



# Acute Angling - Exotic Fishing

Fishing News - Acute Angling's Fall '2004 Newsletter  
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Paul Reiss - Guide



Volume 6 Issue 3

FISHING NEWS

Fall 2004

## .... Fall Notes ....

✍ Trip Openings - Several openings remain on great trips this season. Call us about our Thanksgiving Special, our January Macaroca Lodge and February Urariquera River Camp trips. Places are available for trophy peacock, huge payara, giant catfish and pirapitinga.

✍ Exploratories - The details of this year's dorado exploratory in the Pantanal are falling into place. (See the article in this issue.) We're also considering another new giant peacock bass fishery in February. Look for reports in upcoming newsletters.

✍ Special Group Packages - In an effort to bring you more variety and greater options, we're planning an expanded trip schedule for the 2005/2006 season. As a result, we will be offering special new group package policies on certain trips. Call us to find out what's available.

## Fishing Shows

**Toronto, Canada** - Once again, we're going north to tell our Canadian friends about warm places with big fish. This year's show runs from March 16th through the 20th. Stop by and visit us. Book a trip at the show and receive a special show discount.

**Garden State Outdoor Sportsmen's Show, Edison, New Jersey** - As usual, we'll be at our accustomed spot at New Jersey's biggest show, January 8-11th, 2005. We look forward to seeing all of our NJ friends again... PR

## Inside this issue:

- Fall fishing report - ...Cont'd ...2
- Meet the exotic Pirapitinga ...3
- Amazon Sport Fishing Research Programs ...4
- Client Photos - A compendium of trip memories. ...5
- Farewell to a Friend, Hello to a Future Fisherman ...6
- Sportfish of the Pantanal ...7
- Our '2004 Schedule ...8

# Fall '2004 Fishing Report

After 10 years of fishing and exploring Brazil's Igapo Acu region, I always feel certain that when I arrive, everything will be exactly the way it was the year before. The water level will be just at the same part on the crooked tree limb I remember so well. The fish will be stacked on that underwater point across from the sharp bend on the shoreline.... And then I arrive.... The tree limb? I might not even find it, submerged under a meter or two of water. The underwater point? It might be completely high and dry and have turned into a barren peninsula.

In a region where water levels rise and fall 30 to 40 feet between the rainy and dry seasons, I should never be surprised when things are almost unrecognizable on my arrival. This place just ain't my local bass pond! The incredible variability of the Amazon watershed is described as a "pulsative ecology". And it's exactly this tremendous variability that makes it such an exciting place to fish.

Our Amazon Angel peacock bass trips are designed to take full advantage of this unique

region and its variability and complexity. Our mobility allows us to cover hundreds of miles of fishing water each week. The Angel's relatively shallow draft (42") allows it to get way up into surprisingly small water. No matter what surprises Nature has in store when I return, we find fish.

The Igapo Acu region's four rivers and its giant lake, coupled with the Amazon Angel's versatility gives us the flexibility and adaptability to maximize our opportunities. We can find exactly the right conditions so that my

crooked tree limb has a new counterpart, and so that stacked fish are waiting on yet another submerged point. All of this makes for fishing success. To put the icing on this angling cake, the Angel provides a comfortable, air-conditioned, home-base as we cruise the most primitive and pristine waters of the Amazon.

Living aboard the yacht, anglers spend their days exploring the myriad lagoons, tributary creeks and channels of this gigantic watershed in their 18 foot fishing boats. Each day brings new water, new experiences and hand-to-hand



## '2004 Amazon Angel Yacht Trip Results



The Amazon Angel Yacht

combat with the wildest, fiercest freshwater fish known to fishermen, anywhere.

Our anglers began arriving in late September and immediately got to work fishing the region's complex network of rivers, creeks, lakes, islands and points. Water levels, color and clarity are critical to peacock bass fishing success. We search for optimal conditions and then con-

.... Continued on Page 2

# Amazon Angel Fishing Report .....Continued

centrate our efforts there, always keeping in mind the additional pleasure anglers derive from seeing new water and new places.

Our first week of fishing in late September, yielded a nice mix of fishing conditions. Eight anglers boated 840 peacocks.

Honors for the week's biggest fish were garnered by Earl Hancock of Haughton, LA, with a 16 pound beauty that attacked a big Luhr-Jensen "Woodchopper" on the surface. Leonard Wolgast of Somerset, NJ, and Scott McAlily of Jasper, GA jointly took the prize for the most fish with an impressive total of 314 peacocks landed. You have to admire a work ethic that yields over 50 hard fighting peacocks every day.

Our second group consisted of 12 hard-fishing friends from Columbia, Missouri. They managed to better the previous week's efforts while still finding the energy for a week-long party aboard the yacht. They caught 1272 peacocks - of which 22 fish were in the trophy class. Kent Fewell of Columbia, MO, took big fish honors with a 20-pounder.

