

***"The official Newsletter from Costa Rica"***

***Pura Vida...!!!!***

The logo for Projects Abroad, featuring the text "Projects Abroad" in a dark blue font, with a stylized grey airplane icon flying over the word "Abroad".

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### **English Fest at the Technical Artistic High School, in Liberia Guanacaste.**

Projects Abroad had the honor of being the special guest of this activity which is celebrated every year in the month of October. It is organized by the English department, students and since four years ago the volunteers are an essential part of this, too.

This year, Charlotte Buck from the United States and Katharina Lenz from Germany had the opportunity to organize plays with the students and help them with the language. Both had the opportunity to participate in this by dancing an English rock & roll song joined three more students. It was so nice... J Charlotte expressed her emotions to everybody who was there saying "...I have experience such a nice moments with you, guys. You are the most amazing people."

The Fest was from 9:00 am to 3:00pm. All of the high school was participating the principal, Max Arias (English assessor), two representatives of Projects, and some English teachers from other educational institutions and eight of our volunteers as well. Three of them were the judge to choose the best singer, Taylor Tomasso from United States, Fredrick Junghus from Australia and Alexandra Power from United Kingdom. They were chosen to deliver the big price because they are native speakers, English as a first language. Mayra, who is one of the English teachers at the high school, said she felt more comfortable and glad that they accepted it because years ago it was done by the teachers and students complained about preferences.

As this institution has the artistic modality, students showed real talent through dancing, plays, singing and more. Thank you to all of the volunteers in the program who were part of this activity.





## **The Columbus Day”**

The traditional Columbus Day were in the trunk of memories and gave way to the Culture Day, which marks the ethnic diversity of our countries history. The existence of the American continent was ignored (by Europeans) for the longest time, but an expedition undertaken by Columbus allowed its "discovery", conquest and colonization by Europeans.



This discovery was made on October 12, 1492. However, Columbus assumed he had come at the expense of Asia, in India of those times. So the native inhabitants of these continent inhabitants were called "Indians". As explorers penetrated their coasts, rivers, lands, they realized that it was actually a New World Day "Race". For years, every October 12 is celebrated as the day that Columbus discovered America, it was understood that this fact had contributed to the greatness and the glory of the Spanish. Also, 1492 is an important date because that year the Spanish expelled the Arabs from their lands. This fact ended the yoke of Arab domination, whose presence in Spain lasted eight centuries. Cultures Day, the arrival of the Spanish in the New World 502 years later changed direction. This occurred in 1994 when the law was enacted, Cultures Day. Thus, the traditional Columbus Day became obsolete and ushered in a whole new meaning. The same is based on tolerance, ethnic diversity prevalenciente recognized in America and not deny the heritage of Spain, the legacy of the indigenous and the African contribution, among others. Different cultures and ethnicities were approved and Cultures Day definitively clarified that the roots of Costa Rica, like the rest of Latin American countries, stems from three interacting since 1492. They are the Spanish, Indian and African -Caribbean that made us, though some ignorant, into a multicultural and multiet.

The establishment of this celebration also served to recognize that, since the middle of last century, our country has benefited from European immigration, American, Asian, Hebrew and Arabic, among others.

### **Mexico vs. Costa Rica, A Historic Win**

The Team of Costa Rica turned The National Stadium into a fortress during the most recent CONCACAF final towards Brazil 2014. With a yield of 100% at home, the team ended as following: after accumulating 5 wins, 10 goals for and 2 against. According to the coach Jorge Luis Pinto, adding to the winning mentality of the players, the key was that the fans felt comfortable and made the teams that on the field. It was demonstrated, once again, in the match against Mexico. From the entrance of the teams and the singing of the National Anthem the "Ticos" made it clear that "the house is respected" and the players did it, triumphing 2-1. Despite the joy that developed in the entire country after the victory over the Aztecs, Pinto was clear to ensure that the "Sele" can still improve a lot, mostly away from home, thinking about what will happen in Brazil 2014.

Good Job Guys!!! After 21 years, The Team could win against MEXICO and "AT HOME".





### **Soccer Match, Volunteers at Soccer Center, October 10th**

On Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup>, volunteers at the program had a nice soccer match together in the soccer center, located in Liberia. The game was from 5 to 6 pm, one hour of fun, the boys as players and most of the girls making cheers from where they were sitting. Thank you to all our volunteers who were part of this social time! Hope to have more soon.



## **Social Event at the Ice Cream Shop Gelato Italiano, October 21st**

On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> volunteers joined at the social event at the Italian Gelato, ice cream shop located in Liberia. We met at 5 pm, we were around t 1 hour sharing a nice time together. Thanks to all of this excellent group for being there.



## Conservation Report

These months have been very rainy in Barra Honda, but really in Costa Rica there it is either winter or summer and the rainy season lasts from May to November with little or no rain during the months of December to April. While the country's average rainfall is about 100 inches, some mountainous areas the rainfall can reach up to 25 feet per year. It is important to note that the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica is relatively unique and has its own microclimate. With trade winds keeping the weather hot and humid most of the year with no real dry season and it rains very often.



In this month we worked on building a bio-garden. The bio-garden are units constructed wetlands for wastewater treatment, especially those who come from a home, but are also used in larger scale projects such as communities, residential, industrial or hotels. This bar soon is choosing deep ecological blue flag for protected areas.

Another project that we have initiated in sling bar is sampling permanent plot sand and permanent plots. Natural forests are considered the most important ecosystems for conservation and that provide a wide range of services and benefits to society, showing t its biodiversity, its storage capacity and carbon capture. They also assist in building strategic habitat connectivity in populations of biological corridors,



Barra Honda has worked to preserve their forest ecosystems survival managing natural forests, protecting the rich biodiversity and it contains. This is expressed with the results that are reflected in the existence of national forest coverage of 52%, and 27% of the country included in protected areas.



Because of this there is a great need for monitoring programs in an attempt to identify the various problems that today threaten the conservation of natural forests, including climate change and human action, which causes lot of consequences natural resources.

Establishing Permanent Sampling Plots in the PNBH is of paramount importance to understand the structure and composition of the forest and help to establish a baseline on forest ecosystems for survey and monitoring the existence of ecosystems in the park. With the contribution of volunteers in the Barra Honda National Park they have begun with permanent plots for monitoring of flora and fauna, this monitoring is to give over one hundred years, so that we will be able to measure along one hundred years in the forest changes as well as the consequences of their alterations.



And finally, we are finishing working in our bio digester; we are working in the trails around it.

See you soon

**Anthony Ruiz**

**Conservation Manager**