



Manzanillo SUN

August 2016

coastal Mexico's lifestyle magazine

photo of this beautiful mask courtesy of Marg McKenna, taken at a roadside stand on the way to El Naranjo



In this issue

Planting Roots in Mexico series by Tommy Clarkson

- Red Philodendron
- Desert Fan Palm

Nature

Long Distance Records by Terry Sovil

At the Movies by Suzanne Marshall

- Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey
- Eye in the Sky

Mythology

Quetzalcoatl and Tezcatlipoca by Kirby Vickery

Señor Tech

¿Donde Estan Mis Llaves?

Costalegre

Costalegre – Mexico's Western Riviera with a Twist by Suzanne Marshall

RV Travel by Dan and Lisa Goy of Baja Amigos

Camping in Campeche

Finance

Should you Prepare for a Stock Market Crash by Yann Kostic

Pathway to Citizenship (P2C)

Olmec

Recipe

Oven-Fried Pork Carnitas with Guacamole and Orange Salsa



FREE QUOTE ONLINE!



www.esunenergy.com



SAVE UP TO 95% ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL!



#1 IN SOLAR ENERGY!

01.800.099.0272 Offices: Guadalajara | Vallarta | Ajjic | Manzanillo | El Caribe

E-MAGAZINE

a publication of Manzanillo Sun

www.manzanillosun.com

Publisher: Dana Parkinson
 Layout: Dana Parkinson
 Editors: Dana Parkinson, Kirby L. Vickery

Contact:

General info@manzanillosun.com
 Dana Parkinson dana@manzanillosun.com
 Ian Rumford ian@manzanillosun.com

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

ads@manzanillosun.com

Writers and contributors:

- Tommy Clarkson
- Suzanne Marshall
- Allan Yanitski
- Dana Parkinson
- Terry Sovil
- Senior Tech
- Kirby Vickery
- Yann Kostic
- Dan Goy
- Ken Waldie
- John Chalmers

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

info@manzanillosun.com

With 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 write about in 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

Website

WEB AD plus these options to advertise in the e-magazine...

- 1/4 page - \$3,200 MXN per year (a discount of nearly 48%!) – **MOST POPULAR!**
- 1/2 page - \$4,300 MXN per year- can be horizontal or vertical (a discount of 53%!)
- Full page - \$6,000 MXN per year (a discount of 57%!) - **BEST VALUE!**

ads@manzanillosun.com

 sample ad below

Sample ads



Red Philadendron

by Tommy Clarkson



Red Philodendron, *Philodendron erubescens*

Family: Araceae

Also known as Red Leaf Philodendron, Blushing Philodendron, Burgundy Philodendron, Red Emerald Philodendron, Sweetheart Plant and various other hybrid names.

(This is really a simply delightful, good looker. Ours happily sits on the Sunrise Terrace with indirect sun all day long, basking in the complimentary comments it elicits!)

Etymology first. "Philodendron" is a composite of two Greek words - "*phileo*" meaning love and "*dendron*" for tree. Combined, they well describe this family of plants that cling, clutch and climb trees even better than did we as kids. *Erubescens*, a Greek word, describes something that blushes or turns red.

Philodendrons belong to the *Arums* or *Aroid* family which is characterized by distinctive spathe-and-spadix blooms – but don't expect such from your Red Philodendron.

Estimates vary wildly as to how many different species there are in the Philodendron family - from as low as 350 to twice that at 700. These are spread throughout tropical America.

Most all of these evergreens have large-to-immense leaves and, often, colorful flowers. Most prefer shade to partial sun, are water lovers, need rich, humusy, and (*how in the world did you ever guess that this next phrase was coming*) well-draining soil. Propagation of most is best done through cuttings.

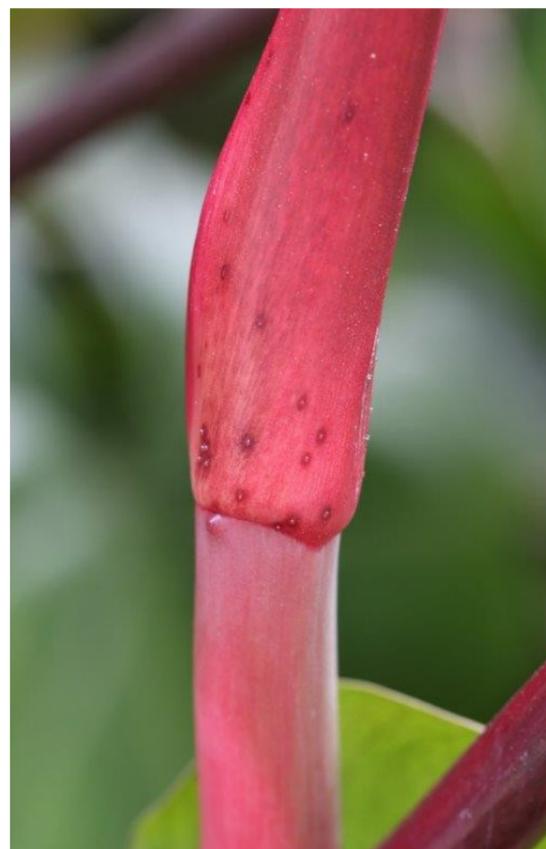
First identified by its botanical name in 1854, the *Philodendron erubescens* is native to Costa Rica and Columbia. It's – in my opinion – correctly touted by no few as the "*loveliest in the genus.*"



It has beautiful, red-veined waxy-textured, arrow-shaped leaves atop beautiful red-purple petioles.

As it roots at the stem node, it is a vigorous climber/creeper that fairly scrambles up trees and spreads over the ground. A dexterous and multi-talented sort, don't be surprised to look up and see it thriving high in the trees as an epiphyte if its connections to the ground have, somehow, been severed.

It has beautiful, one foot (30.48 cm) long, waxy-textured, arrow-shaped leaves. These are on top of strikingly beautiful red petioles that are as long – and sometimes even longer – than the leaf blades (the broad portion of a leaf). All of its new leaves emerge from a sheath-like covering which is called a cataphyll.



