



Manzanillo SUN

April 2018

coastal Mexico's lifestyle magazine

Good Deeds
Colours of Mexico
Nature's Wonders
Technology
Compelling Nature
At the Movies
Finance
RV Travel
At the Movies
Finance
RV Travel
Recipe
Learn Spanish
Path to Citizenship



Chachalaca, Club Santiago
photo by Greg Bates

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www.manzanillosun.com

Publisher/editor: Dana Parkinson

Contact:

General info@manzanillosun.com

Dana Parkinson dana@manzanillosun.com

For **advertising** information in the magazine or web pages contact:

ads@manzanillosun.com

Regular writers and contributors:

- Suzanne A. Marshall
- Allan Yanitski
- Tommy Clarkson
- Dana Parkinson
- Terry Sovil
- Señor Tech
- Kirby Vickery
- Yann Kostic
- Dan and Lisa Goy
- Ruth Hazlewood and Dan Patman
- Ken Waldie
- John Chalmers

Writers and **contributors** may also be reached via the following email:

info@manzanillosun.com

To send submissions for possible inclusion in the magazine, please send to the editor by 15th of each month. We are always looking for writers or ideas on what you would like us to see as topics for the magazine.

Article submissions:

- Preferred subjects are Manzanillo and Mexico
- All articles should be 1000 words or less or may be serialized or 500-750 words if accompanied by photos
- Pictures are welcome
- Comments, letters to the editor, articles, photos and advertisements are always welcome

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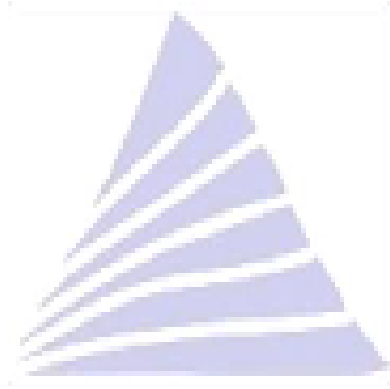
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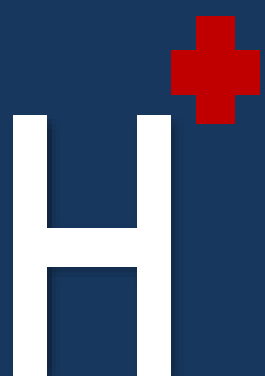


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Bocce on the Beach

February 22, 2018

Photography by John Chalmers
johnchalmers@shaw.ca

2nd Annual Tournament

story and photos by John Chalmers

What does an Italian ball game with ancient roots going back to Roman times have in common with American and Canadian Snowbirds? Simple answer: the game is bocce and the Snowbirds play it on a Mexican beach!

That was the situation for the Second Annual Bocce Ball Tournament on courts laid out on the beach in front of the popular Oasis Ocean Club restaurant on February 22. Forty-eight teams of two, up from 40 last year, entered under team names and put down their \$500 peso entry fee to compete for prizes in 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place. The event is a fun-filled fund raiser for Friends of Mexican Animal Welfare (FOMAW), focusing on their Manzanillo programs – Animal Angels street animal outreach program and Alianza Animal low-cost spay/neuter clinic.

A silent auction offered nearly 70 items which were obtained through the efforts of Laurie Taylor and Marge Tyler. Items up for bid included merchandise, restaurant meals, services, hampers and several pieces of art including two original paintings by well-known Mexican artist, Efrén González. An electric bike that could carry two riders was the highest value item. An innovation this year was the optional purchase of a \$100 peso wristband which entitled the wearer to order drinks from the Oasis restaurant at two-for-one pricing to help enjoy the day.

Another feature of the tournament this year was a non-compulsory costume contest for those who chose to participate.

A large crowd of players and spectators filled the seats at tables set out on the beach. They had Oasis staff on the run all day serving drinks and food. Announcer/DJ Randy Dean kept everyone informed about the progress of the tournament and provided music for the day.

Eight courts of 60 feet by 12 feet were staked out on the beach. In fairness to women players, a 10-foot advantage was given, making the court 50 feet in length for them. To start the game, a white golf-ball sized target ball called a *pallino* is tossed on to the court. Players then heave larger and hefty col-



...Second Bocce Ball Tournament - FOMAW



A panorama view of the *sombrillas* and seating set up on the beach for the crowd of players and spectators in front of the Oasis Ocean Club restaurant.

ored balls to see who comes closest to the pallino to score points. Each player throws two balls and the game is played until a score of 11 is reached by the winner.

Founded in 2009, FOMAW raises funds to help animals living on the street. Food, medication and medical care are provided through its Animal Angels program which operates a low-cost spay/neuter clinic. The primary focus is to provide spay and neuter services for dogs and cats to reduce the number of strays. Operating four days a week, the clinic in Santiago performs about 180 surgeries a month, with about 30% done for free to make services available for those unable to pay and for street animals without owners.

In addition to the entry fee, wristband sales and auction purchases, two additional items helped raise funds during the day. A Booze Basket of assorted spirits was raffled off, limited to only 50 tickets sold for \$250 pesos each. A 50/50 draw was

won by Brad Ahrens, who immediately gave \$5,000 pesos of his share back to FOMAW as a donation. He was a double winner with his wife, Sherry, as their Hillbilly Ballers team won the costume competition.

“We are grateful to the [Manzanillo Sun](#) for promoting and publicizing the event, which is a fine example of the magazine’s support of local and charitable events,” says Marge Tyler, one of the tournament’s organizers.



A 60-by-12-foot court is marked on the beach, with the red tape showing the 10-foot pitching line used by women. Seen with the colored bocce balls is the small white target ball, the *pallino*, at far left.



Fred Taylor, a key tournament organizer, is seen with the game schedule chart as he briefs players before the start of their bocce game.

The final game of the day pitted men versus women in an all-Canadian match that saw brothers Bob and Bruce Stevens of the BS and More BS team playing Pam Ball and Jill Morrison of the Colima Cougars, with the brothers taking the win. Third place went to Lloyd Duncan and Bill Brown of the Duncan/Brown team, while fourth place was taken by Ed Rapier and Jerry Coates of the Rapier/Coates team.

...Second Bocce Ball Tournament - FOMAW



Dennis Fair at far left, watches as fellow Sea Sluggers team member Dick O'Leary tosses his ball.

While proceeds from the bocce tournament will be mainly used for operating costs of Animal Angels, funds will help towards the purchase of a badly needed van to transport animal patients. As well, it would be used for veterinarians in their weekly Manzanillo area routes for chemotherapy to animals with TVT, a potentially lethal but curable form of sexually transmitted cancer among dogs. A van is needed for taking people to meetings and transporting supplies.

In total, the tournament raised over \$17,000 USD. While it is a significant amount, "The monthly budget for Animal Angels is \$1,340 USD a month, or over \$16,000 USD per year," says Stan Burnett, president of FOMAW. "Our spay/neuter clinic, Alianza Animal Manzanillo, operates on a monthly loss of about \$1,000 USD a month. We are extremely happy with the tournament's success."

Announcer and disc jockey Randy Dean kept the crowd informed of the tournament's progress and provided music for the day. Success of the tournament is due in large part to the work of volunteers in organizing the event, obtaining items for the silent auction and managing the bocce courts.



Buyers peruse the variety of donated items contributed to the silent auction display, with one of the large hampers seen in the foreground.



Sharon Harmer shows fine form as she lofts a ball in one of the early morning games at the start of the competition before the sun was at its best.

Friends of Mexican Animal Welfare is a US-based charitable organization that seeks funds from Americans and Canadians to assist with its Mexican animal welfare programs.

To learn more about FOMAW and the good work it does, to sign up for the newsletter, and to learn how you can support with a donation, visit the web site at www.fomaw.org.

You can also find [FOMAW](#), [Alianza Animal](#) and [Animal Angels](#) on Facebook.

you can reach John at john.chalmers@manzanillosun.com

... more pics follow

...Second Bocce Ball Tournament - FOMAW



Dick Harmer, dressed like an American flag, shows his colors and style in launching a ball, and was partnered with his wife for the competition.



Beach vendors added diversion and color to the festivities by offering clothing, hats, baskets and jewelry to tempt the spectators.



Dick and Sharon Harmer signed up as the Red, White and Blue team, prepared to compete in patriotic attire.



Sherry and Brad Ahrens, seen with FOMAW volunteer Monse Cortes, won the costume contest as the Hillbilly Ballers, but raised suspicion that they might need some good Mexican dental work while in the Manzanillo area!



Hillbilly Baller Brad Ahrens lofts his ball in a morning game.

...Second Bocce Ball Tournament - FOMAW



Sherry Ahrens, half of the Hillbilly Ballers, launches her ball.



Mona Matheson shows fine follow-through form in flinging her ball from the red line for ladies.



