

June 2012

# Manzanillo **SUN**

Manzanillo's Lifestyle E-Magazine



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by Freda Rumford





By Tommy Clarkson

## The Coconut Palm, (part 1)

*Cocos nucifera*

**Family:** *Areaceae*

**Sub-family:** *Arecoideae*

(Also known as the Cocos Nucifera, Coco Palm, Coconut Tree)

While there are around 1,500 different varieties of palms, when most people think of them, the Coconut is the species that generally first comes to mind. The most ubiquitous of all palm trees it is found more places than any other palm tree in the world. There are tall and dwarf varieties, with numerous hybrids. In fact, there is so much to tell about this great palm we are dedicating two months Manzanillo Sun issues to its story- and it's still a chore to try to encapsulate it all!

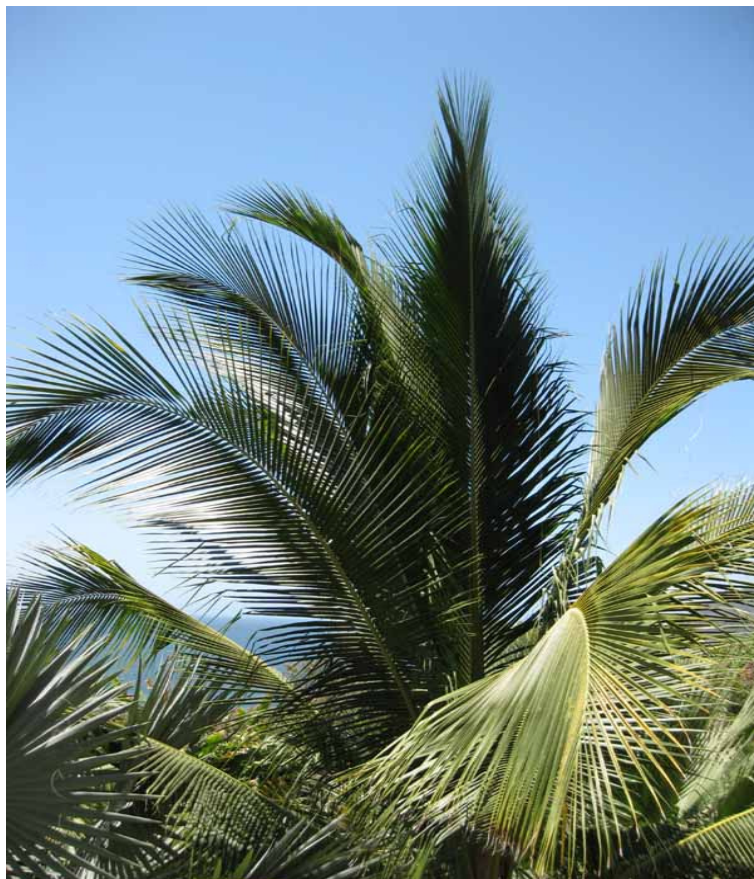
While fossilized coconuts have been dug up in New Zealand it is known that the palm has been cultivated for over 4,000 years in India. Accordingly, botanists surmise that the species originated in the Indian Ocean area. Appropriately, it has often been called the "Tree of Life" or the "Tree of a Thousand Uses" with its ability to provide virtually everything required for human survival.

Initially this plant was named *nux indica* by Marco Polo in 1280. However, it is believed to have received its contemporary name from the Spanish and Portuguese explorers who thought that the brown, hairy and three "eyed" face of the coconut looked like a monkey or the witch Coco. The word "nut" was added when they were introduced in England. (Actually, the coconut isn't really a nut at all. It's a fruit called a drupe which is a fruit with an



Rising up and out from atop the solid grayish-brown, crescent-shaped, leaf scarred trunk are 20-30, four to six meter long, drooping, pinnate fronds (leaves) covered at their base by a mat-like fiber."





"What is more tropical than gently swaying fronds high atop a Coconut Palm on a sun drenched beach?"

outer fleshy part surrounding a shell of hardened endocarp with a seed inside. In the "interesting to know" category, Coffee, Dates, mangos, cherries, peaches, plums, apricots, and nectarines are other drupes.)

Virtually every part of the coconut palm can be used in some manner - meaningful or frivolous. Beyond the hundreds of culinary and non-culinary uses of the coconut meat and its milk/juice, a few more are as follow:

**Husks and shells** can be used as potting compost (better than peat moss), mattress stuffing, fuel, source of charcoal, brushes, dish or body sponge, floor buffers, as a soup dish, fixed with a handle to be used as a ladle, its activated carbon well absorbs gas and vapor and removes impurities or odor, for creating the sound of horse hoof beats in the theatre, incorporated as the body for musical instruments, carved into shirt buttons, burnt as a mosquito repellent, stuffed in automobile arm rests, head rests and visors and, in the absence of paper, a husked coconut shell (now in the JFK Library) was the communication vehicle by which the crew of PT Boat 109 (delivered by dugout canoe) communicated its situation and location.

**Trunks** are used in the building of small bridges, walls, and roofs, found to be an ecologically sound substitute for must scarcer hardwoods, hollowed to make drums, containers and even canoes, and in the Solomon Islands, purportedly, the branches are sometimes used in the administration of corporal punishment.

**Leaves/fronds** beyond use as brooms, cooking skewers, kindling arrows, woven into baskets or hats, they have been used as roofing around the world, and burnt for ash and then harvested for lime - in fact, our Dining Palapa and Sunrise Palapa are covered with them.

**Roots** can be used as a dye, mouthwash and has medicinal properties to help those inflicted with dysentery. A frayed root also can be used as a toothbrush.

And, lastly, there have been many studies, published in an array of medical journals, confirming that the coconut may be the source of substantive and wide ranging health benefits. Beyond that, various parts of the coconut are used for scores of religious, decorative and simply fun purposes - ranging from bird feeders to (not so comfortable) halter tops. I'd dare not try to realize many of these (most of all the latter) from the basic backyard cottonwood trees of my youth!

But this is enough for today . . . stay tuned for more on coconuts next month!





## FISH LIFE OF MANZANILLO

By Terry Sovil

### Tropical Flounder

Flounder are flatfish lying on their right side. Distance between their eyes is about 1 ½ times the diameter of the eye. They have blue spot-and-ring markings. They are from the family of flatfish and feature pale brown to gray; large diffused blotch behind their pectoral fin and another on the middle of their side.

