

ATENAS TODAY



Issue No. 60

December 13, 2009

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***ATENAS TODAY** is a free English language newsletter for the residents and potential residents of Atenas, Costa Rica. It contains informative articles and creative compositions submitted by our readers, and is distributed via email approximately once a month to over 250 email addresses. To get on the distribution list or to submit material, please send an email to Fred Macdonald at fredmac222@yahoo.com.*

Compositions from back issues are archived by category on the Atenas Chamber of Tourism and Commerce website, www.atenascatuca.com. Click on the English version and then Atenas Today on the business page.

DIRECTORY OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING PEOPLE IN THE ATENAS AREA



New names and numbers have been added to the directory. With each issue Atenas Today subscribers will receive an updated file containing the names and contact information of people who have chosen to be listed. Simply download the PDF file attached to this Atenas Today email and print it or save it on your computer.

If your name is on the list without contact information, it is because you are a subscriber to the newsletter, but have **not authorized the publication of your email address or other information**. To add or correct data please send an email to fredmac222@yahoo.com.

ART NEAR THE PARK



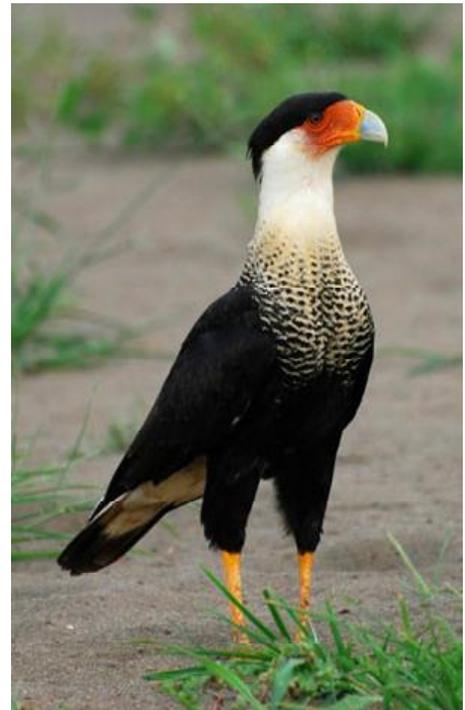
Tropical Still Life by Alice Constantine

Several local artists have gotten together, spearheaded by Mary Park of Barrio San Jose Norte, to display their works at the Church of San Rafael's Salon Parroquial, just to the right of the church building.

The hours of the show are:
18 Dec. Friday - 9am to 6pm
19 Dec. Saturday - 12pm to 8pm
20 Dec. Sunday - 10am to 4pm

Atenas has attracted many expatriates from all over the world, as we know. And a surprising number of them are artists. Or is it so surprising? Maybe it's the mountain fresh air, the small town charm, the tropical light and lushness, but artists are here and doing their art. And many have wondered about a place to show their work. The Salon Parroquial is certainly no big city art gallery, but it is big, everyone knows where it is, and it was available the weekend before Christmas.

This could be your chance to pick up a very special Christmas present.



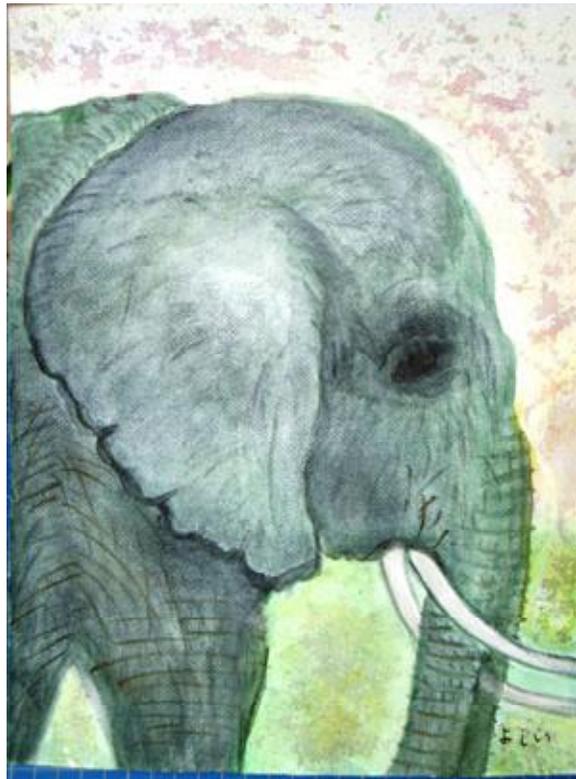
Bird photograph
by Lorna and Darrell Smith

The Artists

Al Alexander, Alto Lopez de Atenas

Al has been drawing and painting since childhood. He earned a BFA from the Art Center College in Los Angeles, California, and a Masters in Painting from Long Island University, New York. Al has exhibited in galleries in London, New York City, Connecticut, New Jersey and Martha's Vineyard. In addition to his fine art, he designed, painted and installed many large scale murals for corporate and private clients in New York, New Jersey, Florida and California.

