

NEWSLETTER #1 - MARCH 2002

To: Our fly fishing patrons constantly looking for their next exciting destination

This will be the first of our monthly newsletters with updates on great fly fishing venues and other pertinent information for our traveling fly fishers. Fly fishing is a great hobby for many reasons, but maybe most rewarding is the wonderful places it brings you.

Give us a try when you begin the research for your next fly fishing destination - we've been most places and, if we haven't, pride ourselves in the ability to research locations and get the best, most accurate, information - sometimes the sort of information an outfitter won't provide.

There are two exciting fly fishing destinations we want to update you on as well as some of our hosted trips which still have openings.

NEW ZEALAND:

Many of you know that Josh Frazier (owner of the Leland shops) and I did a two week exploratory trip throughout New Zealand in early December. Even though we had some unseasonable spring weather (the Southern Hemisphere has seasons reversed from us) the last part of our trip, it was an outstanding experience. In a nutshell, if stalking and sight-casting to (and catching) 4 - 10 pound rainbows and browns in small, crystalline rivers would light your fire, this is the place. Additionally, New Zealand is a great spot for a non-fishing spouse - my wife, who doesn't fish, accompanied me and we had a great time - New Zealand is just a great place to visit, with or without a rod!

We spent time on both the North and South Islands, fished many waters (both private and public and understand the difference), did a few helicopter fly outs, located some outstanding guides and spent our last week at the "world class" Poronui Ranch. We have a hosted trip (Josh will be hosting) reserved for 2003 with a week at Poronui Feb. 15 - 22 as the centerpiece of the adventure. We'll be filling in around that week with time on the South Island and a few select spots on the North Island. To really maximize going this far (a 12 hour flight), I would suggest a minimum of 10 days, two weeks would be best.

We have 12 spots reserved at Poronui for the "Leland Week" and five of those rods are already reserved. We'll also be booking trips other than our hosted session as, based on the early feedback Josh and I have received, 12 spots will not handle all those that want to go. In fact, depending on the space we can get (yes, the best guides/lodges in NZ book over a year in advance), I may be making a return trip in early January.

Both Josh and I had the cameras snapping and we've put together a slide presentation for those who'd like to see what it's all about. After shooting film of the big NZ browns and rainbow, I don't know how I'm going to be able to get excited about taking photos of fish in the U.S. again. I'll be in both Leland shops for a day or two in January if you'd like to view the slides. Also, I'm scheduled to make three presentations at the International Sportsmen's Exhibition in San Mateo and one of those slide shows will be on New Zealand.

Let us know if you are interested in learning more or would like to make an appointment to see our slides when I'm in the shops.

Price: The week at Poronui (not including optional helicopter fly outs) is just \$2,750. The total price of the trip will depend on how the other aspects are put together and there are several choices.

FOR SALTWATER FLY ANGLERS ONLY

There is a new flats fly fishing lodge opening in Nicaragua Feb 1. What's so exciting about this lodge is that it will be the first saltwater flats fishing operation on the 400 mile Caribbean coast of Nicaragua. Just off the coast lie a string of small islands, the Pearl Cays. These cays all have their own flats populated by bonefish and permit. Additionally, there is an extensive lagoon system with a population of permit, bonefish, snook and giant tarpon. The best news is that it has never been fished by sport fisherman!! This will be stalking fish in virgin waters.

There is a lot of excitement in the world of salt water fly fishing about this new operation. Someone has spent a lot of money in researching this location and making the investment necessary to put the lodge on a private 25 acre island. The first month of operation, this Feb, is already booked by magazine editors and fly fishing celebrities to get some publicity. We have all six spots reserved for March 3 - 11. My wife, Marte, is meeting me in Belize City on March 3 as I wrap up a Belize mothership trip with some fly fishing friends. She's joining me for our week at Coco Cohiba Cay Resort. We have openings for four others to join us and must confirm by this Monday.

There is also some other space available from mid-April through June.

Fly fishing skills necessary to enjoy a trip such as this include being able to double haul to increase your line speed for long casts and dealing with prevailing breezes that accompany most saltwater flats. Accurate 50-60+ foot casts with only two or three false casts are needed to fully capitalize on the opportunities of a trip like this.

HOSTED TRIP SPACE STILL AVAILABLE:

If you did not receive our catalog of hosted trips, let us know and we'll get one out to you. Here is a brief recap of space still open for our upcoming prime-time hosted trips:

April: North Platte Lodge, 4 openings

April: Bahamas bonefish, may still have one opening?

May: Casa Blanca, 6 openings

June: Deschutes River, 6 openings

July: Minipi River Giant Brookies, 4 openings

July: Smith River, Montana, 3-4 openings

July: Ladies Week at Three Rivers Ranch, 6 openings

August: Dean River steelhead, 2 openings

Sept: Rainbow River Lodge (Copper River), Alaska 6 openings

Sept: Deschutes River steelhead, 6 openings

Oct: Belize mothership trip, 6 openings

Oct/Nov: Christmas Island, 10 openings

Captain Martin McCord's Belize mothership, the Meca, still has three weeks open for tarpon, permit, bonefish and snook from now through July - May 21 - 28, June 14 - 21, and July 16 - 23. (www.flyfishbelize.com) for details.

If you would like to be removed from our e-mail newsletter list, please hit your respond button and let me know. You will be removed instantly.

Give me a call or e-mail if you want to discuss the above or any other of our fly fishing adventures.

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