They are elongated and oval-shaped with eyes on left (upper) side. They can pale or darken rapidly to blend with background. These fish are usually solitary and inhabit sand flats and rocky gravel strewn areas. When moving they glide over bottom with wave-like motion. They will remain still when approached, relying on camouflage. They will bolt when closely approached or if molested. Often called a "flowery flounder", the range in size from 6 - 12 inches/15-30cm, maximum of 16 inches/40 cm.



### Tube Blenny

There are over 22 unique tube blennies. This one is a Browncheek Blenny. They are found in depths of 3-200 feet/1 - 60 meters. This photo is of a female. These are solitary fish most common in shallow rocky areas where they live in mollusk tubes (worm tubes that have been abandoned). They will tend to ignore divers but will allow a close approach. They are common in central and southern Sea of Cortez. Tend to ignore divers and will allow a close approach.



They are of the family of Tube Blennies. They will allow a large black ringed brown spot on their gill cover. The female has an orange throat with large orange spots on their side. They grow from 1 ½ - 2 inches / 3 - 5cm with a maximum of 2 ½ inches/6.25cm.

### White Spotted (Stripebelly) Puffer

This fish is greenish gray with white spots and a dark circular area around pectoral fin base. They are from the family of Smooth Puffers. They range in depth from 10 to 80 feet / 3 to 24 meters. Their belly is pale with dusky stripes with their dorsal, anal and tail fins whitish translucent. Absent in the Gulf of California. They are seen occasionally on the Pacific Coast of Baja and tip of Baja. They are seen with some frequency in Manzanillo. They are generally solitary and inhabit rocky reefs, boulder-strewn slopes and walls. They seem curious and unafraid; often allow a slow, non-threatening approach. They are also commonly called a "Spotted Green Puffer", "White Spotted Puffer", "Deadly Death Puffer", "Stars & Stripes Puffer" and "Miki Maki". Their size is 6 to 10 inches / 15 to 25 cm.



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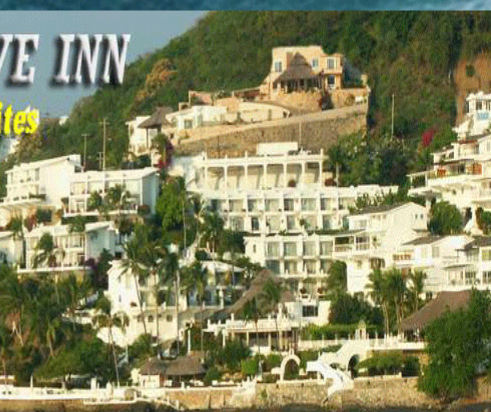


## Yellow Spotted Star

This star has large yellow to orange spots on the arms is the best identification. They are from the family of Starfish and inhabit shallow rocks and reefs to depths of 456' (139m). They range from the Gulf of California to Peru including the Galapagos. This star fish reaches a diameter of 1 foot / 0.3m or 2.53cm.



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## I Feel the Earth, Move, Under My Feet....

I grew up in Minnesota and have spent most of my adult life in Wisconsin so I am an old pro when it comes to blizzards, arctic temps, and even tornadoes and severe thunderstorms. However, I had never experienced an earthquake until this past December and it was certainly not what I expected. I thought it was just a loud airplane buzzing really close until my husband (who has experienced earthquakes in California) yelled "look at the pool! It's an earthquake!" By the time I registered what he said, it was over. I am used to weather occurrences that warn you ahead of time- not the kind that just happen! After we checked the internet to find out that it really was an earthquake, I quickly updated my Facebook status so my Midwest friends could think I was very brave and exotic. I then realized I have no clue what to do in case of an earthquake.

- Many of you have lived in Mexico long enough to know what to do but in a quick poll of my neighbors, everyone has a different plan so I did some research. My first instinct was to run outside but this Midwestern gal has no instincts when it comes to the earth shaking! Every single source says to stay inside and **NEVER** flee outside a building when an earthquake strikes According to FEMA, you should **DROP** to the ground; take **COVER** by getting under a sturdy table or other piece of furniture; and **HOLD ON** until the shaking stops. If there isn't a table or desk near you, cover your face and head with your arms and crouch in an inside corner of the building.
- Stay away from glass, windows, outside doors and walls, and anything that could fall, such as lighting fixtures or furniture.
- Stay in bed if you are there when the earthquake strikes. Hold on and protect your head with a pillow, unless you are under a heavy light fixture that could fall. In that case, move to the nearest safe place.



Do not use a doorway except if you know it is a strongly supported, load-bearing doorway and it seems safe to you. Many inside doorways are lightly constructed and do not offer protection..

- Stay inside until the shaking stops and it is safe to go outside. Do not exit a building during the shaking. Research has shown that most injuries occur when people inside buildings attempt to move to a different location inside the building or try to leave.

If you are outside, stay there. Move away from overhead wires, streetlights and buildings. If you are in a car, stop when it is safe to do so. Do not stop near utility lines or overpasses.

When the second earthquake hit a few weeks later, I was not better prepared, even after doing my research. When my husband yelled "earthquake!," I



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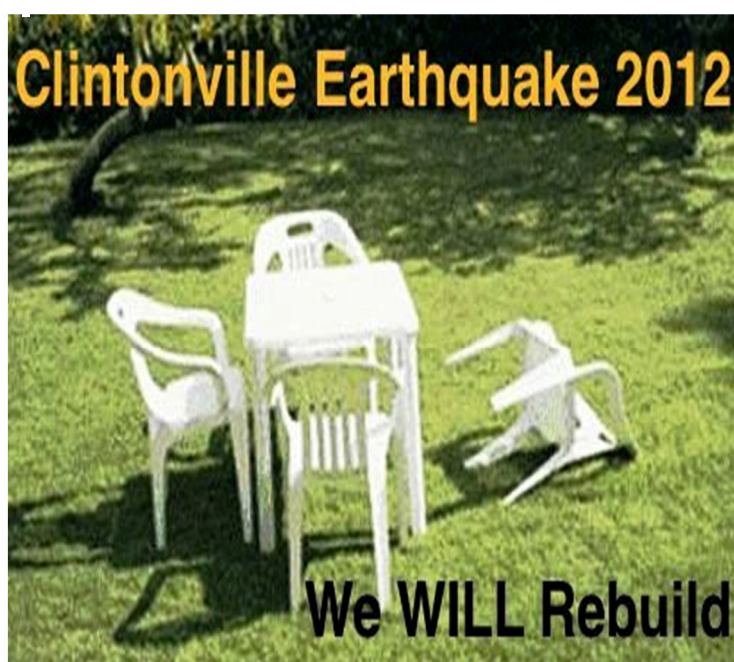
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immediately ran outside to check on our daughters who were on the beach. Luckily, neither of these earthquakes were big ones (good gosh, they seemed big to me!) so we were safe, but I hope to react as I should for the next one. What about my daughters? They were hanging out at La Boquita and had no clue there was an earthquake until a waiter told them. I guess my best bet is to spend as much time as possible on the beach with a beer in hand. No power lines, no tall buildings and no windows to worry about there!



