

# *Volunteer Petèn*

## *San Andrés, Petèn*

January 2007

### **Dear Friends of Volunteer Petèn,**

Thanks to all the sponsors and volunteers that made 2006 such a great year for us. Here is a quick list of all the volunteers that made it possible for us to exist this past year:

Erika, Elena, Laurie, Megan, Martina, Alex, Phoebe, Sarah, Gaitan, Bjorn, Jason, Michael, Marissa, Leslie, Lies, Andre, Kiri, Debbie, Ines, Ed, Tamaika, Anouk, Jan, Eric, Cristina, Udi, Kim, Ende, Naomi, Betaya, Eric, Danielle, Sofia, Robin, Rebecca, Lana, Andrew, Line, Melanie, Sean, Linda, Adam, Martin, Marie, Alex, David, Anna, Rebecca, Ana, Tim, Lauren, Nick, Vanessa, Megan, Laruel, Evelyn, Lynn, Lindsey, Chloe, Joe, Roy, Manuela, Ashley, Kirian, Julia, Bill, Mariah, Zac, Andre, Julia, Alana, Eva, Wiebke, Alex, Maximo, Suzanna, Rebecca, Katie, and Molly. And special thanks to our 2006 groups Eagle Rock School, International Law Society Vermont Law School, Brathay Exploration Group, and the Betsy Cox Summer Camp.

And a enormous thank you to the friends and family of Volunteer Peten that generously gave this past year to help support our projects:(click [DONORS](#) to see a complete list)

Julianne DeCaulp, Melissa Myers and Family, Richard Jeffes and Family, Isabelle Fournier, Anna Hendricks, Eric Carlsen, Mary Bentz, Mr. & Mrs. Plaisted, Mr. & Mrs. Kase, Bullfrog Films, Irene Felton, the Dennis Family, Mr. & Mrs. Szabo, Core Media, Marguerite Fisher, Tom Sweeney, Daniel Alvarez, Lynn Harris, Mary Richardson, James Schofield, Daniel Troob, Brooke Adams, Tony Shalhoub, Agnes Marino, Susan Hart and the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, Judy & Bob Peters, Elenore Sweeney, Carrie Hipple, Donna O'Malley, Robert Woelz, Edward Brennan, Mr. & Mrs. Rubright, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Repoley, Mr. & Mrs. Bronner, Mr. & Mrs. Buehrer, Mr. & Mrs. Roland, Katy & Kyle Chandler-Isacksen, Mr. & Mrs. Smoker, Mr. & Mrs. Riordan, Guy Lyon, Richard Silverwood, Alex Bearn, Mr. & Mrs. Schum, Gertrude Miller, Mr. & Mrs. Heiman, Adrian Collier, Chris Short, J.R. Mills, Mr. & Mrs. Korbecki, Mr. & Mrs. Pfeifferberger, Mr. & Mrs. Jeffery Treiber, Chip Karasin, Mr. & Mrs. Dunn, Mr. & Mrs. Harper, Dr. & Mrs. Paul Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Ekman, Dr. & Mrs. Videon, Mary Singer, Kathryn Warner, Graham, Verner, Nick Aspinall, The Stephen A. Weiner Family, Earl Lindberg, Linda Ingram, Mr. & Mrs. Gary Klein, Jessica Kelly, Rachel Bauer, Roy Arezzo, Crystal Morgan, Cynthia Keifer, Doris Powell, Chris Sprague & Bekky Hargrave, Mr. & Mrs. John Treiber, Frank Consalvo, John Tulley, Dave Connel and Denise Jordan and Family, and Charles Mitchell.

I thank each and every one of you for all of your support for this small but important project in Guatemala.

We hope to make 2007 even better and focus on using all the great things that we have created in San Andres, especially the ecological park and community library. Thanks to all of your help, we plan on inaugurating the library during Semana Santa (Holy Week) 2007.

Matthew R. Peters  
Director  
[volunteerpeten@hotmail.com](mailto:volunteerpeten@hotmail.com)

### **December Achievements**

December was a nice slow month (so I heard since I was in the States most of December), with a lot of work done in the ecological park. Volunteers included Maximo, Rakesh, Katie, Rebecca, Alana, Eva, Wiebke, Alex, and Molly and Family.

