

2003 JOINT MEETING OF ICHTHYOLOGISTS & HERPETOLOGISTS 26 JUNE - 1 JULY 2003

(The information presented here is based on a pamphlet distributed during the 2002 meeting in Kansas City, Missouri)

AN INVITATION FROM THE LOCAL COMMITTEE

We are cordially inviting you to participate in the Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists that will be held in the heart of the Amazon jungle at the Tropical Hotel Conference Center, Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil from June 26 to July 1, 2003. The meeting will be hosted by the Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia (INPA) and the Universidade do Amazonas (UA). The Local Committee is chaired by Dr. Ning Labbish Chao (UA) and Dr. Richard C. Vogt (INPA).

The 2003 Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists is an effort to bring together scientists from throughout the world to present original research for the advancement of knowledge relating to the diversity, conservation and utilization of ichthyological and herpetological resources, and to encourage and support young scientists who will make future advances in these fields. For the first time the joint meeting will be held in Brazil - Amazon!

The joint meeting will include a plenary session of lectures, symposia, contributed papers and poster presentations, committee and board meetings, elections, workshops, and social events.

Costs associated with the meeting include registration, transportation to and from the meeting site, and room and board. Each person attending the joint meeting is required to cover these costs as none of the sponsoring societies have funds to cover costs.

We have made arrangements with VARIG Travel Vacations (1-800-682-3333, extension 181, Ahroni is the agent in charge of the joint meeting package) to provide a travel package originating from Miami, which includes round trip airline ticket to Manaus, local transportation, and hotel room with breakfast and lunch for six days. Packages from other cities of origin will also be available for an add on fee. We are also working on alternative travel packages with other travel agencies.

The joint meeting in the Amazon will be a once-in-a-lifetime adventure.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

The Amazonas State (1,564,445 km²) has the largest equatorial forest in the world. The main rivers in the region are the Amazonas, Negro, Solimões, Purus, Juruá, and Madeira. Amazonas is located in the middle of Brazilian's Northern Region, bordered to the north by Roraima State, Venezuela and Colombia; to the east by Pará State, to the southeast by Mato Grosso State; to the south by Rondônia State and to the southwest by Acre State and Peru. The climate is tropical hot and humid with average temperature 31.4°C (76.5°F). The rainy season is from December to May and the Rio Negro (Black River) reaches its highest level in June and its lowest in September. The monthly average precipitation in Manaus is 210 mm.

TOUR ATTRACTIONS & FIELD TRIPS

Manaus is a modern city with a population of 1.5 million, offers various regional attractions. One of the most famous is the Boi-Bumbá Festival, which happens every year at the end of June in Parintins, 100 km from Manaus. Local travel agencies offer a variety of tour packages. A City Tour includes a visit to the Museu do Índio (Indian Museum), Teatro Amazonas (Amazonas Opera House), and Porto Flutuante (Floating harbor). A typical Rio Negro cruise takes about 8 hours including a boat tour to Lake Salvador, a short walk in the jungle, and a visit to the meeting of the waters, where the black waters of the rivers Negro and Solimões are divided for miles before mixing, a phenomenal sight.

There are more adventurous tours (reservations required), such as sport fishing trips; Jacare sighting - a night trip to watch caimans; special cruise to the Anavilhanas Archipelago, an ecological sanctuary. Jungle lodges and hotels also offer eco-tour packages, which often include visiting local communities, hiking through the rainforest, and other recreational activities.

Members of the Local Committee will organize and lead several field trips and river excursions after the meetings. These trips may last 3 to 7 days, with long exposure to sun, rain, and insects. Good physical condition and an easy going attitude are essential to making the trip enjoyable. You can sign up with Varig by downloading the 2 page registration form and FAXING it to the number on the form.

VISA

As a matter of reciprocity, a visa is required for American citizens that wish to visit Brazil. To obtain a tourist visa, you will need the following: a passport that is valid for at least six months from the intended date of arrival in Brazil; one passport-sized photograph (2" x 2"); a photocopy of the roundtrip ticket; a completed and signed visa application form; the \$45.00 processing fee. A tourist visa is necessary for tourism trips, visits to relatives and/or friends; scientists, professors, or researchers attending cultural, technological or scientific conferences, seminars or meetings, unpaid participation in athletic or performing arts events or competitions.

Tourist visa holders are not allowed to engage in any paid activity in Brazil. Collection of specimens or any other research is not permitted with a tourist visa. Additional information and extra fees may apply if you plan to do research depending on the details of your trip. Check directly with the Brazilian Consulate where you will be applying for the visa.

The Brazilian Consulates in the United States can be found at <http://users.icn.com/brol/visa/consulates.html>. If you search for Brazilian Consulate using Google, you will find the consulate that serves your area. You can get information on the tourist visa at <http://www.brazilsf.org/turista.htm>.

VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

A yellow fever vaccination certificate may be required only if you have traveled within the last 90 days to any of the following countries: Angola, Bolivia, Benin, Burkina, Cameroon, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, French Guiana, Gabon, Ghana, Gambia, Republic of Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Peru, Sierra Leone, Sudan or Venezuela. Yellow fever vaccination is advisable if your destinations in Brazil include any of the following Brazilian states: Acre, Amapá, Amazonas, Federal District of Brasilia, Goiás, Maranhão, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Pará, Rondônia, Roraima and/or Tocantins.

HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER

Tropical Manaus Eco Resort & Convention Center, Av. Cel. Teixeira, 1320 - Ponta Negra, 69037-000, Manaus, Amazonas, Brasil. Tel (55)(92)659-5000; FAX (55)(92)658-5026. Reservas - Toll Free 08007012670 (Brazil); http://www.varigravelvacations.ws/hotels/Trop_Man.htm.

OFFICIAL TRAVEL AGENCY & AIRLINE

VARIG Travel Vacations, ph: 1-877-687-1000; phone number to make ASIH reservation: 1-800-682-3333, extension 181 (Ahroni); <http://www.varigravelvacations.ws/>