



coastal Mexico's lifestyle magazine

Tzintzuntzan cathedral
photo by John Chalmers

On the Road
Community
History and Mythology
RV Travel
Nature's Wonders
So Much to See
Recipe
Learn Spanish
Path to Citizenship

In this issue

On the Road series *by John Chalmers*
Touring México - From Archeology
to Arts and Crafts...1

Community series *by Suzanne A. Marshall*
Pulling Together in
Critical Times of Need...11

History and Mythology series *by Kirby Vickery*
The Drunken Rabbits...16

RV Travel series *by Dan and Lisa Goy*
La Paz...19

Nature's Wonders
I Planted Roots in Mexico series
by Tommy Clarkson
Bougainvillea...33
Painted Drop Tongue...36

So Much to See
Real de Catorce...35

Recipe - Food and Drink
Chalupas...38

Spanish Skills
Crossword...41

Path to Citizenship (P2C)
Pancho Villa...42



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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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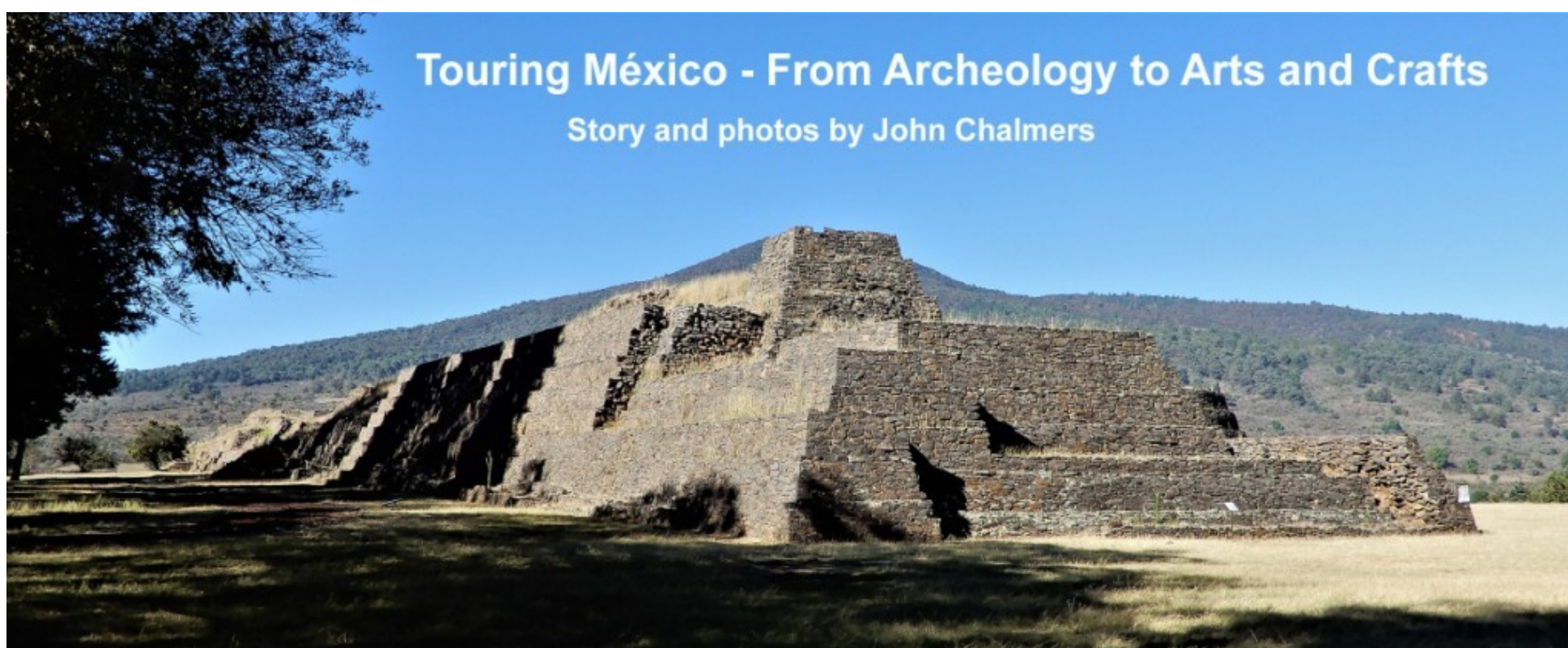
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Touring México - From Archeology to Arts and Crafts

Story and photos by John Chalmers

There is no lack of things to do and see in the Manzanillo area of beautiful México! A seafood dinner at a favorite restaurant, joining friends for a scenic hike, enjoying the beaches and sea, shopping at the colorful markets, touring the Vive Plants orchid farm and the botanical Ola Brisa Gardens, and photographing birds at the beach and lagoons all add to enjoyment of the area.

Less than an hour's drive are the towns of Barra de Navidad and Melaque with their own special charms, a visit to the turtle sanctuary, or a day on the beach at Cuastecomates. Ninety minutes away is the state's capital, Colima, and from there a short drive leads to the charming Magic Town of Comala. A *Pueblo Mágico*, or Magic Town, is so designated by Mexico's Secretariat of Tourism for its beauty, architecture, traditions, culture, arts and crafts.

The more I see of México, the more I want to know about it! A five-day/four-night tour to Morelia, a sanctuary of the Monarch

butterflies, and a stay in historic towns completely matched my desires! It was too much for a single story, so I described the first two days – Morelia and the Monarchs – in the June issue of the [Manzanillo Sun](http://manzanillosun.com).

This story begins when our tour group boarded our luxury bus to depart from Morelia on a trip that would include three Magic Towns – Tzintzuntzan, Pátzcuaro and Santa Clara del Cobre. An hour later, we arrived at the ancient archeological site of Tzintzuntzan, the capital of the Purépecha people who arrived in the area by Lake Pátzcuaro in the 12th Century. Our first stop was at the archeological site that is the location of the massive stone structures built before the Spanish conquest of 1519-21.

I admired the precision of the work that went into building the huge structures and semi-circular *yácatas*, the pyramids built hundreds of years ago. I always feel privileged to stand in awe and walk the space once occupied by ancient people, admiring



Our visit to the archeological site of Tzintzuntzan provided opportunity to walk around the site of temples of the capital, dating back over 500 years ago.



The precision of the stone work in the *yácatas* is amazing at this site of a capital city established hundreds of years before the Spanish conquistadors arrived.

...Touring México – From Archeology to Arts and Crafts



In keeping with the character of the stone structures, the museum at the site is simple in design and made of stone, filled with ancient artifacts found in the area.

the traces of their civilizations. In addition to the surviving stone structures, a new stone museum at the site was opened in 2014 and displays artifacts found there.

Next stop was at Tzintzuntzan itself, a town of some 13,000. There we were exposed again to history, and to the many products that tempted us in the markets. First, we visited the former monastery complex of San Francisco, which dates from the 16th Century, again stepping back in time for the experience. That was followed by checking out the arts and crafts in the markets, which always fascinate me with the workmanship in a wide array of products.

The trip through history continued on our next stop, Pátzcuaro, where we checked into the hotel, then had lunch and were taken on a walking tour by Ofelia, our guide from Mex-Eco Tours. Notable was that, like other places in the state of Michoacán, buildings were painted in red and white, with red and black lettering for signage painted to identify the names. No bright ne-



In the town of Tzintzuntzan at the former monastery complex of San Francisco, founded in the 16th Century, one of the buildings is the Iglesia de la Soledad (Church of Solitude).



A carved stone coyote displayed in the museum. is among the many items of artistic, personal and functional artifacts testifying to the skill of the artisans.

on signs or flashing lights to be seen above the doorways or in the windows!

On foot we were able to see much of the central area, starting from the central park and ranging from historic structures and cobblestone roads to a high point providing a view of the town. Again I looked in wonderment at the historic buildings and enjoyed the cultural artifacts of Mexican people and traditions.

In this full day of travel and sightseeing, the next stop was Santa Clara de Cobre, known for its production of items made from *cobre* (copper). Once mined in the area from the mid-1500s, copper from the mines was exhausted by the mid-19th century.

Today, copper arrives as recycled copper wire and cable. Thus the tradition of making products from that metal continues, after the art was revived some 75 years ago. Visitors now see a



Stepping through this archway in Tzintzuntzan was the beginning of a walk back into history of the town before visiting the colorful and well stocked markets.

