

## **NEWSLETTER #18 - NOVEMBER 2003**

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 '03**

#### **TOPICS IN THIS ISSUE:**

- Fly Fishing Quips and Quotes
- Corporate Programs and Trips
- "The way it was is how it is" ----- Minipi River, Labrador
- Exceptional New Zealand Report
- Striped Bass - Fantasy Day On The Delta
- Some Space Still Available For Early Season No. Platte Lodge
- Fly Fishing Travel Gift Certificates.....or just gifts

This is the eighteenth 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.

#### **FLY FISHING QUIPS AND QUOTES**

The charm of fly fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive – but obtainable – a perpetual series of occasions for hope. In most cases, that pursuit takes place in the most spectacular natural environments on earth.

#### **CORPORATE PROGRAMS AND TRIPS**

We have a growing array of programs available for the corporate world. They range from a forty-five minute slide presentation on Fly Fishing Earth's Pristine Destinations (no charge) to casting/fishing clinics which can range from a few hours up to a full day. These programs are tailored to the audience, depending on their level of fly fishing experience and skills.

As far as corporate trips go, here are examples of the type of trips we've assembled. All of these trips included both experienced and novice fly fishers and were matched to the skill levels of the group. Great outdoor fly fishing experiences can be structured even for those who've never held a fly rod.

- a group of 7 executives took over a small inn in Central Oregon which caters to tight-knit groups and families. Their agenda included a four hour board meeting, an evening of fly fishing (lessons for the newcomers) and a full day guided river float trip.
- Eight executives from throughout the US converged on Jackson Hole, Wyoming for a great western outdoor experience built around an overnight float trip in the canyon of the South Fork of the Snake River. Qualified fly fishing guides/instructors and outstanding food and accommodations were arranged for this event which didn't have a stated business purpose outside of building relationships while having fun together in the West. A three night event.
- A successful fly fishing salesman brought four of his best clients to an upscale fly fishing lodge in Northern California for two nights and days of fly fishing together. Cementing relationships for the future was the only business objective. The centerpiece of the long weekend was having fun with fly rods and fish.

Corporate and family trips have some aspects in common – the most important is that the trip must be built to accomplish the objectives of the group/family leader. All planning starts with understanding those objectives.

## **“THE WAY IT WAS IS HOW IT IS”**

In today's world, finding secluded and isolated destinations with fisheries that are the equal or even superior to what they were 20 or 30 years ago is a substantial challenge. Conservation efforts often come too little and too late to preserve these special watersheds or fisheries. One place that has stood the test of time and weathered it well is the Minipi River in Labrador and its giant brook trout. While most of the spectacular brook trout fisheries in eastern Canada were being destroyed by overfishing and the encroachment of man, the Minipi River has been protected and preserved. It's an example of what can be accomplished in this regard by an understanding government and effective management. Lee Wulff started these conservation efforts in conjunction with the Canadian government after his discovery of this special strain of brook trout in the late 50's and early 60's. It's been carried on by the current owners/operators of Cooper's Minipi Camps throughout the last 25 years. Today, veterans such as Ken Washburn and Bob Poole (who have fished the Minipi each year for the last 30+ years and maintained meticulous catch records), say that today the average brookie is a half-pound heavier than 20 years ago and more per week are caught and released. It would be wonderful if the phrase “the way it was is how it is” could apply to more of our once pristine environments and fisheries.

This is the same hardy environment that my son, Scott, and I will be returning to for our fourth trip in early August next year. During our previous three trips, we've released 61 fish that weighed over 5 pounds with the largest brookie of eight and a quarter pounds, near world record size – most caught on the surface. The lodge only takes 8 anglers per week and there are only two spots left for our week. If you'd like to join us or just get more information, please let me know. As with most of our destinations, we have a complete slide presentation available on the trip.

## **NEW ZEALAND REPORT**

Below is an exceptional report from the Murchison area (northern part of the North Island) from a mid-October trip. Keep in mind that these results constitute hitting it “just right” and were obtained by an experienced New Zealand traveling fly fisher. In four days, 45 browns between four and eight pounds were landed and released. About half the fish were taken on dry flies. This is “fantasy fly fishing – New Zealand style.” It's great when you hit it just right and everything works!!! Had another great early season report (last two weeks of Oct) from a couple we sent to New Zealand on their honeymoon. They reported solid results also. Guess I'm going to have to change my attitude about the early season in New Zealand??

## **DELTA FANTASY DAY – STRIPED BASS**

Casting streamers for striped bass in the delta has been part of my fly fishing calendar for the last five years. It's a great October, November, and December option to wet a line that's close to home and offers the opportunity for big fish. A few weeks ago, I shared a day on the delta with Paul Wilms (a delta veteran) and one of our favorite guides. Our results were 23 fish released with most of them schoolies and two eight-pounders the largest. Total weight for the day was 89 pounds. Those results DO NOT earn the “fantasy day” label – the day before provided the fantasy description. Paul, fishing alone with a guide, took 25 fish with six over 10 pounds and a largest of 21 pounds – that's a “fantasy day” of delta striper fishing.

## **EARLY SEASON IN THE ROCKIES**

A great early season (late March and early April) option in the Rockies is the North Platte Lodge in Wyoming. Solid results have been obtained by our clients each of the last four years during this period with a large rainbow of nine pounds being taken by Don Nelson this April. They have one of the most reasonably priced packages available for a Rocky Mountain lodge and we still have some space open for late March – early April for those wishing to “scratch their fly fishing itch” before most waters are fishing well.

## **SANTA AND FLY FISHING TRAVEL**

If you'd like fly fishing travel packages to be part of your holiday season gift giving, we have an outstanding selection and gift certificates to present. From father-son type trips to couples fly fishing adventures like Ladies Week at the famous Three Rivers Ranch in Idaho, there is a broad range of possibilities. Gifts like these have to be customized to meet your personal criteria. If you have some ideas to discuss, give a call.

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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