



Manzanillo **SUN**

coastal Mexico's lifestyle magazine



A perfect Manzanillo sunset
photo by John Chalmers

Farewell
History and Mythology
RV Travel
Nature's Wonders

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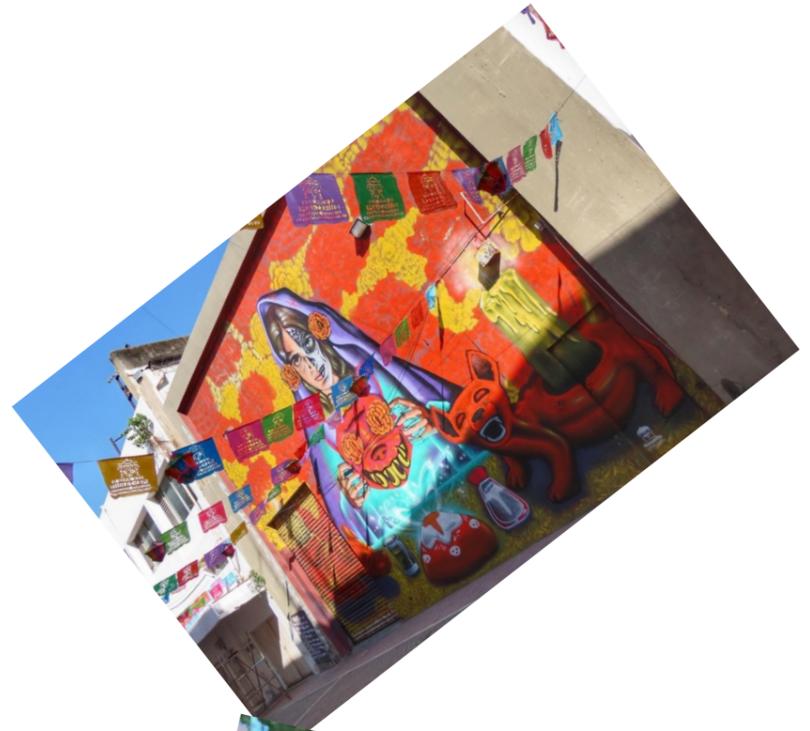
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Last month's crossword puzzle solution from the Spanish Skills section

E-MAGAZINE

a publication of Manzanillo Sun

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- Kirby Vickery
- Yann Kostic
- Dan and Lisa Goy
- Ruth Hazlewood and Dan Patman
- Ken Waldie
- John Chalmers

Special editing mention: El Gordo

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

Article submissions:

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

ADVERTISING

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The beautiful Bo Derek put Manzanillo on the map in 1979's box office hit, "10."

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Editor **Dana Parkinson** bids farewell to the monthly format of the Manzanillo Sun e-Magazine

Here we are at a new milestone in the history of the Manzanillo Sun. I took over the magazine in 2016 after Freda Rumford and Ian Rumford had created this community and publication back in 2009. Big shoes to fill, indeed!

Since 2016, it has been my great pleasure to get to know many wonderful readers, editors, authors and photographers, poets, local businesspeople and all of you who are making a difference in local charity efforts by organizing campaigns, contributing time and donations and working to bring meaningful improvements.

This monthly magazine has become a family effort, for sure, with my husband, Ken Waldie and my parents, Hugh (El Gordo) and Gail Parkinson proofreading and copy editing. We have all enjoyed our own tours and fact-finding missions along the way. I owe much gratitude to them.

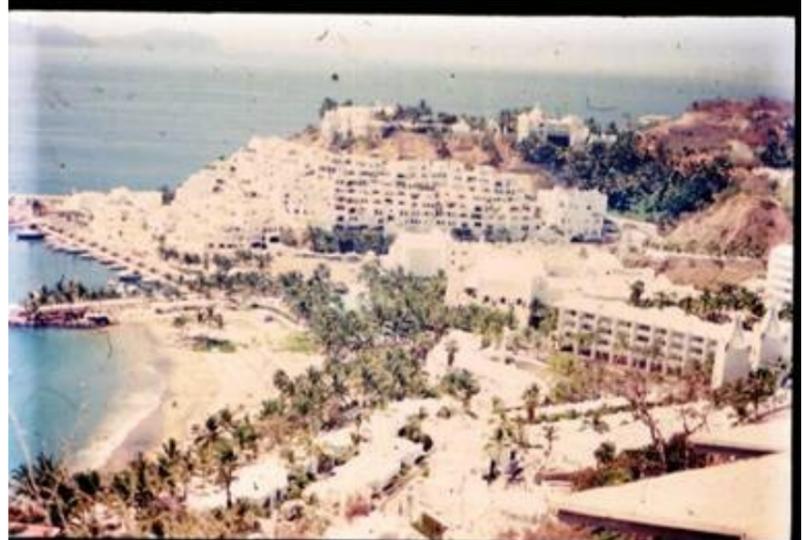
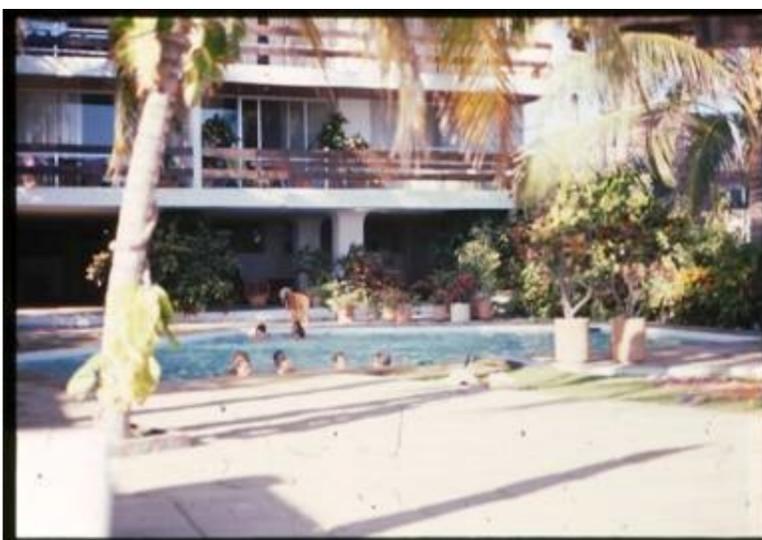
What's next for the Manzanillo Sun? Surely, a pause, as inspiration and adventures have been harder to come by in recent months. After that? Authors may continue to publish articles on the web site to be sent to readers in a monthly digest format when there are stories or photo galleries to share. We may take on events or tours, perhaps an annual edition in high season. We will let you know where innovation and inspiration take us.

Some other dates and milestones of note that have led us to be a part of the Manzanillo community I share with you here.

- Over 20 years of living in Mexico (mainly Puebla city and Manzanillo)
- It was 34 years ago when I visited Mexico for the first time and the destination was Santiago, Manzanillo where I enjoyed a \$1 meal at Juanitos and a long journey to Manzanillo Centro which seemed far away back then. The plaza was still standing in Santiago. There was so much to see and do on that trip! I knew I'd be in Mexico for good some day.
- 11+ years since this monthly magazine was first published with over [130 magazines published](#) and over [1,500 articles](#) that you can find on the Manzanillo Sun site.

We look forward to resuming travel around Manzanillo and plan to take the advice of Dan and Lisa Goy Baja Amigos and see that beautiful part of the country as well as making plans to visit towns in the centre of Mexico, from Cholula and Taxco to Querétaro and San Miguel de Allende. We are also looking forward to visiting our favourite local businesses, touring [Ola Brisa Gardens](#) and other local attractions and enjoying restaurants again soon. We will continue to encourage the efforts of our local charities and hope to have inspired others to do the same.