There is an ironic twist to this story. About a month after we were back in Wisconsin, a neighboring town, Clintonville, experienced mysterious loud booms and shaking for several nights in a row. Being an experienced earthquake survivor, I knew what it was but the skeptics doubted me as we never have earthquakes here. Well, guess what? After much investigation, it was determined that the booming and shaking was indeed a series of earthquakes! It was only a 2.4 which is nothing to most of you, but let's see how everyone in Manzanillo reacts if it snows!

**Next month** - How to prepare before an earthquake and what to do after it happens. Until then stay safe and stay healthy!

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# Joseph

By Suzanne A. Marshall

During our winter sojourns to Manzanillo, my husband and I like to take a few trips down to El Centro on the bus, have brunch under the umbrellas at the Chantilly sidewalk café (they serve really yummy bread) and explore the shops in the area. We've found a terrific local vegetable/fruit/meat market hidden away a few blocks in from the bay too. The café is quite picturesque being directly across from the bay and the public park square with its wrought iron benches and the giant blue sailfish welcoming container ships and cruise lines to Colima. If it's a Saturday, there are throngs of locals with children in tow so I love to watch them mingle about. Life is different but the same no matter where you are.

It's a week or so before Carnival and there seems to be a bit more activity than usual. In front of the City Hall there is an information table with an assortment of brochures on shows, and activities that will take place during the week of Carnival. As I peruse and ask a few questions, a man standing by the table offers some insights about Mexican culture in impeccable English. I find myself immediately engaged by him as he talks about the naming of cities in Mexico and of course the history of Mexico is never dull.

By now, my husband has headed for the café to grab an outside table which is only a few hundred feet away. I'm feeling a bit pressed to move on and join him, though as I say, this man is extremely interesting to listen to. I realize now that he is not part of the information service so I ask his name and he tells me it is Joseph. Because I would like to hear more about Mexico and perhaps his life here I invite him to have a coffee or something while we have our lunch. Allan is a bit shocked when we join him at the table and I make introductions. By now I know that he was a university professor and writer born in Mazatlan and making sense of his command of English and the ready details of local history. He is interested in where we are from, which we explain is Canada and of course it is no surprise to him why we love to spend winters in Manzanillo. As our lunch arrives he continues to capture our interest with his stories.




Joseph is in his early sixties, clean and well-dressed though extremely thin. As we enjoy our lunch and I encourage more stories about his life. He reveals that he can no longer teach and of course I press for more details. Apparently influenced by friends of his many years ago, Joseph had made a life

altering decision to go to Colombia with them in some military (or perhaps guerilla) capacity where ultimately lives were lost and his name was now in police records. The temptation to make this bad decision was of course because they were paid very well to be involved and the wages of a university professor are adequate but meager. He wanted to get ahead and the money was great temptation. He was now working at the port doing bits of paperwork and translations but the hours were minimal and I gathered he was really struggling to have a life. Joseph could not seem to start over anywhere as the police records showed up wherever he went and he could not get the jobs that he really qualified for.

Out of the blue my intuitions kicked in and I found myself asking Joseph if he was hungry. There I was stuffing my face enjoying a great meal while he sat with his black coffee. I had assumed that he would order a meal for himself if he wanted to but was just having coffee while we chatted. Making direct eye contact with my question, he was caught off guard and tried to hold back tears that had welled up in his eyes. But as



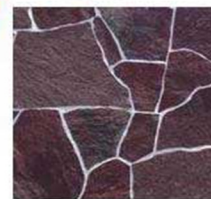
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the tears rolled down his cheeks he bowed his head and quietly said "I am so ashamed". I tried to comfort him without further embarrassment but of course it was an awkward situation and there was not much I could say other than everyone makes mistakes in life they wish they could undo. So I asked him to allow me to buy him lunch and requested another menu from our server who graciously pretended to see nothing. I encouraged him to try a couple of items on the menu that we had enjoyed before. But he explained that he must be careful to order something easily digestible or his stomach would not hold it down.

Now I really felt badly, and so did he. I have experienced a similar situation back in Canada and I know that people who have not eaten properly in a long time must introduce food slowly and carefully into their digestive tract or risk vomiting and cramping. So I gave him lots of time to choose and sent my husband off to the watch repair which would be closing for siesta soon. When his meal arrived, his continued embarrassment was evident and I sensed that I must leave him now. I encouraged him to take his time and what couldn't be eaten could be taken home for later. He said thank you and having paid the tab, I walked away up the street feeling very perplexed and sad.

There are people in my life who would call me gullible including myself. I tend to believe first and doubt later. At least that way, I give everyone an equal chance to be genuine up front. I have had very few disappointments, though admittedly, a few. Most people are good to the core and some have been tainted by life. Very few are artful dupes who make a living feeding off stories of hardship and bad luck to support drug or alcohol problems and so on. I am positive that this lovely man was genuine.

Joseph lingers in my mind. I suppose that's obvious as I write this story today about something that occurred months ago. I wish him well and hope that somehow his life will turn around for the better and I am so glad I offered him a meal. Perhaps that small act of kindness will have helped him turn a corner or renew a belief in him that people, even perfect strangers, can show some humanity and understanding in the smallest of ways.

Since then I have taken an interest in the past politics and activities of Colombia. Over the past decades there is much to read about involving their government forces, lawful and unlawful guerilla warfare and involvements with the U.S.A. and Mexico. It isn't a big stretch to assume that Joseph was speaking the truth.

