

THE SAN PEDRO SUN VISITOR GUIDE

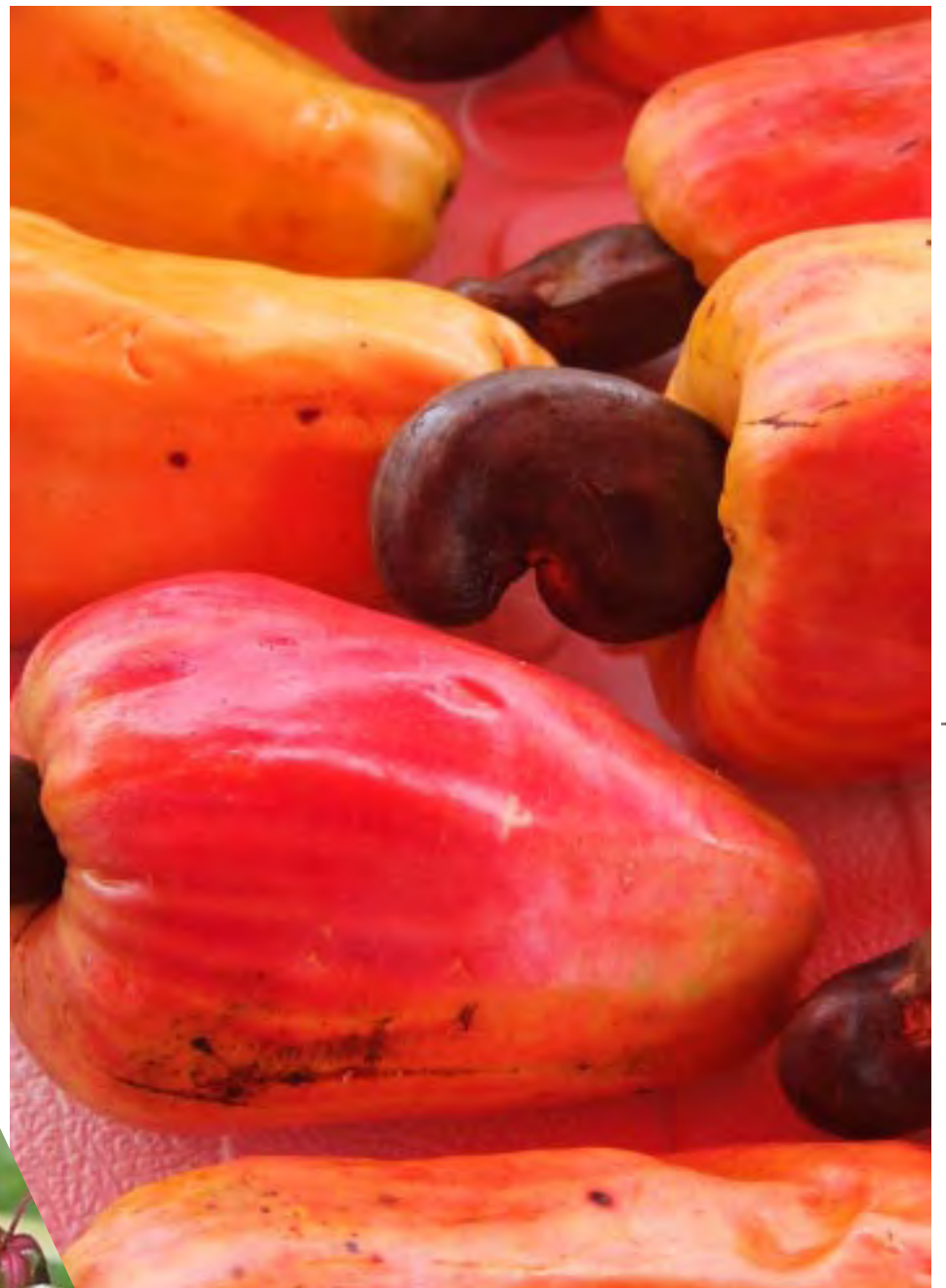
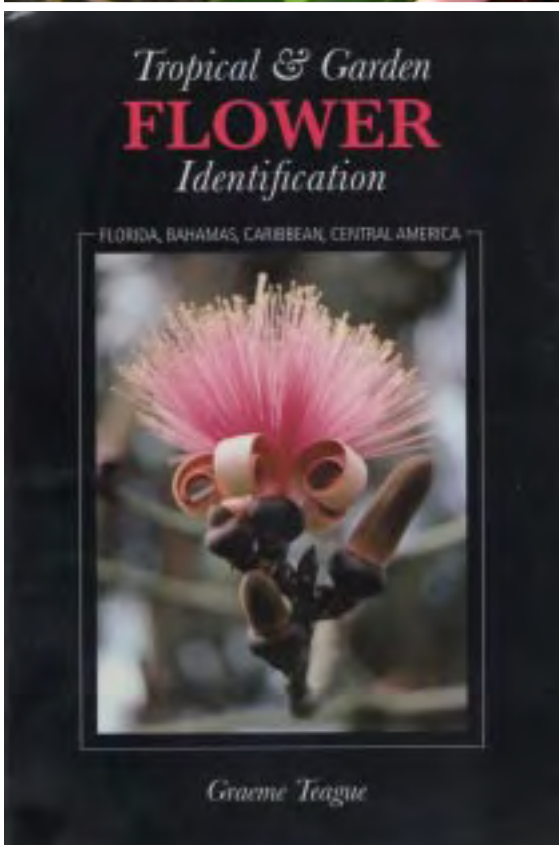


