

LA CHOZA DEL MUNDO

Newsletter November 2008



(Jessy Cowan Sharp, Julia Tizard, Robbie Schingler, Stephanie Gliege)

Welcome

Welcome to the second Choza newsletter. We have added a couple of new features which will be standard in our format from now on. The first is a monthly update from our project manager in Costa Rica – Joel Matamoros and the second a feature on new projects.

Enjoy and as always, we would love to hear any feedback on our thoughts and plans in general so please don't hesitate to email us back or start a discussion online.

<http://www.chozadelmundo.com>
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Monthly Update from Joel

In September visit to the Choza I take around 70 trees, 20 of fruit and the rest for the forest. Mainor [our local Choza caretaker from Zapaton] tell me that all of them are in good conditions.



November was very rainy, and the way to the Choza is close mostly all the month, there is around 22 earth falls in the street, so was impossible to come to the Choza before the last few weeks.

Mainor finish the rooms painting but I recommend taking some paint for the pine doors and the external walls of the Choza, and also painting the roof, soon in the future. Mainor, is also going to work in cleaning the concrete [a pile where they mixed the concrete

was left over from the renovation], and making some paths. He also is going to apply the protector, no paint, on the Doors and in the posts outside the Choza.

I am working with Carlos in the Gate. [Carlos is our Costa Rican builder who did the renovation work for us] I want to talk with Carlos, and may be make some changes to the gate design, and make it more cheap. In materials it is expected to be around \$200. Mainor is looking to find these type of wood in Zapaton [locally], but I am waiting his call.

Hank [the Jeep] is in excellent conditions. I make the new front seats (see pictures) more comfortable, and really nice!! And I found the Imperial ball!! [Imperial is a Costa Rican Beer, the Jeep came with an Imperial ball on the gear stick and we lost it a while back]



At this moment there is no phone lines available for the Choza, but you can be in a list, so when is lines available they call us. Is impossible to put Proyecto Concepcion in the phone list, because the person that is in charge of the society will need to sign and I will need the papers passports etc. I think the best way is to place in the list my name, and when you come back may be the phone line is available, and you can put the new phone line to Proyecto Concepcion.

In plan on coming to the Choza in the next week and will tell you more on how the works go.

Joel

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Choza Supporters - Thank you!

We thought we would take it opportunity to thank all the people who have contributed to the Choza. Be it through fiscal support, in kind donations, volunteering personal time, an opinion or character to the Choza project, many people have already made great contributions. We would like to recognise the individuals below for their support as their input has shaped and/or enabled the Choza to become what it is today.

- * Joel Matamores
- * Jesus, Esmarelda and family
- * Mainor
- * Carlos
- * Concepcion Crew (Juan, Solein, Memo, etc.!)
- * Taryn Schingler
- * Tim and Robin O'Hara
- * Beth and Sara
- * Billy Bateman
- * Holly Hatfield
- * D'Arcy Fox-Brenton
- * Wayne Westby
- * Vicki Cowan and Brian Smith
- * The Calvert Street Crew (Will Marshall, Chris Rogers, Amanda Carafel)
- * Johnny Duda
- * Dawn McKenna
- * Arianna Fox
- * Lucas Bossard
- * Gary Smith
- * Robert & Kathleen Starmer
- * Nishi Rawat
- * Jan
- * Matt Hancher and Cary Rosco
- * Julia Marton LaFevre

We are really sorry if we missed anyone off this list! There have been so many people showing their support it is a bit difficult to keep track!



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Contribute to Projects with BountyUp

There are many possibilities for future projects the Choza, from creating a yoga platform to building a bamboo bridge across a small canyon to planting a medicinal garden. If you would like to contribute remotely, financially supporting projects through BountyUp is a way to ensure that your donation will go toward the project of your choosing.

BOUNTYUP
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<http://www.bountyup.com>

In the words of one of the Bounty Up founders (Choza friends Todd Khozein and Josh McKenty), 'Bountyup.com is a social commerce portal where users define what they want, put a "bounty" up for it... and collaborate with others who add to the value of the bounty if they have an interest in the completion of the bounty.'

