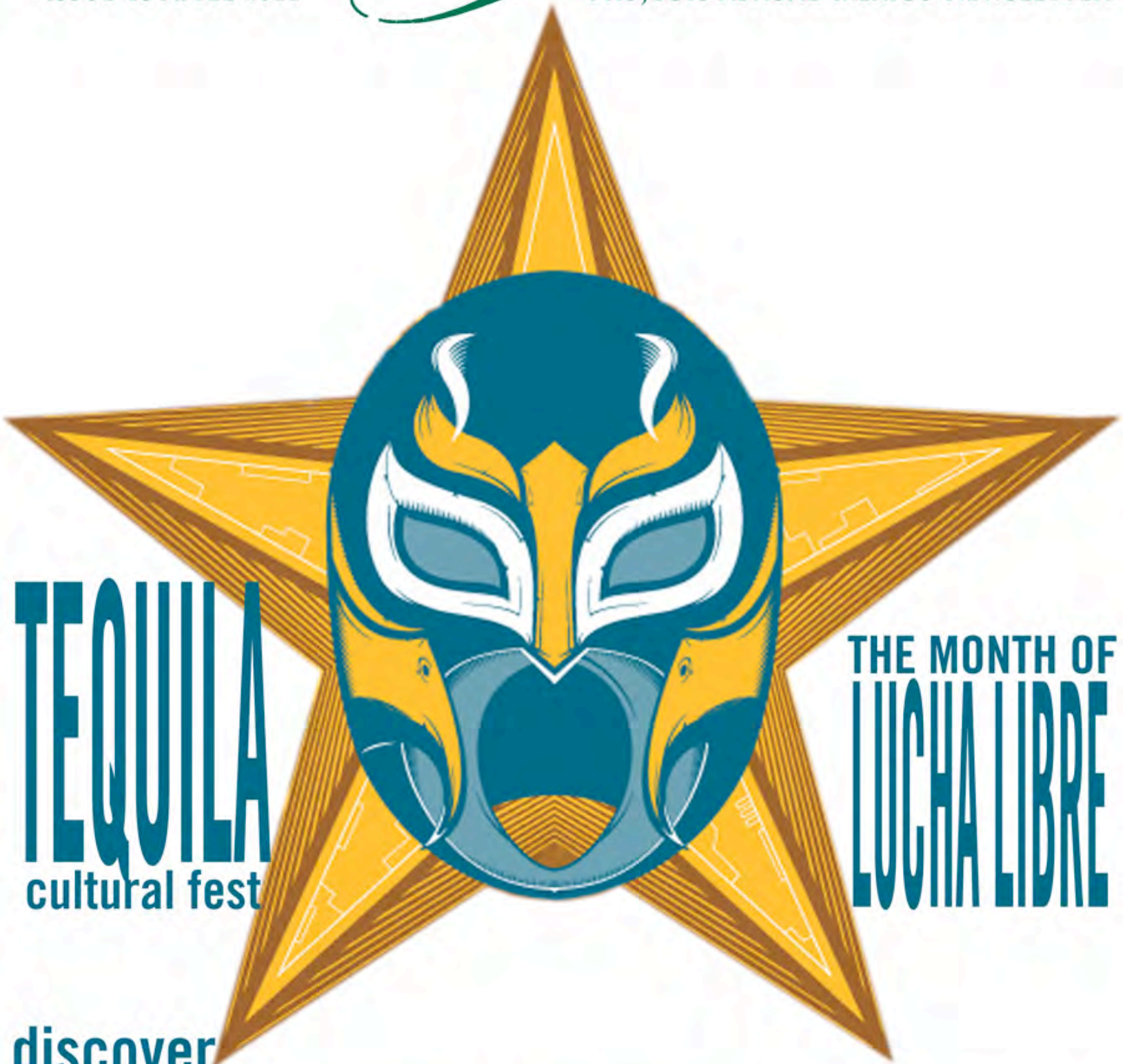


SOLE AZTECA

ISSUE 46 APRIL 2011 PROJECTS ABROAD MEXICO NEWSLETTER



TEQUILA
cultural fest

THE MONTH OF
LUCHA LIBRE

discover

PUERTO VALLARTA

ProjectsAbroad

Editor's Notes

Hello!

Mexico is officially entering the hottest season. In the mornings it is really fresh but as hours pass by, one can feel the sunrays getting hotter! Nice time to visit Mexico!

