



Volunteer Petèn San Andrés, Petèn

June 2008

Dear Friends of Volunteer Petèn,

June 2008

For some reason, the work just keeps growing and growing. May was an extremely busy month for us. On May 11th, the new high school "Liceo Santa Cruz", was inaugurated, and it was quite the celebration. Live music, live go-go dancers, student plays, singers, and lots of food. Check out the [photos on our website](#). And again, our deepest thanks to B3: Builders Beyond Borders, who funded and helped to build this amazing new school.

The second half of May, we welcomed International Impact (a group of 10 volunteers from the University of Illinois) and Team Guatemala (a group of 9 from the University of Guelph). Both groups contributed to the construction of a new preschool for San Andres. They were able to put in the foundation and all the block up to the roof in under 3 weeks.

We also survived Tropical Storms Alma and Arthur, which both hit us at the exact same time. It rained for about 5 days straight.

Other volunteers that helped out in May were Daniel, Terra, Becky, Sam, Natasha, David, Sune, Jessica, Colleen, and Randall. In May, also welcomed back our historic volunteer Davey and wife ex-volunteer Summer who donated a movie theater to our library (dvd, projector, and speakers) as well as numerous books and posters for the library as well. Big Screen Surround Sound Movie Night takes place on Saturdays, and we kicked it off with Spiderman 3, and last week played Lion Witch and The Wardrobe.

So here's a brief list of ideas for 2008 projects: build a high school, build a preschool for San Andres, fix up another 200 desks for schools, keep the ecological park looking beautiful, teaching in schools, library projects (around 300 users on a daily basis), create a professional workshop in the park for municipal use, continue to

FEATURE PHOTO



Group at the new preschool



laying block at the new preschool



Inauguration of new High School

[see more 2008 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

Forward this newsletter to all your family, friends,

reforest areas in the ecological park, start planning for a Cultural Program and Facility for San Andres.

DONATIONS...a great way to start off 2008. As our project is getting more and more intense every year, so are our costs. Please try in anyway possible to help us out this year. WE DESPERATELY need funds to help us run our library programs and maintain the ecological park. And we are also looking for funds to help us establish a proper workshop for the community and construct a cultural center for San Andres.

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.

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

- Clearing reforestation rows in park
- Planting in park
- Building a Pre-School
- Computerizing all book and borrower information in library
- Management of trails in park
- Building a high school

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

Important San Andres News

It's all gone...no more Titos, no more Balvinos, fruit stand, etc...it has all been bulldozed down to make way for our new strip mall. Yeah! Sadly, the town looks much much better with all those shanty houses town down.

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.

Your donations made to Volunteer Peten in 2007 went 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.

universities, colleges, high schools, local community groups, or whoever might be interested in our work in Guatemala.

CONTACT US

Volunteer Peten
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



for more information, please visit www.volunteerpeten.com

WE ARE A 501c3 NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATION



Volunteer Peten *San Andrés, Peten*

August 2008

Dear Friends of Volunteer Peten,

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This August, Volunteer Peten helped to present San Andres with its first ever Theater Festival!! Four groups of local students wrote, acted in, and developed their own plays which were all presented to the town in August. The four plays were titled "San Andres 2050", "Vida de Perros (Dog life)", "Jugando Mama y Papa (Playing Mom and Dad)", y "Tradiciones (Traditions)". We will continue to work with these groups and try to form more groups to work with theater in San Andres.

We've had a great group for August...thanks to Sune, David, Jordan, Hannah, Sadaf, Emily, Rebecca, Matthew, Wanda, and Nick. We have been busy working in the ecological park, working on lots of new planting and trail work, as well as lots of work and projects in the library.

AND NOW??..construction is officially done for 2008, and we will be getting back to the park and back to reforestation, fence work, work in the museum, trails, etc. Also, with all the new activities in the library, we'll be working mornings, afternoons, and evenings just about everyday of the week.