Its leaves emerge from a red, sheath-like covering which is called a cataphyll.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Riffle succinctly and absolutely correctly described the leaf coloration, as follows, "Young leaf color is a vivid wine-red, which matures to a deep olive green with bronze overtones and a narrow red margin."

In shady locales, in its native, wet rain forest environs, *Philodendron erubescens* may well climb to sixty feet (18.29 meters). In "captivity" it may be more inclined to an average height of only twelve feet (3.66 meters) or so.



While blooms on the Red Philodendron are few and far between, keep an eye out for them. Each flower consists of a white bulb and a dark red-purple spathe.

The Red Philodendron is a rather commonly-known foliage houseplant often incorporated in interior landscape plantings for offices, lobbies or shopping malls. The plants do well if kept consistently warm—65 degrees F (18.33 C) at the absolute minimum—moderately moist, and out of direct sunlight.

Nothing ever seems to be perfect however. Its sap is poisonous, can cause skin irritation if in contact with skin and, if consumed, it will cause irritation to the mouth, lips, throat and tongue. Not a pleasant experience for any of us! And as concerns our four-footed pals, most philodendron are considered poisonous to our domestic animals. So if you've a dog or cat that tends to gnaw on things, this may well not be the species for you.

Health-wise for the plant, few pests or diseases, generally, attack the Philodendrons, however, watch for fungal problems to include dasheen mosaic virus, scale, root rot, as well as fungal and bacterial leaf spots. Creepy crawlers may include mealybugs, scale insects, and spider mites.



A couple of very eye-catching cultivars are the *Philodendron erubescens* 'Burgundy' and the *Philodendron erubescens* 'Golden Erubescens'. The first has deep, wine-red leaves at maturity. The latter's mature leaves are pinkish-orange to pinkish-yellow. But a few of some of the other great looking hybrids include the Autumn, Black Cardinal, Congo, Imperial Green, Imperial Red, Moonlight, Red Emerald and Red Princess.

(Lastly, Philodendrons are on NASA's list of clean air plants as they help filter from the air harmful chemicals such as Ammonia, Benzene, Formaldehyde, Toluene, Trichloroethylene and Xylene. If one is absolutely exacting and outright anal-retentive, I believe the recommendation is to use one plant per 100 square feet (30.48 meters) of living space in order to most effectively help filter out such undesirable airborne chemicals!)

For back issues of "Roots", gardening tips, tropical plant book reviews and videos of numerous, highly unique eco/adventure/nature tours, as well as memorable "Ultimate Experiences" such as Tropical Garden Brunches

Visit us at... www.olabrisagardens.com



you can reach Tommy Clarkson at tommy@manzanillosun.com

Desert Fan Palm

by Tommy Clarkson



Washingtonia filifera

Family: Areaceae

Also known as California Palm, Fan Palm, Petticoat Palm, Cotton Palm, American Cotton Palm and Arizona Fan Palm.

This “feller” has a special place in our hearts.

While working in Iraq for nearly two years (2005 - 2006) I had the opportunity to travel around the country extensively. Throughout these numerous sojourns (sometimes quite memorable, for a variety of reasons to include snipers, improvised explosive devices and a wild car chase with “bad guys” wielding automatic weapons) I came upon only three small groupings of this substantive palmate. Three thrived in one and a small number were in the other two locations. Quite apparently, these were significantly different from the array of pinnate Date Palm varieties which grew in proliferation. Initial research showed no such palm as endemic to the area.



Patty and a grouping of three *Washingtonia filifera*, in Iraq, where, sadly, no day was complete without the sound of cracking small arms fire, IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices) and the rattle of automatic weapons!

Accordingly, sensing I might have come upon a heretofore unknown Old World *Washingtonia* variety, with outright glee, I collected some of their seeds. (Now – after losing three to the blasted Palm Borer Beetle which found them to be particularly tasty – three survive in Ola Brisa Gardens.)



The hanging fruits of the Desert Fan Palm (Though, I prefer the “Patty Palm”) are quite attractive. These are just beginning to change color.

Ongoing efforts, via carefully combing through my scores of tropical botanical tomes, continued to indicate such palms weren’t known to be native to the area. Communications with acquaintances in the International Palm Society confirmed that a (very) few others had also noticed this species in the Arabian Peninsula. Soon, visions of being able to name a new species grew, exponentially, in my near delirious excitement!

As my “bride” was with me there, working nearby in those combat zone environs, and I’d managed to get a picture of her amid the grouping of three, I thought these should be named after her - Patty Palms. Its Latin name would be, of course, *Washingtonia Clarksonia*. This all was pretty heady stuff!

During the course of several years after our retirement, I continued this search for identification and full clarification of origin of this huge-trunked beauty. Over the next couple of years,

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

two short-term consultancies took me back to Iraq where I again visited these palm groupings and sought answers to my questions of their origin. Then, after my final return to our home here in Manzanillo, I happened upon a text that had previously eluded me and contained data which burst my bubble!



This was a seed barely seven years ago and now measures 10' 5" (3.175 meters) around its base!

It stated that the *Washingtonia filifera* survives quite well in the Arabian Peninsula and several are known to have been successfully planted and grown there! "Rats, blast and shucky darn!"

Now I'm not a complete boob and was intimately familiar with the Desert Fan Palm but had convinced myself that these were different. . . . Wrongo!

Actually—when not being secreted off to exotic places like Iraq—the preponderance of *Washingtonia filifera*s are indigenous to southern California down into the Mexican Baja and in western Arizona . . . growing conditions very similar to those around mine - found just over 10,000 kilometers east of these normal "home grounds".

(For the differences between this and the Mexican Fan Palm (*W. robusta*), the only other - "known", I add with still a vestige of hope - variety in the *Washingtonia* genus I refer you to my write-up on that palm.)