...Touring México – From Archeology to Arts and Crafts



This array of woodworking products at the markets of Tzintzuntzan is just a hint of the many choices offered to visitors. A wide variety of goods from decorative to functional provides plenty of items to choose.

mind-boggling display of copper products ranging from items as small as earrings to huge pots and gorgeous enameled vases. Our tour included a workshop to see copper being heated and then shaped into a large bowl.

After a dinner at a restaurant of our choice, where many of us ended up at the same place, we stayed in Pátzcuaro at the Hotel Casa del Refugio. Next morning, we had the option of another walking tour or time on our own to soak up the character of the town or visit the shops and public buildings.

After a leisurely morning in town, a drive of less than an hour took us to the small town of Capula, known for its production of Catrinas, the skeletal female figurines in long gowns and wide hats. Although the Catrina figure is now associated with Mexico's celebrations of *Día de los Muertos*, or Day of the Dead, its origins go back to a [political cartoon](#) by José Guadalupe Posada 110 years ago.

A [famous painting](#) by Diego Rivera, whose face appears on the 500-peso bill, featured La Calavera Catrina and led to its popular appearance in Mexican culture and, less than 40 years ago, sculptor [Juan Torres](#) first produced the skeleton lady and after he established a workshop in Capula, the town became known for its production of Catrinas.

Today, the skeletal figures are not only of the slender female, but all manner of characters, female and male, presented in costumes depicting many walks of life. At Capula, they abound in shops where visitors have a choice for purchase among thousands of them! While some are very large, my choice was



At a shop in Pátzcuaro, this lovely and charming set of table and four chairs was too much for fellow travellers Wendy and Ken to resist. They made the purchase and took the set home in the luggage compartment of our bus!

just a small Catrina to serve as a memento of that stop in the tour.

Our bus then continued on to Ajijic, stopping en route for a buffet lunch at a big restaurant on the highway. The day ended at our destination, the splendid and modern facility of our hotel for dinner and overnight stay, the Real de Chapala, located on the shore of Lake Chapala, Mexico's biggest lake. In contrast to the historic Hotel Misión Catedral at Morelia for the first two nights, and the modest, but charming Hotel Casa del Refugio in Pátzcuaro, our final night was at a luxurious resort.

After breakfast on our final day, we had opportunity to swim in the pool, go for a hike around the grounds and area, or enjoy the scenery and bird life at lakeside. A short drive took us to central Ajijic, a colorful and historic town. Many buildings there feature murals ranging from fanciful art to depictions of historical events and individuals who were important in the country's development.

After lunch on our own and time to stroll the streets or go for a walk with Ofelia, we boarded the bus for the final leg of the tour, arriving back in the Manzanillo area in time for dinner.

Following travel through hundreds of kilometers of great scenery in the area of the Sierra Madre mountains and in three states of Colima, Michoacán and Jalisco, we arrived home, richer for the experience. We had passed through over 500 years of history and culture from pre-Hispanic days to modern and colorful México.

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... more pics follow

...Touring México – From Archeology to Arts and Crafts



In one market stall well stocked with traditional pottery items such as bowls and dishes ranging from very small to very large, I bought items for home from this man and was happy to pay the asking price.



Mexican crafts in the markets have great appeal due to the quality, color and variety of so many products, and even if you don't make a purchase, it is a pleasure to see them all.



Products in straw from hats to hampers to baskets are raised to an art form in household items for practical and daily use, and pricing in markets is always very reasonable.



In a selfie with Pancho Villa I wasn't going to start any argument with a man holding a gun! But I have always found the merchants in markets pleasant, agreeable, and fun to deal with.



Figures like these with the pink masks come in many sizes depicting characters seen in a traditional dance of Michoacán called *Danza de los Viejetos*, the Dance of the Old Ones. I have seen that folk dance done in presentations done by young boys wearing masks and costumes like this. I had to buy one of these as a souvenir!

...Touring México – From Archeology to Arts and Crafts



Centrally located at the public square and park in Pátzcuaro, the conveniently located Hotel Casa del Refugio was our refuge for one night on the tour.



Like many hotels in México, our hotel in Pátzcuaro featured an open courtyard. Furniture of traditional design and construction provided a place to relax and visit.



Located on a hill overlooking Pátzcuaro, the town's main church is the Basílica de Nuestra Señora de Salud (Basilica of Our Lady of Health), which began construction in the mid-1500s.



The interior of the Basílica de Nuestra Señora de Salud is one of the most impressive architectural sights in Pátzcuaro, and is highly revered by many who come to pray for miracles.



Outside the basilica I enjoyed the view and the open-air market of many colorful products, and at this stall the red bag hanging at the upper left was my purchase as another reminder of travel in Michoacán!



A feature in the central park of Pátzcuaro is a statue of Don Vasco de Quiroga, a Spanish-born priest who came to México in 1531 and worked for the welfare and education of the indigenous people.

...Touring México – From Archeology to Arts and Crafts



Our tourist parade in a walking tour saw several significant stone structures in the historic center of Pátzcuaro, with plenty of opportunity to record the visit with our cameras.



Typical of many towns in Michoacán, the low buildings are painted white and red, with signage in red and black lettering to conform with traditional appearance and community standards.



On the white and red buildings of Pátzcuaro, only red and black painted letters are used in signage of the stores for consistency in naming the businesses.



Enjoying the food is an important part of travel, and what could be more Mexican than buying a snack in the form a churro from a vendor in a public square!



Seeking out a restaurant for dinner adds to the daily experience, perhaps finding one by the colonnades of old buildings to dine inside or outside is always part of the fun in a tour.



Left to right are Ofelia, our guide for the tour, who kept us well informed and answered our questions; Rogelio, who helped with all the arrangements; and Omar, our excellent bus driver.

...Touring México – From Archeology to Arts and Crafts



Upon arriving at Santa Clara de Cobre, this huge pot made it evident that items made from *cobre* (copper) were important to the town's history and industry.



A demonstration in a workshop took red hot copper from a forge like a blacksmith's to show how it could be shaped by hammer while the copper was still hot.



At shop in Santa Clara de Cobre, we were surrounded by a dazzling display of copper products, whether at outdoor stands or at huge selections in the shops.



Ranging from a very simple copper candlestick that I bought, to beautiful vases and dishes like these enameled with Monarch butterflies, the choice is endless.



Like the copper products in Santa Clara del Cobre, the vast array of Catrina figures in the town of Capula need to be seen to be appreciated. Resistance to purchase is futile!



The skeletal figures associated with the Day of the Dead display an unlimited variety of costumes and color in the hands of the artisans who make each original figure by hand.

...Touring México – From Archeology to Arts and Crafts



Archeological sites, cathedrals and courtyards, and hand-crafted goods in the markets are not the only attractions in the tour. The splendid scenery of fields and crops through the Sierra Madre mountains was itself one of the best features in our travels.



A change of pace and venue from the historic hotels where we stayed was the modern resort of our final stay, the Real de Chapala at Ajijic.



After our final overnight stay, at Real de Chapala, our tour group was ready to leave for the last stop on the tour to see central historic and colorful Ajijic.



Shops in Ajijic are colorful both outside and inside with painted exteriors and attractive clothing, handicrafts and art displayed for sale at the interiors.



The malecon at Ajijic borders Lake Chapala, a fine place for a walk to enjoy the vistas of the scenery and bird life along the shore.

...Touring México – From Archeology to Arts and Crafts



This Great Egret had obvious success in hunting for breakfast along the lakeshore and then posed patiently for me to take several more photos.

You can count on seeing White Pelicans in Lake Chapala and in nearby areas where they gather by the dozens closer to the town of Chapala, not far away.



Art on the walls of buildings in central Ajiac is characteristic of the town and ranges from cartoon-like graphic characters to realistic portrayals of Mexican life.

...Touring México – From Archeology to Arts and Crafts



This section of a beautiful and detailed mural in Ajiic is described below in a historic account of the town's history, celebrations and ancient festivals.



The park-like central plaza in Ajiic features a gazebo, palms, gardens and intricately carved statuary shaped from the trunks of trees. A fine place to enjoy the town!



