



Acute Angling - Exotic Fishing

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FISHING NEWS

Spring 2001

...New format, bigger newsletter...

- **NEW**—This issue marks our first expanded newsletter. We've got so much to report, that we've added two full pages to our regular layout.
- **NEW**—We've added an updated, guided trip schedule as a regular feature of our newsletter. Just look at the last page for the trip or date you're interested in and find out what's available.
- **NEW**—Newsletter renewal cards. Each issue, a portion of our readership will receive a renewal card in their newsletter envelope. To renew your subscription for two more years, totally free, simply fill out and return the enclosed card.
- **SHARE**—Do you have photos or articles you'd like to share? We'd love to see them.

The winter of 2001 has been one of our best seasons ever. Better fishing and more and bigger fish have been the norm. Although we can attribute some of this to excellent conditions, we also firmly believe that enlightened conservation and a diligent catch and release policy is in part responsible.
 Tight Lines ... PR

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Our Best Fishing Winter...Ever!

Super successful fishing trips to Brazil, Venezuela and Argentina

Fishermen probably hear more old clichés than any other group of people. The one that makes me wince the most always surfaces when the fish have made themselves scarce. You've heard it. It goes, "That's why they call it 'fishing' and not 'catching'". As a guide, I certainly hate hearing that expression. This winter I never had to hear it once. In fact, we pretty much just called it 'catching' all season.

The good news started in Brazil with peacock bass. We fished the Rio Tapera in the northern Amazon Basin for several weeks. The fish just came non-stop. Each of our groups had great success, with many clients

beating our previous daily catch record. We had days where each angler in a boat individually brought in over 100 peacocks! Monsters up to 22 pounds were caught during the Tapera's season. Our stay there culminated with a single week in which 8 anglers caught an incredible total of 2370 peacock

cock bass in 6 and 1/2 days of fishing!

On to Venezuela and the fierce payara. Client's had great success here this winter, landing excellent numbers and many big fish. Almost every angler came away with a trophy in the 20 pound class. This was the season where we finally solved the challenge of catching Uraima Falls' giant payara on the fly. Excellent conditions and water levels allowed us ready access to the rips and seams that held big, fast-water payara. With a little tweaking of fly patterns and the use of very heavy sinking lines, we were able to hook up consistently in the picturesque rapids beneath the falls. Even I got lucky and managed to land a 31 pound monster on the fly! (see story on page 3)

Late winter found us in Argentina pursuing the spectacular golden freshwater dorado. The scene was the beautiful Iberá Marsh and



Fred Young caught this big winter peacock bass!



Joe Fanelli with a big payara

Sometimes you CAN call it 'catching', not

its outlet, the Rio Corrientes. Our early weeks found the marsh loaded with huge golden spawners. Anglers caught 20+ pounders on a daily basis on both conventional and fly tackle. These wildly leaping bruisers put on an incredible show for the angler lucky enough to be on the other end of the rod. As the season progressed, large numbers of fish moved into the river where easy access allowed anglers to catch excellent daily numbers of good sized fish. The finale came for me on the very last day, when my avid fisherwoman daughter, Jenny, landed her first dorado on a fly. Throughout this issue we've included more detail on these and next season's trips. If they're even half as successful next year, we'll be 'catching' again.

Macaroca Lodge - Peacock Bass Hot-Spot

Xeriuni River, Northern Brazil... We get a lot of calls and e-mails from prospective outfitters. There was a time when each one was greeted with the same enthusiasm expressed by the would-be host, but after years of enduring outrageous exaggerations and fishless disappointments, careful skepticism has become a reasonable policy. Who would want to bring fishing clients to a place that they wouldn't enjoy fishing in? So, when a young Brazilian, whom we had never heard of before, contacted us last fall and gushed about the incredible new fishery he wanted to open, we didn't exactly fall over with excitement. "Yeah, yeah", I thought, here we go again. I promptly filed it in the 'forget about it' bin and went on planning upcoming trips

He was persistent. After an endless barrage of e-mails and finally phone calls, I began to take him seriously. It seemed that with a little tweaking of my schedule, I could get there to check it out, so I decided to take a look. The next thing I knew, I was shaking hands with Wellington Melo on a grass airstrip in a tiny village at the mouth of the Rio Xeriuni. What followed from there were three of the best fishing days I've ever experienced. Wellington's exuberance was well founded.

