



Alma Libre Books

Puerto Morelos, Mexico



Beach Reads

News from Alma Libre Bookstore - Puerto Morelos, Mexico

Year 02 Issue #6 - May 2004

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News From Puerto Morelos

Bookstore is Closing for the Season May 29!



Winter may have seemed long where you were, but in Puerto Morelos the season just zipped by! What a great time we had. A lot more people discovered the quiet charm of beauty of Puerto Morelos this year, and we were happy to see a lot of new and familiar faces in the bookstore.

We'll be closing the store on May 29 and heading back North. This enables us to go back to Calgary and visit family & friends, and most importantly, collect some more books for the 2004/05 season!

This is a good opportunity for area residents to make any **special orders** that we can bring back from Canada & the US. You can also request that we look out for certain books for you, no deposit

or obligation required. It's a good time as well to stock up for those long, hot, lazy days of summer. Books seem to read quicker in a hammock!

Please note our hours have changed. We are now closed Sundays & Mondays. Our hours are now Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. If these hours do not work for you, please contact us and we'll try to work something out.

Joanne & I would like to thank you for a fun second year. We have learned a lot from you and we can't wait to come back for another busy winter.

Special thanks to those of you who have written to us with compliments and suggestions for this newsletter. We are now sending this to more than 500 email addresses around the world and we know it gets forwarded to many more mailboxes. Drop us a line!

Hasta Pronto! *Rob & Joanne*

FREE!

Free Gift From Alma Libre

For those of you still stuck up North, bring a small piece of Puerto Morelos to your home or office with our new Puerto Morelos Wallpaper. Beautiful of course and practical too with a May and June Calendar built right in. This month's wallpaper is a view of the beach near Villas Playasol.

We'll have new pictures available for download every month!

Pick your wallpaper size:

[1024 x 768](#) [800 x 600](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR WALLPAPER INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS](#)



Fishing Tournament

The Port Captain slowly raises his starter's pistol over his head, high into the air. He squeezes the trigger and the gun sounds. Suddenly over 100 hundred fishing boats roar to life as they throttle forward for the start of the "Torneo de Pesca Deportiva", the annual fishing tournament held the last weekend of May in Puerto

Morelos.

Heading into its 15th year, the tournament is held in honour of Ceasar Martin Rosado, Mayor of Puerto Morelos during the late 1950's and early 1960's. He was one of the founders of the town and his passion for fishing was so great that he became the best fisherman in the area. He was happily shared his gift, spending many hours teaching the young people of the town how to fish. Unfortunately he passed away just before the first tournament was held, but this annual event lives on in his honour.



We sat down with Emilio Munoz Rodrigo the Vice President of the tournament to learn more about the competition. Competitors vie for cash and trophies while trying to catch Blue Marlin, White Marlin, Pez Vela, Dorado, Wahoo, Tuna, Carito, Sierra and Barracuda. After the fish are caught they are weighed back at the dock and awarded points based on the type of fish and its weight. Totals are then given to each boat. The boat with the most points after two days of competition wins. Emilio points out that the tournament is not about winning, but more of a social event for the whole community.

Emilio tells us that there have only been two Blue Marlins caught in the history of the tournament. The largest caught by Elizabeth Rosado the 1st woman to ever win the tournament. She fought for more than 6 hours to land a 105kg Blue Marlin.



If you're interested in participating in this years "Torneo de Pesca Deportiva" it will take place May 28th, 29th and 30th. Registration begins two weeks prior at Pelicanos Restaurant located in the main town square in Puerto Morelos. To enter you need a boat, Boat Captain and crew. Events begin Friday the 29th with the Captains meeting; fishing begins Saturday morning at 8:00am, with all boats back by the deadline of 5:00pm. Saturday night there is a dance in the main town square. Sunday's fishing begins at 7:00am with boats back at 3:00pm. The points are then tabulated and prizes are awarded. But no one goes home empty handed; all participants receive two cases of beer per boat and dinner for them and their families.

Last year we were lucky enough to observe the tournament first hand. It was truly amazing to see the hundreds of boats speed out into the water at the start of the day. The normally quiet Puerto Morelos was filled with excitement the whole weekend. Even if you are not a fisherman make the trip to Puerto Morelos the last weekend in May for this annual event.