At the plaza in Ajiic is the 18th Century church, the Capilla de Nuestra Señora del Rosario, (Chapel of Our Lady of the Rosary), commonly known as the Little Chapel.



In an Ajiic mural are six important figures in Mexican history and the road to independence. Left to right are Father Miguel Hidalgo who issued the *grito*, or cry for independence, and is regarded as the father of Mexican independence. José María Morelos was a revolutionary leader born in Valladolid, which was renamed in Morelia in his honor. Josefa Ortiz was a heroine of the revolution, also born in Valladolid, and collaborated with leaders of the revolt against Spain, which began in 1810. Ignacio Allende was a captain in the Spanish army who sympathized with the independence movement and fought with Miguel Hidalgo for independence. Emiliano Zapata was a leader in the 1910 peasant revolution against dictator Porfirio Díaz. Pancho Villa at far right, was a revolutionary leader and with Emiliano Zapata helped to bring down the dictatorship of Díaz and became governor of the state of Chihuahua in 1913. All six characters shown here are well worth reading about for their colorful chapters in México history!

Pulling Together in Critical Times of Need

by Suzanne A. Marshall

Who would have thought six months ago that the world would be frozen in the grasps of a global viral pandemic? It has been a century since such an event occurred. However, this time, the world contains almost 6 billion additional people. We fly around the world with ease (making transition so much faster) and have come to count on a 'global economy' to meet our daily living requirements. At least requirements as we now see them.

Countries are no longer 'self contained' and exchange goods and services as an ordinary expectation. This may be an altered 'vehicle' in future as we cope with living in far more isolation and wait for some sort of new normal to evolve. And, of course, we all pray for a new vaccine to stop the spread of the virus. In the meantime, governments, scientists and the people try to cope with and avoid the ravages of Covid-19.

In Manzanillo, our beautiful beaches have been closed for months, along with many other public venues such as theatres, some shopping centres and numerous businesses. All of this is having a tremendous impact on the working lives of local Mexican families.

Many are relying on the tourism business for example, beach restaurants, and sales of various products where most of these families earn their daily living. In other words, the people live and support their families from day to day. When this suddenly stops, there is almost an immediate crisis. It is said that, in Mexico, the population of the working poor is 60%.

So, thanks to a couple of initiatives involving big hearted leaders and volunteers, there has been a focus on collecting food and funds for food purchases and subsequent distribution to numerous families who are currently in need.



Above, Grace and Benny McCormick.

Right, Ing and Steve Steele and Fernando help Grace with bagging and sorting food supplies for donation and delivery to local families surrounding the Manzanillo area.



...Pulling Together in Critical Times of Need



The McCormick home takes on the appearance of a warehouse, as food for donations are sorted and bagged.

One such group calls itself 'Giving Without Strings'. This is the initiative of Benny and Grace McCormick who, with the help of volunteers (Ing, Steve, Fernando, Kevin and Camilla), are helping to relieve some of the daily stress experienced by many people in urgent need of sustenance.

I would like to acknowledge here that it took some convincing on my part to be allowed to identify the McCormicks for this article. They are not looking for notoriety.



Families receiving various items

As I told them, the more people that know who is involved, the better. This will hopefully enable like-minded individuals the ability to donate or assist in this wonderful cause.

Once the purchases have been made, and donations have been sorted, they are loaded into vehicles and delivered to homes in the Pedro Nuñez, Las Flores and Santiago areas. The group has been trying to maintain weekly deliveries and hopes to do so as long as the need is there. What a tremendous effort this is to support the local communities.

Another group, lead by Jim and Bev Woods, is establishing a 'not-for-profit' organization to help now and to continue assisting many of our locals in the future. It's important to note that, while some people are donating actual food (beans, rice, milk, flour, sauces ,etc.), others are donating cash so that volunteers can purchase many of the needed items in bulk from our local stores. Cash donations are coming in locally but are also being transmitted from outside Mexico from the USA and Canada.

Donations of food can be brought to the McCormicks' home in Nunez; funds can be emailed to Benny McCormick as follows: bennymcc@gmail.com or via PayPal.

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

... more pics follow

...Pulling Together in Critical Times of Need



Sorting takes place in available spaces in homes and as needed.

Left, at the McCormicks' and right at the Woods'



Volunteers purchase bulk supplies with cash donations



Families are happy to receive bagged donations and supplies.



...Pulling Together in Critical Times of Need



The smiling faces impart the appreciation felt for the assistance being given from the volunteers



Left and below, Jim and Bev Woods with volunteers and villagers of Miramar who gather to distribute and receive much needed food and supplies



...Pulling Together in Critical Times of Need

The [Manzanillo Sun](#) is pleased to provide our readers with the following Press Release:

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

When the COVID-19 virus hit Manzanillo and the government decided the safest way to curb the growth of the virus was to close the beaches of Manzanillo, along with many businesses, it put a high number of people out of work. Many condo complexes, hotels, and rental houses in Manzanillo have not been able to rent out their units, leaving more people out of work.

One of the hardest hit communities are the beach vendors whose sole income, in many cases, is the wares they produce and sell on the beaches of Manzanillo. Many of these folks are part of the indigenous populations of Mexico. They live in communities in Naranjo, Miramar, Pedro Nuñez and others. Since the middle of March, these families have been out of work. Single moms have also been struggling with lack of work and are struggling to continue to feed and care for their families.

Knowing some of these folks and hearing their stories, Jim and Beverly Woods decided that something needed to be done. They began putting together food and supplies to distribute. Realizing the need was great, they solicited the help of friends in Manzanillo as well as in the United States and Canada and, since March, they have distributed more than 250 bags of groceries and hygiene products, plus masks, to as many families.

Beverly had just bought a sewing machine in March to help with mending clothing...little did she know that she would soon be making non-surgical masks for the Hospital General de Manzanillo or Hospital Civil as some call it because many staff people there did not have personal protective equipment. In addition to the hospital, they are distributing masks to the communities locally. To date, they have made and distributed over 400 masks.

Their long-time friends in Washington State, Stacey and Justin Canterbury, also own property here in Manzanillo and wanted to help. Stacey and Justin are in Manzanillo now helping the Woods' purchase and distribute the boxes of groceries. Stacey started a GoFundMe site just for this project. It is "Feeding Families" and the link is <https://gf.me/u/x9g7hi>. This is the easiest way to contribute. You can also contact Beverly Woods at her USA number, 281 573 8863, and, in Mexico, 314 125 2817 or email her at beverlywoods@hotmail.com.

The Woods and Canterbury families will be forming a non-profit organization to further the cause of helping others in need in the Manzanillo area. This will help them be prepared to help after natural disasters such as hurricanes and to continue an ongoing outreach to those needing a helping hand.

For additional information contact

Beverly Woods

314 125 2817

beverlywoods@hotmail.com

Further to the above press release, note that there are contact people in each of the serviced communities. They are like community organizers. They keep a list of people who need help and also when they last received food and supplies. When deliveries of food are made to a certain area, the organizer greets the volunteers and all the people on the list for that day are assembled so they can be greeted and given the food and supplies. All is very well organized.

So, as this story closes, I would like to share information about more wonderful efforts underway in Mexico. In my reading of the Mexico News Daily, I'd like to acknowledge the work of Expats who are helping to feed the needy and have been doing so for 70 days in Playa Del Carmen, La Paz, Cabo San Lucas, Baja California Sur.

No doubt all of us would wish all our Mexican neighbors health and stamina, as we all pray for better times and look to the future when some form of normalcy will allow us all to carry on our daily lives and return to work and occupations that sustain this wonderful and beautiful country. Please stay safe.

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

The Drunken Rabbit

story by Kirby Vickery

Almost every culture, both modern and ancient, has had affairs in their folklore with both animals and the night sky. To me, early humankind's populations demanded reason behind the thousands the pin pricks of light poking through the veil of darkness when their particular sun god dipped below the horizon. As animation was important to each creation story, the locals tossed in all their favorite animals that were here before humankind.



A depiction of three of the 400 rabbits

Universally, they were given intelligence and communication abilities in these stories. Even Australia's native races have some really interesting tales concerning the stars and that continent's unique animals. We know that the Mayan people were the ones that put a rabbit on the moon and, as soon as I can figure out how to condense a wonderful story of about 5,000 words down into about 1,000, I'll put it in the Manzanillo Sun.