### **What's in store for January and February...**

January and February are our peak months, and we hope to focus most of our work on the park and detailed work is being done in the

### **FEATURE PHOTO**



The new library taking form!

[see more 2006 photos](#)

### **FEATURED EVENT**

**Help fund our new community library.**

Our mega project for 2007 will be the inauguration and management of the new community library in San Andres. We hope to open in April 2007.



[more information here](#)

### **HELP RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS**

Forward this newsletter to all your family, friends, universities, colleges, high schools, local community groups, or whoever might be interested in our work in Guatemala.

### **CONTACT US**

**Volunteer Petèn**  
11 Kenny Drive Mohnton, PA 19540  
Tel: (502) 5711-0040  
[View donation information](#)

### **PAST VOLUNTEERS**

Please send us any photos you have of your experience in Guatemala to  
[volunteerpeten@hotmail.com](mailto:volunteerpeten@hotmail.com)

library. We will also be expanding our work with local schools this year. Official date of the start of the school year is January 15th.

## Donate Today!

Help our program grow in 2007 by donating today or by joining the Volunteer PAYten club, which donates \$10 a month to our efforts. [Click here to donate](#), and all donations are fully tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

Your donations made to Volunteer Peten in 2007 will go to putting the finishing touches on the new community library in San Andres, management of the Nueva Juventud Ecological Park, and support of our environmental education and general education programs in local schools.



for more information, please visit [www.volunteerpeten.com](http://www.volunteerpeten.com)

WE ARE A 501c3 NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATION

## Volunteer Peten San Andres, Peten

February 2007

Dear Friends of Volunteer Peten,

I

### February 2007

January was a very productive month for us, after a slow November and December. In all we had around 20 volunteers collaborate on a variety of projects that included painting the new library, putting in the floor to the library, installing the electricity in the library, putting up the outside columns for the entryway to the library, beach clean up projects, lots and lots of gardening, and recleaning and more planting in all of the reforestation rows in the park.

In January and early February, we had help from Katie, Rakesh, Rebecca, Jill, Jeff & Jill, Hugo, Roger, Tristan, Stewart, Elise, Robert, Monica, Katy, Sean, Abbie, Damien, Paula, Miryam, Rhianna, Michelle, Lewana, Hilary, Jon, Laura, Ed, and Laurie.

We are still right on track to finish all construction for the new community library in March, and are now looking for donation to help furnish the new building. Donations will go to purchasing and making tables, chairs, framing posters, bookshelves, and a new card catalogue system. Please [Donate today](#) to help us finish and inaugurate this amazing project!!!

I thank each and every one of you for all of your support for this small but important project in Guatemala.

We hope to make 2007 even better and focus on using all the great things that we have created in San Andres, especially the ecological park and community library. Thanks

### FEATURE PHOTO

Lights in  
the new library!

[see more 2007 photos](#)

### FEATURED EVENT

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community library.**

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[more information here](#)

### HELP RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS

Forward this newsletter to all your family, friends, universities, colleges, high schools, local community

to all of your help, we plan on inaugurating the library during Semana Santa (Holy Week) 2007.

Matthew R. Peters  
Director  
[volunteerpeten@hotmail.com](mailto:volunteerpeten@hotmail.com)

## January Achievements

Work in January included starting weekly beach clean up projects with the Basico School, cleaning and planting in reforestation rows in the park, fixing the bridges in the park, cleaning the trails, landscaping the pond, putting in the floor in the new library, starting classes, installing the electricity and lights in the new library, painting the interior of the library.

## What's in store for January and February...

January and February are our peak months, and we hope to focus most of our work on the park and detailed work is being done in the library. We will also be expanding our work with local schools this year. Official date of the start of the school year is January 15th.