Beyond that, allow me to briefly describe one. Unless fronds are trimmed off when dead, the trunks will maintain a skirt of them beneath the crown of live ones—hence the other name of Petticoat Palm. The six-to-eight foot (1.8 – 2.4 meters) wide leaves are yellowish-green to silver-gray green and are borne on six foot long petioles. Its inflorescences grow from the leaf crown and extend significantly beyond it. The blossoms are unisexual. They produce clusters of dark brown to black fruits. And for those with a penchant for minutia, *filifera*, in its Latin name, means "thread-bearing" which alludes to its frond's whitish, thin and curling fibers—thus the other name Cotton Palm.

The Desert Fan Palm likes the sun and responds well to fertil-



izer. Because of their girth and overall size, they are excellent for use along streets. Conversely, and logically, these are not palms for pots, growing to 60 feet (18.3 meters) and three to four feet (.9–1.2 meters) in diameter. It is also cold hardy and, generally speaking, does better in Mediterranean climates than in the humid tropics. And, while—for short periods—drought tolerant—it will grow much better and generally fare more successfully with good, solid, regular watering.

(Call 'em Patty Palms if you wanta'!)

For back issues of "Roots", gardening tips, tropical plant book reviews and videos of numerous, highly unique eco/adventure/nature tours, as well as memorable "Ultimate Experiences" such as Tropical Garden Brunches

Visit us at... www.olabrisagardens.com



you can reach Tommy Clarkson at tommy@manzanillosun.com

Long Distance Records

by Terry Sovil

Who could ever imagine a butterfly that flies 2,500 to 3,000 miles / 4,000 to 4,800 km? Well there is one. The MONARCH BUTTERFLY migrates from the central United States and Canada to Mexico. This is quite a long trip when you consider that it flies about 6 feet / 1.8 m per second.



Monarch Butterfly—worth seeing on a visit to Central Mexico in the Springtime

Do mammals migrate? Well, yes, they do. We tend to call them snowbirds. They spend the summers in their native area and then when it starts to turn cold they migrate south.



Long-Distance Humpback Whale

But the longest migration for a mammal is the HUMPBACK WHALE. Their migration can run the Antarctic Peninsula to Columbia. This is a distance of 5,313 miles / 8,500km. The record holder is a lone female humpback that traveled 6,125 miles / 9,800km from breeding grounds in Brazil to Madagascar.



The Arctic Tern

Everyone know that birds migrate. If you have them leaving your area for the winter you see them grouping up and then they fly away. Some, like geese, in formation.

The Arctic Tern, which may fly 44,000 miles / 70,400km per year for birds nesting in Iceland and Greenland, and 56,000 miles 90,000km for birds nesting in the Netherlands. Scientists think they make a few stops along the way. These are by far the longest migrations known in the animal kingdom.

Finally, the majestic reptile winner for migration is LEATHERBACK turtle. They travel 10,000 miles / 16,000km or more each year as they swim across the entire Pacific Ocean from Asia to the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California in search of jellyfish.



Mouth of the Leatherback Turtle

One rugged turtle traveled 12,774 miles / 20,483km across the Pacific from Papua, Indonesia, to the coast of Oregon and part-way back. The tracking device gave up before the turtle did.

The fact that they eat jellyfish makes this 1,000 pound / 454kg makes this guy susceptible to our plastic waste.



The Long-Distance Sea Turtle

A floating bag from your favorite convenience store floating in the sea is the ocean's most deadly predator. To eat their jellyfish, they have a mouth that would probably surprise you.

you can reach Terry Sovil at terry@manzanillosun.com

Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey
(Netflix - National Geographic docuseries)

by Suzanne Marshall

Presenter: Astrophysicist- Neil deGrasse Tyson

Executive Producer: Seth McFarlane, Ann Druyan, Brannon Braga and more.....

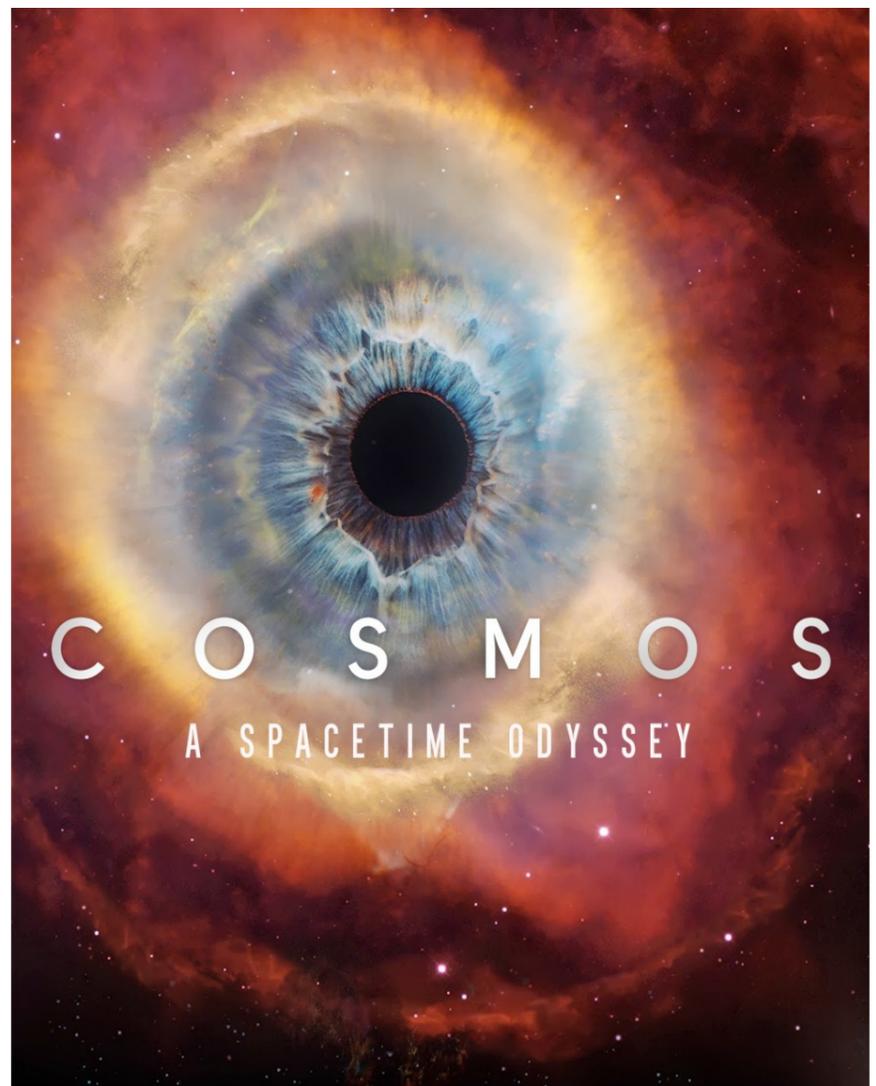
" 'Family Guy' creator Seth McFarlane, in a departure from the type of material he is best known for, pays homage to Carl Sagan's award-winning and iconic 'Cosmos' with this docuseries. Through stories of humankind's quest for knowledge, viewers travel across the universe. Scientific concepts are presented clearly, with both skepticism and wonder, to impart their full impact. Renowned astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson hosts, and Sagan's original creative collaborator, Ann Druyan, serves as executive producer."