Several days before the arrival of our third group, it began to rain. By the middle of the third week, we had endured 7 straight days of rain and constant overcast. Conditions changed. Waters became more turbid and water temperature dropped a full 7 degrees Fahrenheit. Fishing became difficult and no matter how efficiently we could move, we simply couldn't force cold fish to bite. Luckily, the bulk of our group that week consisted of skillful anglers whose experience enabled them to coax out a very respectable catch of over 900 peacocks, including Sycamore, IL native, Dave Couch's 17 pound trophy. Surprisingly, the week's catch, in spite of the cold weather, included a high number of other trophy fish in the teens.

By the time our fourth group arrived, the weather and water

temperature had returned to normal and the fish were once again biting aggressively. To start off the week, on an impulse, we took a side route into a river we hadn't fished for many years. The payoff was excellent! We encountered terrific num-

bers of peacocks holding on points and standing timber. Although the region didn't yield any monsters, plenty of peacocks up to 14 pounds were caught and it was great fun to spend a few days catching these wildly aggressive fish. From there, the group entered Lago Tacquia and the Rio Igapo Acu. At week's end, they had boated 1271 fish, with 15 trophy fish in the teens. Big fish honors went to Michael Bell of Houston, TX with his 17 pound peacock.

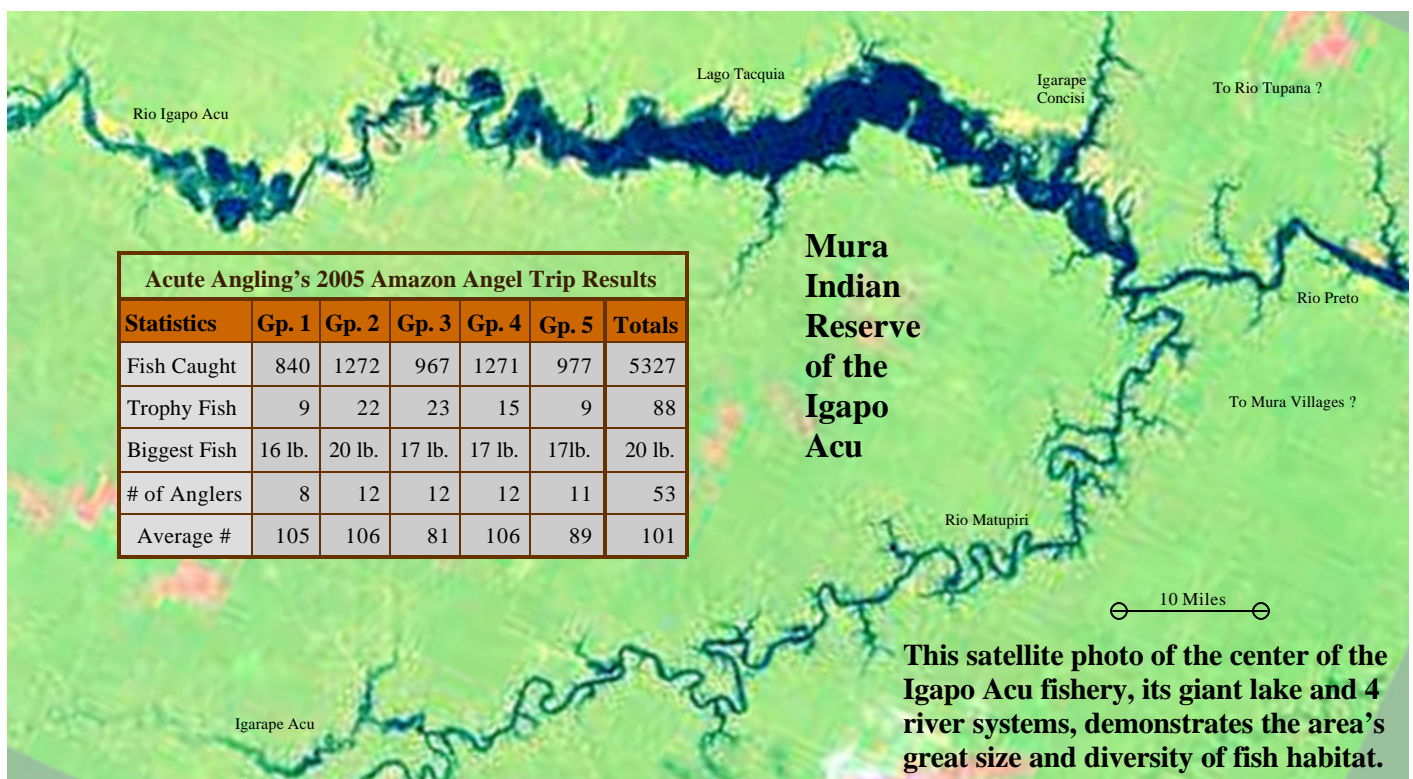
Week 5 was hosted by Dr. Paulo Petry, our very own Amazon Ichthyologist. Under his guidance, the group wound up their week with 977 fish caught. Don Mitzel of Columbia, MO, led the group with a 17 pound trophy.