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*Volunteer Peten*  
*San Andres, Peten*

March 2007

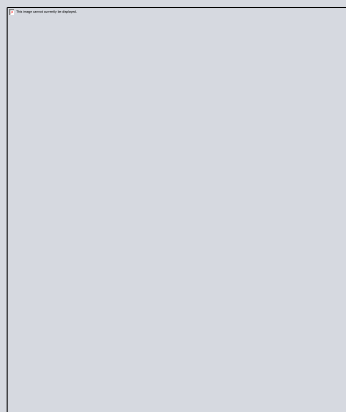
**Dear Friends of Volunteer Peten,**  
|

## March 2007

With much much lower than average temperatures, and even some rain, February turned out to be a very productive month. We initiated our environmental educational program in the park, and have already hosted around 150 local school children from Ixhuacut and Cristiano Futuro schools. In mid March we will start with the Norte and Eduardo Fion Schools.

We also got a ton of work completed in the new library...in fact just about everything. We are down to the little details, and once the windows are installed, it should be a done

## FEATURE PHOTO



deal. I thank all of the great donors that have helped us to get to this point, and now need the rest of you to give us a hand to get all the little details finished...so we still need funding for things like light bulbs, picture frames, paint, some plywood, outdoor tiles, and glass for some exhibits for some great Mayan artifacts that the local government has donated to the library. So help out as soon as you can so we can get this project open and running sometime in April!!!

In February, we had help from Katie, Tristan, Sean, Abbie, Damien, Hilary, Jon, Laura, Ed, Jenny, Siri, Lea, Debbie, Debbie, Ana, and a group from the Rural Literacy Project (Sue, Kim, Jane, and Ian).

We are still right on track to finish all construction for the new community library in March, and are now looking for donation to help furnish the new building. Donations will go to purchasing and making tables, chairs, framing posters, bookshelves, and a new card catalogue system. Please [Donate today](#) to help us finish and inaugurate this amazing project!!!

I thank each and every one of you for all of your support for this small but important project in Guatemala.

We hope to make 2007 even better and focus on using all the great things that we have created in San Andres, especially the ecological park and community library. Thanks to all of your help, we plan on inaugurating the library sometime in April 2007.

Matthew R. Peters  
Director  
[volunteerpeten@hotmail.com](mailto:volunteerpeten@hotmail.com)

## February Achievements

Work in February included hosting school groups in the ecological park and providing environmental education programs, planting and weeding in the park, english classes in local schools, installing the new floor in the library, making piñatas with local kids, and nightly library activities.

## What's in store for March and April...

March and April are our slow months, and we hope to focus most of our work on the park and detailed work is being done in the library. We will also be expanding our work with local schools this year. Semana Santa is the largest holiday in Guatemala and takes place the first week of April. The San Jose Town fair takes place the last week of March.

## Donate Today!

Help our program grow in 2007 by donating today or by joining the Volunteer PAYten club, which donates \$10 a month to our efforts. [Click here to donate](#), and all donations are fully tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

Your donations made to Volunteer Peten in 2007 will go to putting the finishing touches on the new community library in San Andres, management of the Nueva Juventud Ecological Park, and support of our environmental education and general education programs in local schools.

LOOK!! The new Library!

[see more 2007 photos](#)

## FEATURED EVENT

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[more information here](#)

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## Volunteer Petèn San Andrés, Petèn

April 2007

Dear Friends of Volunteer Petèn,  
I

### April 2007

Ahhh...it feels so good to have finished all the construction on the new library...and now the hard part begins...managing the monster that we created! The community is more than "freaked" by the new library, which is by far the most impressive building in the entire Peten. On opening night, over 300 community members flooded the new facilities...so now the real fun begins!

Semana Santa or Holy Week, took place from April 3rd through April 8th, and we took advantage of the holidays to inaugurate our new community library. Inoky and her family help out to get everything ready for the ceremony. See the new photos of the library and the inauguration party in [PHOTOS](#).

During the next month, we will be looking for aid to help us furnish the new library. As of now, we need 8 large tables, 42 chairs, glass to finish our large librarian desk, a new computer, 3 large metal shelves, and frames for posters and prints. If you are interested in donating to help us finish the new community library for San Andres please [click here](#). For more information on the history of the library project for San Andres, click here [Rural Literacy Project](#). (also see [www.ruralliteracyproject.org](http://www.ruralliteracyproject.org))

In March, we had help from Katie, Tristan, Sean, Abbie, Damien, Hilary, Jon, Laura, Jenny, Siri, Lea, and Debbie.

I thank each and every one of you for all of your support for this small but important project in Guatemala.

