

## NEWSLETTER #24 - MAY 2004

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### Leland Fly Fishing Travel Newsletter – May, '04

#### TOPICS IN THIS ISSUE:

- NORTH PLATTE LODGE – TRIP RECAPS AND AVAILABILITY UPDATE
- BUSH STREET SHOP DAY – THURSDAY, 5/6, EASTERN IDAHO FEATURED
- MORE "FANTASY DAY" STUFF – BELIZE AND NEW ZEALAND
- EASTERN IDAHO – FAMILY VACATION PARADISE
- FLY FISHING QUIPS AND QUOTES

This is the twenty-fourth 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.

#### NORTH PLATTE LODGE – A SPECIAL FISHERY

Three years in a row of outstanding feedback from clients (most recent reports below) with varied skill levels and experience tells us that we should be increasing our efforts in representing a certain lodge or destination. And that is the direction we've taken with regard to North Platte Lodge. The reasons are:

- The North Platte River is a very special tailwater fishery that's well managed to produce trout in both quantity and size – mostly rainbows with some huge browns. Veteran and new fly fishers alike have praised the fishing.
- A lodge that is clean and comfortable (not luxurious) with good food, quality guides and a caring environment and pricing that makes it a real Rocky Mountain value.
- That same lodge has negotiated/purchased the access rights to many sections of the river giving them the exclusive ability to let their clients wade and fish those sections.
- It's simply the best U.S. early season (late March and early April) and late season (mid-Oct to mid-Nov) trout fishing we know of.
- Reports from clients who were there in late March and early April are below. They are similar (even with some blustery snowstorms encountered this year) to the comments we've received each of the last three years from everyone who's fished the early season dates.

The late season at North Platte Lodge also offers an interesting combination. From mid-Oct to mid-Nov, they offer a combo wing shooting and fly fishing program. The wing shooting includes upland birds (chukkar, Hungarian partridge, and pheasant) as well as ducks and geese.

Leland Fly Fishing Adventures will be handling the late March and early April dates for '05. One set of dates is already full and another is half full. Availability starts with March 17 and ends April 14. There is a special window that could work well for father-son/daughter trips since Easter falls on March 27 and students will be having their spring break. Also, the lodge is offering an "Easter Special" with a \$200 discount for the period of 3/21 – 26.

They are booked solid between now and mid-October with the exception of September 4 – 10 which we have reserved as a Leland "Week." I'm going to be paying a visit myself during that time frame and we have room for six others to join us.

#### North Platte Lodge details:

- maximum of 8 fisherman – double occupancy
- Packages: four nights with three days fishing (\$1,125) and five nights with four days fishing (\$1,500) based on double occupancy and shared guide (Easter Week discount for 3/21-26 - \$1,300).
- Prices include all terminal tackle including flies, leaders, and tippets; Casper, Wyoming airport pick up and delivery and 4 day fishing license (lodge is about 40 minutes from the airport).

“We’d heard that the early season fishery on the North Platte was outstanding, but it actually was better than we expected. Both size and numbers of fish were outstanding. 30-40 hook-ups a day were the norm and I can only recall one fish under 15 inches. Plus, there were a good percentage of 18-20+ inch rainbows. Great fishing, comfortable lodge, good food, super guides, etc. We’re planning our dates already for April ‘05 and this coming September for the dry fly action.” Bob Noyes and son John – veteran fly fishers

“HI,  
I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR RECOMMENDATION TO NORTH PLATTE LODGE. MY HUSBAND AND I WENT 3-26-04 AND HAD A WONDERFUL TIME. WE CAUGHT AROUND 175 FISH IN A FOUR DAY PERIOD. CATCH AND RELEASE ONLY THAT IS. ALL RANGING BETWEEN 14 INCH AND 21 INCH, BUT MOST I’D SAY WERE 16 OR 18 INCH. VERY VERY GOOD FISHING. THE LODGE WAS EXTREMELY CLEAN, AND THE FOOD WAS GOOD AS WELL. I CAN’T SAY ENOUGH GOOD THINGS ABOUT IT. WE’D LOVE TO GO AGAIN. THANKS AND GOD BLESS.”

Roberta Taylor – Roberta and her husband are relative newcomers to fly fishing on their second fly fishing trip

“Just thought I would send you a note to let you know how much all of us enjoyed the North Platte Lodge. The fishing was above everyone’s expectations. We were all catching between 15 and 30 fish a day and hooking up a like number of others that got away. 15” to 21” was the norm. WOW! I didn’t know that many big fish could be in one place and caught in those numbers. It was a huge success in spite of one day fishing in a blizzard with 40 mph winds (fortunately only one day). Bret and Candy are wonderful hosts and the guides were all great. Everyone wants to go back.”

