

THE PAULMAR PRENSA

SEPTEMBER 2012. VOLUME 1.2

NEWS IN BRIEF



TRIP TO CUENCA

In July, we enjoyed a week-long visit to the historic city of Cuenca where we stayed with the Lopez Coellar family, the same family Mari lived with when she was a 16-year old volunteer. We enjoyed visiting fellow PCVs and spent our 2nd wedding anniversary at Las Dos Chorreras, a gorgeous lodge in Cajas National Park.

MEET MAX!

We are overjoyed to introduce you to Maximiliano (Max), the newest member of our family. He is a very happy, 3 month-old, gray-haired Schnauzer.



SOFIA DANCES SAMBA

Our host sister Sofia shone during a Samba dance performance at her school in August.

MARCELO + PAOLA

Congratulations to the Neo Juventud President & Treasurer who wed on September 1st!



WEATHER

72°F



30%

FEATURED PROJECTS

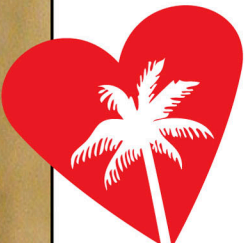


100 PALM TREES FOR PALMAR

Thanks to a “Get Ur Good On” grant from Youth Service America and singer/actress Miley Cyrus, Paul was able to lead an enthusiastic group of youth to distribute 100 palm trees to the citizens of Palmar in August. The teens gave a presentation to the community and helped to give out the trees, which will produce coconuts within three years that each palm tree recipient will be able to enjoy for years to come. These 100 are the first of many as part of a larger reforestation campaign by the Palmar Tourism Committee.



GET UR GOOD ON



MUJERES CAMBIA UPDATE

We have been busier than ever working with Mujeres Cambia. In July, the women were invited to attend a festival in Sacachun by the Ministry of Culture where representatives from the group sold jewelry and met the Mayor Otto Vera (see top center). In August, along with the group’s President, Gina, and Secretary, Elba, we attended the Peace Corps Reconnect Conference where the women were featured at a workshop about the art and business of Mujeres Cambia, selling over \$1,000 in merchandise in the process. In Quito, we met with a potential large buyer and were interviewed by the country’s largest newspaper, *El Universo*.





VOCABLARIO

“Sí” Literally “yes,” but can mean no or maybe.
As in: “Are you coming to the event?” “Sí!”

“Ya mismo” Literally “right now,” can mean in five minutes, in ten minutes, soon, or never.

“No sea malito” Literally “Don’t be mean,” said before asking a favor; whining is required.



WRITE US!

**PAUL & MARISA WILSON
CORREO GENERAL/CDE
SALINAS, SANTA ELENA
ECUADOR**

PAUL’S CORNER

We live on the water where our bedroom window looks out to the ocean. When we arrived, the view outside of our kitchen window was of an abandoned lot overgrown with weeds, rotten mellons, and a few banana trees taken over by snails.

Franklin, the father in our host family, came back from a fishing expedition and started working in the yard. I thought this abandoned lot could be a great chance to work together on a project and to get to know him better. I started with a sketch of a small vegetable garden (they call food gardens “huertos” pronounced “where-tows”) and approached him with the ideas. He was excited so with that we set out to work.

We started by clearing the lot, moving the fence back and planting three raised bed gardens in boxes. We wanted to use raised beds so that we could cover the septic tank outlet and mix in some heartier top soil with what was mostly sand. We also made a compost pile. After researching what would do well in sand, we started some seedlings from seeds from the States (thanks Mom!). After just a few weeks we could see tomatoes, corn, watermellon, basil, cilantro, and squash growing.

Right now, I am fighting a losing war against some type of fungus that is attacking our tomatoes. My strategy is to give up fighting (since I don’t want to use chemicals) and phase in some other vegetables.

So far, Mari has used the tomatoes and herbs in a bunch of dishes including salsa and meat sauce. Our host sister, Sofia, had fun planting a few tomato plants herself and the cherry tomatoes turned out great.