Just like horseshoes and curling, sometimes a measurement in a bocce game is needed to see who is closest to the target.



Looking like a professional in fine form is Karen Trom of the Bocce Virgins team.



The Oasis restaurant, patio and beach tables were busy all day. At rear is the display of items up for bid in the silent auction.



Under the right conditions with shade, *cerveza* and *margaritas*, a bocce tournament can be a spectator sport!

...Second Bocce Ball Tournament - FOMAW



Lloyd Duncan takes his turn in the game, and with partner Bill Brown took home a third place win for the Duncan/Brown team.



Nancy Bogue, a FOMAW supporter, holds the jar that held the ticket for Booze Basket lucky winner Ken Palmer.



Bill Brown of the Duncan/Brown team shows great form in lofting his ball.



Tournament organizer, silent auction coordinator and volunteer with FOMAW, Laurie Taylor, draws the winning number for the 50/50 draw from the container held by Marge Tyler.



Tournament organizers and volunteers with Alianza Animal Manzanillo, Marge Tyler and Fred Taylor, show the Booze Basket that was raffled off during the day.



FOMAW president Stan Burnett was very pleased with the results of the tournament, but fund raising is a constant need to ensure continued success for the organization.

...Second Bocce Ball Tournament - FOMAW



At the final match of the tournament, spectators watch the action in an all-Canadian contest. With sun, sea and the Juluapan Peninsula as a backdrop, the beaches at La Boquita provided a perfect setting for the bocce games.



Bruce Stevens, teamed with his brother, Bob, to go undefeated through the tournament.



Bob Stevens, who with brother Bruce comprised the BS and More BS team, one of the two entries in the final match of the day.



Jill Morrison, left, and teammate Pam Ball competed in the final game, which pitted women against men.



Jill Morrison shows her technique in tossing a ball in the final match on the sand.



Tournament 2nd place winners, the Colima Cougars from Calgary, Pam Ball, left, and Jill Morrison gave as good as they got in going undefeated into the final game.

...Second Bocce Ball Tournament - FOMAW



Brothers Bob, left, and Bruce Stevens of Ontario won first place, winning a five-course dinner with wine for six people, provided by the Oasis Ocean Club restaurant.

No losers here! Pam Ball, Bob Stevens, Jill Morrison and Bruce Stevens all had reason to smile after competing in the last game for first and second place prizes.



Seen at centre with the tournament chart behind him, is organizer Fred Taylor with the final two teams, BS and More BS, at left, and the Colima Cougars at right.

A Story of Evolution and Living in Mexico

by Suzanne A. Marshall

Well into our retirement life now, we are heading into our second year of living full time in Manzanillo. It's a process that began over ten years ago when we dove in head first, and bought our little piece of paradise smack on the beaches of Manzanillo bay. It was a gradual process, since we thought we already had our retirement home by a country lake in Alberta, which we bought 15 years ago. It was quite special, beautiful and quiet. At the time, we were busy commuting an hour each way into the big city and working hard at paying off the mortgage and longing for the days when we could finally jump off the treadmill and run free and wild in our senior years.

And while we trudged through the never-ending work grind (though we both enjoyed our work), we also felt we had earned our annual vacation and had begun our regular treks to Mexico and a variety of different resorts there. For many of us Canadians, winter is definitely a part of our lifestyle but, the older we get, the more we long for the warm retreats from the harsh climate. You can get to an age where the icy roads and snow removal get really annoying. Yes, the sunlit days on brilliant expanses of pure white snow and crystal blue skies can be stunningly mesmerizing but enough already. We really want to run around in the sun in next to nothing and jump into a pool and walk the sun-drenched beaches and manufacture more vitamin D which the average Canadian has far too little of. It's the happiness supplement both mentally and physically and I honestly saw a dramatic difference in my moods and so on. But I digress.

By that stage of our lives, we had earned our way up to a one month vacation each year. We headed to Mexico and we loved it. Of course, a couple of weeks are never enough, so we started scheming about how we could stay longer for less expense. Many will agree that the resorts are not cheap and you're kind of isolated from the real Mexico. We longed to mingle and really see and experience daily life outside the resorts. And of course, there is only so long before you're ready to ditch the buffet dinners and wrap your mouth around some true Mexican cuisine.

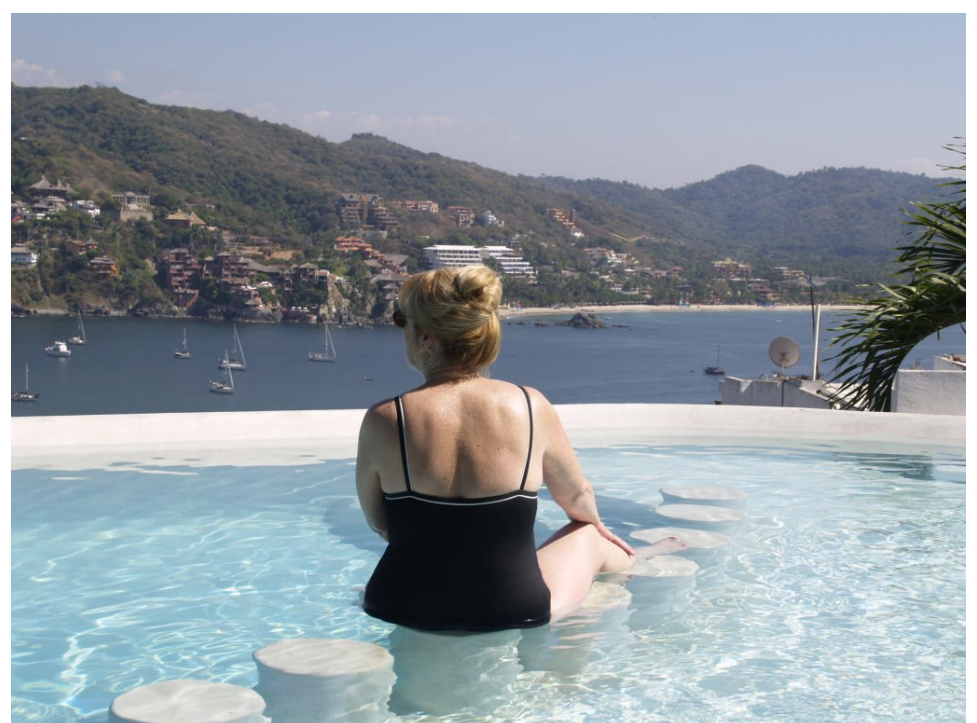
We booked our next vacation at a little Mexican villa above the bay of Zihuatenejo and truly fell in love with Mexico. Not only



Cruise ships stopped regularly in the bay of Zihuatenejo and now dock in Manzanillo as well

did we mingle at the grocery stores and cook our breakfasts in our own little kitchen, but we walked the streets and markets and mingled with the most wonderful, friendly and courteous people we had ever imagined. Now the temptations grew to have more of this fair weather country and its history and people. The research began and we developed a list of 'must have' criteria for the quest of buying a little winter paradise. The goal was simple: hide out in paradise for the winter and enjoy the best of Canada and its glorious spring and summer. It became a challenge as we 'played with' the planning of our quest for a year or two. We also had to retire from our jobs; but we were tired and ready for that.

It took a few years to accomplish this retirement quest. Our criteria list was a bit daunting. We wanted value for a reasonable purchase price; ease of access; good hospital and health facilities and absolutely must be on the beach. We prairie dwellers long for the crashing surfs and sea birds. And lo' and behold we matched all of these desires by visiting Manzanillo the fol-

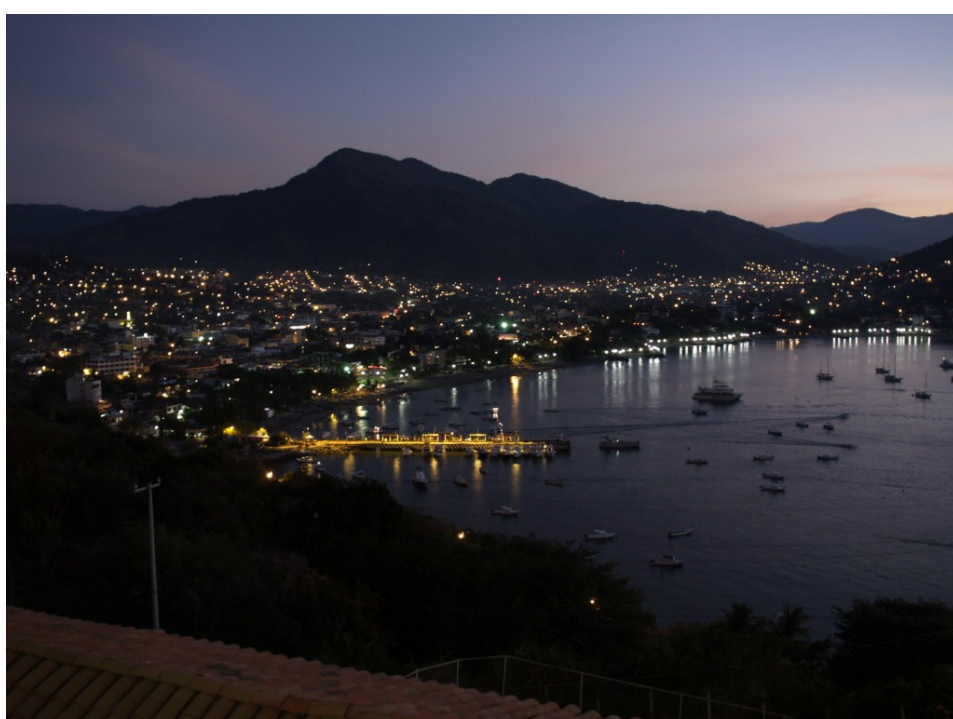


Our first visit to Zihuatenejo, away from the resorts, brought us to a villa in the hills. Spectacular!

