

## NEWSLETTER #33 - FEBRUARY 2005

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### Leland Fly Fishing Travel Newsletter - February, 2005

#### TOPICS IN THIS ISSUE:

- MARIN FLY FISHING SHOW THIS WEEKEND - SATURDAY IS OUR "DESTINATION DAY"
- TRIP REPORT - JIM TAYLOR IN NEW ZEALAND
- QUIPS AND QUOTES

This is the thirty-third 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.

#### **SATURDAY AT THE MARIN FLY FISHING SHOW IS OUR "DESTINATION DAY"**

The Marin Fly Fishing show has become the premier fly fishing show in the Bay Area. It takes place this weekend at the Marin County Civic Center Exhibit Hall. Leland's will have our usual booth just as you enter the main hall - can't miss us. The show consists of anything and everything that relates to fly fishing with 125+ individual booths, classes with the experts, casting demonstrations, and presentations on a variety of destinations.

I'll be in our booth all day Saturday with an array of presentations on different world class destinations. The Saturday schedule is:

- 11:00 Patagonia - the Chilean Andes and Fjords
- 12:00 Alaska
- 1:00 Belize Via Mothership
- 2:30 Early Season at North Platte Lodge, Wyoming
- 3:00 New Zealand
- 4:00 Salt Water Flats Destinations Compared and Contrasted
- 5:00 Giant Brookies of the Minipi River

Additionally, I'll be available on the half-hour for individual discussion and presentations. Also, I'll have the photos from our recent New Zealand trip with me. Stop in and say hi

#### **TRIP REPORT - NEW ZEALAND**

New Zealand gets in your blood and you can't get enough of it. It's the people, the country, and the fishing. There are greater numbers of traveling fly fishers each year who make the annual pilgrimage. Of course, my wife and I have been part of this group for some time, usually doing a "couples itinerary" as opposed to a "hard core fly fishing agenda." We just completed our annual trip to Fiji and then on to New Zealand - I'll have our report in next months newsletter.

"I caught so darn many big fish on dry flies.....it was unbelievable" - so sayeth Jim Taylor who just returned from his annual trip to New Zealand. Unless you've been to New Zealand, it's going to be hard for you to comprehend Jim's trip report. Jim did a combination of world class fly fishing lodges, independent guides, and farm stays while visiting both islands - a "hard core fly fishing itinerary." He had great weather which didn't hurt - most days in the mid-80's. His trip started fast by getting his first double digit fish, a monster brown, on the surface at his first lodge stop.

While New Zealand is famous for its big trout in small, crystalline rivers and streams, it's not usually a big numbers game - those big fish don't come in large quantities on a daily basis. However, on some days for Jim this year, they did happen in good numbers. His top three days, not including his double digit brown, were:

- 1 - eight fish day
- 2 - nine fish days

One of his nine fish days included the following weighed fish in pounds: 7.5, 3.5, 7, 7, 6, 7, 6, 3, and 8.5 - a total of 55.5 pounds.

Jim is a "big fish hunter" and that's where his focus is - very few of the fish he caught the entire trip were under four pounds.

**THE BEST PART:** All Jim's fish were taken sight stalking individual fish AND THEY WERE ALL TAKEN ON DRY FLIES.

Jim already has his premium lodge space and his favorite guides booked for 2006. NZ regulars who like to go in February know that early booking is necessary to get the top guides and space at the best lodges.

### **QUIPS AND QUOTES**

This month's quote is the first 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. The lodge manager introduced me to a couple named Vicky and Jim from Virginia. 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. During that visit, Vicky made a statement that should warm the heart of every passionate fly fisher.

"Jim and I are getting married tomorrow evening after he gets in from fishing. And, if he's late, we'll just have the ceremony the next morning" (next month in part two, we'll report Vicky's comments to the guide as Jim left to go fishing on their scheduled wedding day).

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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