I spent the first day getting a feel for the fishery. We ran upriver, then we ran down river. I fished jigs, jerkbaits, surface lures, flies ... you name it, I tried it. Everything worked! I caught over 50 peacock bass that day, from 2 pounds to 12 pounds, without ever even looking for a pattern.



Mark Pecora with a Xeriuni Peacock

The second day was devoted to the fly rod. I did well with my favorite peacock bass streamer in red/yellow and red/white, but it wasn't until later in the day when I tied on an oddball blue streamer with crinkly green flash, that I started to really tear them up. Once again, I caught over 50 fish, but still nothing over 12 pounds.

That evening, enjoying caipirinhas (Brazil's national drink) in Wellington's partially completed, rustic lodge, he swore that the next day we'd get the big ones, if only I'd stop fooling with the "fancy" baits and stick to the old standby, the big woodchopper. So, the next day I did just that....What a great day! From morning 'til evening, I threw nothing but the big surface prop baits, and the fish did nothing but smash them all day long. I landed 82 peacocks that day. And boy, I sure found the big fish - 24 of them - ranging from 12 up to 19-1/2 lbs. Every time I think about that day, even sitting here writing about it, I still grin from ear to ear.

This certainly turned out to be just the place to bring clients.

I returned six weeks later with a group of anglers and soon they were all grinning from ear to ear too. They caught lots of fish, as expected, but what was even better, was the continuation of that remarkable proportion of big fish. Almost 40 percent of all fish caught were over 10 pounds! Wow! Everyone got trophies (including a pair of twin 18-1/2 pounders). I have a feeling that the whole group will be heading back to the newly completed Macaroca Lodge next year. For more information about this trip and planned dates, see the chart on page 6.

Rio Urubaxi - A New Featured Trip for Giant Peacock

This is a special, new featured trip, recommended for experienced peacock bass anglers. The Rio Urubaxi doesn't offer large numbers of fish, but the average size is enormous. This river is for anglers interested in a potential world record.

Fish in the teens are common, 20 pounders are frequent! The largest caught here was a 26 and 1/2 pound monster! (Just one half pound off the current world record.)

Set in a beautiful, black water, sandy bottom environment, the Urubaxi is extremely remote. From past experience, we know that this river is very sensitive to water levels. If conditions are right, eve-

ryone in the group will have an excellent chance at a personal best peacock. If water levels are higher than we like, we will fish an excellent alternate river, the Rio Juf-eri. Only 8 places will be available for each of the two weeks the trip is offered. See the chart on page 6 for more information

PR



Amazonia - An Angler's Paradise

The sights and sounds of Amazonia provide the most extraordinary fishing backdrop in the world. A peacock bass fishing trip leaves every angler with once in a lifetime experiences and truly unique memories. And lots and lots of photos! Even though I spend half my time here, I'm almost constantly clicking away because there's always a new or better shot to take. This baby giant river otter, however, was one difficult photo to get!

Giant Amazon river otters, called *arriranha* in Brazil, while not common, are often seen by our anglers when their boats inadvertently drift into an otter family's territory. The big, mustachioed creatures sometimes pop up around your boat and vocally let you know that you're in their fishing hole. Their yodeling cries are enough to startle anyone, but after putting on their little show they always disappear as silently as they arrived.

