

NEWSLETTER #21 - FEBRUARY 2004

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 – February, '04

TOPICS IN THIS ISSUE:

- Discounted Poronui Ranch Offer
- Leland At San Mateo Show – Presentation On Thursday
- My Schedule – Gone to Fiji And New Zealand
- Fly Fishing Quips and Quotes
- Exciting Time Of Year For Fly Fishers
- Learning to Fly Fish The Hard Way
- Shop Trip To Belize Has Two Openings

This is the twenty-first 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.

PORONUI RANCH (New Zealand) – DISCOUNTED TRIP

Yep, we have a 25% discount on a trip to one of the globe's finest fly fishing lodges – Poronui Ranch on New Zealand's North Island. A few catches: the week is Feb 21 – 28, just four weeks from now. The regular price is \$3,250. This is one of our Leland shop weeks (Josh will be there for most of the week) and we had a last minute cancellation. Rather than forfeit the money paid, the fly fisher holding the spot is willing to discount it. If interested and can travel on short notice – call me ASAP.

LELAND'S AT SAN MATEO INTERNATIONAL SPORTSMAN SHOW

Show opens Wed, 1/28. Come by and visit us at the Leland's booth. We'll also be making a presentation on Belize and New Zealand in the Fly Fishing Theatre. If you're at the exhibition on Thursday, the slide presentation is at 1:30. It will be an exciting day for me – a few hours after the show, I'll be making for the airport to fly to Fiji for a week and then on to New Zealand (see my schedule below).

MY OFFICE AND CONTACT SCHEDULE WHILE IN FIJI AND NEW ZEALAND

If you have any loose ends or questions, please get to me before the 28th because I'll be traveling until Feb 24. My assistant, Tammi, will be in the office daily returning calls and relaying questions to me while I'm traveling via e-mail. Seems like a great combo trip and we're excited about it!

FLY FISHING QUIPS AND QUOTES

"If fly fishing interferes with your business, give up your business.....the trout do not rise in Greenwood Cemetery." *Fishless Days (1954)*

EXCITING TIME OF YEAR FOR FLY FISHERS!

Lots of exciting stuff going on for traveling fly fishers in Jan and Feb. During the next few weeks, we'll have seven clients sampling the finest waters in Chilean Patagonia. The Belize motherships with Martin McCord and Charles Westby are booked full with clients hoping a major cold front doesn't hit and they duplicate the fantasy tarpon/permit trip of Art Hinckley's group last Feb. Twenty five of our clients will be sampling the wonders of New Zealand, along with the world class rainbow and brown trout fishing. Some are pursuing sailfish (prime time for raising 10 to 20 sails a day) and rooster fish at Crocodile Bay in Costa Rica; others are chasing the giant sea-run browns of Tierra Del Fuego. Lots of exciting options that seem to offer more excitement than our gray and cold skies this time of year.

LEARNING TO FLY FISH THE HARD WAY

The most difficult environment for a newcomer to begin fly fishing would be the salt water flats where accuracy and speed of presentation are critical and conditions can be windy. Given that fact, I was surprised when a couple of non-fly fishing Texans, who had purchased a Belize mothership trip at their conservation organization auction, told me they wanted to use their trip to learn how to fly fish. After trying to discourage them, I gave into their iron willed determination and began preparing them for the frustrations they would encounter. They agreed to bring spinning equipment for some of the fishing they would

experience (tarpon, jacks, snook, etc) and use the bonefish flats to try out fly fishing (to prove they were serious, they spent over \$1000 on a new Sage bonefish rod with matching reel and line). I also prepared their guide, Martin McCord, for the challenge. I was amazed and pleased by their report and thought it was interesting enough to pass on.

On the first day, the first tailing bonefish spotted, they caught. Then the wind came up. Martin made all the casts when the wind was not favorable and they studied his technique. By the end of their trip, they had caught several bonefish on the fly in addition to using their spinning equipment to catch jacks (to 30+ pounds), barracuda, snappers, and jumped several tarpon to 40#. One of them commented to me after the experience that previously he had reservations about fly fishing, but now he understood that "spin fishing is just catching; fly fishing is really fishing." They've rebooked another Belize trip for next January and are studying New Zealand. Casting lessons are being arranged. Gotta love it. I still don't recommend the salt water flats as the initial learning grounds to begin a fly fishing career, but if one is determined enough and willing to put up with the frustrations, it can work! (Thanks to Billy Cowser for this report)

LELAND-FRONTIERS AGENT AGREEMENT

In addition to the many great destinations that we represent, Leland Fly Fishing Adventures also has an agreement with Frontiers to represent all their properties (many of which we already represent independently). If you are considering any of the destinations that Frontiers offers, please give us a call as it's virtually the same process as booking through Frontiers, and we need the "bonus points." And, we may have some personal experiences that can add to your knowledge and preparations.

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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