

NEWSLETTER #32 - JANUARY 2005

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Leland Fly Fishing Travel Newsletter - January, 2005

TOPICS IN THIS ISSUE:

- **BUSH STREET "DESTINATION DAY" Wednesday, 1/19 – Summertime in Eastern Idaho and Wintertime where it's summer NOW; Southern Hemisphere, Costa Rica, and saltwater**
- **OPEN UP YOUR FLY FISHING OPTIONS**
- **LAST MINUTE OPENINGS AT WORLD CLASS LODGES**
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This is the thirty-second 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, Wed, Jan 19 – Eastern Idaho For This Summer - Wintertime where it's summer NOW

This Wednesday, Jan 19, will be 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 family and corporate trips to Eastern Idaho as well as destinations where it's summer NOW - Costa Rica, Southern Hemisphere, and saltwater flats.

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.

OPEN UP YOUR FLY FISHING OPTIONS

The 5 and 6 wt. rod with a floating line are probably the most commonly used rods for trout fishing situations. While I love fishing the surface with a floating line as much as anyone, I always have a 7 wt with a 200 grain sink tip and some bead-head woolly buggers in my arsenal for special situations. Even in New Zealand, the world's ultimate destination for sight fishing with a floating line, there are examples where the sink tip can get you into fish when the floating line just won't handle the situation. Example: on a "non-fishing day" while staying at Blanket Bay, my wife decided to take an afternoon nap after a busy shopping morning in Queenstown. I slipped on my waders and walked down to the lake edge. No surface activity was happening, but by wading from the shoreline, I was able to reach a drop-off with my sink tip line. In a few hours, I released 6 or 7 fish hooked 5 to 10 feet below the surface. One of my two double-digit trout taken in New Zealand was taken with the 200 grain sink tip and a woolly buggie fishing a spot where a spring creek emptied into a large lake. In Patagonia, there have been a few 5+ pound fish in my net as a result of getting subsurface with a sink tip line, especially in lagoons and inlets. In a perfect world, we'd all like to limit our fishing to floating lines; however, there are times when that sink tip allows you to create some action, and sometimes, very good action.

LAST MINUTE OPENINGS AT WORLD CLASS DESTINATIONS

Each season, there are some last minute cancellations at lodges/destinations that normally would be completely full for that particular time. Here are a few opportunities and some of these are discounted because of the short notice.

RIO GRANDE, TIERRA DEL FUEGO: Giant sea run brown trout at one of the premier lodges on the Rio Grande, Toon Ken, for the week of Feb 12 - 19, 2005 - space for 3 rods.

BABINE STEELHEAD LODGE: Our week is sold out for next Oct, but space just opened up for the week after ours, Oct. 15 - 21. The rest of the season is full.

DEAN RIVER STEELHEAD: Aug 5 - 12 has some space on the lower Dean, the hottest steelhead in the world.

PATAGONIA: Two lodges in our favorite area of Patagonia in the Chilean Andes have some space during the weeks of Feb 26 - March 5, March 12 - 19, and March 19 - 26.

BELIZE MOTHERSHIPS: Weeks with space are 3/17 - 24 (2 only); 3/28 - 4/4 (2 only); 6/29 - 7/6 (4 only); Aug 19 - 26 (6).

NEW ZEALAND: Poronui Ranch had 2 rooms and 2 guides open up for Feb 25 - March 9. Feb is full for this year with virtually all the best guides and lodges, but March has some possibilities for someone planning a last minute experience.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND: two spots are still open for our shop hosted trip March 28 - April 4.

ALASKA: Trophy rainbow/silver salmon trip Sept 3 - 10 hosted by Matt in the shop. First class Alaska experience at Bristol Bay Lodge

PLANNING FOR NEW ZEALAND IN '06??

If you are, now is the time to start the process if you want to go "prime time." The world has discovered New Zealand (The Lord of the Rings trilogy didn't help any) and the best lodges and guides book up as much as a year early. Many anglers book their next years dates when they leave from this years vacation. I'm already working on several itineraries for '06. The only way to have the best options available for your planning is to start very early.

CABO SAN LUCAS TRIP REPORT

My first trip to Cabo San Lucas took place in early January. Due to a last minute flu, our trip was delayed and I only had one guided day of fishing, but it worked out well as we did "hit it right."

Sierra Mackerel were present in good numbers at our first stop and were willing takers and scrappy critters. My partner and I released 12-15 in a few hours, mostly 4 – 6pound fish. Our guide was casting an attractor plug to raise fish in shallow water within a few hundred yards of the beach. Had one sierra that we had hooked-up and it was grabbed by a large 50-60# rooster fish that ran about 200 yards before letting go. We did attract one dorado that stayed in our area and followed the cast teaser four different times. After blowing the first three casts at it, I finally got the popper in front of her and she grabbed. The 15# fish put up a great tussle with constant jumps before settling into a deep water tug-o-war. I've had 30-40# tarpon who weren't as tough as this fish to get to the boat. She did have the advantage of access to deeper water, as opposed to a shallow flats hooked tarpon.

This was my personal fantasy fish for the month - a beautiful fish taken on the surface with a sight- casting opportunity. We also raised several rooster fish, but couldn't get things to line up right.

We fished with Grant Hartman who does a great job of catering to fly fishers - no trolling flies here; his approach is one of getting fish into a fly casters range. Grant has 3 double hulled 26 ft skiffs with dual 115hp outboards, great equipment for this sort of fishing. Overall, a good sight fishing/hunting experience, especially the dorado and roosters. They slash and dart so quickly that it is great excitement trying to get the fly in front of them in an enticing manner.

Cabo offers good inshore fly fishing year round. May, June and July offer a special opportunity – sight fishing from the beach for roosters that reach 40 – 60 pounds, but are more common in the 15 – 25# range. This is stalking from the beach and sight casting. Sounds like a great "hunt" option for casters with the skills to make a fast 50-60 foot presentation into the wind. Naturally, he's almost fully booked for these months for

this hunting experience. It's on my "must try" list of fly fishing experiences. Price for a day is \$480 for two. It's on our list of destinations we will book. (Note: will have Cabo slides with me Wednesday)

FANTASY FISH EXPERIENCES

You may recall the name John "Pinky" Spencer - his fame stems from having his first permit featured on the Belize video tape. John was recently on the Sacramento River and was having a good day with a few 16-18 inch rainbows. John was fishing a small nymph attached to a 4x tippet when a 40+ pound king salmon grabbed. He chased the fish all over the river until the leader finally parted after 90 minutes of out of control pursuit.

Gotta love these New Zealand stories - this month's comes from Bob Turner who reports one day where he landed a 7 and an 8 pound brown trout, both fish rising to the surface to take a size 16 caddis. Does it get any better than that!!!! Only in New Zealand!!

QUIPS AND QUOTES

Thanks to Lani Waller who summed up the New Zealand experience with these words (I leave this week on my annual NZ adventure and can't wait): "New Zealand is the one place in the world where all the best elements of fly fishing come together."

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.

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