One afternoon, heading back to camp after a good day's fishing, my guide, Paulo, abruptly stopped the boat from a full speed cruise with his head cocked to one side. "What's going on?", I asked. He answered, in Portuguese, "I hear baby arriranhas." I looked at him as though he came from Mars, not Amazonia. I can hardly hear myself think over the roar of the outboard! How could this guy possibly hear the chirping of baby otters? We pulled the boat onto the bank. He asked me to be ready to take off and he disappeared into the jungle. Suddenly the silent forest came alive with sound ... brush break-



ing, otters yodeling and my guide yelling created an instant cacophony. I had to see what was going on! So I disregarded his request and climbed into the jungle. As I crested a short rise blocking my view of the area below, Paulo came bursting out of the underbrush. "Run! Go to the boat!", he shouted. The heavy noises following him hastened my obedience. We scrambled in and pushed off at the same time. The noises quieted as we drifted across to the opposite bank. Paulo sat there panting and grinning with a mewling baby otter in his arms!

He explained that when he found the litter, no adults were around, but as soon as he picked this little baby up, it's cries brought eight big adults in a hurry. Paulo started running and then climbed a tree when the otters started catching up. Somehow, this confused the group and they returned to the nest. Paulo took the opportunity and high-tailed it to the boat.

While I lectured the smiling Paulo on the ecological impropriety and the personal danger of his act, I clicked away like a madman. The little bugger was really cute, following us around the beach and posing like a natural star. After a few minutes we motored back to the other bank and placed our little super-model at the crest of the ridge. Within seconds, mama came crashing through the brush to retrieve her little one. I can think of few other ways, at least in this life, where you can visit paradise and bring home photos too.

New! - Featured Dorado Trip to the Ibera

The beautiful and powerful freshwater golden dorado has long been one of the most admired fish in southern South America. This extraordinary migratory gamefish combines the habits of trout and salmon with the ferocity and predatory instincts of a tiger shark. The largest species, *Salminus maxillosus*, is found mainly in Argentina, Bolivia, Southern Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay. These steel-jawed hunters feed primarily on a mullet-like fish called *sabalo*. A big dorado (twenty pounders are not uncommon, the IGFA record is 51 pounds) will consider a two-pound *sabalo* nothing more than a snack! Once hooked, the dorado is a great leaper and a prodigious fighter.

For several years now we've been trying to find a way to make dorado fishing as accessible, dependable and comfortable as our other more established trips. Now we've teamed up with River Plate Anglers to solve all of the logistical challenges and provide the perfect solution. We are pleased to announce our first **featured** dorado trip, coming this winter.



This new featured trip will encounter the dorado at the upstream end of its spawning migration in the huge Ibera Marsh. Located in the civilized ranching province of Corrientes in

northern Argentina, the Ibera is today what Florida's Everglades were like 500 years ago, without the mosquitoes. The crystal clear black water keeps insect pests from efficiently reproducing while providing the perfect nursery for spawning dorado.

Our groups will arrive in Buenos Aires and fly via charter to the small town of Mercedes at the edge of the marsh. From there, a short boat ride will take us to River Plate's comfortable facilities and access to what may be the best dorado fishing in the world. Anglers will enjoy 5 and 1/2 days of fishing in stable, guide-operated fishing boats, surrounded by the unique beauty of an almost endless, pristine marshland. Teeming with birds, flowers and indigenous wildlife, this wonderful setting and the sporting dorado, will create a trip that even the most seasoned angler will never forget. See Page 6 for info.

Uraima Falls Yields Record-Size Payara on the Fly

This winter I arrived in Uraima Falls with a newly purchased armamentarium of specialized fly fishing equipment. It was my plan to catch a monster on the fly. I was ready to return to the spots I had identified the year before with a better array of gear, carefully targeted to fish the rocky, quick-moving shallows that had yielded my first few fly-rod payara. The moment we cruised into the first rocky bay, I realized that I would never take the stuff out of the box. My fondly remembered spots were dry as a bone!

Fishermen should never make too many fancy plans. The Paragua River was lower than it had been in many years. I've fished here often and had already witnessed widely varying water levels. This was just one more of the many possible variations. So I pulled out my trusty baitcaster and a box of big Rapalas and went off to fish the conventional way, while I pondered my next move.

