences, we can say that it certainly is an unspoiled wilderness, one of the last untamed places left on earth. And, most important, a place where trophy

brook trout still look to the surface to find many of their meals. This “search of the surface” is stimulated by hatches of a wide variety of bugs, most notably, massive brown and green drake hatches that often cover the water during certain times of the summer. Biologists have identified 28 varieties of mayflies on the Minipi in addition to several types of caddis.

Frank Bush (above, left) recruited several of his fly fishing friends to accompany him on a journey to this “not easily accessed place” in pursuit of trophy brook trout. All of them were fortunate to be successful in capturing the “brook trout of a lifetime;” indeed, several of these trophies were taken and all were on dry flies. At right is the group – from l to r: Dr. Justin Durel, Dr. Jay Marshall, Dr. John Purcell, Frank Bush, Oscar Horan, Tim Houghton.



Photos below, l to r: Dr. Jay Marshall and Tim Houghton with prize brookies. Brown Drakes are one of the major hatches during the summer and part of “prime time.” Oscar Horan with a large brookie. Oscar had these enthusiastic comments about his trip: “Spectacular place! Absolutely fabulous trip. Wonderful staff. Terrific fishing. A+ Best.”



Photos below, l to r: Frank Bush with a nice pike. The pike provide for some action when the hatches are slow. Small brookies usually are hiding in the riffles in streams and rivers for protection from the larger predators. Most anglers on the Minipi are not concerned with “numbers” and devote most of their time looking for trophies. Aerial view of some productive Minipi waters – shallow lakes with massive weedbeds and connector streams and rivers. Inlets and outlets are some of our favorite places to find large brookies.



Frank echoed the comments above from Oscar: “The camp was above expectations...great accommodations, good food, fun friendly hard working guides, the lodge staff Nancy & Drew where great. The down side was the heat which slowed the fishing and lack of fly outs due to an accident with the plane. On a one to ten scale, I give it a 10+. I would do it again.”

Photos below, l to r: Dr. John Purcell and Dr. Justin Durel with brookies. The float plane shadow on the Black Spruce forest – the only way to reach the lodge is via float plane from Goose Bay. Dr. Jay Marshall with another of his large brookies. Dr. Marshall reported he averaged 1½ trophy fish per day that averaged 5.3 pounds with a largest of 6¾, all taken on dry flies.



(NOTE: we have several Minipi photo essay trip reports on file. If you’d like to receive one via e-mail, just hit “reply” and ask)

**LOOKING FOR PARTNERS – PATAGONIA AND BELIZE**

**CHILEAN ANDES:** One of our regular South American traveling clients has fished at our favorite Patagonian lodge since 2011. In recent years, he has been joined by several friends. The reasons this lodge is our favorite Patagonia lodge are numerous, but they include spectacular Andes mountain environment, great fishing with multiple options, wonderful service and ambiance (owner operated), and isolation – very seldom encounter another angler, a feature that most of us treasure and is getting harder to find in today’s crowded world. They are booked for a group of six for late March, 2019. One of the group ran into family conflicts on the travel dates and had to cancel. They are looking for one (or two) to join in and complete the group. If you’d like more information, please ask and we’ll send you trip reports, website, etc.



**BELIZE:** One of our past Belize travelers is returning for another trip on the Rising Tide in early November. This time, he is bringing his brother, a novice salt water fly angler. He is looking for one or two others to join them so they can get the best pricing possible. This is a trip where the price is determined by the number of anglers – i.e., a trip for two is more expensive than having a party including three or four anglers. This website has the pricing and information: [www.flyfishbelize.com](http://www.flyfishbelize.com)

## **THE MYSTIQUE OF PERMIT EXPLAINED – WINSTON MOORE**



Most dedicated permit fishermen are familiar with the name Winston Moore. Winston is celebrating his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday and, while he no longer can pursue permit, he is one of the few anglers to have released over 100 of them. He recently provided us with this excellent explanation on the frustrations of fishing for this wiliest of all fly rod targets: “The mystique continues as you make cast after cast after cast getting continuous refusals, then after having done nothing different, a permit eats your fly.”

Then, sometimes when you do get the permit to eat your crab imitation.....“There are those disastrous times when a fish finally takes your fly, gets it into his crushers (usually you don't know you have a fish with your fly in its mouth), and the hook turns flush with the fly/crab body making it impossible to get a good 'set'.....used to drive me nuts.” (top photo at left – actual fly with “crushed” hook turned).

## **WHAT WE DO AT FLY FISHING ADVENTURES**

This is a 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 for your visit:

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

## **AUGUST MEMORY PHOTO**

At one of our favorite permit haunts in Belize during a recent trip, we could not find any permit. Instead, this big Cuda was roaming around. Wonder why the permit were avoiding this flat? That's our Granddaughter Abby with the big smile. Our only concern was removing this fish from the water so we didn't spend the time to fly fish for him – a tube lure did the trick and quickly. Weighed 42 pounds.....a brute that we're sure had eaten his fill of permit.



**PHOTO CREDITS:** banner – Chris Sinclair; Minipi River – Dr. John Purcell, Dr. Justin Durel, Dr. Jay Marshall, Frank Bush, Tim Houghton, Oscar Horan; Andes photo – John Landis.

An enthusiastic traveling fly fisherman,  
Don Muelrath  
Fly Fishing Adventures  
[www.flyfishingadventures.org](http://www.flyfishingadventures.org)  
888-347-4896