As big as the Igapo Acu region is, the peacock bass' preference for structure means it's all small-water fishing. As a result, powerful peacocks take advantage of the surrounding deadwood structure, heading directly into it, usually leaving behind straightened hooks, snapped lines or broken gear. Many more trophies are lost than are landed. First time anglers are often left shaking their heads at the strength and violence of these extraordinary fish. It's this unique, unexplainable and indescribable explosive power that keeps us all coming back for more.

For 2004, Acute Angling will be scheduling 6 groups in this superb fishery. Our fall yacht trip, at \$2450, is without a doubt, the best mother-ship fishing value in the Amazon. Available openings typically fill quickly, especially for larger groups, so be sure to contact us early to reserve your preferred dates.

### '2005 Amazon Angel Yacht Schedule

Dates contingent on air schedules.	Departs	Return	Openings
<b>Group 1</b>	Sept. 21st, 2005	Sept. 30,	- open -
<b>Group 2</b>	Sept. 28th, 2005	Oct. 7,	5 spaces
<b>Group 3</b>	Oct. 5th, 2005	Oct. 14,	- open -
<b>Group 4</b>	Oct. 12th, 2005	Oct. 21,	- open -
<b>Group 5</b>	Oct. 19th, 2005	Oct. 28,	- open -
<b>Group 6</b>	Oct. 26th, 2005	Nov. 4,	- open -



Acute Angling's 2005 Amazon Angel Trip Results						
Statistics	Gp. 1	Gp. 2	Gp. 3	Gp. 4	Gp. 5	Totals
Fish Caught	840	1272	967	1271	977	5327
Trophy Fish	9	22	23	15	9	88
Biggest Fish	16 lb.	20 lb.	17 lb.	17 lb.	17lb.	20 lb.
# of Anglers	8	12	12	12	11	53
Average #	105	106	81	106	89	101

### Mura Indian Reserve of the Igapo Acu

This satellite photo of the center of the Igapo Acu fishery, its giant lake and 4 river systems, demonstrates the area's great size and diversity of fish habitat.

# Meet the Pirapitinga - Bully of the Amazon

You may not have heard of this exotic before, but one hook-up will make you remember its name.

**The Payara**, with its extraordinary speed, power and acrobatic agility, is recognized as one of the greatest freshwater game fish in the world. What does that have to do with the pirapitinga, you might ask? Why open an article about one fish by talking about another? Because the pirapitinga (often mistakenly called pacu) shares the payara's water and is, pound for pound, every bit its equal in strength and power. Even more surprising, it outlasts the payara in stamina!

This big, oval, mass of muscle is far more fish than most freshwater anglers are accustomed to. When 20 plus pounds of powerful pirapitinga heads off down the river with your line wailing off the spool behind it, you'd better get the motor started and find a steady position in the boat or it will be over fast - with the fish winning. They are capable of running until you're spooled.

My first introduction to this Amazon bully came while casting a small, floating Rapala for payara on a light spinning rig in a quickly-moving river pool.

With no warning, I was pounded by a shoulder-wrenching strike. Then, cutting a heavy "V" through the water, a broad shouldered shape headed upstream with my bait as though it wasn't attached to anything at all. Like a runaway locomotive, it ran, and it ran, with my line disappearing fast behind it. It was halfway to the head of the pool when my little Shimano 2000 reel started glinting silver on the spool. Whatever this thing was, I couldn't believe it was going to equal me.



going upstream! Mercifully, my guide started the outboard and I started cranking the reel for all I was worth. Saved! ... For now... Slowly, I began to regain line. Meanwhile, the submarine I was attached to turned hard left and headed for the opposite bank. It wasn't fighting like a payara. It wasn't fighting like a peacock, and it wasn't jumping. It just put its brutish head down and ran.

After I recovered line again, it started off on another big run, but this time, I could feel the creature's initial power slowly starting to ebb.

The fight deteriorated into a slugfest. Like a pair of overweight heavyweights past their prime, we were trading punches. He peeled off line, I pumped it back in. Back and forth we went until slowly my unknown antagonist came to the boat, ex-

like a small whale at the side of the boat. It was a big pirapitinga! When we finally worked the Bogagrip into his disturbingly human-like jaws, he weighed in at 18 pounds. A minute later, I held him, facing into the current, as he gradually regained his strength. With a flick of his broad tail, he swam away.

