



## 2009 Annual Report

**The Bahamas National Trust**

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March 2009 – March 2010

## **BNT Officers**

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Neil McKinney, Deputy President  
Peter Stokes, Honourary Treasurer  
Robin Symonette, Honourary Secretary

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Michael T. Braynen, Ministry of Agriculture  
and Marine Resources  
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of Natural History  
Teresa Butler, Governor-General's Representative  
Angela Cleare  
Nancy Clum, PhD, Wildlife Conservation Society  
Lawrence Ginton  
Dan Kimball, US Parks Service  
Craig Lee, Audubon Society  
Earlston McPhee, Ministry Of Tourism  
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Valerie Paul, PhD, Smithsonian Institution  
R. Pamela Reid, PhD, University of Miami  
Robin Symonette  
Nakira Wilchombe, Governor-General's  
Representative

## **Scientific Advisors**

Karen A. Bjorndal, PhD  
Alan B. Bolten, PhD

2009 cover photo of Inagua Flamingo rookery by Olga Stokes.

## **BNT Staff**

Eric Carey, Executive Director  
Lynn Gape, Deputy Executive Director

### **Administration**

Kaderin Mills, Human Resources and Office Manager  
Therese Adderley, Director of Finance  
Joanne Powell, Grants and Projects Administrator  
Daphne Brooks, Bookkeeper  
Lisa Wildgoose, RNC Office Manager  
Shacara Scavella, Office Assistant  
Leo Johnson, Security  
Claudette Minnis, Support Staff

### **Development**

Natasha Wright, Director of Development  
Rosita Adderley, Membership Officer  
Urmie Braynen, Development Assistant (part-time)

### **Education**

Portia Sweeting, Director of Education  
Cecilia Bodie, Education Specialist & RNC Administrator  
Shelley Cant, Education Officer  
Tara Burrows, Education Office Assistant (part-time)  
Juanita Munroe, Black Point Education Officer

### **Parks and Science**

Tamica Rahming, Director of Parks and Science  
Janean Bullard, Parks Planner & Community Liaison Officer  
Lindy Knowles, Assistant Parks Planner  
Camilla Adair, Site Manager  
Vanessa Haley, Coordinator SW NP Marine Park (part-time)  
Andrew Kriz, ECLSP Administrator  
Christopher Dunkley, ECLSP Park Warden  
Henry Haley, ECLSP Park Warden  
Predensa Moore, IBA Coordinator & UNDP Project Manager  
Henry Nixon, Chief Warden, Inagua  
David Knowles, Chief Warden, Abaco  
Randolph Burrows, New Providence Park Warden  
Apollo Butler, New Providence Park Warden  
Prescott Gay, Lucayan National Park Warden  
David Cooper, Lucayan National Park Warden  
Tavares Thompson, Andros Community Liaison Officer (2010)  
Rivean Riley, Andros Community Liaison Officer (2009)  
Dejacville Atilus, Retreat Gardener  
Johnny Pierre, Retreat Gardener  
Desmond Jolly, Retreat Gardener  
Stephen Wright, Retreat Gardener  
Marcelin Dolce, RNC Gardener

# President's Message

It was a great honour to serve as president this year during the 50th anniversary celebrations. The BNT is a unique organization and is tremendously important nationally as the manager of the country's national park system. Our national parks not only serve as a source of tremendous value, pride and enjoyment of the Bahamian people, but also make an invaluable contribution to the world's biodiversity.

Our retrospective photo exhibition which covered 50 years of BNT history took many of us on a walk down memory lane and was a poignant reminder of the many dedicated individuals who have given time and expertise to the organization.

It was an uplifting experience to look into the past and see our first wardens in Inagua, Samuel and James Nixon, travel with the original expedition to Exuma and see Oris Russell, Herbert McKinney and Carleton Ray in the field, to remember the contributions of *Operation Raleigh* in Grand Bahama with Sir Jack Hayward and Basil Kelly working alongside the volunteers and of course our great restoration effort at Adelaide Creek led by Past President Pericles Maillis.

It was a time to honour and thank our living past presidents, John F. Bethell, Sandra Buckner, Lynn Holowesko, Michael Lightbourn, Colin Lightbourn, Pericles Maillis, J.A. McKinney and Macgregor Robertson. We were also pleased to recognize employees past and present who have given over 10 years of service to the BNT: Susan Larson, Gary Larson, Henry Nixon, Lynn Gape, Kaderin Mills and Randolph Burrows.

