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For Immediate Release:

US Fly Fishing Team Places Sixth in World

Team Captain credits Leadership Weekend at Bootjack Ranch key to best finish ever

Pagosa Springs, Colorado—"Everybody gave everything they had, one fish here or there, a better beat, a few more fish and we would have had a medal. We were that close," Jack Dennis, coach of the US Fly Fishing Team wrote on the National Fly Fishing Championship website on June 19. The team of eight included: Dennis from Jackson, WY, Lance Egan from Lehi, UT, Brian Capsay from Durango, CO, Jim Hickey from Jackson, WY, George Daniel from Lock Haven, PA, Anthony Naranja from Grand Junction, CO and team captain Josh Stephens from Robbinsville, NC. Jay Buchner from Jackson, WY was the team's official fly tyer. Individual team members finished 27, 36, 38, 43, and 59 out of 118 anglers competing in Kemi-Simo, Finland June 16-20.

"We've struggled for eighteen years to try and be competitive and now we've made it to sixth place," Dennis added.

The six anglers began their journey to world competition in Pagosa Springs, Colorado at Bootjack Ranch for a Leadership Weekend, May 31-June 3. The weekend was generously provided and hosted by David J. Brown, owner of Bootjack Ranch and his family. Brown is also a key sponsor for the team.

Louisville basketball coach Denny Crum and *Denver Post* outdoor writer and former legendary ski writer who covered seven Olympics, Charlie Meyers were joined by Phil Rowley, master fly tyer from Super Fly in Canada, an additional sponsor of the team.

"This dynamic threesome helped prepare the team with a leadership sendoff conference at Dave Brown's beautiful Bootjack Ranch. The whole community came out for a two-hour fly fishing seminar and made us feel very welcome. From there we headed to Europe and started our quest," Dennis writes.

The team was able to fish the San Juan River and numerous lakes on Bootjack Ranch in preparation for Finland.

"This was the second time in two years that we've beaten England, the lake fishing experts, our hard work on lakes paid off for us as we scored four out of five sessions. Lance Egan beat the French angler in his boat to capture third-place for his session on the lake," Dennis said.

This is the first US Team sent to an international competition that was selected through placement in the regional trial system and national competition. The team is young, the oldest member is 36 and the average age is 27. Dennis believes the trial system is a success and will continue to help Team USA win a medal in the future.

"Some day soon American will be on the podium but until then will have wonderful group of dedicated fine young men and women that will teach fly fishing and be our ambassadors to the world," Dennis wrote.

"If we expand the trials over the next few years and introduce many more people to our system of fair fly fishing friendly competition, sooner or later it will start to trickle down to the youth, and open the door to a national championship system for youth," he added.

The National Fly Fishing Championship will be held in Colorado in 2007, outside of Boulder.

But Dennis and his team envision Pagosa Springs and Bootjack Ranch taking on a significant role in the future.

Dennis expressed that Fly Fishing Team USA hopes to make Pagosa Springs their official training ground. The pristine headquarters of Bootjack Ranch offering unparalleled river and lake training that may provide future Fly Fishing Team USA competitors a world fly fishing championship medal.

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Photos available at:

<http://www.flyfishinglapland.com/>

click on media information

<http://www.nationalflyfishingchampionship.com/index.html>

Scroll down and click on Finland by the Day

For more information on:

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