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We are in the 15th 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 COST TO YOU.

CUBA AND ASCENSION BAY - SALTWATER NEWCOMER REPORTS

Two trips to the saltwater flats were recently completed by groups with very limited saltwater flyfishing experience.....these were the first saltwater flyfishing experiences for everyone except for two anglers who had one previous exposure. Both of these destinations generally provide a good experience for both new and veteran saltwater anglers. For us, it is always exciting to hear back from first timers to the salt flats – it is such a different experience than traditional trout fishing, where most of us begin our fly fishing careers.

CUBA

Four anglers, three on their first ever saltwater trip.....Bob Sciutto, Chris Rolin, Ken Fry, and John Sullivan opted to simplify the travel hassles that can be associated with getting to Cuba's best fly fishing areas. They chartered a plane out of Miami, which delivered them direct to their final Cuba fishing destination, Cayo Largo just south of the main island of Cuba. There are many mothership options for fishing Cuba operated by Avalon. The island of Cayo Largo (also operated by Avalon) is unique in that your accommodations are at an all inclusive beach resort. The resort element does allow for a couples trip or family event coupled with world class shallow water fly fishing.



For John Sullivan, this was his second salt water fly fishing trip. Some of John's comments: ".....it was a great fly fishing experience for me and maybe even the best I've ever had. The fishing waters were beautiful and unpressured and the fishing operation was absolutely first class. No issues entering or leaving the country.....the accommodations at the resort were fine and the food good. No one got sick or injured, other than pride, and some brain cells. I had opportunities for all of the grand slam species.....I personally prefer to site fish and hunt, more than just catch fish blindly casting, so for me the trip and experience was fantastic. I

would definitely consider returning to Cayo Largo. With 7 miles of flats and mangroves to fish and, at most, 12 anglers per day, the quality and variety of species present don't seem like they are fished to regularly."



For Chris Rolin and Bob Sciutto, this was their first experience on the saltwater flats. Chris comments: "The experience was excellent. The staff was very experienced. The resort was good and included a 24 hour bar,

although I have to say I wasn't personally present for 12 of those 24 hours on a daily basis. Thank you again for your professionalism and experience in putting together our trip."

Bob contributed the photos: bonefish (right), barracuda (left, above) and tarpon (right, above bonefish). Also, these comments: "Lots of bonefish (collectively, we released over 125), plus barracuda, tarpon, jacks, and shots at permit. All aspects of the resort were excellent other than Wi-Fi (note: Wi-Fi is notoriously bad in much of Cuba). Your logistical support was superb. "

ASCENSION BAY – CASA BLANCA



Brother and sister, Emily and Scott Mitchell, journeyed to Casa Blanca in early July for their first saltwater flats experience.

Comments from Emily: "The trip was fantastic and such a fun brother-sister experience. As you know, I was very nervous about my first salt water experience, but I caught a bonefish my first day! It still took me a few days to get my cast fully locked in, but by the time we went out to tarpon lagoon, I was feeling great and caught two tarpon!! I didn't even need to use the ugly stick, although we did break it out one night to cast off the dock. (note: they had brought some spinning gear as a back up if the fly casting became too frustrating). It was such a blast and our guide was fantastic. The permit eluded us, but we had some great opportunities

casting at schools of them and I can see why it's so challenging. Beyond the fishing, Casa Blanca was truly unique. Gliding everyday through the mangroves, 'stumbling' upon Mayan ruins in the middle of tarpon lagoon, and the variety of sites blew me away. Not to mention the beautiful facilities, location, and staff — and the food!!! Thanks again for assisting me through my transition to saltwater."

Photos below, l to r: Scott with baby tarpon, on top of some Mayan ruins tucked into the mangroves, Scott with bone, and Emily with one of her baby tarpon.



Scott: "Definitely want to echo Emily's sentiments about Casa B and Todd there. Great time! Loved the variety of species available. Only "downside" of the fishing was the seagrass that everyone on that coast is experiencing this year.....but other than that, was really fun to target so many different species in different environments."

LEARNING CURVE – FISHING FROM A POLED SKIFF IN SALTWATER

For those considering trying saltwater fly fishing for the first time, this link is to our pre-trip information on learning the skills for fishing from a poled skiff for the first time: [BASIC SKILLS - Fishing From A Poled Skiff](#)

AFRICA.....AMAZING PHOTO COLLECTION – PART TWO

This article began in last month's newsletter with a photo essay of Dana and John Landis' trip to the Seychelles and then on to Africa. They have captured an amazing array of photos of the critters from Africa – this is PART TWO of that collection.

Photos – two rows below: the Leopard is one of Africa's most spectacular predators. Middle left photo – a Leopard with its night-time kill.



Male Elephants can weigh over 14,000 pounds and stand 13 feet high at the shoulder. Some believe the Elephant is the “real king of the jungle.”



Photos, below, l to r: Horns.....serious horns. Impala’s duel. Water Buck with its distinctive target on his rear. Cape Buffalo are huge (can be 1,400#) and can kill lions.



Photos, below, l to r: Ditka Deer. Antelope. The Kudu has distinctive horns. Wildebeast are primary fodder for many of Africa’s predators.



Photos, below: the Rhino is another of Africa’s giants. At right, some national parks cut off the horns to make them less attractive to poachers.



Photos, below: The Giraffe is the tallest creature in the world. Wild Dogs are vicious and, hunting in packs, very effective predators.



Photos, below: The Lower Zambezi River is home to the famous Africa Tigerfish. John casts for Tigerfish with a watcher in the background. Zebra's are Africa's horses.



Photos, below: Africa's birds are as unique as its animals and come in a variety of shapes, sizes, and colors. Victoria Falls is an Africa attraction.



If you want to put both parts of this story together, this is a link to last months newsletter which featured a photo essay of the Seychelles portion of the trip along with the first series of Africa photos: [June '18 FFA Newsletter](#)

Next month, the newsletter will have a report from John on the African destinations where the photo collection was shot.

PLANNING AFRICA TRAVEL

When considering Africa travel, we can be a good source of information if you want to include a stop in the Lower Zambezi National Park for game viewing and tigerfish. For overall Africa trip options, you can not do better than to use a source that is located in Africa itself. We have a "sister relationship" with a prominent South

Africa travel company who can be of assistance in understanding the different possibilities, best times to visit each, etc. For travel outside of the Lower Zambezi National Park, we introduce our clients to a personal travel planner in this travel agency.

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](#)

JULY MEMORY PHOTO

The young man in the mask is Garrett Hayden (age 14). Garrett was featured in past newsletters, most notably, the February and March 2017 newsletters featuring "All About Kids And Fishing." Grandad reports that Garrett fished to that brut for over an hour. Finally, the large bow got pissed and attacked a Cone Head Zuggler. That small stream is in the American West and we are sworn to secrecy regarding its exact location.

Photo credits: Cuba – Bob Sciutto; Ascension Bay – Emily and Scott Mitchell; Africa – Dana and John Landis.



An enthusiastic traveling fly fisherman,
Don Muelrath

Fly Fishing Adventures

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