

# **Jeff Currier** *global fly fishing*

Saturday, May 20, 2006

Home sweet home

Victor, Idaho

Dear friends and family,



It's pretty darn nice here in Victor this morning, but as a Cub fan, may as well stayed back in Egypt and enjoyed life with no sports news!

Egypt was an incredible trip! It seems strange, fishing in Egypt, but Lake Nasser of the Nile River is a fantastic venue. We

left out of Aswan at 4 am for the Sudan border town of Abu Simbel on May 9th. We lined up on the edge of Aswan at roadside to join a caravan of trucks, busses and mini buses to be led across the desert by the Egyptian army. Supposedly there are no dangers out in the desert, but it's general procedure to use an escort and everyday there is one convoy to Abu Simbel and then at night one back to Aswan. We were speeding across the desert by 5 am and for 3 hours I watched the sun rise over some of the most forbidden lands of the world.

Once in Abu Simbel we visited the famous ruins that were spectacular. At 11am, we boarded our mother ship. The mother ship was a large houseboat like rig trailing 25ft boats that would serve as our fishing vessels and our homes. Each of these boats actually had two beds and you put your gear under your bed. The mother ship would be home for our staff (cooks, mechanics, security and guides) and where we would eat and drink for the next 9 days.

The massive Lake Nasser is about 140 miles long and we fished it from our put-in at Abu Simbel all the way back up to Aswan. We didn't make it far the 1st day as an episode of "Monsoon Currier" came about. We were met by a major sandstorm that made us beach in a small cove for the 1st day of the trip. Then it rained. Funny, they hadn't had a bad sandstorm in 6 months and no rain since 1996! This was my second sandstorm of my life and I spent most of the time hunkered down in my boat brushing sand out of my sleeping bag and telling stories of the last one to anyone that would listen.



During the next 8 days we fished our way up the lake from sunrise to sunset. Chris Bailey fished along with me while his camera man documented much of our fishing for his tv show. I spent 99% of my time rock hopping off the banks of islands pulling big tarpon size streamers just above submerged rocks. Anytime I dragged the fly along a ledge something would peel out and grab it. This something was often a baby Nile perch of about 6lbs. Rarely were the Nile Perch much smaller, and if you hit the African Angler link on my website, you saw that these bad boys get 300lbs! There were other fish as well. Sometimes the fly would be ambushed by an Egyptian Tigerfish, a talapia or even a freshwater puffer fish.

Nile Perch grow to over 300lbs. It's unlikely to see such a beast at the shores edge, but perch of 40lbs are not uncommon. 40 lb was both Chris' and my biggest landed on the fly. Ironically we both achieved these catches on the 2nd day. We thought at the time that we may each land a 100lb fish during the week, but soon realized that the 40's were very, very lucky catches.

During the 9 days we landed about 100 Niles on fly, averaging one over 10lb per day. That's landed. We likely got our butts handed to us by 3-5 other Niles each day that were not landed. I hooked numerous fish in the 20 to 40lb range, but unlike the miracle 40lber caught on the second day, they won the battle. Usually they would use their immense power to bust



us off on the rocks. If you managed to hold them off there then they would run straight out and jump, often freeing the fly with gill rattling head shakes. Twice, I sight cast to fish of more than 75lbs!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Sounds like a fish story, but I developed a good eye for size because we trolled up some pigs several times. I landed several fish over 50lb trolling and Chris landed a 100 lb Nile! Imagine being there to see a 100lb fish landed in freshwater!

Both big boys I cast to followed my fly to my feet where they then saw me and bolted to the deep leaving me shaking!

Our trip was a great success. Chris Bailey's camera crew thinks they got 3 TV shows for his "Reel Outdoors". One about fly fishing off the rocks for baby Nile's, tigerfish and etc, one that will show some monsters that we trolled up and last, a show where we lucked into our 40lb fish on the fly. I'll have details as to when they air - likely next fall.

I haven't even touched on the fabulous cat fishing we did every night out the back of our boat which included a rare landing of an electric catfish. Ask me how shocked I was when I grabbed on to him at 3 am!

Ha ha! Nor have I touched on the beauty of Lake Nasser itself or the Nubian people that led us through our journey. Obviously you can't sum up 2 weeks of adventure in an email. But this message should give you an idea about the trip.



This trip may very well have been the best of my life. I enjoyed the trip so much that I plan to make it back within the next two years. Egypt is a long way to go, but I have not seen such untapped fishing and as we all know, such fishing doesn't come often. It seems like I was

just figuring it out and was getting close to that 100lber on the fly when it was time to come home. I'm sure most of you have many places you want to fish on the long list that doesn't include Egypt, but if this ever changes or you get a wild hair, let me know. This is an unreal venue to spend with friends!

Until next time, expect some photos in the next week!

Be cool,

JEFF