



# Acute Angling - Exotic Fishing

Fishing news - Acute Angling's spring 2001 newsletter

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FISHING NEWS

Spring 2002

## .... Special - Spring Exploratory issue ....

● **NEW**—We're always looking for new and better places to fish. This winter we hit paydirt on two Brazilian Rivers. Our spring issue describes what we found. Look for a more detailed article on our website in the near future or call us for a complete information package. We're looking for a few adventurous anglers to join us on our next exploratory.

● **NEW**—Updated Fall 2002 and Winter 2003 Schedules. We've added some new trips and moved around some old favorites. Learn how to experience the fishing trip of a lifetime.

Six months have passed since the terrible events of "September 11" occurred. The world has undeniably become a different place. Our country has taken decisive action in Afghanistan and it appears poised to attack terrorism in other abetting countries as well. We would like to take this opportunity to honor the heroes at "Ground Zero" and the Pentagon, who unselfishly risked or gave all to help others. Likewise, we thank the men and women of our armed forces who are doing the same right now, in the ongoing effort to eliminate this threat to our way of life. And of course, we must always remember the innocent victims. .... PR

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## Exploring the Amazon Fringe 2 Exploratory Expeditions - 2 New Rivers

Have you ever daydreamed about some great fishing spot, real or imagined, that would fulfill all of your fishing fantasies? It would be isolated; you'd be the only one there. It would be beautiful; an example of Nature's perfection. It would be just right for your style of fishing; all the best spots within an easy cast of your plug or fly. But most of all, it would be loaded with fish; hungry, aggressive, big fish just waiting for your brilliantly presented bait! Of course you have; you're a fisherman! Well, so have I and so have my fishing partners and fellow explorers. We.... Wellington Melo, Nicky Guedes and myself.... three friends, fishermen and Amazon outfitters, decided to try to make that daydream a reality. We pooled our resources to cooperate in a search for new, exotic fishing destinations; for the daydream location.



You can make some unusual friends fishing. This big trairaõ from the Jatapo has a winning smile

Our quest started in the northern

Amazon town of Boa Vista. Surrounded by the rare sight of Amazonian mountains, Boa Vista blends the sensation of a bustling frontier cattle town with the richness and warmth of the rural Brazilian spirit. We met here, to lay the groundwork for our expedition into Brazil's hidden treasures; it's rare, fast, mountain rivers. We were going to succeed surprisingly well.

Our first stop was the Urariquera, a powerful mountain tributary of the mighty Rio Branco. After a long day crossing 170 kilometers of broken pavement, dirt roads, cow pastures and cattle trails, we finally reached the isolated river at dusk, exhausted. Fishing would have to wait until morning.

The crack of dawn found me bone-weary but gamely clambering the rocks with my fishing rods in hand. Making my way to the edge of a small eddy, I launched my first experimental cast. Within seconds, a nice payara was all over my Yo-Zuri and instantly airborne. He was gone before I could react, but

## Brazil's best kept secrets - The Urariquera & Jatapo

I was fully awake now! Two casts later, I hooked up solidly with his roommate and the battle was on. While the beautiful silver fighter ran and leaped with abandon, every last bit of yesterday's exhaustion evaporated - I was fishing again. 5 minutes later, I released a glistening 12 lb. payara.



Now I went to work with a vengeance. The base of a fair-sized nearby rapid held a deep hole. I moved in and began probing with a deep-running Rapala CD-18, dredging up one beefy payara after another. Jumping off three for every one I managed to maneuver through the ripping current, these wild payara soon had me grinning like a fool. This river was loaded with fish.

