

Amazon Connections: Issue #7 (October 2013)

Newsletter of the

Center for Amazon Community Ecology

[CACE website](#)

info@amazonecology.org

[CACE Blog](#)

[YouTube](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

Rosewood seedlings on track



CACE and its ally NGO [Camino Verde](#) planted 900 rosewood (*Aniba roseodora*) seedlings in the Bora native village of Brillo Nuevo this past February to create a future sustainable source of rosewood oil. This summer we carried out the first full check-up on the young trees. Some plants were stressed after being transplanted, but 90% were still alive. Young Bora men measured the height, width, and number of leaves on 20 plants in each of the five family fields so we can track their growth and health in the coming years. Another team took pictures of the monitoring and [cool insects](#) in our first digital photography workshop. [See full story and photos.](#)



Chambira palm survey and cooperative reforestation



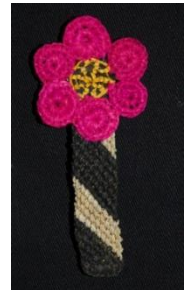
Our Ampiyacu project manager Yully Rojas has continued leading inventories of secondary forests (“purma”) in Brillo Nuevo where artisans collect most of the chambira palm they use to make woven handicrafts. This summer we encouraged a group of women to help one of their fellow artisans plant dozens of chambira seedlings in her “purma” so she would have a greater supply of the raw material to make her crafts. This activity was accompanied by the first digital photo workshop for women in the village. We got nice shots of women with their babies in the forest and a beautiful tarantula. [See full story and photos.](#)



New Amazon hair barrettes and hat bands with Ampiyacu artisans



Some great ideas for handicrafts come directly from creative customers. Last spring Chuck Barbour bought three chambira palm fiber woven bracelets and wrapped them around his spiffy straw hat. This summer, four Bora artisan partners from Brillo Nuevo adapted some popular belt designs and invented some new ones to make the first Amazon hat bands. See [hat bands](#) and [artisans with their work](#). Other artisans created the first models of hair barrettes – some flat and others for pony tails. See [hair barrettes](#) and [artisans with these crafts](#).



Support CACE's work on GlobalGiving



Please support CACE's work in Peru with a donation to our project on the GlobalGiving network at: www.AmazonAlive.net. This is one important way we raise funds to conduct our research, support artisans to create new crafts, and plant more chambira palms and dye plants. We are seeking to raise another \$3500 to buy a 20 gallon distiller and shredder to make fragrant essential oil from sustainably harvested copal resin and rosewood leaves and branches.



Bora artisans create dye plant garden as hedge against flooding



In the past two years, the Amazon River has risen higher than usual in the winter rainy season and impacted thousands of people living by its banks and tributaries. Some people were even forced to abandon their houses on stilts, and rates of malaria dramatically increased. In Brillo Nuevo, the severe inundations killed many backyard plants that artisans use to dye chambira fiber. This summer CACE helped one group create a communal dye plant garden in an upland area so future floods will not deprive them of plants they need to make and sell woven handicrafts. [See full story and photos.](#)



“Artisans of the Ampiyacu” video debuts on YouTube



[“Artisans of the Ampiyacu – Native handicrafts in the Peruvian Amazon”](#) is a rich visual and music video by CACE that shows how native artisans collect and transform chambira palm fiber, roots, fruits and leaves into diverse woven and carved handicrafts. Photo and video montages display how artisan lives and crafts are integrated with the birds, mammals, fish, reptiles and insects of their forest world. Bora women describe how making crafts helps them support their families and community.



Watch [“Artisans of the Ampiyacu.”](#) [See all CACE videos on YouTube](#) - Please subscribe.

A father’s day to remember



I love exploring the forest and working with our partners in Peru, but this summer, I had a memorable Father’s Day in Brillo Nuevo where everyone truly celebrated (and reminded Dads about) their importance to their families. I played mud volleyball and got wrapped in toilet paper. I saw my first head-lice picking race and contests where trusting wives let their husbands “do” their hair and put on make-up to win prizes. [See full story and photos.](#)



Certificates and clothing for Bora artisans



Near the end of our time in Brillo Nuevo, CACE gave certificates to each of our partner artisans with a level corresponding to the total value and number of their crafts we had sold in the past year. Top sellers also received a package of gifts of household items. The women had fun at this ceremony that they said gave them an extra incentive to make quality crafts. We also gave each woman a share of donated clothing brought to Peru with the help of funds raised by Baltimore Yearly Meeting Young Friends. [See full story and photos.](#)