The Choza is using BountyUp a bit differently than others. We are using this as a way for our community to collaboratively contribute to the financing of projects on-site. Therefore, any contribution you make will be stored with BountyUp, until the Bounty target goal has been collected. The Bounty will then be collected by the Choza and the project would get implemented.

Choza's First Bounty: Rancho

This bounty goes toward the development of a Rancho. This will be made from fallen trees on the property as well as palma leaves cultivated at the proper phase of the Moon. The Rancho will be built by local workers from Zapaton.



\$0: Rancho at La Choza del Mundo
This bounty goes toward the development of a Rancho. This will be made from fallen trees on the property as well as palma leaves cultivated at the
Created by choza, last updated null

BOUNTYUP www.bountyup.com

At the bottom of the steepest hill on the property of La Choza del Mundo is a flat clearing, right at the edge of the jungle and close to the large waterfall.

There is a trail leading to this spot, and approximately 40 Pau d'arco trees have been planted in this vicinity in July 2008.



In March 2008, there was a landslide in the jungle causing three hardwood trees to fall very close to this area. Also, in the same trip, we visited a traditional 'Rancho' in Zapaton (in pictures above and below). The Rancho is an open air structure and usually used for community meetings.



This area is envisioned to be the 'Medicinal Area' at La Choza, and as such, is a great environment to create a Rancho out of the recently fallen trees next to this site. Our neighboring town of Zapaton is an indigenous town in Costa Rica where many residents have built Ranchos and are experts in thatched roofing.

This will be the first new structure at La Choza, and will be initially used for hammocks and work space below and a basic wood floor and bedding area above. This bounty is valued at \$3000.

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New Projects

In addition to the Rancho we have a few other projects ongoing at the moment. First and foremost we are determined on getting the internet to the Choza! In addition, we are also working on accessibility and security for the Choza:

The internet:

The internet has been a distant dream since we purchased the Choza. Recently, phone lines have started arriving in our community and, as we mentioned previously, Mastatal now has high speed connectivity in the school. We have put our names on the list for phone lines, which at the very least would allow dial-up.

It is difficult to get consistent answers on likelihood of the government their high-speed extending access to other communities in this area, but even if they did, it would likely be single access points in the schools. We have spoken to people about buying the hardware to bring this connectivity to the Choza, in order to use it ourselves and make it accessible to others. But without being down there, it is extremely difficult to make progress on these more 'custom' ideas.

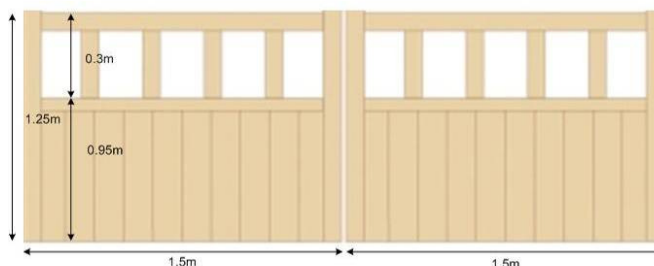
The founders have a trip planned for the February timeframe, and Internet research will be a priority during this time. Although we enjoy the reprieve from mainstream technological life while at the Choza, we are all cognizant that for this to evolve into a feasible place for collaboration and remote work, Internet is an absolute must.

Entrance Gates:

We have a new gate being installed at the entrance to the Choza property. For anyone that hasn't been to the Choza, the gate replaces a somewhat dysfunctional, collapsible, barbed wire fence. It should provide the property a little more security. Although a simple item we have tried to imprint the Choza ethos on it, using local materials and local labor. The gate is also designed to keep the Choza friendly and welcoming rather than acting as a solid barrier to the property and activities there. We will hopefully have some pictures next month.



Gate Dimension Guide



Land Accessibility:

We have also started Minor working on improving accessibility to the land surrounding the main house... put in simpler terms experimenting with paths. The wilderness and natural state of the Choza land is something we want to preserve however access to other parts of the land is not optimal right now and certainly more restrictive to some. With the heavy rains and the steep slopes on part of the land paths need to be durable or at least sustainable but we want to avoid more permanent or heavily man made structures (such as concrete). We have Minor experimenting how best to implement paths using different materials from the Choza grounds or local community.

Thanks!