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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.

2014 PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Our newsletter is kept vibrant and interesting due to the many photographs submitted by our clients. And, from our early experiences as fly fishing photographers, we know that it is fun and rewarding to see your photos published SOMEWHERE and, hopefully, you enjoy seeing your photos appear in our newsletter.



In January of 2010, I met John Landis (left with GT) while fishing together at the Agua Boa Lodge in the Amazon. John was relatively new to fly fishing and outdoor photography. He was nearing a point in his life where he was going to have a lot more time to spend on his new hobby – fly fishing travel. We both had to layover in Miami on our flights home and spent dinner together discussing fly fishing destinations and looking at the collection of photographs we had accumulated over the years. Since that evening, John has taken an aggressive approach to traveling the world with his fly rod and camera. He has become an accomplished fly fisherman AND fly fishing photographer, through taking four or five globe-hopping fly fishing trips a year.

We have never selected a “Photographer Of The Year” before. However, John’s accomplishments recording his fly fishing adventures with the camera in 2014 were so outstanding it deserved some special recognition. John supplied quality photos in such quantity that we were able to assemble and publish in the newsletter four excellent photo essays in 2014. On average, one newsletter every three months carried one of John’s photo essays. If you are a regular reader of our newsletter, you recall these photo essays (click to view):

[Images Of New Zealand](#)
[John Landis Africa Photo Essay](#)

[Best Of The Seychelles](#)
[Alaska Photo Essay - John Landis](#)

Photography does add another element and challenge to your fly fishing pursuits. Since the majority of our fly fishing takes place in the most beautiful and pristine environments on earth, there are many opportunities to develop photography skills.....and in those times when the fish aren't cooperating, it provides another interest to occupy and challenge you. Below: photos from John's collection.



In a few short years, John has made a notable dent in the fly fishing Bucket List AND has captured the experiences forever with his collection of quality images that will last a lifetime! We would like to thank John Landis for his valuable contributions to making our newsletter an “interesting read” for those who share our interest in traveling the globe with fly rod in hand. He is the Fly Fishing Adventure’s 2014 Photographer Of The Year.

ANNUAL TRADITION – THE BUCKET LIST

Each year in our December newsletter, it has been our tradition to publish a list of most of the world’s great fly fishing areas with the prime times to visit those destinations. That didn’t happen last month as it has in every December newsletter for several years. We had several topics last month that were “timing sensitive” and didn’t have the space for our annual prime times at the Bucket List of fly fishing destinations. So, to catch up, that list appears below in this, our January newsletter.

TRAVEL – EVACUATION INSURANCE AND NEW EMIRATES FLIGHTS

EVACUATION INSURANCE: For those who travel to the “out of the way” areas of the globe where accidents are possible and medical assistance limited or non-existent, the evacuation insurance programs that have evolved over the last several years are worth considering. This is especially true for those of us who are in the last half of our lives where medical issues are more of a concern. Today, some of the world’s top isolated destinations insist on clients visiting there have this sort of insurance. A few years ago, I bought a subscription to Med-Jet, a company supplying evacuation insurance for my wife and I. Last year, I switched to another company called Global Rescue. There were a few reasons I switched, but the primary reason was that should we need evacuation from some remote spot on the globe, Global Rescue would come and get us from the lodge we were visiting, wherever we were – the Med Jet coverage only kicked in after we had been medevacked first to a hospital. If you’d like to learn more about Global Rescue, check them out at this link - [Global Rescue](#)



NEW EMIRATES FLIGHTS: Flying on the new A380 planes with Emirates Airlines is air travel as good as it gets. My wife and I flew the A380 on our trip to the Seychelles and Africa in business class.....lay flat seats, a 25 inch TV screen, private compartments (right).....a special experience that includes their incredible Business Class Lounge service in the airport itself. Plus, they have the “2 for the price of 1” business class seats offered through the AMEX Platinum Card program. Emirates keeps expanding their global service and now are beginning non-stop daily flights between San Francisco and Dubai (also to Dubai non-stop from other major US airports). Dubai is a fascinating stop-over.....the home of the 7 STAR hotels!



THE SEYCHELLES VIA DUBAI: For those considering a trip to the Seychelles, Dubai is just a four hour Emirates connection away from Mahe in the Seychelles. Early season results from the sister atolls of Alphonse and St. Francois (the most established and consistent Seychelles fishery) have been outstanding.....several 100# G.T.’s (at left) have already been released. NOTE: we are holding some prime time space for next November that is now available at Alphonse, a truly world class saltwater flats experience.

PRIME TIMES AT A VARIETY OF WORLD CLASS FLY FISHING DESTINATIONS

Annually, our year end newsletter (in this case, our “year beginning”) is primarily devoted to answering the questions we are most commonly asked about the best time to visit this destination or that destination. This list is updated from information gathered personally and through our traveling fly fishers during 2014. Listed chronologically, and all in one place, are the general answers we provide. Here is the BUCKET LIST and the best times to fish! None of this information should be considered infallible as weather patterns, water levels, and hatch cycles are never exact – but these timeframes will give you a sense for the best odds of “hitting it right.”

