

THE ANGLING REPORT

"SERVING THE ANGLER WHO TRAVELS"

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ing, I lucked into finding an unusually attractive guide/lodge set-up on Cape Cod recently. The combo is just about perfect if you want to steal away for a day or so of angling and keep a non-fishing spouse happy at the same time.

The lodge is not really a lodge at all. It is a former Catholic church converted into an inn. It's called the Belfry Inn & Bistro (508-888-8550), and it's located on a quiet street in Sandwich. The food is simply fabulous, and the setting exceptional. The accommodations upstairs are elegant, with spectacular stained-glass windows in several rooms and private Jacuzzis in all of them. Of particular interest for anglers is that innkeeper Christopher Wilson has arranged to offer his guests guided fly and light-



tackle fishing trips out of nearby Barnstable Harbor with Capt. Avery Revere of Salty Fly Guide Service (Tel. 917-270-0508. Web: www.saltyflycapecod.com), the only fully-licensed female guide on the Cape.

I fished a day with Revere on her immaculate Yamaha-powered 19-foot Jones Brothers center console hybrid flats boat/bay boat in search of stripers. Revere's equipment was perfectly serviceable #8 St. Croix rods with Tibor reels. If you demand really fast-action rods, you might want to bring your own. A #8 rod is a tad heavy for the average schoolie striper, but the extra punch is needed to deliver weighted or bulky flies, and to have any hope of landing the larger "keeper" fish that can strike on any given cast.

Heavy winds and rains in recent days had roiled the waters of the inner harbor, so we couldn't spot any fish there. Blind casting on a drift didn't produce immediate strikes, so we were off for a five-minute run to the harbor mouth, where for the next couple of hours we enjoyed close to non-stop action. The fish weren't large — this year, a huge year-class of 16- to 20-inch schoolies dominates the catch. But these fish more than made up for in numbers and spunk what they lacked in size. Several times, I landed five or six fish on as many casts. I urged Revere to fish with me, and at least four times we had doubles.

Occasionally, a surface boil or a working bird gave us a clue where a fish might be and a fly dropped into a boil was immediately hit. But mostly it was blind casting. There are larger fish around; we just didn't happen to find any on this day. My other sources report good numbers of stripers in the 30- to 36-inch range in Cape Cod waters, plus the usual complement of giants, rare but always possible. You just have to be in the right place at the right time on the right tide.

Revere is the kind of guide I particularly enjoy fishing with. She's personable, enthusiastic, has good equipment, knows the water she fishes and the habits of the fish she seeks. She also takes delight in putting her clients on fish. Revere grew up in the area and returned after escaping the corporate New York world. She enjoys what she's doing.

Her rates are \$375 for one or two anglers on a four-hour trip. As noted, there's no time lost in running to the fishing grounds. A six-hour trip for two is \$525. Bring your own lunch; Revere provides ice and cold drinks.

If you want to stay at the Belfry Inn, they are offering a package deal: A two-night stay in a deluxe room, including breakfast and a day of fishing for one or two anglers is \$790. With a half day of fishing the price is \$665. If you take a keeper bass, their chef

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will serve it to you for dinner.

If you are really the adventurous sort, Revere is exploring the idea of a two- or three-day circumnavigation of Cape Cod, fishing as you go. She's

not yet ready to offer it to paying customers, and any such jaunt would be heavily weather-dependent. But I love the idea and have already signed on to be a guinea pig if the opportu-

nity arises. You can read a report of her early explorations at http://www.flyfishinsalt.com/fishing_report.jsp?ID=42997. Enjoy!
— Tim Jones.

Briefly Noted

Things To Do... Places To Go... New Developments

■ You almost need a score card to keep up with the new lodges in The Bahamas. The latest we have heard about is one going up on the western tip of Little Abaco — that tiny sliver of an island that juts over the end of Grand Bahama Island like a mini-umbrella. The developer of the lodge is a Florida real estate developer and fanatical bonefisherman by the name of William Paterson, Jr.

What makes the lodge interesting is its remote location. Right now, no one is fishing anywhere near the spot where it is going up. More interesting still is the involvement of the famed Pinder Brothers, who have made a name for themselves over the years as guides on Grand Bahama. Paterson tells us William Pinder will hold a financial interest in the lodge, and his brother David will be head guide.

Paterson had just returned from Little Abaco last month when we called him to inquire about the lodge. He had good things to say about the number and size of the fish he had seen. Among those he caught was a 8½-pounder. He says there is lots of good wading territory to be explored around Little Abaco. He invited us to call the Pinders and confirm what he said about the fishing.

Indeed, William Pinder said early clients into the lodge next year are going to be in for a treat. He says there are genuine double-digit bones around. He caught one this spring on an exploratory trip to Little Abaco that would weigh 15 pounds, he says. Questioned about the weight, he insisted that it was indeed that big. He offered to send us a photo. We'll post it to our web site when we receive it.

In the meantime, we should note that William and his brothers plan to continue to fish Grand Bahama. "We'll be able to offer a split trip," William said. "Half on Grand Bahama and half on Little Abaco, if anyone is interested."

At present, Paterson said his lodge plans were not far enough along for us to list his phone number. He did give us an e-mail address, however: williampl@bellsouth.net. As for when he and the Pinders will be able to host their first clients, the date is a bit slippery at present. Paterson said the outside date is May 2007. The in-



side date is January 2007. You can reach the Pinders directly about all this, by the way, at: 242-557-6624.

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■ Still on the subject of new lodges, there is also a major new one on Christmas Island. We have that from Kay Mitsuyoshi of Fishabout (Tel. 408-356-5899. Web: www.fishabout.com), who tells us his firm will be the coordinating agent for all bookings into a group of new beachside bungalows called "The Villages." The development is right on the beach, Mitsuyoshi says, which means anglers

most days will be able to board boats right out front for transportation to the flats. He says the highly regarded local guide, Teannaki, will be heading up the fishing.

At this writing only a dozen or so anglers have visited "The Villages," which means little feedback is available other than that provided by Fishabout. We will be able to provide objective feedback soon, however, as Fishabout has donated a trip to our Online Extra FREE Fishing Program. This means a carefully selected Online Extra subscriber will be visiting "The Villages" soon free of charge and filing a report. You can learn more about this program and how to get involved in it by going to our web site, www.anglingreport.com.

Mitsuyoshi says he is confident that "The Villages" is going to raise the bar on Christmas Island as regards food and lodging, and hold its own as a fishing provider. He says the development was put together by a local village council. The manager at present is a villager whose other job is Minister of Tourism.

We wouldn't be doing our job if we didn't tell you that the emergence of another outfitter on Christmas Island is not unalloyed good news. The worry at this point on Christmas Island is the pressure that is going to be placed on the flats if all of the current operations are fully booked. Those operations include the Captain Cook Hotel, booked by Frontiers (800-272-5656); Christmas Island Outfitters, booked by Flywater Travel (800-552-2729); the Mini-Hotel in downtown London (various agents and/or self-booked); and now "The Villages."