.....Continued on next page

## The Rio Uraiquera ..... Continued from page 1

It was time to break out the fly rod. Within minutes, my painstakingly tied payara fly had me connected, hand to jaw, with yet another fanged bruiser. As the jolting strike reverberated through my shoulder, I snapped off a fast, hard hookset. The surprised payara seemed to stop and think for a moment, then took off at a screaming pace headed straight for Boa Vista. As the line whipped through my fingers, I was thankful that I had only stripped out enough for a short, probing, first cast. Quickly, he was on the reel, taking line and into the backing. As suddenly as he started, he stopped and took to the air. Three head shaking, gill rattling leaps failed to dislodge my red, black and yellow streamer from his toothy lip. Within minutes, a hefty 10 pound payara was gracing the business end of my Bogagrip. As I released the tired fish, I saw the first wisp of

campfire smoke rising like a restaurant advertisement from behind the rocks. I had already tied into 16 nice payara. I was tired, optimistic and hungry, so I headed back for breakfast to share the good news.

Later, as we fished our way upriver we arrived at what would be that night's campsite. The place was strikingly beautiful. The amber colored, packed sand beach sat like a poured foundation at the base of a raging cascade. A sandy haven, it was surrounded by racing streamlets overflowing from two other channels. The roaring water and crystal clarity of the setting created an acute awareness of the intricate balance between Nature's simple beauty and her pure raging force. More than just a campsite, this was a place of power.



Variety is a keynote on the Urariquera. Payara, bicuda, even peacock bass.

That evening we grabbed our fishing gear and headed off to do some trolling. We quickly hooked up two nice payara from a nearby deep passage. With two of us fighting fish at the same time, the boat slowly spun in a quiet eddy. We began the double-header dance, ducking under and passing over each other's lines as the payara did their own version of the do-se-do. Without a hitch, we brought a pair of nice fish to the boat for a simultaneous release. Moving downriver to probe a shallower, sandy point brought out other species. Quickly, we added a big bicuda (*boulengerella*), some big piranha and, to my surprise, even a nice-sized peacock bass. Tying on a floating plug, just to see what would happen, yielded a fat eight pound *pescada*. Also known as *corvina*, this delicious fish had dinner written all over it. With the sun setting we headed back to camp.

After our exploratory on the Urariquera had come to an end, we made an easy decision. We'll be back. Next year, with a well-designed and well-planned expedition to properly access the river's wealth of gamefish species. The river is loaded with big fish and great variety. In all our time on the river we had only managed several hours of fishing time. But they were filled with non-stop action. We

caught one big, beautiful fish after another and they all behaved like the denizens of our daydream fishing spot. This spectacular river offers not only exceptional fishing opportunities, but a direct connection with Nature's awesome beauty and power.

- Look for a more detailed article on our website in the near future, or call us. -

## Join us - on a full-scale Urariquera exploration

**New Exploratory Trip** - Our short and limited exploratory trip this year made it clear that the Urariquera is an extraordinary fishery. Payara up to 20lbs, Pacu up to 25lbs and giant Jau catfish up to 65lbs have been caught in just the small region we explored this year. Next year, we want to explore a larger area and to more thoroughly probe the fishing opportunities than our short first visit allowed. For this reason, we'll be mounting a single, larger scale exploratory expedition in 2003, including from four to six selected anglers. We want to find out what else is here. Our staff will handle all campsite work so that anglers will be able to concentrate most effectively on patterning the fishery. We will routinely move the camp in order to explore as many different areas as possible.

**Camping** - Basic, but comfortable camps will be located on beaches or along the riverbank in pleasant, secure locations. Facilities will consist of pop-up tents with mattress pads and

clean sheets, . All camping gear will be provided. Our staff will prepare complete, hearty meals, with the emphasis on freshly caught fish. Riverside laundry service will be provided. Bathing and toilet facilities will be strictly 'au naturel (use the river to bathe and the woods for everything else). This is not a trip for everyone. The Urariquera is a very powerful river. For this reason, our staff will portage boats and equipment up or down particularly powerful cascades. Anglers may experience a reasonable amount of walking over rocky banks in these areas. For this reason, anglers should be in good health and physical condition.

**The Urariquera has never been fished** by American sportfishermen! It's potential has, as yet, never been tapped or even measured. The Urariquera's great variety of sought after gamefish species and the river's extreme beauty and isolation, promise to make this voyage an unparalleled fishing and wilderness experience. This trip is recommended for experienced fishermen.