With a blunt snout and an expression reminiscent of a bulldog, the pirapitinga has a body like a broad-beamed tuna, and a decidedly bad attitude when hooked. Growing upwards of thirty pounds, these brawny fish, like payara, are Characins, a large, widely diverse family of tropical species that also includes the famous fighting dorado, the African tigerfish, the gorgeous cardinal tetra and the infamous piranha. Although occupying the same waters as its payara cousins, the pirapitinga focuses on a very different diet. During high water conditions, their preferred diet consists of flowers, fruits and seeds. During the dry season, however, when vegetarian meals are scarce, they take on a decidedly omnivorous bent, fiercely attacking small, fish-imitating baits.

Three years after that first encounter, I've come to count the pirapitinga as one of my favorite gamefish. At Urariquera Fishing Camp in Brazil's Maraca Bio-reserve, the guides have learned how to enlist these brawlers into battle on a routine basis. Using a variety of techniques, anglers focusing on pirapitinga can catch several per day, typically ranging in size from 12 to 25 pounds. Anglers pursuing payara with some of the shallower running plugs are often ambushed by big tooth pirapitinga. The species successfully caught with a simple offering of fruit on a hook. Their powerful jaws, fully equipped with crushing molars and tearing incisors, can totally destroy hooks and lures with a single encounter. Repeatedly, they surprise us with their aggressiveness, even in fast, open water. Their powerful, sustained runs, their seemingly endless stamina and their sheer size, make them a prize catch indeed.

You can pursue this great fighter from January through March on the Rio Urariquera for \$3350 per angler, double occupancy. Enjoy six full days of amazing fishing, comfortable safari camp accommodations and an exclusive bio-reserve location. Want more variety? Switch rods and pursue trophy-sized payara or world record class giant catfish at this unique variety destination. For more information, call us, toll-free at 866 832-2987 or visit [www.AmazonFringe.com](http://www.AmazonFringe.com). Your



# Science in the Amazon

## Acute Angling Joins the Cutting Edge of Amazon Game Fish Research

**Knowledge is power.** In fishing, it is the power to protect and conserve valuable but vulnerable fish and the ecosystems that support them. With the knowledge necessary to track life cycles, understand habitat requirements and characterize fishery health, anglers have the power to lobby and convince governments of the need for protective rules and regulations against commercial netting and predatory fishing practices.

Conservation efforts in the U.S. have helped to reverse decades long deteriorations of fish stocks throughout the nation. Florida's inshore fisheries have blossomed anew; New Jersey's stripers have made a triumphant return; and most U.S. fishing destinations are better than they've been in the last fifty years. Sportfishermen all over the world have followed suit to protect their precious gamefish resources. Unfortunately, the habitat of the world's greatest freshwater gamefish is still terribly at risk. Something must be done or the Amazon's fantastic exotic fisheries will decline.

**Acute Angling supports Amazon conservation.** Now we have joined forces with several institutes of higher learning, the Brazilian government and the International Game Fish Association to do something about it. We are performing and cooperating with scientific research studies in an effort to begin providing facts to replace the myths and legends that anglers and government alike have long been consuming about the peacock bass and other Amazon sportfish. With improved scientific understanding, preemptive steps can be taken to assure that these exciting species never suffer serious declines and remain protected and vital in spite of the increased pressure of current popular interest. Several important projects are currently underway. Foremost among these are the following;

**Cichla DNA Analysis** - This state-of-the-art project, executed by the University of Amazonas in Manaus, is designed to definitively identify the natural distribution and population characteristics of the five currently recognized species of peacock bass, by directly comparing their genetic material. Acute

Angling, because of its access to a wide range of remote peacock fisheries and its ability to encounter and sample large numbers of specimens is providing fin clipping samples (for DNA testing) and

**Cichla Temensis Growth and Age Correlation Study** - Acute Angling, with academic guidance from Rutgers University, is studying scale samples from released fish in an effort to correlate their age determination capabilities with those of otoliths (ear

bones). Otolith analysis requires sacrificing of specimens and is thus not always a desirable method to use in routine analysis of growth rate and fishery health in a valuable, catch-and-release, sportfish population. This new study, because of its potential to enable the substitution of scale samples for aging purposes, may provide a valuable future tool for peacock bass fisheries management.

**Projeto Pirandira (The Payara Project)** - We've taken the lead, with cooperation from two Brazilian Institutions for Amazon Research on a historic first project to study the life cycle of giant payara (*Hydrolycus armatus*) on the Urariquera river. Under the

direction of Dr. Paulo Petry, PhD, using radio tagging and aerial tracking, we hope to uncover the migratory behaviors of this mysterious sportfish. This important work will provide the facts necessary to coordinate conservation plans with fishing activity in an effort to preserve this exotic fishery for future generations.