My personal interests in the night sky started while I was working in Tijuana and visiting Phoenix every weekend on my motorcycle to see my then fiancée. I would leave her on Sunday evenings to take my shortcut back to the San Diego area. This took me through some back roads which were perfect city light blockers and I could pull over and lie back on the bike and view the desert sky's armada of stars. I even had an Arizona Highway Patrol officer stop and view me from time to time.



Tepoztecatl from the codex, Borgia

Later, when I married and moved to Tempe, Arizona, my first classes at Arizona State University were history because of my love of the subject and astronomy. I wanted to know about all those little pin pricks I had been looking at almost every Sunday night for a year. Moreover, like the Mayans and the Aztecs, I fell in love with the Pleiades. This star group also figures heavily in Mesoamerican storytelling and is featured in their story of the rabbit in the Moon.

The Aztecs took a somewhat different view of their rodent-gods. They had 400 drunken Rabbit Gods that were the children of Mayahuel (Goddess of Alcohol) and Petecatli (God of Medicine). These 400 thirsty bunnies stood for the different ways Aztecs could intoxicate themselves.

It's interesting to note that 400 was also the Aztec number which represented 'infinity'. Therefore, when someone got absolutely smashed, people would say he was 'drunk as 400 rabbits'. Some of these rabbits also had names with background stories.

...The Drunken Rabbits



Macuil Tochtli

The traditional drink of the Aztecs was called pulque, which is a milk-colored, somewhat viscous liquid that produces a light foam. It is made by fermenting the sap of certain types of agave plants. In contrast, mezcal is made from the cooked heart of those plants, and tequila, a variety of mezcal, is made all or mostly from the blue agave.

The drink wasn't for just anyone to drink. Only old people could taste from this sacred potion. Youngsters who got caught drinking were severely punished, with a penalty of 'death by strangling'. The reason that young Aztecs couldn't drink pulque originated in a myth. In this story, the Goddess of Flowers (including the maguey and its sap), Xochitl gave some pulque to the King of Tula, who got drunk and attacked her. The Aztecs made sure that drinking became a sole activity of old and experienced men who could control themselves. [I wonder how that belief would go over in today's world. Ed.]

After the attack incident, Mayahuel became the new Goddess of Pulque. The 'infinite' amount of children she had with her husband, Petecatli, who was believed to be responsible for fermentation, were pictured as rabbits, which she nursed with this alcoholic beverage. The Aztec name for this nest of bunnies was Centzon Tōtōchtin, which literally means 400 rabbits, also known as the Gods of Drunkenness.

According to the legend, they would gather on a regular basis to test their livers. Here are some of the main characters from this chapter of Aztec mythology. Keep in mind that the Aztecs sometimes used numbers as first names:

Tepoztecatl (Ome Tochtli) – 'Two Rabbit': (The Toltecs had a "One Rabbit." It was the first of their 52-year cycle and the Aztecs revered the Toltecs as the Mesoamerican people that came before them.) Ome Tochtli or Tepoztecatl, as he was actually named, was considered king of the Drunken Rabbits and God of Pulque. Where his mother is also connected to nourishment, Ome Tochtli is all about fertility and drunkenness, which makes one suspect that, like today, many babies in those days were conceived after the libido was raised by alcohol.

Macuilotochtli – 'Five Rabbit': Macuilotochtli was the official God of Alcoholic Beverages but he also stood for excess with alcohol and the consequences for that behavior. Basically, the Rabbit God of Getting Smashed and Hangovers.

Tequehmecauiani – God of Hanging: Apparently, it wasn't uncommon for people in the Aztec Empire to accidentally hang themselves when they were drunk. People who feared they would end up in a lethal noose would make an offering to this Rabbit God. Possibly, this example refers to the cruel death penalty by strangling for youngsters who secretly got drunk.

Colhuatzincatl – The Winged One: A fourth rodent with a taste for pulque. Actually, very little is known about this member of the Centzon Tōtōchtin, just that he was often referred to as 'The Winged One'. Very experienced drinkers will tell you that this was probably the God of one of the earlier stages of intoxication.

Toltecatl – God of Early Civilization: When Toltecatl was not getting smashed with his divine brothers, he was simply the God of the older Toltec Culture, which the Aztecs respected and saw as their cultural and intellectual predecessors. From what they knew, basically, the start of civilization.

...The Drunken Rabbits



Toltecayotl is a Nahuatl word derived from "tōltēcātl" which as used by the Nahuas as meaning "artisan".

Techalotl – God of Dance: 'Squirrel', and he was also one of the Gods of Dance. It should not be too hard to understand why Techalotl was one of the Centzon Tōtōchtin. He symbolized that maniac on the dancefloor stepping on everyone's toes.

The fable of the 400 does not have a happy ending, however. One day they made the mistake of killing the mother of Huitzi-lopochtli, the Aztec God of War and the Sun. He chased them all down and decapitated some bunnies, ripped out some hearts, stabbed them or simply threw them off a temple, till all the Centzon Tōtōchtin were dead.

Some say this fable gives credence to the Aztec fondness for human sacrifice. I say that these fables gave the individual Aztec a guide in the description of degree of inebriation one sees or achieves at the local pub, which can be viewed with a smile or a frown.

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La Paz

by Dan and Lisa Goy

La Paz, BCS (The Peace)

La Paz is our favourite city anywhere on Baja as it still retains much of its original colonial identity and Mexican culture. Although much has changed since our first Mexican adventure in 1985, La Paz continues to maintain an old-world charm for us. In 1985, we stayed at the Oasis RV Park in Centenario, on the beach, 20 minutes north of town on Hwy 1. Back in the day, there were no fewer than four RV parks in La Paz, in addition to Oasis, Casa Blanca RV Park, El Cardon RV Park, La Paz Trailer Park and Aquamarina RV Park. Oasis, El Cardon and La Paz have been closed for many years. We did stay at Casa Blanca before it closed in 2007. Aquamarina closed, then reopened, and we believe it has now closed again.



Baja Amigos caravan in La Paz

Fortunately, Campestre Maranatha opened up to the public almost 20 years ago and expanded their RV Park to accommodate caravans. Campestre Maranatha is a Christian campground founded by Cecil and Faye Byers. The site of this campground is the former runway where they first landed their Cessna airplane as missionaries. This is a functioning bible camp, mostly attended by local children on weekends. It is an excellent RV Park with great showers and washrooms, a pool (unheated), good Wi-Fi. A granddaughter operates a coffee shop on the corner of the property. The coffee shop offers great cinnamon buns, coffee, a breakfast special and great Wi-Fi.

A couple of large grocery stores are located at the entrance to La Paz, very handy for RVs looking for groceries, easy in and easy out. We have a couple of favourite eateries; Los Magueyes Restaurant (corner of Ignacio Allende entre Ramirez and Guillermo Prieto) and a hot dog/hamburger stand located (16 de Septiembre and Belisario Dominguez). With almost 1200 places to eat in La Paz, that says something, for sure. There is so much to do and see in La Paz, it is hard to say where to start.

Eco-tourism is the major source of tourism income as people come to enjoy its marine wonders, as well as its diverse, and often unique, terrestrial species endemic to the region. There are some 900 islands and inlets in the Gulf of California, with 244 now under UNESCO protection as World Heritage Bio-Reserves.

The Espiritu Santos Islands group, which borders the southeastern portion of the Bay of La Paz and are considered the crown jewels of the islands of the Gulf (also referred to as the Sea of Cortez/Mar de Cortés) are the primary tourist destination of the area. Its diving, snorkeling and kayaking are considered second to none. You can arrange to swim with whale sharks and sea lions downtown on the malecón from many operators.

Malecón (beach boulevard) Alvaro Obregón

Along this five kilometre malecón, you will find restaurants, hotels, night clubs, bars and specialty stores. You can take a relaxing walk on its wide and well-illuminated sidewalks, or just simply enjoy its reddish sunsets that include live music on the weekends. We recommend stopping for lunch at our favourite hot dog stand. You can see El Mogote, a small peninsula, the cruise ship port and a series of bronze sculptures including one of the most outstanding, El Cristo de Mar.