...A Story of Evolution and Living in Mexico

lowing year. I had researched properties all up and down the Pacific coast line and ruled out a number of areas based on affordability, health care and access. The rest is history.

We purchased our condo in a building on the beach and really surprised all of our Mexican neighbours when we showed up to stay the winters. They are mostly from the city of Guadalajara and have proven to be wonderful and welcoming. Only one other family has opted to live here full time. So our lives took on a new cadence and we settled in for our winters, living the dream and returning to Canada with the rest of the snow birds in the spring.



Zihuatenejo bay at night

But did you notice I slipped in the words 'full time'? Yes indeed, well... you know how one thing can lead to another? It began to feel like the right thing to do. Eight years later, we were fully retired; our families had scattered across the country or were mostly working. Most of them could fly down and visit for less cost than travelling across Canada and of course we would make an annual trek home to see everyone in the summer season.

I'll admit that the right circumstances must come together in order to make such a big decision but, in our case, they did. It had become a burden to keep a vacant home six months of the year. We still paid taxes and heating costs and relied on friends to check the home, pick up mail and etc., etc. We sold our home, liquidated most of our possessions and hung on to the things we needed to keep in a small storage unit which we return to when needed.



A cruise ship docked in Manzanillo

This also allowed us to be debt free and makes a huge difference to ones' perspective, needless to say. It wasn't easy to deal with all the detail but now we feel quite liberated after working out the necessary living processes of banking, visas and health care registration and so on. It's complicated to write about but, suffice it to say, it can be done, one step at a time. It really need not be too complicated; if you are still healthy and the country of Mexico determines that you are not a risk to their resources so to speak. I'll save some of the adjustment details for another article in the future, but for now I'll continue and complete part of the story regarding spending our first summer here.



Mexican street markets offer colorful arrays of clothing, gifts and food

Many people ask us: how did you stand the heat? Is it really that hot and humid? How can you stand the rain? The answers are that it all came with some experience and adjustment, naturally.

...A Story of Evolution and Living in Mexico



This man told us his drink reminded him of his mother-in-law!

As the expat community dwindles and life settles into a smaller activity cycle, you work your way through climate management. It's not so much the actual temperature that changes but the humidity factors. Together they do rise considerably. And there is definitely the combination of these factors to consider. In Canada, we're quite used to the 'wind chill' factor when experi-



When you see pelicans like this around, you know the fish are nearby

encing our winter weather. So it's similar regarding the combining of heat and humidity. What do you do in Canada when the arctic weather hits? You dress for it, stay warm, manage the heating in your cars and homes and you get on with life.



Fresh fish for sale! Right out of the bay.

Summer and fall in Manzanillo are similar in reverse: you dress for it, manage your air conditioning and stay cool with dips in the pool and by staying out of the direct sun in midday. Most indoor areas such as grocery stores and malls are cooled with air conditioning. Luckily we have marvelous prevailing off-shore breezes living on the beach and we allow it to blow through our condo. We air condition the bedroom to cool it down at bedtime and run the overhead fans.



There is always a local market that begs one to come in a browse a while

Yes, we have to wipe down damp surfaces and stay on top of home care but we're not shoveling snow or putting on winter car tires either. I'm actually anticipating a more comfortable

...A Story of Evolution and Living in Mexico



This Manzanillo beach in front of our home attracts sport activities and lots of walking

summer this year since I've noticed that my body is tolerating the heat so much better and the acclimatization seems to have taken place. Or am I just getting really old? It's almost humorous to tell you that I've been quite chilly in the evenings this winter and have found myself searching out long-sleeved shirts to be more comfortable. It seems we've had a cooler winter than normal in keeping with the crazy weather patterns happening all around the planet.

Regarding the rainfall, I was honestly expecting an unending deluge of tropical rains such as I've seen in many movies about jungles and so on. But it really didn't happen that way. There are still an amazing amount of sunshine hours with intermittent cloudy days. It reminds me of my trip to Hawaii where the skies seem to dump rainfall at night and by morning the sun is out again. In Manzanillo, there are similar sudden surprise showers (if you're not a sky watcher) and you learn to always keep an umbrella with you. But as I say, it passes over and the sun breaks out again.



Miramar beach in Manzanillo brings families and tourists out to play and swim

The storms that pass through are amazing demonstrations of Mother Nature's whims. The thunder and lightning can be absolutely awesome and to sit and watch the show out over the bay from our covered terrace brings back memories of those big prairie thunder storms in Canada. Thankfully our father, who spent his working years travelling the countryside working with farmers and farm equipment dealers, taught us all to enjoy the spectacle of a good, old storm and admire nature and its most spellbinding magnificence. It was also interesting to discover that the hottest months here are the end of August to mid-October. Whereas, where I come from, the hottest months, by far, are July into August.



Hungry or thirsty? Manzanillo beach restaurants provide food and beverages under shady umbrellas.

This is not to say that we don't get an accumulation of rain. Indeed we do. Many of you who are here over winter will no doubt have seen the dry river beds and empty storm canals with the odd egret standing there with a few tufts of long grass. When the skies do empty over the city, the volume can be quite astonishing and these rivers and canals run extremely



Thunderstorms rolling in over Manzanillo Bay

...A Story of Evolution and Living in Mexico



Our condo pool helps keep us cool and is a lovely backdrop to spectacular sunsets

high with torrents of water eventually escaping into the nearby sea. Low-lying areas will sometimes overflow with puddles and wait for an overtaxed storm sewer system to catch up. One must pay attention to one's destination and watch for these accumulations. But, within the day or even hours, they diminish and life goes on as usual. Bear in mind, I am not addressing tropical storms and hurricanes. That's a whole other experience.

So, this summer, we think we are more the wiser. We know what to expect from experience; our bodies are better adjusted and hopefully there won't be too many surprises. What we plan to do however, is take a break here and there and do short trips into the Sierra Madre where it is much dryer and somewhat cooler. There are numerous places to visit and we hope to enjoy the ancient history of Mexico City, Guanajuato and areas that are sure to be a cultural experience and widen our understanding of the history and lifestyles of the Mexican people.



Lightening crackling over the bay can be quite awesome

Now, if we can just work our way into more Spanish fluency, all the better. We're really working at it and the Mexicans appreciate the effort.

you can reach Suzanne A. Marshall at suzanne@manzanillosun.com



by Tommy Clarkson

Texas Sage *Leucophyllum frutescens*

Family: *Scrophulariaceae*

Also known as: *Texas Ranger, Texas Rain Sage, Texas Barometer Bush, Texas Silverleaf, Ash-Bush, Wild Lilac, Purple Sage or Cenizo*

On the left side of Calle Loma Bonita - driving up the (very) steep hill to Ola Brisa Gardens - grows a fine-looking and healthy Texas Sage specimen. It was my introduction to this - seldom seen around here - lovely, drought tolerant, evergreen bush. Once I'd stopped, pulled my tires into a sharp angle against the curb and ensured that my emergency brake was fully engaged, I dismounted Shane (*my long-time faithful companion - read: accoutrement spartan, but hearty Herculean, 1998 Nissan pickup truck*) and went on to more closely investigate this intriguing plant. Immediately, I knew I had to have one!

Prior to actual acquisition, my search to learn more about this lovely bush was simply to reach for Neil Sperry's *Complete Guide to Texas Gardening*. In part, he described them thusly, a "rounded shrub [up] to four to seven feet [1.22 - 2.13 meters] [whose] small leaves are a striking gray all season long. [Its] flowers [are] varying shades of orchid and lavender, occasionally white [and] very showy against contrasting foliage." He elaborated on their unique characteristic to tend to bloom three to four days after a nice, soaking rain, but not so follow-



The Texas Sage can handle poor soil, has virtually no pest Problems and has rather intriguing flowers!

ing simple irrigation! He wrapped up his thoughts discussing the facts that while much preferring very good soil drainage, the *Leucophyllum frutescens* can handle poor soil and has virtually no pest problems.