## The Rio Jatapo

**Our second exploratory destination** was the beautiful and mysterious Rio Jatapo. Long off-limits to outsiders, the upper Jatapo runs through the restricted territory of the Waiwai Indian reserve. They control the river and its surrounding rainforest, a region the size of the state of Delaware. As a result of their growing awareness of "sustainable harvest" concepts, the Waiwai granted us an exclusive opportunity to enter their territory to explore the Jatapo's potential as a sportfishery.

This beautiful, winding jungle river is loaded with a remarkable variety of gamefish. Big boulders and jumbled rocks accent the quickly moving black water. Lush, green, flower-laden rainforest towers above the river. Ever-changing fisheries are encountered as the Jatapo flows southward and descends a series of waterfalls. For two days, we drifted, fished and portaged our way downriver.

On our first day, a wide bend in the river prompted our Waiwai guides to suggest we stop and fish. We rigged up with deep-running crankbaits and within minutes Wellington was fighting a huge *trairao*. This wide-bodied version of the "bowfin from hell" knew how to fight. He rapidly stripped line from Wellington's heavy bait-caster with repeated headshaking, bulldogging runs. Just as it seemed he should be running out of steam, he turned and headed right back toward the boat. Wellington shouted, "He's heading for the surface. He's going to jump"! Sure enough, the hefty bruiser proceeded to launch himself three feet into the air with remarkable agility, not more than 20 feet from Wellington's gaping stare.

Three more jumps and finally the big fish was finning at the side of the boat. As I latched my Bogagrip onto that mouthful of wicked teeth, I could hear Nicky's triumphant whoop as he hooked into a *trairao* of his own. "Twenty four pounds! I told Wellington. By the time Nicky's sixteen pounder came boatside, I was happily struggling with a big scaly beast of my own. In the next thirty minutes, we hooked into at least a dozen more of these broad-shouldered critters. When the action comes on the Jatapo, it comes in bunches!

Continuing to descend, on our second day we reached a region replete with quiet lagoons. Entering one, it didn't take



long for a probing Zara Spook to get the patented peacock bass treatment. As a rapidly moving "vee" closed in on my bait from behind, I braced myself for the strike. An angry peacock smashed the lure and took care of setting the hook all in one motion. In the violent fighting style of his species, the hefty, brilliantly colored fish tried to remove my hooks, break my line and shatter my rod; but to no avail. I had lots of space and I let him do his worst without giving in to the temptation to hurry the fight or force the issue. Soon a beautiful, 8lb. male peacock decorated my Bogagrip. Just as with the *trairao*, the action came in bunches and we quickly landed fourteen nice peacocks, ranging up to ten pounds.

We made camp that night on a spit of sand below a beautiful waterfall. I planned to rise early the next morning and test out the pool below, but Nicky and Wellington weren't going to wait. Armed with freshly caught piranha, they set out to test the Waiwai's tales of giant catfish.

I've done a bit of catfishing over the years. Mostly, it's a lot of waiting ... fooling with baits ... waiting ... maybe having a beer and then waiting some more. Sometimes there's a spurt of wild activity when a catfish

shows up, but inevitably there's more waiting afterward. I figured I'd let my partners do all the waiting out on the boat while I sat comfortably in front of the campfire.

I didn't realize that they had parked the boat in a "no waiting zone". Big catfish were inhaling their baits almost as soon as they hit the water. The pool was crawling with them. But these cats knew their environment. As soon as they felt pressure, they'd simply head for the rocks and slice the line off like sewing thread. After several lost rigs, Nicky finally managed to maneuver one of the cats away from the rocks and convince him to fight his way toward the beach in front of our camp. Ten minutes of grunting and groaning later, Nicky hauled a huge, red-tailed cat into the boat right in front of camp. Wellington got the idea too. A few minutes later he hauled a 45 pounder out of the pool. They would have probably fished all night if it weren't for the fact that the last of our rigs and sinkers disappeared into the deep right after that.

