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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'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.

CHILEAN ANDES TRIP REPORT

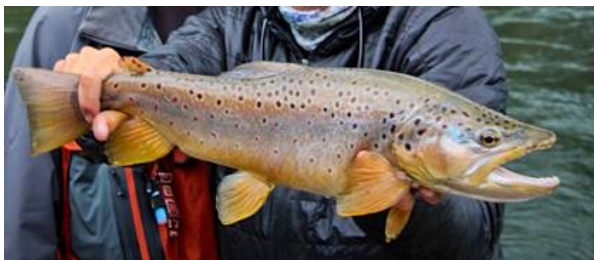


The heart of the Chilean Andes.....truly one of the world's most striking vistas for a fly fishing adventure! Rob Pizzie and John Landis had visited this specific location a few years ago and returned this year with some friends and family. Joining Rob and John were Rob's wife, Annette, and daughter, Sarah, and friends Jon Stettler and Marty Mickelsons. For Annette, Sarah, and Jon, this trip would provide their first fly fishing experience and their first fish taken on a fly.

Rob captures the essence of their time spent in this isolated area of the Chilean Andes: "For me, fishing in Patagonia is very special. It's not easy to get to, but once you are there it is a paradise. The scenery is spectacular and the fishing experience is profound. Nobody around but you, the guide and the fish. The rivers offer fast paced excitement (and a few white knuckle rapid rides!) and the sight fishing on the lakes makes the day seem to fly by. The lodge and the outlying outpost camps are the most comfortable fishing lodges I have ever stayed in. The food is

superb and the wine floweth freely! The host and hostess were perfect, and all the guides I have fished with (and I have been there twice) are friendly, knowledgeable and fun to spend a day with. Can't wait to go back!"

There are many aspects to Patagonia and the Andes Mountain Range. The crest of the Andes forms the border between Argentina and Chile. From the crest, the Chilean Andes tumble westward, peak after peak, before dropping off into the Pacific Ocean. Patagonia is not related



directly to the countries or boundaries of either Argentina or Chile; rather it is generally considered to be a geographical area that encompasses the southern parts of both countries and that includes the spectacular Andes Range.

The Argentine Patagonian side of the Andes levels out very quickly into the flatlands of the pampas. Not so on the Chilean side.....spectacular mountain peaks, lakes, rivers, and lagoons.

So much of Patagonia is no longer the isolated fly fishing environment of 20 to 30 years ago. Unfortunately, today the majority of Patagonia often resembles fishing in Montana.....a lot of other anglers present. This is not true in what we consider to be the "finest remaining area to fly fish in Patagonia"– where John and Rob returned to this year, an area where seeing another angler is still a rare event.

A variety of waters is accessed using horseback, rafts, four wheel drive vehicles, and outpost camps. Below, l to r: a gaucho has the horse packed with raft and equipment. Sarah and Jon riding to the “put in” spot, about a two hour upstream ride in a beautiful river valley. The raft is inflated and then they drift/wade their way to the “take out” point. Annette enjoys a shoreside lunch. One of the outpost camps is tucked away in the Andes on a special river. Below, the club house, stationary tents, and full beds provide a very comfortable experience... “roughing it” with a touch of class. Some of the group spent two nights at the outpost camp while two others did an overnight float trip through the Andes, using a similar welcoming overnight camp.



From her first ever fly fishing experience, these excerpted thoughts from Sarah: “This was my first time fly fishing.....seemed a little intimidating. But once I saw the beautiful scenery and met everyone at the lodge it was so different! My first fly fishing lesson was tough.....the guide was very patient with me and taught me one on one for a long while.....by the end of the trip I could cast fairly well. I held my own in the fish count. Chile was probably one of the best places for me to learn. The rivers are so great, I could mess up and still catch a fish. It was so beautiful sometimes I lost fish because I was looking at the scenery.....”

Below: rafts are used for drifting, Sarah with one of her first rainbows ever. At right, there are many lagoons, both large and small, in the vicinity which provide sight fishing to cruisers. Boats are staked out on some of them.