We hope to make 2007 even better and focus on using all the great things that we have created in San Andres, especially the ecological park and community library.

Matthew R. Peters  
Director  
[volunteerpeten@hotmail.com](mailto:volunteerpeten@hotmail.com)

### March Achievements

Work in February included hosting school groups in the ecological park and providing environmental education programs, planting and weeding in the park, english classes in local schools, installing the new windows in the library, and nightly library activities.

### What's in store for April and May...

#### FEATURE PHOTO



Opening ceremony of new library



[see more 2007 photos](#)

#### FEATURED EVENT

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#### PAST VOLUNTEERS

Please send us any photos you have of your experience in



April and may are the hottest and driest months in the Peten...so a lot of work will focus on protecting the park from forest fires. We have a ton of work to do getting the new library running properly and furnished.

## Donate Today!

Help our program grow in 2007 by donating today or by joining the Volunteer PAYten club, which donates \$10 a month to our efforts. [Click here to donate](#), and all donations are fully tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

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Guatemala to  
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WE ARE A 501c3 NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATION

## Volunteer Peten San Andrès, Peten

April 2006

### Dear Friends of Volunteer Peten,

The dry season is coming to an end...so they say...the trees are all dropping the last of their leaves and preparing new buds for the rainy season, and each afternoon the sky is becoming more and more ominous, full of thunder clouds and closer to that first big rain.

Construction of the new library is at its half way point, and all of the foundation and first story is now finished. We are expecting the second story floor to be done by mid

May, Leaving all the interior work for June and July. **!!We are still looking for funds !!** to help us with the second phase of the library (electric, furnishings, tiled floor, windows, doors, ceiling, etc.) If you are interested in donating to help us finish the new community library for San Andres please [click here](#). For more information on the history of the library project for San Andres, click here [Rural Literacy Project](#).

The new [Natural History Museum](#) for the Peten is now open to the public and hundreds of locals have already experienced a guided tour of the museum. Major attractions in the museum include an aquarium with local fish, lobsters and crabs...live turtles, and a live Boa Constrictor!! Exhibit rooms include Earth, Insects, Reptiles/Amphibians, Birds, Mammals, Night Life, and Fish/Water.

Volunteers are actively working on a number of projects including digging new trenches for the pond area, working in the gardens, building a new tree nursery, maintaining new animals and museum exhibits, and working in the library.

### FEATURE PHOTO



Inauguration day at the museum.

[see more 2006 photos](#)

### FEATURED EVENT

**Help fund our new community library.**

Our mega project for 2006 is the construction and furnishing of a brand new community library for San Andres. We have already received funds from the RURAL LITERACY PROJECT and are looking for matching funds to finish construction.



[more information here](#)

### HELP RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS

Forward this newsletter to all your family, friends,

During the next months, new projects will include building a town park and new school room for Ixhuacut, and we will continue to finish the main trail in the park and construct a municipal tree nursery in the park. If you would like to donate to any of these projects, please [click here](#).

I thank each and every one of you for all of your support for this small but important project in Guatemala, and we look forward to your support in 2006.

Matthew R. Peters  
Director  
[volunteerpeten@hotmail.com](mailto:volunteerpeten@hotmail.com)

### April Achievements

During April, Andre, Robin, Rebecca, Sarah, Ines, Sofia, Danielle, and Alex worked on a number of projects in the ecological park including painting the museum, teaching in the library, cleaning the park gardens, building a new busstop for San Andres, painting the health clinic in San Andres, teaching Sex Ed in the junior high, and starting a new tree nursery for the park. We are now entering our peak season for volunteers, and expect to have an average of 15 volunteers a week working in the ecological park, schools, and on the construction of the community library.

### What's in store for May and June...

In the end of May, we welcome back the Eagle Rock School from Colorado who will be working on varios projects in the town of Ixhuacut.

Projects for May and June will include inaugurating the museum and bringing all local children to see our finished product, finishing up the interpretive trail, the pond area, and the butterfly garden. We will start the municipal tree nursery, and be putting up the cement block for the walls of the library.

