

## Fishing Is My Day Job

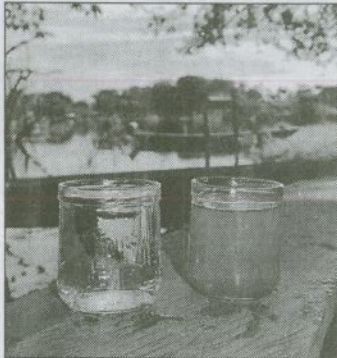


Bill Ryan

### St. Helenans provide safe water to Amazon River towns

It's The Best Hundred Bucks I Ever Spent. You know all anglers like fresh water. Well, I just bought a couple of special water purifier pails that will give two families in Brazil safe fresh drinking water for years to come. Take a look at this photo showing a glass of water before and after the device had done its job.

Young St. Helena residents, Virginia and Justin Meyer, have created their own foundation, Project Hope. Through it, they have already traveled to Northern Brazil to visit towns without safe water and deliver these simple but effective "low tech" purifiers. Justin told me that the water is so bad in many places that kids are always sick — and never ever go to school. He said that if Project Hope can just break this terrible cycle once, those



Submitted photos

**Two glasses of water demonstrate the before and after effects of purification.**

newly-educated young people can contribute to improving their communities. And a positive cycle is born for the future.

Man, it doesn't get much better than this — I met Justin for the first time in Sweeney's Sports. He was getting outfitted for some peacock bass fishing on the Amazon River during his then pending Project Hope visit. He's got his priorities straight — effective, grass-roots philanthropy topped off with some world-class fishing. BTW, check out those piranha teeth — Justin caught some for supper along with smaller peacock bass. We're tuning him up for bigger fish on his next trip.

I hope you'll join me in funding some more Project Hope initiatives. Wanna go with him? Look at the website [ProjectHope.me](http://ProjectHope.me) to see how



**St. Helenan Justin Meyer caught some piranha for dinner during a recent Project Hope mission trip on the Amazon River.**

you can help, too.

**Sacramento River.** Skeptics and detractors may be interested to learn that, in two days of salmon fishing at Chico, I did not boat one fish that I hooked-myself. First time.

The Alpha Team, locals Steve Amendola, Stan Press and I were joined by Portland's Monte Bricker and Modesto's Mark Dunker. We each took home three king salmon. It seemed to be just tough fishing; pass after pass in fishy water without a hookup. Our guide of 18 straight years, Kevin Brock (800-995-5543) used all of his skills and expe-

rience to find likely spots.

The fish we caught were big and strong causing lots of shouts during each fight. Biggest fish was about 22 pounds. My friends and neighbors said they tasted great — fresh out of the water and on ice every minute. It was special for me to be able to bring a big bagful over to the St. Helena Community Food Pantry.

I hope it pays off the legacy of my Grandpa Randall, who as a grocer kept poor families alive back in Kingston, R.I., during the '30s and '40s by giving them a box of food every Friday night.

**What's On Tap ... for fall and winter?** Keep your striper rigs ready — expect good action at least until we have some gully-washer rains that muddy the Napa River. It's bad news/good news, though. Brown water is like a dinner bell to sturgeon. It signals some tasty critters that have been washed out of the river banks and are coming down in ready-to-eat form for them. Be ready.

• The ugly summer winds on the California Delta have gone away — this tells me that we ought to start looking for sturgeon. Also, legendary bass pro Dee Thomas says that October and November are the best

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