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## REAL MEXICO

By Terry Sovil

This issue we take a look at the Renewable Energy Sector in Mexico including wind, geothermal and hydroelectric. Mexico is actively seeking renewable energy sources and development. May 15-16, 2012 saw the Mexican International Renewable Energy Congress meeting in Mexico City bringing together the renewable energy industries to help drive this important sector. It is recognized that Mexico has a great renewable energy potential.

Many may not recognize that Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, the third Mexican American to ever hold an office in Los Angeles and the first in 130 years, signed an agreement to purchase geothermal power from Mexico in 2009. The LA Department of Power bought 25 megawatts and then 50 megawatts in January of 2009. The power comes from the Cerro Prieto geothermal plan in Mexicali, Baja California. Cerro Prieto is a 100 megawatt plant. It has over 650 megawatts of generating capacity in place.

Mexico also has an agreement with Belize which relies on Mexico for power. Mexico is also working to finalize a deal with Guatemala. This helped bring the sale of energy to other countries close to 100 million by end 2010.

### Renewable Energy Sector

By end 2009, Mexico had an installed capacity of electrical power generation of 51,686 milliwatts, 12,433 milliwatts of them were from renewable energy sources (hydroelectric, geothermal electric and wind power technologies), representing 24.1% of the total installed capacity, according to the Ministry of Energy (SENER). The Energy Regulatory Commission (CRE) reports the creation of several self-sufficient wind power projects, amounting to a total of 2,727 MW. Of these, 488.7 milliwatts already operating, 1,928 milliwatts are in the construction phase and the remaining 310 MW are inactive.

### Attraction of Foreign Direct Investment

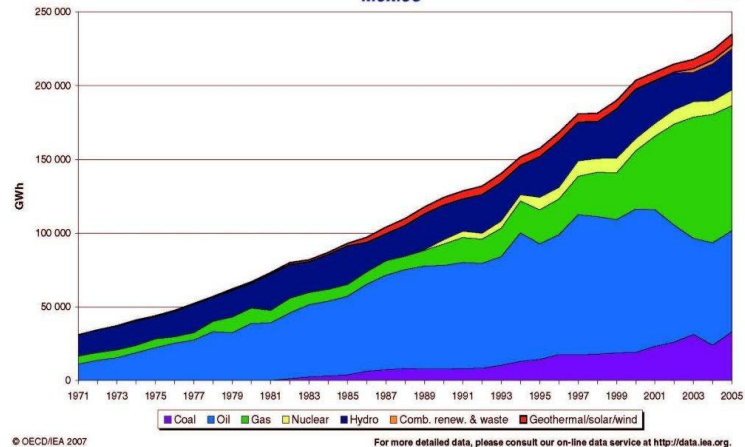
The CRE estimates that since 2005, Mexico has attracted over 4.77 billion dollars in foreign investment for green industry projects. In addition, it is estimated that in the last two years, 3.3 billion dollars have entered the country through various projects aimed at connecting various

IEA Energy Statistics

Statistics on the Web: <http://www.iea.org/statistics/index.htm>

Evolution of Electricity Generation by Fuel from 1971 to 2005

Mexico



renewable sources to Mexico's electrical grid. More than 90% have been in the wind power industry.

### Mexico's Potential by Energy Type

In 2008 electricity capacity was 58 gigawatts, GW, with 75.3% thermal, 19% hydro, and 2.4% nuclear (a single 1,400 MW power plant in Veracruz).

**Wind Power** - Mexico's has an estimated potential for wind power to exceed 71,000 MW (Electrical Research Institute - IIE). In roughly 22 of the 31 Mexican states, wind plants could be installed with the means to generate above 20% of the required power. Additionally, the funding of these projects could reach 5.5 billion dollars creating more than 10 thousand direct and indirect jobs.

**Solar Power** - Everyone knows and loves sunny Mexico! Close to 90% of Mexican territory gets sun exposure between 5 and 6 KW/h per square meter. These kinds of numbers marks Mexico as one of the areas with the highest levels in the world.

The Mexican Government has programs for the promotion and use of solar technologies, such as the 2007-2012 Program to Promote Solar Water Heaters in Mexico (PROCASOL). The production capacity of solar has great potential here.



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**Mini Hydraulic Power** - CFE (Comisión Federal de la Electricidad) and the CRE (Comisión Reguladora de Energía) has shown estimates that with Mexico's small hydroelectric plants there is a capacity of 392 MW but their potential could be 3,250 MW. This means only 12% of the full potential is currently being utilized.

**Geothermal Power** - Installed capacity to generate electricity from geothermal sources puts Mexico in the top five in the world. As of October, 2010, Mexico ranked 4<sup>th</sup> behind the USA, the Philippines and Indonesia according to SENER (Secretaría de Energía).

### **Strengths of the Sector in Mexico**

Mexico's geographic location, natural resources, low industrial costs and highly skilled workforce creates a huge potential to manufacture equipment here.

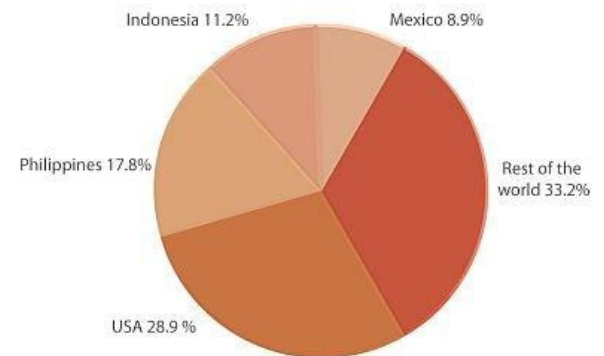
**Experience** - Mexico's success in the developing industries such as automotive and electric-electronics gives a base that favors development of the Renewable Energy industry in Mexico. It allows current supply chains to be optimized.

**Talent** - As mentioned before, close to 90,000 students graduate from engineering and technology programs each year providing a highly attractive talent pool for industry. The current automotive and electric-electronic base offers a platform and experience in the development of Renewable Energy.