For now, as we bid a fond farewell to the monthly format, with enormous thanks to all our editors, contributors from over the many years and to our wonderful community of readers, I leave you with a couple of my favourite photos from that trip in 1987 where my love for Manzanillo and Mexico started.



Author and photographer **John Chalmers** bids farewell to the monthly format of the Manzanillo Sun e-Magazine

John Chalmers is a retired educator who has been doing writing and photography for publication all his adult life, and is widely published in Canada and the United States. Since August 2014, he has contributed over 20 cover photos to the Manzanillo Sun, as well as dozens of articles about Mexico, where he and his wife, Linda, spend the winter in the Manzanillo area. "The magazine has occupied a unique place in online publishing of benefit to folks who enjoy living in Mexico and reading about it," says John. "It has entertained its readers with regular features, travel stories, recipes, history, and articles about life in the Manzanillo area. Not only has the Manzanillo Sun been free to readers, it has been a great supporter of charitable activities for the benefit of the community. The magazine has been very supportive in publicizing the work of charitable organizations such as Casa Hogar Los Angelitos, the Santiago Foundation Learning Centers and the Friends of Mexican Animal Welfare. As well, the feature articles about Mexican history, events, nature and travel have provided informative material for the readers."



Fishermen and Frigatebirds in La Boquita
photo by John Chalmers

Some of John Chalmers' favourite Manzanillo photos



Lineated Woodpecker



Cactus



View from Vida del Mar



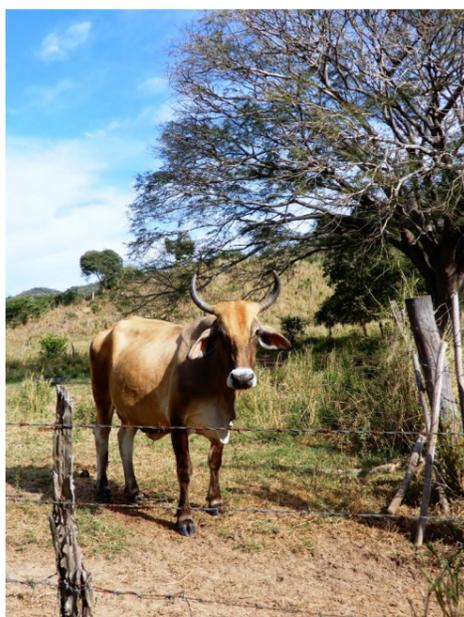
Mango Alley, the cobblestone road leading to El Corazón golf course



A hearty crop



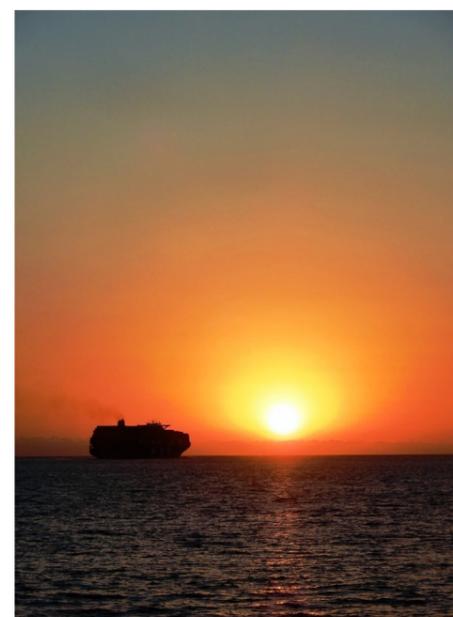
View of the coast



Stopping by the cow pasture



Coconut palm



Sunset view of an outgoing ship

Some of John Chalmers' favourite Manzanillo photos



Our iconic sailfish monument in Manzanillo Centro



Another stunning Manzanillo sunrise (above) and sunset (below)



A collection of coastal views of Manzanillo



A Great Egret

Writer **Suzanne A. Marshall** bids farewell to the monthly format of the Manzanillo Sun e-Magazine

THE JOY OF SHARING
by Suzanne Marshall

It has been such a pleasure to share life's adventures while living in Manzanillo and writing for the Manzanillo Sun for roughly 12 years. They say time flies when you are having fun, and indeed it really does.

With my husband, Allan Yanitski, our years in Mexico have been an odyssey of new friends, sun filled winters, beach walks, making a new home for retirement and travelling to so many wonderful sites throughout Mexico.

We chose Manzanillo for its beauty, friendly people, ease of access and of course a fabulous climate and cost of living. Many years later, we have not changed our minds and have only come to love it more, though the pandemic of late has curtailed many activities and visits home to our families in Canada.

Thanks to the support of Dana Parkinson and her husband Ken Waldie, we have been able to continue our joy of writing and sharing photos for the past six years as they graciously took over production and kept this wonderful magazine afloat. As I understand it we are not gone, just changing formats to suit the times and will be communicating further in the future as Dana sets up a new format for online blogging and sharing.

I was asked to share some favourite photos, a task which proved daunting and pretty much impossible with the thousands of photos we have amassed of Manzanillo and Mexico. So, I picked a few that reminded me of various moments in life while living here and decided to share those.



On this terrace we have sat and watched the Pacific Ocean changing colours and the many ships and birds that continuously travel by. Sheer pleasure and gratefulness were always present here as we played games, ate meals and wondered at the beauty.

At the Mexican beach "la Boquita", it was always fun to mingle with the throngs of Mexicanos enjoying the gorgeous sand, water and local food. We hope to see this again in the future when all is safe to do so.