I next turned to *Plants for Tropical Landscapes* by Fred D. Rauch and Paul R. Weissich to see what they could add. From them, I further affirmed what I'd seen and observed - this is a slow growing sort that thrives both in Texas and Mexico (Though up to that time I could not recall having ever seen one in any of our local *viveros* - nurseries).

They said this plant prefers full sun - which both of those geographical locales have no little of year around! They observed that their experience had shown, however, that the Texas Sage, in the right conditions, might grow as high as twelve feet (3.66 meters)! They suggested its use being as a "shrub mass

...Texas Sage

[substantively different, I suspect, than a High or Holy Mass] clipped hedge, informal screen, or background plant." They further alluded to the species having more "silvery foliage and various flower colors."



Sperry says its a, "rounded shrub [up] to four to seven feet [whose] small leaves are a striking gray all season long. [Its hairy] flowers [are] varying shades of orchid and lavender, occasionally white [and] very showy against [its] contrasting foliage."

But what did Robert Lee Riffle have to say in *The Tropical Look*? Firstly, he stated that *Leucophyllum* is "a genus of twelve." Of this variety, he says their mature height is around ten feet [3.50 meters]. As mine is still small, I honestly can't tell you their optimal size for sure. He described their almost stalk-less leaves an inch [2.54 cm] long and elliptic to oblong, being silvery to bluish-gray in color "because of the multitude of tiny hairs on both surfaces of the leaves." He goes on to add that "The bush is near perfect in rock gardens or anywhere that is dry and sunny. It is successfully grown in wet climates if planted in mounded or raised beds – but suffers and dies in sites with poor drainage."

Thus, with the base provided by these four highly experienced tropical botanists, I'll now add my two cents - or 35.37 *centavos* - worth! From all I have read and heard, it seems to me that the height of the Texas Sage actually depends on the environment in which it grows. In more arid conditions, it will stay compact and short, probably not exceeding five feet (1.52 me-



The peak of its glory seems to be appreciated by more than just the 'buggy' likes of me!

ters). Where they have caregivers providing them with additional water and nutrients, obviously they grow more.

The peak of its glory are the Texas Sage's delightful, one inch (2.54 cm), pink, purple, rose to violet, bell-shaped flowers - each with five lobes and two lips each. It can be pruned as necessary to keep it at a size and shape of your choosing. As to how they might best be employed, there are several applications, such as in a mass planting in a row, used as a hedge or screening capacity, incorporated in a general garden use or even employed as a container plant. Should you seek more of them, it is best propagated by seeds or softwood cuttings. And, lastly, if for no other reason to have one, the Texas Sage is a favorite of bees, butterflies and birds.

Here's "sage" advice - Get one!

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Who doesn't enjoy tropical palms, bright jungle flowers and a mango margarita?

Well, in the words of that smooth crooner of the late 70's - Meatloaf - "Two out of three ain't bad." (And, actually, the last one can easily be realized by a personal trip to Ola Brisa Gardens!)

But of the former two, if unable to be here in person, what better way to vicariously bask in our balmy environs - no matter where one might be this winter - than through graphic word pictures and great photography?

This is a fast and easy way to order Volumes I and II of our award winning book series "The Civilized Jungle".

We have created a small web site, [Planting Tropical Roots](#) that will provide more details about the series, a page dedicated to your purchase options, a short author's bio and our contact information. The site is simple and easy (like us)!

Enjoy. (And we look forward to your physical visit here at Ola Brisa Gardens!)

Tommy and Patty Clarkson



Was that only a half century ago?

by Señor Tech

I can remember when we got our first television, it was black and white and we didn't need a remote control as there were only 2 channels available to select. There was no cable or satellite then, so the antenna on the TV top was used to receive the over-the-air signals. To get a good picture, the antenna had to be placed away from metal objects that could cause interference of the signal. If the TV top antenna could not adequately receive a signal, a roof-top antenna would need to be installed to capture the distant VHF signal (very high frequency). Television sets used a cathode-ray tube (the cathode-ray tube focused electron beams to trace lines across a phosphor-coated surface) to display the picture.



VHF antenna

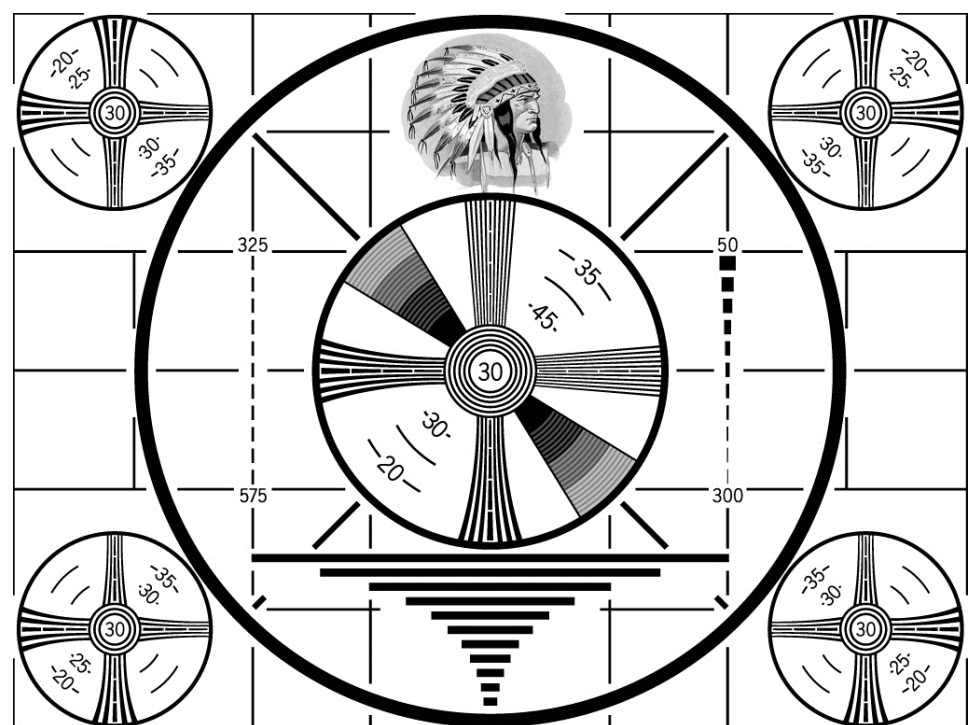


Cathode ray tube TV

Resolution of the picture was 525 lines or in today's technolingo 480i. It was an analogue system which meant that the picture quality degraded the farther the antenna was away from the broadcaster. It was not uncommon to see someone

holding onto the antenna and standing on one leg to get a better picture. Screen size was limited to 27-30"; a large screen in front meant the length of the cabinet needed to be increased to facilitate the longer CRT (cathode-ray tube). Therefore a 60" screen would effectively take up half the room.

And if you can remember the following screen, I'll say no more.



...Was that only a half century ago?

Our family telephone had a rotary dialer, and if you tried to dial faster than the switching station could read the dial data, it would give a fast-busy signal indicating the call could not be connected. The telephone was also hardwired into the wall and privacy was difficult as the cord was only 6 feet long. The telephone belonged to the phone company and part of the cost was the rental of that phone.



But we were lucky. When we visited my cousins on their farm, they had a party line. In simple terms, 3-4 farm families shared one line and their telephone service was handled by an operator. If they wanted to make a telephone call, they would give the number to the operator who would then route their call. An incoming call was signified by several ring patterns. Each member of the party line was assigned a unique number of rings that would indicate that the call was for them. Privacy was an issue as anyone could listen to a call and the service only worked when there was an operator at the local switching station.

Radio was more important back then than it is now. The invention of transistors, made it possible to carry a portable device in your pocket and listen to music, news and sports. I can remember sitting at my desk in grade 5 listening to the world series; the earphone wire running up my shirt sleeve to my ear as I sat apparently intent on the teacher's lessons. In the US and Canada, amplitude modulation, or AM as it was more commonly known, was the frequency band that radios were tuned to receive. Although frequency modulation was around, FM broadcasts never became popular until the 1970's.



In the late 1950's, 78 rpm records were still being pressed, but a change occurred and 45 rpm singles and 33 1/3 rpm LP's (long play) became the mainstream method of musical entertainment at home. Manufacturers made huge high fidelity cabinets (Hi-Fi) that included a turntable, amplifier, radio tuner

...Was that only a half century ago?



and speakers. This was slated to be the total home musical entertainment system; you could play your own music records (78s, LPs, 45s) or listen to AM or FM broadcasts in the comfort of your home.