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News Briefs

Another newsletter issue and yet another new restaurant in Puerto Morelos. This one is a "**Cocina Economica**". Concina Economicas are inexpensive restaurants with tasty local food. It's located on Avenue Ninos Heroes, just north of the police station, beside the little blue house. It's called "**Loncheria Mimi**". We have a doctor's office now in Puerto Morelos. **Dr. Carlos Taboada** has opened up an office in Hostel Valsa,

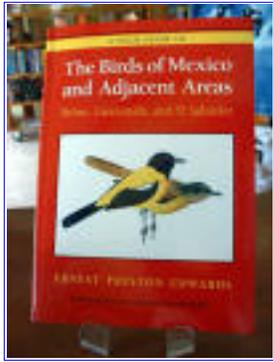


that's across the street from the Hotel Inglaterra. Dr. Carlos speaks English very well. Also across from the hotel is a new **garden centre**. A good place to see the plants that grow inside your house up North growing outside. Speaking of **Hotel Inglaterra**, it's sporting a smart new lobby, a new sign, new furniture and new staff. Change of plans: the new restaurant beside Cafe de Amancia will now be a Mexican restaurant, not a Lebanese restaurant as we reported last month. Check out this month's **SAC-BE** newspaper for more about the Puerto Morelos Fishing Tournament and other fishing opportunities on the Mayan Riviera. As usual it has great maps of Akumal, Puerto Aventuras and the coast. **Go Flames Go!** You can take the kids out of Calgary, but you can't take the Calgary out of the kids. We've been glued to our internet radio or spending late nights at Loco's Bar watching our Calgary Flames on the big screen. Hockey and palm trees can go together! Current Exchange Rates (In Puerto Morelos) USA Dollar 11.10 CDN Dollar 8.00

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This Just In! New Books & Products at Alma Libre

Books! Know Your Mexican Wildlife.



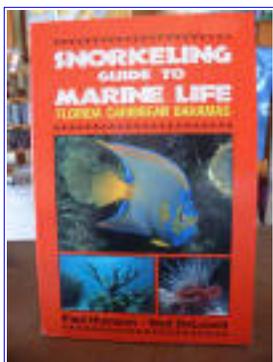
The Birds of Mexico and Adjacent Areas by Ernest Preston Edwards

This is the best book to identify all the birds in the Yucatan. It features more than 850 species in a convenient, easy to carry guide. **We now have the hardcover edition of this book in stock for the same price as the paperback edition. You save \$8 off Amazon.com's hardcover price!**



Maya Nature: An Introduction to the Ecosystems, Plants and Animals of the Mayan World

At last we have found a book that covers the unique life that you will find only in the Maya world. Featuring 196 color photographs of the flowers, birds, invertebrates, reptiles and amphibians, and mammals found in Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. Many are on the endangered species list. The photographer & author, Thor Janson, has taken almost impossible shots of various animals. An absolutely beautiful book we are proud to have in the shop. Excellent souvenir & keepsake of your trip.



Snorkeling Guide to Marine Life by Paul Humann & Ned DeLoach

The best guide to identify what lives in the Caribbean Sea. Features 280 colour photographs of everything you might see on your next snorkeling trip including fish, coral and plants. Also includes valuable tips about which plants and animals should be approached with caution, how to treat stings, and other interesting facts.

Postcards! We have the largest selection of postcards of Puerto Morelos, and they are all exclusive to Alma Libre. We know because we make 'em!

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Mexico Facts

Some photos for you this month...



Cactus Flower

The cactus near the square is covered with blooms! Unfortunately for us, it only blooms at night so it is difficult to get a good picture, but it is just spectacular.

Old Meets New

Here we see a classic Mariachi, with a twist. It's difficult to spot in the picture, but he's showing off his tongue stud!

Pictured with the Mariachi is our friend Victor, who runs the helpful Cancun Valet company, which can deliver groceries, cell phones, liquor, sports equipment and more to your condo, saving you from having to spend any of your precious vacation in the supermarket.

www.cancunvalet.com



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In Memory



On April 28, 2004 our friend Eugene Hannon passed away in Great Barrington, MA. Gene was our next-door neighbour in Puerto Morelos.

Every morning we would wake to the sound of his joyful whistling and the sound of his blender as he worked to perfect the tropical smoothie. All this took place after he took his long morning walk on the beach, according to him this was to make sure that the sand and the ocean were still meeting properly. He cheerily greeted us every morning by declaring "it's another beautiful morning in Puerto Morelos."

We admired Gene's love of life and his sense of fun. We'll miss our neighbour and friend.

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Just a reminder that we are in our low season hours now. That is Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 am until 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. We are closed Sunday & Monday.

Our hours are always posted on the front page of our website at www.almalibrebooks.com.



We will close the store May 29th, returning in October.

We take trades every day, so our selection is constantly changing. If you are planning a trip down, why not bring some recent bestsellers to trade and check out our store.

We look forward to seeing you in Puerto Morelos!

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Beach Reads is the official newsletter of Alma Libre Bookstore in Puerto Morelos Mexico. It is mailed directly to your mailbox if you request it. Beach Reads is published on a sporadic, seemingly random basis...but it is supposed to be approximately monthly during the season at Puerto Morelos. The season is November until after Easter. We do our best to publish it regularly...but the beach is so pretty...

Our website is located at www.almalibrebooks.com Our store hours are always on the home page.

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This is Year #2, Issue #6. May 2004.

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