Continuing along with my current preference for documentaries; Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey has to be the most stunning science based presentation I have ever seen. This 13-part series takes us on a journey through the universe and shares with us the most wonderful and engaging discoveries since man first looked at the stars. The series is visually unbelievable as it works its magic through special effects, and painstaking details which are cleverly demonstrated with animation, spaceship travel, reenacted portrayals and cameos of historical moments that help the viewers easily understand.

This is a series that will spellbind the entire family. Neil deGrasse Tyson is a fantastic presenter and his love of science and admiration for the scientists through the ages is evident. You will never regret investing your time in this work of 'film' art

IMDB has rated this series with 9.4/10. Absolutely brilliant and justly deserved.

you can reach Suzanne Marshall at suzanne@manzanillosun.com



Eye in the Sky
(Netflix)

by Suzanne Marshall

IMDB has rated this movie at 7.4/10 stars based on 27,363 viewers.

you can reach Suzanne Marshall at suzanne@manzanillosun.com

Starring: Helen Mirren, Alan Rickman, Aaron Paul, Barkhad Abdi, Phoebe Fox...

Director: Gavin Hood

"Col. Katherine Powell, a military officer in command of an operation to capture terrorists in Kenya, sees her mission escalate when a girl enters the kill zone triggering an international dispute over the implications of modern warfare."

This was an intense and interesting modern day story that most of us can relate to given the state of escalating terrorist activities around the world. The ethics of warfare are a large consideration in the story line where decisions are based on 'losing a few to save many'. It is definitely a military situation with a global perspective between operatives out of the UK, USA and Africa. The movie also defines the current methods of warfare involving high end technology, communications, missiles and drone capabilities. Actually, though this is a work of fiction, it leaves one wondering about the capabilities of drones these days and just how vulnerable we all may be because of their use.

Just recently released for Netflix, the movie was really well done. Helen Mirren is excellent in this role as are the supporting cast members. It's a good watch.



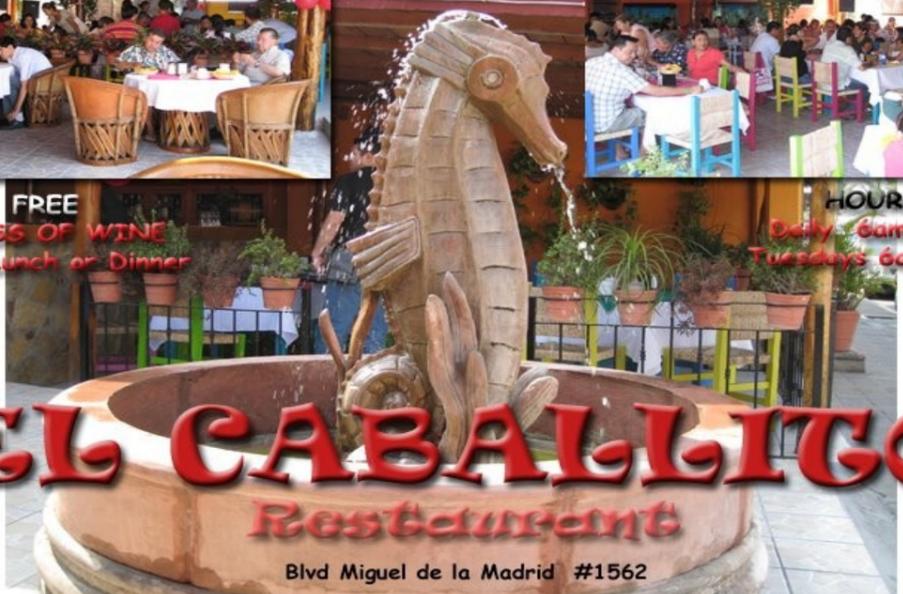
/advertisement



FREE
GLASS OF WINE
With Lunch or Dinner



HOURS
Daily 6am-1am
Tuesdays 6am-8pm



EL CABALLITO
Restaurant
Bldv Miguel de la Madrid #1562

Quetzalcoatl and Tezcatlipoca

by Kirby Vickery

[The following, extracted from Tezozomoc's *Chronica Mexicana*, reproduced in Lord Kingsborough's great work, is valuable as giving unique facts regarding the Aztec mythology, as is the *Teatro Mexicana* of Vetancurt, published at Mexico in 1697-98.]

In the days of Quetzalcoatl there was abundance of everything necessary for subsistence. The maize was plentiful, the calabashes were as thick as one's arm, and cotton grew in all colors without having to be dyed. In the reign of Quetzalcoatl there was peace and plenty for all men.



Quetzalcoatl mask

Envious of the calm enjoyment of the god and his people the Toltecs, three wicked "necromancers" plotted their downfall. The reference is of course to the gods of the invading Nahua tribes, the deities Huitzilopochtli, Tlalcahuan or Tezcatlipoca, and Tlacauepan. These laid evil enchantments upon the city of Tollan, and Tezcatlipoca in particular took the lead in these envious conspiracies. Disguised as an aged man with white hair, he presented himself at the palace of Quetzalcoatl, where he said to the pages in-waiting: "Pray present me to your master the king I desire to speak with him."