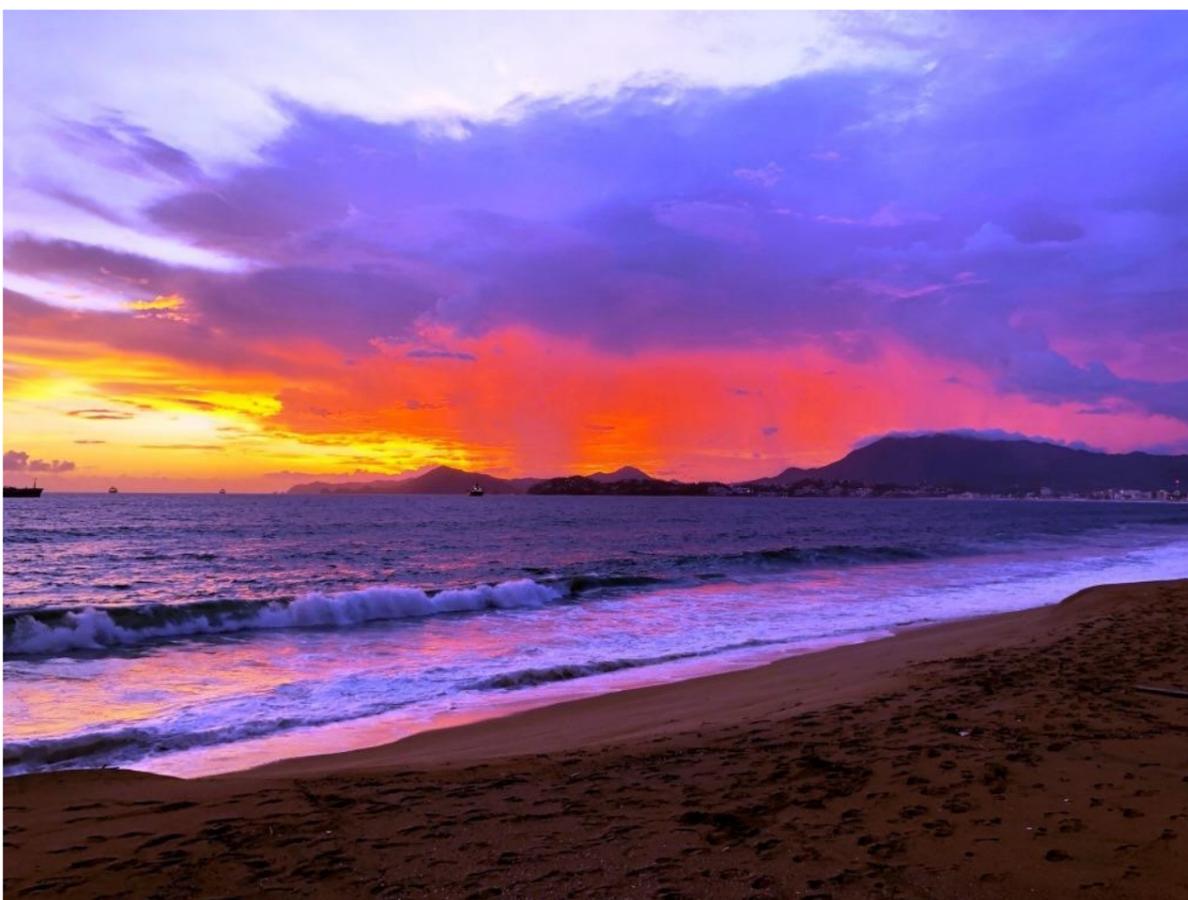




The outdoor 'eateries' at La Boquita will soon be jammed with locals and visitors from farther afield in Mexico. It's absolutely delightful!

We haven't seen them lately but the port of Manzanillo is a regular stop for cruise lines.

It brings visitors and much needed income for the shop owners and tour guides. We have even enjoyed meeting couples of friends who disembarked to spend the day with us as we showed them around our new home and all its wonderful sites. We miss that right now.



No one can deny the beautiful Manzanillo sunsets. This photo captures a storm drifting north up the coast and enhances the colours of falling rain. We just sit on our covered terrace and enjoy the show!

In the spirit of Mexican fiestas and the many celebrations, we joined friends and goofed around at a local taco kiosk to enjoy Mexican Independence Day. So much fun and so many more occasions to look forward to.



Here we see a storm heading inland off the Pacific Ocean, furniture is removed from the decks and palm trees bend in the gale force winds while we watch comfortably from inside. Mother Nature will have her say no matter where one lives on the planet.

This beautiful little face beams with joy in her very best clothes for the annual children's Christmas Party that many expats took part in. In the barrio of Santiago, there were food and juices; clowns for entertaining, a visit from Santa and gifts for each of 600-700 children; the spirit of giving and abundance in joy were a treasure to be part of.

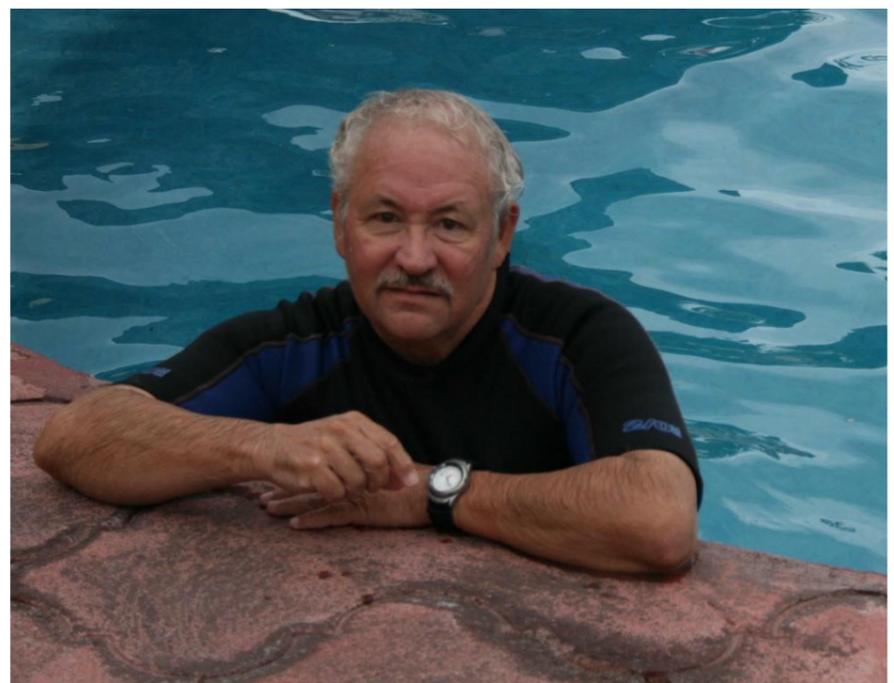


Author and photographer **Terry Sovil** bids farewell to the monthly format of the Manzanillo Sun e-Magazine

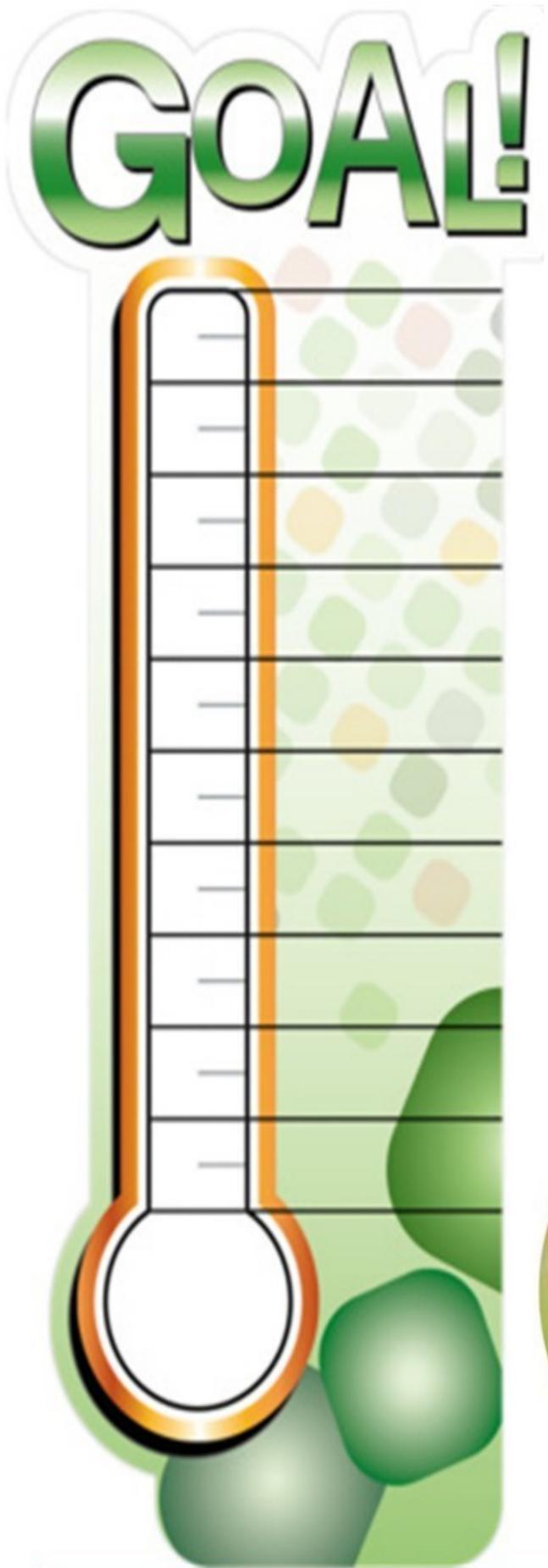
I remember back to the original organization meetings for a local magazine. Freda A. Rumford plus many others gathered to write various articles. I still have my copy of 2009/2010 Edition of "Shopping in Mexico". It was some list of basic food translations, emergency and referral numbers for all kinds of workers and doctors. This book was compiled by Freda. I still reach for it for a translation on a spice name back to English. It sold for a whopping 100 pesos. Much of what was passed on from a person to a new person has now fallen to searching the internet. I started writing for the magazine and found that I could pick a topic that interested me and I would learn a lot from the research and assembly of photos, etc.

