



Salmon Tales from Land's End Lodge

Fall 2006 Issue - Pt. Baker, Alaska

A Heartfelt Thanks from the "Old Goat"

The 2006 season at Land's End Lodge has ended and Pat and I have returned to our winter home in Idaho. As with all of us who cherish our family and friends, it is impossible not to reflect on how fortunate we are to be able to work together as a family in providing our wonderful friends with vacations in one of the most beautiful places in the world. As the "Old Goat" of the family, I want to say how very thankful I am for my son Bill (pictured at right) who does such a great job managing the lodge with the support of his wonderful wife Nicole and for my incredible wife, Pat, whom the guests call the "ever-ready bunny lady." Pat is energetically involved in many, many aspects of running the lodge but most noticeably, she is the talented lady who cooks the delicious meals that our guests rave about. It is the association with my family and friends that makes life meaningful to me. So, let me just say from the bottom of my heart, "Thanks to all of you," who made this season at Land's End Lodge such a special one. -- Bob Miller



Fishing Report - 2006

By Bill Miller

It was a great summer at our lodge in Southeast Alaska despite being very, very rainy. The word is that it was the wettest summer in our area in 20 years, a complete contrast to the summer of 2005. There was so much sunny weather that I started wondering why we were advising our guests to bring full rain gear. But this past summer we got a clear reminder that Southeast Alaska is a temperate rain forest.

The fishing report for the 2006 season could be summarized with the following statement, "Halibut Great, Salmon Late."

Our guests experienced some of the best halibut fishing we have ever had at our location on the north end of Prince of Wales Island. Several tons of filleted halibut went home with our guests. Needless to say, there is going to be some great gourmet dining this winter.

Ling cod and red snapper were also very abundant this year and some huge red snapper weighing over thirty pounds were caught.

In contrast, the silver salmon fishing throughout Southeast Alaska was significantly later than usual. The fall run silvers were almost three weeks late this year and didn't show up until mid-August.

Fortunately for us, our fishing area on Sumner Strait has two runs of silvers, a summer run in June and July and then a fall run. Only the fall run was late so the impact on our guests was minimized. All in all, it was another wonderful season of fishing at Land's End Lodge.

Memories: The Blueberry Pies of Life

By Pat Miller



One of the dishes I love to prepare here at Land's End Lodge is Alaska Blueberry Pie. I use my break time from the kitchen to pick blueberries on the hillsides around the lodge and then when I have gathered enough I make blueberry pies and homemade vanilla ice cream for dessert. The guests must really like my blueberry pies because they are always asking, "Pat, when are we going to have blueberry pies again?" I love serving food that our guests enjoy because I believe that good food contributes to the creation of good memories. When we reminisce about Thanksgiving what is one of the things we think about? Of course! The food!

One of my father in law's favorite sayings was "Creating good memories is what life is all about." I agree. For many years before we bought the lodge, Bob and our three sons would go up to Prince of Wales Island for special father-son fishing trips. Every time they got home the boys would say "Mom, that was the best vacation ever!" So, without question Alaska has always been a place where lots of special memories were created.

Then after we purchased Land's End Lodge we discovered that although we were operating a fishing lodge we were really in a business that was dedicated to the creation of wonderful memories for our guests. That may sound a little corny, but it's true.

To prove my point, here are a few pictures of families and friends who visited the lodge this past summer. It may look like they are posing with fish they have caught. But don't be fooled. If you look closely at the smiles on their faces you can tell that inside their heads a lot of wonderful memories are being created. And just like blueberry pie, good memories are one of those things of which you can never get enough!



A Note from Nicole Miller:

Reservations at Land's End Lodge are coming in earlier every year. Even though it seems like there is a lot of time before the summer fishing season begins, it definitely isn't too soon to book your vacation. Below, I have listed our available weeks at the lodge for 2007 and 2008. Don't hesitate to call me or Pat at our toll-free number, 1-866-852-0191 and we will be happy to help you make arrangements to visit the lodge.

2007		2008	
June 17-23	Aug. 5-11	June 15-21	Aug. 3-9
June 24-30	Aug. 12-18	June 22-28	Aug. 10-16
July 1-7	Aug. 19-25	June 29-July 5	Aug. 17-23
July 8-14	Aug. 26-Sept. 1	July 6-12	Aug. 24-30
July 15-21	Sept. 2-8	July 13-19	Aug. 31-Sept. 6
July 22-28	Sept. 9-15	July 20-26	Sept. 7-13
July 29-Aug. 4	Sept. 16-22	July 27-Aug. 2	Sept. 14-20