The pages advised him to retire, as Quetzalcoatl was indisposed and could see no one. He requested them, however, to tell the god that he was waiting outside. They did so, and procured his admittance.

On entering the chamber of Quetzalcoatl, the wily Tezcatlipoca

simulated much sympathy with the suffering god-king. "How are you, my son?" he asked. "I have brought you a drug which you should drink, and which will put an end to the course of your malady."

"You are welcome, old man," replied Quetzalcoatl.

I have known for many days that you would come. I am exceedingly indisposed. The malady affects my entire system, and I can use neither my hands nor feet."

Tezcatlipoca assured him that if he partook of the medicine which he had brought him he would immediately experience a great improvement in health. Quetzalcoatl drank the potion, and at once felt much revived. The cunning Tezcatlipoca pressed another and still another cup of the potion upon him, and as it was nothing but pulque, the wine of the country, he speedily became intoxicated, and was as wax in the hands of his adversary.



Mosaic mask of Tezcatlipoca

The various classes of the Aztec priesthood were in the habit of addressing the several gods to whom they ministered as "omnipotent," "endless," "invisible," "the one god complete in perfection and unity," and "the Maker and Molder of All." These appellations they applied not to one Supreme Being, but to the individual deities to whose service they were attached. It may be thought that such a practice would be fatal to the evolution of a single and universal god. But there is every reason to believe that Tezcatlipoca, the great god of the air, like the Hebrew Jahveh, also an air-god, was fast gaining precedence of all other deities, when the coming of the white man put an end to his chances of sovereignty.

Tezcatlipoca (Fiery Mirror) was undoubtedly the Jupiter of the Nahua pantheon. He carried a mirror or shield, from which he

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

took his name, and in which he was supposed to see reflected the actions and deeds of mankind. The evolution of this god from the status of a spirit of wind or air to that of the supreme deity of the Aztec people presents many points of deep interest to students of mythology.

Originally the personification of the air, the source both of the breath of life and of the tempest, Tezcatlipoca possessed all the attributes of a god who presided over these phenomena. As the tribal god of the Tezcucans who had led them into the Land of Promise, and had been instrumental in the defeat of both the gods and men of the elder race they dispossessed, Tezcatlipoca naturally advanced so speedily in popularity and public honor that it was little wonder that within a comparatively short space of time he came to be regarded as a god of fate and fortune, and as inseparably connected with the national destinies.

Thus, from being the peculiar deity of a small band of Nahua immigrants, the prestige accruing from the rapid conquest made under his tutelary direction, the speedily disseminated tales of the prowess of those who worshipped him seemed to render him at once the most popular and the best-feared god in Anahuac. Therefore, his was the one whose cult quickly overshadowed that of other and similar gods.



Quetzalcoatl



The battle

We find Tezcatlipoca intimately associated with the legends which recount the overthrow of Tollan, the capital of the Toltecs. His chief adversary on the Toltec side is the god-king Quetzalcoatl. The rivalry between these gods symbolizes that which existed between the civilized Toltecs and the barbarian Nahua.

Tezcatlipoca was much more than a mere personification of wind, and if he was regarded as a life-giver, he had also the power of destroying existence. In fact, on occasion he appears as an inexorable death-dealer, and as such was styled Nezahualpilli (The Hungry Chief) and Yautzin (The Enemy). Perhaps one of the names by which he was best known was Telpochtli (The Youthful Warrior), from the fact that his reserve of strength, his vital force, never diminished, and that his youthful and boisterous vigor was apparent in the tempest.

Tezcatlipoca was usually depicted as holding in his right hand a dart placed in an atlatl (spear-thrower), and his mirror-shield with four spare darts in his left. This shield is the symbol of his power as judge of mankind and upholder of human justice. The Aztecs pictured Tezcatlipoca as rioting along the highways in search of persons on whom to wreak his vengeance, as the wind of night rushes along the deserted roads with more seeming violence than it does by day. Indeed one of his names, Yoalli Ehecatl, signifies "Night Wind." Benches of stone, shaped like those made for the dignitaries of the Mexican towns, were distributed along the highways for his special use, that on these he might rest after his boisterous journeying. These seats were concealed by green boughs, beneath which the god was supposed to lurk in wait for his victims. But if one of the persons he seized overcame him in the struggle, he might ask whatever

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

boon he desired, secure in the promise of the deity that it should be granted forthwith.

It was supposed that Tezcatlipoca had guided the Nahua, and especially the people of Tezcuco, from a more northerly clime to the valley of Mexico. But he was not a mere local deity of Tezcuco, his worship being widely celebrated throughout the country. His exalted position in the Mexican pantheon seems to have won for him especial reverence as a god of fate and fortune. The place he took as the head of the Nahua pantheon brought him many attributes which were quite foreign to his original character.



Tezcatlipoca

Fear and a desire to exalt their tutelary deity will impel the devotees of a powerful god to credit him with any or every quality, so that there is nothing remarkable in the spectacle of the heaping of every possible attribute, human or divine, upon Tezcatlipoca. His priestly caste far surpassed in power and in the breadth and activity of its propaganda the priesthoods of the other Mexican deities. To it is credited the invention of many of the usages of civilization, and that its all-but-succeeded in making his worship universal is pretty clear.

The other gods were worshipped for some special purpose, but the worship of Tezcatlipoca was regarded as compulsory, and to some extent as a safeguard against the destruction of the universe, a calamity the Nahua had been led to believe might occur through his agency.

He was known as Moneneque (The Claimer of Prayer), and in some of the representations of him an ear of gold was shown suspended from his hair, toward which small tongues of gold strained upward in appeal of prayer. In times of national danger, plague, or famine, universal prayer was made to Tezcatlipoca.

