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We are in the seventh 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. One of our services is to compare and contrast different lodges/outfitters. 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.

THE AGUA BOA AMAZON EXPERIENCE – A GREAT FLY FISHING ADVENTURE



I just returned a few days ago from my second trip to the Agua Boa. We really hit it right! Our group took over 100 Peacock Bass that weighed in excess of 10 pounds. Our top fish was 19# with three others at 18#. Forty-plus fish days were the norm with enough big fish sprinkled in to make every cast a possible double digit fish.

This continues to be one of the great adventures in fly fishing travel. The Amazon is one of the fishiest places on the globe and the adventure of being in this remote location adds to the attraction.

During the last few years, Fly Fishing Adventures has sent over 40 anglers to the Amazon, many of them on multiple visits, and almost all of them to the Agua Boa Amazon Lodge. There are many outfitters in the Amazon and we can book them all. However, the only time we haven’t used the Agua Boa Amazon Lodge for our clients is when it was full and clients were committed to certain travel dates. The reasons

we favor the Agua Boa Amazon Lodge are:

- The Agua Boa is a clear water river system making sight fishing a possibility.
- This area of the Amazon is one of the few remaining that is virtually untouched – no clear-cutting here.
- It is a well run, remote, tropical operation with both a lodge (capacity of 12) and houseboat (max 6 fly fishers) approximately 50 miles upriver from the lodge.
- Has its own private runway.
- The ONLY exclusively fly fishing operation in the Amazon.

Although this is a multi – species fishing opportunity, the three main targets are peacock bass.....left to right, Spotted Peacock, Temensis Peacock, and Butterfly Peacock.



- The watershed is protected as a preserve – no destructive commercial netting or gear fishing allowed. Catch and release fly fishing is the only approach used. There is now a guard hut at the mouth with armed security to keep any potential poachers off the river.
- The most productive approach is using a guide powered, poled skiff; however, wade fishing is possible in many places.....if you watch out for the Caiman (the Amazon crocodile).
- No mosquitoes due to certain chemicals in the soil that don't allow them to reproduce. There are sand flies, but I stayed "bite free" this trip for the first five days (ended up with two bites the last two days). The secret was covering up – no unnecessary exposed skin, but did not use a head net or repellent.
- This is a great spot for novice fly fishers. A fly fishing newcomer will get plenty of casts to develop their skills and catch fish while they are learning. Some basic understanding of technique is helpful.

Jim Hine, below right-center with a 15# peacock, had a secondary objective – to touch a caiman. One of his unsuccessful attempts is pictured, second row, left. He did succeed during the very last 30 minutes of our trip and arrived home with all appendages intact.



The Piranha (left, below) have serious teeth. Buzz Warner, a seasoned international fly angler, below with 12# Peacock, was on his 4th Agua Boa trip. He has taken over a hundred 10# Peacocks himself with many over 15#.



BOOKING THE AGUA BOA

If the Amazon is on your "wish list" and you have some open time in your schedule the next few months, you may want to consider heading south. Water levels are the lowest in recent memory in the northern Amazon where the Agua Boa is located (see the exposed sand bars in the photos below). This concentrates the fish and keeps them from chasing the bait fish into the rainforest. It is expected to stay low throughout the remainder of the season, until early April, although there are no guarantees on the weather.



The remaining weeks with openings at the lodge this season are (the houseboat is not available): 2/20 – 27, 2/27 – 3/6, 3/13 – 20, 3/20 – 27, 4/3 – 10.

Bookings for next season, beginning in October, are being taken and some weeks are fully booked already. Pricing is \$5,500 for the lodge and \$4,600 for the houseboat, including the roundtrip charter flight from Manaus.

TOP ALASKA LODGES – DISCOUNTED “FAMILY WEEKS”



I'm a little leery about some of the “discounted weeks” we see advertised at some fly fishing lodges during these trying economic times. What happens in tough economic times is we see a shakeout of many marginal operators in the fly fishing business. Some of these operations are scrambling to stay afloat and are offering “deals” which may seem to have good value.....but upon further investigation, may just be the dying gasps of a floundering business and should be avoided.

However, special discounted family weeks at a traditionally outstanding Alaska lodge that we know well does have value.....if they meet a goal you may have in saving a few bucks while exposing your children or grandchildren to a wonderful outdoor experience. Both Bristol Bay Lodge (a high end fly out lodge) and Goodnews River Lodge (a top land based, non-fly out lodge) offer special rates for certain dates. Each of these lodges offer a different package, but both have one thing in common – the weeks are not in their normal prime time. So why would you want to consider them? If your objective is to have a wonderful outdoor experience in the wilds of Alaska and catch a lot of fish with a child or other family member, these weeks will satisfy that objective and save you some significant dollars. However, while most of their resident species like rainbow trout are available during these discounted weeks, they are not the weeks that the lodges sell out every year, mostly to repeat clients who come during a specific time for a specific reason (i.e., to catch king salmon, silver salmon, etc).

At Goodnews River Lodge, the discounted week is July 21 – 28 and the deal is a full paying adult (\$6,000 including the \$750 charter flight from Anchorage) can bring an under 16 year old child for free (must still pay the cost of the charter flight from Anchorage to the lodge). Bristol Bay Lodge has two family weeks (June 19 – 26, July 31 – Aug 7) when the head of the household pays the full fare (\$7,350) and a family member comes along for half price.

If you'd like further information about these discounted weeks or other ideas for a family fly fishing adventure, hit “reply” or give us a call.

TEACHING KIDS TO FLYFISH



Today's kids are growing up in front of television and computer screens.....how are they ever going to learn to love and appreciate the outdoors? Guess it's up to us 'cause if we don't expose them to the wonders of nature that fly fishing puts us in touch with, who will?

In the photo at left, Grandpa Gary Butts is with two of their grandchildren (Garrett on the left and Hattie on right) dressed out in their fishing vests and outfits. What are they watching so intently? Grandma Butts is landing a fish and everyone is studying her technique.

I recently watched a new DVD put together by Fanny Krieger and friends titled *Tomorrow's Fly Fishers – Fly Fishing For Young People*. In the DVD, Fanny introduces her four grandchildren to fly fishing. Lots of good material is covered in this production and, at the very least, it provides many good concepts to emulate and incorporate while involving youngsters in fly fishing. The DVD is available at www.fannykrieger.com and sells for \$29.95.

JANUARY MEMORY PHOTO

Bob Flanagan with his giant rainbow is our January Memory Photo. Bob was fishing out of our favorite Chilean Andes lodge and this particular fishing day was about to come to a close. They decided to swing some streamers in the boca of Yelcho Lake before taking the boat out. This 32 inch monster was waiting – no scale available, but well educated guesses put the weight at 15 pounds.



PHOTO CREDITS: (top to bottom) Alaska silver salmon – Jeff Reinke; kids on grass – Gary Butts.

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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