Truly a high point in our 50th anniversary celebrations was our Gala Ball chaired by Robin Symonette along with her highly motivated committee: Beth Bethell, Carleton Robertson, and Amanda Lindroth. That evening we were given even greater reason to celebrate as Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham announced the further expansion of our national park system which included the marine

environs of Conception island National Park, the expansion of the Andros West Side National Park and a new park in Abaco – the Fowl Cays National Park. This is a further indication of the confidence that the government has in the BNT.

I want to thank the Council, Executive Committee, staff and volunteers for their hard work and dedication to the vision of our founders.

It is indeed an honour to have served as president of the BNT for the past five years.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn V. Bannister". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Glenn V. Bannister  
President, Bahamas National Trust

# Bahamas National Trust Annual Report 2009

National park management is the BNT's core mission. But today we face increasingly difficult challenges, as population levels grow and development expands into new areas.

Fishery stocks are showing signs of decline, indicating that current levels of extraction are unsustainable. Invasive plants and animals are damaging habitats for endangered species and degrading the general health of the environment.

The future of The Bahamas depends on the development of a society that understands limits, conserves energy, water and other essential resources, and protects biodiversity. The BNT has enjoyed huge success over the past 50 years as it worked to protect our priceless biodiversity.

But there is more to be done to encourage Bahamians to embrace the concept of sustainable development for the benefit of future generations.

Public understanding and support are critical to improving environmental stewardship.

The BNT will continue to promote the benefits that national parks and protected areas bring to local communities. To ensure that these benefits are tangible we need to increase public participation in our work expand our educational outreach, and help local communities leverage the economic opportunities that lie within the parks.

In 2007, the government demonstrated its support of the national park system with an initial five-year commitment to the BNT of \$1 million annually. In 2008, they gave us additional funding of \$250,000 to increase the number of park wardens, and in 2009 continued that support with an additional \$150,000. This level of commitment to the protection of our natural resources is indeed unprecedented in our history.

During our 50th anniversary celebrations it was humbling to reflect on our founders and their foresight in creating

the BNT to manage the national parks. It is our hope that in 2058, BNT members and managers will reflect on our next 50 years with an appreciation of our successes, just as we admire those who came before us.

Without the vision of our founders, our national bird, the flamingo, might now be extinct. And the stunning beauty of the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park might have been degraded with piecemeal development and over-exploitation.

Our vision for the next 50 years is clear – to continue to build a network of national parks and protected areas that support biodiversity and resource conservation, and to expand our outreach and education so that every Bahamian embraces environmental stewardship for our nation.

This annual report is a summary of work for the year 2009. It provides a brief overview of our activities in the area of Parks and Science, Education, Membership and Fundraising, with special mention of special activities that were organized in celebration of our 50th anniversary.



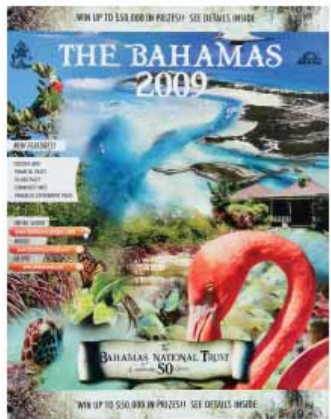


## 50th Anniversary

2009 marked the 50th anniversary of the BNT. We organized a number of activities throughout the year in recognition of this very important milestone in the history of the organization. As a special tribute, BTC featured the BNT and our national parks on the cover of the 2009 telephone directories

We began the year with a special service at St. Matthew's Anglican Church in January. With the assistance of two BNT volunteers, Roland Rose and Michael Toogood, the Trust produced a special photo exhibit which premiered at the Central Bank Art Gallery in March. The exhibit, which visually told the story of the BNT from 1959 to 2009, was also part of a commemorative exhibition at the Main Post Office and was part of a special showing at the Glory Banks Art Gallery at the Rand Nature Centre in Freeport.

The Following in the Footsteps Expedition retraced the course of the original Exuma expedition which made recommendation to The Bahamas government in 1958 to



establish the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park and create the BNT to manage our first national park.

The idea was to compare the park today with what the scientists recorded in 1958. The expedition was coordinated by Dr. Ethan Freid, a noted tropical botanist, and 16 naturalists, scientists and crew of the John G. Shedd Aquarium's *Coral Reef II* were able to revisit the original expedition sites and look at the park's past successes and present challenges. The expedition was made possible through the generosity of a number of donors and the John G. Shedd Aquarium.

