

The Fly Guy

I became The Fly Guy many years ago while fishing for Hybrid White Bass. I was the only one with a fly rod and most didn't know my name so I became The Fly Guy. I decided to use that name when the website was developed and the name has been with me for over a decade. I am really Bob Willis and have spent most of the last ten years fishing and writing. I have been fly-fishing all of my life and it is a passion. I didn't realize just how much of a passion until I decided to catch all of the North American Trout. That adventure took several years and led to the development of the website and companion book **Trout Adventures North America**. The website has a lot of information but there is much more in the book.



Playing a Hybrid White Bass on the Osage River in Missouri.

Harry Tate Photo

The trout of North America are an amazing group of fish. I drove and searched all over for the fish on the website and in the book. I went places I never dreamed I would go and fished in rivers and lakes that were sometimes difficult to find. It was a grand adventure. I have been very lucky in my effort to catch all of the trout. I fished for the better part of three days to catch one Aurora Trout and had four flat tires along the way. It was an interesting experience but one that some have ask why would I do that. A good question but not many have held an Aurora Trout or caught one on a fly rod. It was a great feeling. I fished for Sunapee Trout on a day that changed from snow to hail while out in a tube. It may have been forty degrees at best. It was not a good day to fish but I caught Sunapee and that made braving the weather worthwhile. It is those experiences that make fly fishing so much fun and create the stories that are the book.

In my travels around North America I have been amazed by so many things. The rivers of Alaska and the western mountains have made writing about those areas a joy. The Jarbidge Canyon in Nevada has some of the most unique rock formation I have ever seen. The Jarbidge River is the only one I have found with Redband and Bull Trout as the only species. I enjoyed finding and writing about the rare trout as much as anything I have done for the last several years. The Jarbidge was a special trip because of what was there. Redband exist in several western areas but they are not common and all of the rare fish are difficult to reach. Jarbidge Redband were no exception. The canyon was not an easy place to reach but was spectacular. The Rock formations



I had never seen rocks like these in a Nevada canyon.

were unlike any I have ever seen and the sky is a wonderful shade of blue. It was one of the most unforgettable places in the search for the trout of North America.

That was the beauty of chasing the trout. The adventures just kept coming. Fishing alone on an isolated lake in northern Ontario with only the Loons calling was more than a little spooky. It is one of those stories that makes the reader wonder about my sanity. There were Splake to catch and I had to give it a shot. I had never considered catching Splake in

Ontario until I was up there one year. It was one of those very interesting trips.

The website has a lot of information about the North American Trout and the book the rest of the story. Each trout has its own story and experiencing the fun of catching each one was what made the book so much fun to write. The chapter about Arctic Char took me from Maine to Alaska to Iceland. My logic about why Iceland is in North America is in the book and open for debate.

The information on the website and in the book took a while to collect. The North American adventure spans about 40 years with many fishing trips for great fish that live in some of the most beautiful places in the world. The trips were fun and sometimes a little harrowing. I discovered some flies that really caught fish and over the years changed the way I fished some of the water. The biggest change was the use of minnow flies. As the flies got bigger the fish got bigger. Later on I caught bigger fish in the same water where years earlier there seemed to be only small trout. I guess it's true. Size does make a difference.

If you are here you like trout and fly fishing and it is my hope that you take some of the information and use it. Whether it is skipping a fly across a stream for Rainbow or putting a minnow fly in the current for Steelhead it is all fun. I suppose that is the bottom line on everything I write. I try to make the stories interesting and tell the reader where to find each trout species and what to use to catch them. Many writers don't mention the hybrid trout. I have included the Hybrids because they are out there to be caught and in many cases they are wonderful fish. Golden Rainbow are one of the most beautiful of all trout. It was created by accident in a hatchery in West Virginia and has added excitement to many trout streams in the eastern United States. Splake and Tiger Trout have their own chapters because of the numbers of

those fish in some states. It has been interesting to see how the states and provinces manage their trout fisheries and it is part of the stories.



The glaciers of Alaska are another natural wonder.

Alaska is special for several reasons. One of my daughters was born there and it was a place where I survived a plane crash. Travelling to remote areas does have some risk and it was part of the adventure. Alaska is the last frontier and a place where I spent several years. It is also a little tricky to fish.

I have chosen to tell about North American trout rather than bore all of you with the history of my life. I hope you find the website interesting and consider the book. I love nature and believe that there is nothing better than standing in the middle of a

river with a fly rod. The thrill of hooking a trout in that situation is like no other.

Trout Adventures North America is in book and e-book form on Amazon as well as this site and the site of the publisher ---- Wilderness Adventures Press. Their website is www.wildadvpress.com and his site has many books on fly fishing. I have continued the search for trout around the world and will complete a book called **Fly Fishing the Far East** in 2014. It is the second in a series of books about fly fishing the world.

Enjoy the website and check out the book for more information!