Remember flash bulbs? To take a photo, cameras at the time used film (black and white or colour) to capture the images. Photographic film is made of a strip of transparent plastic coated on one side. They had a gelatin emulsion containing microscopically small light-sensitive silver halide crystals. Exposed film was sent to a film laboratory for processing. Film rolls came in 12, 24 or 36 exposures.



The film laboratory would develop the film and then either return slides or prints. This was an expensive process and people were selective with the number of photos they took. A roll of film could take months to fill up and the results may or may not have been what the photographer expected; ie. heads out of frame, or over/under exposed photos. In low light situations, flash bulbs (magnesium filaments were contained in bulbs filled with oxygen gas, and electrically ignited by a contact in the camera shutter) were used.

These were a single-use flash and added to the cost of the finished photograph. There were no One Hour photofinishers, so a roll of film dropped off to be processed would typically be ready for pick-up in a week.

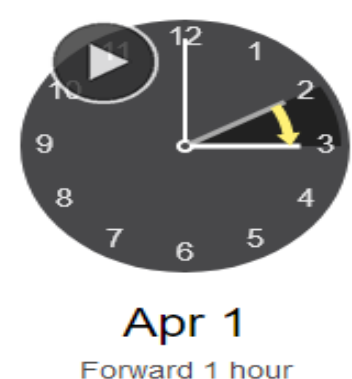
"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Those words, uttered by Neil Armstrong on July 20, 1969 as he took that famous first step on the moon surface, signaled the end of the analogue era and propelled technology towards the digital age. As most of the world watched this event occur on their home televisions, few of those people would have imagined 100" flat-screen televisions, video telephone calls on their pocket phones, music on demand, online banking, photos without film, and thousands of other technological marvels that have complicated or made life better for mankind.

In the span of half a century, technology advances have made it possible for us to carry a telephone, TV, audio music player, radio and camera with flash in our pockets or purses. These devices have additional functionality such as GPS and always-on internet; to allow research on almost any topic, instantly. These abilities were not possible 50 years ago.

If you only think about the changes to photography these past 50 years, it is amazing. Photo results are immediate and consequently people have become better photographers. Since there are no additional costs to delete and retake a photo, they can reframe and retake a better memory. This may not seem like a big thing but, remember the Kodak Company, it was one of the largest Fortune 500 companies 50 years ago. Kodak no longer exists due to the digital photo revolution.

you can reach Señor Tech at seniortech@manzanillosun.com

Don't forget to change your clocks at 2 am on Sunday, April 1 in Mexico



Tidal love

The tide goes and flows
But your love gets slow
Listen to the sea
Even the brine knows about you
Don't hide what you feel
I want to drag my waves in the sand of your skin.

words by Leo Monroy, Comala, Colima



by Tommy Clarkson

Variegated Screw Pine, *Pandanus veitchii* 'Variegata'

Family: *Pandanaceae*

Also known as: *Variegated Hala, Screw Palm or Pandanus Palm*

(This beauty's origin? Madagascar, maybe. Southern Asia, perhaps. New Britain, closer perchance. Or is it, in fact, Australia? Finding definitive, confirmation of this plant's beginnings is scarcer than locating native palm trees in North Dakota!)

Let's agree on that last "Down Under" locale. Thus, with my best Aussie accent, I'll say that "It's fair dinkum that I'm a lizard drinking trying to understand this dog's breakfast of the ridgy-didge name for this tree." (Good for you if you can figure that out!)

Actually, members of the *Pandanus* genus are not trees - such as oak, apple or pine - but rather, monocots and distantly related to palms, bananas, true pineapples and lilies.

The origin of the name *Pandanus* comes from the Indonesian/Malay name of the tree, "Pandan." But for such a "confused name" plant, it's an attractive garden addition - in the right location!

This fascinating plant is one of approximately 600 - 750 salt-tolerant vine and tree-type species that grow wild, primarily by watercourses or along coastal seashores. The first part of its common name is derived from the manner in which its long leaves grow and arrange themselves in a rather, pleasing-in-appearance, screw-like manner.

Their interesting-looking, prop roots are nature's way of lending support for those of this species choosing to live on



The long, striped and quite attractive leaves of the *Pandanus veitchii* 'Variegata' are totally smooth.

beaches. In *The Tropical Look*, Robert Lee Riffle succinctly states, "Aerial, stilt and brace roots are produced from the lower portions of the trunks and mature plants are usually broader than they are wide with the branches spreading horizontally like a Strangler Fig."

Unlike the wholly green *Pandanus utilis* that has spiny barbs on its leaf edges; those of the *Pandanus veitchii* 'Variegata' are totally smooth. The former variety, however, does, sport sharply toothed margins on, often pleated, razor-like sword-shaped leaves. And to make it worse there's another row of teeth along the midrib. Suffice it to say, these aren't a "Let's hold fronds by the campfire and sing Kumbaya" type of plant pals! The Variegated Screw Pine is much more one's friend!

Pandanus are unisexual (single-sexed) with inflorescences on different plants, preferring hot, dry conditions. They are, nonetheless, highly adaptable plants with specimens growing quite large, twenty to twenty-six feet (6.1 to 7.92 meters) in height. Hence location must be considered if planted in one's gardens.

Its large roundish fruits resemble pine cones or pineapples (*Might this be where the "Pine" name came from? Me thinks perhaps!*) While these fruits are green when young they turn a

...Variegated Screw Palm



The all green *Pandanus utilis* sports sharply toothed margins on razor-like sword-shaped leaves.

yellow, orange or brownish-orange when ripe. As on-line, Australian naturalist *Outback Joe* has observed, "The fruit separates into...incredibly hard... wedges... housing several small almond like nuts [that] are incredibly hard and difficult to extract. [These] taste good though, with a flavour similar to almonds [and are] high in fat and protein so provide good energy, if you can get to it."

They're drought tolerant, but like any plant, they'll do much better with regular watering - but don't expect them to grow super-fast! The easiest method of propagation is by cuttings which root readily when placed directly in the soil.

The leaves are used for weaving clothing material, baskets, mats and shelters. I've read that mashed leaves can be used to cure headaches when tied around the head - *I'm trying to picture that!* Seeds from the large, pineapple-like fruit can be ground into flour. And, it's said to be used for treating inflammation by wrapping the leaves around the swollen area. Other sources, to which I have turned, cite that various handicrafts are made from them such as bags, hats, pocketbooks, umbrellas and dolls.... one even asserts that sails have been made from them!

There are around thirty species of *Pandanus* growing in Australia's tropical and sub-tropical climes. The ancient Burarra people of that continent use the plant to make fish traps. Some of those original residents made dye from the roots and used it in rock art painting. And, those crafty aboriginals clearly have long believed in "*waste not, want not*" as they used the top leaves for baskets, ate the fruit and then employed the dead trunks to carry fire with them in the form of smoldering embers which were of use the entire day!



The Variegated Screw Pine can grow to between twenty to twenty-six feet in height, so selecting the right location is a major consideration.

That all having been said, should you have one for your own garden? *Yep, if you've ample space!*

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A Rare Bird in Manzanillo

story and photos by John Chalmers



Vultures often perch on the *sombrillas* at the lagoon behind the seaside beach at La Boquita by Santiago Bay in the early morning. Perhaps they are waiting for the air to warm up before they go soaring, or maybe they are just there to enjoy the sunrise in México!

One of the great pleasures of spending a few months of a Canadian winter in México is the bird life we enjoy here. From the tiny hummingbirds at our feeder from dawn till dusk, to the large birds in the sky, the sea and the lagoon, our feathered friends are all admired.



The smallest birds we see are hummingbirds. Two of three types we see at the feeder are the Cinnamon Hummingbird, top, and Black-chinned Hummingbirds all day long. From time to time we are visited by a Broad-billed Hummingbird.

