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IN THIS ISSUE:

- AFRICAN ADVENTURE
- FERNIE, BRITISH COLUMBIA – CANADIAN ROCKIES
- FISHING (AND LIFE?) IN THIRDS
- AUGUST MEMORY PHOTO

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.

AFRICAN ADVENTURE

In 2012, John Landis visited Africa for the first time staying in the Lower Zambezi National Park, in the area around the massive Lower Zambezi River, and adding a stop at Victoria Falls. The Lower Zambezi area provides spectacular game viewing, especially during the dry season. The fly fishing attraction here was the tigerfish, a spectacular fly rod target similar to a baby tarpon with serious teeth (photos, left and right below). The Lower Zambezi's policies of making this a "no kill" zone, keeping it off-limits from sustenance netting, makes this arguably the finest remaining tigerfish sanctuary. Twenty-plus fish days, including ten-plus pound fish, are not unusual here. The combination of the tigerfishing and game viewing makes this experience very special.



His second and most recent African adventure took John to the famous Kruger National Park in South Africa. To his Kruger stay, he added a week of outstanding salt water flats fishing in the Indian Ocean, off the coast of Africa, at the Seychelle's sister atolls of Alphonse and St. Francois. John's photo essay on his Seychelles trip was in the June newsletter and is available through the link below to his full photo essay on the Kruger trip.

The big cats are always a major game viewing attraction. During his two trips combined, John has captured an incredible collection of photos of lions and leopards. His time in the Lower Zambezi Park netted a series of leopard photos in different positions and postures that, when coupled with a sampling of his "leopard with fresh kill" photos (above) from Kruger, give him a truly outstanding collection of leopard photos.



COMPARING MY AFRICA SAFARI EXPERIENCES – by John Landis



The camps where I stayed in the Lower Zambezi National Park (LZ) were a very different safari experience from the luxury Singita Ebony Lodge in South Africa (SA). The Zambezi accommodations were very good, but were luxury tents to meet the national park building restrictions. At Singita Ebony, we had chalets. The chalets were large with a private porch with wading pool that overlooked the Sand River. Food was good in the LZ camps, but it was over the top at Singita with wine pairings for every course and a 120,000 bottle wine cellar. The game drives were also quite different. In the LZ, everything is centered around the river, including the tigerfishing. During October in the LZ, it is the dry season and all of the

animals are within 1 mile of the river in great numbers. At Singita Ebony In SA, the concentration of animals is only 20% of the LZ. At Singita Ebony, an extra element of excitement was tracking the predators to locate them. Since Singita is a private game preserve attached to Kruger National Park, night game drives are permitted. The game also varied between the two locations. I saw many river creatures like Hippos and Crocs in the Lower Zambezi and none in SA. In SA, I saw giraffes and black rhino while none of those were present in the LZ. All other species were seen at both places.



On this year's trip, I overnighted in Johannesburg at a 5 star boutique hotel that was a former estate where Nelson Mandela stayed after he left prison. He wrote his book here. They deserve the 5 star rating.

EXPLORING AFRICA OPTIONS



Attempting to plan an Africa experience can be overwhelming – so many options and possibilities. If you are looking for a good safari experience that combines the best tigerfishing, the Lower Zambezi River National Park would be the top recommendation.....and the best time to go would be the dry season.....September and October are best for both game viewing and tigerfishing because the waters are as low and clear as they get and all the animals from miles around are congregated near the river. We've been to the Lower Zambezi and know the best lodges and fishing guides and can assist in putting together this aspect of Africa travel for our clients.

Outside of the Lower Zambezi National Park, we have limited knowledge of the Africa safari options. However, we have an associate travel agency located right in South Africa which has expertise with all the Africa options. Because they are actually an African company, they have superior knowledge of the Africa lodges and camps. They have provided a very meaningful service for our clients in exploring the different possibilities in Africa travel. If you are interested in considering an Africa experience, we can assist where we can.....and introduce you to our African associate travel company for the options outside of our realm of expertise.

The link below is to John's complete photo essay of his recent trip to Singita Ebony Lodge with links available to his Seychelles photo essay as well as his first African trip to the Lower Zambezi.

