



Truckee River, No Calif



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We are in the twenty-first 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.

#### YELLOWSTONE TROUT EXCURSION PACKAGES



Fly Fishing in Yellowstone National Park is a unique experience like no other in the world. The park encompasses 2.2 million acres that contains over 2600 miles of streams. Our favorite Rocky Mountain outfitters have expanded their programs to experience fly fishing in Yellowstone National Park.

These programs now include the idyllic Northeastern corner of the park that includes the wild, rugged Lamar River and Slough Creek along with many others. You'll also have access to waters like the Firehole, Madison, and Gibbon Rivers which are surrounded by and immersed in the geysers and geo-thermal rich ecosystem. Targets will be wild rainbows, browns, and native cutthroat.

These guided packages include 2 or 3 nights lodging and three days of guided fishing. With lodging in the area, you will minimize your time driving and maximize your time on the water. There are very limited timeframes available for this summer and each excursion is limited to four anglers. The daily guide fee is \$715 and will include lunch and a limited selection of effective flies for the waters fished. License and other fees are not included.



#### WHAT WE DO AT FLY FISHING ADVENTURES

This is a link with a description of who we are and what we do.....the destinations around the world that we can prepare you for your visit: [Fly Fishing Adventures - About What We Do](#)

## “BEST REDFISH TRIP EVER” – A TRIP REPORT



Terry and Gary Butts have done a lot of redfishing so when they mentioned this was their best redfish trip ever, it was notable. They were fishing flats on the Texas coastline, with their favorite guide. Gary's report:



“The trip took place in late October 2021. Because of weather and tide conditions

for the first 2 days, we fished an area we had not fished on previous trips - lots of small islands surrounded by shallow flats, all adjacent to a deep channel. We saw single bull reds in the deeper water, but they did not ‘tail’ and they did not pay much attention to our offerings. We also saw several schools of black drum. We hooked one bull red and 2 black drum, each over 20 pounds, but we were unable to land any of the 3 due to one bonehead move or another by us. However, we did manage to land about 20 reds (4-9 lbs) each of those days. The other 4 days we fished our normal haunts. The last day we brought over 30 reds to the boat, including 8 by surface poppers! This was our first time fishing to reds with poppers and it was very exciting - a sight fisherman's dream.”

## AMAZING EVOLUTION OF A FLY FISHER – DENNIS BANKS



What is unique, even amazing, about Dennis Banks (at left) and his evolution as a fly fisher? Many fly fishers get captured by the excitement of sight fishing the shallow, salt water flats after years of trout fishing. And, many of those evolve to fishing the most challenging, exciting, and frustrating species you can pursue with a fly – the permit. Dennis BEGAN developing his skills as a fly fisher as a permit fisherman; a unique angling achievement, and amazing that he was able to overcome the many frustrations of pursuing permit as a novice and remain sane enough to continue and be productive!

A few weeks ago, Dennis, myself, and Art Hinckley (Art is Dennis' fly fishing mentor) were together on a dedicated permit trip, using the Rising Tide as our floating lodge in Belize. Between the three of us, before the trip began, we had released 265 permit – Art with 129 and Dennis with 66, the largest being a weighed 26#. The great majority of these fish had been taken in Belize using a mothership to access our favorite permit flats.

Some Q & A with Dennis provided this feedback on his unusual evolution as a fly caster – it is apparent that Dennis' MO was to attack developing fly fishing skills and learn “on the run”:

- Since you began fly fishing on the salt water flats, what was the most difficult part of learning to fly fish?
  - “While wade-stalking fish, having a guide explain how to cast a fly for the first time, having never cast before.”
- While sight fishing for permit, what do you think is the greatest challenge?
  - “Controlling your nerves.....The intensity of your nerves is like Buck Fever on steroids.”
- What were the biggest mistakes you made in the early years of permit fishing?
  - “Showing up a couple times a year and having your first cast in 6 months be to permit – not practicing”
- When did you learn to double haul?
  - “2014, many years after I began fishing for permit and after I had taken my largest permit.”

## WHAT IS PERMIT FISHING - AT IT'S BEST?

This was an incredible day of stalking permit on our recent Rising Tide permit trip in Belize. What made it truly amazing is the conditions sucked – could not have been much worse. Upon rising at 6:00am, we were greeted by 20+ mph winds and heavy rain – back to bed for a nap. We did not get out until 9:30. On the first flat we poled, near the dead mangrove bush in the photo below at left, we saw a pod of about 8 small fish tailing near the





mangrove sticks.....decided to get out and wade using the wind-whipped water and dark skies for cover. For the next few hours, we stalked four different pods of fish tailing near those sticks, one of those pods was a threesome with fish over 15#. The threesome of large fish tailed and fed for about 20 minutes within 15 feet of me – I could almost touch them with my rod tip! I repeatedly cast directly into that wind and a few times got the fly near the nose of a tailing fish. Again, only the wind and dark sky allowed me this close access. I did get one eat – turned the hook on my crab pattern, in his crushers – never felt a thing or saw a fish move on the fly. When the action stopped, I climbed back in the panga and we moved off to try a different flat.

After lunch, we returned to the same flat that held the dead mangrove, hoping we would find more fish tailing. As is usual in so many fishing situations, no fish to be found – great fishing scenes very seldom repeat. We poled that large flat looking intently for other tailing fish. After about 30 minutes, we decided to move on to a different flat. Just as the guide dropped the motor in the water and was about to start it, I saw a giant tail sticking fully out of the water. It was about 200 yards away, but large enough to be clearly visible, even at that distance. I yelled at the guide to stop and look. We began poling as quickly as possible and, as we closed on the spot, we could see there were 4 very large permit, all in the 25-30# range, tailing and feeding. They were in very shallow water, about 20 yards from where the flat ended and dropped off into deep water. So began an incredible session of over 2 hours of wading and stalking tailing fish on that flat that extended for about 150 yards, parallel to the deep water's edge. There were at least five different pods of fish tailing there.....all sizes were represented, but the first group we had seen were the largest and provided about 20 minutes of heart-stopping action, all within 20 feet of my rod tip. About four o'clock, the heavy rains began again and we headed to the shelter of the Rising Tide.



On this day, Art, one of our other anglers fishing a different area, took his 130<sup>th</sup> permit, an 11# fish. However, with all the intense action I had, I could only get that one eat and no hook ups. I'll always wonder if they were eating something specific and not interested in my crab.....or if my casting was THAT BAD!?!?! Or maybe the explanation is "it's just permit fishing." For the day, my guide and I figured we fished to over 40 tailing fish. The photo above right captures an incredible moment. To see it clearly, a larger file is needed – if you'd like to see it, just ask and I'll e-mail. If you enlarge the photo, you can see the head, dorsal fin, and tail of a fish of 30+# to the left, about 15 feet in front of me, almost in the center of the photo – in the small photo, it only shows as a small ripple. So, no fish landed for the day, but for pure excitement, it doesn't get any better! (Note: thanks to my guide, Jose, who shared this excitement with me and captured some of it with the camera)

## MARCH MEMORY PHOTO



I've enjoyed spending time on the water with Gary Martin fishing for browns in New Zealand and Golden Dorado in Argentina. Gary is a real artist with a fly rod and has fished all over the world. His spectacular Golden Dorado weighed 33#.

Photo Credits: banner photo – Gabe Moreno; Yellowstone – World Cast; redfish – Terry and Gary Butts; fly fishing evolution – Dennis Banks

An enthusiastic traveling fly fisherman,  
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