



Pretty Colors on the Big Horn



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We are in the sixth 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 sites. One of our services is to compare and contrast different lodges/outfitters. 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.

## NEW YEARS PLANNING – INTERNATIONAL FLY FISHING DESTINATIONS



The reality is that, with most world class fisheries, the prime time is a narrow window. And, with the communications available today, those prime times are not a secret. Often, these destinations must be booked a year or more out to get space during the preferred time frames. Here's a list of some of the top international destinations that we work with and advance booking considerations.

**New Zealand:** We are currently working on several 2009 itineraries for NZ. This has become one of the world's hottest destinations, even without factoring in the unique stalking for trophy browns and rainbows in it's crystalline streams and rivers. Getting space at the top lodges and with the best independent guides, even in the early season (Nov – mid Dec), can be a challenge a year in advance.

**Patagonia:** Not as complex as NZ because usually Patagonia itineraries only have one or two stops, unlike the "touring aspect" in NZ travel. Still, the top spots in Chile and Argentina will book up a year early for the best times.

**Amazon:** The popularity of the clear-water Agua Boa River watershed for the fly fisher pursuing Peacock Bass and Arowana continues to grow each year. We are scrambling right now to find space for clients for prime time in early 2009.

**Belize:** The motherships Meca and Seaduction have their loyal followings that book up about 70% of the space each year. There are a few weeks still open for 2008, but best to get on the list for 2009 if you have interest in this salt water flats adventure.

**Minipi River, Labrador:** This is the best place in the world to catch a giant brookie (5 to 8 pounds) on a dry fly, but the main hatch cycle is only 3- 4 weeks long. Unless you can find a late cancellation for 2008 (like the one mentioned below), you should be getting reservations now for 2009.

**Gaspe, Quebec:** The wonderful clear water Atlantic Salmon streams of this area still have slots open during good times for next summer. This is floating line, sight fishing for trophy Atlantics up to 30+ pounds!

**Kamchatka:** The important news here is that it was just announced two weeks ago that the non-stop flight from Anchorage to Petropavlovsk, Kamchatka has been reinstated for this coming summer. The last two years have provided a nightmare of travel hassles to get to this Russian peninsula, connecting through Moscow or Korea. The "green light" is now on for this remote Russian adventure.





**Africa – tigerfish and safari on the Lower Zambezi:** The fall offers a short two month window when both game viewing and tigerfish angling are at their best. Since this is protected water with a limited number of boats on the water at any one time, space is a premium during those two months. Still a few slots for fall of '08.

**Yucatan, Bahama's, Campeche, Turneffe Islands, and Christmas Island:** Top Ascension Bay area lodges, like Casa Blanca and Playa Blanca, are almost full for the coming season; however, some limited space is still available. Same is true of Christmas Island, Campeche (baby tarpon), Turneffe Islands, and the Bahama's top lodges.

Note on a Minipi River opening – there has become one slot open at our favorite lodge on the Minipi River for the week of 7/11 – 18. An important note about this slot is that it is held at the old price which is about \$1000 less than the current price.

We have trip reports and newsletters on most of the destinations mentioned. If you'd like to see any of them, just hit "reply" and let us know.

In our January issue, we'll report on spots in the USA and western Canada.

### **DESTINATION DAY, FISH FIRST! ALBANY SHOP, TUESDAY, DEC. 18**

Next Tuesday, December 18, I'll be in the Albany (near Berkeley) Fish First! Fly Shop for a Destination Day. We have two scheduled presentations: "Elk River, Fernie BC" at 12:30. At 5:00, we'll do our show on "Stalking The World's Great Gamefish With A Fly Rod" – this is globe hopping to many of the finest destinations for sight fishing for trophy fish. Additionally, I'll be available by appointment for private discussions and slide viewing of any other destinations during the afternoon and early evening. Come on in and say "hi." For directions to the shop, check out their website [www.fishfirst.com](http://www.fishfirst.com)

### **EARLY SEASON NEW ZEALAND REPORT**



There are a growing number of annual New Zealand anglers who prefer the early season period of November and early December. While the weather may be more unsettled than later, the fish are "dumber" and there are far fewer numbers of people running around NZ. Al Bowen is one of them and he shares the following rather colorful comments on his recent trip.

"I had two super days fishing with our favorite Kiwi independent guide right off the bat. It rather spoiled me. We hit the weather perfect and caught numerous browns of six pounds (including the eight pounder in the photo) - many on dry flies. Those hogs are sooo slow and deliberate on the take. It took me a while to adjust and slow down the dry fly strike. I was too early and with too soft a strike at the beginning. Most exciting was a contact free fly removal (choke) so

immaculate that the big brown came back and ate it on the next cast. I predicted it. My experienced guide considered it a minor supernatural event for a smart brown to do that. I recognized it to be divine intervention on the part of Mother Nature; a reward to this devoted fish and tree hugger and card carrying friend of rivers."

Note: Al had two days which are among the most treasured of all fly fishing fantasy days – a dozen or more of these trophy New Zealand browns and/or rainbows released in a day including days of 13 and 15 fish....all sight cast to!

### **24# STRIPER ON A POPPER!**

Taking a 20+ pound striper on any fly is a thrill, but on a popper....that's something special! Leo Siren, manager of the Fish First Fly Shop in Albany, took a 24 pound striper recently in the Sacramento River Delta on a popper!!!



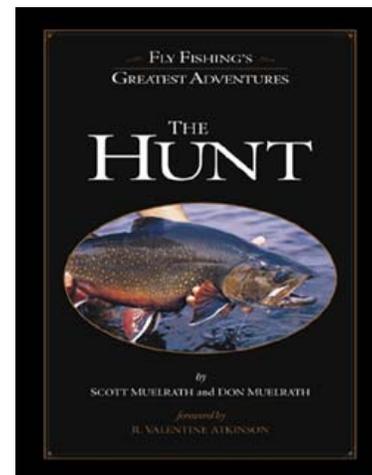
## THE HUNT FOR CHRISTMAS?

If you are making up your gift giving list for Christmas and a fly fishing book that has received the following accolades would satisfy some of your needs, see below for how to purchase a personalized copy:

- "THE HUNT is one of the great fly fishing classics of all time.....unbelievably good work."
- "....the finest collection of fly fishing photographs ever assembled...."
- "....overall, I'd be taxed to reach for a more enjoyable read...."
- "....I've never in all my years seen anything as profoundly special as THE HUNT....an absolute masterpiece."

(see the website [www.ffhunt.com](http://www.ffhunt.com) for a full list of reviews and comments)

If you'd like to order personalized copies for gifts, give us the instructions for your order by filling out the "special instructions" section on the order blank on the website [www.ffhunt.com](http://www.ffhunt.com). We can meet any personalization requests you have – call 888-347-4896 if you have specific questions.



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

For us here at Fly Fishing Adventures, it's been a wonderful year of helping clients meet their fly fishing travel objectives and dreams. Thank you for thinking of us when you begin contemplating your next fly fishing adventure. Tammi and I wish you a holiday season that is everything you WANT IT TO BE!!

**PHOTO CREDITS:** "Big Horn colors" newsletter banner photo – Gordon Stanley; 18# Agua Boa Peacock – Laurie Woody; NZ brown – Al Bowen; big striper – Leo Siren; Happy Holiday brown at right – Nancy Siegler

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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