

NEWSLETTER #34 - MARCH 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 - March, 2005

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This is the thirty-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. 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.

NEW ZEALAND DAY AT THE BUSH STREET SHOP, WED., MARCH 23

Our many sojourns to New Zealand in the last five years have spawned a passion for the country and the fishing. We have developed a "Tour of New Zealand" slide presentation that covers a wide array of the options available on a New Zealand visit. The presentation visits great streams and rivers on both islands while fishing with the outstanding Kiwi guides. Also, depicted are the many accommodation options ranging from "world class" fly fishing lodges and luxury country inns to economical farm stays. New Zealand can be visited as a "couples experience" or "hard core fishing adventure" - the slide show will cover both approaches. The presentations will be at 12:30 and 5:00 on the 23rd at the shop.

This same New Zealand presentation is available for groups and clubs by appointment. Additionally on Wednesday, I'll be available by appointment for discussion/slide presentation on other destinations.

LELAND NZ 2006 PROGRAM INFORMATION

I was going to post my personal trip report on our recent NZ visit in this edition; however, the reports below are more exciting so I opted out. However, we have a piece available via regular mail that has our personal report plus explains in general terms our New Zealand programs for '06 including a hosted program. Hit "reply" and send me your snail mail address if you'd like a copy.

TRIP REPORTS - PATAGONIA AND THE TRINITY RIVER

It's exciting to get real trophy fishing reports from Northern California - heck, they never even got on a plane. Glenn Prichett and friend had a great trip on the Trinity in February. Glenn commented, "it didn't feel like we were in the lower 48." They took 3 to 5 browns a day between two and six pounds and landed steelhead from 3 to 9#. Lots of the fish taken on the surface on callibaetis - the rest on small wet flies.

Our favorite spot in rural Patagonia, a real Andes hideaway, continues to get rave reviews from every visitor we send. It's the quality of the operation, the location, and the varied fishing opportunities and programs offered that make it special. The location is key because it's in an area of the Chilean Andes that still hasn't seen the pressure of some many of the "popular spots." Most recently, John Gans and friend were there and comments:

"Great trip. Lots of fish, beautiful scenery, broad range of fishing opportunities (streams, rivers, lakes, wading, floating, outpost cabin, overnight float trips, etc). The lodge is VERY comfortable and the food good.

The owner is cutting no corners. When talking to other fishermen at the airport on the way home who had fished the region from another lodge, we found we had 4X as many fish as they did. Thanks for the recommendation. We had a great time." Note: John's greatest prize was a 26 inch brown taken on a dry fly during an overnight float trip in the Andes.

TRIP REPORTS - FANTASY STUFF FROM NEW ZEALAND

Some of the numbers stated below will seem hard to believe, even for New Zealand, especially when you consider these fish were all taken stalking and sight-casting to individual fish. However, given the character of the "reporters" and the fact that I also heard from the lodge manager in New Zealand (who was equally astonished by the numbers), there is no doubt of the accuracy.

We have two different kinds of reports in this NZ section. The first is from Rich and Janette Hosley who were on a "couples itinerary" mixing the sights and joys of both islands of NZ with its fabulous sight-fishing. The second is from a couple of young fly fishers who were on a "fish til you drop" schedule.

On the "couples itinerary" -

"Our trip to New Zealand was the finest thing we have done. With book-end lodges, Poronui Ranch and Blanket Bay; quality hand-picked guides; big, strong, heavy-shouldered fish; world-class river valleys and mountain peaks; and the delightful Kiwi people, it couldn't have been better. The fishing highlights were a 9# brown and one day where we netted seven fish - 8# brown, 7# rainbow, three 6#, and nothing smaller than 5#. Seventy five percent of the fish taken on dry flies. Thank you."

RECORD SETTING NUMBERS:

Chris Moon and David Tuvlin's report is from a "hard-core" fly fishing adventure- if you can call it "hard core" at one of NZ's finest fly fishing lodges. Chris and David combined two stays over eight days fishing, using as headquarters Lake Rotoroa Lodge and a farm stay with our favorite independent Kiwi guide. I've been monitoring results carefully from all our NZ travelers over the last four years, and I've never heard of results like this from anyone, anywhere. This is what you call hitting it "just right" by a couple of outstanding fly casters. Chris and David are now screwed-up for life and will probably never recover. The highlights excerpted from an incredible sight-fishing experience:

From Chris: "Awesome trip - it was truly a memorable experience." Best days:

".....had over a dozen fish released, all between 4.5 and 5.5 pounds with half on the surface with a red-body humpy."

".....clearly my best day with over 24 fish released between 3.5 and 7 pounds and almost all on the surface with a cicada - didn't count the 1 to 1.5 pounders."

From David: "The takes were spectacular. Those fish don't seem to have a care in the world when their entire head and shoulders come out of the water to slowly engulf a dry. Amazing!" Best days:

"... spectacular setting and amazing fishing - probably the best day for me. Hooked 30 and released 21 between 2 and 6 pounds. 15 or so were on the dry."

"...fishing was incredible from the moment we rigged up til the minute we left. The fish were in all the right places and hungry. Hooked 38 and landed 33. Every fish measured between 3.5 and 5.5 pounds, all taken on nymphs.

Note: David's 33 fish day tied the record for fish released in a day at Lake Rotoroa Lodge. The world famous lodge, built in 1924 and since remodeled, is New Zealand's most traditional fly fishing lodge.

'05 OPENINGS FOR BELIZE, ALASKA, AND THE AMERICAN WEST

Leland travel programs for '05, such as our salt water fly fishing school in Belize and Dean and Babine River steelhead weeks are full, however, there are many great opportunities still available for this summer.

For families and couples, the American West has many varied and interesting options to meet different goals and objectives. From great fly fishing lodge experiences to destinations combining family oriented outdoor activities, golf, and fly fishing, there are many spots with space still available.

Many of Alaska's famous lodges and float trips have some spots still open during the prime times. Our Leland shop trip to Bristol Bay Lodge during the prime time of early September still has 6 openings.

One opening still remains on the Leland hosted Belize mothership trip August 9 - 16. Other openings through September for the Belize mothership trips:

for parties of two with Captain Charles Westby on the Seaduction: 7/20 - 27, 8/19 - 26, 9/8 - 15.

for parties of three or four with Captain Martin McCord on the Meca: 7/9 - 16, 8/19 - 26, 9/18 - 25.

QUIPS AND QUOTES

This month's quote is the second of a two-part story. It happened on our recent trip while we were at a lodge near Arthur's Pass in New Zealand's South Island alps. At dinner one evening, the lodge manager introduced me to a couple named Vicky and Jim from Virginia who were getting married at the lodge the next day. During our conversation, I learned that this was their first trip to NZ and that the next day was going to be Jim's first fly fishing day. Last month's newsletter quoted Vicky on a statement she made about Jim's scheduled fishing trip occurring on their wedding day. This month, we'll pick up the story when the guide arrives after breakfast the next morning to pick Jim up.

Upon hearing about the wedding scheduled for that evening, the guide expressed his concern about getting Jim back early so as not to delay the ceremony. Vicky replied, "Don't worry about the wedding. The fishing is driving the schedule, not the ceremony." Gotta love it!!!

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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