We are a small, personal service oriented, fly fishing travel consultant and are not concerned with booking shoulder seasons – we want our clients fishing the best waters at the best possible time. We don’t have a need to fill an entire calendar for 1000’s of clients, just those that we work with on a regular basis in finding the perfect destination to satisfy their fly fishing dreams and stimulate the possibilities for the future.

JANUARY – MARCH

Trout: This is the heart of the summer in southern hemisphere destinations such as Argentina, Chile, and New Zealand. Late January through February usually provides the best dry fly fishing, but it's good all through this timeframe into the brown trout spawning cycle which begins during March into April. These months would be best also for the giant sea run brown trout of Tierra del Fuego in southern Argentina.

Amazon – Peacock Bass: Water level is critical for the Peacock Bass (below, left). In the only “fly fishing only” watershed in the Amazon, the season gets started in November, but the most stable low water levels usually occur in the first quarter of the year.

Christmas Island, South Pacific: The fishery for bonefish, Giant Trevally, and Bluefin Trevally (at right) is relatively stable year round since C.I. is on the equator. However, some veterans prefer to avoid the winter months when the winds tend to be stronger.

Golden Dorado: The prime northern Argentina Golden Dorado (below, right) fisheries fish well during the early part of the year. There are some of the newly discovered dorado fisheries, such as Bolivia, that this timing does not apply to, but this would be a good time to visit the established fisheries in northern Argentina. The timing is such that Golden Dorado can be combined with a Jurassic Lake and Patagonia visit – even the Amazon.

Jurassic Lake, Argentina: Prime time to find the giant rainbows of Jurassic Lake (at right) in the only tributary stream, the Barrancoso River, during their spawning mode is the first two weeks of January and late March – early April.

The “New Jurassic” – Kooi Noom: In the same general area of Argentina as the original Jurassic, Kooi Noom opens for it's first season this year. Giant rainbows in miles of streams and rivers, in addition to the still water fishing,

Seychelles: This is the middle of the season for trevally, bonefish, milkfish (below, right-center), etc at the truly world class Alphonse Island in the Seychelles. Season will conclude in April.

Tropical Flats Fisheries – Western Hemisphere: Occasional weather fronts can put a damper on the fishing in places like Belize and Ascension Bay. Fishing can be good if you avoid those cold fronts. Generally, the weather, under any conditions, is a lot warmer than our cold, gray USA skies. February and March have provided many great permit (below, left-center) trips in Belize.



APRIL - JUNE

Trout: April can provide good conditions before the runoff begins on some western Rocky Mountain waters, but weather can be an issue – difficult to plan far in advance. Tailwaters, such as the San Juan, will be the most stable. Runoff is less of a factor as we get into late June, but most waters in the Rockies (both USA and Canada) are going to fish better as we move into July.

Tropical Flats Fisheries: April, May, and June are usually “prime” for tropical salt water flats fisheries in the western hemisphere. Migrating tarpon (below, right), in places like Belize, are on the move and beefing up the numbers of the resident fish. By June, even though fishing can be excellent, most land based lodges will have biting bugs in sufficient numbers to carry you away.

Mongolia - Taiman: May, June, and early July are some of the top times to pursue the giant Taiman (below, left) of Mongolia.....also late August into September.

Minipi River – Brook Trout: If the spring is a little early, the giant brookies of the Minipi River in Labrador are on the move in late June sipping hatching caddis and mayflies from the surface.

Alaska: June is the early season – salmon not yet in the rivers. Rainbows chasing salmon smolt as they migrate to the ocean – some good dry fly fishing in selected spots.

Belize – Tarpon: Beginning in late April and May and extending through July, migrating tarpon begin to show and the numbers of large tarpon present in the coastal waters of Belize increase dramatically.

Atlantic Salmon: Begin to arrive in many rivers around the globe. The Ponoï in Russia has numbers of Atlantics (below, center) in May. Many of Canada's top waters, like the Gaspé region, have the largest fish entering in June even though water conditions usually are not yet ideal.



JULY - SEPTEMBER

Trout: In the Canadian and US Rocky Mountain states, the runoff is winding down in late June and through mid July, depending on the location. The best hatches of the season usually begin as the waters clear and drop. Montana, Idaho, British Columbia and the American west is at its best in July. August brings the hopper season and September sees the beginning of the fall hatches. The second week of July til mid August is usually the best time for sight fishing the large Bull Trout (below, left) in the Fernie BC area.

