

NEWSLETTER #53 - OCTOBER 2006

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Fly Fishing Adventures Travel Newsletter, October, 2006

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We are in the fifth year of publishing our monthly newsletter with updates on great fly fishing venues, trip reports 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. One of our services is to compare and contrast different lodges/outfitters. 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.**

FISH FIRST! ALBANY SHOP PRESENTATION WEDNESDAY, 10/25

On next Wednesday, Oct. 25, I'll be in Fish First's Albany shop most of the afternoon. At 12:30 we'll have a presentation titled "Stalking The World's Great Gamefish With A Fly Rod." This presentation hops around the globe from the American West to Patagonia, to New Zealand, Belize and several other spots. The focus is on the excitement of stalking and sight casting to trout, bonefish, tarpon, etc. Come on in and say "hi."

FAMILY WEEK AT ALASKA'S BRISTOL BAY LODGE

We book Alaskan adventures at most of Alaska's top lodges, but for a variety of reasons which I am happy to explain, Bristol Bay Lodge is our favorite. For those with families considering an Alaska adventure, here's a program worth attention. Bristol Bay is having a special family week next summer, July 28 – Aug 4. The big attraction is that kids go for half price during this special week. Bristol Bay is one of Alaska's great fly out lodges with a regular weekly rate of \$6,850 so the savings are significant. If you'd like more details, hit "reply."

PATAGONIA.....PART II

Patagonia is a loosely defined general geographic area that encompasses the southern parts of Argentina and Chile. From the fly fisher's viewpoint, it includes three different environments: the Chilean Fjords, the Chilean Andes, and, in Argentina, the pampas and eastern side of the Andes. Last month, we focused on the Chilean Fjords; this month we discuss the Chilean Andes and next month, the article will be on Argentina and east of the Andes.

The Andes rise up from the edge of the Pacific. The glacier capped spine of the Andes in much of Patagonia is the border between Chile and Argentina. You may remember how skinny the country of Chile looked in your geography books. In some places, it's less than 50 miles from the Argentina border to the Chilean coast. Packed into that narrow countryside is a dramatic array of peaks and valleys.

When Chile's trout fishing was first discovered, it was the Lakes District in the general area of Puerto Montt and north that grabbed all the attention. Next, the center of interest moved south, using the town of Coyhaique (and the airport at Balmaceda) as the jump off point for a Chilean adventure. Soon, the waters in this area got a lot of attention and with the attention, came the people, mostly from the US. Our favorite area of Chile remains one of its most rural and least visited – the area between Puerto Montt and Coyhaique.

There are many lodges and ways to approach Chile. One of the special lodges rests in the Andes south of the village of Chaitan and offers a variety of Patagonian experiences. First, it's a small personal operation that hosts a maximum of six fly fishers. Additionally, there is an eco-tour program for the non-fishing traveler. In addition to many rivers, streams, and lagoons they float and wade, they do horse back trips into the Andes, overnight float trips through the Andes, and have an outpost cabin on the Argentine border.

The main attraction is the rainbows and browns with an average size fish that exceeds the Argentine side of the Andes. There are many three to five pound fish taken in this area and a seven or eight pounder is a real possibility. It is an area of stunning beauty and a great backdrop to cast a fly.

HOSTED CAMPECHE BABY TARPON TRIP IN JUNE HAS TWO OPENINGS

Situated on the Western coast of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, the Tarpon Coast offers a magnificent shallow water habitat and some of the best baby tarpon fishing in the world! Over forty miles of coastline allows dedicated anglers to explore an incredible variety of shallow water flats, bays and interior lagoons in pursuit of one of the world's great gamefish. And when the day is done, anglers can enjoy the old world charms of Campeche, a city steeped in Mexican and Mayan culture. Leo Siren, manager of the Fish First! Fly Shops has the week of June 15 – 21 booked for a group of six. Openings for two rods remain – price is \$2,350pp based on double occupancy and shared guide.

AFRICAN SAFARI PRESENTATION – WEDNESDAY, 11/1

What's an African Safari doing in our newsletter? Last year, while in New Zealand, we had dinner with a well traveled gentleman who, the previous year, had taken his extended family (a group of a dozen, including a few small grandchildren) on a very successful African Safari. He described the year's worth of research they did to come up with the best possible outfitter, one with a solid reputation who would tailor their adventure to his family's desires and needs. Because I have considered the same type of adventure for our family, I became interested and, after arriving home, he sent me the results of his research. I contacted the outfitter and asked him to let me know if he would be in Northern California. He is going to be making a presentation in our Napa Fly Fishing Theatre at 9:30am on Nov. 1. He may also be available for a small group presentation at another Bay Area location while he's here. If you have any interest, let me know.

FANTASY STUFF: ANOTHER FERNIE BULL TROUT EPISODE

The August newsletter detailed a fantasy day had by Josh Luftglidden which involved releasing over 15 monster bull trout on a tributary of the Elk River in B.C. Now Pat Patterson checks in with another Elk River Bull Trout episode that Pat termed "the most exciting experience of my fly fishing career" and he didn't even land a fish! Pat was having a wonderful day with several (he had lost count by the end of the day) fat and feisty native West Slope Cutthroat from 15 to 21 inches taken on dry flies when a fish he had hooked began frenzied activity. The smallish fish took off on a run up, around, and across the pool and the guide shouted "bull trout – it's being chased by a bull trout!" Indeed, as the fish neared the drift boat, they could see the cutthroat wedged cross-ways in the jaws of a fish that Pat said "would have exceeded the 24 pound, 35" sea run brown I caught in Terra del Fuego." The guide instructed Pat to give the fish line with the hope that he'd swallow the cutthroat. The rest of the story from Pat – "I did give him line and the bull trout moseyed away from the boat over to the shallows, about 12 inches of water, and proceeded to thrash around like a crocodile, as he tried to maneuver the cutthroat into position to swallow. We finally thought he had done so as the commotion stopped, and I slowly reeled in the fish. Only the cutty was left and he was the saddest looking sad sack I ever saw." They were able to revive and release the fish, but he was "one unhappy fish."

“SAN FRANCISCO DAY” – TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31

If you are in San Francisco, we have scheduled Tuesday, October 31 as our next day in the City. To view a list of the slide presentations we have available, go to our website www.flyfishingadventures.org. Under the link for “Newsletters/Trip Reports” is the list of slide shows. I am available by appointment to stop by your office or home for discussion and/or slide presentations from our library. Also, I’m available to get together for a cup of coffee or soft drink almost anywhere in the City.

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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