When we return (with more gear), I'll be catfishing too, because the Jatapo seems to have eliminated all the waiting.

## Fish, Camp & Explore the Hidden Jatapo

**Exploratory Trip** - We've had a great opportunity to experience this river's remarkable variety of species. We struggled with huge, primitive *trairao*, beautiful, aggressive peacock bass, sporty payara, leaping bicuda and giant catfish. We're returning in 2003, to explore a larger area and to more thoroughly probe the fishing opportunities. We'll be mounting a single, larger scale exploratory trip in 2003, including from four to six selected anglers. As with our Urariquera trip, our staff will handle all campsite work so that anglers can concentrate most effectively on patterning the fishery. We will move the camp rou-

tinely to permit the exploration of many different areas.

**Camping** - This type of trip is not for everyone. As with our Urariquera exploratory, camps and facilities will be basic, but comfortable. The Jatapo is a very remote river. In some areas, our staff may portage boats and equipment up or down difficult stretches. Anglers may experience a reasonable amount of walking over rocky banks and should be in good health and physical condition. For experienced fishermen, this unique exploratory journey offers truly wide-ranging variety and a rare wilderness experience in a bucolic, protected, jungle setting.

# Winter 2002 Images - Trip Photos



Ron Kiley hoists his Unini trophy



Steve Brody shows off a beautifully colored, male Unini peacock.



Barbara Bunge joined the 20 pound club on the Rio Urubaxi



The Urubaxi boasted giant peacocks, beautiful orchids (above) and gangs of raucous blue and gold macaws (below left).



Capt. Jim Butters wrestles with a big, toothy Uraima Falls payara



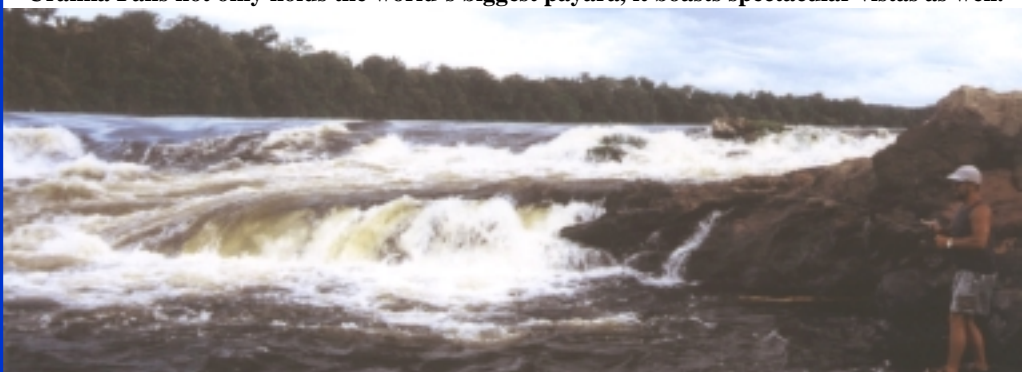
Jenny Reiss fought long and hard to land this giant Red-Tailed Catfish on the Rio Unini. The little guy, below, looks a bit uncertain.

## Winter Fishing Report

January found us shuffling rivers to accommodate unexpected rains. The weather sent us first to the Unini and later, following dropping water levels, to the Urubaxi. Our timing was perfect and we wound up with the best of both worlds on each river. Clients had excellent catches, with great numbers on the Unini and huge size on the Urubaxi. Fish over twenty pounds were landed by Barbara Bunge, Michael McGuire with a 22, and yours truly with a 24. Uraima Falls provided its usual high percentage of big payara with Jim Butters and Steve McCreary landing 20 pounders. '2001/2002 has proven to be the best fishing season we've ever had.



Uraima Falls not only holds the world's biggest payara, it boasts spectacular vistas as well.



# Fall '02 / Winter '03 - Trip Plans

## Where We're Going and How to Go With Us

I've just returned from a great fall and winter of fishing. It's still awfully cold here (New Jersey) and I've been gone so long, my dog still isn't sure he remembers me, but I've gone straight to work on next year's schedule. As of now it's pretty much set and already beginning to fill up.

