



The Money Man Robert Rubin

As the kids say, Robert Rubin is *money*. The former Secretary of the Treasury under President Clinton, Rubin is Citigroup's Chairman of the Executive Committee and recently founded the Hamilton Project, an economic think tank focused on growing America's economy. An avid fly fisherman (and *FR&R* reader), Rubin talked with us while on his way to Florida to fly-fish in the Everglades for snook.

How did you start fly-fishing?

I was on Grand Bahama Island fishing for bonefish with a spinning rod when I saw a guy with a fly rod. My guide said, "He's fly-fishing for bonefish but that's too hard." So I went home and bought a fly rod and a book by Joan Wulff that taught you how to cast a fly. I haven't fished with a spinning rod since then.

Do you have a home water?

I fish all over the place, but I do a lot of bonefishing. About 10 years ago a group of 10 of us built a bonefish lodge on Grand Bahama called North Riding Point. I usually go there for maybe three one-or-two-day trips a year and every Christmas I go bonefishing for a day or two on Ane-gada. I love being on the flats—the fish are always moving, and you've got all the conditions you have to manage.

Where are you headed next?

Next week I'm going to Palmyra, an

uninhabited island in the South Pacific that is owned by the Nature Conservancy. My friend's flying his own plane out there, so I can go with him. It's bonefish mostly, but there are some other fish on the flats that they fish for.

Are you a dry or wet guy?

I'll do whatever is involved, but I love using light rods. You can only use them on a certain kind of water, but I like using 1- and 2-weights. It's a much more delicate experience.

In October on the Boulder, I caught an 18-inch rainbow using a 1-weight rod with a 6X leader, size 20 fly. Pretty exciting.

You must have fished with some big names.

I went fishing with President Carter in Tierra del Fuego. He's a very skilled and careful fisherman. When I was with the treasury department one of my Secret Service detail told me where President Carter would go fishing when he was living in the White House so I started going there. The President had a friend named Wayne Harpster who had a big farm on Spruce Creek, a famous river that I had never heard of, and you could pay him for rod time.

How do you stay connected to the sport while living in Manhattan?

I own part of the Urban Angler in the City. Three times a year, we have a private dinner for friends and talk fishing. We talk about the places we've been, and discuss a bonefish technique or a new kind of equipment. We've had a Nobel Prize winner, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, a former president of the World Bank as part of our group.

What is it about fly-fishing?

It's just the doing of it. It's like tennis—I love hitting a tennis ball. We live in the city, but when I'm out at my Pound Ridge home, I'll go in the front yard and just cast. I love casting a fly rod. •