A week of activities during July - the actual anniversary month of the BNT - included a special Bahamas at Sunrise show that covered the history and work of the BNT, along with a special message from the Hon. Earl D. Deveaux, Minister of the Environment. Dr. Carleton Ray, leader of the Exuma Expedition, spoke at a special public meeting, and BNT members participated in a Fun Run Walk to show their support for our national parks.

The highlight of our anniversary celebrations was the Gala Ball held on October 17. The BNT honoured found-







ing members Dr. Carleton Ray and J. Andrew McKinney as well as the government of The Bahamas for their outstanding support and contributions. It was truly a celebratory event.

In his remarks congratulating the BNT on 50 years of conservation success, the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of The Bahamas, Hubert A. Ingraham, announced that the government would be expanding the boundaries of Conception Island to include the marine environs, increasing the area of the West Side National Park and granting a new national park to the BNT – Fowl Cays National Park in Abaco.

The BNT was overwhelmed by the generosity of the corporate community for our silent auction which raised over \$70,000 for our work. We are also grateful to sponsors of the ball: Gunda Dorrance, The Mactaggart Third Fund, Commonwealth Bank, Donald and Debbie Tomlinson, Bank of the Bahamas, Bahamas Hot Mix, Schooner Bay, Avo Izmirlian, Leon Levy Foundation, UBS, and RBC Royal Bank of Canada.

# Parks and Science

The Parks and Science Division advanced a programme in 2009 of habitat management, species monitoring and development of infrastructure in the national park system. This report highlights major accomplishments within the parks system.

## **Harrold and Wilson's Ponds National Park (HWPNP):**

In May 2008, the BNT was advised by the Department of Lands and Surveys that the area formerly occupied by Diamond Farms would be added to the park. The BNT spent more than a year trying to support the relocation of the former tenant, Charles Gibson, to Andros in order to begin the development of programmes and infrastructure at this park. Mr. Gibson was offered two lots of land in Andros totalling some 50 acres, but changed his mind and refused to vacate the abandoned farm. This matter is now before the courts.

The boundaries of HWPNP continue to be assaulted with illegal building in close proximity to and within park boundaries. The BNT has had great difficulty getting the needed information from Lands and Surveys on these issues. Infrastructure and development of the park will continue to be hindered unless clear boundaries can be established. The BNT was unable to complete a survey of the park land in 2006 due to the hostile nature of some of the people who have illegally encroached on park boundaries.



## **Bonefish Pond:**

With funding provided to BNT as part of government's economic stimulus programme, the BNT was able to build 600 feet of boardwalk and a 15x15ft

pavilion that provides access to these important wetlands, which support educational programmes of the BNT and its partners. With the assistance of a nearby development and Past President Pericles Maillis, the BNT has begun the process of improving the farm road providing access to this part of the park.

**Lucayan National Park:** With great funding support from its friends on Grand Bahama, we were able to replace the dilapidated bridge and boardwalk across Gold Rock Creek. On February 12, 2009, the BNT opened the new *Operation Raleigh Bridge* in a ceremony attended by the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of the Environment, Members of Parliament for Grand Bahama, representatives from the Grand Bahama Port Authority, the Royal Bahamas Police Force, the BNT Executive Committee and members of the Grand Bahama community.

**Abaco National Park:** The BNT has completed and distributed the management plan for the Abaco National Park and the bye-laws for the park are being finalized.

Caroline Stahala, Bahama Parrot research biologist,



completed her summer field season which consists of nest monitoring, banding and educational outreach. This year 57 active nests were monitored and 25 parrot chicks were banded. Twenty-five nest boxes were erected, but to date there has been no activity noted at the boxes. The BNT continues its predator control

programme for feral cats to protect the parrot nests, with only two nest predations being documented this breeding season.

The BNT also facilitated a forestry mission led by Dr. Alvarez of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Dr. Juan Tinajero (IIC Consultant) and Chris Russell, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of the Environment. They visited various pine forest reserves in Abaco. The survey was undertaken in conjunction with the Ministry of the Environment to identify areas that can be used for sustainable forestry practices.

**Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park:** In the spring of 2009 the BNT said farewell to Tom and Judy Barbernitz, who have administered the Exuma Park for the past five years. They are credited with effecting significant improvements at the ECLSP and built systems which will support the efficient operation of this important national park for years to come.

