



For more than ten years, the Agua Boa Amazon Lodge has been providing a unique, quality Amazon experience and superb fishing restricted to fly rodders only. This established operation leaves little to chance and limits negative surprises to only those uncontrollable situations that mother nature occasionally dumps on a traveling fly fisher.



Recently, Mike Costello (a legendary guide in Northern California) hosted a group of a dozen fly fishing friends/clients at the Agua Boa. They literally took over the lodge just for themselves. The short version of Mike's (at left with peacock bass) feelings about the trip: "We had a great time at the Aqua Boa. Everything was perfect."

The Agua Boa (right) is a special Amazon river, running clear water most of the time which makes sight fishing possible. So many of the Amazon waters are "black water" and are hammered by gear fishermen chucking large plugs. There are government restrictions in place for the



unique waters of the Agua Boa limiting it to fly fishing, catch/release fishing only. The upper 7/8's of the river are covered by these permits. They are in the process of getting these same restrictions placed on the lower 1/8. There may be limited places in the Amazon where more Peacock Bass of a few pounds over 20 are available. However, no where is the fishery, wildlife, and overall Amazon experience for a fly rodder as predictable and proven as the Agua Boa.



Matt Goff (left) on his feelings about the trip: "The fishing was great. Lodge was amazing considering the isolated location. The most striking thing was the lack of trash or any indication a human had ever been on the river. It was much more remote than I had imagined. Well worth the effort to get there. Caught so many peacock bass each day it was silly. Guides rocked. Guides fished hard and were a joy to fish with, but learning a little Portuguese would be helpful."

Joining Mike and Matt on the trip were Jeff Solis, Tom Brutsche, Ron Knowles, Murray Low, Mike Bates, James Lowder, Carson Chen, George Strickland, Jeff Stegall, and Mike Woods. Mike on the fishing: "For the week, our group landed well over 1000 peacock bass with an amazing 75 fish over ten pounds. Over half the guys had at least one fish of 18 or more

pounds with Jeff Solis landing the largest." Left to Right: George Strickland, Murray Low (with fish on and a Peacock), and Matt Goff.



The largest of the Peacock species, the Temensis, is a primary target. But there are several other species including an active surface popper target, the abundant Butterfly Peacock, with the distinctive three markings on their side. From Mike: "There were several Arowana and large catfish landed and even a few of the reclusive giant Arapaima hooked on the fly. We experienced extremely low water which made the sight fishing opportunities even more profound." Below, l to r: Butterfly Peacock and Arowana.



Below, l to r: Jeff Solis with a large catfish; not all large catfish make the net – George with the front third of a catfish that fed a caiman on the way to the boat; Matt with a piranha; interesting gill plate markings.



Caiman (below left), the Amazon crocodile, are a constant part of the scene. James had some interesting Caiman experiences including a small one eating his red-white whistler (center) and taming one with a lasso move.



Amazon wildlife is an important part of the adventure and the remote area surrounding the Agua Boa is an excellent place to find it. Below, l to r – first row: the Jaguar is the primary predator; river otters are playful wherever they are found; a variety of monkey's swing in the trees. Second row: strange things that crawl can be colorful; unusual creatures of the Amazon include the Tapir and the Three Toed Sloth; James and Matt push the skiff through a small canal to a hidden lagoon.





Below – interesting birdlife is everywhere. To find a way to avoid predators, birds have created unique nests suspended from tree limbs (right).



Mike: “The Agua Boa lodge is an amazing sight, a slice of paradise, in the middle of the jungle. Fly anglers are fished hard with great guides, and they are not only rewarded on the water with exceptional fishing and unbelievable scenery, but as the day winds down, they are pampered with great food and wonderful cocktails.”

Below, l to r: The Agua Boa Amazon Lodge and it’s private airstrip on the river; dinner and desert – Mike seems to be asking, “where am I going to put this giant piece of cake?”; the guide crew; Murray motors into one of the many small lagoons off the main river channel. These lagoons are an important part of the fishery.



Below, l to r: Stalking and casting from a poled skiff is the norm; Matt and James relax in front of their cabana; Jeff (on the right) at the pool side swim-up bar with camp host and bar tender; Ron takes a dip after a hot day on the water; On left, Mike and friends ready for a big day.



“Two years ago, when I decided to go after Peacock Bass, I knew that there was only one place I wanted to go, The Agua Boa Lodge. This past January, eleven of my best friend/clients and myself headed to the jungles of Brazil to challenge some of the hardest fighting fish in the world. Armed with numerous 8, 9, and 10 weight fly rods and thousands of flies, a group of hard fishing Delta striper fishermen were ready to do battle. From the moment we landed in Manaus and then on to the lodge, we could not have experienced a better trip. Intermediate

lines produced the best results and some anglers used floating lines to have some great top water action. This trip truly lived up to all my expectations, and I can't wait to return in 2017. Special thanks to the two hosts at the lodge, who made sure we had a great experience, and to all the guides and other workers, who went out of there way to put the customer first" - Mike Costello.



A great selection of photos made this photo essay possible – thanks to the following for their fine camera work: James Lowder, Matt Goff, George Strickland, and Mike Costello.

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