The heads of the community repaired to his teocalli (temple) accompanied by the people en masse, and all prayed earnestly together for his speedy intervention. The prayers to Tezcatlipoca, still extant, prove that the ancient Mexicans fully believed that he possessed the power of life and death, and many of them are couched in the most piteous terms.

you can reach Kirby Vickery at kirby@manzanillosun.com

advertisement

DOLPHIN COVE INN

45 family friendly suites



SPECIAL!!!
199.00USD for 3 nights
15% off of restaurant purchase

Av. Vista Hermosa s/n
Peninsula de Santiago A.P. #93

www.dolphincoveinn.com
reservations@dolphincoveinn.com
866-360-9062 USA . 866-444-1577 Canada . 800-713-3250 Mexico

¿Dónde Están Mis Llaves?

by Señor Tech

Now that I live in Mexico, it is imperative that I am able to communicate in Spanish.

I can get by with Spanglish (a combination of English and Spanish), but it is not satisfying for the person I am trying to communicate with, or myself.

I contemplated getting a tutor, but I didn't know if the person I would hire could, in fact, teach me proper Spanish. A number of acquaintances have recommended tutors, but listening to them trying to communicate in Spanish, I decided this was not my best route. Tutors are not cheap, so I decided to look at other options. Over the years, I have learned many words, numbers and phrases. Unfortunately, not enough to string them into conversation. So I decided to use an online service to learn Latin American Spanish. There are many out there, but I chose Rosetta Stone. <http://www.rosettastone.com/>

I wrote about a number of different online services that teach Spanish in the December 2014 issue (available in the [Manzanillo Sun archives](#)). The information in that article is still relevant.

Rosetta Stone offers two options; a subscription model, and a software package. I chose the subscription model as it includes a number of games to help in the retention of words and phrases. Believe me, at my age, retention is an important attribute.

The reason I chose Rosetta Stone is that I paid for a three-year subscription two years ago. So I am redoing the exercises from the start. At that time, they offered a three-year subscription for \$199.00 (USD) I have seen it offered for as low as \$175.00 on their Black Friday and July 4th sales.

In order to utilize the language training, a high-speed internet connection and computer with speakers and microphone are required; you can also use a tablet or smartphone (which have speakers and microphones built-in). The program will set up and test the computer microphone to ensure voice responses are input.

Photos are used to convey the lesson message. The photos act as an interface between the user and the software. The language training consists of five levels, each containing four units.

Each of these units has five lessons. The first module of each lesson starts with a core subject; that subject is then covered in modules addressing pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, reading, writing, speaking and review.

Each lesson module displays a screen with photos and text boxes. The object of the learning process is to check the photo that best describes the text in the text box. In the modules that address pronunciation, the program's moderator will speak a word or phrase. The student then selects the correct photo. In the writing modules, a blank box will appear and the student will type in the correct response. In the modules that require speech, the student will use his/her voice to input the correct response. If this process sounds complicated, it is not.

As students progress through the different modules, they are presented a grade at the end of each module. Some modules contain as many as thirty exercises, others ten. The modules take five to ten minutes to complete. If the students want, they can redo any of the modules.

The learning program uses repetition to ensure retention of the subject matter. As the students progress through the different modules, the same subject matter will address pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, reading, writing and speaking.

I have noticed a pattern which helps me understand masculine vs feminine and the verb conjugations are now starting to make sense. I have also identified a problem I have in pronunciation; i is pronounced ee, e is pronounced ay, etc... I now understand why some of my Spanish speaking amigos looked at me funny when I spoke.

A few years ago, while in Barra de Navidad, a street vendor starting laughing when he heard my pronunciation of buenas noches, it came out as bonus natchez (which translates to "nice ass"). I was lucky not to be slapped by a señorita, that is unless she was flattered.

There are a number of word games that also help with learning Spanish. One has a moderator speaking sentences. The object is to check any words heard to make a line on a bingo card. Another is a flash card game using photos and text. The object is to match the correct text to a photo. In addition to these, there are other games designed to make the repetition fun and help with retention.

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

As I mentioned earlier, there are other programs available, some free (ad-supported). I know I can go to a language school, but the times are not convenient with our hectic retirement.

So I will do the lessons and report my progress in future articles.

Until next issue, Adios!

you can reach Señor Tech at seniortech@manzanillosun.com

<p>La laptop está sobre la mesa.</p>	<p>La niña está debajo de la cama.</p>	<p>Las manzanas están en el tazón.</p>
		

HOTEL COLONIAL

EL CENTRO, MANZANILLO

advertisement



reservaciones

314-332-1080 314-332-0668

314-332-1134 314-332-1230

Pro. G. Bocanegra No.28 (Esq.con Av. México) CP. 23200 Manzanillo, Colima

Costalegre

Mexico's Western Riviera with a Twist

by Suzanne A. Marshall

The western coast of Mexico is rapidly developing a tourist zone known as Costalegre (roughly translated: happy coast, joyful coast or coast of joy). The area spans about 200 kilometers of stunning natural bays, pristine beaches and resort areas between Manzanillo Colima and Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco. With six areas currently ready to receive visitors, this is only the beginning of developments slated for this stretch of coastline. Respecting nature in its captivating natural beauty (40% eco-friendly margins inclusive in developments) the coastline encompasses, mountains, jungles, coves and islands, many of which are being carefully protected for their natural environments. These zones are: Bahía de Navidad, Bahía de Tenacatita, Costa Careyes, Bahía de Chamela, Costa Majahuas, and Cabo Corrientes.

So what does this mean for Manzanillo in the future? Well, I'll share some of the major points I was able to garner as a listener. It's all good. One can expect a tremendous ripple effect to spin off from these developments. Not only will it be good for the tourism economy, but plans are in the making for some significant upgrades to infrastructure in and around these areas. There is no doubt it is going to be equally good for employment opportunities and all the small businesses that play a part in the scope of economic expansion.

Map of Costalegre



Bahía de Tenacatita

For example, expect upgrades to the Manzanillo airport which will be receiving more flights from more airlines. This, of course, means many more travel options for seasonal residents coming and going as well as those who may be considering buying property in the area for retirement or vacation living. Already a city undergoing rapid development with port expansion and population growth, more flights, more people and more services equal a vibrant economic future.

