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We are in the eighth 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. 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.

“45 MINUTES OF MY LIFE THAT I WON’T FORGET”



The big brown was fining in about 18 inches of water near the head of the small pool. Occasionally, his nose would dimple the surface as he ate something.....or we could see him swing to the left or right to eat a nymph or some other submerged morsel. He WAS big, certainly in the 8 to 10 pound range and the final weight would be determined by its girth which we couldn’t guess from our vantage point. The limestone canyon wall kept the sunlight off the stream causing us to strain our eyes to watch him move, but our experienced New Zealand guide could see everything, including every time he opened his mouth and ate.

So began a classic New Zealand “fly rod hunting experience” that my son, Scott, and I, experienced on our recent NZ trip. Scott would later remember this episode as “45 minutes of my life that I won’t forget.”

Scott slid quietly up to the edge of the water, about 40 feet below the fish, while his guide hung off to the side, close enough to maintain a visual on the fish’s reaction. Meanwhile, I moved into the water fifteen yards below them, determined to capture on camera the drama we hoped would unfold.

They discussed strategy for a few minutes and then Scott gently dropped the dry fly about six feet above the fish, his fly line falling safely and quietly to the water four to five feet below the fishes tail. The fly floated over the fish without a reaction. This is how it began.

Over the next forty-plus minutes, flies were changed at least 15 times, more strategy discussions took place, and I took a lot of worthless photos, repeating the same scenes over and over waiting for the fish to grab. Several dry fly patterns were tried, from large cicadas to tiny Adams. A few times, the fish moved slowly up under the fly, but didn’t eat. I could see both angler and guide visibly cringe when the refusal took place. OK, time to go subsurface. The nymph rotation began – let’s try this one.....and then that one. More looks, more refusals. I know this guide well and there comes a time when he’ll say, “that fish isn’t going to eat – let’s find another.” But this fish was still responding, still feeding – wasn’t spooked and he WAS SOOO BIG. So continue on.....frankly, I’m a pretty positive guy while fishing, but I began to doubt this was ever going to happen.

And then, a whoop of both joy and surprise from both guide and angler as Scott stepped back and his rod went up as he set....and then bent down toward the water (below middle). He was on!! The fish thrashed a few seconds in the pool and then took off downstream.....right at me (below, right). I moved quickly as he went by in

about a foot of gin clear water, just a few feet from me.....definitely in that nine pound arena. After a short foray downstream, the fish moved back up into the pool.



Then, to Scott's surprise, he ran upstream, through the shallow riffles at the head of the pool with his back out of the water. Scott began a trot to keep a short line on him and got parallel to the fish (below). All looked good – skinny water, didn't appear to be any obstacles to wind his line around.....but the line went slack. Near the other bank, a very small twig was twitching just above the surface. Our fish had found the one place he could wrap the line and he successfully broke himself free.

The spirit of THE HUNT says that was a great experience.....yes, we were disappointed we didn't get that final photo, but what a thrill!!! On this trip to NZ, we had two other experiences similar to this one with very large fish. We did get all of them to eat, but none reached the net. Many 5 and 6 pounders did get to pose for the camera, but the real big boys eluded that final scene on this trip. Ahhhhh, the joys of New Zealand – no where else you can hunt for large trout like this!!

In case you didn't see it, our annual NZ newsletter went out last week. For photos of 10 pound fish that did pose for the camera, click on this link.....http://www.flyfishingadventures.org/Newsletter/NewZealand_News.pdf



FERNIE BC AND PRIVATE MONTANA RANCH – WHAT'S NEW



Here are updates on two popular western trout destinations.

FERNIE, BC: There have been some changes in our favorite Fernie operation and we've been holding off mentioning this popular fishery this year until the dust settled. The original owner, a guy I personally enjoyed fishing with often over the years, has moved on – he was a great guide, a very personable young man, but didn't manage all the business details as well as he could have. Two of his previous partners now run the business. They are booked up for much of the summer, but do have several open slots still available.

If you're not familiar with this destination, it is a great fishery with wild, native surface oriented West Slope Cutthroat supplying the numbers while the size comes from what may be the finest remaining natural bull trout (above left) fishery. Also, some nearby waters offer exciting rainbow fishing. The scenery is spectacular, nestled into the west side of the Canadian Rockies and not difficult to get to. Fits nicely into a 4 night package....or more. We've had over 50 clients enjoy this destination over the years and are glad it's back.



PRIVATE MONTANA RANCH: Another good 4 night destination is our associate's private Montana ranch you've seen detailed in our past newsletters. We've been waiting to see if the late winter snows would allow completion of their new accommodations in time for the season. The answer is yes and no. Yes, they will be completed, but due to the late start, they won't be ready until September. The old ranch house is still operational (two large bedrooms with private baths and five beds between them – four queens) and will be housing fisherman this summer. Most important, the private waters are still the same – enough private water to keep you fishing for a week or more if you have the time. Remaining open dates: 7/5 – 9; 8/1 – 7; 8/18 – 25; 9/21 – 29 plus a few open slots in Oct for the beginning of the brown trout spawning cycle.

