

NEWSLETTER #41 - OCTOBER 2005

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 - October, 2005

TOPICS IN THIS ISSUE:

- ROCKY MOUNTAIN "PRIVATE WATERS" FLY FISHING RANCHES FEATURED AT THE BUSH STREET SHOP, THURSDAY, OCT 20
- "PRIVATE WATERS" FLY FISHING RANCHES REVIEWED
- *Fly Fishing Greatest Adventures: THE HUNT* is in print....finally!!
- NEW COMBO TRIP – CHRISTMAS ISLAND AND NEW ZEALAND
- OUR FAVORITE CHILEAN LODGE – 50% DISCOUNT OFFER

We are in the fourth year of publishing 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.

THURSDAY, SEPT 20, BUSH STREET SHOP DESTINATION DAY WILL FEATURE "PRIVATE WATERS" ROCKY MOUNTAIN FLY FISHING RANCHES

Thursday, Sept 20, during our monthly Destination Day in the Bush Street shop, the featured topic will be Rocky Mountain Fly Fishing Ranches. My wife, Marte, and I just returned from an exploratory trip to one such ranch, the Pecos River Ranch in northern New Mexico (see review below). I'll have slides of my trip plus discussion of the other top end ranches of this sort. We'll have scheduled slide presentations on this topic at 12:30 and 5:00 on Thursday.

As usual, I'll be available during the day for individual appointments to view slides and discuss many of the world's great fly fishing destinations.

"PRIVATE WATERS" FLY FISHING RANCHES REVIEWED

This past week, we did an exploratory visit to one of the newer "private waters" fly fishing ranches – the Pecos River Ranch (owned by actor Val Kilmer) in Northern New Mexico. Several of our Leland clients have been frequenting other such "high end" type operations in the West for years. Their comments have been very positive so I decided to check out this new lodge to see for myself.

These type of ranches have many things in common. Among those features they share are these primary ones:

- The streams and/or rivers are for the exclusive use of their guests and they monitor the waters carefully to be sure they do not get too much pressure.
- The average size of the fish has been enhanced making a 20 inch fish the norm rather than the exception, and the opportunity to get a 25 inch or larger fish is very real.
- Accommodations are very comfortable and the overall ambiance is outstanding.
- They are expensive and not for everyone's budget.

The Pecos River Ranch is located at 7,000 feet at the southern tip of the Rockies, a 30 minute drive from Santa Fe and 90 minutes from Albuquerque. It has a very Southwestern feel from the shrubbery which varies from cactus to Ponderosa Pines, the cuisine, and the lodge itself which could be a large ranch owners home in a western movie. There are stables with excellent riding horses and hiking trails, but the main attraction is the seven miles of the Pecos River which traverse the 6,000 acre property. This is a "friendly river" which is

easy to wade and runs at between 80 and 110 cfs for most of the year – the exception being during run-off when flows can exceed 2,000 cfs during early May through mid-June.

An early winter storm had dumped 4 inches of rain on the area the day before our arrival so fishing conditions were very tough – water temps were cool, levels were up about 20% from the previous week, and it was off-color. Bad timing!! Although conditions were far less than ideal and we did only fish a day and a half, we were able to release about 15 fish, with five of them fat, healthy, rainbows of between 18 and 22 inches. I experienced enough to know the potential of the Pecos River on this ranch was very good.

For a non-fishing spouse (or occasional fishing spouse), there are activities such as hiking, horse back riding, and a day trip into Santa Fe – an appealing, upscale Southwestern community. One of the interesting aspects of the Pecos River Ranch is that it is a small, personal operation which only takes in 6 fly fishers a week (a maximum of 8 can work if it's a self-contained group or family). Another unique feature of the PRR is that it is far enough south that it fishes well much earlier and later in the season than it's Colorado Rocky Mountain private water "cousins." Cost is \$750 a day for guided fly fishing based on double occupancy and a shared guide. Non-fishing guests pay \$400 per day.

Those Colorado private water "cousins" referenced above are fabulous fisheries and wonderful operations. I'm referring to Elktrout Lodge and Three Forks Ranch. Both of them are well established with loyal followings of clients who return year after year. Also, both of them are more pricey than Pecos River Ranch. I think that PRR has a good chance to join the ranks of these "cousins" in providing an outstanding Rocky Mountain trout fishing experience and we've added them to our roster of properties.

Fly Fishing Greatest Adventures: THE HUNT is finally in print

After several years of gathering the perfect photos and 18 months in production, our book is finally in print and on a slow boat from the Asian printers, due to arrive in the US in a week or so. The early reviews we've had on the preliminary copies have been very encouraging and rewarding. The key phrases from those reviews:

"...without a doubt, the finest collection of fly fishing photographs ever...."

Jeff Mironuck, Publisher
Fly Fishing the West

"THE HUNT is one of the great fly fishing classics of all time.....unbelievably good work."
Lani Waller, author of *River of Dreams* and reknowned globe-hopping fly fisher

More news on this next month after they are in stock and ready to sell – price \$45.

NEW AIR SCHEDULE ALLOWS NEW ZEALAND – CHRISTMAS ISLAND COMBO

Two of the finest fly fishing destinations on the globe are now possible to combine in one trip to the South Pacific for those with the desire, budget, and time. Christmas Island, a premier bonefish location, and New Zealand, the world finest rainbow and brown trout experience, are now connected by the new scheduled weekly air line flight that goes from Hawaii to Christmas to New Zealand (through Fiji). If you have the desire and the bucks, this is a great combo of salt water flats and stream trout fishing. Personalized New Zealand itineraries are one of our specialties – both couples trips and the hard core fishing variety.

2 FOR 1 OFFER AT OUR FAVORITE CHILEAN LODGE – EARLY SEASON

Patagonia Base Camp Lodge is, we believe, in the finest trout fishing area remaining in South America. It is a lodge which has received rave reviews from every client we've sent there in the last few years. They have an offer on the table to try and beef up the early season for them. If you can travel in November or December and want to visit the Chilean Andes, this is a great offer – two for the price of one (\$3,850) on their regular week package. In the southern hemisphere, this is late spring/early summer time. I have both a DVD and a

slide presentation on PBCL which illustrates the outstanding variety of waters they fish – will have it with me this Thursday at the shop.

An enthusiastic traveling fly fisherman,
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