After a satisfying morning landing several of Uraima Falls' hefty, saber-toothed predators, I was ready to rethink my plans. I loaded up my 9 weight Loomis GLX with a 400 grain sink line and headed for the base of the Falls. I had seen big payara jumping here in the past, but because of the incredible amount of water roaring through, I had never been able to even get close. This year was different. It was going to be possible to climb over the rocks at the base and actually stand at the edge of the falls.

The roar of a wall of water 150 feet across and 15 feet high was deafening...and frightening. Standing on the spray slickened rocks, just yards from the violent cataract took a little bit of getting used to. While I stood there, steeling my nerves, a nice payara leaped into the falls virtually under my nose. O.K., I was ready! From that point on began a process of finding ways to present a bait to these fish. After a bit of trial and error, I learned that I could get my fly into what I perceived to be the strike zone by making a 50 foot cast across a small eddy and onto the edge of the fastest water. The fierce current quickly pulled out another 30 feet of line and drove it all right up against the falls. Stripping quickly, I could pull the rapidly sinking fly out of the current and right through the slack water where I had seen the fish jumping. Even though there was a wall of rock behind me, the cast was feasible by keeping the rod tip and the line up high. This was going to work.

It didn't. At least not a first. After an hour or so of unproductive casting, I started making changes. First to go was last year's black, white and silver streamer. I began to tie on an array of flies I had tied for peacock bass, dorado, tarpon and whatever else I had in my bag. Finally, I tied on a yellow streamer with a black tail and a red head. Pay dirt! The first cast yielded a light, but distinct tap. While I stood there curs-

ing myself for not being ready, the cooperative payara came back and slammed the fly, pulling the line tight and giving me an easy opportunity for a hookset. A few minutes later, my guide, who had been sitting off to the side rolling his eyes for the last hour, came scrambling down the rocks to help me unhook a beautiful, toothy, 8 pounder.

Have you ever stood twenty feet away from someone fishing the same piece of water as you and watched him land fish after fish while you couldn't even snag the bottom? Finally, I was feeling like the guy twenty feet away. This spot and this pattern was working beautifully. Within the next hour I had landed several more beauties ranging up to 12 pounds and lost almost as many. I was actually starting to get tired when I sensed another strike and hooked up once again. It felt like a pretty good fish, but nothing extraordinary. And then it jumped! It was literally a giant silver slab of fish! My normally silent guide shouted, "Deus! El Monstro!". I didn't need a Spanish dictionary to understand that. Those were my feelings exactly. I wasn't nervous before, but as soon as I realized how big this fish was, the adrenaline started pumping, big time!



The fishing gods were with me and my fishing Karma must have been right. The monster fought well, ran and jumped and ran some more, but he never did the one thing I feared. Just yards from where I hooked him was a raging current that would have taken the fish and every last bit of my line and backing, hundreds of yards downriver in a flash. The giant payara, possibly fearing nothing, stayed and fought in the less violent waters eddying back toward the falls. Ten minutes later the tired fish presented me with one

last problem. How to get him out of the water. I stood on a wet rock about a foot and half above the water line, while the monster rolled sideways, finning in exhaustion at my feet. Suddenly, a timely wave washed at my feet, lifted the fish and gave me the opportunity to slide him right onto the rock where I stood. While I stood there staring at my high and dry opponent, my guide pounced like a jaguar and dragged the giant payara safely away from the river and high up into the rocks. Suddenly, I realized how tired I was. I just sat down on the wet rock and let the river's cold waves wash the adrenaline out of me.

We measured him and weighed him and photographed him. Thirty-one pounds! 42 inches! A full 9 pounds heavier than the existing 22 pound fly-rod record! I was thrilled. Even the later realization that my 17 inch wire leader was 5 inches longer than IGFA's limit for recording the catch couldn't diminish my satisfaction. I'm still ecstatic. I'll be back here on this same rock next year going after a bigger one...if the water levels allow.