The camaraderie was strong among the writing staff and the receipt by readers was good. They have all been cataloged and stored in online systems. I'm very happy and proud of the articles I got assembled and published.

As for photos, one year I did get to act as Santa. It was sort of fun but I felt like I was going to be trampled by all the people shoving and pushing. There's one of me in a pool doing Open Water Diver [skills and training](#). And the last is one of me suspended in the beautiful Manzanillo water as I wait for the other divers to enter the water out of our boat. Nothing for relaxation like diving!



Friends of Mexican Animal Welfare and Animal Angels Matching Funds Drive



\$5,000 USD

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Where Did They Come From?

story by Kirby Vickery

In my opinion, the world kind of paints the Aztecs as a Johnny-Come-Lately Mesoamerican warrior race. I suppose they were to some degree. They were very gifted in battle because they had the finest warriors for one primary reason. I believe that reason was their belief and practice in their religion. They were not so much better than anyone else, but, they fought harder and were more ferocious.

The general rule in their rise to power was to usurp the land and people. Fight for the control by brute savage force and then just take over. After that, all that came before them as far as kingdoms and civilizations was lost like the Romans taking over what is now England.

In Mesoamerica, it was the Spanish that put Christian churches on top of everything, over 400 years after the Aztecs had taken over. They did this to cover them up with Roman Catholic opulence. This is what happened in England when the Catholic Church moved in with the Romans and built cathedrals over all the old Celtic or Druid temples. In reality, the Aztecs revered the past civilizations of the areas they conquered.

In most cases, they didn't have any idea who these past ancients were but they revered them anyway by building their predecessors' customs and religions into their World Creation mythology of the Five Suns. There are Aztec fables that tell of finding ruins of great cities and then leaving them alone except for their version of guided tours or pilgrimages.



An Aztec Eagle Warrior

Overall, the Aztecs were very aware of the former civilizations of the Toltec, Maya, and Olmec. They just didn't know who those people were, other than the Toltec. Yes, the Aztecs would come in and conquer just one village or an entire geographical part of Southern North America.

They would haul away captive prisoners as slaves, usually members of the defeated army and other young men and women to work the lower caste jobs such as cleaning and farming then demand tribute from those they left.

That tribute could be anything from an annual shipment of trade goods, to food, art, workers, and/or slaves. Or, it could be a one-time thing for a unique item. One example of a demand for tribute was for a continuous supply of 'tlilxochitl'. (Or vanilla as it is known today.) Chocolate was the tribute from another area. [I didn't find anything about mezcal or tequila, but I'm sure it suffered the same fate.]

...Where Did They Come From?

The entire Aztec empire was tightly controlled by the Priest Class. Since their religion was based on the beliefs and practices of former Mesoamerican empire societies, it only stands to mean the Aztecs were the culmination of all that religious fervor and religious glory.



Aztec Ruins

They would have people stand in the sacrifice line because having your head lopped off or your heart taken out and handed to you while still beating as a sacrifice meant that you would have a higher standing in the after world, which was a forever world, if selected to be one of the lucky ones to die.

One of the great mysteries in that part of the world was, and still is, the location from where the Aztec came. There are stories out there that say they came from an Island in the Caribbean. Others point to places in the Pacific. Personally, I'm sticking with the stories that have them coming in from Utah. The topography fits and no one can trace the Ute vulture's origins or their language for that matter.

A quick study of the Aztec's arrival, and subsequent takeover of Mesoamerican lands and older populations, leads one to think they came into it like the western peoples arrived in wagon

trains to the American West following the miners and trappers during America's westward expansion. It didn't happen that way. Actually, they drifted in slowly over a long time period.

I have yet to find anything that tells when the first Aztec came into Mesoamerica. Then they grew in number 'in house', so to speak, being a subjugated race, and finally rose up from within the Toltec societal empire and took over. I find it odd that these Mesoamerican people were not called Aztecs initially.

They were known to themselves as Culhua-Mexica or Mehika or Meshika (and now you know where the word "Mexico" come from.)

A German by the name of Alexander von Humboldt coined the name "Aztecs" in the 1800s by using the Nahuatl word; 'Aztlán' which means, literally, "someone who comes from Aztlán". Today's maps have the ancient country of Aztlán located in the middle of the Yucatan peninsula. The internet tells us that another translation for Aztlán is "White Land".

Pulling it up in Google Earth brings you to an area within the town of Reynosa which is about 40 miles from where I live in Harlingen, Texas. They have an area where everything seems to be named 'Aztlán' including a taco bar just down the street from the local Burger King.

In the United States, there are many references to some distant American Indian cultures having a similar-sounding name.

...Where Did They Come From?

There is another reference to the ancient spelling located in the middle of what is now Belize. As to why Professor Humboldt came up with his new name, which is located close to the middle of the Mayan Empire, is anyone's guess seeing as the Aztec capitol city was actually placed in the middle of a lake where Mexico City is today. All that was found while in search of the word Aztlan or Aztec.

When Hernán Cortés came into the picture striving for all the gold in the world, the Aztec priests didn't want anyone to know where they had originally come from and destroyed all evidences of that beginning.

To that end, Cortés nor anyone else has ever found the true beginning as to where the Aztecs came from. I like to play with the idea of them drifting down from what is now Utah where their famous mythical seven cities may have been.

A more popular theory, and one that has more factual evidence, suggests they formed from being a large hunter-gatherer peoples in the northern parts of present-day Mexico.

you can reach Kirby at kirby.vickery@manzanillosun.com



Map of the Yucatán Peninsula

Writer **Kirby Vickery** bids farewell to the monthly format of the Manzanillo Sun e-Magazine

Mesoamerican Histories

by Kirby Vickery

The Manzanillo Sun Magazine was created by a wonderful lady by the name of Freda Rumford for her son and herself for something to do. When I married Freda, she found out that I liked to write and asked if I would 'do' an article for the Sun. I was thrilled but hadn't the foggiest idea on what to write about because my genres were Science Fiction, Fantasy and Short Story. We put our heads together and decided that I could do a piece of the street scene in and around Manzanillo. And that was fun until we had to move back to Canada and I couldn't be around to see, take pictures and write on that subject. So, we put our heads together again and she suggested I do something with history because of my education and love for historical things. That's when Aztec Mythology got coined for a subject in the magazine.



Through the years, I would return to the Manzanillo streets when we came back and I kept writing about Mesoamerican Mythology when we were travelling or soaking up the Canadian winter sun in Edmonton.

When Freda realized that she would never be able to go back to Manzanillo, she sold the magazine to Dana who had asked me to continue to write. So, I did. I also turned over the distribution of it to her and that was a relief as the folks who ran my e-mail software were relieved that they wouldn't have to threaten me for using their internet as a foundation for other internet sales.

I ran out of Aztec Mythology, then Mayan and Toltec Mythologies. So, with Ewa, my new wife's, editing, I settled into the other aspects of these people's lives while tossing in an occasional child's tale every now and then. To me it was fun, and I was even able to include two stories which I made up.