Below, l to r: lodge at night, holds a maximum of twelve guests; dinner is a treat; the fire pit is a gathering place for pre-dinner drinks and hors d’oeuvre’s after a day on the water; the lodge, and the entire operation, is as comfortable and welcoming as a remote fly fishing lodge can be! Attention to detail is evident in everything.



John is a well traveled, globe hopping angler.....his comments: “The rivers, lakes, and lagoons fished around the lodge are unique. You never fish the same watershed and rarely see another angler. Much of the fishing is sight fishing with dry flies.” Maybe the most important point to be made is “rarely see another angler”! And the scenery, in almost every direction, is spectacular.

The group collected a fabulous array of photos which capture the essence of their experience and comprise the full photo essay that is available through this link: [Chilean Andes Photo Essay Report](#)

BELIZE.....FROM THE “PROS”

What constitutes a “pro” in the world of permit fly fishing, the most challenging species to take on a fly and the ultimate fly rod hunting experience? I’m not sure I know the answer to that, but when two guys collectively have released over 110 permit, they must be getting close to fulfilling the requirements of being a “pro”. Such is the case with Art Hinckley (now up to 83) and Dennis Banks (at right with 18 pounder from their latest trip).

Dennis and Art use the Rising Tide mothership (below) a few times a year as their floating lodge in Belize to access the finest permit flats on the globe, extending about 60 miles inside the barrier reef, south from Belize City. On their March trip, they were joined by Brad Jackson, on his first Rising Tide trip.



Brad had many solid shots at fish and released his first two permit on a Rising Tide trip. As a first timer, he had an interesting perspective on the trip.....his comments: “You won’t find a better scenario if you’re a serious permit fisherman. Words that come to mind when I think of the guides, cook, and the crew of the Rising Tide are fantastic and hard-working.....they will do anything they can to make your stay comfortable and productive. Having your live aboard boat anchored in the prime fishing spot for the day eliminates long boat rides to access the best flats. Salt water flats fishing does not get any better than fishing from the Rising Tide....most comfortable way to access the all the great permit flats between Belize City and Placencia.”

A short trip recap from Art: “we had a good trip as usual. The weather was almost perfect the first 6 days, sunny and hot with 5-15 southeast winds. A cold front arrived on the 6th day and stayed for the last 3 days. We expected to see many more fish than we did while the weather was nice, but we did manage to release nine permit.”

PERSONAL DESTINATION SLIDE PRESENTATIONS - SF BAY AREA AND NAPA VALLEY

If you reside in the San Francisco Bay Area, we are available for slide presentations depicting the options of a variety of quality destinations. If you have a small group (or large group) or family who would like to see the adventure available in different areas of the world, appointments can be made for presentations in private homes, offices, or in our fly fishing theatre in the Napa Valley. Presentations are available on Belize, New Zealand, Ascension Bay, Alaska, the varied options of Argentina (Patagonia, Golden Dorado, Tierra del Fuego, and Jurassic Lake), Chile, Minipi River in Labrador, Seychelles, Africa, Fernie BC, etc.

If you’d like to make an appointment for a specific presentation, please hit “reply” and let’s find a time that works.

THE ANNUAL NEW ZEALAND NEWSLETTER

Last week, our annual New Zealand newsletter was sent out. If you missed it and have the interest to see it, click here to get to the newsletter..... [NEW ZEALAND NEWSLETTER](#)

The newsletter includes:

- highlights from current trips
- how to approach and enjoy a New Zealand trip
- some tips from a NZ veteran who has released over forty browns that weighed over 10 pounds (above with his wife, Joyce, and a large brown).
- ideas on couples trips combining fly fishing and touring



APRIL MEMORY PHOTO

“.....it was definitely a good fighta lot of jumps. Strongest fish I ever fought on a fly rod.” That from Dan Sharpe referring to his 13# Golden Dorado. And he added.....“not as big as the one that got away though.” Isn’t that the way it always seems to be!! Dan and his group hit tough conditions on their recent trip to northern Argentina in pursuit of Golden Dorado. There was an unusual amount of rainfall that arrived with them. The last part of the trip saw improving conditions and produced some fish worth remembering on the last day.



PHOTO CREDITS: banner photo – John Landis; Chilean Photo Essay – John Landis and Jon Stettler; Belize permit – Dennis Banks; NZ brown – John Part

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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