

*Welcome to the first edition of Friends of La Mariposa, a newsletter and outreach to our growing network that continues to expand worldwide. We really value your visit and invaluable participation in our efforts here in Nicaragua. We think of our guests as members of our community and this newsletter as an outlet to stay connected to our projects here at La Mariposa!*

## New Developments

### Land Appeal

Our newest endeavor is one very close to La Mariposa – in fact, we’ve been bordering it for years! The beautiful piece of land neighboring La Mariposa has an abundance of amazing flora and fauna, as well as an incredible view of the local landscape. Paulette aims to preserve this last remaining forested lot on the ridge, and by doing so will also relieve pressure on our current property. As the cost will be \$120,000, we’re asking for all the help we can get! We are attaching our new Funding Pack for your assistance. Any help offered toward this goal would be much appreciated!

### La Mariposa is now accommodating group travel!

The idea emerged after several student groups visited, successfully incorporating La Mariposa experience into their curriculum. We’re currently working on accrediting and creating a variety of classes that can be catered to the

interests of the visiting group. Paulette is eager to recommence teaching, and is working hard on the syllabi. We are currently offering a travel deal for groups, including those of a non-academic nature.



## Meet Juan!



Juan has been working at La Mariposa for 7 months now and has been an integral part of our kitchen staff and Mariposa family. Besides working in La Mariposa, Juan teaches dance, including the traditional Nicaraguan dance, to the children in his neighborhood, lends his cooking talents to the community, and plans to recommence his studies in the future. When he approached the Mariposa for help to build a roof for his house, we gladly stepped in to help. With a roof, Juan could finally live independently, without relying on the charity of his brothers and friends. Juan has essentially been on his own since age seventeen, when his mother passed away, his siblings had left home, and his father was absent due to battles with alcoholism. He has worked a number of jobs, as a teacher, a cook, selling food in Managua, etc. We're glad we can help him realize his goal of self-sufficiency and independence with consistent work and a completed home of his own!

## Bee Ready!

We are ready to begin a bee project in the near future! Franklin, who works in the town hall on rural environmental issues, approached La Mariposa with an interest in building a beehive project in a community west of the eco-hotel, called Palo Sol. With our funding the hope is to provide protective bee keeping suits, bee boxes to store hives, wax panels, the bee colony, a machine to process honey and barrels to hold the honey. Pedro, a gardener and local bee expert who has so diligently worked to build the gardens at our afterschool program, will be responsible for training the local community to work as bee keepers. This project is fundamental in building up the bee population, a species that is rapidly going extinct on a global basis, and for providing sustainable employment to the local community. We are soliciting your help and donations so we can get started. Check out the website for more details!

## Updates on our Projects

All of our on-going community projects are still running successfully, thanks largely to the generous efforts of past, current and future guests! Check out our projects page on the website and for regular project updates, be sure to read our blog at:

[www.mariposaspansh-school.com/projects](http://www.mariposaspansh-school.com/projects)

[www.mariposa.wordpress.org](http://www.mariposa.wordpress.org)

## Santiago Garden Project

Spear-headed by former guest, Michael Richardson, with the ongoing efforts of our intern, Clare, La Mariposa is working with the municipality of La Concepcion to fund a community garden project in the barrio of Santiago. Twenty-six families are receiving ten by ten meter plots for organic vegetable gardens. The municipality is facilitating water access to the beneficiaries and



we are providing compost, living fences, seeds and training to them. As the families work together and share the experi-

ence with their community, we hope a more sustainable form of agriculture will rapidly grow.

## Santiago Pila Project

We are in the process of cleaning and repairing a giant community "pila," or concrete water reciprocal in the barrio of Santiago. The pila collects rainwater, which the community uses for a variety of needs (apart from drinking) well into the dry season. The populations of fish that live in the pila are an excellent food source for local consumption as well. However, the pila has not been cleaned in years, so



the majority of residents have subsequently stopped using it. In the past month, La Mariposa has joined forces with Pedro, a community organizer, to clean the pila as the rainy

season arrives. After pumping out the water manually, we are repairing the bottom just in time for the rain to fall! Please see our blog for pictures and updates!

## Youth Sports Project

We are working closely on sports projects with our Spanish teacher and founder of the local youth soccer league, Marlin. We have enlisted the help of another Spanish teacher, Kinema, who



also understands the benefits sports provide to youth and children. Check out the blog for more details on recent developments. Sports in San Juan are growing exponentially in the next few weeks as we host another tournament for boys of the local primary school, open up a soccer league for girls, and another league for teenage boys ages 15-18. At this rate, we'll have all community groups out in the field every weekend! We still accept donations of sports equipment for use in the leagues and also as prizes for tournaments – see our donations page for more details!

## Animal Rescue Project

Holly continues to surprise us! Her first litter was a healthy ten puppies. Her second pregnancy produced only one -- the famous, giant Toto. This time around we were certain she had only four puppies in her belly, and of course we were surprised for the third time! We currently have eleven round puppies parading around La Mariposa, making the Mariposa canine population a substantial eighteen!



*Thanks so much for your support!*

We are also soliciting the help of all our friends (and their friends) for both our ongoing and upcoming projects. Foremost, we're trying to raise funds to buy, conserve, and sustainably develop the neighboring land, mentioned above. For further details please see our "Land Appeal Letter" on the website. ([www.mariposaspanishschool.com/land-appeal-letter.html](http://www.mariposaspanishschool.com/land-appeal-letter.html))

Additionally, we are seeking support to get rolling with our Bee Project, and starting to develop a future Veterinary Clinic Project. Keep checking in with the website for more details!

We have just created a Fundraising Pack (and a School Fundraising Pack version as well), to help you help us!!

Check out the PDF attachments in this email for great ways to support the people of La Concepcion, while sharing your Nicaraguan experience with your own communities!

One of our favorite ideas is a Nicaragua-themed dinner party, and here is an original recipe from our cocineras to get you started!

### *La Mariposa's Salsa Verde*

(All blended to perfection!)

- Olive Oil • 3 large spoonfuls
- Garlic • 1 head, chopped
- Onion • 1 small onion, chopped
- Pepper • 3 medium sized, chopped
- Mustard • 1 small spoonful
- Honey • 1 small spoonful
- Chile • 5 large
- Parsley • 1 handful
- White Vinegar • 1 spoonful



*Please be sure to check in our website and blog for our full project updates and goings on at La Mariposa!*

Website: [www.mariposaspanishschool.com](http://www.mariposaspanishschool.com)  
Blog: [www.mariposaschool.wordpress.com](http://www.mariposaschool.wordpress.com)