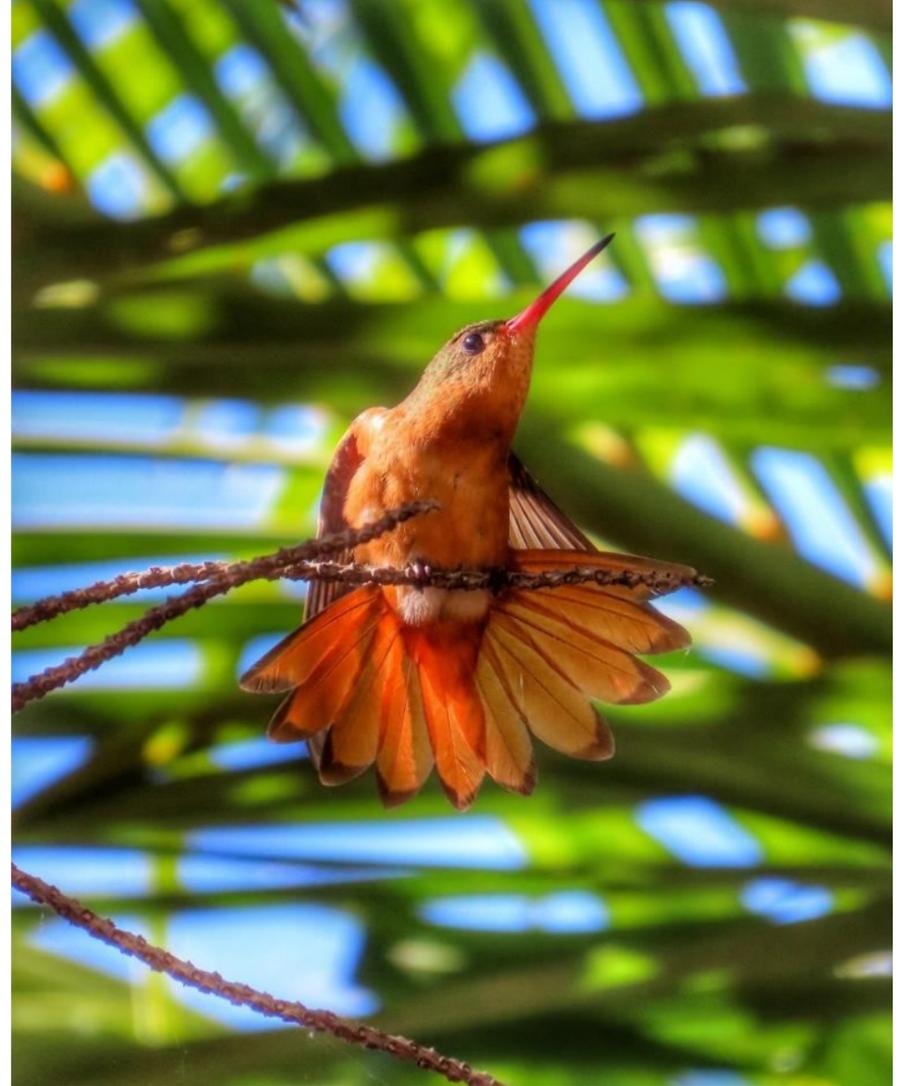
I'll miss the monthly writing projects now that the magazine is closing down, and I'll miss you readers who have, at times, given me advice, directions to go, as well as accolades for my efforts.

To you all, I say,

"Ma'alob tuméen ka justo ti' le futuro." [check the current day Maya language.]

Kirby

Photographer **Marg McKenna** shares these local photos with the Manzanillo Sun e-Magazine readers



LAND FOR SALE

Manzanillo, Colima

Currently part of the orchid nursery Viveplants.com

LOCATION:

Located in Ejido La Central, municipality of Manzanillo. Only at 950 meters distance from Federal Highway No. 200, Manzanillo-Cihuatlán.

Only 8 km away from Santiago Bay.
Coordinates: 5H28 + 3W

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Total area of 7,084 hectares.
- It has an office and packing shed of approximately 1,794 m².
- 5 hectares of Ataulfo mango orchard in productive age. (Currently being exported to Canada)
- The property has water rights of 186,000 m³ per year, from a deep well located on adjacent land.
- It has a non-ejidal property title (deed).
- It has good access to internet, electricity and septic tank.

SPECIAL FEATURES:

In the last decade the municipality of Manzanillo has experienced an accelerated urban growth driven mainly by the port activity. The Ejido La Central valley, where this property is located, represents the main future option to continue this urban growth. This guarantees a good capital gain in the value of this property in the medium term, which could also be used to build a countryside development, since it is located next to the orchid nursery and has a beautiful view of the hills "El toro" y "La vaca".

Contact us:
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Value: \$20,000,000 (Pesos MXN)



Baja, Mexico

Offering snowbirds adventure for a day, a week or a month

by Dan and Lisa Goy

Baja California

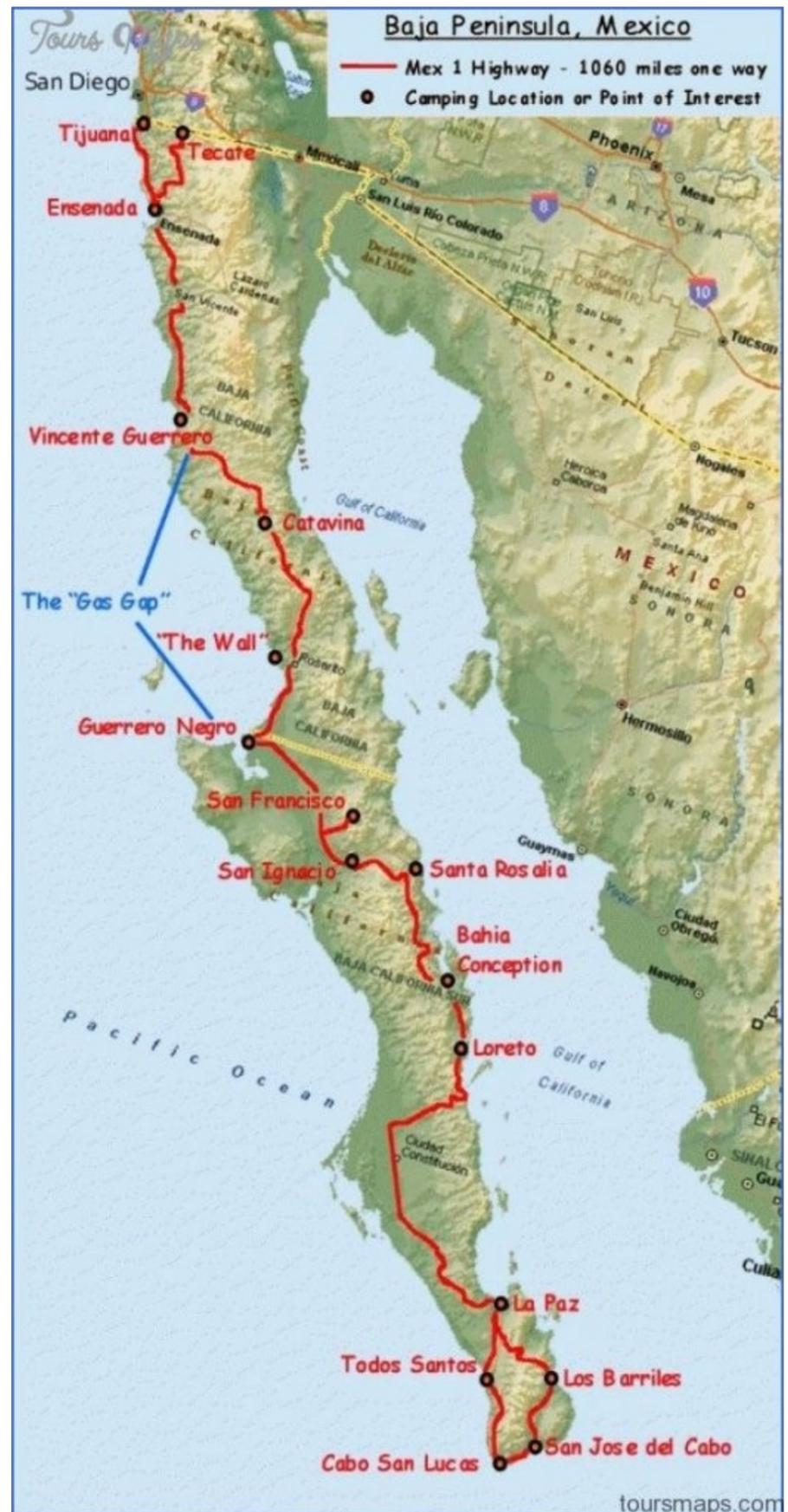
"Baja California is a unique recreational *Paradise-in-the Sun*, dominated by its 2,000 mile coastline. It pampers the jet set in its cities, hotels and resorts without the high-rise, high-tension setting common in other resort areas. Those craving outdoor adventures find a largely undeveloped, beautiful land where escape to another environment and culture is only a step away. Few visit Baja without knowing they have been in a very special place, truly a magnificent peninsula." **Jack Williams, Baja author.**

