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We are in the sixteenth 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.

COMBO TRIP – PART ONE: THE AMAZON



At Fly Fishing Adventures, we define a “Combo Trip” as a trip that combines two different environments in the same general part of the world. We have crowned Dana and John Landis as the Queen and King of the combo trip as they do at least one each year. From the Seychelles/Africa to New Zealand/Borneo, they have traveled the globe with their fly rods and cameras. The early 2020 edition of their combo trip was to South America. It included:

- a week at the Amazon's “fly fishing only” lodge with friends Annette and Rob Pizzie
- touring Bueno Aires for a few days
- a stay at one of Argentina's world class fly fishing lodges on a large working estancia
- a four day stop in Bariloche at a fine resort hotel.

This article will cover only the Amazon aspect of their trip.....the rest in our next newsletter. John’s first trip to the Agua Boa was in 2010 so he has a basis for comparison to this year’s trip. His report included the following comments and point to the stability of this world class operation: “The camp manager, Carlos, was still there and almost all the guides were the same. The guides were very knowledgeable and get you on fish with just the right amount of coaching given their limited English vocabulary. Every day is a different experience and beat with only one of those beats repeated during the week.” (Note: on this part of the trip, Dana was recovering from knee surgery and she joined John for the next portion. Her son, Kirk, filled in at the last minute. This was Kirk’s first time in the Amazon and he did manage several peacocks in the 10-13# range).

Photos below (l to r): Temensis Peacocks are the largest of the species – Annette, Kirk, Rob, and John.



Below (l to r): The Butterfly Peacock is identified by the markings that appear to be Chinese calligraphy. They are a smaller species, more numerous, and are surface oriented – great fly rod species who will eat off the surface. The silver Arowana is another surface oriented fish and has many similarities to a baby tarpon.



Rob, who described the Amazon experience as “a great time and many adventures,” had his typically creative rendition of stalking a large Temensis Peacock: “It was day three. By now, the guides and I were used to the ritual. Guide: ‘You see fish?’.....Rob: ‘No’.....Guide: ‘You see fish? Big fish!’.....Rob, again: ‘No’..... Guide: ‘Cast long! More left, more left, more right, more right, longer, shorter, drop!.....Strip fast, strip fast! Strip slow! Stop! Strip slow, strip slow! Stop! Strip fast, strip fast, strip fast! Set hook!’.....Rob: ‘Zing, bang, thump, Ow!’.....Annette: ‘Do you want a beer?’ “

Below, (l to r): The small piranha has serious teeth. The lodging at the Agua Boa Amazon Lodge is in comfortable individual cottages. Lodge dining room.



Below, (l to r): The bird life and wildlife is spectacular and certainly a highlight of an Amazon experience. The cayman is the Amazon version of a crocodile. Annette, Rob, Kirk, and John with Amazon welcome sign.



“SHELTERING IN PLACE”ON THE BITTERROOT



We all have our own way of “sheltering”.....I like the approach of Art Hinckley and Brad Jackson. They are spending a lot of days this spring wading and drifting the Bitterroot River in Montana. Of course, it may help that Art has 1100 acres with the Bitterroot running through the property! They floated around 100 miles of river in the area while fishing 21 days in April.

From Art: “.....you can still fish as friends in Montana if you follow social distancing rules. Not sure we’re doing that at all times, but we’re trying. MT is supposed to be mostly shut down like most of the other states, but things seem fairly normal here in the Bitterroot Valley.”

Art may be best known to many of our readers as a permit addict. He has spent two or three weeks a year, for over 15 years, on the Rising Tide in Belize pursuing a permit passion. He has now released 128 of these devilfish.

The fish are a combination of native (read that as NATURAL, as in “not planted”) browns, rainbows, cutthroat, and cuttbows.



Comment from Art on one of their better days: “Fishing was off the chart good today. We caught around 60 or 70, many like these.” Below, on the right, is Art’s home on the Bitterroot. They have a mile of river frontage.



WHAT WE DO AT FLY FISHING ADVENTURES

This is a link with a description of who we are and what we do – at no cost to you.....also, listing the destinations around the world that we have covered. Our reliable information will help you properly prepare for your trip and create realistic expectations.....and maybe prevent missteps. [Fly Fishing Adventures - About What We Do](#)

FIRST PERMIT – FIRST RISING TIDE TRIP IN BELIZE

Elizabeth and Tom Hart are a fly fishing couple that have fished extensively at many of the world’s top destinations. Their first Rising Tide trip in Belize would be special in that Elizabeth would take her first ever permit. Below, releasing that first permit.



Report from Tom: “We had a good trip. The first half of the trip was pretty tough, with a big cold front that pushed water off the flats, blew hard, and obscured the sun for three days..... Very few sightings or shots the first three days. But we adapted and spent the second half of the trip near the reef and the weather improved. For the second half, we saw many more fish and got a number of shots. We still saw very few fish that seemed to be feeding, but it’s a lot more fun to be seeing fish and taking shots than not.

Elizabeth caught her first permit! Happened on day 3 when we had a little break in the weather.....on day 6 I finally connected with a nice fish myself.....using a fly Captain Dean tied for us after dinner the night before...I’m pretty sure we would have had more success if the weather had been stable. We enjoyed the whole experience and Dean, Jose, Georgia and Austin took good care of us.”

Photos below (l to r): Elizabeth with first permit; examining a crab; Rising Tide at sunset.



Below: Captain Dean and Tom with crab fly tied the prior evening; Nice permit for Tom; Stalking permit on the flats inside the world's second largest barrier reef.



Website for the Rising Tide's Belize mothership trip is www.flyfishbelize.com

MAY MEMORY PHOTO



While on a permit flat at the Ningaloo Reef – Exmouth in NW Australia, this 12 foot hammerhead decided to dine on the large rays that were spread around the bottom on this flat. Not surprising, the rays seemed to disappear from the flat soon after the arrival of this superior predator. I was fortunate to have him swim up to our skiff and pose for this photo.

PHOTO CREDITS: banner photo – Art Hinckley; Amazon – John Landis, Rob, and Annette Pizzie; Bitterroot – Art Hinckley and Brad Jackson; Belize – Elizabeth and Tom Hart.

An enthusiastic traveling fly fisherman,
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