### Donate Today!

Help our program grow in 2006 by donating today or by joining the Volunteer PAYten club, which donates \$10 a month to our efforts. [Click here to donate](#), and all donations are fully tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

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## Volunteer Petèn San Andrés, Petèn

June 2006

Dear Friends of Volunteer Petèn,

### June 2006

The rainy season has begun as of mid-May, and we have had heavy rains most every day for the past few weeks. So far, this year is the wettest on record for the Peten and Guatemala, and we are only a few weeks into the rainy season (still 6 months to go!). So volunteers should definitely

### FEATURE PHOTO



Tours of  
our new  
museum!

[see more  
2006](#)

[photos](#)

### FEATURED EVENT

pack for rainy weather and be prepared for lots and lots of insects.

Construction of the new library is past its half way point, and all of the foundation, first story and second story foundations are done. We will spend the next few weeks getting to the roof, and then all the interior work begins.

!!We are still looking for funds !! to help us with the second phase of the library (electric, furnishings, tiled floor, windows, doors, ceiling, etc.) If you are interested in donating to help us finish the new community library for San Andres please [click here](#). For more information on the history of the library project for San Andres, click here [Rural Literacy Project](#).

In June, 6 members of the Eagle Rock School (2 teachers and 4 students) worked on two projects in the town of Ixhuacut and taught English classes to 4th, 5th, and 6th graders in the Escuela Norte. The two projects were painting and cleaning the Ixhuacut school and building a playgroud in the center of Ixhuacut. The playground work included building a bungalow, fencing in the area, leveling the area, and constructing and putting up a swing set, see-saws, and monkey bars.

The new [Natural History Museum](#) for the Petèn is now open to the public and hundreds of locals have already experienced a guided tour of the museum. Major attractions in the museum include an aquarium with local fish, lobsters and crabs...live turtles, and a live Boa Constrictor!! Exhibit rooms include Earth, Insects, Reptiles/Amphibians, Birds, Mammals, Night Life, and Fish/Water.

Volunteers are actively working on a number of projects including weeding and planting in the gardens, working on the Ixhuacut park, working on the new library, teaching English, and

During the next months, we will be putting all of our efforts into finishing the library, finishing the Ixhuacut park, and working in the ecological park. If you would like to donate to any of these projects, please [click here](#).

I thank each and every one of you for all of your support for this small but important project in Guatemala, and we look forward to your support in 2006.

Matthew R. Peters  
Director  
[volunteerpeten@hotmail.com](mailto:volunteerpeten@hotmail.com)

## [Photos from 2006!!](#)

### [New volunteers!](#)

We have a new crew of volunteers for these dry dry months. Right now we welcome [Melony](#), Sean, [Lana](#), Andrew, Rebecca, [Robin](#), [Anna](#), Alex, [Dave](#), [Linda](#), [Adam](#), and Marie. You can also write the [Eagle Rock School](#)

### [News from San Andres](#)

Not much new news in San Andres...the road is a mess as they are getting ready to pave it. Another internet will be opening up soon..or not...as the old internet has had lots of problems with its satellite.

### **Help fund our new community library.**

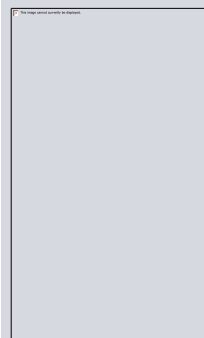
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## Funds needed for 2006

If you haven't already...JOIN the [Volunteer PAYTEN](#) club!!! Join the dozens of volunteers that have made a commitment to helping our projects in the Petén. Projects for 2005 included a new and improved Natural history museum, an incredible interpretive trail, school clean up projects, and restoring the old volunteer house. Your contribution of just \$10 a month can help us get all our 2006 projects done, which include the new community library and the municipal tree nursery.

If you would like a flyer or newsletter sent to you with more information on how to donate, please send me your home address ([volunteerpeten@hotmail.com](mailto:volunteerpeten@hotmail.com)).

## Past volunteers please respond!

I am currently revising and adding all new information to this website for 2006 and I am BEGGING all past volunteer that have digital photos of the project, park, San Andres, or whatever to send me some of your favorite photos via email. Please send photos to [volunteerpeten@hotmail.com](mailto:volunteerpeten@hotmail.com)

ALSO, any past volunteers are highly encourage to come and visit San Andres and the park to see all the progress since we started in January 2002. We'll have that new volunteer house set up for you so there will be plenty of space.

