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Online Newsletter Issue 14

Exclusively for the Peacock Bass Angler
and other obsessed anglers!

DOC TALK.....

A Message from Gary Laden

REMOTENESS, TOP GUIDES, WEEK-LONG LONG SCHEDULE SPELLS FISHING NIRVANA *We Think So!*



Gary "Doc" Laden

For the 2010-11 peacock bass fishing season in Brazil, we have offered an exclusive opportunity to book our clients to the **Headwaters Safari Camp** owned and operated by Marlon Otero, owner of the popular Tayacu yachts. In formulating our trip lineup for this season, our constant theme was to find operations that would be extremely remote, far removed from the major tributaries that would be easily accessible to the fleet of sport fishing yachts out of Manaus and Barcelos. We also wanted excellent guides with a very good grasp of English. Although we wanted remote, we did not want to sacrifice comfort for our client/angler. We think we have found "*fishing nirvana*" with this operation.

For many of you, the time away from family and work schedules was a major factor when considering an Amazon fishing trip. You certainly did not want to travel to the Amazon to fish for three days. However, the majority of the six-day fishing packages consumed the better part of two work weeks. We think we have solved this issue. Anglers will arrive in Manaus on Saturday and then spend the night at the Tropical Business Hotel. Early Sunday morning, anglers will take a float plane to the camp and the plane will depart the camp with anglers who spent the prior week fishing. These anglers will arrive back in Manaus in plenty of time to catch the flight to Miami and arrive home on Sunday night or Monday morning the latest. This schedule will only call for missing one full week of work.

We are pleased to also announce that we have locked up four of the top guides for this operation for the upcoming season. Each

has a minimum of 12 years experience with American anglers. Three speak English fluently and one is getting a good grasp of it. They have worked at several of the major peacock bass fishing operations, but wanted to work in a more intimate atmosphere and not a yacht with 16 anglers or a lodge with 30 anglers. They will be paid a retainer to keep them busy during the off-season.



This camp will be mobile, allowing us to locate at the headwaters of major tributaries (inaccessible to yachts) offering optimal fishing conditions.

Bookings are fast and furious. Get in on this fishing nirvana!

Doc

HAVE ROD WILL TRAVEL

Rod Selection for Peacock Bass



I believe that 6'2" to 6'6" medium/heavy to heavy action casting rods are the tools of choice when casting large surface propeller baits. The rod should possess a firm tip, guides with double footings anchored to the blank and a long handle.

After more than 20 years of fishing for trophy peacock bass, accumulating some 60 plus trips to Brazil, Venezuela and Peru, I am convinced that the most effective rod length and action for targeting fish in excess of 12-lbs on large topwater plugs is a baitcasting rod that is between 6'2" and 6'6" and be considered of medium/heavy to heavy action. This particular length and action allows you to more efficiently use the wrists and arms to retrieve large topwater plugs across the surface. A stout rod, combined with minimal-stretch braided line (more on that later), will allow better action and response as you aggressively retrieve these large plugs across the surface. Although a rod with a flexible tip may be suitable for a host of lures, do not use a flexible tipped rod when working large propeller baits. Longer rods are also a hindrance in tight casting spaces,

as you'll often face overhanging trees and branches.

When casting smaller topwater plugs, such as walking baits and poppers, or medium sized jerkbaits, consider a casting rod 6-1/2 feet in length and of medium heavy action. When casting or trolling long, heavy (1-ounce or more) jerkbaits, medium heavy casting rods of 6-1/2' in length are the tools of choice.



A spinning rod should be 6-1/2 feet in length, with a medium/heavy action and fast tip.