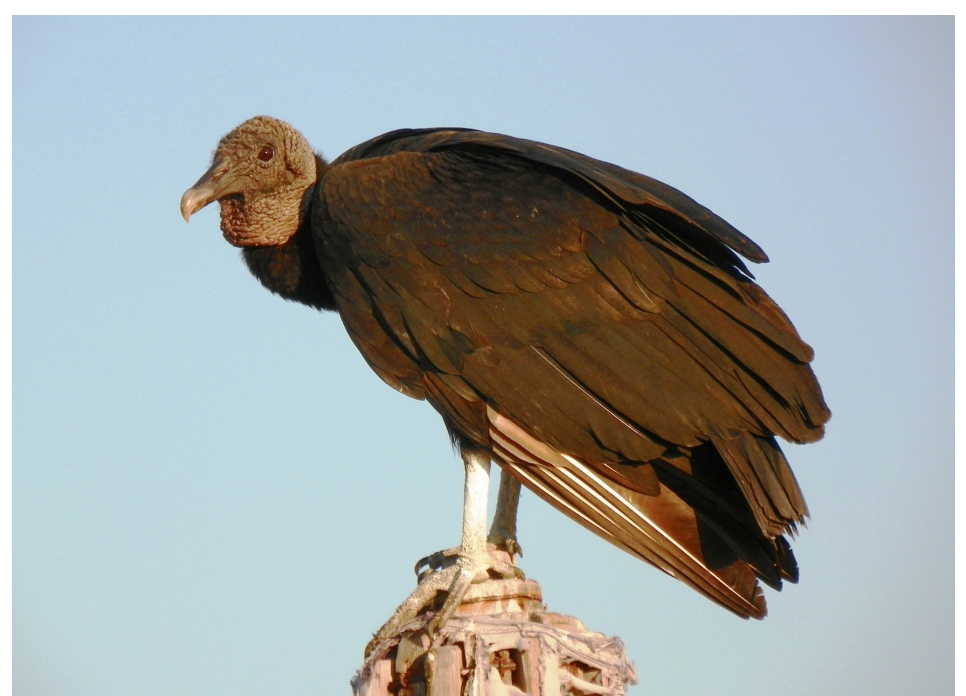
Song birds, seed eaters, woodpeckers and wading birds are all to be seen. Among the birds we see every day are two types of vultures, Black Vultures and Turkey Vultures. Their aerial displays of soaring upon thermal currents of air demonstrate mastery of the sky, rarely moving their broad wings. This year, for the first time, I have seen an extremely rare species of vulture.

The most often seen here of the two common types is the Black Vulture. A large bird with a 57" wingspan, it is black from the top of its head to the tip of its tail. In flight, when seen from below it is easily identified by its white wingtips. Found in

the southernmost states of the USA, it can be seen throughout Mexico, except for Baja California. Its range extends south to Chile and Argentina and it is the most common vulture in the western hemisphere.

Even bigger is the Turkey Vulture, with a wingspan of 69" – almost six feet. Completely black except for its red head, the Turkey Vulture is easily identified in the air by the white trailing edge under the entire length of its wings. It is found throughout the United States and Mexico. In Canada, it is seen in southern British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. Its huge range extends to the tip of South America.

Both types of vultures are raptors, with large bills and talons and both have featherless heads. They are scavengers and feed on carrion and refuse. As such, they have an important part in our ecosystem. Dead animals, dead fish and refuse are among their diets. They can eat anything!



Easy to identify, the black vulture is all black!

...A Rare Bird in Manzanillo

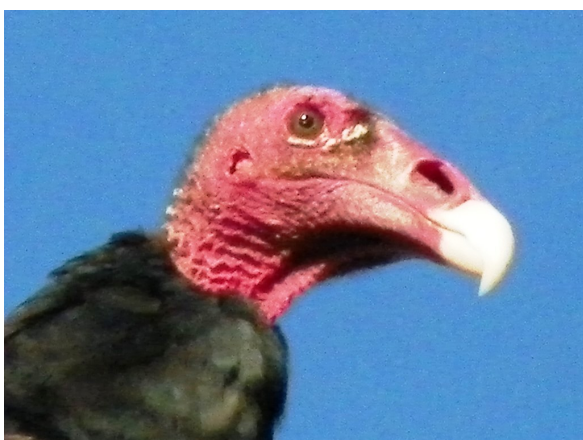


The featherless red head of the turkey vulture is its most notable feature.

In the Manzanillo area I have photographed over a hundred species of birds. My list of positively identified birds so far is 92, but a few I have yet to identify because some species are so similar. However, the rarest of all birds I have seen, and only once, is the Two-headed Four-legged Vulture.

That bird is often referred to by the Audubon Society and ornithologists as the Dual/Quad Vulture. Fortunately I had the chance to photograph it. But only once! As I have often said, sometimes in photography there is no substitute for pure luck.

While Black and Turkey Vultures are seen daily in the Manzanillo area, the Two-headed Four-legged Vulture is seldom seen. It is a mutant species of Black Vulture that cannot reproduce. Thus it occurs only when one is hatched as a mutant in the nest of the Black Vulture.



“Don’t call me a buzzard! I’m a turkey vulture!” Maybe it has a face that only a mother could love, but there is a reason why vultures have featherless heads – all the better for eating carrion, a main part of their diet.

Unlike the Turkey Vulture or the Black Vulture, the two-headed variety with four legs is a clumsy flyer at takeoff. This is because it is of two minds and the two heads do not always agree in which direction to move.



“How’s this for a wingspan! With wings like this, it’s no wonder I can soar so well and hardly need to move them!” White wingtips underneath make it easy to identify a black vulture in flight.

But once airborne and agreeing on a flight path, if a Dual/Quad Vulture can find a good thermal, this uncommon species is graceful in the air. Identification is then easy when seen in flight because of its two heads. To learn more about vultures, [click here](#).

Keep your eyes open for this rare species, the Two-headed Four-legged Vulture. It is native only to the Mexican state of Colima, and can be seen on only one day of the year, April 1, or April Fool’s Day!



While one head of the Two-headed Four-legged Vulture prepares to eat a fish, the other head watches out for other vultures that might want to steal it.

you can reach John at john.chalmers@manzanillosun.com

... more pics follow

...A Rare Bird in Manzanillo

What vultures do best – taking care of carrion, in this case a dead fish. Large talons hold lunch in place, and the hooked bill is ideal for tearing flesh.



A new sign at the lagoon warns of crocodiles in the area, but it doesn't worry the vultures who like to hang out there.



At the Movies

by Suzanne A. Marshall

Molly's Game

Starring: Jessica Chastain, Idris Alba, Kevin Costner

Director: Aaron Sorkin (also screenwriter)

"The true story of Molly Bloom, an Olympic-class skier who ran the world's most exclusive high-stakes poker game and became an FBI target."

From my perspective, when Aaron Sorkin is involved with a movie, I want to see it. His writing is always so good and tends to be fast paced and detailed. I thoroughly enjoyed this true story and was completely riveted to the screen in order not to miss the complex dialogue and the swift presentation of a lot of background monologue by Jessica Chastain as we learn the business of the high-stakes poker game world. And I do mean high stakes. The movie was very well done and the entire cast were believable.

This movie was nominated for 41 awards industry wide including Best Actress and Best Screenwriter which included The Golden Globes and the Oscars.

The IMDB rating is 7.5/10 based on about 37,000 viewers.



Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri

Starring: Frances McDormand, Woody Harrelson, Sam Rockwell

Director: Martin McDonagh

"A mother personally challenges the local authorities to solve her daughter's murder when they fail to catch the culprit."

It's a marvelous and gritty small town movie only as Frances McDormand and Woody Harrelson can do it. The characters are real and rough and the part played by Sam Rockwell is superb. The film was nominated for 191 awards overall including Best Picture. It took home the Oscars for Best Actress and Best Actor which they truly earned.

The story isn't all buttered up with cautious dialogue. It's mean and nasty and probably offensive to some. My only complaint is the ending. Perhaps there is a sequel in the offing, who knows. I like things tidied up a little more in the story line, but that is definitely my personal opinion.

IMDB rating is 8.2/10 based on 192,000 viewers.



you can reach Suzanne A. Marshall at suzanne@manzanillosun.com

Three Strategies for Giving Financial Gifts to Kids

by Yann Kostic and Tom Zachystal

Back in the day, grandparents might have given their grandchildren small cash gifts for birthdays and holidays. Nowadays, however, with the cost of education rising and concern over job opportunities for recent graduates, grandparents may wish to pass on major assets to their children and grandchildren. If so, you may want to consider one of the following three strategies: give cash or stock, or make a 529 plan contribution.

Cash First, you can just give cash. In 2018, under the IRS’s annual gift-tax exclusion, each person may give up to \$15,000 per individual with no tax consequences. So you and your spouse could transfer \$30,000 to each of your children and grandchildren.

Stocks Or you can give a gift of stock. You may, for example, decide to give your grandchild \$10,000 worth of stock that you purchased for \$5,000 more than a year ago.

The transfer is not taxed, and the stock can continue to (hopefully) appreciate. But if your grandchild ever needs the cash, he or she will have to pay taxes on the capital gain – the difference between what you paid for the stock (\$5,000) and its current value.

Is this a negative? Not necessarily. It’s likely that your grandchild will be in a lower tax bracket and have a lower capital gains tax than you would.

529 plan contribution Finally, if your grandchild is saving for college, you could make a 529 plan contribution. This education savings plan helps families save funds for their children’s (increasingly expensive) college costs. You can contribute up to \$15,000 per year to each child or grandchild’s 529 plan. However, the law allows you to “front load” five years’ worth of contributions at once, which means you can contribute up to \$75,000 in 2018.

Therefore, you and your spouse together can contribute up to \$150,000 to a grandchild’s 529 plan – literally a sea of change from the old days.

Exceptions to the Rules Of course, there are exceptions, which are gift-tax exempt, preserving the full annual gift tax exclusion: Gifts to a qualified charitable organization or to an educational institution for a student’s tuition.