### **Manzanillo Power Update**

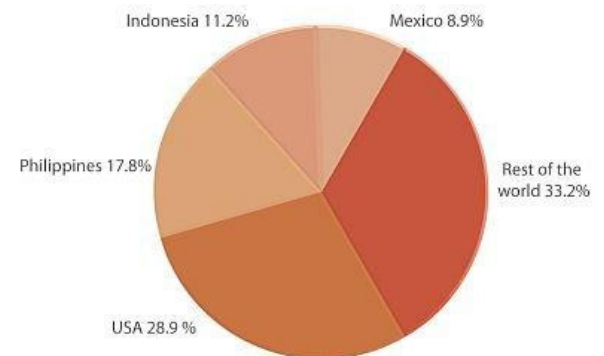
On November 7, 2011, General Electric and CFE signed an agreement for six GE7FA Gas Turbines for the new Manzanillo plant. It will add 900 Megawatts of power and reduce emissions! It will provide reliable energy to drive regional development. The agreement includes a long-term services agreement CFE for the repowering of Manzanillo Thermoelectric. This marks a first for the Mexican government in scope and type for power plant support. GE will provide support for 15 years for the 6 gas turbines. The plant is expected to be operational the summer of 2012. The additional 600 megawatts will bring the CFE grid to a total of 1,500 megawatts. The new gas turbines will replace the two conventional boilers operating on fuel oil that we see creating smog over the area. It will improve plant efficiency by 50% and reduce carbon dioxide by 2,000 tons per year.

Major countries according to their installed capacity for generating electric energy by geothermal resources, 2010.



Source: Ministry of Energy, 2011..

Major countries according to their installed capacity for generating electric energy by geothermal resources, 2010.



Source: Ministry of Energy, 2011..





## They see me!

By Cheryl Weaver

"You're out and about by yourself, enjoying a few frivolous moments, with only one significant thing to accomplish but it's a doozy and it HAS to get done today. You've worked hard for 9 days straight to finish up this little project and it is s-o-o nice to have brought it to fruition....you've guarded it with your life and there it is - right there in that envelope in your bag.....yes, originals - no copies - from the States -- can't be replaced ---OMG WHERE DID IT GO? I HAD IT JUST A MOMENT AGO -- I'M SURE I PUT IT IN HERE.....and just about the time you're about to call in the Federales and frisk everyone within 10 feet, the Mexican lady behind you on the bus leans forward with something in her hand and asks, "Es tuyos?" Before you can recover and drop to your knees to thank her, she's gone.

Mexican women stare at you. You look different. Your clothes, your hair, make-up, even your body language shouts Gringo. They also care for you. They will let you know you dropped something....and pick it up and hand it back. They will remind you of which number bus to take. They'll chase you out the building to see that your Passport gets returned that you left at the teller window. They'll discreetly tell you you're unbuttoned. They'll even tuck in the tag bulging out of the top of your blouse if you've gotten friendly in line. Incurable Mamas, all of them, regardless of the age.

I'm 64. It has been a hecka hecka (as the kids tweet) long time since anyone has even remotely appeared to be taking care of me. I've been alone most of my life. That is until I moved to Mexico. I had two pipes break one day following the next, flooding the unit both times and my elegant upstairs Mexican neighbor came down with a squeegee and got the water out. Her husband played SpiderMan and climbed a dubious metal ladder on the building to turn off the water after hours. When I came down with Dengue fever and could hardly make it down the stairs, they drove me to emergency. I never ask - she reminds me of the mom I lost at 17. Behind that stoic stare is a heart of gold and as big as all outdoors.

So the next time you catch someone staring you down intently, don't mentally ask, "What are YOU lookin' at?" -- instead, bless your lucky stars that you live in a place where people actually SEE you."



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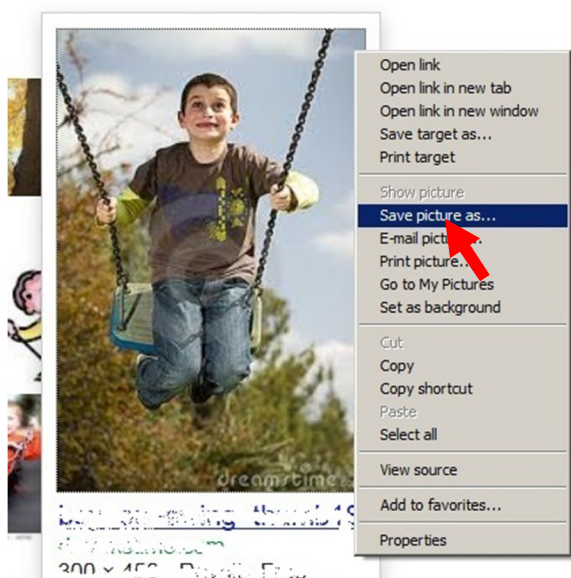
## OFFICE BYTES

### Saving a Picture from the Web

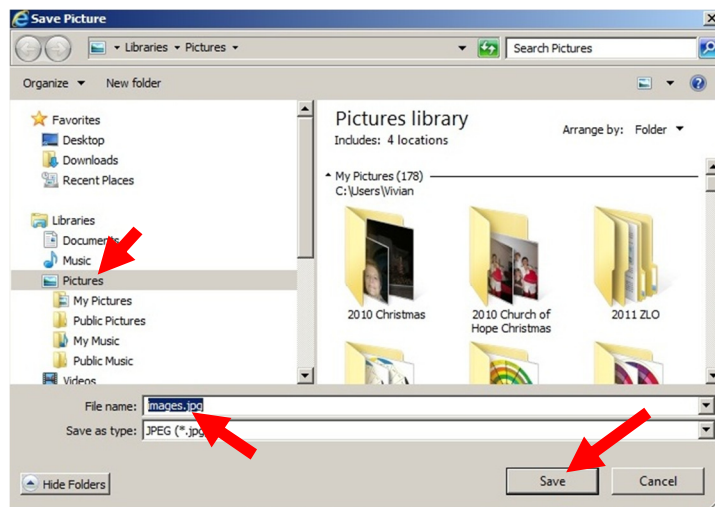
by Vivian Molick

This is for all of you that don't know how to save (and wish you could) that cool picture you saw on the Internet.

Next time you are on the Internet and see that great picture right-click your mouse on the picture and a box will appear similar to this one and then select (left-click) "Save picture as..." from the menu that pops up.



Then, when you have clicked "Save picture as...", the following window will pop up for you to save it.



Windows will save it to 'My Pictures' by default. If you want to save it in a different place on your computer, or a certain folder within 'My Pictures', you will have to browse to that folder. Also, here is where you will type the name you want for the picture.

When you click the 'Save' button you will now have that picture saved to your computer! Go to the folder you saved it to a check to make sure it's there.