**We need your help.** Research costs money and unlike U.S. fisheries research, grant money is not readily available to study these wonderful, but exotic species. If you believe, as we do, that

tected, please help by making a fully documented, fully tax-deductible contribution specifically for these projects, in cooperation with the International Game Fish Association (IGFA).

**We put our money where are mouth is.** We at Acute Angling have also pledged to carry our share of the load. We will match the first \$5000 in contributions received from our angling clientele this season. So this is a very good time to help science help your sport and get a tax deduction too. For every dollar you contribute, two dollars will be available for this important research. Help us to study the behavior, biology

and distribution of these great Amazon gamefish. The more we know, the more power we have to protect and improve the sport that we love. For more information or to make a contri-



**Water parameter readings are taken daily in each fishing region. Correlating this data with fish catch records can help us know more about our exotic quarry.**



**Shortly after breakfast each day, the 'Angel's' dining room was transformed into an Amazon Ichthyology laboratory.**



Ruby Rice can hardly lift her big peacock

Jack Goldsmith has a new trophy almost every issue!

Anthony Coleman with a beautiful peacock bass.

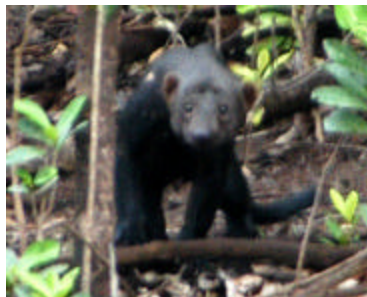
Bruce Manalio hefts a male in spawning trim.

Randy Hancock (left) and his dad, Earl, show off their pair of big Igapo Acu peacocks..



Left - Raimundo, a "guide-in-training" holds a lunker that ate a "Peacock Rattle Fly".

Right - An 'Iraira', or tayra (a marten-like mammal) finds us so interesting that he can't resist peeking through the woods at us.



Left - Keith Nelsen, U.S. Air Force - Honduras, shows off an Igapo Acu lure destroyer.

**A visit with the Mura Indians** - Sure, our Amazon Angel trips are focused on the fishing, but there's even more to see and learn in the Amazon. We fish within the huge, protected, Mura Indian Reserve of the Igapo Acu. Each of our groups is invited to visit one of several, small Mura Indian villages during their trip. For many years we have worked to build a mutually respectful and beneficial relationship with these proud and culturally rich indigenous peoples. The Mura people are committed to preserve their cultural heritage and ethnic lore while they strive to improve the quality of their lives through better healthcare and education. We visit with villagers as a group in their school-rooms or community centers and sometimes get an opportunity to enter homes and see glimpses of Mura life. Our anglers often share gifts with the village while villagers offer their artwork and handicrafts for sale. Many anglers consider this visit to be a highlight of their trip. Recently, Gary Keyzers, of Minneapolis, MN, was startled to see a satellite dish in the middle of a tiny village. When he asked what they watch on TV, he was informed that their TV set had burned out several years ago. Generously, Gary had a brand new set sent to the village. The happy villagers promptly named it "A Tela do Gary" (Gary's screen).



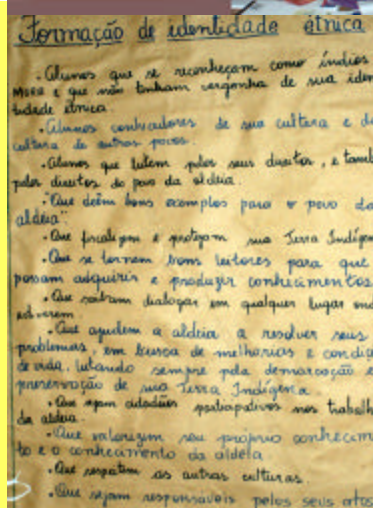
Gary Keyzers

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**Left**— Dave Couch (foreground) and Dave Otter (rear), two (normally) gruff and rough fishermen, ended up playing on the floor, succumbing to the charms of children who are utterly entranced by what you have to say or show to them.

**Right**—A poster on the wall in the village schoolroom expresses a credo for the formation of an ethnic identity (translation far right). Setting standards this high would be just as lofty a goal in any U.S. schoolroom.



- ? Students who recognize themselves as Mura Indians and are not ashamed of their ethnic identity.
- ? Students informed about their culture and the culture of other peoples.
- ? Students who fight for their rights and also the rights of their community.
- ? Who provide good examples to the people of the community.
- ? Who oversee and protect their Indigenous Lands.
- ? Who become good readers so they can acquire and produce knowledge.
- ? Who know how to converse in whatever place they may be.
- ? Who help the community to solve its problems, to search for improvements in living conditions, and are fighting always for demarcation and preservation of their Indigenous Lands.
- ? Who are citizens participating in the work of the community.
- ? Who value their own knowledge and the knowledge of the community.
- ? Who respect other cultures.