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FEATURE PHOTO



old man mateo



San Andres Theater 2008



JD and the crew
[see more 2008 photos](#)

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

- Clearing reforestation rows in park
- Planting in park
- Computerizing all book and borrower information in library
- Management of trails in park
- Renovating the museum in the park

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

Important San Andres News

There are two new paved roads in town...one just happens to pass in front of the assistant mayor's house (which is nowhere near the main roads). The new commercial center has begun...who knows when it will end.

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 Petèn
San Andrès, Petèn

September 2008

Dear Friends of Volunteer Petèn,

September 2008

As the rainy seasons sets in, most of our work has been centered on working in the ecological park. This month, we completely re-vamed the trail system, lining all the trails with woodchips, stones, and snake plants. The landscaping around the pond is breathtaking and so is the crocodile that inhabits the pond. We have also taken down all the old chicken and duck houses, and are installing a complete new pool system for mallard ducks, geese, whistling-ducks, and muscovy ducks.

We've had a small but committed group in September...thanks to Sune, David, Hannah, Wanda, Nick, Odelle, and Mipsy. We have been busy working in the ecological park, and working on lots of new planting and trail work. FYI, Mateo (the director) will be in the US for the month of October. Inoky will be incharge of all projects in October.

We have a lot planned for 2009, and we are asking all past volunteers and donors to help support our 2009 Projects. As the ecological park and library projects grow, we desperately need sponsors to help pay the rising costs of electricity, maintainence, and materials for projects. In 2009, we will also be sponsoring and running a Natural Resource School in San Andres, and will need funding to purchase book, tools, and classroom teaching materials. We are also coordinating all activities and helping out with San Andres' Cultural Project "La Casa de Cultura". In addition to all that, we will still continue our construction projects in San Andres as well as continual help with local schools and education.

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FEATURE PHOTO



Duffy the Croc has grown!



New trail system throughout park.



Teaching in the Library
[see more 2008 photos](#)

FEATURED EVENT

Help protect our ecological park and support our Natural Resource School in 2009.

In 2009, we will be running a new Natural Resource School for high school aged students. This 3 year program will train locals in agriculture, forestry, and conservation. Students will study in the mornings and manage the ecological park in the afternoon, as well as start new ecological projects throughout the community.

[more information here](#)

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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

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Your donations made to Volunteer Peten in 2008 went to the construction of TWO schools for San Andres, The 8-room High School and the 3-room pre-school,

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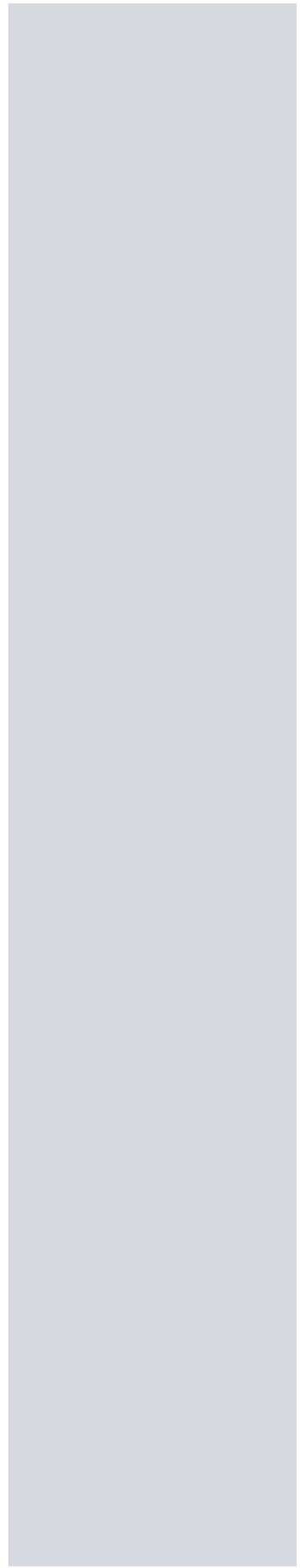
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