During this month we had a pretty traditional month in our social events. The salsa classes still going on, movie night with 'Nacho Libre' (a Jack Black film) and Lucha Libre night! There were loads of fun in the arena, where all the volunteers had the chance to see what the traditional wrestling (Lucha Libre) is like in Mexico.

I want to let you know that we are already on Twitter! If you are a user then I invite you to follow us: @Proj_AbroadMEXI

I hope you enjoy of our April edition!

Special thanks for this newsletter go to:

- Oliver Garcia for his update on the Turtle Conservation Programme.

I also want to invite you to join our Facebook community where we share our pictures, happenings and news. The name of our network is: Projects Abroad Mexico-The Official Group

We also encourage everyone to write their stories for us to publish in our newsletters. If you want to write something about your current, past or future experience with us, please do not hesitate to send it to me along with your pictures to jonatanarriaga@projects-abroad.org

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Jonatan Arriaga

Social Manager

Projects Abroad Mexico

Feria de San Marcos



Born in the heart of Mexico, Aguascalientes prepares, year after year, to celebrate its San Marcos' National Fair, which, over 175 years, has become the most important of the country. Its happiness, colours, food, fighting roosters, bullfights, traditional suits but overcoat its people's hospitality made this fair, the "fair of Mexico".

Its origin dates back to the year 1604 and had for purpose to open agricultural and livestock market with the different provinces of New Spain. The fair was celebrated for the first time in 1828, from November 5th to November 20th, using as a siege a half-built "Parian" until 1851.

In 1842 was built the outside balustrade of the garden, which has been designed neoclassical style, and conserved up to day. Later, the date of celebration was changed to April to take advantage of the festivities of the patron saint of San Marcos, which were held, in the new garden.



Since the birth of the fair itself, the bullfighting festivities certainly become the spectacle that most deeply took root in the soul of the people of Aguascalientes as in 1896 the San Marcos bullring construction started and lasted only 48 days.

Due to the quality of its performances, in 1974 a new bullring was demanded, the monumental of Aguascalientes which in 1992 was given a new physiognomy and capacity to host fifteen thousands viewers.



Nowadays, the National San Marcos Fair presents a large amount of shows for the public in general such as the People's Theater, the Ferial, the Young Art National Prize, the Poetry National Prize, the Wood Sculpture Contest, and the Traditional Suits Competition exposed in its maximum expression the typical Aguascalientes craftsmanship:

the "embroideries" as well as uncountable cultural events of first category.



Tequila International Fest



The festival was formed with full support from the Mexican government as well as from the ministries of Culture and Tourism, so it should definitely be quite the party.

The goal of the festival is increase tourism to the historic city of Guadalajara as well as to solidify tequila as the national drink of Mexico and, in turn, boost the sales of tequila worldwide. The list of activities for the fest is enormous and includes tequila

tasting, art shows, a photography contest, several free concerts and shows, and a celebrity parade.

Celebrate Mexico's most popular drink in this cultural festival hosted by Jose Cuervo distillery in the town of Tequila, Jalisco.

Tequila, Jalisco, April 1 to 3



Children's Day



Children's Day has been a big deal in Mexico with parties, piñatas, outings, and gifts since its 1925 inception. A few countries adopted the celebration which was celebrated on November 20th but in Mexico there were a few changes due to the celebration of the Mexican Revolution, also on November 20th. The current date...April 30th.

Mexican kinder children dress up to represent a variety of countries to honour the Universal Children's Day, and then take a walk around town to share their view of world peace with others.

UNICEF has declared an International Children's Day on a variety of dates ranging from March 5, April 23, June 1 and even a couple of dates in December.

No matter what country we are in, there's no question – our children are our future. We need to celebrate them, see to their needs, and make sure they all have the opportunity to have clean water, good education and a safe environment.



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Donation Update



In the 8th visit to Brayan in the hospital we delivered part of the donation made to him and his family to cover the transport expenses from his home-town.

He was really awake this time while receiving his treatment. I spoke to his mum and told me that Brayan had got an appointment to receive the date for surgery in his ears. He is doing well at school and is also one of the smartest guys in the classroom!

Brayan is such a strong boy, always

happy and eager to learn new stuff. There is no doubt that he is teaching me quite a lot of great things without even knowing of it.

Good luck to Brayan, we all hope there is a short waiting list so his surgery takes place really soon!

Salsa Class & Movie Night



The gatherings in the office are traditional now. Besides being a meeting point of the volunteers before they go anywhere we are doing more events quite more often in the office.

Salsa classes restarted during the first week of April. We are getting better I have to say! This last class was so much fun as classes are becoming more and more challenging. We will be back with another one next month.