# Farewell to a Great Fisherman

**Isolated, and immersed in the enormity of the vast Amazon basin, groups of fishermen who have never met before, quickly bond together to become lifelong friends. Steve Brody, a regular on many of our trips was the type of individual who made friends with absolutely everyone. Although we have lost many good fishing friends over the past decade, no one has so memorably touched the lives of as many of our clients as Steve has. For this reason, as we mourn his passing, we also celebrate his life and his love of fishing.**

**In late July we received a letter, excerpted below, from Steve's wife, Jane.**

*Dear Paul and Garry,*

*My name is Jane Durland - I am Steve Brody's wife. Even though we haven't met, your names are very familiar to me as Steve always spoke with great enthusiasm about his fishing trips. I'm sorry to tell you that Steve died on July 15 after a brief illness.*

*As you probably know, Steve always enjoyed his trips with you immensely - They provided some of his happiest and most vivid memories, and also some wonderful friendships with his fellow fishermen, Norm Ely in particular.*

*I hope you will be able to do me a favor and notify the group of Steve's death, since I don't have names or addresses'*

*Thank you for your kindness.*

*Sincerely, Jane*

**Having fished and roomed with Steve many times over the last decade, I am saddened at his untimely loss. I will miss a good friend. Acute Angling is honored to be able to implement Jane's request. Reprinted below, for the benefit of those who knew Steve and will miss him as much as we do, are excerpts from Steve's death notice and his obituary which appeared in the Boston Globe.**

## **Steve Brody, at 57; Lawyer and Champion Fisherman**

Steven Morris Brody, a lawyer and prize-winning fisherman who was considered a modest renaissance man by his friends and family, died July 15 at his home in Topsfield after a brief

illness. He was 57.

"Steve was just an incredibly good advocate and lawyer. He was aggressive and fair. Some might even say he marched to the beat of his drummer", said friend and colleague, former Massachusetts Attorney General Scott Harshbarger. Toward the last part of his life, he had a deep devotion to his family and focused holistically on being a whole person - which is what he was at the end."

Mr. Brody was born and grew up in DeKalb, Ill. According to his wife, Jane, he started fishing at an early age. In 1953 he



**This photo of Steve with a trophy peacock appeared along with his obituary in the Boston Globe.**

won a fishing competition in Miami at the age of 6. Later in life, his fishing excursions took him to exotic places. Steve was an avid fisherman who went on numerous fishing trips in Central and South America, including several trips to the Amazon Basin in Brazil to fish for peacock bass.

A knowledgeable and enthusiastic gardener, his garden of vegetables, perennials and tropical plants was continually expanding and glorious. He was a knowledgeable and philosophical Red Sox fan. Among his other interests were early New England furniture, fine basketry, Chinese export porcelain and thoroughbred racing. Whether by luck or by skill, he rarely ended a day at the track in the red.

A dedicated professional to his colleagues and clients, Steve was a decent and honest man and a wise counselor. To his family and friends, he was unfailingly supportive, generous and loving. Steve is survived by his wife, Jane Durland; a son, Benjamin; a daughter, Elizabeth; a sister Leah Murawsky; a loving extended family and many friends.

**Those of us who fished with Steve and shared his passion for the wild peacock bass and its spectacular Amazon habitat can add something more. He was truly a "nice guy", a vague term rarely earned, but in his case universally applied by all who knew him. If he's listening, there's one more thing to say that would probably elicit the biggest smile of all from him. He was a darn good fisherman. We will miss him.**

# Hello to a Future Fishing Guide



Life has a way of maintaining a balance. As we sadly say farewell after the loss of a fisherman friend, we are reinvigorated and renewed by the pleasure of announcing the arrival of another. Lukas Guedes sailed with the Amazon Angel for the first time this season.

The Guedes family provides operations and staff on many of Acute Angling's trips. Although not yet a working guide like his uncles, Lukas is already demonstrating his skill and affinity for the water, as can be seen in the photo. With a little help from his proud mom, Ruth, Lukas will probably be a full-fledged member of the staff before we know it.

Only six months old, Lukas spent the entire fishing season on the yacht. Lukas brightened the days of everyone on the 'Angel' this season with his unending good spirits and ready smile. Welcome Lukas.