May 10, 2007

FREE

The Island Newspaper
Ambergris Caye, Belize
Central America

Ever wondered about those unique tropical plants? Presenting a great new guide to ***TROPICAL & GARDEN FLOWER IDENTIFICATION!***



Plus, Crooked Tree celebrates it's native fruit, the Cashew, at the ***15TH ANNUAL CASHEW FEST!***



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Greetings to my visiting friends



On behalf of the people of San Pedro Town, I extend a warm welcome to all visitors arriving to our shores. I assure you that your trip to “La Isla Bonita” will be no ordinary vacation. Our island is famous for its rich cultural diversity, where Mestizos, Creole and Garinagu blend to form a unique encounter. While here, I encourage you to explore the Caribbean Sea and find Belize’s abundant treasures. Hol Chan Marine Reserve and Shark-Ray Alley are just two of the many spots where you can enjoy our coral reef for-

mation and abundant and breathtaking sea life. San Pedro is also home to world-class fishing and scuba diving.

For the more adventurous, “La Isla Bonita” offers a wide array of water sports and for those looking to get a glimpse of the mystical world of the Maya, these historical ruins are just a short expedition away. You will also be able to discover Belize’s vast cave

systems and many natural sanctuaries that are home to our country’s unique flora and fauna. Whether you are spending your honeymoon at an exclusive resort or looking for an adventurous, yet romantic escape, San Pedro is surely the place to be. I invite you to explore our home and see the many wonders it has to offer.

We welcome you with open arms. Bienvenidos a San Pedro!

Elsa Paz, Mayor,
San Pedro Town

Where did you read your San Pedro Sun?

Where did you take your *San Pedro Sun* & Visitor Guide?
Take a photo of you and the paper and send it to us at:
spsun@sanpedrosun.net



The *San Pedro Sun* rises to new heights (12,000 feet) at Taos Ski Valley, New Mexico! **Irmin Wehmeier** (5 time visitor to San Pedro) and his side kick **Maria Luisa Byers-Alexander** take a break from a fun day of hitting the slopes to read *The San Pedro Sun*.



Maria and her Mom, **Laury Alexander** (both 1st time visitors to San Pedro) enjoying a rest stop at the top of Lift #2 - 12,000 ft above sea level, Taos Ski Valley, Taos, New Mexico.

Photos taken in unique and unusual places are preferred. Be sure to identify who is in the photo and where the photo was taken. Don't forget to include your names and what you were doing.