Not surprisingly, tens of thousands of snowbirds head south every winter, the majority to the US, the more adventurous to Mexico, and some even farther south. Baja California and Baja California Sur (collectively known as Baja), Mexico have much to offer for almost every snowbird, even for those not-so-adventurous types. Many Canadians and Americans have experienced Los Cabos (the Cabos or the Capes), Cabo San Lucas and San José del Cabo, very popular destinations for cruise ships and all-inclusive resorts, without even realizing they are on Baja. Even though many Canadians and Americans spend the entire winter in and around Los Cabos, this is only the pre-verbal *"tip of the iceberg"* of Mexico's frontier.

Valle de Guadalupe - Wine Country

With great access from Tecate, this can be just a day trip or perhaps an overnigher. Who knew such wonderful *Wine Country* existed just across the American-Mexican border? Officially referred to as *Ruta del Vino de Baja California*, this 70 km drive on Highway 3 puts you in the center of almost 100 different wineries. This region enjoys a Mediterranean temperate climate with perfect conditions for growing grapes and making high-quality red and white wine.

El Valle de Guadalupe is 13 miles from the coast at an elevation of about 1000ft. The valley benefits from an oceanic condition called "upwelling". Even though temperatures may reach up to 100° in the day, in the evening moist marine air comes flooding in to cool things off. This *Wine Country* rivals anything you have experienced in the Okanagan, Napa Valley or Niagara Escarpment.



Ensenada

Locally referred to as *La Cenicienta del Pacífico*, "The Cinderella of the Pacific", Ensenada is the 3rd largest city in this northern Baja state and a much more relaxing place to visit than the much larger Tijuana or Mexicali. Ensenada has always been very popular with tourists from the north and, in more recent years, has emerged as a cruise ship destination. The old part of town features Hussong's Cantina, the oldest in Mexico where the margarita drink was invented.

...Baja, Mexico

The establishment has seen many famous patrons such as Bing Crosby, John Wayne, Marilyn Monroe, Steve McQueen and Ronald Reagan. This historic area has dozens of shops and restaurants to enjoy and nearby a great fish market, cultural center and art gallery. South of town is Punta Banda and **La Bufadora** or Blow Hole. The action of this natural feature and gauntlet of vendors makes this a unique experience, well worth the drive. Spending a couple of days in Ensenada is not a problem as every kind of hotel, motel and RV park is available.

Catavina – Central Baja

Located in the center of Baja, at over a 1000 feet of altitude, this entire region has much to offer hikers, naturalists, geology buffs and students of cave art alike. The landscape is nothing less than enchanting. It includes boulders, fields and very unique flora, including cactus such as the Cirios or Boojum. Catavina, and much farther south in central Baja, features over 300 cave art (also know **pictographs**) *locations that were added to UNESCO's list of [World Heritage Sites](#) in 1993. Visiting these prehistoric paintings, estimated to be about 9000 years old, can be as easy as a short 15-minute walk from Hwy 1 or as adventurous as a 2-day mule trip sleeping under the stars.*



[Catavina cave paintings](#)

Grey Whales of Guerrero Negro

Guerrero Negro (Spanish for Black Warrior) is all about the whales and, to a lesser extent, salt! There are 3 locations on the Baja to see the Pacific Grey Whales in the winter. In our opinion, nothing compares to the experience provided in Guerrero Negro. Beginning in the [Bering](#) and [Chukchi](#) seas, and ending in the warm-water [lagoons](#) of Mexico's [Baja peninsula](#), thousands of California Grey Whales make the round-trip journey each year, through 12,500 miles of coastline.



[Whale watching in Guerrero Negro](#)

Travelling both night and day, the Gray Whale averages approximately 120 km (80 miles) per day. By mid-December to early January, the majority of the Gray Whales are usually found between [Monterey](#) and [San Diego](#), where they are often seen from shore. The animals travel in small groups to the coastal waters of [Baja California](#) and the southern [Gulf of California](#), where they breed and the young are born.

Whale watching in the salt lagoons is nothing short of extraordinary. Some characterize this experience as breathtaking and a true wonder of the world. The mothers often push the calves right to the boats and you can actually touch them, up close and personal, for sure.

You can take your RV, simply drive and motel it or engage a bus tour out of San Diego to see this wondrous event. In March of this year, there were over 2700 whales in Scammon's Lagoon. Our favourite whale watching company is Malarrimo. They have an RV park, motel, gift shop, convenience store and a great restaurant.

Historic Mulegé and Hotel Serenidad

Mulegé, a date palm oasis located on the mouth of the Mulegé River, on the Sea of Cortez, is the site of the only battle where the Mexicans were successful in preventing the invasion of American troops during the American-Mexican conflict (1846-1848). This sleepy village is very popular with RVers who congregate on the many beaches in the Bay of Conception, a short drive south. Other snowbirds have longer-term residences, both in town and communities in the region.

...Baja, Mexico

The Hotel Serenidad is a Baja legend, as was the owner Don Johnson, plenty of clean affordable rooms at reasonable rates and a great Saturday Night Pig Roast, a Mulegé tradition! Back in the day, Ray's Place was a dinner night out to remember but there is still lots to see and do in this small village, very comfortable with an equal number of snowbirds and locals each winter.

Loreto, Birthplace of the Californians

Founded in 1697, Loreto was the first permanent settlement anywhere in the Californias, including the US state to the north, and was the capital of both Californias for 132 years. Once a sleepy village where summer's heat made for a laid-back pace for locals and visitors, very little changed until the 1960s, when anglers began to learn about the dorado, yellowtail, marlin, sailfish, grouper, rock seabass, roosterfish and other species being caught there. If you like to fish, this is the place to be, also known for great restaurants, a beautiful malecón (beachfront walk), and friendly people.



