

The NEST Trust Newsletter
(Nicaragua English and Sustainable Tourism)
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Headline news

- **Dreams come true: 1st Mirafior student taking English at University!**
- **Book 2 is designed and recorded.**
- **Third computer centre opens on the Mirafior Nature Reserve.**
- **Advanced computer course introduced in El Cebollal.**
- **The NEST Trust will run an English course for CESESMA.**

Seven years ago

Maggie Jo dreamt that there would be:

- * English speaking guides in Mirafior (achieved after 5 years)
- * Professional teaching materials available for Mirafior, Nicaragua, even Central / South America (achieved 2007 and now!)
- * Young people becoming English teachers – and now the first of our original students has started a University course to teach English.

Nelvis Pinell from Las Palmas has a flair for language, loves English and enjoys teaching. You can hear her voice on the recordings for both Book 1 and 2.

She may get a trip to Denmark in September thanks to her ability in English. El Foro Mirafior have been invited to send someone to make presentations and Nelvis could go too. If she does, we hope she can take longer away from her studies and come to the UK for a few weeks

And the good news is that two other youngsters, due to start university in January 2010, want to study English and become teachers: Arielkis, who works for Dona Corina at Posada el Sueno in El Cebollal, and Yorlennis, the elder daughter of Lorena and Nelson, homestay family in El Coyolito.

Community teachers

Zeydi is teaching secondary classes in El Coyolito; Deylin has two classes in Esteli; Marlon's community have asked him to take over from some volunteers.

The teaching materials

Book one

All Book one materials are downloadable from <http://www.thenesttrust.org.uk/materials.html> There is a form to complete and when you submit it you get the link to the materials.

Bound copies are available from Jane (Juanita) Boyd our distributor, at Café Luz, del Meson una cuadra al este, Esteli. cafeluzyluna@yahoo.com Tel (505) 441 8466 or 405 8919. Or email us: info@thenesttrust.org.uk

Book two

Maggie Jo and Ricardo, from Impresiones Isnaya, worked non-stop for four weeks to produce an attractive design of Book 2 materials. Ricardo hated me because I asked for the units to be in Publisher so that they could be modified by other organisations / countries. I didn't realise the horrors of the programme – sorry Ricardo. Basically it tries to command you whereas a professional design programme lets you command it! Anyway it's done!

Serendipity struck again as, just when a final proof read and listen were needed and Maggie Jo was on her knees and far too close to it all, Kate and John Allen emailed from Honduras saying they wanted to spend a month or so doing some voluntary work. Maggie Jo said 'arrive post haste'; they did and thank you, were excellent.

Once again, Radio Esteli Vision came up trumps and we spent 2 days recording and 2 editing all

the listening tasks, pronunciation work and the reading texts. If you have an MP3 player, it's all on a single disc. In CD format it is 3 CDs (again): The Unit work is on two, and the optional recording of the reading texts is on a 3rd.

We've a Trust meeting in June to decide on printing. We'll let you know when copies are available.

We will also make it accessible from the website.

Education and Scholarships

A mix of family circumstances and the economic situation has meant that three students haven't registered for this year's courses. We are holding their funds for them for next year and hope we can mitigate their problems so they can complete (two of them) and continue (the third) their studies.

We offered 4 new scholarships this year, and are delighted that two are for primary school teaching and one for secondary. Community teachers have been one of our goals.

Educational opportunities are much greater than even seven years ago. Then, for example, in El Sontule just two youngsters studied at secondary level. No one had ever been to University. This year eleven young people from the community are studying at University and 15 go to secondary school (or did Marlon say 22?). It may be Saturdays only but that's a huge improvement on 'never'. And other communities of Miraflores have similar stories to relate, which is great.

Computer skills

Advanced course in El Cebollal

In El Cebollal Deylin is teaching a second level course and 28 students who took the basic one are now upgrading their skills. With 23 students on the basic course, that's 51 students in El Cebollal! So more computers were needed and we bought 2 with flat screens and so now the solar panel powers 7 computers. And Deylin needed a helper. Judith, a graduate of 2008, is assisting Deylin. She learns teaching skills by 'sitting with Nellie / Deylin' and takes the Friday classes.

Deylin and Judith



Promocion en El Coyolito

I had the pleasure of attending the first graduation ceremony at the El Coyolito centre at the end of April. The teacher, Egna Blandon coordinated events well and students and their families were justifiably proud of the achievements.

Egna and community leader, Leopoldo



Maintenance classes

Deylin wisely suggested that she and Egna should take a computer maintenance course. It's costly for a technician to visit and difficult to take equipment to town on the bus. We've provided UCA Miraflores Education Commission with 2 bursaries to pay for the 8 month long courses.

Third Computer centre

Mains electricity has reached into the Miraflores Nature Reserve, along the road from Esteli to La Pita. It's transforming some people's lives and led the community leaders in La Pita to request a computer centre to serve the surrounding area.

There's a classroom we can divide and so we've given the go ahead. Classes should begin in June.

Room before division



Egna will travel from El Coyolito to teach one or two days, and Prof Julio will teach some afternoons or evenings. Around 20 students are interested and we hope to have four computers there (though as I write I hear that one CPU doesn't work – and the maintenance course only began 2 weeks ago!)

English course for CESESMA

Just when Maggie Jo has stopped linking volunteers with communities along comes a special request, and we couldn't refuse!

CESESMA were runners up in the 2007 Alcan prize for sustainability and won funds for staff development. They chose university studies, and English! They've asked the NEST Trust to provide the course, and as it is ESP (English for Specific Purposes) it's right up Maggie Jo's street. She's carrying out a needs analysis, and analysing some of the English medium documents the organisation receives.

Funding means we can cover some of the basic living costs of a volunteer and keep a teacher in place for 10 – 12 months. We've started with a self study phase: everyone interested has Book 1 and the recordings and the chance to study alone or form small groups over the next few months. There'll be support from a short-term volunteer during June and July. Then from August or September classes will start for those who, having met the reality of learning, know they really want to study and can find the time.

The Future

Spreading news of the Books

Our big push has to be spreading news of the Books throughout relevant areas of Latin America. Book 1 can help communities, guides, secondary school students; Book 2 can help communities, guides and university students of tourism.

If you have contacts, ideas, time, friends who are travelling who could be 'ambassadors', we'd love to hear from you.

We hope to have a stand again at the ANPI conference, NICATESOL, in September but have no other specific plans: something else to brainstorm at the Trustees meeting in June!

Happy purchaser of Book 1



Book 1 in use