Whale statue on the malecón

...La Paz

Plaza Constitución (Jardín Velazco)

La Paz's tidy downtown zócalo (town square) is enclosed by Avenida Independencia and Calles 5 de Mayo, Revolución de 1910 and Madero. At the southwest side of the plaza is the post-missionary-style Catedral de Nuestra Señora de La Paz that replaced the original mission church in 1861. Architectural beauty, surrounded by old buildings, where the Paceños (people from La Paz) meet, with its gardens, benches, kiosks and the unique fountain, Hongo de Balandra, makes these gardens something special. At the northwest side of Plaza Constitución, opposite the cathedral, is the 1880s era former Casa de Gobierno (Government House), which is now a gallery with rotating exhibits.

Catedral Nuestra Señora de La Paz

Founded as a mission on December 3, 1720 by the priests Juan de Ugarte and Jaime Bravo, it was abandoned in 1735 due to the hostility of the Indians of that region. In 1871, the current building of the Cathedral was built, with a Latin cross base and covered by a two-sided roof and two pyramidal towers. In the interior, it has a beautiful altar dedicated to the virgin that gives it its name. Although the twin-towered brick edifice looms over the plaza, it lacks the charm of earlier Jesuit missions. Inside, only an image of Nuestra Señora del Pilar and a few theological books survive from the earlier 1720 mission.



La Paz zócalo cathedral (Mission of Our Lady of the Pillar of La Paz Airapí)

Museo Regional de Antropología e Historia (Regional Museum of Anthropology and History) features valuable archaeological and ethnographic objects and 1200 samples related to the peninsula's geological evolution are on display in its modern rooms. You can appreciate fossil remains, rocks with inscriptions, photographs of the rock paintings, books about the missions and regional craftsmanship whilst touring this museum, inaugurated in 1981. It also offers details regarding the extraction of gold and pearls. The museum is located at the Cultural Unit of Agora, between Altamirano and 5 de Mayo Streets.

Carnaval is an official Mexican holiday that kicks off a five-day celebration before the Catholic lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Beginning the weekend before Lent, Carnaval is celebrated exuberantly with parades, floats, costumes, music and dancing in the streets with the most vigorous celebration taking place over the one weekend. Carnaval is equivalent to Mardi Gras in New Orleans. The festival of Carnaval is celebrated as a last indulgence of carnal pleasures that Catholics must give up for 40 days of fasting during Lent, from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. In fact, the word Carnaval is derived from Latin, meaning take away or goodbye to flesh, and strict Catholics will give up meat eating during Lent.



Carnaval

The wearing of masks during Carnaval is said to be a pagan practice as protection from evil spirits, but most likely evolved as a way to participate fully in the celebration with some anonymity. Though celebrations vary by destination, the biggest Carnivals usually begin with the Quema del Mal Humour, or burning of ill humour. This is usually an effigy of an unpopular political figure and this symbolically represents the commencement of merriment, leaving behind everyday worries and concerns. This kicks off the festivities, including the crowning of the Carnaval Queen, and the King - sometimes referred to as the Rey Feo, or "Ugly King."

The annual carnaval in La Paz is held at various dates, from mid-February through March, and attracts tens of thousands of mostly Mexicans from throughout Baja but few tourists. La Paz remains relatively off the tourist track unlike the more widely known destinations of Cancun and Cabo San Lucas.

La Paz Carnaval extends for 2 kilometers along the waterfront malecón (boardwalk). The whole region looks forward to the annual party.

...La Paz

Cowboys from rural villages and ranchos appear in their finest white leather jackets, matching cowboy hats, Levis and fancy boots, their pickups washed and polished, ready to impress the señoritas. Local families with kids in tow, on shoulders, in strollers and in backpacks crowd the game booths and amusement rides. Vendors from all over Mexico sell moving vans full of acrylic blankets printed with cartoon characters, Mexican leather goods, sombreros, cactus candies, enamel ware, toys and plastic kitchen containers from China, heavy pastries, homemade potato chips, specialty tacos and burritos from different regions and... beer – aka "Mexican water."



Carnaval float

La Paz is an important regional commercial center and has a metropolitan population of roughly 300,000 because of surrounding towns like El Centenario, El Zacatal and San Pedro. La Paz was first inhabited by Neolithic hunter-gatherers at least 10,000 years ago who left traces of their existence in the form of rock paintings near the city and throughout the Baja peninsula. Equally important to know is that La Paz hasn't always been the capital of Baja California Sur, nor has it been consistently inhabited over its more than 485-year history.

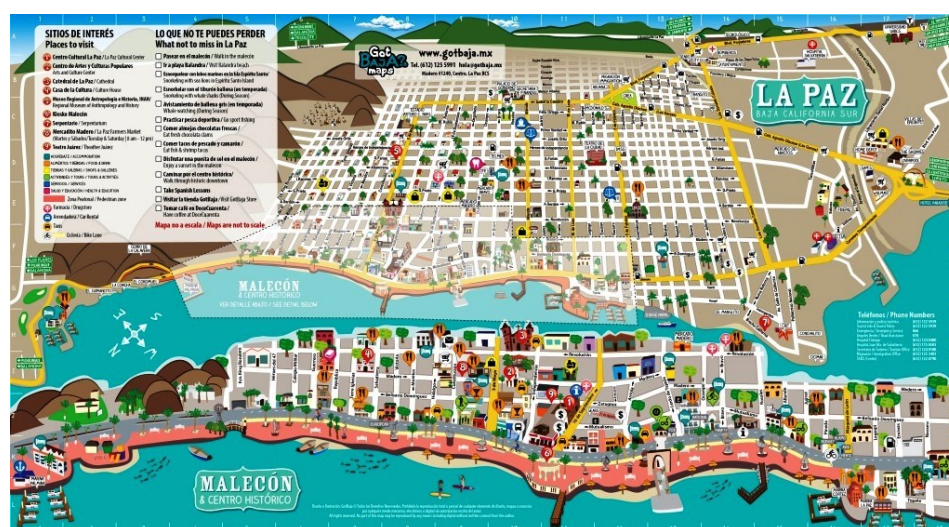
History

The first European known to have landed in Baja California was Fortún Ximénez in 1531. Later, in 1533, Hernan Cortés planned an expedition and his forces boarded the ships "Santa Águeda" and "San Lázaro" in 1535. According to documents from the royal governor, Guzmán, the force included 113 foot soldiers and 40 riders on horseback. He left another 60 horsemen and supplies in Sinaloa to resupply the expedition once it was established on the western side of the sea. Cortés' flagship was the San Lázaro and, from it, plotted a course to the northwest.

On May 3, 1535, he arrived in a tranquil bay and named it Bahía Santa Cruz and claimed it for the King of Spain. His log also notes that, on the first contact with local natives, his subordinate, Fortún Ximénez was killed. Cortés then set about founding a colony in the southernmost portion of Bahía Santa Cruz, now known as the Bay of La Paz. The original colony is believed to have been near the fresh water source along the northeastern end of the malecón and where the molina (windmill) is located today.

Unfortunately, the settlement didn't do well and the resupply portion of the expedition suffered heavy losses in the crossing from the mainland to the settlement. After only meager supplies reached the settlers, the Viceroy ordered Cortés and his expedition back to New Spain. In 1540, Cortés retired to Spain where he spent much of his later years seeking recognition for his achievements and support from the Spanish royal court. Hernan Cortés died in Spain in 1547.

Years later, Admiral Sebastián Vizcaino baptized the settlement in 1596, as La Paz. In 1616, the Dutch pirates, nicknamed "Los Pichilingues", anchored their ships, "Gran Sol" and "Luna Llena", in a bay near La Paz that is now named after them and is the commercial port for the city and most of the southern peninsula. In 1683, Admiral Isidro de Atondo y Antillón took possession of the port settlement and, on behalf of Carlos II of Spain, designated it as Puerto de Nuestra Señora de La Paz. In 1720, the Mission of La Paz was founded by the Jesuit fathers Juan de Ugarte and Jaime Bravo.



The capital of the Californias was transferred to La Paz in 1830. The settlement was reestablished several years later and renamed La Paz. The original capital of the territory was Loreto, which was founded 162 years later and continuously inhabited. Through the years that followed, the La Paz settlement was abandoned a couple more times for disease, lack of water and famine. So, there is some contention as to which is the oldest city on the peninsula.