Birth of the Californias

Loreto is also famous for "Nuestra Señora de Loreto" (Our Lady of Loreto) mission which was the first 17th-century development and which began the entire California mission system. The second of these missions is just outside of Loreto called San Javier. Loreto is very outdoorsy, with the centre of town having great shopping for tourists in a kind of market atmosphere. Again, lots of Canadian Snowbirds call Loreto home for the winter, with easy access and an International Airport.

La Paz

Spanish for "The Peace", La Paz is the capital of Baja Sur and an important regional commercial center, having a metropolitan population of roughly 350,000 because of surrounding towns like el Centenario, el Zacatal and San Pedro. On May 3, 1535, Hernán Cortés arrived in the bay by La Paz and named it Santa Cruz.



Parade in Loreto

He attempted to start a colony but abandoned his efforts after several years due to logistical problems. In 1596, Sebastián Vizcaino arrived, giving the area its modern name, La Paz. Once noted for its black pearls (metallic gray), they were 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 Mazatlan 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.



Pearl on the Malecón in La Paz

La Paz is as close to an old time Mexican City as you can find on Baja and eco-tourism is by far the major source of tourism income in La Paz as people come to enjoy its marine wonders, as well as its diverse and often unique terrestrial species endemic to the region. Its diving, snorkelling, swimming with whale sharks and kayaking are considered second to none.

...Baja, Mexico



The **Malecón** (beach boulevard) Álvaro Obregón is five kilometres long where you will find the best 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. The annual Carnival (**Carnaval**) in La Paz is held mid-February, runs for 5 days and attracts tens of thousands of mostly Mexicans but is lots of fun for everyone who attends. We have had the opportunity to visit La Paz during Carnival and no one has ever been disappointed with the parade which is held every day!

La Ventana - Wind Surfer and Kite Boarder Paradise

La Ventana is a small Mexican fishing village, located on the Sea of Cortez, just 35 minutes southeast of La Paz. So abundant is the region's natural beauty that the explorer Jacques Cousteau referred to it as the "world's aquarium." Discovered by windsurfers 15 years ago, La Ventana has become the perfect kiteboarding and windsurfing spot, thanks to its steady winds from November to March and to its L-shaped sandy beach with side shore winds. Every January, enthusiasts and competitors alike gather from around the world for these winds.

Todos Santos and Hotel California

Spanish for "**All Saints**", this coastal oasis village was initially founded as a Mission in 1724 and emerged as a major sugarcane producer. In addition to **The Hotel California**, a favorite stop here because of the name associated with the song made famous by "**The Eagles**," Todos Santos has long been special

with the mission [Nuestra Señora del Pilar de La Paz](#), founded by father Jaime Bravo in 1723, theater, cultural center and museum, often open to the public and tourists all year round. This village hosts both an art festival and film festival annually during the winter and there has been a gradual increase in tourist activity and a boom in real-estate development. Todos Santos is replete with handicraft shops, owner-operated art galleries, upscale restaurants and boutique hotels. A favourite for us is Casa Bentley, a real treasure owned and operated by our friend Robert Bentley.

This is but a glimpse of what Baja California Mexico has to offer any Snowbird.

Helpful Links

- <http://www.bajawine.info/>
- <http://www.allaboutbaja.com/catavina.html>
- <http://ensenada.tobeinbaja.com/>
- <http://www.malarrimo.com/ingles/home.htm>
- <http://www.hotelserenidad.com/>
- <http://www.loreto.com/>
- <http://www.lapaz-tourism.com/>
- <http://www.todosantos.cc/>

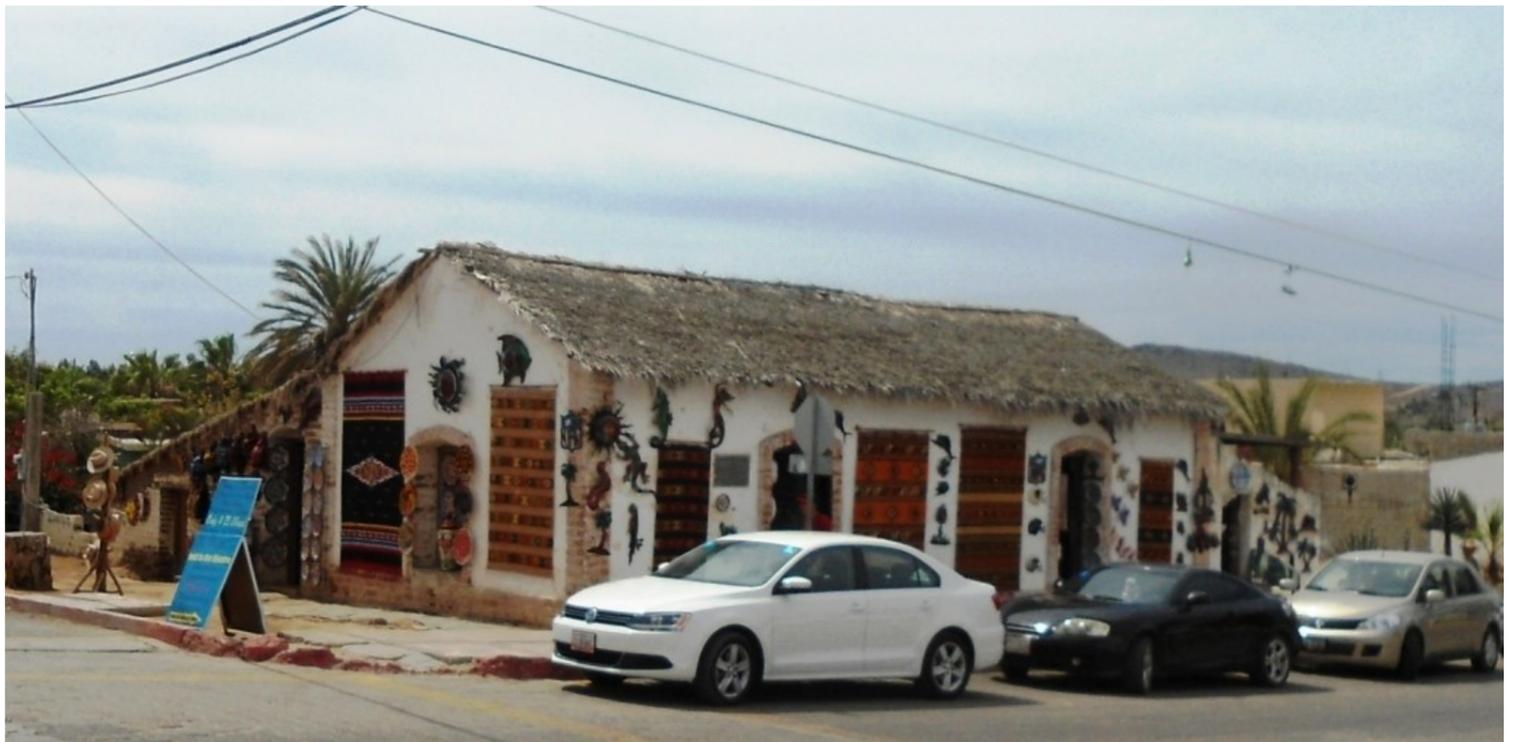
Submitted by
 Dan and Lisa Goy
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... more pics follow