There is an excellent website that provides a tremendous range of information at: www.costalegre.com.

Massive road construction projects are also currently underway for the highways and resort areas between the two cities. That means great local access to these coastal locations for shipping and transportation and for those among us who want to whip up the highway for weekend getaways or adventures to these areas with visitors, family and friends.

I had the good fortune to attend the July monthly luncheon meeting of Las [Mujeres Amigas](#) (Women Friends) in Manzanillo. There was a comprehensive and fascinating presentation given by various local business representatives for tourism, Rotary Club, Colima state and the city of Manzanillo. Though much of the presentation was given in Spanish, we were very fortunate to have a person with the presenters capable of detailed English translation.



Bahía de Navidad

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

I would expect commercial bus lines are also anticipating an increase to their client numbers given the popularity and the high-quality service they already provide in Mexico. I know a number of residents who often hop on a bus to take a break from highway driving. The local Mexicans already use these premier bus lines between cities quite extensively.



Bahía Chamela

As this is not a comprehensive story of Costalegre, but more a first impression, I am no doubt unaware of the many other details that are underway for future planning. In Manzanillo there are possibilities for a convention centre, aquarium and potentially a stadium. In addition, I read in the local news* that there have been recent meetings with the municipal president (mayor) to discuss strategic projects for Manzanillo with the Ministry of Tourism.

There are 12 strategic projects under discussion representing an investment of 897 million pesos. Some of these projects include: a cable car in the historic centre, completion of the main Boulevard Miguel de la Madrid and major upgrades to the marina and central port areas. The article described these as taking a 'short time'. It certainly underscores my belief that big things are happening in Manzanillo and surrounding vicinities in the next few years. ¡Qué Bueno!

*Manzanillo News Mx-online.

you can reach Suzanne Marshall at suzanne@manzanillosun.com



Costa Careyes

Campeche Camping

by Dan and Lisa Goy, exclusive to Manzanillo Sun



Heading southbound on Hwy 180 from Isla Aguada, our next stop was Campeche, Campeche, situated on the Gulf of Mexico. Headed for the Echo Villas Kin Ha Resort on Siglo XXI listed in the Church's Mexico Camping Book.



We parked the RVs across the street from main resort. Lots of room for the six of us, access to electricity, water and Wi-Fi, even a clean pool, which was fun.



The office nearby even had a washroom and shower, which came in handy. We spent three days here (January 21, 22 and 23) and at \$250 pesos a night, a very reasonable price. Laundry and groceries were just up the street and we were only a 20-minute drive from the City Centre.

Prior to arriving in Campeche, we had really never known much about the city. It was founded in 1540 by Spanish conquistadores as **San Francisco de Campeche** atop the pre-existing Maya city of Can Pech. The Pre-Columbian city was described as having 3,000 houses and various monuments. Unfortunately little trace remains.



The city does retain many of the old colonial Spanish city walls and fortifications that protected it (not always successfully) from pirates and buccaneers. The state of preservation and quality of its architecture earned it the status of a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999.



(Continued on page 16)

Originally, the Spaniards lived inside the walled city, while the natives lived in the surrounding *barrios* of San Francisco, Guadalupe and San Román. These barrios still retain their original churches; the one in Guadalupe is almost 500 years old.



The most significant features of this city was the fortifications, zocalo, barrios. Our bus tour was worth every peso, a great way to get an overall look at the town. The city of Campeche is an example of urbanism in a baroque colonial city, with a reticular and regular plan, its urban trace, a model of colonial port cities, reflects the main role that it played as a commercial, religious and military connection point characterized by its high level of integrity and homogeneity. More than one thousand buildings with a historic value have survived as witnesses of space and temporal superimposition of several significant historic periods of Mexico.

Due to the constant attacks of both English and Dutch buccaneers and pirates such as Francis Drake, John Hawkins, Laurens de Graaf, Cornelis Jol, Jacobo Jackson, Jean Lafitte, Francisco de Grammont, Bartolomé Portugués, William Parker, Francisco Nau, Edward Mansvelt, Henry Morgan, Lewis Scot, Roche Braziliano and Michel de Grammont for almost 160 years, in 1686 the government started to fortify the city. The French engineer Louis Bouchard de Becour was commissioned to unify all the defensive works that surrounded the city with a wall. At its completion, the wall surrounding the city of Campeche was 2,560 meters in length, forming an irregular hexagon around the main part of the city, with eight defensive bastions on the corners.

Our stay included a dinner downtown, lots of walking, a free laser show in the main square that was fabulous and we had a chance to drop into our first regular Mexican market selling everything you could imagine. We piled in the Van and headed into town each day, lots of free parking and very friendly people. Campeche was a great find for us as it must of been for the many other foreign tourists we encountered. We look forward to returning in the future.

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

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



Should You Prepare for a Stock Market Crash?

by Yann Kostic

Many of us who lived through the financial crisis of 2008 believe another stock market crash is on the horizon. Consider billionaire investor Carl Icahn, for example, who had a net equity position that was 150 percent short as of the end of March. That indicates at least one billionaire investor thinks the stock market will tank.

He isn't alone. According to a 2016 study by the National Bureau of Economic Research titled "Crash Beliefs From Investor Surveys," the average investor believes there is a 20 percent plus chance of a 1987-magnitude crash (when the Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 22.6 percent in a single session) or 1929-magnitude crash (when the Dow dropped 12.8 percent in a single session). These were the worst single-day plunges since the Dow's inception in 1896.

The study is based on periodic surveys conducted since 1989 that ask investors to assess the risk of a 1987 or 1929-magnitude crash over the next six months. Over the past three decades, the perceived risk averaged 19 percent. In the most recent survey, it was 22.2 percent.

That doesn't mean a crash will happen. According to the study authors, investors tend to believe crash probabilities are higher during bear markets. And crash probabilities tend to rise after an increase in the number of references to a "crash" in the media. Still, when markets are volatile, it's a good idea to review your portfolio with your financial advisor. He or she can tell you if you're set up in a way that meets your investing goals and your risk tolerance over the long term.