Some anglers have a preference for spinning gear, but have been lead to believe that this tackle is not appropriate for peacock bass. This is simply not the case. Numerous anglers have landed some of their largest peacock bass on spinning tackle. Knowing when and where to use this tackle is the key, however. During the course of a fishing day, I will frequently alternate between spinning and casting outfits, as each calls for different casting, reeling and retrieval mechanics

and will work different muscle groups of the wrists, arms, shoulders and back, thereby lessening overall fatigue and soreness while fishing. Spinning rods are very appropriate for casting 4-6" jerkbaits, 1/2 to 1 oz topwater lures and when working 1/4 to 3/4 oz. bucktail jigs. A quality spinning rod will tame

the toughest peacock bass. A versatile angler should be proficient with both spinning and casting outfits.



During the course of a fishing day, I will frequently alternate between casting and spinning tackle when fishing for peacock bass. He believes he is able to fish longer and harder by switching between the two types of tackle.

Don't fret if you've simply given up on the idea of using baitcasting gear for peacock bass. Many anglers have great success using only spinning gear. The key is to balance the tackle properly. If you are going to cast large propeller baits on spinning gear, secure a medium/heavy to heavy action spinning rod and pair it with a smooth reel that can cast 65 lb braided line. If given the choice, however, I do think

that the casting outfits allow you more retrieval action, better leverage and power to fight trophy fish (especially if you have large hands and palm your casting reels) and offer less fatigue than spinning gear when casting and retrieving large propeller baits.



For those of you who are strictly "baitcast anglers" and think that spinning gear is too fragile for peacock bass fishing, is inaccurate and simply does not

measure up to baitcasting gear, think again. Although most anglers proficient with baitcasting equipment can cast very accurately and control the lure by applying thumb pressure to the spool as the line feeds off the reel, they have not yet mastered the concept of feathering the line as it comes off the spinning reel spool to control lure accuracy. After making a cast, your index finger should immediately feel for the line (see photo above) as it shoots off

the spool. This is like thumbing a baitcast reel and will control distance and accuracy. When you are ready to close the bale of the spinning reel, use the index finger to tighten the line and this will avoid line coils in the spinning reel.



If you're a frequent traveler to South America, consider purchasing three-piece travel rods (see photo at left). High quality break-down casting* or spinning* rods can be easily carried aboard both commercial and



charter flights in short rod tubes that will fit in overhead compartments. They also make it easier on small plane charter pilots who often complain about having to try and find space aboard their planes for large and cumbersome 7-foot rod cases. *Contact Dink Alston of Goldrush Custom Rods about these custom three-piece travel fishing rods at 561-261-1904.



The angler above made multiple casts deep into the pocket (see arrow) with a topwater propeller bait. He kept the lure moving all the way back to the boat when the fish struck. These pockets are usually a prime pattern, so key in on these areas and stay alert for fish following the lure out from the pocket.

FISHING PATTERNS & TECHNIQUES

Pound the Pockets



Pockets on the main river, or perhaps located in lagoons, are prime lairs for peacock bass. Try to get your lure or fly as deep into the pocket as possible. This is where your casting skills will really come into play. In most cases, you'll use a

topwater lure (such as a propeller bait, walking stick bait or popping plug) or Banjo minnow to probe the pockets as the water will be really shallow and possibly loaded with lure-snagging stumps or other forms of wood cover. However, a skilled angler can work a jig or jerkbait in these pockets as well. You'll need to keep the rod tip high and work the lure quickly until it reaches deeper water, at which time you can lower the rod tip and work it as you normally would all the way back to the boat. Don't hesitate to make multiple casts into the pocket to entice a fish into striking. In the photo above, note the pocket indicated by the arrow. You need to get the lure as close the pocket bank as possible for best results. In many cases, a fish might follow the lure and strike it as the lure gets closer to the boat, so pay close attention to the lure and look for fish that may be following your lure.

ARCHIVED NEWSLETTERS

For those that might have missed any of our semi-monthly newsletters, or perhaps have only just recently been added to the newsletter list, all previous issues are now archived at our website. Visit peacockbassadventures.com and click on the newsletter icon to review previous newsletters.