...Baja, Mexico



Camping on the beach at Juncalito near Loreto



Corner shop Todos Santos



Zócalo Todos Santos

...Baja, Mexico



Todos Santos



Winery on Baja



Wine tasting at L A Cetto



Wine press at the wine museum



Hwy 1 in Catavina

...Baja, Mexico



Happy hour, Playa Médano, Cabo san Lucas



Getting stocked up at Costco in Ensenada

The beautiful Riviera hotel in Ensenada



...Baja, Mexico



Lisa and Don
Hotel Serenidad



Wagonmaster Dan leading the Catavina cave painting hike



Busy shops at La Bufadora



Monument at the entrance to
La Paz

...Baja, Mexico



The gang heading out to whale watching in Guerrero Negro



Whale watching and touching

...Baja, Mexico



La Ventana is popular



La Ventana kite boarders are a spectacular sight



by Tommy Clarkson

Jade Vine, *Strongylodon macrobotrys*

Family: *Leguminosae*

Also known as: *Emerald Creeper, Emerald Vine, Turquoise Jade Vine or Cascada de Jade*

There is only one plant my Patty has ever asked that we include in our gardens. This is it, the Jade Vine, endangered in the wild and somewhat scarce in cultivation. After an extensive time of searching, several years ago, I finally found a source, south of Puerto Vallarta and acquired a couple... only to have the blasted iguanas promptly eat them down to scant stem stubs! *The scaly, reptilian swine!* When I returned to my source, none were any longer available. It took me another six years before I finally found three more specimens - larger this time - in Mexico City. *(At this point, I put our lizard interlopers on the direst of consequences notice!)*

The *Strongylodon* genus consists of perhaps some twenty species of woody shrubs and vines (mostly the latter). Their home habitat ranges from Madagascar through the Philippines into Polynesia. The rather rare Jade Vine comes from the damp riverine rainforests of the Philippines. In these natural environs, its aggressive growth allows it to virtually swallow trees and supporting structures! But wherever located, this to our way of thinking, is perhaps the most beautiful of flora, what with its stunning jade-green to almost turquoise (like the color of oxidized copper) pendant flower clusters.

Now, one knows how botanical writers sometimes quibble a bit on details. William Warren, in *Tropical Plants*, says these flowers "are purplish or pale green when they first appear and later harden into [a] darker green." Whereas, Robert Lee Riffle in *The Tropical Look* - says they commence their lives a "bronzy rose." I've read elsewhere, "waxy, brilliant aquamarine." *(How about if I just say a politically compromising "yes"?)*



Its most strikingly original flowers appear as some sort of upward-pointed, slender, jade-colored bananas!

Regardless of their subtle initial color, they are attractive! These are one to five feet (.30 - 1.52 meters) long, pendant racemes with claw-shaped flowers of four to five inches long. In Hawaii, the individual flowers are incorporated into leis.

According to Kirsten Albrecht Llamas in her great book *Tropical Flowering Plants*, "The flowers have a hood-like standard [an enlarged or distinct erect petal] and a falcate [curved like a falcon's beak] keel clasped between two wings... The species name means "grapelike," alluding to the way the blue-green flower clusters dangle under an arbor like under-ripe green grapes with a frosty bloom."

To my eye, gray-green when young, its trifoliolate leaves (compound with three leaflets) - elliptical to ovate in form - grow to five to six inches (12.70 - 15.24 cm) long.

A woody evergreen with serpentine stems, it is an aggressive grower and rampant climber to over fifty feet (15.24 meters) in length. It, definitely, requires support (such as a pergola) so that those magnificent flowers can be appreciated from below. If controlling their size is an issue, cut them back after they've bloomed—dramatically so, if necessary.

...Jade Vine



Its trifoliate leaves are elliptical to ovate in form and grow from five to six inches long.

As to a home, the Jade Vine likes full sun, with rich, moist soil and its roots should be shaded. It's a bit of a hog when it comes to moisture, growing best with ample and copious water. When the top of the soil at its base is dry, give it more. Lack of water results in browning of its leaves, and causes slow and stunted growth. So, water all year around. They are, however, not heavy feeders. I'd suggest a mixture of half a teaspoon of water-soluble, balanced fertilizer - or one specifically for blooming plants - per gallon of water, twice a month during its primary growing season - down here that's nearly all four "seasons".

How about propagation? This can be accomplished through either seed plantings or vine/stem tip cuttings - best taken early in the season. To "add an edge", use a rooting hormone, then place the cutting in starting soil and put it in a warm location with ample humidity and moisture. Within a few weeks, new growth should commence. The Jade Vine can also readily be sprouted from seeds harvested from seedpods. Try to avoid transplanting. Once established, replace the top few inches of surface soil annually.



Kirsten Albrecht Llamas describes the Jade Vine flora this way, "The flowers have a hood-like standard and a falcate keel clasped between two wings."

In its native environs, the Jade Vine has a most unusual way of spreading its pollen. When a bat alights on the flower to stick its tongue into the flower to extract nectar, a protruding "wing-tip" above it exudes the pollen on the bat's head which then is passed on as it visits other Jade Vine flora. *Interesting, huh?*

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you can reach Tommy Clarkson at tommy@manzanillosun.com

Writer and editor **Ken Waldie** bids farewell to the monthly format of the Manzanillo Sun e-Magazine

It was a dark and snowy night. I arose early, the cold biting my skin. Looking out the window, I could see snowflakes swirling in the wind. It had been snowing all yesterday, building a white blanket that would need clearing before the trek could begin. Dressing for the weather, boots, gloves, scarf, hoodie and my trusty big winter coat, I stepped out and grabbed the shovel and started digging out the driveway. Half an hour later in the dark, we started packing the van getting ready for our annual trip to Manzanillo.

We drove to the airport in the dark through snow and ice, the roads barely plowed in the wee morning hours, with cars and trucks slipping and sliding around us. An hour later, we pulled up, unloaded and did the check-in shuffle.

Well, that's how I remember that morning, at least. It was cold and it was snowing and the pilot decided to de-ice the aircraft before takeoff. I peeled off my layers, stowed our baggage, and settled in for the flight. And, later that afternoon we circled Manzanillo and headed north to a 3 point landing.

On rising out of my seat I realized that with a back pack and both hands full of luggage I had no way to tote my winter clothes. So, with a shrug, I donned my under and outer jackets, stuffed my gloves and scarf in the pockets, popped on my pack and shuffled down the aisle. I'm sure you've seen passengers loaded to the gunwales sidling along, bumping everyone else and every seat as they go...

I made it to the door and stepped into the afternoon sun and it hit me - that humid blast of heat that made its way through my winter gear and started cooking me like an egg in the pan. The airport ground crew stopped unloading to look while I descended the stairway and, although the staff greeted me in their friendly, warm way, I could see the look in their eyes.... Here comes Uncle Buck, but from Canadian Bacon! I should have kept my toque on to complete the image.

Manzanillo and Mexico have transported me into a new world, far removed from the one I live in, for now at least. I've seen the sights, the wonders, met great people, forged friendships and, as I learn Spanish (gracias, [Miss Linda!](#)), I am more fascinated and cognizant of the traditions and sensibilities of life in Mexico.

While I'm in "Otherland", the Manzanillo Sun has helped keep my connection and thoughts of Mexico alive. Being one of the lucky ones who proof read the issues most months, I found the words and photos pulled me back, like the memory of the warm blast of Mexican air I got when stepping off the plane.

Now, with world events encouraging us to hunker down, mask up and stay home, changes are inevitable. The same-same we have known can at best be similar but different. Circumstances, events, global warming and the winds of fate have bid this lovely little magazine to close. Goodbyes are sad, but I look forward to spending time in Manzanillo soon; perhaps our paths will cross.

I leave you with a couple of my favourite photos from recent adventures (Colima volcano tour with [Jupiter Rivera](#), orchid farm with [Fidel Maza](#)).

Thanks for reading and sharing, hasta luego,

Ken