Have fun saving all those pictures now!



Psssssssssst, wanna know where the Colonel eats???



## How to get the Most out of your Financial Advisor

Finding and choosing a good and trustworthy Financial Advisor-Money Manager is only half the battle in ensuring that your investments are properly managed. Getting the most out of him or her is also very important, and even more so when you have such particular needs as Expats.

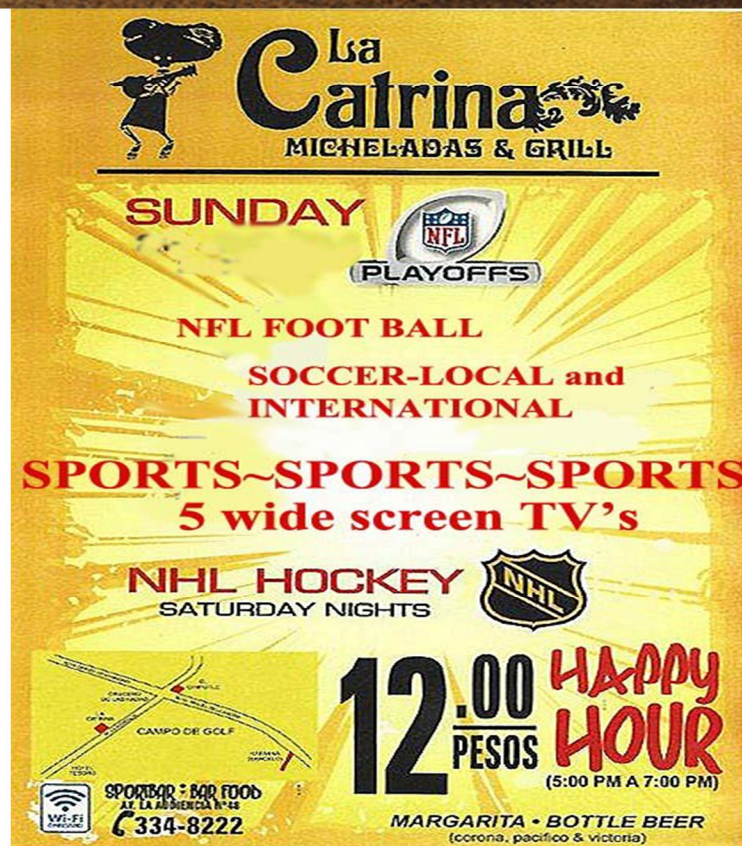
Following are some tips to help ensure that your experience is a good one:

First, it can be a good idea to set up some type of preferences. For example, you may want to ask how often you can expect to hear from your financial advisor. If more contact makes you more comfortable, do not hesitate to ask. You'll also want to know whether you'll hear directly from your advisor or from your custodian staff member (at TD Ameritrade Institutional for example). Not knowing this can lead to unnecessary frustration. You'll also want to know how often you will receive your accounts statements and how to set up your account online access.


Second, you'll want to keep your financial advisor informed of your fiscal situation and goals. You likely did that when you first met with the advisor, but finances and goals can and do change. You (or your other half) may have received an inheritance or sold a business, made a large purchase such as a boat or a house, decided to send your children or grand-children to a more expensive college, are faced with major medical issues, opted to retire earlier than you had originally planned, or decided to fully enjoy your retirement by spending six months out of the year in an exotic foreign location (and obviously Manzanillo is definitely a great choice). These are all situations you would want to mention to your financial advisor, as they could necessitate a change in your plan or your investments.

Third, keep in mind that your financial advisor may be available to help you with concerns other than those that were part of your original consultations. Perhaps you originally began working with a financial advisor on a single issue, such as portfolio management or retirement planning. It's more than likely, however, that your financial advisor can help you with many more issues, from taxation (which is going to be critical this year) to wealth transfer. This alone can save you thousands upon thousands of dollars and most likely is included at no charge to you, so don't hesitate to ask.

And most important of all, remember that all financial advisors are required to sell you "suitable" products (that




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includes stockbrokers), however only Registered Investment Advisors, known in the business as RIAs, who also take an oath of fiduciary responsibility, are legally bound to act in your best interest (that, does not include stockbrokers). This is the reason most RIAs do not sell products. So while it is true that the numbers of stockbrokers literally dwarf the numbers of RIAs, it is quite wise to make sure your advisor has always your best interest at heart and act as your Fiduciary.

**Yann Kostic is a Money Manager and Financial Advisor (RIA's) with Atlantis Wealth Management specializing in both retirees (or soon to be) and self-reliant women as well as Expats. Yann works with TD Ameritrade Institutional as the custodian of client's assets. He splits his time between Central Florida and the Central Pacific Coast of Mexico. Comments, questions or to request his Newsletter "News You Can Use" [Yannk@AtlantisWealth.com](mailto:Yannk@AtlantisWealth.com)**



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Casa Hogar Los Angelitos is a children's home and orphanage located here in Manzanillo, with an average of 60 children and youth in need of love and care, this organization needs a lot of loving supporters to continue their mission. There are many ways you can help; plan to attend their fundraising events here in Manzanillo, the benefit dinner at The Pavilion and the Casa Hogar Los Angelitos open house on January 28 and 29, 2013, if you love playing golf the golf tournament at Isla Navidad will be scheduled as well. You can also become a child or educational sponsor and with a monthly contribution you can help change the life of child. To help this organization please visit their website at [www.tcfcare.org](http://www.tcfcare.org) or send an email to [info@tcfcare.org](mailto:info@tcfcare.org).



## A little about June

By Kirby Vickery

I'll bet that when you sat down to read this you thought it would be another one of those essays where the author lists out a whole bunch of things about the month and then glorifies some of the numerous happenstances which have occurred in various places. According to some of my friends then I should be calling this an 'Ode.' But that's not really correct either because an 'Ode' is something communicated with a lyrical verse. I really hate poetry because I can't understand most of it even after it's explained to me. So, no lyrical things called lines and verse. So, no 'Ode.' But, I am going to talk about June a little.

First of all I know that June is the favorite month of all the school children almost everywhere except, perhaps, the graduating seniors whom will be leaving their coveted halls of education just when they have everything all figured out. Now they have one last fling before college or that all important job that will soon satisfy their need for wine, women or men, song and car but not necessarily in that order. Quite a shame that. You'd figure that the powers to be would let them come back in the fall one more time. Just for a few weeks and just to ram it down the throats of the new seniors.