Also, the office was the meeting point for our movie night. It was quite a while with no movie nights in the office...they are back. This time we decided to repeat 'Nacho Libre' with Jack Black as it is a great insight into lucha libre...the theme of our social monthly event. So we gathered in the office to enjoy of this comedy. Popcorn everywhere at the end of the movie!

After the movie all of us moved to another location for Amy's and Jano's goodbye evening! Good luck in the future for them!



Lucha Libre-Mexican Wrestling



Lucha libre (Mexican wrestling) is really well known throughout the world as one of the icons in Mexican tradition. Back in the 30's countries like Japan, USA, Brazil and Mexico popularised this sport in such a way that the sport crossed boundaries.

Mexicans gave to this sport the traditional masking feature! The traditional way of doing lucha libre in Mexico is really something to see. It goes from

hilarious acts to really acrobatic with awesome spins and amazing technique!

So we arranged a night in the Arena! Volunteers and staff met in the office and headed off to the arena.

Lots of fun in the three shows we watched. Acrobatics, hilarious acts and also spectacular fights!



Thanks to everyone who joined.

Destination-Puerto Vallarta



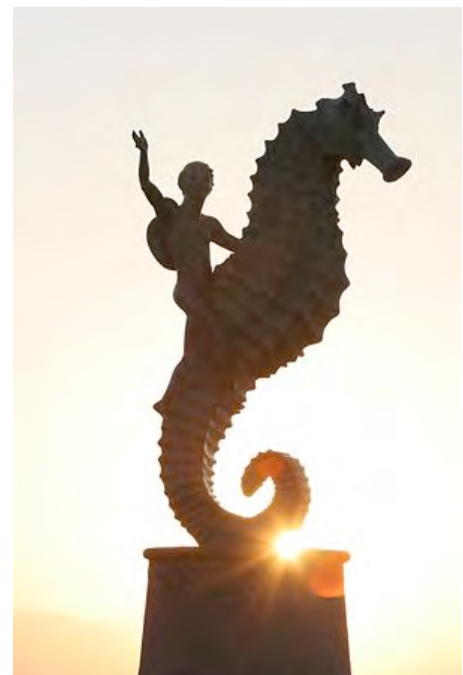
Located on the Pacific Coast of Mexico, where the states of Jalisco and Nayarit meet, at the heart of Banderas Bay, Puerto Vallarta offers the best of two worlds: tradition and the vanguard, making Vallarta a window to the world.

Puerto Vallarta has received many global accolades that are a testament to the uniqueness and warmth of

the city. It has been voted the friendliest city in the world by Condé Nast Magazine (2003), the best place to retire globally by The American Association of Retired Persons (2010) and the best Mexican Vacation destination by USNews.com (2010), beating out Cancún and Los Cabos for the top prize.

Puerto Vallarta is a mystic city that harbours tradition in its plazas, in its streets, in its people - a city that expresses the colour of its culture and natural beauty at every turn. The natural attractions that make Puerto Vallarta a magical place are three in number: the Sierra Madre Mountains, the rivers that flow down from them, and the Pacific Ocean. These come together in this extraordinary destination.

We invite you to enjoy Puerto Vallarta's beaches, where you will find endless activities to participate in, from scuba diving, to walking on the golden sand, to viewing humpback whales and dolphins in the near distance, to listening to the mesmerising sound of waves or, taking





in one of Vallarta's unparalleled sunsets. A 40-kilometer extension of mountains, rivers, coastline and beaches, Puerto Vallarta is one of the most important places in Latin America for biodiversity, because it protects an impressive number of species – both flora and fauna on land and in the sea.

Vallarta is a fusion of the very best of Mexico, from beach-resort hip to cosmopolitan chic. It offers visitors the very best in gastronomy in award-winning restaurants, off-the-beaten-track adventure and 24-hour excitement. Whether you come here to get away from it all or to soak it all in, Puerto Vallarta and the many surrounding coastal beaches, colonial villages and rustic ranch towns offer a spectacular array of entertainment to leave even the most seasoned traveller satiated.



Puerto Vallarta is an increasingly important destination for both art and culture fans from around the world. Its historic Old Town is the perfect backdrop to inspire art lovers, and its vibrant art scene is reflected by the wealth of galleries, public sculptures and cultural festivals the city offers throughout the year.

