

NEWSLETTER #26 - JULY 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 – July, '04

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This is the twenty-sixth 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.

BUSH STREET SHOP DESTINATION DAY, WED, JULY 21 – WINTER TRIP IDEAS

Next Wednesday had 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 at 12:30 and 5:00pm and will focus on great wintertime venues – featured will be New Zealand, Chile, and Crocodile Bay, Costa Rica. Also, I'll have with me the photos from our recent trip to Teton Springs (see below). Personal slide presentations by appointment can be scheduled on any of our great 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.

TETON SPRINGS – GREAT FAMILY SPOT

Our family spent the majority of last week checking out a great new development in eastern Idaho at the base of the Tetons. The name is Teton Springs and it lived up to all the good things I'd heard. It starts with the log cabin headquarters – 2500 to 4500 square foot log cabins with two to five bedrooms starting at around \$300 per night for the group. Each cabin is distinctly furnished and has a fully equipped kitchen and BBQ. It's been two years under construction and the final product won't be completed until the end of '05, but enough was in place to make this a great spot for a family or corporate group gathering. 18 hole championship golf course (5 tee boxes) plus another 9 hole par three course. Seventeen small lakes with planted Yellowstone Cutthroat trout (14 – 18 inches) and the headwater streams of the Teton River flowing through them – great spot to get newcomers involved for the first time in catching fish on a fly. The list of outdoor activities that can take place from this destination includes:

- Fly fishing on the many famous rivers in the area including the Teton River and the South Fork of the Snake.
- Hourly, all-day or overnight horseback trips into the Teton range

- All the amenities of the development including pool, mountain bikes, spa, tennis courts, etc – some of which is not yet completed.
- Day trip to Yellowstone National Park which is a little over an hour away.
- Hiking – there are several beautiful hikes ranging from just a few hours to full day or overnights.
- Mountain climbing if you have anyone into that sort of thrill.
- Overnight float and fly fishing trip through the South Fork of the Snake River Canyon. Beautiful setting and great guided fishing. The night is spent in a stationary tent camp with cots in tents – no sleeping on the ground. Great two day outdoors/fly-fishing experience that we've done twice.

I'll have my slides from our recent trip with me in the shop next Wed – if you'd like to make an appointment to view and discuss this destination, let me know beforehand.

DESTINATION OPENINGS

Some late openings for exciting fly fishing destinations:

- Dean River – have one spot during one of the “treasured weeks” for this great steelhead fishery that opened when the regular who's been occupying this week for years ran into family health issues – July 23 – 30. Offering a 50% discount (reg price 4,500).
- Minipi River, giant brook trout. My son and I are returning for our fourth trip July 30 – Aug 6; still two openings remain at the lodge for our week.
- Babine River, steelhead prime week of Oct 9 – 15. Four openings at lodge for week.
- Holiday weeks on the famous Rio Grande River, Tierra del Fuego; lodges include Kau Tapen, Toon Ken, and Villa Maria are discounted while they last (\$5,900pp). Weeks in the time frame of 12/11 to 1/8.

TRIP REPORTS: FROM NEWCOMERS AND VETS ALIKE

Reports from “first timers” to fly fishing, Susan Lowe and Miles King. Susan was at South Fork Lodge with her husband Ed and friends Lorraine and Dick Whitehurst. Susan commented: “It was fantastic! The lodge was first class and the guides were great! Lorraine and I caught 3-4# trout on our first day out. I would recommend it to anyone.”

Miles was fishing eastern Idaho out of Jackson, Wyoming, with a group of friends and family. Part of their package included fly casting lessons on the water. They spent two full days learning to fly fish and remarked: "Excellent time. We all caught fish – the guides were great. We learned the fundamentals, all in all a very good experience. I'd recommend your service to anyone."

From Rob Appleby who was with family and did the overnight South Fork of the Snake River Canyon float while headquartered at Teton Springs: "Had a great time. Teton Springs is really beautiful. We were very impressed with the quality of the place."

From William Owens with a group of four friends recently on their first Belize mothership trip on the Meca: "We had a fantastic trip. We jumped 60+ pound tarpon on the fly and saw what seemed like tailing bonefish everywhere on the flats.....got close to 20 shots at permit, only to leave without one. We have nothing but praise for the crew of the Meca. Meals were fantastic. We typically try to fish different places each year, but this trip was such a great time we are leaning strongly to returning next year."

NEW BELIZE PACKAGE FOR '05

In addition to the standard 7 night package and extended 10 night package on the Meca and Seaduction in Belize, there will be a new 6 night package. Open dates available for next year will be determined in the next 10 days as we have almost finalized the dates for our "repeaters" who have the "right of first refusal."

"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.

How 'bout a Father's Day gift of an 18 pound rainbow trout? The fishing gods smiled on Terry Sternberg on Papa's Day this year delivering a giant rainbow taken on a peasant tail in Battle Creek in Northern California. It took over 30 minutes to get this guy into the net.....or rather as Terry put it "half in and half out of my net." What's very special about this report is that it comes from waters here in Northern Calif – not Alaska, New Zealand, etc

QUIPS AND QUOTES

New Zealand guide Dean Bell delivers this one for us:

"As fly fishers, we strive for that moment of blissful harmony, satisfying the ego and putting the soul at rest."

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

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