...PR

www.Tackle-box.net and www.AcuteAngling.com Websites to Undergo Expansion and Update.

www.Tackle-box.net

Introduced late last year, Tackle-box.net's unique tackle outfit preparation concept has proven to be an unqualified success. The website's "Smart System" technology selects and prepares exactly the right outfit of lures, rods, reels and accessories for your specific fishing trip.

The patented "Tackle Wizard" asks users several simple questions about their trip, then offers a complete package of gear perfectly tailored to the angler's unique personal preferences. Fishermen can edit, add or delete to suit their needs and with the click of a mouse, a package of specialized, trip specific fishing tackle will be on its way.

This year, we're hard at work on expanding the system's capabilities. Slated to be complete by the end of summer, Tackle-box will be even simpler to use and will offer more powerful user resources.

Many new fish species, locations, package options and product lines will be added to the 'Tackle Wizard's' repertoire as well. Soon, Tackle-box will be able to meet every angling need.

These and more new features will make Tackle-box even easier and more productive to use. But, one thing will stay the same. Tackle-Box's great prices and extraordinary convenience will continue to save you time and money every time you log on.

www.AcuteAngling.com

After a long hiatus, the Acute Angling website is finally slated for an update. It will be reorganized to help make it easier to find the information you need.

Several new how-to articles are planned to make more fishing information readily available to clients. We've got new trips planned for the future and we'll be writing articles to inform you about them, too.

A new look to the site and new functionality is planned. Acute Angling has amassed a terrific collection of photos and video and we hope to begin making these accessible on our website. Do you have articles or photos you'd like to share? Please send them, they may be perfect for the site.

Introducing the Acute Angling Shirt

A fishing fashion Accessory you just can't do without!

They're finally here. After talking about them for months, we now have Acute Angling shirts in stock.

The original shirt was hand-embroidered by 'Mom' Reiss so that her fishing guide son would have something professional-looking to wear at a Sportsmen's Show. The next thing we knew, everyone wanted one! Mom's fingers just weren't up to the job, so we



computerized the design and had them made professionally

There are only 2 ways to get one. You either catch the biggest fish on one of our featured trips or simply order one using the form on the next page. The attractive, collared 'golf' style shirt is \$35.00 in White, Green or Black....Available Sizes ; Medium, Large and Extra-Large.

Now...Use Credit Cards for Your Trip

In response to your requests, Acute Angling is pleased to announce that we now accept major credit cards in payment for our featured fishing trips and merchandise.

American Express, Master Card and Visa can now be used as a convenient method of payment. Clients

can enjoy the benefits of paying for their trips over time and, where applicable, can enjoy the advantage of card company premiums and airline miles.

To book a trip with "plastic", simply use your card number by

mail or confirm your reservation by telephone. We hope to have automated payment via our website

available sometime in the future, also. Please note that credit cards can only be accepted for payment in full.

For your convenience, Acute Angling has entered the 'Plastic Age'.

NEW! Fall '2001 and Winter '2002 Featured Trip Schedule

Our featured trips are personally hosted by Paul Reiss. When you fish with us, you won't find yourself up some remote river without the proverbial paddle. We manage our trips on-site. We can help with techniques, tackle and extras that no absentee travel agency can provide. You'll have a guide in camp with you, who speaks your language and is dedicated to making your trip a success.