I used to have a problem with June as I did with the rest of the months. I never could remember how many days are in each month with the exception of February. I know that when Augustus Caesar became Augustus Caesar he has been reported to have taken a day from February and added it to his month. In truth, August got two days from the realignment of the Julian year in 45 BC as did several other months because of the Roman realignment and February didn't although it became a convenient place for the placement of the Leap Year day. Augustus had nothing to do with it.

As I don't do poetry very well, I needed an aid to determine the month lengths for general conversation



and school tests. I then discovered that if you take either hand and make a fist with it and point with the other side's first finger to the first knuckle bump; it represents the 31 days in January. Now point to the little valley between the first and second knuckle and that represents the 28/9 days in February. The second knuckle bump and all the other bumps are 31 days and the little valleys are 30. When you reach the little finger, just start over on the first knuckle again.

June, the first month of summer, is the month for lovers. As well as it should be. It's the first month in most of the countries we all come from that it gets warm enough to pull off a wedding ceremony outside without getting frost bite and yet early enough before the insects get up and chew their way through the wedding guests. A June wedding also means the happy couple can get away and enjoy a scenic holiday when the earth is being replenished with new life all during their honeymoon. Now that's supposed to be suggestive but this is a family paper. Just think of the beautiful memories of where you went and what you saw during your honeymoon. Others can remember the nights more than the days. Ah, such is June.

Mexico has two official holidays in June. Well almost anyway. The first one is on the 1<sup>st</sup> and it is Dia de la Marina or Marine's day. The second one falls on the third Sunday



and is called Dia del Padre or Father's day. This holiday is shared by the United States which also celebrates Flag Day on the 14<sup>th</sup>. I still think it's just a little odd that the U.S. adopted the flag in 1777 but didn't come up with the Constitution until seven years later. I may get in trouble on this but I couldn't find where Canada has any national holidays during the month of June. I did find where Newfoundland and Labrador celebrate Discovery Day. The Northwest Territories have a "statutory" National Aboriginal Day on the 21st. The National Holiday of Quebec is celebrated in Quebec on the 24<sup>th</sup> along with St. John the Baptist Day. It looks to me that Canada had set up a celebration for a 'Canada Day' to be celebrated in June in 1868. Initially to be called Dominion Day. This was in reference to the British North America Act which designated Canada as a country. This article in Wikipedia tells that most Canadian citizens thought themselves to be primarily British so it wasn't celebrated until 1917. Then it was only that year. A bill to get it renamed the National Holiday of Canada was killed in 1946. It finally got another start for being celebrated in 1958 with a stutter start for popularity and name changes through 1980. The only problem with that is that they moved it to October and later it was settled in July so I can't write about it anymore in this segment. I think I need to know what the difference between a "Statute" holiday and a regular one is.

Father's day is celebrated from the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February thru November 10<sup>th</sup> throughout 122 countries including Canada (although not officially). The big day for dad seems to settle on the third Sunday of June in a vast majority of countries and even though several cultures have joined Father's Day with other events which are political, religious and historical based. It still remains the day of the year that fathers are honored for being fathers just as mothers are honored in the same way normally ahead of the fathers. I wonder why that is.

Last month the editorial staff of this paper printed my essay but grieved about the length. So at 1,015 bytes of information, to everyone I say "Good Meitheamh" to you all with many returns.




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## THE MAN OF THE HOUR

*By Freda Rumford*

I have been sitting at my computer for quite a while, staring into space, looking for inspiration on stories to tell of Manzanillo. One thing will not leave me alone but it is not about Manzanillo, so really, I shouldn't write about it but I will.

What has happened to make me so impressed with this item that I simply have to tell you? It is probably one of the most touching and heart warming things that I have witnessed for a very long time and concerns a very young Mexican gentleman, Cali. He was born in a very small town not far from Autlan, Jalisco, Mexico. He did tell me the name of the town but with my memory being as it is at times, I just cannot remember it.

Many years ago, twenty five in fact, he left his home in Jalisco with his parents, brothers and sisters and travelled far away to the United States, where he eventually arrived at Anacortes, Washington. Years come and go and Cali eventually becomes a part owner, manager, and cook in a small but excellent family restaurant. He has a family of his own now, a wife and small children who he loves with a passion and for whom he wishes even better lives and opportunities than that he has had himself.

Enter into Cali's life then, a retired American teacher who offers to teach desirous local adults English as a second language (ESL). Teacher leaves his business card in restaurants and cafes and talks to the staff who do not have much English, offering to teach them English in whatever spare time they have, completely free of any charge.

Cali, hearing of this through his family, decides that this is someone he needs to meet. He does speak English, not necessarily grammatically perfect and with a very slight accent, but feels that this may be the person he has been looking for to help him towards the next step that he should take. Cali is now in his early 30's and knows full well that to have any other career apart from his current situation, he needs to obtain citizenship in the U.S.A. He is legal, has had many green cards and work

permits renewed over the years but now is time to make the solidarity and commitment for his children sake.



The two eventually meet and Teacher, greatly impressed with the manner and desires of Cali, agrees to tutor him through the required steps needed for citizenship; knowledge of the country's origins; the Constitution; the ability to speak and write fluently in English; the oath of allegiance; the desire and pride of belonging to a great nation. Over several months, the two meet, Cali driving miles to Oak Harbor each time and painstakingly he learns to write and learn the English alphabet, answer questions about the Constitution and to sing the national anthem. He is nearing readiness. Not once does he miss a lesson although others taking the same course do so. His drive is infectious and Teacher is becoming more and more impressed with the calibre of this young man. Now talk is turning to what Cali needs for the future journey, what he wants to do once he has his citizenship.

Talk eventually runs the gamut of careers but one thing is definite, Cali wishes to go to College or University. Probably, he thinks, to do computer engineering. When the inclusion and discussion of economics arises from the list of options available at the State University however, his interest really perks up showing that this is a subject he is keenly interested in. This then could be what he works toward. Which level would he prefer to attain? Probably a Master's degree or a Doctorate in the subject would be hard work but having noted Cali's



determination, desire and work ethic, Teacher is convinced that this young man has the ability to succeed at whatever course and level he sets his mind upon and tells him so.