# The Game Fish of the Pantanal

WE'RE OFF TO PURSUE DORADO, BIG CATFISH AND MORE ON OUR NEW SPRING EXPLORATORY

You can never have too many choices when it comes to fishing. If one great sportfish is good, then using "angler's math" (we've used it before for similar high level theories) we can calculate that two great sportfish are better. Well how about more than a half dozen? According to my calculations, that should equal simply incredible. Well, they're all swimming in the waters of Brazil's great swamp, the Pantanal. And that's where we're heading this spring, to find and catch as many species as we can.

**Dorado** - The most famous of the Pantanal's denizens and the primary object of our pursuit. An exceptionally strong swimmer and jumper, dorado typically range in size from 5



**Dorado**

*Salminus maxillosus*  
110 cm - up to 70 lbs.

to 15 pounds, although twenty plus pound trophies can be common at the right time and place. While the current IGFA all-tackle record is 51 pounds, giants of up to 70 pounds have been caught in nets. Their striped pattern, powerful jaws and razor sharp teeth have earned the dorado the nickname "River Tiger" in South America.

Once fooled with a fish-imitating bait, their arm-wrenching strike is a testament to their aggressiveness and ferocity. As soon as an angler sets the hook, these wild leapers explode out of the water in a series of outrageous jumps, making them every fisherman's delight.

**Suribim** - These highly sought after catfish are unusual in their affinity for open water. Unlike your typical bottom feeder, they are commonly caught on artificials and

**Cachara (Suribim)**

*Pseudoplatystoma fasciatum*  
140 cm - up to 90 lbs.



**Pintado**

*Pseudoplatystoma corruscans*  
150 cm - up to 120 lbs.



will occasionally heave their big streamlined bodies completely out of the water. Reaching sizes in excess of 75 lbs. for Cachara and well over 100 for Pintado, these are definitely catfish of a different whisker.



A dorado leaping in a sunset battle on light fly tackle.

**Oscar** - Most fish tank owners sooner or later become acquainted with the Oscar. The violent habits and endless gluttony of this foul-tempered beast often convinces despairing aquarists to turn into contented snake fanciers. Picture a 14 inch, 4 lb. Oscar on light tackle.

**Oscar**

*Astronotus ocellatus*  
30 cm



**Piraputanga**  
*Brycon microlepis*  
45 cm

**Piraputanga** - A brycon related to matrincha and dorado, these may be the wildest fighters, pound for pound, of anything found in South America. It's probably a good thing that they typically weigh about 5 or 6 pounds, not 20.

**Piavucu** - Caught on small hooks baited with pieces of beef (they love heart), these relatives of the aquarium leporinus can reach 15 pounds and put on a very tough fight.



**Piavucu**  
*Leporinus macrocephalus*  
65 cm



**Pacu Caranha**  
*Piaractus mesopotamicus* 55 cm - 25 lbs.

**Pirapitinga** - See our detailed article on page 6 for information on these brawlers.

**Jau** - \*Not shown to scale - These huge catfish are generally caught on cut bait and heavy stand-up tackle. They can reach over 200 pounds.

**Jau** *Zungaro jahu*  
200 cm - can exceed 200 lbs.



# '2004/5 Featured Trip Schedule

Note - Available spaces shown as of 10/26/04

## PEACOCK BASS - Fall 2004 - Our Last Remaining Openings for 2004

### Fall 2004 - Holiday Special - Macaroca & Posao Lodge - Air-conditioned Comfort

10	Nov. 17, 2004	Nov. 26	6 full days	Wellington	R. Xeriuini	\$2500	- FULL -
11	Nov. 24, 2004	Dec. 3	6 full days	Wellington	R. Xeriuini	\$2500	- 4 openings

A unique, 'one-of-a-kind' bargain. Luxurious Macaroca lodge, and rustic Posao lodge, both located on the beautiful Xeriuini River, provide air-conditioned comfort and great peacock bass fishing. Join us during the Thanksgiving Holiday season and fish them both for less than the price of either one on our special itinerary!

## PEACOCK BASS TRIPS - Winter 2005

### Winter 2005 - Rio Xeriuini - A Protected Clear Water Fishery in Northern Brazil

#	Depart	Return	Fishing	Host	Location	Price	Availability
15	Jan. 19, 2005	Jan. 28	6 full days	Wellington	Macaroca	\$3250	- open -
16	Jan. 19, 2005	Jan. 28	6 full days	S. Rossi	Posao	\$3250	- open -

Beautiful white sand beaches and clear black water provide an extraordinary setting at this comfortable, air-conditioned lodge. Enjoy the laid-back atmosphere while catching excellent numbers (15 - 30/day) with an unusually high percentage of medium to large fish (10 to 20 pounds). The lodge features spacious rooms, a screened dining area with panoramic river views and complete bathrooms with hot showers. Enjoy a taste of luxury in the jungle.

