

DOS CORRIENTES JOURNAL

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Welcome to the Dos Corrientes Journal

Results of the work of Dos Corrientes have been extremely encouraging. Because the first “Backyard Garden Food Production System” course was so successful, the Liguiqui “comuna” in Ecuador has requested that we conduct a second course.

Also, the Dos Corrientes prototype guest house was completed in April. This house is meant to generate revenue for Dos Corrientes and at the same time allow us to test rental interest and pricing for the future ecovillage.

This issue of the Journal will bring to light for you all the work that is being done in these two areas.

Gearing Up For Another Backyard Food Production System Course

Research carried out in Liguiqui indicated that the residents of the local communities near the Dos Corrientes farm lack opportunities for economic and social development. They need external initiatives that allow them to have better job opportunities or development projects for the community. Additionally, experts in agriculture state that resources are needed to maximize, continue or start agricultural production.

Highlights of this research show:

1. Food insecurity has a direct correlation with a lower level of quality of life, it is also responsible for malnutrition problems in both adults and children.
 - a. Adults suffer from increased health risks such as diabetes.
 - b. Children are at risk for lower cognitive development and growth as well as poor academic performance.
2. People do not produce their own food because of:
 - a. Degraded soil
 - b. Lack of natural water
 - c. No knowledge of agricultural processes
 - d. No knowledge of how to control pests and disease
 - e. No money for seeds, materials, and tools
 - f. No knowledge of sustainable growth

What Dos Corrientes has done to address the problem.

1. Consulted with the community of Liguiqui and learned that their priorities are:
 - a. Access to good food.
 - b. Employment
 - c. Skill-based Education
 - d. English for children



2. Learned from the results of the initial Backyard Garden course that now allows for planning of a larger community garden, a learning centre and an onsite store.
3. Learned that because of limited access to technology, courses will be more effective in a group setting on the farm.
4. Tested different distribution streams of produce. We currently have two restaurants and a store from nearby villages as purchasers of vegetables from Dos Corrientes. We also have received permission from one of the restaurants to put a roadside stand on their property for fruit and vegetable sales.
5. People have an appetite for organic produce. All of the fruits and vegetables grown at Dos Corrientes are 100% organic.



Current Needs:

Because we have been asked to conduct a second course in “Backyard Food Production Systems” we need to:

1. Build a second community garden to increase the variety and quantity of vegetables. This will result in a source of food and income for the community. It will also address the need for an outdoor classroom.
2. We need financial support for:
 - a. Course instruction
 - b. Seeds and starter tools and materials for backyard gardens
 - c. Buildout of a community garden
 - d. Irrigation Equipment
 - e. Storage Shed

We need supporters who could provide financial resources while Dos Corrientes provides “boots on the ground”.



Site of the Future Education and Community Garden

The Dos Corrientes Guest Experience

One of the foundational components of the Dos Corrientes vision model is to create an economic engine that will provide skill-based education and employment. The economic engine should also provide income to Dos Corrientes to allow it to continue its not-for-profit work. Everything that is done at Dos Corrientes is tested first. With this in mind, we built a guest house.



The house is now finished and has hosted two separate visitors. Here is a review from Alison Wightman who visited Ecuador from Ireland.

“Dos Corrientes is a special place – a place of peace, healing, and connection.



There, I experienced harmony with the natural environment, with the local community and with myself.

The location of the farm is spectacular – secluded, overlooking the sea and close to a range of beautiful beaches.



People make places, and all of this has been created and developed by Heather and Don. I felt looked after throughout my experience there - from their warm welcome, their thoughtfulness about my needs, and their openness to talking about their mission and their work. They helped navigate travel arrangements, provided information about local facilities, and ensured that everything I needed was in the guest house.

And the house itself – wow! End-to-end Scandinavian chic! Inside-outside design, filled with light and space, beautiful bamboo ceilings, and pale grey clay tiled floors. In between were a big comfy bed, top-of-the-range kitchen equipment, endless places to sit in comfort and read, or watch the birds, and hot and cold water on tap. Everything worked.

I walked on beaches, talked, laughed, met local people, learned about the people and the country, witnessed the work of Dos Corrientes with the community, ate fabulous food, drank good rum (if you're lucky, Don might mix you one of his specials!) and relaxed...really relaxed....

I'll be back..."



Dos Corrientes is a special place – a place of peace, healing, and connection.

Special Thanks:

The Dos Corrientes Journal would like to acknowledge the hard work of two individuals who help make the publications a success.

First, to David Bowen, a student at the Escuela Superior Politecnica del Litoral (ESPOL) who will soon be going back to the city of Guayaquil for the 5th Year of his Engineering program. David has been instrumental in the design and publication of the Journal and has graciously offered to continue his work for Dos Corrientes while he is at school.

Second, to Dr. Derek Allen in Toronto, who has for the past several months acted as “Editor in Chief”, for the Journal. Derek, an Emeritus Professor at the University of Toronto dedicates a significant amount of time and energy to correct the numerous errors of the Journal’s writer. Thank you, Derek, for all your help and support.

RESERVE NOW

DOS CORRIENTES

The Guest House at Dos Corrientes is open for business. Soon it will be listed on Airbnb. In the meantime, why don't you reserve a vacation at Dos Corrientes... we would love to see you.

don@doscorientes.com

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donations will be directed to Dos Corrientes through the University of the Fraser Valley and a tax receipt will be issued.

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