Cali is now reading and writing English very competently, can answer all the required questions needed by the Citizenship Board and is eager and willing for anything that follows. Currently he owns and works full time at the restaurant, many times doing overtime, looks after his three small children and yet finds time to eagerly learn all that he can from Teacher. Perhaps here is a good place to advise the reader of this small story that Cali has never had any formal schooling in his entire life. He has managed somehow to slip through all of the cracks and become totally self taught in Spanish as well as English. All of this has been changed in just a mere few months with Teacher. Spanish is not Teacher's forte but he was able to ensure that Cali's English improved dramatically.

I was privileged to be invited to go to the citizenship ceremony in Seattle. On the day in question there were fifty-two applicants from twenty-five countries. Of them

all, Cali stood out as his pride in what he was accomplishing showed. He was beautifully dressed in neatly pressed slacks, a light blue shirt and tie. His fellow Americans should be proud to have such a keen, bright, earnest and proud young man now among their number. That Cali will become a fine upstanding brilliant addition to his chosen country; can only be a matter of time. This is one young former Mexican man who has found the desire and the required encouragement to go after his lifelong dream. He has left Mexico but Mexico should be proud of him also. I personally am just so proud to have met him and now be able to call him my friend.

I wish you the very best of luck in the pursuit of your dreams Cali. One day I know I will be able to say "I knew him when----!"

#### *Epilogue:*

*A few days after the ceremony, Cali and Teacher are at it again, sitting in the back of a restaurant, their heads together. Only this time the subjects of discussion and study are English composition, grammar, syntax, and just basic reading and writing practice.*

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## The Great Coupeville Washington Water Festival

*By Freda Rumford and Kirby Vickery*



As usual Kirby had gotten up early but then had fallen back to sleep in the old easy chair after trying to knock out another adventure novel. It became yet another morning that Freda had been allowed to sleep in. He had re-awakened to find his book on the floor and the clock reading something about 11AM. She discovered that once again she was accompanied by Blossom the tuxedo, plant killing, cat curled up in a ball by her side while all sorts of aromas of cooking food and fresh coffee were pouring from the little kitchen they had in Oak Harbor.

Neither of them had an inkling as to the Water Festival's schedule so there seemed no reason to rush to be anywhere specific or by any given time. Both were still getting used to the idea of truly being retired together and the joy of being away from responsibilities.

After a delicious breakfast of eggs, sausage and hash browns, the couple decided to set off to Coupeville, for the Penn Cove Water Festival and Farmer's Market. It was just bit too cool for Freda so she opted for light jacket over a sweater. Kirby also grabbed his jacket while reaching for his camera.

They enjoyed a comfortable and leisurely 20 minutes

drive through Whidbey Island's back roads which only Kirby and half the island's population knew about. The other half was probably in Coupeville already enjoying the festivities and really didn't care.

The biggest benefit of the trip was that the clouds all disappeared during the journey and it had started to warm up for the first time in two days.

Kirby was expecting parking difficulties but fortunately at the Farmer's Market the parking-gods were with him as a car was leaving and he quickly grabbed its spot. So, they set about their day's mission with jackets forgotten in the back seat and the camera strap securely over Kirby's shoulder.

The first impression of the market was of white tent, capped, stalls and lots of smiling people milling around. The first stall was a series of board frames displaying water color paintings of various places of interest around the Island. Beyond it, a variety of booths, no longer used for farm produce for which they were originally intended, but expanded to now show artists and artisans of many types, each displaying their crafted wares. There were those few stalls which abounded with herbs and spices,





Jam and jellies but most were jewelry and decorative items for tourists.

A group of troubadour’s were striking up a song, whilst waiting for their turn to compete at the Water Festival and they started to stroll through the fields where the market was located while playing songs and ballads from their repertoire. Our thoughts lent themselves to the fact that this all male group were probably out just having some additional fun, rather than trying to drum up an audience, for when their official show started.



Freda just wanted to stand and watch and listen but Kirby had other ideas, so they meandered by the performers, to view some of the wares and exhibits in the area.

At one point I asked a vendor if I might borrow a bucket of cut flowers. “I need it for about 30 seconds and promise I’ll return it in the same condition I’ve borrowed it in.” I asked in my best begging voice. With the vendors permission I handed the bouquet to Freda and before she knew what was going on she was rewarded with an excellent picture of a lady with flowers not found in Mexico. At another vendor they purchased ‘Kettle Corn’ which Freda hadn’t tried before but was persuaded to share.

The road to the wharf was lined with more tent capped booths which offered food, snacks, maps and information

about the area. All were manned by the smiling friendly people of Coupeville. Kirby’s selection was of a bowl of watered down chili offered by the Lion’s Club, whilst Freda preferred to wait until the coffee shop at the end of the pier where upon the advice of a departing customer, she first sampled and then decided on a bag of delicious toffee.

Although she ended up giving me some, she seemed a little reluctant as it was very fresh and very good toffee and far too good to share. I took advantage, between shop visits, and took several pictures of the canoe races. Freda commented while watching some of the American Indian canoe’s bash themselves into their competitors while they were rounding the final turn. They didn’t seem to have the same set of rules, that she had noted, years earlier in England on the River Ouse. She found it a little disappointing to see most of the race with no crowd participation until the canoes came almost to the end of the race.

Whilst drinking their lukewarm coffee, we sat back and watched a couple of the races in which several canoes, with six ardent people furiously stabbed the water frantically with their paddles, vying for the lead.



After the races, we left the wharf and strolled around the shops on the water front, where the shopkeepers were all delighted to see so many tourists roaming through town. Kirby went crazy at the chance to grab some more up-close pictures of flowers to add to his collection. They were also able to reluctantly leave, one enticing book shop named *Far From Normal*, with the purchase of only one thin book.

So with tired feet, hand in hand, and with an easy stroll, they made their way back to the car. An afternoon thoroughly enjoyed. Kirby, having lived in the area for several years was anxious to get supper on and Freda was feeling the effects of having met so many friendly and smiling people. Someday, our new joint friends, and her family members, are going to have to break it to her that this is nothing new for her and that she will always meet friendly and smiling people where ever she goes.



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Theme for June  
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Colima store front by Kirby Vickery



Artisan by Dave Burroughs



Beautiful birds on the Golf Course By Ginny Ruiz



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(The day of the revolution)

BY  
TERRY SOVIL

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WHAT I LIKE ABOUT MEXICO IS.....

Your best shot of a memorable face, task  
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