...La Paz



La Paz was briefly occupied by the US during the Mexican American War of 1846-1848. Then again from January 10, 1854, to May 8, 1854, when La Paz served as the capital of William Walker's Republic of Sonora. The project collapsed due to lack of US support and pressure from the Mexican government to retake the region.



Museo de la Ballena (whale museum)

La Paz was noted for its black pearls (metallic gray) and was harvested for over 400 years. In the late 1800s, the beautiful abalone shells themselves were harvested and shipped. By 1861, the population was about 800 people and was named a

free port and was able to receive foreign goods. Now Pichilingue is the principal port and ferry terminal, which departs to Topolobampo and Mazatlán on the Mexican mainland. By 1941, the pearling industry had gone entirely, as the pearl oyster disappeared due to overharvesting and disease. Nobel Prize-winning writer John Steinbeck visited La Paz and based his book, *The Pearl*, on his experience.



Young girl enjoying the Día de la Revolución parade

La Paz today

La Paz is served by the Manuel Márquez de León International Airport, with flights to the main cities of Mexico: Mexico City, Guadalajara, Monterrey. Airlines flying into La Paz include Aero-méxico Connect, Volaris and VivaAerobus. Two ferry services operate from the port of Pichilingue outside the city, connecting the Baja California peninsula to the mainland at Mazatlán and Topolobampo, near Los Mochis. The population of La Paz has grown greatly since the 2000s. The growth is largely because the city has one of the highest standards of living and security in Mexico.

Dan and Lisa Goy own and operate Baja Amigos RV Caravan Tours and have been camping and touring in Mexico since 1985. <http://www.bajaamigos.net>

... more pics follow

...La Paz



Group at Los Magueyes



Baja Amigos group enjoying dinner



Group gathered at Walmart



Baja Dan on the malecón



Campestre Maranatha



...La Paz



Dan and the band



Center for the Arts exhibit



Chile - Mercado Juárez



La Paz ecotour



La Paz event vendor



Dove on the malecón

...La Paz



Dan and Lisa at Casa Blanca RV park



Blue Whale skeleton at the Museo de la Ballena



Juárez indoor public market



La Paz zócalo

...La Paz



Above, La Paz pearl on the malecón

Left, flaming drinks at Magueyes



Above and right, La Paz malecón



...La Paz



Mermaid and dolphin on the malecón



Popular lunch spot on the malecón



A day at the Mercado Madero



Music at Los Magueyes



Our favourite hot dog stand

...La Paz



Above, Vicky Ibarra and her pottery

Left, Wagonmaster Diane on La Paz malecón



Sylvia and Heather with the La Paz monument



Sylvia and Vicky at Vicky Ibarra's pottery



Above, whale shark swimming

Left, in the market

...La Paz



Above, Westfalia, Baja style



Right, La Paz zócalo



Pool at Campestre Maranatha



La Paz panteón



Doorway of the
Center for the Arts

...La Paz



Wearing best at the parade



Dancers at the Día de la Revolución parade



Parade onlookers, Día de la Revolución



Parade vendor



Parade performers



Marching in the parade

...La Paz



Carnaval parade

Evening entertainment at Carnaval



Submitted by
Dan and Lisa Goy
Baja Amigos RV Caravan Tours
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by Tommy Clarkson

Bougainvillea *Bougainvillea x buttiana*

Family *Nyctaginaceae*

Also known as Paper Flower

For many of us, this was the first non-potted, "tropical flowering plant" which - upon initially seeing it - we may have thought "*Toto, I've a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore!*" For me, this happened in Hawaii, on R&R from Viet Nam, in 1967. These brilliant bushes seemed to be everywhere. They lined the street, filled the boulevard meridians and enthusiastically burst with color in every resident's yard.

The genus derived its name from Admiral Louis-Antoine de Bougainville who saw the plants in Brazil during one of his several seafaring treks. This genus is rather small, consisting of some South American, spiny shrubs, trees and vines. For the most part, the originals grew in dry coastal areas or intermountain valleys. All of these share the common factor of having those small, tubular - and short living, as opposed to its bracts - flowers in somewhat of a cluster effect toward the ends of the stems. For the most part, it is the shrubbing and vining varieties that are most used in the United States and all are descendants of the Brazilian *B. spectabilis*, *B. glabra* and *B. peruviana*. (An article on *B. glabra* was included in Volume II of "The Civilized Jungle.")

All of these species, while much appreciated by those seeing them, are often misunderstood as to what many perceive to be its flowers. That which looks from a distance to be red, white, pink, purple, orange, yellow or white blooms are, actually,

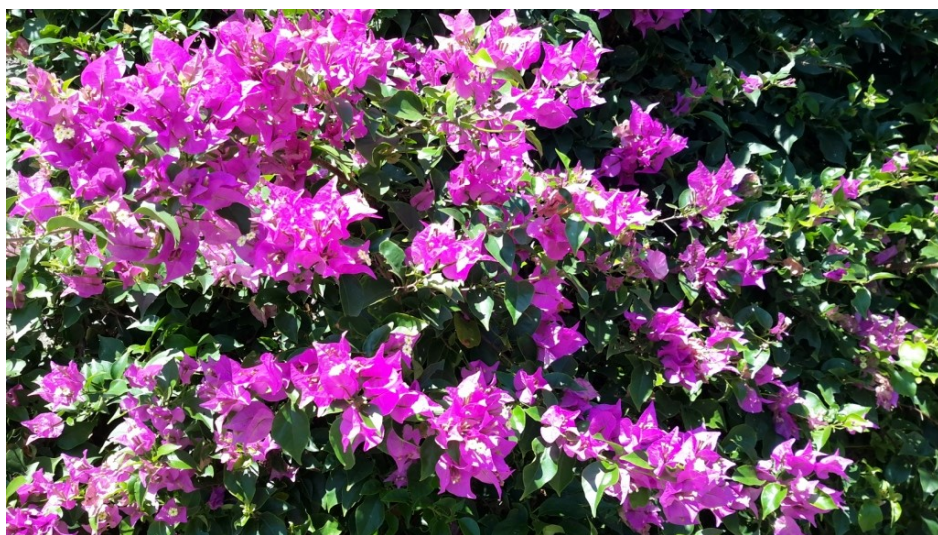


It fairly cascades down off of this ledge!

bracts - modified leaves. The true flowers are quite small, having white petals - face on appearing like a tiny daisy in the center of a colorful huddle of bracts.

Botanically, these beautiful, cascading and somewhat vine-like bushes are a hybrid between the aforementioned *B. peruviana* and *B. glabra*. They come in a dazzling array of names and colors. Drawing liberally from the experience and expertise of Robert Lee Riffle and his wonderful tome, *The Tropical Look*, some examples of these "rainbowesque" colors include: 'Apple Blossom,' a medium sized bush of white bracts flushed with rose; 'Golden Glow,' a large vine of brilliant yellow-gold; 'Hawaiian Yellow' with pure yellow; 'Mrs. Butt,' sporting intense red; 'Phoenix', like 'Mrs. Butt,' however having variegated leaves, 'Texas Dawn' an open growing vine of light purple; 'Cypheri,' a large, fast growing specimen of "deep, almost glowing, purple"; 'Easter Parade' of, appropriately, light pink; and, 'Singapore Beauty' dense and large, colored in magenta.

...Bougainvillea



They don't want all that much water and "bloom" best when stressed.

Why try to say something another has already articulated well? Hence, once again, I quote Mr. Riffle, "All (of) the vining types in cultivation have long and rangy, thorny canes with mostly dark greenheart shaped leaves that are often pubescent with reddish or bronze young growth. A few cultivars have foliage beautifully variegated with cream or white (but) these do not grow as large as the non-variegated types."

Bougainvillea plants like well-draining, even sandy, soil. They want full sun and regular watering when not flowering. I've encountered numerous gardeners who assert that these plants need lots of water when blooming. I have found success by providing a more moderated amount of moisture, as they seem to show more color when slightly stressed. Perhaps the best counsel might be summed up as "regularly, but not excessively." Some species can grow quite long vines – up to fifty feet (15.24 meters). Every so often, my breath is taken away when coming upon one that has clamored through and high atop a tall tropical tree.