### Here's where we're going;

**Fall 2002 - Peacock Bass** - As I've done for the last several years, I'll be hosting groups on the Amazon Angel for peacock bass, starting in late September and continuing through mid-October. I've moved my schedule a week earlier in order to home in on the best water levels and fishing conditions on the Matupiri and its environs. Fishing here has improved each year since the river has been made into a catch and release preserve. We have reconfirmed our exclusive arrangements with the community controlling this fishery and expect even better results this fall. The Angel was freshly refitted last year and is more comfortable than ever. There are still plenty of spaces for pairs and individuals, however if you're considering a larger group, you should call right away.

December will find us using the floating bungalow safari camps once again. We'll wait until we have a good fix on conditions and then choose the river that will provide the best peacock bass opportunities. In spite of a severe drought, weird weather and unseasonable water levels last year, we had great trips as a result of making a last-minute change to the Araca. This year promises to be more conventional. We'll probably fish the Caures, Jufari or Unini, all of which have been producing good numbers and very big fish. Openings are still available.

**Winter 2003 - Peacock Bass** - I'm really excited to be starting '2003 off with our new exploratory trips. Both rivers show incredible promise (as described herein). Returning for a more detailed exploration with a very small group of hardy anglers will ultimately tell us if these rivers will lend themselves to future fishery development, either with a lodge or more regularly scheduled and civilized safari style camps. If you're in good shape, interested in discovery and not averse to roughing it, call me for this one.

In mid-January I'll be returning to Macaroca Lodge. The dates I've selected should give us optimal access to this river's trademark characteristic - an unusually high proportion of big fish between 10 and 20 pounds. We'll be filling both the upper and lower camps.

Both lodges are newly completed and boast air conditioning, hot showers and a luxurious level of comfort.

The huge peacock shown below came from the Urubaxi, a true monster peacock bass fishery. I know there are bigger ones there and I'm going back to look for them. This remote topwater-oriented river has true world-record potential. To maximize access to the fish, we'll be using the Amazon Angel as a mobile floating hotel. Only five spaces remain.



**This 24 pound monster came out of the Rio Urubaxi. I'm going back to find his father.**

### Spring 2003 - Payara - Dorado

Next year, we're going back to Uraima Falls, Venezuela for giant payara in March. This great lodge offers a relaxed atmosphere, all the comforts of home and the best payara fishing in the world. Payara are among the best fighting fish in anywhere, fresh or salt water and should be experienced by every serious angler. Over the past few years we've developed some super productive fly rod techniques here to go along with the fantastic conventional tackle opportunities

River Plate Angler's new dorado camp in the heart of Argentina's vast Iberá Marsh has proven to be an unqualified success. Anglers caught great numbers of big dorado here this past season, including a 28lb. monster on the fly. Next year promises to be even better, with the opening of several new channels accessing hitherto unfished braids and lagoons. We'll be coming here in mid-March, when the biggest of the golden breeders become readily accessible to fly and conventional tackle.

### Here's how to go with us;

If something in our schedule catches your imagination, just call us. If you've never gone before, you need to ask a thousand questions. No matter how detailed we make our trip descriptions on paper it remains very difficult to tell one from the other. But they are very different, and the best way to find the trip that's right for you is to call, ask questions and let us help you to select the perfect trip.

Once you've picked your trip, type and dates, let us do the rest. We'll reserve your space, book your travel, arrange visas and help you get ready. We even offer a complete tackle selection. And once the day comes, remember, we'll be there with you. Paul Reiss is on-site on each of these featured trips to

make sure that you are happy and well taken care of, to optimize the fishing opportunities and to help you get the most out of your fishing trip of a lifetime.