- [Photo Essay Of John Landis Trip To Singita Ebony Lodge In SA](#)

FERNIE, BRITISH COLUMBIA – CANADIAN ROCKIES

Tucked in on the scenic west slope of the Canadian Rockies, near the border with Alberta, is the small town of Fernie, BC. In the winter, this area becomes home to jet-set skiers from around the globe. In the summer, it transitions into a trout fisherman's paradise with options ranging from drift boat fishing on the main stem of the Elk River to "walk'n'wade" days on spectacular small streams and rivers.



Accommodations offer variety also. From standard motel rooms to ski condos to log cabin homes suitable for an entire family, there are many choices depending on budget and needs. The Andersen family (dad Mark, and sons Sterling and Arran) recently fished Fernie and choose for their stay a ski condo. Above, the young men float the main stem of the Elk River, stopping and wading promising riffles. Fishing a smaller “walk’n’wade” stream on their last day, that’s Arran, above left center, and Sterling, stalking a shoreline riffle on the right.



Another attraction – the local fishery is all native. The surface oriented, chunky, native West Slope Cutthroat (above, right) have been sipping flies off the top for centuries and the giant Bull Trout (center) have been pursuing the Cutts as part of their regular diet. Protected by the well-thought out regulations created years ago by BC lawmakers, this may be the finest remaining Bull Trout fishery (the Bulls average 25+ inches). To round fishing options out, within driving distance are waters where trophy rainbows swim. This is one of those fisheries that works well for youngsters learning to fly fish and also can challenge the most experienced trout veteran. The gill plate colors on a native West Slope Cutthroat, a blending of gold and orange, combined with the red/orange slash under their lower jaw, distinctly mark this species (above, left)

Dad’s comments on their time in this eastern Bristish Columbia area: “Fernie is a drop dead gorgeous community nestled in the Lizard range of the southern Canadian Rockies with the Elk River draining the region. Our young guides were long time Fernie residents which give them a rich background of experience with the varied fishery’s and streams of the region. This local knowledge was crucial our last day, following a sudden front which blew in the night before, dumping several inches of rain in the region. The resulting water conditions cancelled our planned float on the Elk. However, the guides knew of the perfect stream which we waded, stalking cutthroat and bull trout. It was probably our best day, each of us taking several nice fish and Sterling hooking and breaking off a large Bull Trout.”



FISHING (AND LIFE?) IN THIRDS



After traveling much of the globe with my fly rod the last 25 years, I have developed a philosophy regarding the way a week long fly fishing trip breaks down. Since nothing about fishing can be discussed in “exacts” because ultimately the fish and the fishing gods are in control.....and usually it is folly to try and predict how they are going to react to situations and conditions.

Generally, I’ve found the average trip results in conditions and fishing falling roughly into a pattern of third, third, and third. A third of the time is going to provide good conditions and willing fish, a third with challenging conditions and uncooperative fish, and a third somewhere in the middle. That analysis seems to have held true,

generally, whether I was fishing for Golden Dorado in northern Argentina, stalking large browns in New Zealand, or pursuing permit on shallow flats in Belize.

Whenever I had a trip that varied dramatically from the 3rd-3rd-3rd formula, there was another trip coming that would balance it out. If I had a trip where conditions and fishing were exceptional for the entire week, I could count on the fishing gods getting even on a subsequent trip. If the fishing gods dealt me a trip with uncooperative fish and/or conditions the entire week, they would soon smile on me to even things out.

Surprisingly, when I extended the 3rd-3rd-3rd formula to my life experiences, it seemed to match up. Whether it is my marriage, my golf game, or just the general enjoyment of day to day living, there is the “good,” the “bad,” and the “so-so.” Wish I could find a way to have more of the first third in my fishing.....and my life!

AUGUST MEMORY PHOTO

Every so often, Annie Kubicka adds some charm to our newsletters. She has appeared with the largest trophy Peacock Bass for the entire lodge during her week in the Amazon and, each year, seems to bring back an excellent photo of a very large steelhead from her annual spring trip to Washington. Now, she appears in another outstanding photo (taken by Ryan Bullock) accompanied by a 41.5 inch steelhead. Great smile.....great fish.....great photo!!

Photo Credits: banner photo – John Landis; Africa – John Landis; Fernie - Mark, Sterling, and Arran Anderson;

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