



Permit eats, Belize



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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 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. 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



This is simply the best dry fly fishing for large brook trout in the world. It's a special environment which produces hatches that defy the imagination and is home to a special strain of brook trout. The only reason that warrants the travel hassles (and the variable weather of Labrador) is the opportunity to take large, native, brook trout of over five pounds on a dry fly. My son, Scott, and I have had this on our "to do" list every other year for the past fifteen years.

Some of us are old enough to remember the old outdoor adventure TV series, *The American Sportsman*. Probably the most famous of their TV shows was the one in which Lee Wulff flew Curt Gowdy into an isolated river system in Labrador. Film would be taken of Lee and Curt catching these big, beautiful brookies on dry flies. Several times during the series, they featured this river system and its tremendous brookies. What made this particular series so fascinating was Curt Gowdy and

the entire show staff were sworn to secrecy and not allowed to divulge the location of this river. Lee Wulff had vowed not to let the location be known until the Canadian government had set up a program to protect the uniqueness of these fish and their habitat. Today, this is one of those special places that fishes "the way it used to" because of the protections that have been established and enforced. It is one of fly fishing's greatest thrills to stalk these cruising trophy brookies from a quietly guide-paddled canoe. We have experienced drake hatches that were so intense that they covered the water as far as we could see. Timing is the key issue to hit the hatches right.

John Landis recently returned from his first trip to the Minipi. Here is his report (all the photos in this section are submissions by John): "I fished the lakes and rivers around Anne Marie Lodge on the Minipi River from July 8-14. There were immense hatches of drakes (and other mayflies), caddis, and spinner falls and the large Brook Trout were taking dry flies. The routine was to slowly cruise the water and look for fly hatches and rising fish. We would then stop and cast until the fish was caught or quit feeding. This style of fishing is a true "hunt" for the fish. I caught 2 Brook Trout weighing 7 1/2 lb, 2 weighing 6 1/2 lb, and 1 weighing 5 lb. Also, I went to the "dark side" and also fished for pike. Using a 6 weight rod with a floating line and a Mouse or a Frog, I landed 40 Pike and lost 20 on my best day in only 3 hours. I will be back next year."



Photos, l to r: John with brookie, brown drake emerging from its shuck, newly hatched brown drake, healthy brookie.



## FIRST PERMIT – A MEMORABLE FLY FISHING MOMENT

Bob Woznicki does a nice job of explaining the challenges of fishing for permit on the shallow, salt water flats:

“We had good shots at several permit, but permit fishing is permit fishing.....you make a good presentation and they don't eat.....you have a good opportunity and make a bad cast.....you cast right and the fish moves left.....you cast left and the fish moves right.....you put your fly in front of the fish, he eats and you miss the set.”

If you're looking for more reasons why the permit is the most difficult (and exciting) stalking and sight fishing fly rod experience, click on this link.....[www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/tr\\_difficult.htm](http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/tr_difficult.htm)



The best place on the globe to get lots of shots at permit are the shallow flats inside the barrier reef off the central coast of Belize. The last few months have seen several anglers take their first permit in these waters, using a mothership as their base of operations (many of these flats can only be practically accessed from a mothership). The ones we know about are recognized below.

Billy Lane (at right above), like many anglers, had been trying to get a permit for years. Finally.....it all lined up right on a trip on the Rising Tide. Billy's comment: “It was a long time coming but definitely worth all the frustrations.”



Mickey Myhre, on his third Belize Meca mothership trip, brought along a friend, Roger Phillips, who was a salt water novice. Mickey took his first permit on this trip, but the fish was camera shy and left the scene as the photo preparations were being made. Mickey captures the excitement of permit fishing with these well chosen words: “I dropped the fly right on the forehead of the lead fish, no response, and the school turned to my left, still moving slowly, grazing. I dropped the fly about 6" in front and to the left of the second fish which turned to the fly and took -- I strip set, fish ran right to left for about 2 seconds and was gone--leader broke. Our guide said we must've nicked the leader on some coral and didn't notice.”

Roger (above) not only took his first permit, he actually took two in one day, in addition to his exposure to the multiple species available in Belize. Some of his comments: “Great trip, great crew. I had a really good time and learned a lot. First day I had legit shots at tarpon, permit and bonefish.....on our fourth day, I hooked and landed my first permit, and about an hour later I landed my second....I didn't touch another another permit the rest of the



trip. But I hooked a bunch of tarpon, and one snook.....When we were on the tarpon flats the first day, I saw a couple tarpon in the 100-plus pound range, and it was the only time in my fishing career I've ever been intimidated by a fish.” Roger is an outdoor writer for the Idaho Statesman and his article can be viewed at this link: [www.idahostatesman.com/2011/06/30/1709381/boise-to-belizepermit-live-up.html#storylink=misearch](http://www.idahostatesman.com/2011/06/30/1709381/boise-to-belizepermit-live-up.html#storylink=misearch)

Mark Wilson on his first permit: “You can't tell its me in the picture (at left), I was so excited about catching the permit that I forgot to remove my facemask.....The Rising Tide experience was exceptional.” John Siegfried (at left below with first bonefish), accompanying Mark and friends, didn't get his



first permit, but did jump three tarpon on his first day ever on the saltwater flats, and had these colorful comments: "Permit Fever. I don't know how many times I got shots at permit and either footballed the cast or was too late or something. I had the perfect setup with Noel and didn't get it. Dean set me up and I cast right in the middle a pod of 25, which exploded outward like an artillery burst. Took me a long time to finally get tuned into seeing them. Bones easier.....My 2nd tarpon, about 80lbs, was like a chrome motorcycle that dropped out of the sky."

(Photos below – John S. with first bone, sunrise from the Meca and bonefish by Mickey Myhre, and Mark W. with a nice snook and no facemask)



### LOOKING FOR A FLY FISHING PARTNER – BELIZE AND THE MINIPI RIVER IN LABRADOR

Readers of our newsletter who are looking for other fly fishers to partner with on a trip:

**BELIZE – PERMIT:** A real permit addict (and permit fly fisher extraordinaire!) is looking for one or two to join him on a August or September mothership permit trip this year.

**MINIPI RIVER BROOK TROUT:** Prime time July of 2012 – someone looking for a partner to join in pursuing the trophy brook trout of the Minipi.

**BELIZE – SNOOK:** Belize has a solid snook fishery that is at it's best in Nov, Dec, and Jan when the resident numbers are increased with spawning fish. Mothership trip.

### THANKSGIVING SPECIAL IN THE AMAZON

If you'd like to combine Thanksgiving and trophy peacock bass, here's a deal that may interest you: The Agua Boa Amazon Lodge will be open for the week of November 19<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>. They currently have four spots open for the week and they are available for \$4,000, a \$1,500 discount.

### JULY MEMORY PHOTO

Atlantic Salmon taken from the clear water streams of the Gaspé area in Quebec are a special trophy. Dave Fulthorpe scored several nice Atlantics on a trip this summer, including the fish at right.

**PHOTO CREDITS:** (top to bottom) – all brook trout article photos – John Landis: first permit – Billy Lane; second permit – Roger Phillips; third permit – Mark Wilson; first bone – John Siegfried; sunrise and bone head – Mickey Myhre; snook – Mark Wilson.

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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