

NEWSLETTER #16 - SEPTEMBER 2003

If you have access to Microsoft Word, open the attachment above to see the information below in a more "reader friendly" format.

Leland Fly Fishing Travel Newsletter – September '03

TOPICS IN THIS ISSUE:

- Brazil Peacock Bass Adventure Planned For Early '04
- Update for '04: Dean River Steelies
- Dean River/Moose Lake Lodge Combo Trip Report
- What Happened To The Sacred Permit Crab Fly? – Belize Update
- Patagonia Special Offered By Top Lodge
- Update for '04: Kamchatka Adventure
- November Skeena R. Steelhead trip

This is the sixteenth edition of our monthly newsletter with updates on great fly fishing venues and insights for our traveling fly fishers. We want to help you match the right location with your fly fishing goals and objectives and properly prepare you to fully enjoy the experience. We've been to most locations and pride ourselves on our ability to research new sites. 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.

AMAZON PEACOCK BASS TRIP PLANNED

Karl Kirbus, co-manager of the San Francisco shop, is putting together a small group of adventurers to visit Brazil in the early part of '04 in pursuit of the giant peacock bass and other tropical species that swim in this rainforest watershed. The venture is in it's early planning stages (dates aren't even set yet). If you have any interest, give us a call to discuss.

DEAN RIVER '04 – A WAITING GAME

We're still waiting for the calendar and availability to be finalized for the '04 season for John Blackwell's lower Dean River Lodge. For those of you that have contacted us regarding space on the Dean for next year, your inquiries have been recorded and we're just waiting to see how things are going to shake out to respond to you. One thing that has been decided – the combination week dates for the split trip (Dean River Lodge and Moose Lake trout lodge) will be July 3 – 10, '04. A trip report from this years combo trip follows.

DEAN RIVER/MOOSE LAKE LODGE COMBINATION TRIP REPORT

Bob and John Noyes were on the combo trip this summer and Bob put together a fine report on the experience. The entire report is available via e-mail – following are some excerpts that help define the dual nature of the trip:

".....the reel sings and keeps on singing.....you think you are in control, but really know you aren't.....in and out, back and forth....which muscles – yours or the fish will get tired first.....bring it to shore.....a 15 pound-male silver dollar- sea lice covered steelhead.....after dinner we fly to Moose Lake Lodge and get ready for three days of fly-ins to streams fished by no more that 8 to 10 people the whole summer.....40 to 50 rainbows each day on a 4 weight using dry flies.....12 – 14 inch feisty rainbows all day long kind of fishing."

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SACRED PERMIT CRAB FLY? – BELIZE REPORT

Last month's newsletter featured a report on an early August permit trip aboard the Seaduction in Belize – that report missed a very interesting fact. The guys hooked 7 permit on the trip -- none of them on the traditional crab fly. All were taken on a Peterson Spawning Shrimp. One advantage to a shrimp pattern on the coral flats of Belize is that it can be stripped, keeping it from coming in contact with the turtle grass/coral bottoms whereas the crab pattern doesn't fish well with much movement. However, the crab fought back two weeks later when Winston Moore and Nick Koontz, fishing from the Meca, hooked 13 permit, all on standard crab patterns.

Tarpon: while the above two referenced trips fished permit exclusively, two veterans of the Belize mothership trip, Bill Spence and Greg Weaver, released several species including three large tarpon on an early September trip.

TOP PATAGONIA LODGE OFFERS SPECIAL "DEAL"

One of our favorite Patagonia locations in the Chilean Andes, Isla Monita Lodge, is offering a special discount for the '04 season to attempt to entice some more travelers from the US. If you have a son or daughter of any age that you'd like to travel and fish with, they are offering a half price program for the offspring who accompanies you. Isla Monita fishes an outstanding array of water. The largest brown trout I'd ever taken previous to New Zealand, about seven pounds, was taken there in addition to some other very large rainbows on dries. This particular area of the Andes is my favorite for many

reasons – presents many great options both for fishing and non-fishing activities. Have a slide presentation available for those wanting more information.

UPDATE FOR '04: KAMCHATKA ADVENTURE

If you've got a hankering to go exploring with your fly rod on the Russian Kamchatka Peninsula, consider this: we have a working relationship with the outfitters who did some of the original exploring of this vast wilderness fourteen years ago. Today, they operate only a limited number of float trips on some of the peninsula's most pristine waters; rivers, which in some cases, they have the only available permits to float/fish. These are waters that aren't being floated by the big commercial outfits. They put together personalized agendas for groups of six. We're holding space during the prime dry fly season (mid July) and putting a shop group together for next year. I just got off the phone with the owner/operator and he told me of a trip they had this summer where two fly fishers on their first fly fishing trip ever, took rainbows on the surface of 30 and 31 inches. This definitely is a rugged adventure that is not for everyone, but if you're bitten by the Russian wilderness bug, give us a call.

NOVEMBER SKEENA TRIP – SPACE AVAILABLE

Jeff Bright is an outstanding author, photographer, and most important, steelhead junkie. He spends whatever time he can each year chasing the silver bullets. He's on his way to the Skeena River system the first week in November to scratch his itch and has room for a few good men to join him. November on the Skeena can be very good – it can be cool and rainy, but that's a small price to pay to miss the crowds there earlier in the season. Call for more details.

Either phone or drop us an e-mail if you have questions or would like more information about any of our destinations.

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