Yann Kostic is an Investment Advisor (RIA) and Money Manager with Atlantis Wealth Management. Yann specializes in retirees (or soon to be), self-reliant women and expats in Mexico. Atlantis is working with an international custodian which allows multiple international currencies in a single account. Yann splits his time between the Lake Chapala area, Manzanillo and Central Florida. Comments, questions or to request his newsletter, "News you can use" contact him at yannk@atlantisgrp.com in the US at (321) 574-1521 or in Mexico, (376) 106-1613

advertisement



Olmec

Olmec, the first elaborate pre-Columbian civilization of Mesoamerica (c. 1200-400 bce) and one that is thought to have set many of the fundamental patterns evinced by later American Indian cultures of Mexico and Central America, notably the Maya and the Aztec. The Nahuatl (Aztec) name for these people, Olmecatl, or Olmec in the modern corruption, means "rubber people" or "people of the rubber country." That term was chosen because the Olmecs extracted latex from Panama rubber trees (*Castilla elastica*) growing in the region and mixed it with the juice of a local vine (*Ipomoea alba*, moonflower) to create rubber.



Jadeite mask, Olmec culture, Mexico, 10th-6th century bce, in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City

A brief treatment of Olmec civilization follows. For full treatment, see pre-Columbian civilizations: The rise of Olmec civilization.

The chief Olmec sites are San Lorenzo, La Venta, Laguna de los Cerros, and Tres Zapotes in what is now southern Mexico. Much of what is known about the Olmecs was inferred from archaeological excavations at those sites, which have uncovered large earthen pyramids and platforms and monumental stone carvings. The Olmecs are especially identified with 17 huge stone heads—ranging in height from 1.47 to 3.4 metres (4.82 to 11.15 feet)—with flat faces and full lips, wearing helmetlike headgear. It is generally thought that these are portraits of Olmec rulers. Other Olmec artifacts include so-called baby-faced figures and figurines. These display a rounded facial form, thick features, heavy-lidded eyes, and down-turned mouths, and they are sometimes referred to as were-jaguars.

The Olmecs lived in hot, humid lowlands along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico in what is now southern Veracruz and Tabasco states in southern Mexico. The first evidence of their remarkable art style appears about 1200 bce in San Lorenzo, their oldest known building site. This site is remarkable for its many stone monuments, including some of the colossal carved heads mentioned above.



Olmec colossal basalt head in the Museo de la Venta, an outdoor museum near Villahermos, Tabasco

In the late 20th century a stone slab engraved with symbols that appear to have been the Olmec writing system (sometimes called epi-Olmec, or Isthmian) was discovered in the village of Cascajal, near San Lorenzo. The Cascajal stone dates to approximately 900 bce and may be the oldest example of writing from the Americas. Other objects containing glyphs include the Tuxtla Statuette, the Chiapa de Corzo shard, the O'Boyle mask, and the La Mojarra stela (discovered 1986). The last object, which displays 465 glyphs, greatly facilitated the interpretation of the epi-Olmec language, though many questions remain.

The Olmecs developed a wide trading network, and between 1100 and 800 bce their cultural influence spread northwestward to the Valley of Mexico and southeastward to parts of Central America. The constructions and monuments of the Olmecs, as well as the sophistication and power of their art, make it clear that their society was complex and nonegalitarian.

Olmec stylistic influence disappeared after about 400 bce. Not all of the Olmec sites were abandoned, but Olmec culture gradually changed and ceased to dominate Mesoamerica. See also Mesoamerican civilization.

articles and images from Brittanica.com

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

Oven-Fried Pork Carnitas with Guacamole and Orange Salsa

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup tamarind concentrate (see Note)
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 2 tablespoons sherry vinegar
- 2 1/2 cups vegetable oil, plus more for brushing
- 2 1/2 pounds boneless pork shoulder, cut into 1 1/2-inch pieces
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- 1 medium white onion, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, unpeeled
- 1 Hass avocado, pitted and peeled
- 3 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- 2 navel oranges
- 1 small red onion, thinly sliced
- 1/4 cup coarsely chopped cilantro
- 1/2 habanero chile, seeded and finely chopped
- 1 cup fresh Requeson or ricotta cheese
- 1 small plum tomato, chopped
- 1 jalapeño or serrano chile, seeded and finely chopped
- 12 flour tortillas

How to make this recipe

In a large bowl, mix the tamarind concentrate with the honey, sherry vinegar and 1/4 cup of the oil. Add the pork, season with salt and pepper and stir to coat. Let marinate at room temperature for 1 hour. Drain the pork and pat dry.

Preheat the oven to 375°. In a large enameled cast-iron casserole, heat 2 tablespoons of the oil.

Add half of the pork and cook over moderately high heat, turning occasionally, until browned all over, about 6 minutes.

Transfer the pork to an 8-by-11-inch baking dish. Repeat with 2 more tablespoons of oil and the remaining meat. Add two-thirds of the chopped white onion and 2 cups of oil to the baking dish. Cover with foil and bake for about 2 hours, or until the meat is very tender.

Meanwhile, wrap the garlic cloves in foil and bake for 1 hour, or until softened. Let cool slightly, then peel the cloves. In a small bowl, mash the avocado with the garlic. Stir in 1 tablespoon of the lime juice and season with salt and pepper.

Using a sharp knife, peel the oranges, removing all the bitter white pith. Working over a bowl, cut in between the membranes to release the segments. Squeeze the orange membranes to extract the juice. Stir in the red onion, cilantro and habanero and the 2 remaining tablespoons of fresh lime juice.

In a medium bowl, combine the Requeson cheese with the tomato, jalapeño and the remaining one-third of the chopped white onion. Season the Requeson with salt and pepper.

Brush the tortillas lightly with oil, then stack and wrap them in foil. Heat the tortillas in the oven until warm. Drain the pork on paper towels. Serve the carnitas, encouraging guests to fill the tortillas with the Requeson, meat and guacamole.

Serve the orange salsa on the side.

source: [Food and Wine](#)