To keep them at a particular size, frequent and rather aggressive pruning is no problem. The cutting of the canes is not detrimental to flower and bract production as they bloom on new wood. Such cutting should be done after the current crop of color has faded. Fertilize regularly, but sparingly. Take your time in moving them from one pot to a larger one, as root-bound specimens tend to flower more abundantly. When transplanting, be extra careful, as they do not recover well from broken roots. Maintain a watchful eye on its new growth for mealybugs and aphids.



Their almost blinding brilliance makes them difficult to photograph up close!

Nellie Neal – whose comments and information I so enjoy – wittily wrote in her book, "Gardner's Guide to Tropical Plants," (and probably only those of us from, shall we say, the older set, will know of whom she spoke) "The magnificent performer Carmen Miranda was known as 'The Brazilian Bombshell,' but to gardeners, Bougainvillea plants in full bloom present stiff competition for that title."

Get your copy of The Civilized Jungle: Tropical Plants Facts and Fun From Ola Brisa Gardens [Volume I](#), and now [Volume II](#) is here!!

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you can reach Tommy Clarkson at tommy@manzanillosun.com

Real de Catorce, San Luis Potosí

places the editors have been and recommend you visit

Real de Catorce (meaning: Real [a unit of currency] of Fourteen), often shortened to Real, is a village in the Mexican state of San Luis Potosí and the seat of the municipality of Catorce. It is located 160 miles (260 km) north of the city of San Luis Potosí, and currently has a full-time population of under 1,000 residents.

This 'ghost-town' in the high and dry expanses of northern San Luis Potosí state was once a thriving silver mining settlement. Real de Catorce has long been a pilgrimage site for both local Catholics and Huichol shamanists, and is now being discovered by international tourists drawn by the desert ambience and reputed spiritual energy.

Real de Catorce ('Royal Fourteen') is named for 14 Spanish soldiers killed here in an ambush by Chichimeca warriors. Other sources tell that in the beginning the name was "Real de Álamos de la Purísima Concepción de los Catorce" (Real de Alamos of the Immaculate Conception of the Fourteen). Although a town had been there for many years, silver was discovered in the local mountains in 1772 and a few years later in 1779 the village was officially founded. The parish church was built between 1790 and 1817.

Real de Catorce's heyday was in the late 19th century, when it had a population of 15,000, with some of Mexico's richest silver mines and a mint, as well as a bullring and shops selling European luxury goods. It was almost completely abandoned when the price of silver plummeted after 1900; only a few people remained in this ghost town, eking out a living from mine tailings and an annual influx of pilgrims to a reputedly miraculous image of St. Francis in the parish church. Today, its main income comes from tourism.

Thousands of pilgrims visit the Parish of Immaculate Conception the week around the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi on October 4 to express their gratitude for favors granted. Inside the church are hundreds of Retablos attesting to the miracles that have been performed.

Wixárika (Huichol) indigenous peoples walk across miles of desert from Nayarit, Durango, Jalisco and Zacatecas to visit the valley of Catorce every spring to leave religious offerings at the "Cerro Quemado", a ceremonial center to the east of their mystical religious territory. Quemado is, according to their ancestral beliefs, the birthplace of their "Tatewari" or Grandfather Fire.



Huichol women in the Plaza Hidalgo

During this time, they also visit the Wirikuta or desert below Real de Catorce to gather a year's supply of sacred nourishment in the form of peyote or "hikuri", the magical cactus that they use to guide their path and consciousness. Though found throughout the region, the cacti in the Wirikuta purportedly produce the most desired crop.

At other times of the year, there is a continuous pilgrimage of people of all ages and nationalities. They travel thousands of miles to arrive at this sacred site and experience a mystical communion with the magical cactus. So much so, in fact, that the government has mounted a campaign to protect the cactus from these so-called "peyote tourists". It is illegal for anyone but Huichol Indians to gather, or possess, the peyote cactus.

Others come to Real de Catorce for health reasons. At almost 9,000 feet (2,700 m) the city is an excellent training ground for bicyclists and runners.

Although in the southern range of the Chihuahuan desert, due to its altitude, Real can be very cool at night. Although days, particularly in summer, can be very hot, it is advised to always bring a jacket, even in summer.

Real de Catorce was named a "Pueblo Mágico" in 2001.

Source: Wikimedia



by Tommy Clarkson

Painted Drop Tongue *Aglaonema nitidum f. curtisii*

Family *Araceae*

Also known as Chinese Evergreen

(About that common name)

If ever one were welcomed into the wild and wandering (*or is that wondering?*) world of tropical plant cultivars, this is a good place to commence the journey. Perusal of the many variants of *Aglaonema* is confusing - if not downright mind-boggling. Thus, though speaking of this particular plant some, much of that which ensues will regard the cultivars whole of this genus, throughout which a degree of confusion reigns!

A good example of this is the common name I've used above. However, having dug through an array of secondary tropical botanical sources, I was hard pressed to get the sort of confirmation that I wished to have in order to undisputedly state, without a shadow of doubt, that this is, really and truly, the name for this specific cultivar, all alone by itself. This muddlement (*another word that should be a word, if it isn't already!*) lies, in part, in the fact that there are, simply, a very great many in this genus. One source states the number to be 3,750 species. And then we have all of these, very similar in appearance, cultivars!



Its elliptic-to-oblong leaves are a glossy, green color
With silvery-grey variegations.

Nevertheless, we must start some place. So, as our "jumping off point," let's commence with the simple, basic and undisputable etymology of the genus name. It is the combination of the Greek words *aglaos*, meaning bright and *néma*, that translates as thread. I've read that this might be a reference to the bright stamens of its flowers. As to the name of the species, it is also the Latin word *nitidum*, for bright. This specific form has taken the name from its initial collector, Charles Curtis (1853-1928).

As to this attractive foliage plant's origin, the *Aglaonema nitidum f. curtisii* is native to the humid forests of peninsular Malaysia and Lingga Archipelago – *you know where that is, of course. Go to Bogotá, Colombia and take a hard and very long right across a lot of saltwater!*

...Painted Drop Tongue



There are over 3,750 species in the genus!



Our cultivar has lovely white stems.

A bit, broadly speaking, of this (in *the Army we called that "hand grenade close"*) and its many, close-appearing kin, it is an evergreen, spreading, herbaceous perennial. It forms a, usually, erect, stem which grows up to over three and a quarter to nearly four feet (1.22 meters) and with a diameter varying from .40 – 1.18 inches (1 to 3 cm). They have internodes of about .40 – 1.18 inches (1 - 2 cm) with elliptic-to-oblong leaves on 3.94 – 9.84 inches (10 - 25 cm) long petioles that are sharp, at their apex 7.87 – 17.72 inches (20 - 45 cm) long and 3.94 – 5.91 inches (10-15 cm) broad. (*Got all those numbers?*) These are a glossy, green color that has silvery-grey variegations along the lateral venations (the arrangement of leaf veins) or are distributed irregularly.

Its flora rises on 3.94 – 8.87 inches (10-18 cm) peduncles (these are stems which support flowers – "*Why didn't you just say that in the first place, Tommy?*"). They're formed by pale green spathes, 1.18 – 3.15 inches (3-8 cm) long - later changing to white - and a 1.57 – 2.76 inches (4-7 cm) long spadix, with female flowers on the lower part for about .40 of an inch (1 cm), while the remainder are occupied by "*all too full of themselves*" male ones!

The plant can be cultivated in open, shaded, tropical and humid subtropical climate locations, sited in well-draining organic

soil to avoid root rot. While preferring the shade in a bright position, a little direct sun should increase its variegation. Most of the year, around here, we water regularly, but do not keep the soil saturated. This particular form has originated several hybrids, much appreciated for indoor decoration. Should you be compelled to reproduce them, such can be accomplished via seeds, division, or stem cuttings.

If indoors, they will appreciate being fertilized. However, cease doing so during the winter months. If inside, place them in moderate light, perhaps five feet (1.52 meters) from a window with eastern or western exposure. The key to effective in-home watering is to allow the top inch or two (.39 - .78 cm) of soil to dry out between "drinks." Keep in mind, also that they will probably need to be transplanted into larger containers every so often or their growth will be retarded as they become root-bound. Two last thoughts: Always use fresh soil when transplanting them and after they're in a new pot, don't fertilize right away.