Terry

Terry J. Sternberg – a combination of family and business friends with a mixture of fly fishing skills and experience.

#### *BUSH STREET SHOP DAY THIS THURSDAY – EASTERN IDAHO*

Eastern Idaho offers so many great options to the fly fisher and family. This Thursday I’ll be in the Bush Street shop with presentations on Eastern Idaho at 12:30 and 4:15. I’ll be in the shop most of the day to discuss other great venues and can have slides available. If you have a specific interest and would like me to be prepared to discuss that destination with you, it would be best to set an appointment (already booked from 2:00 – 4:00). Also, at 5:00, Steve Haggard will be making a presentation on Fly Fishing The Tahoe Region – same title as his recent book. Come in and say hi.

#### **MORE “FANTASY STUFF” – BELIZE AND NEW ZEALAND**

Most great fly fishing destinations are such spectacular spots that catching fish is a bonus. It’s being there and enjoying the overall experience that is most important. Having said that, most of us still hope for those special fly fishing experiences to occur and I usually devote part of each newsletter to some of those “dreams that came true.”

Passionate fly fisher, Bob Scitutto, had one such day on his recent New Zealand trip. Bob reports a day, while stream sight casting with our favorite independent Kiwi guide, of 11 fish for a total weight of 55 pounds – just enough to top my best-ever NZ day and I have a sneaking hunch that Bob was very aware of the number. Bob was joined by Patty on a couples New Zealand agenda. Patty didn’t fish and the itinerary allowed for a mixture of activities and different types of stays. Patty’s comments included: “NZ was a fabulous experience and I hated to leave. Highlights were the fabulous scenery, warm and generous people, and the serenity of wide open spaces. The environment is pristine and should be enjoyed while it lasts.”

Alice and Ray Hallberg are a warm and wonderful couples story. I met them four years ago when they were the first mothership charter aboard Martin McCord’s Meca in Belize. Ray and Alice had been fishing with Martin for many years and wanted to be his first clients when he completed construction of his boat. What makes this story so special is that Alice is 81 years old and Ray is 86. They’ve been taking a 12 day trip with Martin each year and this year turned out to be extra special. While fishing a shallow tarpon flat at dusk (a tarpon flat they had fished many times over the years and never before seen a permit there) Martin spotted a school of permit with their fins just breaking the water. Ray’s eyesight has not allowed him to see fish in the water for some years and he casts by Martin’s instructions – i.e., “get your line in the air, more to the left, longer, etc.,etc.” Ray made the cast and the result was a permit released at the boat after dark that was in the 30# range.

This was Ray's sixth permit, but the largest by far and special for more than just his size – this fish completed Ray's first **SALTWATER GRAND SLAM!!!!!!!!!!** I believe this is an “age class” world record for Grand Slams – does anyone know of a fly fisher over 86 who's taken a Grand Slam?

#### **EASTERN IDAHO – FAMILY VACATION PARADISE WITH OPTIONS**

Throughout the years, we've developed a great appreciation of this beautiful part of our country. Yes, there are great fly fishing waters, but it's also an exciting destination for many wonderful western outdoors experiences. Included in this small geographical area are Yellowstone National Park, Jackson Hole Wyoming, the Tetons, and several famous rivers including the Henry's Fork, South Fork of the Snake, and the Teton. Options range from staying at some of the truly “world class” fly fishing lodges such as Three Rivers Ranch, Henry's Fork Lodge, or the South Fork Lodge to fine resorts and lodges in the Jackson area.

On a personal note, we just completed planning for another family trip to this region for this summer and we're very excited about it. While we've enjoyed past family trips to Three Rivers Ranch, we're opting for a different approach this year. We've rented a new, fully furnished, 2500 square foot three bedroom log cabin to use as our headquarters. Guided drift boat fishing days are scheduled and day trips to Jackson Hole or Yellowstone are easy commutes.

An experience we've enjoyed twice in the past has been the overnight float trip through the South Fork of the Snake River Canyon. This two day drift boat excursion can be the centerpiece of a “quickee” long weekend type trip. You spend the night at the half way point at a stationary tent camp with great food and a comfortable nights sleep. Good fishing and guides, and spectacular scenery are part of the package and it's fairly reasonable at \$650 per person based on two people to a drift boat.

#### *FLY FISHING QUIPS AND QUOTES*

“It is the constant change, the infinite variety in fly fishing that binds us fast. It is impossible to grow weary of a sport that is never the same on any two days of the year.”

Theodore Gordon (1914)

#### **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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