Al says: "As a realist, I paint what I see and experience in the world around me, and since being here in Costa Rica I've been inspired by the cultural and environment dynamics of this wonderful tropical place we now call home." For more of his work, go to www.alalexanderartist.com



Yoshii Sasaki, Rio Grande de Atenas

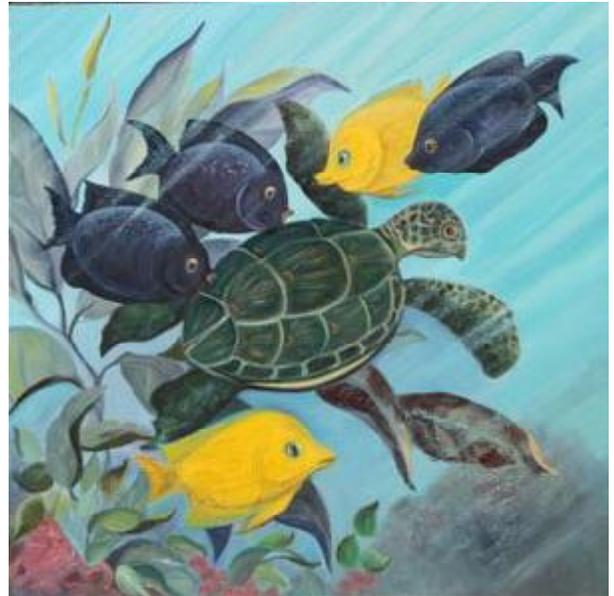
Yoshii moved to Costa Rica in November 2008, after having lived in Japan for 86 years. In the summer 2009 she started studying water-color painting with Mary Park at Su Espacio in Atenas and now draws daily. She loves haiku poetry and singing, as well as drawing.





Mary Park, Barrio San Jose Norte de Atenas

Mary has had many travel adventures. Born in South Africa, lived in England and Canada-- Quebec, Ontario, then British Columbia. She and husband Graham drove from Canada to Costa Rica through the U.S.A., Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. They also traveled in the South of France and Italy. Mary says: most of my work reflects my inspirations of the places, animals, birds, and peoples of those countries, either in oils or water colours. Life is Beautiful.



Lorna and Darrell Smith, Hacienda Atenas

Lorna and Darrell are a husband and wife team of biologists/photographers who have traveled widely and photographed wildlife throughout the Americas for the past 30 years. Their photos have been used extensively in presentations and publications during the course of their personal and professional lives. Darrell and Lorna are avid birders and have taught birding, photography and nature observation courses and seminars since the early 1980's. They are both part of the original Audubon Society "Master Birder's" group which began in 1986. They have recently started a new business venture "Birding on a Budget Costa Rica" offering day trips from the Central Valley and 8-day birding and nature excursions in Costa Rica. Darrell and Lorna have lived in Atenas for the past two and half years.



Alice Constantine, Vista Atenas

Alice studied in California with master realist painter Bette Holland and impressionist Jerry Steiner. She uses both realist and impressionist techniques to capture light and color. Living in Costa Rica for seven years, she continues to be inspired by the colorful scenes right here in Atenas, painting in oils such subjects such as the Friday market, still lifes of local fruits and flowers, and landscapes inspired by her travels. For more of her artwork, go to www.aliceartworks.com.



Steve Wiens, Esparza

Steve, a Canadian born artist, has worked in health care in centers around the world. Steve has done art since childhood but also satisfied an urge to help people through a para-medical specialty. He has attended York University (Fine Arts) and owned/operated Publishing and Graphics businesses. He has worked as an illustrator and cartoonist and is currently retired and living in Esparza, near Orotina. Steve works mainly in Acrylic, graphite and ink. His main subjects are people, character buildings and lately the animal life of Costa Rica. His colours have become more vibrant since living in Costa Rica, as the abundance of great light and the colour green have influenced his work.



Terry Mills, Santa Eulalia de Atenas

Terry grew up near St Louis, Missouri. When she was ten years old, her family moved to Costa Rica. She loved it so much that when the family had to move back to Missouri, she did not want to go. She has lived in Costa Rica this time since 2001.

She took painting lessons alongside her Dad as a teenager and art was her major in college. Terry says she is a beginner with watercolors, but that Mary Park has a great “eye” and is a wonderful teacher.