For instance, if your grandchild attends college, you might pay his/her tuition directly to the school for the 2017-2018 school year. The payments do not count against the annual gift tax exclusion so you could still give her \$15,000 in 2018.

These are basic strategies, but each of them offer a good few possibilities and, since situations differ, you might want to discuss your personal financial circumstances and goals with your advisor before choosing one of these strategies.

Note: *This material has been prepared for informational purposes only, and is not intended to provide financial advice for your particular situation.*

Yann Kostic, MBA and Tom Zachystal, CFP, are Presidents of their respective Assets Management firms, both US-Registered Investment Advisors (RIA). Tom is the San Francisco Financial Planners’ Association President. Tom and Yann cater to US expats in Mexico and worldwide. Comments, questions or to request his newsletter, “News you can use” contact him at yannk@atlantisgrp.com, in the US at (321) 574-1 529 or in Mexico, (376) 106-1613.



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Cascadas de Agua Azul

by Dan and Lisa Goy, exclusive to Manzanillo Sun



Lots of wide open spaces on the highway 199

February 19, 2016 (Day 44)

Leaving Palenque about 9:00 am on February 19, we headed off to Cascadas de Agua Azul, another must-see location and popular tourist stop, this time led by Rafael and Eileen. Although the drive was relatively short, less than 70 km or 45 miles, on Hwy 199, it took us almost 2 hours to reach our destination. It reminded us of the drive to Pender Harbour on the Sunshine Coast from Halfmoon Bay onwards, lots of winding road, with many twists and turns posted at 60 km (40 miles) per hour. Add mountain villages with topes, small children selling local produce and for added drama a road block manned by mothers with infants and children. Up until that point, we had been handing out candy to the kids, which seemed to work well.

This time they held a rope across the road and were very persistent in collecting 20 pesos for produce or just collecting. Suddenly we had come to a grinding halt, with kids jumping up on the running boards and demanding some form of payment to pass, the moms were definitely encouraging these young collectors. Remember we were still deep in Zapatista terrain. Fortunately, Mexicans lined up behind the Caravan were now honking like mad and before you could say "Roberto was your Tio" they were blasting by and the rope dropped to the pave-

ment. We transmitted to Rafael and Eileen to follow the last Mexican that goes by us and keep going, which is what we did. It was somewhat unsettling to have the children jumping off the vehicles when we were underway but what were the options?

Aside from the delays, the scenery was spectacular, mountainous and jungle all the way. We found the entrance to Cascadas de Agua Azul were marked and paid a small fee to enter the ecological area. At the bottom of the road to the falls was a large grassy area and parking lot where tour buses parked and we settled onto the field with some shade. The falls at Agua

Scenic Hwy 199



...Cascadas de Agua Azul



The highway is rural

Agua Azules were equally spectacular as they made their way down the mountain slope 10 or 20 feet (3-6 m) at a time, with a boardwalk running the entire length of the falls. This included many shops selling locally produced goods and lots of choices to eat as well.

After lunch, the gals went shopping and most of the guys relaxed, soaking up the sun and enjoying a cold beverage. Lots of kids came by and we gave away the rest of our candy, they also enjoyed throwing the ball for Mike and Kelly's dogs, Charlie and Rosie. A local, Victor, stopped by and we had a good chat with him, I thought maybe he was 18 or 19, turns out he is 30 with 2 sons and has been married for 13 years. We met another couple from Canada, Fran and Doug, who arrived later in the afternoon and are heading to Central America.

They joined us for dinner at a local restaurant Victor recommended. Most had the fresh fish specialty. I had the breaded chicken, and dinner was delicious. We really enjoyed this stop. Sadly, after the September 2017 earthquake centered in Chiapas, it appears the water tap has been turned off at the Cascades de Agua Azul.

About Cascadas de Agua Azul

The Cascadas de Agua Azul (Spanish for "Blue-water Falls") are a series of waterfalls found on the Xanil River in the Chiapas, Mexico. They are located in the Municipality of Tumbalá, 69 kilometers from Palenque, near Mexican Federal Highways 180 and 199.



Agua Azul in Chiapas

These waterfalls consist of many cataracts following one after another, taken from near the top of the sequence of cascades. The larger cataracts may be as high as 6 meters (20 feet) or so. During much of the distance, the water descends in two streams, with small islands in the middle. The Agua Azul cascades, in southern Chiapas state, are famed for their bright turquoise waters and have attracted thousands of tourists each year.

The stunning blue colour that distinguishes these waterfalls is due to the limestone through which the waters pass. It is com-

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...Cascadas de Agua Azul



Cascadas Agua Azul

posed of various types of sediments but mainly calcium carbonate and magnesium hydroxide, both white or beige. When light travels through water, it absorbs the entire color spectrum except blue, which reaches the bottom and is reflected back to the surface, resulting in beautiful shades of turquoise.



Post quake falls

Another interesting feature of the Cataratas de Agua Azul is that fallen trees and rocks that lean against the waterfall have a thick shell-like coating of limestone due to the water sediments. During the dry season (from December to July) the sun constantly allows one to see their characteristic colour, although the rainy season increases its spectacular flow.

On September 7th, 2017 Chiapas was badly hit by the earthquake, which struck off Mexico's southern coast. Nearly 100 people were killed and hundreds of homes damaged or destroyed. The magnitude was estimated to be ML 8.2.

The earthquake caused some buildings in Mexico City to tremble, prompting people to evacuate. It also generated a tsunami with waves of 1.75 metres (5 ft 9 in) above tide level; and tsunami alerts were issued for surrounding areas. Mexico's president called it the strongest earthquake recorded in the country

in a century. It was also the second-strongest recorded in the country's history, behind the magnitude 8.6 earthquake in 1787, and the most intense recorded globally in 2017.



The falls after the quake

Within Chiapas, an estimated 1.5 million people were affected by the earthquake, with 41,000 homes damaged. José Calzada, Minister of Agriculture, reported that at least 98 people had died in the earthquake, including 78 in Oaxaca, 16 in Chiapas and 4 in Tabasco. The Secretariat of the Interior declared a state of emergency for 122 municipalities in Chiapas, and the Mexican Army was deployed to aid in disaster relief. Schools were closed the day after the earthquake for safety inspections in 11 states. Damage in Veracruz was reported, meanwhile the state had to also prepare for the arrival of Hurricane Katia on September 9th. In addition, Hurricane Max made landfall in Guerrero state on September 14th, near the earthquake-stricken region.

Buildings in Juchitán de Zaragoza, Oaxaca, closest to the epicenter, were "reduced to rubble" according to reports from the town's mayor. The earthquake caused buildings to shake and sway in Mexico City, while also knocking out electricity for 1.8 million people. There were reports of glass shattered at Mexico



Beautiful falls

...Cascadas de Agua Azul



Beginning of the falls

City International Airport and an under-construction highway bridge near Mexico City's new international airport collapsed due to the shaking.

The epicenter was near Mexico's border with Guatemala, where the quake was felt in Guatemala City, and infrastructure damage was reported in the nation's south-west. President Jimmy Morales stated that one Guatemalan may have been killed.

Unfortunately, the 8.2 magnitude quake altered the course of the river at Cascadas de Agua Azul, causing the water level at the falls to drop significantly. Residents, who depend on tourism from the famous Agua Azul (blue water) falls, were very

alarmed when the cascades gradually slowed at first. Government experts promised to investigate but local people decided to take action themselves. They used picks and shovels to restore what they could, by shifting rocks and mud. Officials believe the falls should be back to normal within a few months.

The normally turquoise water also turned brown when the flow was partially restored but it is expected that the waterfalls will eventually return to their previous state. Time will tell. We can only hope for the best.