BELIZE – SEVEN PERMIT TRIP



OK, if you've never fished for permit, you may not understand that this is a big deal. Or, maybe you saw the report from last September when a Belize mothership "fantasy trip" released 17 permit so you're thinking "what's the big deal about 7 fish on one trip." Well.....seven permit on one trip is a BIG DEAL in the realm of salt water fly fishing!

Tom Brutsche and friends have been doing an annual Belize mothership trip since the early part of this century. During their early trips, they focused on the variety fishery (tarpon, bonefish, snook, and some permit) in the northern part of Belize. The last two years, they took their mothership south for permit...and permit only. This year, Tom, Ron Knowles, and Lee Lewis were planning on returning to the variety areas in the north.....but something changed when they arrived. They asked the captain how the permit fishing had been and received a big smile in return. They headed south.

Result: 7 permit released, to 18#, and a pile of great memories of those big black tails sticking up. Tom said, "I've never seen so many permit.....we did see two schools which must have held over 150 fish and many large permit. We didn't catch any from those two schools, but it was exciting." They didn't go far south, only using the first two anchorages moving south from Belize City.....that was enough to find what they needed for the week. Maybe the new laws enacted two years ago making it illegal to net permit, bones, and tarpon in Belize are working. We've had more permit taken in the last 12 months than ever before.....and many small fish sighted and taken which means something good is happening.

LOOKING FOR FLY FISHING PARTNERS – AFRICA AND BELIZE



(Note: this is a new addition to our news and will run whenever someone has a request to find a partner to join them on a fly fishing adventure)

AFRICA: The Lower Zambezi River National Park has both great game viewing and the best tigerfishing left in Africa (no netting is allowed in the park). The ideal time to enjoy both is October when the river is at its lowest and clearest and the game is congregated around the river. This client has a trip booked for October of 2012 at the best combination fly fishing and game viewing camps in the park. Can be combined with other Africa adventures or the Seychells. If you'd like to see it, ask and we'll

send you the photo essay on our trip to this park in 2008 which was partnered with a week in the Seychelles.

BELIZE: The Belize mothership is a trip hard to take by yourself, beginning with the fact that there is no pricing for a single.....minimum of two up to ten. This client is a veteran of several Belize trips and is looking for one, two, or more guys to hook up with.

FLY FISHING PHOTOGRAPHY 1A: CAPTURING FLY FISHING SCENICS – PART 1



One of the great joys of our fly fishing passion is that it takes us to the most beautiful, pristine environments on earth. Capturing photos that show these places in the best possible manner is a challenge. This is Part 1 of a series of fly fishing photography tips on how to capture these photos.

Fly Fishing Scenic – definition of that phrase is a special shot of natural beauty with a fly fisherman in the scene. If you take the fly fisherman out of the photo, all you have is a pretty shot of nature.....nothing wrong with that, but it isn't a Fly Fishing Scenic.

Some of the basics – let's look at our first photo and see what's wrong (not much right):

- when you photo a river or stream, best to get both banks in the shot – it finishes off the scene and doesn't leave you wondering what sort of piece of water it is.
- this angler has his back to us – you can't really tell what he's doing. No action. No rod or reel visible. Heck, he could be doing anything standing in the water. Plus, there is no action – he looks bored.
- the photo is a little underexposed – easy to fix with digital photos.....just darken.
- the trees in the background – if we're going to include the trees, let's get the tops of them. Not always possible in some types of shots, but certainly is in this photo.....again, it finishes off the photo. Plus, we have some beautiful blue sky – let's show it.

Our second photo corrects all these issues:

- framed in well showing both banks
- action – the angler is finishing his cast. Can see the rod and line, even in this small version. In the larger version, you can actually see the reel. No doubt what this guy is doing and why he's in the water. The reel is a bonus if you can capture it – especially important and dramatic in sunset photos which will be covered in a later tip.
- exposure is good, much richer than the first photo.
- all the tree tops are there and a nice slice of blue to accent the photo.



Note: both photos did a good job of getting the horizon straight and had the momentum of the fly fisher moving "into" the scene and on the left side, two subjects that we covered previously in our Fly Fishing Photography 1A tips.

MAY MEMORY PHOTO



Chris Carey may not forget this fish – a beautiful peacock bass from the Amazon. Earlier this year, Chris made his first trip to the Agua Boa Amazon Lodge. Some of his comments: "Great time. This was the big one for me (14.5lb) but the biggest of the week was 18!! Clean rooms, food fair, great location and good hosts. Guides experienced but could communicate better. Would go back !!!"

PHOTO CREDITS: (top to bottom) Permit – Tom Brutsche, Lee Williams, and Ron Knowles.

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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