Julie Hawkins, Vista Atenas

Julie writes: “At the ripe old age of 35, I decided to go back to school and finish my college degree. Six years later I emerged from Georgia State University with that degree and an additional Masters degree in Visual Arts. I was trained to be a painter and to paint on flat surfaces. But I found that too confining and started painting pieces that projected out from the wall into space. When my husband Michael and I moved to Atenas seven years ago, I fell in love with the tropical environment, especially the wood and soon was painting on limbs from the trees, my “walking sticks.” These sticks tell stories as each scene or character descends in contrasting colors around the cylindrical form.

I also enjoy teaching art and art history to students who want to experience different styles and various ways to apply paint.”





Ana Maria Castillo Gonzalez, Atenas

Ana is a native of Atenas. She studied agronomy at the Universidad de Costa Rica, raised a family, and donates time to the Asociaciones de Desarrollo Intregal, the Escuela de Musica, and to the Asociacion de Orquideas, a personal passion of hers. She is also involved with the Proyecto Bandera Azul Ecologica to stress the importance of preserving Costa Rica's ecosystems. She develops and oversees agricultural projects on several family farms and elsewhere. But she has taken time to pursue another passion, developing her artistic talents in painting and drawing.



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The Atenas Community Comes Together to Help Kay's Gringo Postres



Three times in the past month thieves have broken into Kay's and stolen equipment and supplies. Kay and Tom's friends and customers have organized a spaghetti dinner to raise funds so they can put in the new security system they need in order to stay in business.

Come to Kay's on Tuesday, December 15, and enjoy all the spaghetti you can eat, served with garlic bread and ice tea or lemonade.

Dinner will be served from 5 pm till 8 pm, with Santa Clause scheduled to come at 5:30.

The cost is 5,000 colones per adult, and 2,000 per child.

Calling All Card Players

We are interested in getting a euchre group going in the Atenas area.

If you play euchre, or would like to learn (it isn't that difficult), please give us a call.

Rita and Frank
2446-0852

WANTED!

Does anybody know where this dog is right now?



"Wolfie" is the female Alpha dog of the Atenas Mercado dogs.
She is fixed and vaccinated.

As far as we know she was picked up from a "stranger" with a car on December 10th or 11th.

We hope, she found a loving family and we would like to know where she is!

To the person who picked her up - please communicate with us:

Phone: 2 446-6236 or AnimalesAtenasCR@aol.com (English/Espanol/Deutsch)

And keep in mind that she is the leader of a pack and might escape to go back to her "dog family". This could be very dangerous for her...!

THANK YOU !

www.costa-rica-live.com/AnimalesAtenas/index.html





Down 17 points at the half, the Colts came back to beat the Houston Texans 35-27. The Colts have now beaten the Texans 100 times in a row or some such and are in general phenomenal in their poise and discipline and honed abilities. However, I also caught yesterday the last one minute of the Tennessee Titans game, watched as Vince Young—starting one-yard from his own goal line—marched his team across the field to win the game with 00 on the clock. So the Titans will be primed to have a go at the Indy undefeated record next Sunday.

Monday Morning Quarterbacking

Hecate pads across the tiles of my terraza, stepping onto the lawn only when she absolutely has to pee. Hera searches the flower bed for tiny lizards, the only living animals that have the temerity to invade her domain. Eventually the two doggies will go off to their room (the room I had intended for guests when I built the house) to arrange themselves on their posturepedic mattress and sleep away the forays of the morning.

The flowers of the jalapa lila are riotous right now, as the rainy season gives way to the five months of summer we are granted here.

The Indianapolis Colts won again yesterday. I had to do a laundry early in the day so I could have my Colts-Champions blue tee-shirt to wear for the game.

In the evening I caught a BBC trailer of a musical group performing on the Jonathan Ross show. It was Mika and Co., doing "We Are Golden"—"teen-age kids in a teen-age circus, running around like clowns on purpose". The youth and the joy of the music brought me to my feet and I danced around the living room.

There is something that connects me—somatically—to football and music, to athleticism and youth. My body—which is also, I suspect, my mind and my spirit—responds to life. It seems to me that life and embodiment are inseparable twins, that you can't have one without the other.

Holding Dear

I enjoy being with myself, welcome the predictable lightening of spirit at awakening to sunlight, derive pleasure from the easy meanderings of my mind as I move through the day.

I wish I were more affectionate with my dogs, as I wish I had been with my children. But apparently it is not in me. I live in a self-serving solitude, daily doling out—in the case of Hecate and Hera—a few brief deep scratches between the ears or under the neck.