Mexican Kitchen-Chiles en Nogada



Another great example of complex high Mexican cuisine! The fire roasted chiles are stuffed with a "picadillo" type filling. The sauce and pomegranites and chiles give this the look of the Mexican flag-red-green-white. There are probably about as many recipes for this dish as there are cooks in Puebla, where it originated. It is always associated with Fall.

Ingredients:

- 12 medium (4-1/2" long) fresh poblano chile peppers - cleaned, roasted and peeled
- 1 white onion, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 (4 pound) chicken, boiled
- 4 ounces raisins
- 4 ounces brown sugar
- 4 ounces blanched walnuts, chopped

1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
4 bay leaves
1 tablespoon distilled white vinegar
1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro
3 tablespoons tomato paste
4 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese
8 ounces soft goat cheese
1 cup sour cream
8 ounces blanched walnuts
1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
3/4 teaspoon white sugar
1/2 bunch cilantro, finely chopped

Directions:

1 Cut a slit in each chile pepper along one side, lengthwise, so that they can be reconstructed after they are stuffed.

2 Preheat oven to 250 degrees F (120 degrees C).

3 In a large skillet over medium heat, saute onion and garlic until soft, then add chicken, raisins, brown sugar, 4 ounces walnuts, pepper and bay leaves. Mix together and saute for 3 to 5 minutes, then stir in vinegar, cilantro and tomato paste; reduce heat to low and let all simmer for 15 minutes. Remove from heat and let cool.

4 Stuff each chile pepper with cooled chicken mixture and place in preheated oven to keep warm.

5 To Make Sauce: In a large saucepan over medium heat, combine the cream cheese, goat cheese, sour cream, 8 ounces walnuts, nutmeg and granulated sugar. Heat, stirring, for 5 to 7 minutes. When blended together, pour sauce over warm chile peppers and garnish with fresh chopped cilantro.

Makes 12 servings

Conservation in Mexico

Conservation in Mexico – Monthly Update April 2011



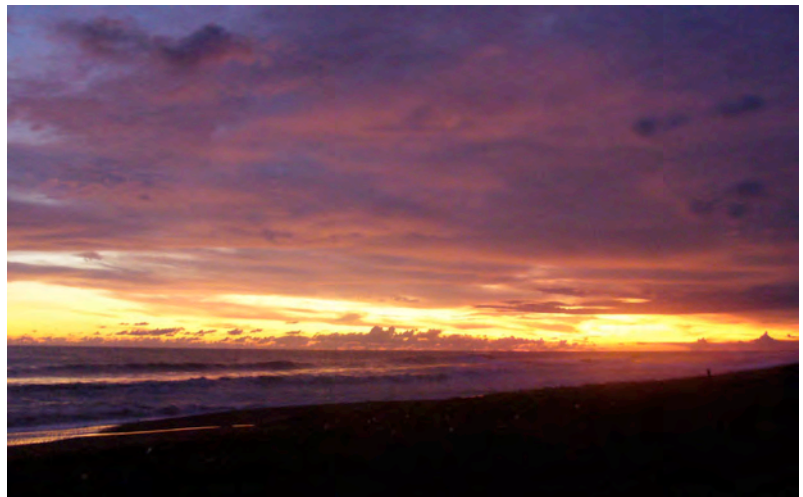
We are getting close to the start of another exciting high season for the turtle nest collection work. We are hoping to have an excellent year. The planning and repairs have taken place, now we just have to wait for the rains to finally come.

Arrival of new volunteers.

We have been pleased to welcome the arrival of 8 new volunteers during April. Even though the season for turtle collection is not at its peak yet, it is important to mention how valuable their help is. We really appreciate the time and effort of all the volunteers here, and we hope you have a great time with us.

Crocodile farm.

Two months after mating the American Crocodiles (*Crocodylus acutus*) have started to lay their precious eggs in the areas surrounding the lagoon. The time has come again to monitor the laying time in order to collect the nests which can then be buried in a safer area. We put them in an area where we can check on them constantly. The main idea for this,



is that if nests were left in the wild, once the baby crocodiles are born their chances for survival would be scarce. After a period that can last from 2 to 3 months the new offspring hatch out, and there are likely to be around 50 newborn baby crocodiles.

Easter holidays



But it's not all been hard work this month, during the Easter holidays we had chance to celebrate a little and we had a party during a visit of some of the staff from the Guadalajara office. Alex (or Bob as some of us call him) came to help us out during the holidays. It's great for the full time conservation staff to get a new perspective on things, when the other staff visit. Bob even had a chance to join us to break the piñata!



Oliver Garcia
Conservation Director
April 2011
Projects Abroad