PEACOCK BASS TRIPS

Depart	Return	Days of Fishing	Location	Price	Availability	Description
Amazon Angel Yacht Trip - New, Convenient Fly-in Itinerary - Matupiri River						
Oct. 3rd, 2001	Oct. 12	6 days of fishing	Brazil	\$1950	- Full -	Explore Amazonia on a comfortable, air-conditioned yacht. Our mobility allows access to over 300 miles of majestic waters. Excellent daily catch averages (up to 15 - 30/day) with an average size of around 5 pounds. Fish in the teens are common. Fish over 21 pounds were taken here. Return each evening to the comfort and security of the yacht.
Oct. 10th, 2001	Oct. 19	6 days of fishing	Brazil	\$1950	- 2 openings -	
Oct. 17th, 2001	Oct. 26	6 days of fishing	Brazil	\$1950	- 3 openings -	
Fly-in Safari Camps - Live amid the Amazon's mystery - Caures River						
Nov. 28th, 2002	Dec. 7	6 days of fishing	Brazil	\$1995	- 2 openings -	Live in comfortable floating bungalows. Dark water in this consistently productive river favors surface action and explosive topwater strikes. Excellent daily catch averages (12 - 20/day) and a high proportion of trophies up to 24 lbs.
Dec. 5th, 2002	Dec. 14	6 days of fishing	Brazil	\$1995	- 5 openings -	
Macaroca Lodge - A Hot new Fishery in Northern Brazil - Xeriuini River						
Dec. 12th, 2002	Dec. 21	6 days of fishing	Brazil	\$2500	- 4 openings -	Beautiful white sand beaches and clear black water provide an extraordinary setting at this comfortable lodge. Great numbers (15 -30 /day) with an unusually high percentage of medium to large fish (10 to 20 pounds).
Feb. 20th, 2002	Mar. 1	6 days of fishing	Brazil	\$2500	- 8 openings -	
Winter Fly-in Safari, Rio Urubaxi - A Giant Peacock Bass River						
Jan. 16th, 2002	Jan. 25	6½ days of fishing	Brazil	\$3450	- 4 openings -	A Giant Fish River. The average size here is enormous. Fish in the teens are common, 20 pounders are frequent! The largest caught here was a 26 and 1/2 pound monster! Recommended for experienced anglers.
Jan. 23rd, 2002	Feb. 1	6½ days of fishing	Brazil	\$3450	- 8 openings -	

PAYARA TRIPS

Depart	Return	Days of Fishing	Location	Price	Availability	Description
Payara at Uraima Falls, Venezuela - World Record Class						
Feb. 12th, 2002	Feb. 19	5½ days of fishing	Venezuela	\$2995	- 6 openings -	During the dry season, payara pursue huge schools of bait fish up the river to the spectacular rocky Falls. Excellent daily catch averages (typically 10 - 30/day) and more trophies (up to 40 pounds) than anywhere else in the world

FRESHWATER DORADO TRIPS

Depart	Return	Days of Fishing	Location	Price	Availability	Description
Golden Freshwater Dorado in the Ibera Marsh — Argentina						
Mar. 13th, 2002	Mar. 21st	5½ days of fishing	Argentina	\$3250	- 8 openings -	The crystal clear Iberá Marsh is a spectacular wildlife reserve brimming with capybara, caiman and untold numbers of birds. The Marsh yields plenty of dorado up to 20-pounds. Last year, a 45-pounder was taken on spinning gear and a 33-pounder on fly. Good numbers are hooked daily and everyone on the trip raves about the experience!

Note - We can book the trips shown above at alternative, non-featured dates - Pricing, however, is typically higher and we do not host those dates. Acute Angling can also book you on a full array of exotic fishing trips to other locations. Call us and let us know where you'd like to go!

Use the form below to obtain detailed trip information

Trip Date	Description
_____	_____
_____	_____
Name	_____
Address	_____
City	State ZIP Code
_____	_____
Phone	_____
E-Mail Address	_____

Note - All trips require a \$1000 deposit to confirm a reservation

Use the order form below to send a trip deposit or purchase goods

Item # or Trip date	Description / size / color	Qty.	Price	Subtotal
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Check New Jersey Residents must add 6% sales tax for merchandise purchases - Trips are not taxed - Shirts add \$2.10 tax each and a \$4.95 shipping charge per order.				
<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Me Order total: _____				
<input type="checkbox"/> Visa Tax: _____				
<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard Shipping: _____				
<input type="checkbox"/> American Express Total: _____				
Credit Card # _____				Exp. date _____
Signature _____				