## WORLD RECORD VARIETY TRIPS - Winter 2005 - Rio Urariquera

#	Depart	Return	Fishing	Host	Location	Price	Availability
<b>Wild &amp; Beautiful Waters - Fish for record-class payara, pirapitinga, giant catfish &amp; more</b>							
18	Jan. 12, 2005	Jan. 21	6 full days	Pat Nicholl	Urariquera	\$3350	- 4 openings
19	Jan. 19, 2005	Jan. 28	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Urariquera	\$3350	- 1 opening
20	Jan. 26, 2005	Feb. 4	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Urariquera	\$3350	- FULL -
	Jan. 5, Feb. 2, 8, 16 & 23	9 days	6 full days	Pat Nicholl	Urariquera	\$3350	- Openings -

We've discovered a spectacular new destination on the fringe of the Amazon basin. The beautiful Rio Urariquera, closed to sport fishing since 1952, holds an amazing variety of gamefish. Protected by the pristine Maraca Island Bio-reserve, this fishery has yielded 5 IGFA records so far and will certainly produce many more. We've seen pirapitinga over 25 lbs. and giant catfish well over 200. If you can land them on rod and reel, you'll demolish the world record. Live in comfortable bungalows and enjoy excellent meals in a safari style camp in the middle of the river's most productive region.

## DORADO EXPLORATORY TRIPS - Spring 2005 - Pantanal

#	Depart	Return	Fishing	Host	Location	Price	Availability
<b>A True Exploratory - Fish the Marshland for Golden Dorado, giant catfish &amp; more</b>							
21	April 20, 2005	Apr. 29	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Pantanal	\$2850	- 4 openings
22	April 27, 2005	May 6	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Pantanal	\$2850	- FULL -
23	May 4, 2005	May 13	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Pantanal	\$2850	- 6 openings

Our goal for this exploratory trip is to work our way through Brazil's great swamp as big breeder dorado leave their marshy spawning grounds. We'll map the region's fishery and experiment with its fishing characteristics. We expect to be very mobile, using either simple camps or a houseboat operation. We have a lot of water to cover and we plan to be nimble in our pursuit of the dorado. Facilities will most likely be basic and the food will be simple, but hearty.

## PEACOCK BASS - New Fall 2005 Schedule - Best values in the Amazon

#	Depart	Return	Fishing	Host	Location	Price	Availability
<b>Fall 2005 - Amazon Angel Yacht Trip - Comfort and Mobility - Rio Igapo Acu</b>							
1	Sept. 21, 2005	Sept. 30	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Igapo Acu	\$2450	- open -
2	Sept. 28, 2005	Oct. 7	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Igapo Acu	\$2450	- 5 openings
3	Oct. 5, 2005	Oct. 14	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Igapo Acu	\$2450	- open -
4	Oct. 12, 2005	Oct. 21	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Igapo Acu	\$2450	- open -
5	Oct. 19, 2005	Oct. 28	6 full days	Leandro N.	Igapo Acu	\$2450	- open -
6	Oct. 26, 2005	Nov. 4	6 full days	Leandro N.	Igapo Acu	\$2450	- open -

Our most popular trip and a perfect introduction to peacock bass. Explore Amazonia on a comfortable, air-conditioned yacht. Our mobility allows access to 300+ miles of majestic waters. Excellent daily catch averages (15 - 50/day) with an average size around 5 pounds. Trophy fish in the high teens are common and monsters over 20 pounds are taken here each trip. Return every evening to fine food and drink and the secure comfort of the yacht. Enjoy jungle hikes, Indian village visits, spotlighting, and more, on this unique and exclusive adventure. Protected within an Indian reservation, this sportfishing-only reserve's peacock bass populations have burgeoned in recent years, while our ongoing explorations have opened up new, even more highly productive water in this gigantic fishery.

#	Depart	Return	Fishing	Host	Target River	Price	Availability
<b>Fall 2005 - Rio Negro Tributaries - Moveable floating bungalows</b>							
12	Nov. 25, 2005	Dec. 6	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Rio Negro	\$2495	- open -
13	Dec. 3, 2004	Dec. 13	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Rio Negro	\$2495	- open -
14	Dec. 9, 2004	Dec. 20	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Rio Negro	\$2495	- open -

Fish the headwaters of the beautiful, black water tributaries of the Rio Negro, far from the reach of the growing crowd of novice peacock bass operations. Live in comfortable, movable floating bungalows with daily access to new water. This consistently productive fishery favors surface action and explosive topwater strikes. Excellent daily catch averages (10 - 20/day) and plenty of big fish opportunities. A high proportion of huge trophies up to 25½ pounds are caught here.

Acute Angling can arrange your choice of exotic fishing trips - anywhere in the world ... Let us know what you'd like to catch!

Join us on the fishing trip of a lifetime!

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