**Paul Reiss: 908 832-2987 Garry Reiss: 908 431-1668**

**"I'll be on-site on each of these trips to make sure that you are well taken care of, to optimize the fishing opportunities and to help you get the most out of your fishing trip of a lifetime."**

# '2002 / '2003 Featured Trip Schedule

## Fall 2002 - PEACOCK BASS TRIPS - BRAZIL

Depart	Return	Days of Fishing	Location	Price	Availability	Description
<b>Fall 2002 - Amazon Angel Yacht Trip - Fly-in Itinerary - Matupiri River</b>						
Sept. 25th, 2002	Oct. 3	6 days of fishing	Brazil	\$1950	- 5 openings -	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 (20 - 30/day) with an average size of 5 pounds. Fish in the teens are quite common and monsters over 21 pounds were taken here. Return each evening to the comfort and security of the yacht.
Oct. 2nd, 2002	Oct. 10	6 days of fishing	Brazil	\$1950	- 4 openings -	
Oct. 9th, 2002	Oct. 17	6 days of fishing	Brazil	\$1950	- open -	
<b>Fall 2002 - Fly-in Safari Camp - Live amid the Amazon's mystery</b>						
Dec. 4th, 2002	Dec. 12	6 days of fishing	Brazil	\$1995	- 4 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. 11th, 2002	Dec. 19	6 days of fishing	Brazil	\$1995	- 6 openings -	

## Winter 2003 - PEACOCK BASS TRIPS - BRAZIL

<b>Winter 2003 - Macaroca Lodge - A Hot new Fishery in Northern Brazil</b>						
Jan. 22nd, 2003	Jan. 31	6 days of fishing	Lower Camp	\$2995	- 6 openings -	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 (20 -30 /day) with an unusually high percentage of medium to large fish (10 to 20 pounds).
Jan. 22nd, 2003	Jan. 31	6 days of fishing	Upper Camp	\$2995	- 2 openings -	
<b>Winter 2003 - Giant Peacock Bass - Fly-in Luxury Yacht Safari</b>						
Feb. 5th, 2003	Feb. 13th	6½ days of fishing	Brazil	\$3450	- 4 openings -	The Rio Urubaxi/Paduari region is a giant fish river with enormous average sizes. 20 pounders are common here! This top-water oriented system has yielded a 26 and 1/2 pound monster! Recommended for anglers seeking a trip a notch above the rest.

## Winter 2003 - EXPLORATORY TRIPS - NEW!

Depart	Return	Days of Fishing	Location	Price	Availability	Description
<b>Explore new rivers with us - Fish for payara, peacocks, trairaõ, giant catfish &amp; more</b>						
Jan. 15th, 2003	Jan. 23rd	5 days of fishing	Rio Jatapo	\$2750	- open -	We've discovered two exciting new rivers in the Amazon. The Jatapo holds a remarkable variety of gamefish, including peacocks, payara, trairaõ, giant catfish and more. The Urariquera holds big payara, big pacu, and giant catfish. Both trips will be limited to a small group of hardy travelers. We'll camp on the banks, explore, catch our meals and share a unique experience.
Jan 30th, 2003	Feb. 6th	5 days of fishing	Urariquera	\$2500	- open -	

## Winter 2003 - PAYARA TRIP

Depart	Return	Days of Fishing	Location	Price	Availability	Description
<b>Winter 2003 - Payara at Uraima Falls, Venezuela - World Record Class</b>						
March 1st, 2003	Mar. 8th	5½ days of fishing	Venezuela	\$3250	- open -	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

## Winter 2003 - FRESHWATER DORADO TRIP

Depart	Return	Days of Fishing	Location	Price	Availability	Description
<b>Winter 2003 - Golden Freshwater Dorado in the Iberá Marsh — Argentina</b>						
Mar. 7th, 2003	Mar. 14th	5½ days of fishing	Argentina	\$3250	- open -	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 into the 20-pound class. 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, may vary and we will not likely be hosting those dates. Acute Angling can also book you on a full array of exotic fishing trips to other locations... Africa for Tigerfish, Mongolia for Taimen, Australia for Barramundi, even New Guinea for Black Bass! Call us and let us know where you'd like to fish!**

**Join us on the fishing trip of a lifetime!**

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