I am a Silas Marner with my touch and my time, hoarding them as though still vulnerable to parental dictation or nunly command, to husbandly expectations and the urgent needs of children.

A miser of solitude and the intactness of my thoughts, I count my daily treasures and luxuriate in my wealth.

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Short-Term Rental Property



The lower unit is a new, furnished one bedroom apartment, with a full bath and a living room-kitchen combination. It is located in *Hacienda Atenas* with great mountain views. Amenities include: large bedroom with sliding door, queen bed, on-demand hot water, gas stove/oven, refrigerator/freezer, microwave, satellite TV, WIFI, security alarm system, gated entrance, large secure parking, large covered patio, separate patio with gas grill, and access to a pool and a washer/drier. Daily maid service is available if desired.

Only \$65 per night, or \$420 per week (7 nights)

Contact: Stef Bogatinoff (506) 8863-9964 stef@costaconcierges.com

EJD Housekeeping Services



If you own a property and it is uninhabited, we know about your worry if everything is ok. Our service offers you, during your absence, security. In case of problems, we will directly inform you and take steps for adjustment. We will be in continuous e-mail or phone contact with you to keep you informed. Of course we operate as emergency contact for our customers. Of course we will satisfy all your additional requirements concerning your property. All services are single bookable, so you can arrange your personal package exactly according to your wishes.

Our Services:

Inspection of your house from outside and inside (incl. ventilation of all rooms).
Safekeeping of your keys (also year-round).
Checking of electricity and water supply.
Checking the house for damaging.
Repair of little damages,
commissioning of craftsmen in case of major damages.
Settlement of current payments for electricity, water, telefon or employees.
Checking the waterlevel of the pool.
Cleaning the pool.
Cleaning the filters.
Checking the pump.
Checking the ph and chlorine level.
Cleaning all rooms incl. kitchen and bathrooms.
Wipe all floors.
Vacuum cleaning.
Dusting the furniture.
Ventilation of all rooms.
Cleaning the patios.
Checking the inside of the house for wetness and leakage.
Mowing the lawn.
Cutting hedges and plants.
Watering the plants.
Crop spraying.
Cleaning the property from leaves.

Frank Schornenberg

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Our office is across from the gas-station in Atenas.

Fuzz Productions SA Offers It's Services



Paul, Gaby and Andre Furlong

We are a Bilingual Bi-cultural family with many years of experience. For this reason, we make no claim of knowing it all, or even much of it. We simply know where to look.

Those who claim to “have it figured” often find their contacts MIA or with other interests...weeks maybe, into the project.

A Latino Environment is always in a state of flux. The man who built your house yesterday may not be the man to build the next. Be sure to consult with people who know the difference.

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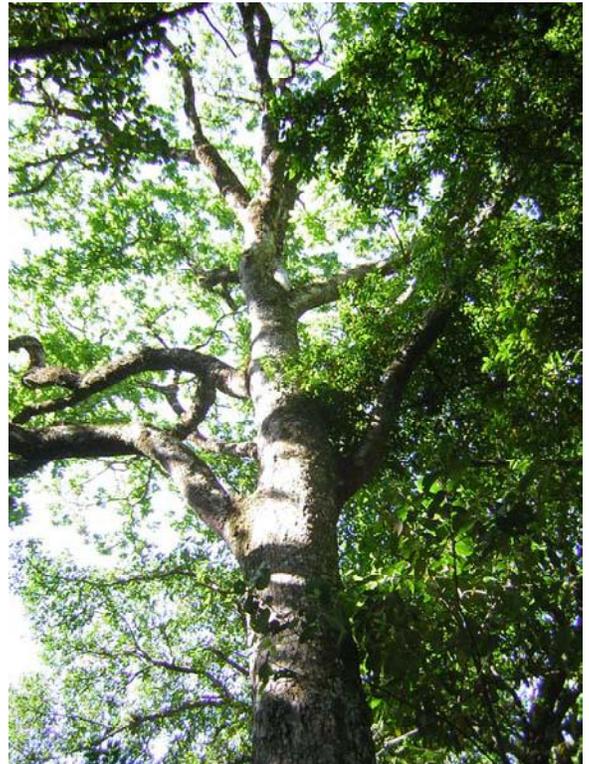
Private Lot on River



This 5400 square meter lot is in Finca Zacatal, a 9 lot community located in San Isidro de Atenas, approximately 5 kilometers from town. Huge trees and a stream border the property, which is completely private with no other houses visible. Water and electricity is installed to the property line. Two other houses have been constructed in the community, and a caretaker house at the entrance provides security.



Asking price \$60,000.



Contact Fred Macdonald, 2446-0440, 8848-7632, fredmac222@yahoo.com.