

NEWSLETTER #30 - NOVEMBER 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 – November '04

TOPICS IN THIS ISSUE:

- BUSH STREET "DESTINATION DAY" 11/11 – PATAGONIA AND NEW ZEALAND, SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE WINTERTIME OPTIONS
- TROPHY HUNTING WITH A FLY ROD – THE EXPECTANCIES
- AVAILABILITY UPDATE FOR LELAND SHOP TRIPS
- WORLD CLASS STEELHEAD LODGES: FEW '05 SPOTS REMAIN DURING PRIME TIME
- TRIP REPORTS: New Zealand and a Belize couples/honeymoon experience
- FANTASY FISH AND DAYS
- ADDITIONAL INFO ON PUTAH CREEK
- QUIPS AND QUOTES

This is the thirtieth 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. 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.

BUSH STREET SHOP DESTINATION DAY, THIS THURSDAY, NOV 11 – PATAGONIA AND NEW ZEALAND, SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE WINTER OPTIONS

Next Thursday, Nov 11, has been designated as our monthly Destination Day in the Bush Street shop. I'll be in the shop from 11:00am through the evening. The scheduled slide presentations will be 12:30 and 5:00 and feature two of the best wintertime options, New Zealand and Patagonia. When the skies get gray and cold in California, it's a wonderful time to be in the Southern Hemisphere. There are still some great options in Patagonia available, even a few discount weeks in some of our favorite areas. New Zealand is always a "win" and there are still possibilities for the later season in '05. If NZ is in your future, it's not too early to be thinking about '06. If you want to go "prime time," NZ planning should start 12 months out to leave the best options open.

Personal slide presentations by appointment can be scheduled on any of our destinations. Let me know if you'd like to make an appointment and what destination you'd like me to be prepared for. Drop in and say "hi" and let's discuss the exciting possibilities of fly fishing travel.

TROPHY HUNTING WITH A FLY ROD – THE EXPECTANCIES

If your goal in fly fishing is to pursue the real trophy fish (the 10# rainbow or brown, the 6# brook trout, the 15-20# steelhead; or in saltwater, the 10# bonefish or releasing a tarpon or permit, etc.) what should your expectancies be? The first assumption that should be made is that you are going to spend a lot of time hunting. The action will most likely not be fast.

It's true that those rare fantasy days happen if you are in the right place at the right time: you can have a day where six 5-8 pound brookies find your net or maybe you jump five tarpon and get three to the boat. However, it's a truism that the real trophies are usually not found in large numbers – that's why they're trophies. So to make sure your head is in the right place at the outset, you have to be into the hunting aspect. You must be willing to measure the experience of the hunt rather than the numbers of fish hooked.

AVAILABILITY UPDATE FOR LELAND SHOP TRIPS

Leland Fly Fishing Outfitters has an array of exciting trips scheduled where someone from our shop staff will be accompanying the group. Here's a update:

March '05: Karl Kirbus will be taking a group of eight to Christmas Island – spots still open.

June '05: Saltwater fly fishing school, Belize – trip full, no availability

August '05: Keith Westra will again be hosting a Belize mothership trip, maximum of 5 rods – spots still open.

Sept '05: X-Alaska guide, Matt Paluch, will be leading a trip for trophy rainbows and silver salmon to one of Alaska's finest lodges. Spots still open.

July '06: Leland shop trip to the Minipi River in Labrador for giant brook trout is sold out. However, there are a few prime weeks with availability still in both '05 and '06.

For more info, check with Karl, Matt, or Keith in the shop or hit reply and send me a message.

WORLD CLASS STEELHEAD LODGES: FEW '05 SPOTS REMAIN DURING PRIME TIME

Getting space during the heart of the steelhead run on British Columbia's finest steelhead rivers is becoming a challenge.

Here are the prime time spots that are still available at two of our favorites:

Dean River Lodge (Blackwell's lodge on the lower Dean): 2 spots open 7/29 – 8/5, \$5,500pp

Babine Steelhead Lodge (Babine River): 4 spots open 10/8 – 14. Even though the price is not yet final for the '05 season, they are completely sold out - virtually all returning clients. Price will be in the \$4,000-4,500 range.

TRIP REPORTS: New Zealand and a Belize couples/honeymoon experience

Cathy and Tim Regan visited New Zealand in September. Limited time only allowed a stay on the North Island and a few days of fishing. Tim brings us our first NZ wintertime experience as there is not much fly fishing available at that time of year.

However, the rivers in the Taupo area are open and can provide some quality fly fishing for trophy rainbows and that's where

Tim's efforts were focused (see fantasy fish section). Some of Tim's comments:

"New Zealand is great and everything they say: friendly, helpful and fun people and beautiful landscape. Would I go back to NZ? You bet." The NZ guides are truly special in the realm of fly fishing guides and Tim expressed his opinion about the man (Dave Conley) he fished with: "He was a skilled, literate (MA in Poli Sci), fun companion and guide. I would highly recommend him."

Erin and Glenn Prichett honeymooned in Belize. As part of the trip they visited a place that offers a quality couples experience we have heard lots of good things about, Cayo Espanto (my wife and I will be visiting Cayo Espanto ourselves the end of November following a week on the Belize mothership, Meca). Glenn's comments:

"My Wife and I were completely surprised to find out that Cayo Espanto was exactly as advertised- 'Your own Private Island.' The staff, upon arrival to departure, literally catered to our every need, but were thoughtful of our privacy at the same time. The scuba diving was exceptional and the Bone fishing was far better than I expected. Around the island itself were large schools of feeding bones. Simply wading around the island from my doorstep between our daily activities enabled me to land between 10 and 25 bones a day. There were also larger tailing fish you could cast to by kayaking a short ways. We could not have been happier with the fishing, scuba diving, food and overall service. It was a wonderful honeymoon."

"FANTASY STUFF" FOR THIS ISSUE

While fly fishing is pursued for many reasons, having a “fly fishing fantasy” experience is something we all chase. Once in a while it actually happens and this column is devoted to sharing those special moments/days.

While Tim Regan (see above) did not land a famous monster Taupo rainbow on his New Zealand trip, he did hook one of those special fish that provided several minutes of thrills before parting his 10# leader. He had one 45 minute period at the conclusion of a tough day of fishing worthy of this column. During that 45 minutes, he landed and released 5 scrappy rainbows, four of which were between 20 and 23 inches.

Matt Paluch took a 20” rainbow on a size 16 Caddis using his 1 wt rod as the highlight of his trip to the Yuba River two weeks ago.

QUIPS AND QUOTES

“There is no use in your walking five miles when you can depend on being just as unsuccessful near home.” – Mark Twain

ADDITIONAL INFO ON PUTAH CREEK

Last month’s newsletter had a story of a wonderful afternoon fishing Putah Creek. I heard from a few of you that I was remiss in reminding everyone about the New Zealand mudsnail that has infected Putah. If you do fish Putah, to avoid spreading this destructive pest to other US waters, please do the one of the following to your waders, boots, and gear:

- freeze equipment for 6-8 hours
- spray everything with Clorox or Formula 409 and scrub with stiff-bristled brush

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 book 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.

An enthusiastic traveling fly fisherman,

Don Muelrath
Leland Fly Fishing Adventures
888-347-4896

flyfish@napanet.net

www.flyfishingoutfitters.com

e-mail Josh Frazier at Josh@flyfishingoutfitters.com

If you want to be removed from our e-mail newsletter list, just hit “reply” and let us know – you’ll be removed immediately.