The San Pedro Sun is mailed everywhere.

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Receive *The San Pedro Sun* & *Visitor Guide* weekly in your mailbox. 26 ISSUES (six months) US, Canada: \$50 U.S. Domestic: \$50 BZ. 52 ISSUES (one year) US, Canada: \$90 U.S. Domestic: \$90 BZ.(Other locations vary.)
More foreign subscribers than any newspaper in Belize!

THE 15TH ANNUAL CASHEW FEST!



Incredible creativity: wooden cashew souvenirs were on sale.

The Cashew Festival, traditionally held in the first weekend in May each year, celebrates Crooked Tree's favorite product and local village life. There is live music, consumption of a variety of delicious Caribbean dishes, lots of local games and the telling of stories; Cashew Fest 2007 was a real indulgence for tourists and locals alike.

Held last weekend, the trip to the mainland took *The San Pedro Sun* on a road trip where all signs pointed a quaint little village called "Crooked Tree" in the Belize District. A short 33-mile trip north of Belize City, sandwiched by two lagoons and topped by a few creeks lays

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Fresh cashew fruit and home-made wines were just a few of the foods offered.

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SHARKS

Cashew Fest!

Continued from Page 3



The rhythmic sounds of Mr. Peters and his Boom and Chime band lent to the festive air of Cashew Fest.

this sleepy Creole village of narrow sandy lanes lined with cashew trees. To get the “low down and high ups” of what to do in the village is easily accessible through the Visitor’s Center conveniently located smack dab at the entrance of the village.

A visit to this little jewel will amaze anyone. The sight of huge mango, bread fruit and cashew trees, to name a few, are as old as the village itself. The scents emanating from the various fruits permeate through the air at the fruits’ various seasons. From the end of April and throughout May, Crooked Tree Village smells of cashew fruits. Soil testing in different parts of Belize show that Crooked Tree has the best soil for growing cashews. In freak storms when they are laden with fruits, they topple over and still keep growing.

The cashew fruit comes in yellow, red, and some are even a hybrid of both bright colors. When the fruit is ripe, it’s very sweet and it is comprised about 75% juice. The nut, attached on the outside of the fruit, contains a toxic acid in its outer shell. Crooked Tree Village proudly produces various by-products of both the fruit and nuts. Villagers produce fine wines from the fruit, as well as, jams, jellies,

juices, vinegar, preserves, syrups and lately, pastries. Fudge with cashew nuts as well as cookies and cakes are among some of the pastries which are prepared.

The nut is a more lengthy process one which requires a certain

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Belize Rural North UDP Standard Bearer, Edmond Castro, led a promising speech for an “even bigger, brighter” 2008 Festival celebrating Crooked Tree’s organic Cashew harvest.



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Cashew Fest!

Continued from Page 4



An abundance of Cashew jellies, jams, cakes, cookies, fudge, syrup, vinegar, wines, nuts and fruits were on sale at the festival. Also on sale were fruit wines.

amount of patience. It is roasted over a blazing fire of resinous Caribbean Pine, after which it is broken out of its outer shell and finally each nut is baked in an oven or on fire coals, in a baking drum. It is a very time consuming and tiresome job so cashews will never be cheap.

During the dry season, the lagoons shrink in size creating a high concentration of fish and thus a banquet feast for thousands of birds, including the famous jabiru stork. No matter what time of year, however, a trip to Crooked Tree yields a pleasant experience with friendly, local people and natural beauty.

Cashew Fest all started with one man's vision ... one man who thought to himself that his village could potentially be self sustaining. It is this one dream that drove Rudolph Crawford to send several businesses in the United States of America bags of cashew nuts. A businessman from Arkansas, tasted the nuts, found them to be excellent and contacted the then Chairman of Crooked Tree Village. Through both their efforts, the cashew nuts have slowly been exported to the US. Unfortunately, it hasn't been enough to be a livelihood for the entire village and that is something that together

Continued on Page 14





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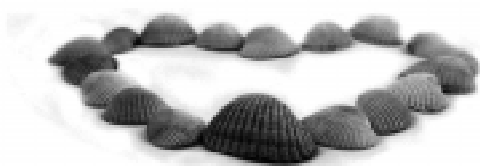
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Menu selections include:
Jerk Seared Sea Scallop Crouton,
Smoked Oyster Bruschetta,
Spinach Pesto Goat Cheese Salad,
Rib-Eye Steak Argentino, Almond Nut Crusted Grouper,
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Belize Tourism Board - 223-1910.