Tropical Flat's Fisheries: The fishing can be outstanding, the weather is hot and humid and, for land based lodges, the bugs can be a bother. Most land based lodges close during this time. However, for air conditioned mothership operations in places like Belize, exciting results are available and, generally, you'll have the waters to yourself.

Minipi River – Brook Trout: The first three weeks of July is the absolute prime time to take 5 to 8 pound brookies (at right) on the surface on the Minipi in Labrador.

Alaska: Early July sees giant king salmon begin their runs into the rivers. Most anglers consider the prime Alaska time to begin with the run of the silvers (below, right-center), the top fly rod Pacific salmon. This usually occurs in most watersheds beginning around early to mid August. The Rainbow fishing begins to peak around this time also and continues to be strong into September.



Bolivia – Golden Dorado: Tsimane Lodge in Bolivia offers Golden Dorado in a mountain stream and small river environment where sight fishing is the norm. Season differs greatly from the Argentina Golden fisheries beginning in June and extending into the early fall.

Kamchatka: About mid July, the dry fly activity begins in earnest on some rivers. Different watersheds have the prime times (depending on the individual definition of "prime") in slightly different times during the next 6 weeks.

B.C. Steelhead Waters: The lower stretches of the Dean River begin to host their famous summer run peaking the last two weeks of July and into early August. For the majority of the great steelhead (below, right) rivers, look to early to mid September through October for the runs of fresh fish to be in full force.

Canada – northern waters: Northern Pike (below, left-center), grayling, and lake trout in the northern Canadian waters are at their best soon after ice-out. Late June and into July are prime.



OCTOBER – DECEMBER

Trout: Weather begins to become an issue as we get into the fall in the American west; however, there are some waters that provide a good October opportunity.

New Zealand: The "early season" in New Zealand is the fourth quarter with November and December providing some of this country's famous stalking experiences for large rainbows and browns (below, center). The upsides are unpressured fish and few anglers to pursue them; the downside is the weather can be more unsettled during their spring than their summer.

Tropical Flats Fisheries: October can be a month of settled weather in the tropical climates for bonefish, tarpon, and permit,.

Belize - Snook: the spawning season of November, December, and January provide the greatest numbers of snook (below left) in Belize.

Jurassic Lake: In Argentina, November begins the runs of giant rainbows into the only stream flowing into Jurassic Lake, the Barrancoso River. November and December can actually have times with too many fish in the river and waters can be high. Prime times are a little later. The lake fishes well throughout the season.

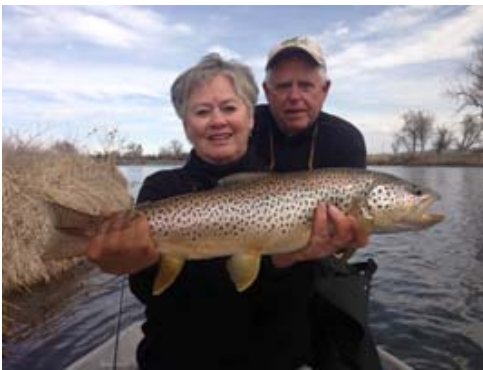
Tigerfish, Africa: The Lower Zambezi River National Park provides a protected tiger fish (below, right) fishery that many believe to be Africa's best. If you measure both quantity of fish and the opportunities for large tiger fish, it passes all the tests. October is the end of the dry season. Waters are at their lowest and clearest – great conditions for game viewing (safari style) because the animals are congregated around the river as the water holes and smaller rivers have dried up. Plus, tiger fishing is at its best at the same time – an exciting dual purpose destination.

Seychelles: October sees the opening of the season at Alphonse Island. No anglers have been on the flats for several months and the Giant Trevally (below, right-center) are eager and aggressive eaters.

Redfish: The shallow flats of the Lower Laguna Madre estuary system in Texas and the coastal Gulf waters, provide their best sight casting for redfish (below, left-center) in October and into early November. Much of this water is shallow making stalking these brutes a visual experience.



JANUARY MEMORY PHOTO



Terry and Gary Butts have supplied many great “cute couple” fly fishing photos, several from New Zealand. Also, we’ve seen some outstanding grandkids fly fishing photos from the Butts family that have been in our “Memory Photo” section. Now, from close to home in their native Wyoming, comes this fine brown.....naturally, taken by Terry.....sidekick Gary looks on.

PHOTO CREDITS: (top to bottom): bluefin trevally – Loren Irving; peacock – Annie Kubicka; permit – Art Hinckley; milkfish – Rich Cheatham; dorado – Mark Cowan; taiman – Jerry Saltzgaber and Chip Fudge; tarpon – Todd Roebken; brookie – Jeff Reinke; steelhead – Lance Ruffel; northern – Jim Hine; silver – Henry Gans; snook – Steve

Mitchell; redfish - Barbara Klutinis; brown – Paul Wilms.

An enthusiastic traveling fly fisherman,

Don Muelrath

Fly Fishing Adventures

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