



IN THIS ISSUE:

- ASCENSION BAY – COMBINING SOME LOCAL CULTURE WITH THE FLATS
- THE NEW “BIBLE” ON PERMIT FISHING – A GOOD READ
- REPORT ON THE GIANT RAINBOWS OF JURASSIC
- FACEBOOK AND TWITTER SURVEY – NEED YOUR INPUT
- WHY SNOOK?
- WHAT DO WE DO AT FLY FISHING ADVENTURES?
- JANUARY MEMORY PHOTO

We are in the fourteenth 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.

ASCENSION BAY – COMBINING SOME LOCAL CULTURE WITH THE FLATS



During the last few years, Jeanne and Pete Tymstra have been enjoying their trips to the Ascension Bay area in the Mexican Yucatan and have now fished at a few of the fine salt water flats lodges there. On their most recent trip, they combined their fishing week with some touring arranged by a local travel agent in Mexico. Normally, if Jeanne fishes, it is in small doses, but on this trip, she took several bonefish. Her report:

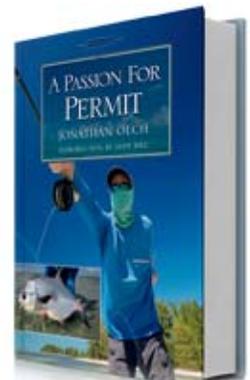
“The weather at Casa Blanca was challenging - quite a bit of wind so we mainly fished the Santa Rosa Lagoon, which is fine with me because I

love the lagoon. Pete caught quite a lot of bonefish and a beautiful, large snook and jumped a tarpon three times. We really liked our guide and I actually felt very comfortable with him and took just about my equal share of fishing time and caught 9 nice bonefish. The great thing about him was that he didn’t keep trying to correct my cast, which it definitely could use, but gave calm, directions as to where the fish was and most importantly for me, when to set the hook. I’m so enthused I can’t wait to go back and catch some more. I also want to let you know that the second half of our trip was so interesting. We loved the ruins and the haciendas too. I’d highly recommend our tour guide and driver.”



THE NEW “BIBLE” ON PERMIT FISHING – A GOOD READ

Author Jon Olch has a new book that is dedicated to Permit fishing. It is definitely the new “bible” on Permit fishing.....and an interesting read if you have any interest at all in this most challenging of fly fishing targets. Comprehensive in every regard including where, how, history, etc etc. It is by far the most thorough publication on Permit written. It is published in two volumes, heavy with a price to match the weight. The first volume can be purchased for \$95 and the set (which is a better value) is \$150. If you’d like to purchase, this is the website: <http://www.wildriverpress.com/product/a-passion-for-permit-volume-1>



REPORT ON THE GIANT RAINBOWS OF JURASSIC

This is the time of year that, if you are locked into the USA with our cold, gray skies, you contemplate what it would be like to be enjoying their summer in the Southern Hemisphere. Jurassic Lake in Southern Argentina (and the “new Jurassic” in the same general area) has become famous world-wide for its giant rainbows. If you’d



like to learn more about this fishery, this link is to a comprehensive report from a recent trip. It includes the intriguing and fascinating history of why and how this fishery has evolved. Some excerpts on the history:

“Lago Strobel, a 40 sq mile lake, has a spring creek inlet, but no outlet. There is a high concentration of calcium and other encrusting minerals. By some strange quirk of nature, this combination is magic for the growth of small greenish scuds and the waters of Lago Strobel is absolutely teeming with them.

Some time ago, a few land owners bought rainbow trout fry and seeded Lago Strobel and other lakes in this part of Patagonia.....then for several years. everyone forgot about them.

When they started finding 10 to 20 pound rainbow trout with girths like rugby balls in great numbers, a new destination fishery was born.”

The link: [Article - Jurassic Lake](#)

FACEBOOK AND TWITTER SURVEY – NEED YOUR INPUT

We have been struggling with moving into the 21st century by getting involved with FaceBook and Twitter. We now have a FaceBook presence..... www.facebook.com/donmuelrath If you are active on FaceBook and Twitter, PLEASE HIT REPLY AND LET ME KNOW.....very curious to know how many of our readers use this new media for information, communication, etc?

WHY SNOOK?

For my first 15 years of saltwater flats fishing, the entire focus was on the big three – bonefish, tarpon, and permit. Somewhere along the line, my guide suggested that since the tide was so low, we look at some mangrove edges he said held snook. When the tide is at its lowest, the shallow water helps pull the snook out from the mangrove roots and makes them more accessible on the edge. Over a period of years, I developed a passion for the excitement and challenge of sight casting to snook in the shallows near the mangrove edges. It is even fun and challenging to cast to the holes in the mangrove edge that might hold snook, even if no fish are visible.



The first thing you learn about snook is they are great stalkers. Two of the largest fish we’ve hooked followed the fly from the edge of the mangroves literally to the rod tip and jumped the fly at the last second.....like it was going to get away. The rule is when you hook a fish on the edge of the roots, you keep striking him hard to keep him off balance while the guide poles as

fast as possible away from the mangroves. When the fish regains his balance, you want to be as far away as you can get because he wants to go home. The first time I had a 7 or 8 pound snook that turned and began a charge back to the safety of the roots, I decided that this was something I wanted more of. It took me years to land a double-digit fish on the edge. Then, I was fortunate enough to keep a pair of 15 pound fish from destroying me by regaining the roots.....what a thrill! In the last three years, I’ve had two fish that both would have gone well over 20# break me off while I tried to hold them from the roots. A fish like the one held by Warren Parker (at right) can apply more heat than you can imagine trying to regain the safety of his home. Warren is now a snook advocate and sent these comments on a recent experience:



“Enjoyed the newsletter about snook fishing with Dean in Belize. I was never drawn to the snook until I boated this fellow in Mexico. Certainly changed my perception about the species. Pound for pound, the strongest fish I have caught!!”

WHAT DO WE DO AT FLY FISHING ADVENTURES?

This is a new link to a description of who we are and what we do.....also, listing the destinations around the world we inform and prepare clients to visit: [FLY FISHING ADVENTURES - WHAT WE DO](#)

JANUARY MEMORY PHOTO

Bill Hudspeth (right), along with two others visited a small Dean River BC camp accessed via helicopter in October. The three of them landed 18 steelhead with several others who broke off. Bill had a large fish of 38" and 18#. Not bad for a guy who is a "beginning intermediate" fly fisher!

An enthusiastic traveling fly fisherman,
Don Muelrath
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