## **Donate Today!**

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July 2006

**Dear Friends of Volunteer Petèn,**

### July 2006

Summer is in full swing here in the Petèn and we have lots of volunteers participating in new and old projects. The Eagle Rock School built a new playground for the town of Ixhuacut during their stay last month, and current volunteers are putting the finishing touches and the landscaping of the park. This month we welcome 2 groups (one new and one old) to our project and they will be working on various school projects and park projects.

Construction of the new library has reached new heights and we are now starting to put on a roof!

!!We are still looking for funds !! to help us with the second phase of the library (electric, furnishings, tiled floor, windows, doors, ceiling, etc.) We have received around \$8,000 in donations for the library, and we still need to fundraise \$4,000 for the final stages of the project. If you are interested in donating to help us finish the new community

### FEATURE PHOTO



Eagle Rock School working in Ixhuacut

[see more](#)

[2006 photos](#)

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Volunteers are actively working on a number of projects including weeding and planting in the gardens, working on the Ixhuacut park, working on the new library, teaching English, and renovating local schools.

During the next months, we will be putting all of our efforts into finishing the library, finishing the Ixhuacut park, fixing up the Eduardo Fion Public School, and working in the ecological park. If you would like to donate to any of these projects, please [click here](#).

I thank each and every one of you for all of your support for this small but important project in Guatemala, and we look forward to your support in 2006.

Matthew R. Peters  
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## [Photos from 2006!!](#)

### New volunteers!

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Not much new news in San Andres...the road is a mess as they are getting ready to pave it. Another internet will be opening up soon...or not...as the old internet has had lots of problems with its satellite.

### Funds needed for 2006

If you haven't already...JOIN the [Volunteer PAYTEN](#) club!!! Join the dozens of volunteers that have made a commitment to helping our projects in the Petén. Projects for 2005 included a new and improved Natural history museum, an incredible interpretive trail, school clean up projects, and restoring the old volunteer house. Your contribution of just \$10 a month can help us get all our 2006 projects done, which include the new community library and the municipal tree nursery.

If you would like a flyer or newsletter sent to you with more information on how to donate, please send me your home address ([volunteerpeten@hotmail.com](mailto:volunteerpeten@hotmail.com)).

### Past volunteers please respond!

I am currently revising and adding all new information to this website for 2006 and I am BEGGING all past volunteer that have digital photos of the project, park, San Andres, or whatever to send me some of your favorite photos via email. Please send photos to [volunteerpeten@hotmail.com](mailto:volunteerpeten@hotmail.com)

ALSO, any past volunteers are highly encourage to come and visit San Andres and the park to see all the progress since we started in January 2002. We'll have that new volunteer house set up for you so there will be plenty of space.



[more information here](#)

#### HELP RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS

Forward this newsletter to all your family, friends, universities, colleges, high schools, local community groups, or whoever might be interested in our work in Guatemala.



#### CONTACT US

**Volunteer Petén**  
11 Kenny Drive Mohnton, PA  
19540  
Tel: (502) 5711-0040  
[View donation information](#)

#### PAST VOLUNTEERS

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## Donate Today!

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for more information, please visit [www.volunteerpeten.com](http://www.volunteerpeten.com)

WE ARE A 501c3 NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATION



*Volunteer Peten*  
*San Andrés, Peten*

August 2007

**Dear Friends of Volunteer Peten,**

### August 2007

First order of news...Hurricane Dean came and went leaving no damage behind in the Peten. Although schools were closed, all we suffered was a full day of drizzle.

In August, we have had help from Laura, Scott, Chris, Dani, Lisa, Hanna, Simon, Ed, Greg, Dorian, Shannon, Sarah, Reimi, Oliver, Hazel, Liz, Dinita, Vanessa, Sophia, Cristina, Sue H., Chelsea, Larry, Cool Chris, and Ivan.