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Authentic Mexican Chalupas

Ingredients

- ✓ 8 small corn tortillas
- ✓ vegetable or canola oil for frying
- ✓ 1 cup tomatillo salsa verde on this site, plus extra for serving
- ✓ 1 cup queso fresco crumbled
- ✓ 2 cups pulled cooked chicken or pork shredded
- ✓ cilantro for garnish

Directions

1. In a heavy bottomed medium skillet (that a whole flat tortilla can fit into) add about 1/4" of canola oil. Set over a medium to medium high heat. When the oil is hot, but not smoking, rest a tortilla on the oil (it will float- like a boat) and let it cook for about a minute, until bubbling.

2. Spoon 2 tablespoons of salsa into the center of the tortilla and gently spread it around, but not quite to the edge.

Continue to cook for 2-3 minutes or until the tortilla edges and bottom are crisp. It's ok, if a little hot oil touches the salsa.

3. Transfer the chalupa to a tray lined with paper towels to drain. Continue in this method with the rest of the tortillas.

4. Divide the chicken or pork and queso fresco over the chalupas. Garnish with cilantro and extra salsa verde if desired.

Source [Garlic and Zest](#)



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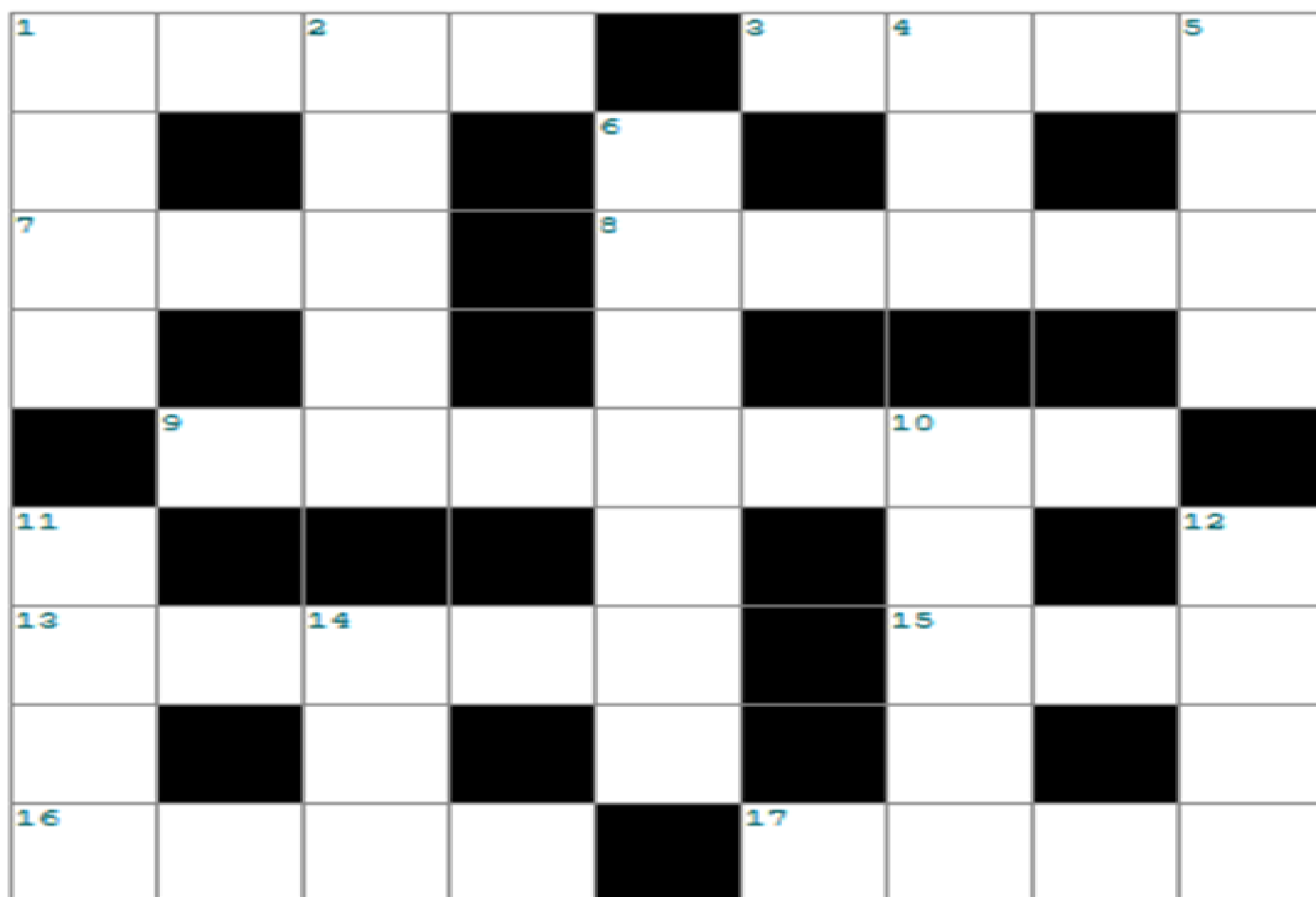
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Crossword

solution posted in next month's edition



Across

- 1 (I) burnt
- 3 (they) use
- 7 month
- 8 (he) runs
- 9 (you/vosotros) empty
- 13 meat
- 15 one
- 16 wave, undulation
- 17 she

Down

- 1 weapon
- 2 (she) wishes
- 4 to be
- 5 nut, hard-shelled fruit
- 6 oils
- 10 equal, the same in all respects
- 11 eight
- 12 hour
- 14 net, mesh of string, cord or rope

Last month's crossword solution:



lexisrex.com

Pancho Villa

from the Path to Citizenship series

Francisco "Pancho" Villa, born José Doroteo Arango Arámbula, (5 June 1878 – 20 July 1923) was a Mexican revolutionary general and one of the most prominent figures of the Mexican Revolution.

As commander of the División del Norte, 'Division of the North', in the Constitutionalist Army, he was a military-landowner (caudillo) of the northern Mexican state of Chihuahua. Given the area's size and mineral wealth, it provided him with extensive resources. Villa was provisional governor of Chihuahua in 1913 and 1914.

Villa can be credited with decisive military victories leading to the ousting of Victoriano Huerta from the presidency in July 1914. Villa fought his erstwhile leader in the coalition against Huerta, "First Chief" of the Constitutionals Venustiano Carranza. Villa was in alliance with southern revolutionary Emiliano Zapata, who remained fighting in his own region of Morelos. The two revolutionary generals briefly came together to take Mexico City after Carranza's forces retreated from it.

Later, Villa's heretofore undefeated División del Norte engaged the military forces of Carranza under Carrancista general Álvaro Obregón and was defeated in the 1915 Battle of Celaya. Villa again was defeated by Carranza, 1 November 1915, at the Second Battle of Agua Prieta, after which Villa's army collapsed as a significant military force.

Villa subsequently led a raid against a small US - Mexican border town resulting in the Battle of Columbus on 9 March 1916, and retreated to escape US retaliation. The US government sent US Army General John J.

Pershing on an expedition to capture Villa, but Villa continued to evade his attackers with guerrilla tactics during the unsuccessful, nine-month incursion into Mexican sovereign territory. The mission ended when the United States entered World War I and Pershing was recalled to other duties.

In 1920, Villa made an agreement with the Mexican government to retire from hostilities, following the ouster and death of Carranza, and was given a hacienda near Parral, Chihuahua, which he turned into a "military colony" for his former soldiers.



In 1923, as presidential elections approached, he re-involved himself in Mexican politics. Shortly thereafter he was assassinated.

In life, Villa helped fashion his own image as an internationally known revolutionary hero, starring as himself in Hollywood films and giving interviews to foreign journalists, most notably John Reed. After his death, he was excluded from the pantheon of revolutionary heroes until the Sonoran generals Obregón and Calles, whom he battled during the Revolution, were gone from the political stage.

Villa's exclusion from the official narrative of the Revolution might have contributed to his continued posthumous popular acclaim. He was celebrated during the Revolution and long afterward by corridos, films about his life, and novels by prominent writers. In 1976, his remains were reburied in the Monument to the Revolution in Mexico City in a huge public ceremony.

Article source: Wikimedia