KNOW YOUR AMAZON FISH

TAMBAQUI



The **Tambaqui** (*Colossoma macropomum*), also called black pacu, **Black-finned pacu**, **Giant pacu**, **Cachama** and **Gamitanais** from the Characidae family. It is a relative of the piranha, but unlike piranhas, the tambaqui has a mouthful of blunt teeth that appears very human-like. It is similar in shape to the **piranha** and is sometimes confused with the carnivorous fish; the **pacu** is tall and laterally compressed with large eyes and a slightly arched back. Body color is basic black to gray with spots and blemishes in its mid body. All the fins are black and the pectoral fins are small. These fish survive primarily on a plant and fruit diet.



They may grow to more than 3 feet long and weigh over 65 pounds. It is found in rivers throughout the Amazon region. It is a migratory fish that tends to seek out lagoons during the rainy season, pursuing seeds and fruits that have fallen into the water. These fish have been caught on bucktail jigs, small jerkbaits and subsurface flies. The local guides prefer to use fruit on a bait-hook to catch the tambaqui, which is a very vicious fighter and a delicacy on the table.

REWARDS REMINDER

Earn a Custom Rod or Amazon Style Fishing Shirts



For every new client that you refer to us (new client being defined as someone that has not traveled with us previously) we will offer you your choice of a **Dink Alston Goldrush**

custom 3-piece travel rod (in your option of casting or spinning) or two tropical weight, long-sleeved vented fishing shirts. Dink's rods are the most popular travel rods for anglers traveling to South America for peacock bass. It is comforting to have your rods packed in a small tube aboard flights to South America, knowing that they will, in fact, reach the foreign fishing destination when you do.

There are no strings attached to this offer. When deposits are sent to the office with the trip reservation form, we request that you advise the future client to write your name in the area that asks who referred them to us. We will contact you shortly thereafter and ask if you prefer the rod or the shirts. This rewards offer is good for the entire 2010 winter fishing season and there are no limits on how many rods or shirts you can earn.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Website:
Peacockbassadventures.com

Email:
Info@Peacockbassadventures.com

Phone:
678-327-6787

YOUR TROPHY FISH IMAGE ON FRAMED CANVAS

Canvas Art & More



I was recently introduced to **Canvas Art and More**, a company owned by friend and fishing client **Jamey Cagle** of Canton, Georgia. Canvas Art and More has the ability to transform a quality photo of an angler's trophy catch into a beautiful, poster-size simulated oil portrait in extremely vivid detail and coloration.

After purchasing one of these canvas reproductions from Jamey of my **National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame** 4-lb line class record peacock bass (the photo above does not do the canvas art justice), I am going to recommend Canvas Art and More to all of my clients, as these portraits are ideal for any angler, angling friend or family member who might be an avid angler and might cherish their prized catch in portrait form for many years to come.



It is as if an artist painted the photo onto the canvas, as the texture is that of an oil painting. They are either sent to you as a rolled work of art or, put on a frame and stretched around the frame. Jamey (seen in the photo at left holding a canvas art reproduction of one of his trophy peacock bass) advises that the canvas reproduction process he uses is supposed to last a long time and fade. For more information and pricing contact Jamey Cagle at: **Jamey@Goriverstone.com**.

Tell him you are a peacock bass angler referred from us and you will receive a discount. The price is very reasonable.

ANGLING ODDS 'N ENDS

Dress for Fishing Success

SIERRA
TRADING POST®
Great Deals. Great Brands.

One of the best sites I have discovered for very good discounts on fishing attire and other accessories, be it shirts, pants, sunglasses or shoes, can be found at **Sierratradingpost.com**. Items are relatively easy to find and you can either use their many categories, such as a link to fishing gear, or simply type in search words, like fishing shirts or Columbia pants, etc. Once you purchase an item from them, they will send you email updates when they have their frequent sales.

Cabela's Bargain Cave



Friend and angler **Bob Daly** emails to advise that **Cabelas.com** often features fantastic deals on fishing tackle when you click on the Bargain Cave link.