The big event in August was setting up a Mayan Artifact Museum in the new library. Around 50 pieces were donated to the library by the local government, and all pieces have already been registered by the Guatemalan Institute of Anthropology and History (I.D.A.E.H.). Many volunteers have been continuing to teach in local elementary and secondary schools as they near the end of the school year. Some have been trapped in the "Librarian's Cave" putting all book information into a computer program. Team France has taken over the park, planting and clearing in the mornings, and studying butterflies in the afternoons. Sadly Team Canada has left, and lonely Team Ireland (a team of one now) will be trying to conquer the mighty fence project for the park. Sue Hart made another visit this year with a great group that focused on cleaning up an elementary school, as well as building furniture for the library.

The rain is more and more frequent...so if you are coming in August or September, be prepared for mud, mosquitos, and damp days.

Here is a list of the projects that we have done so far in 2007:

- New septic tank built for park
- New librarian desk/ mayan artifact display installed
- Furniture built for library
- Recleaning of butterfly garden

### FEATURE PHOTO



Mayan Archeological museum in the community library!



Birds-eye view of the librarian's area in the new library.

[see more 2007 photos](#)

### FEATURED EVENT

**Help us to prepare for our main project in 2008.**

In order to conserve and now preserve all of our efforts in the ecological park, it is essential to begin to construct a proper fence to keep out intruders, dogs, pigs, horses, etc. from illegally entering the park. For 2008, we have identified nearly 1 km. of proper fence that needs to be constructed in highly affected areas, and continue with the other 3 km. of fence in later years. Total cost for the 1km of fence will be around \$20,000 (our biggest project to date).

- Indoor and exterior painting of the new library
- Nightly activities in the community library
- Installment of windows and doors in the new library
- Hooking up electricity and lights in the new library
- Putting in the floor of the new library
- Providing environmental educational programs to 200 local students.
- Providing daily English classes in local schools.
- Trash clean up programs
- Sponsoring Valentine Day festivities and field trips
- Cleaning trails in park
- Cleaning and maintaining the Natural history museum
- Murals in the park
- Constant planting, weeding, and watering in the gardens.
- Sponsoring a local soccer team.
- Inauguration ceremony of new library.
- Youth Art exhibit in Library
- Bungalows at the beach
- Basketball court at beach
- Playground at north school
- Reforestation in park with Santa Elena Schools.

I thank each and every one of you for all of your support for this small but important project in Guatemala, and we look forward to your continued support.

Matthew R. Peters  
Director  
[volunteerpeten@hotmail.com](mailto:volunteerpeten@hotmail.com)

## August Achievements

Work in August included working on educational projects with the Basico School and Eduardo Fion, making furniture, cleaning the butterfly garden, planting in the park, and continued work on the new library.

## What's in store for September...

In September we will be testing out the new computer system for the library, setting up afterschool programs in the library and getting ready for school vacation programs, fixing the fence in the park, building a dock and beach area at the lake, and tons of clearing and cleaning in the park.

Guatemala Elections are less than two weeks away. There are currently 13 presidential candidates and 9 mayoral candidates for the town of San Andres. Election will be held on September 9th.

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Your donations made to Volunteer Peten in 2007 will go to putting the finishing touches on the new community library in San Andres, management of the Nueva Juventud Ecological Park, and support of our environmental education and general education programs in local schools.



[more information here](#)

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WE ARE A 501c3 NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATION



## Volunteer Peten San Andrés, Peten

September 2007

**Dear Friends of Volunteer Peten,**

### September 2007

September in Guatemala means heavy rains, Independence Day, and this year Elections!! On September 9th, presidential elections were held for the 4th time in recent history, with 17 parties running for president. The two top parties turned out to be UNE and Patriota, and a run-off election will be held on November 4 to determine a winner. In local elections, our new mayor will be Angel Boanerges Cano, who won by just over 100 votes. Hopefully he can install some much needed changes in the local government...we'll keep our fingers crossed.

In non-political news...our projects are still going forward, and we are now putting plans together for 2008 projects. The new library is going strong, and we nearly have all of the books and borrowers registered in our new computer system. Work in the ecological park still consists of lots and lots of weeding and machete clearing, and nearly all of the park is under reforestation management. School projects came to an abrupt halt, as they were shut down for 2 weeks due to elections (only in Guatemala). We started classes this week, but the end of the school year is only 2 weeks away, so it is hard to get the momentum back.