... more pics follow

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...Cascadas de Agua Azul



Agua Azul camping



Lunch stop on the falls



Empanadas to go



Enjoying food by the falls



It really is that colour of blue



Palenque to Agua Azul

...Cascadas de Agua Azul



Not a long drive to Agua Azul



Lisa at the falls



Highway 186 collection kids



Such beautiful falls

Sad to see the falls after the quake



...Cascadas de Agua Azul



Drive from Agua Azul to San Cristobal



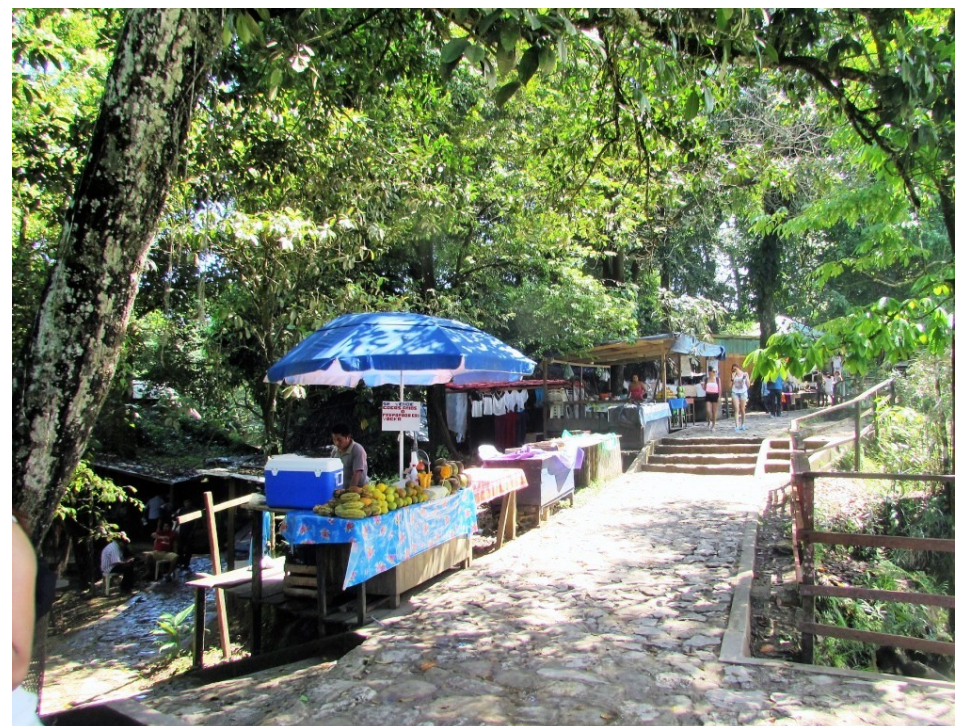
Roadside dress shop



Shopping at Agua Azul



Agua Azul is a popular tourist attraction



Lots of shops alongside the falls



Village school high in the Chiapas mountains



Boardwalks over the slippery rocks

...Cascadas de Agua Azul



Village street paved

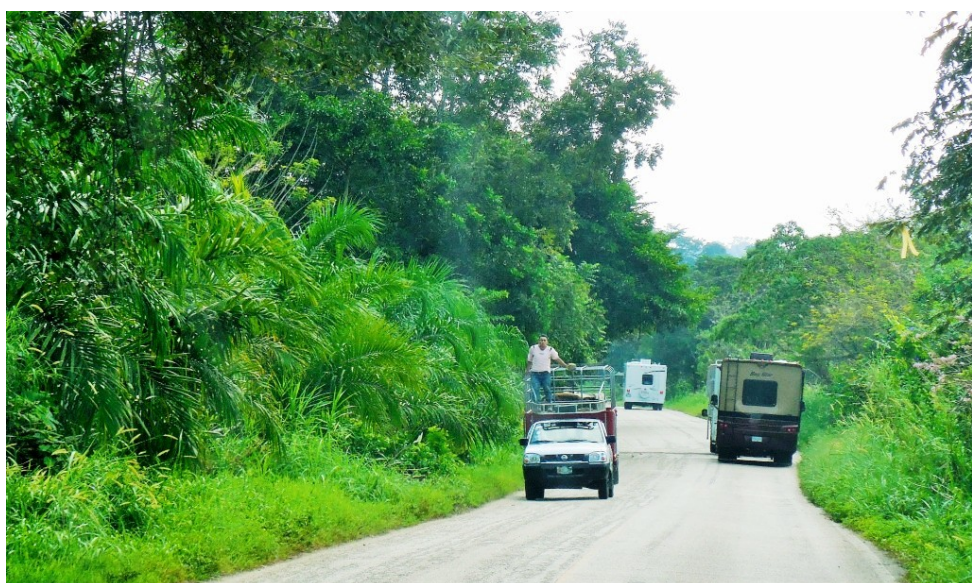


On top of the world



It's a jungle out there

RVing through the jungle



Submitted by Dan and Lisa Goy
Owners of Baja Amigos RV Caravan Tours
Experiences from our 90-day Mexico RV Tour:
January 7-April 5, 2016
www.BajaAmigos.net

you can reach Dan and Lisa Goy at thegoys@manzanillosun.com

Shrimp Tacos

- 1 large tomato, finely diced
- 1/2 medium white onion, finely diced
- 1 jalapeño, cored, seeded, finely diced
- 1/4 cup finely chopped fresh cilantro
- Juice of 1 lime
- 4 T olive oil, separated
- 1/2 cup crema (or creme fraiche, or low-fat plain yogurt)
- 2 T low-fat milk
- 2 T chipotle peppers in adobo
- 1 cup shredded green cabbage
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/4 cup dry white wine
- 1 lb large shrimp, peeled and cleaned
- Salt and pepper
- 6 to 8 taco-sized flour tortillas (or whole wheat tortillas)

1. Start by preparing the pico de gallo. Combine the tomato, onion, jalapeño, cilantro, lime and olive oil. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Refrigerate covered while you prepare the rest of the dish.

2. In a blender or small food processor, combine the crema, milk and chipotle and puree until smooth. If it is too thick, add a little more milk or water. Put it in a squeeze bottle and refrigerate. (You'll have extra sauce when you're done and you can save for later use.)

3. In a large sauté pan, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the garlic, stirring until softened but not browned, about 3 minutes. Add the wine and let reduce by half. Add the shrimp and cook, stirring, until they turn pink and start to curl, about 5 minutes. Remove from pan and set aside, keeping warm.

4. On a comal or non-stick pan, heat the tortillas until warm.

5. To assemble the tacos, place 4 to 5 shrimp on each tortilla. Top with pico de gallo, shredded cabbage and a few squirts of spiced crema. Makes 6 to 8 tacos.

Recipe and image from NBC Latino



Crossword

solution posted in next month's edition

1		2		3		4		5
6								
7				8				
			9					
10								11
12			13					

Across

- 1 (he, she) carries, takes
- 4 (you/ustedes) are, (they) are
- 6 only
- 7 (I) say
- 8 bad, sick
- 10 services
- 12 that, that one, those
- 13 moons

Down

- 1 the
- 2 instead of (2,5,2)
- 3 weapon
- 4 sensation
- 5 new
- 7 from, since
- 9 skin
- 11 his, her, your, their (pl)

Last month's crossword solution:

m	i	2	r	a		3	b	4	a	ñ	5	o
o			e		6	c			l			t
d	e	s	c	u			b	r	i		r	
o		p		e				e				o
	8	q	u	e	r		i	d	a			
c		e		p				e		10	t	
1	r	e	s	p	o	n	d	e	r			
e		t		s				o			a	
2	e	d	a	d		13	t	r	e	s		

Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz

from the Path to Citizenship series

Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, original name Juana Ramírez de Asbaje, (born November 12, 1651?, San Miguel Nepantla, Viceroyalty of New Spain [now in Mexico] died April 17, 1695, Mexico City), poet, dramatist, scholar, and nun, an outstanding writer of the Latin American colonial period and of the Hispanic Baroque.



Juana Ramírez thirsted for knowledge from her earliest years and throughout her life. As a female, she had little access to formal education and would be almost entirely self-taught. Juana was born out of wedlock to a family of modest means in either 1651 or, according to a baptismal certificate, 1648 (there is no scholarly consensus on her birth date). Her mother was a Creole and her father Spanish. Juana's mother sent the gifted child to live with relatives in Mexico City.

There her prodigious intelligence attracted the attention of the viceroy, Antonio Sebastián de Toledo, marquis de Mancera. He invited her to court as a lady-in-waiting in 1664 and later had

her knowledge tested by some 40 noted scholars. In 1667, given what she called her "total disinclination to marriage" and her wish "to have no fixed occupation which might curtail my freedom to study," Sor (Spanish: "Sister") Juana began her life as a nun with a brief stay in the order of the Discalced Carmelites. She moved in 1669 to the more lenient Convent of Santa Paula of the Hieronymite order in Mexico City, and there she took her vows. Sor Juana remained cloistered in the Convent of Santa Paula for the rest of her life.

Convent life afforded Sor Juana her own apartment, time to study and write, and the opportunity to teach music and drama to the girls in Santa Paula's school. She also functioned as the convent's archivist and accountant. In her convent cell, Sor Juana amassed one of the largest private libraries in the New World, together with a collection of musical and scientific instruments. She was able to continue her contact with other scholars and powerful members of the court. The patronage of the viceroy and vicereine of New Spain, notably that of the marquis and marquise de la Laguna from 1680 to 1688, helped her maintain her exceptional freedom. They visited her, favoured her, and had her works published in Spain.

For her part, Sor Juana, though cloistered, became the unofficial court poet in the 1680s. Her plays in verse, occasional poetry, commissioned religious services, and writings for state festivals all contributed magnificently to the world outside the convent.

Source: Britannica, read the [full story here](#)

To see more about this article series, visit us at [Path to Citizenship \(P2C\) online](#)

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