Belize Tourism Industry

Association (BTIA) - 227-5717.

San Pedro Tourist Guide

Association 226-2391.

IMPORTANT #s

Emergency 911

Medical Emergency: 226-3231

Crimestoppers 800 922-TIPS

Police 226-2022

Fire 226-2372

Wings of Hope - Medical emergency air ambulance. Phone: 223-3292.

Lions Health Clinic - 226-4052; emergencies 600-9071 or Hours: Mon. - Fri., 8am to 8pm; Sat., 8am - noon.

Los Pinos Clinic 602-6383 and 226-2686.

Dr. Lerida Rodriguez: 226-2197 or cell 620-1974.

San Pedro Chiropractic Clinic 226-4695

Hyperbaric Chamber - 226-2851, Dr.

Otto Rodriguez - 600-0287 or 226-2854.

Antonia Guerrero - 600-5475 or 206-

2152. Eleazar Portillo - 610-4560 or

226-3195.

San Pedro Polyclinic II - 226-2536.

8-12 and 2-5, Mon. to Fri. Emergen-

cies 226-2555/2918 or 606-3864.

Ambergris Hopes Clinic - 226-2660,

Emergencies: 606-2316

US Embassy - 822-4011

Canadian Consulate - 223-1060

Mexican Embassy - 223-0193

Guatemalan Embassy - 223-3150

Honduran Embassy - 224-5889

San Carlos Medical (MD & Dentist

Services) - 7:30am - 9:00pm, 226-2918

Church Services

San Pedro Roman Catholic Church

Sun. Mass: 9 a.m. English; 11 a.m.

Children's; 7:30 p.m. Spanish; Sat. Con-

fessions 5-7 p.m; Mass or Communion

Service every night at 7:30 p.m.

Living Word Church Service Sun.

10:45 a.m. Bible study Mon. 7:30 p.m.

We do Christian charity work. 226-2950.

Assembly of God Church on

Angel Coral St. T-W-St.-Sn. at 7:30 p.m.

Lighthouse Christian Radio - 101.3

FM. 226-4673, Cor. Buccaneer &

Pescador Drive.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter

Day Saints - Sunday Service: 9:30 am,

Wednesday Scripture Study 7:00 pm. 17

Lagoon St. (between the bakery and the

bridge).

San Pedro Community Church - meets

Sundays at 10a.m. at the Medical Uni-

versity of the Americas building. Sun-

day school available for children. All Are

Welcome.

Miscellaneous

The Lions Club of San Pedro relies on

income from its Friday and Saturday Night

BBQ to support the needy community. Help

a great cause -have dinner with us!

Green Reef A non-profit organization

dedicated to the promotion of sustainable

use and conservation of Belize's marine

and coastal resources. greenreef@btl.net

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San Pedro AA - 226-4464, 600-9061

Saga Society A non-profit "humane so-

ciety" to address the stray cat and dog

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CARE BELIZE - Children's Special-

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SP Town Library - 206-2028



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SUNRISE REALTY - Land, homes, businesses, condos and investment properties. Call 226-3737, fax 226-3379 or E-mail: info@SunriseBelize.com

SOUTHWIND PROPERTIES - For all your Real Estate needs. Call 226-2005 or 226-2060 for information or E-mail: southwind@btl.net for current listings.

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INVEST IN BELIZE - Call for Appointments and pick-ups. 226-4000 or www.investinbelize.com

RE/MAX Isla Bonita, located at 10 Coconut Drive, San Pedro. 226-4400 e-mail: info@owninbelize.com or visit our website at www.owninbelize.com

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