In September, we have had help from Oli, Simon, Hannah, Ling, Jeff, Lindsey, Noel, Roxana, Andrew, and Rebecca, who are constantly fighting with the mosquitoes and rain.

Here is a list of the projects that we are currently working on:

- Clearing reforestation rows in park
- Planting in park
- Management of trails in park
- Destruction and rebuilding bungalow in medicinal plant garden
- Building a hut to protect the Mayan stele in front of the library
- Computerizing all book and borrower information in library
- Teaching in elementary and secondary schools
- Teaching English at Yaxha National Park
- Fixing school desks and chairs

I thank each and every one of you for all of your support for this small but important project in Guatemala, and we look forward to your continued support.

Matthew R. Peters  
Director  
[volunteerpeten@hotmail.com](mailto:volunteerpeten@hotmail.com)

### **September Achievements**

listed above

#### **FEATURE PHOTO**



Field trip to El Peru-Waka archeological site.



Mayan artifacts in our museum  
[see more 2007 photos](#)

#### **FEATURED EVENT**

##### **Help protect our ecological park in 2008.**

In the past year, the local government has sold nearly all of the land north of the park and around the park to cattle ranchers. The Mayan-Biosphere reserve is now the greatest area of cattle ranches in Central America. The treats on our little reserve are now greater than ever, and we desperately need funding for 2008 to preserve our ecological park.



[more information here](#)

#### **HELP RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS**

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## What's in store for October...

Park director Mateo will be heading home to the US for 2 weeks in October (6th-20th), but all program areas will still be running. School ends around October 15th, and final exams will take place the week before school lets out. Work for October-December will focus mainly on the community library and ecological park.

## Donate Today!

Help our program grow in 2008 by donating today or by joining the Volunteer PAYten club, which donates \$10 a month to our efforts. [Click here to donate](#), and all donations are fully tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

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*Volunteer Peten*  
*San Andrés, Peten*

November 2007

**Dear Friends of Volunteer Peten,**

### November 2007

November is TOWN FAIR time in San Andres. Activities will kick off sometime around November 21st, and include dancing chatonas, beauty pageants, Ferris wheels, street food, disco techs, and cock-fighting. The fair will run through the first week of December. Our candidate for Princess of the Lake is Rubidia Medrano Cruz (8 years old), and will be representing the ecological park and library Nueva Juventud.

Graduation also takes place in November, and most schools will have ceremonies around November 10th. Schools will start again around the second week of January. One of our projects for Dec and January will be renovating schools and school furniture.

As for other projects, the few volunteers we now have (Carly, Natasha, Daphne, Josh) are working on a new bungalow for the medicinal plant garden and renovations to a local school. We are also trying to do as many activities as possible at the library during the evenings.

### FEATURE PHOTO



Cool Chris working as librarian



Group photo (Sept.)  
[see more 2007 photos](#)

### FEATURED EVENT

**Help protect our ecological park in 2008.**

In the past year, the local government has sold nearly all of the land north of the park and around the park to cattle ranchers. The Mayan-Biosphere reserve is now the greatest area of cattle ranches in Central America. The treats on our little reserve are now greater than ever, and we desperately need funding for 2008 to preserve our ecological park.

For all past volunteers, please check out and join our [FACEBOOK](#) page. I will be using this link to help connect potential volunteers with past volunteers.

Temperatures here in the Peten are dropping steadily, and we have been blessed with high temps around 28 C, and lows at night around 20 C.

Here is a list of the projects that we are currently working on:

- Clearing reforestation rows in park
- Planting in park
- Management of trails in park
- Destruction and rebuilding bungalow in medicinal plant garden
- Building a school room in the school Futuro.
- Computerizing all book and borrower information in library
- Fixing school desks and chairs

I thank each and every one of you for all of your support for this small but important project in Guatemala, and we look forward to your continued support.

Matthew R. Peters  
Director  
[volunteerpeten@hotmail.com](mailto:volunteerpeten@hotmail.com)

## September Achievements

listed above

## What's in store for December and 2008..

Work in December will focus on three areas 1) Cleaning and maintenance in the ecological park, 2) fixing desks and chairs for schools and repairs in schools, and 3) preparing the work site for construction of a the San Andres High School.

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