

# Amazon Connections: Issue #5

## Newsletter of the

## Center for Amazon Community Ecology

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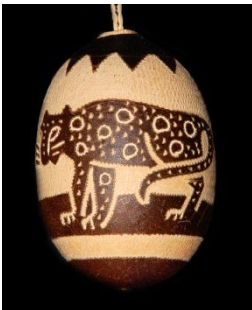
### CACE Peru Project on Global Giving



The Center for Amazon Community Ecology is working to create sustainable livelihoods for native communities and promoting forest conservation with native communities in the Ampiyacu River region in Peru. We are doing this by helping artisans create and market innovative handicrafts, develop novel essential oils from aromatic plants, and plant trees to provide long-term supplies of these products. Please check out our [Peru Project on the Global Giving](#) network and help us with a donation of any size. We're still in the running to earn a \$1000 to \$3000 bonus for groups that raise the most in the Open Challenge that ends December 31.



### Building artisan capacity and community benefits



CACE is working with artisans in five native villages to develop new and higher quality handicrafts, foster skill sharing, and promote the sustainable harvest of all plants used to make the crafts. Bora, Huitoto, Ocaina and Yagua women are now weaving snake pattern belts and guitar straps, hot pads, coin purses, doll-size hammocks and carving wildlife designs on calabash pod ornaments. We are also surveying forest plots with artisans to count chambira palms, providing pruning saws to carefully harvest leaves, and encouraging artisans to plant more chambira to supply more for the future. CACE

craft sales are helping artisan families and communities meet more of their basic needs. Brillo Nuevo has almost finished building a community pharmacy with Social Rebate funds from CACE craft sales. [Read the full story about the Ampiyacu Project.](#)



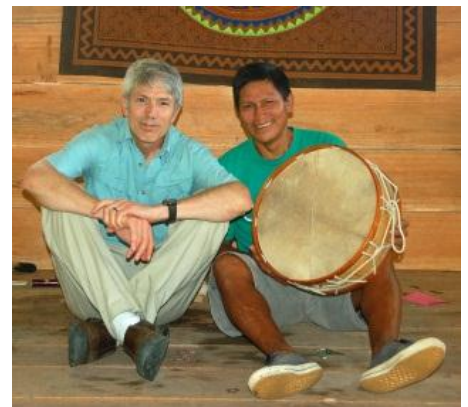
### Rosewood reforestation and essential oil for Brillo Nuevo



CACE is expanding its efforts to develop marketable essential oils with its native partners from copal resin to classic fragrances like Amazon rosewood (*Aniba roseodora*). We collected leaves from one legacy tree near Brillo Nuevo to distill in our first trial. We have partnered with the NGO Camino Verde to produce 1000 rosewood seedlings at a

government nursery and transplant them to five family fields at Brillo Nuevo in February. Before these trees grow enough to sustain a modest leaf harvest in three to four years, we hope to gain experience making and selling the oil with a shaman and other rosewood growers from the river town of Tamshiyacu.

[Read the full Rosewood story.](#)



## CACE welcomes Robin van Loon and Camino Verde as partners



The Center for Amazon Community Ecology is welcoming Robin van Loon as the newest member of the CACE Advisory Board. Robin is the founder and executive director of Camino Verde, a non-profit organization dedicated to planting trees in the Peruvian Amazon. Thanks to grants from the Marjorie Grant Whiting Center, CACE and Camino Verde are now working together to plant 1000 rosewood seedlings in the Bora native community of Brillo Nuevo, develop essential oils from sister species in northern and southern Peru, and explore ways to sustainably harvest the medicinal latex of “dragon’s blood” trees. [Read more about van Loon and CACE’s joint ventures with Camino Verde.](#)



## Devon Graham: Amazon biologist, community supporter, and ecotour operator: Interview with Campbell Plowden



Devon Graham spent several years in the Peace Corps in Niger; he now connects people to the natural beauties of the Amazon and its riverine communities. He is President of both Project Amazonas, an NGO which conducts ecological research and provides humanitarian aid to native and campesino communities and its partner company Margarita Tours which offers special eco-tours in the northern Peruvian Amazon. Dr. Graham also teaches field courses about the Amazon and the Everglades. In

this interview, Devon reveals how he got hooked on the Amazon, his thoughts on ecotourism, favorite research projects, and experience bringing medical care to native communities. [Read the full Graham interview.](#)



## Two Thanksgivings and a Birthday with the Temb  Indians in Brazil



CACE Executive Director Campbell Plowden spent two years living in a small Temb  Indian village in the eastern Brazilian Amazon studying the ecology, management and marketing of non-timber forest products. In this story he recounts his first Thanksgiving in the field with his family when they asked a neighbor to get a wild bird for their celebration with other friends in the city. The next year when he continued his research in the village by himself, he learned a lot of cultural lessons about different ways of expressing appreciation and generosity celebrating Thanksgiving and his birthday two weeks later. [Read Plowden’s full story.](#)