The BNT continues invasive species removal of casuarinas (terrestrial) and lionfish (marine). We have also begun installation of “no wake” buoys in Shroud Cay as part of the zoning plan outlined in the general management plan.



On July 14, the barge M/V *Crusoe*, owned by Michael Oakes, sank within the park boundaries. The barge was transporting two excavators and one tractor as well as general supplies. Associated Marine Salvage, a Florida-based firm was hired to remove the wreck and associated debris. Fortu-

nately there was little damage to the marine resources in the area. This was due in a large part to the quick thinking and action taken by park staff (Andrew Kriz, Christopher Dunkley, Prescott Gay and David Knowles), with assistance from the Royal Bahamas Defence Force to contain the fuel spill. The Minister of the Environment facilitated communication with government agencies who were able to support mitigation efforts. In addition to the hundreds of man hours spent on the incident, significant park resources, including expensive oil spill equipment, were depleted.

**Parks Proposals:** The BNT has two park proposals pending government approval - a new national park on San Salvador and protection of the Perpall Tract Forest in Nassau. The Minister of Environment has advised that

the government has favourably reviewed the proposals, but has asked BNT to review the private land issues involved.

In both of these areas there are lands either within the boundaries or bordering them for which ownership remains uncertain. BNT has pledged to review these issues and re-submit the proposals with adjusted boundaries if necessary.



# Projects

**Southwest Marine Management Area:** Over the past year the BNT has been working with stakeholders to develop a proposal for a new protected area in South West New Providence. The area has been used by fishermen and the dive industry for many years, and consideration is being given to create a special multi-use area to coordinate the various recreational and economic activities taking place there.



A Rapid Ecological Assessment was conducted by a team led by Dr. Craig Dahlgren. There have been several stakeholder meetings to discuss the proposal to set up a managed multi-use area in this strategically located marine area that is important to

the dive industry and to recreational fisherman. The BNT hopes to present a proposal to government in the first quarter of 2010.

**Andros Ecotourism Project:** The BNT submitted a proposal as part of the country's submissions to the ninth EDF for infrastructural improvements to facilitate ecotourism training, national parks infrastructure and trails in the Blue Hole National Park. No bids met the tough EU standards and so the Trust is hopeful the government will provide the funding to advance this project to completion. The successful completion of this project will aid the mandate of the Trust and support key training to provide Bahamians with the tools to supplement their income with nature-based businesses.

**Human Resources:** The additional subvention from government has allowed the BNT to hire needed parks



staff in Exuma, New Providence and Abaco. In Exuma we have hired Andrew Kriz as Park Administrator, Henry Haley as Park Warden and Christopher Dunkley as Deputy Park Warden. Lindy Knowles has been hired as Assistant Park Planner stationed in New Providence, David Rees has been hired as part-time Deputy Park Warden for the Abaco National Park System, and Tavares Tamiko Thompson has been hired as a warden for the Andros National Park system.

**Training:** BNT staff in the Parks and other departments continue to receive training through a variety of avenues. They participated in the Mangrove Restoration Course facilitated by Robin Lewis and supported by the Ministry of the Environment. The workshop focused on mangrove restoration techniques comparing successful with unsuccessful projects and emphasizing the need to study the hydrology of the area in order for successful restoration to take place.

Dr. Nancy Clum, BNT Board Member from the Wildlife Conservation Society, facilitated the attendance of Wardens David Knowles and Henry Nixon at Mexico's annual banding activity that occurs August 22 -24th at the Rio Lagartos Biosphere Reserve in Yucatan.

A United Nations Development Programme Early Action Grant provided funding for a workshop in November for protected area managers. The topic was Understanding and Using Economics for Protected Area Research and



Management. Attendees were trained in developing and executing surveys related to protected area economics.

**Scientific Research:** The BNT assisted and facilitated a number of scientific research projects in 2009. Research continues to be conducted on the endangered Kirtland's Warbler on Eleuthera, a regional flamingo census including the Bahamas was conducted in November, and monitoring of the Bahama Parrot nesting season was conducted from May through August by Caroline Stahala. Sea Turtle research was conducted at Union Creek Reserve in November by Drs Alan Bolten and Karen Bjorndal. They were assisted by Park Wardens Henry Nixon and Rivean Riley Parks. Lindy Knowles accompanied Dr. Javier Ortega to Long Island in December to study and collect DNA and plant samples of Bay Rush *Zamia lucayana*, a cycad thought to be endemic to Long Island. Warden David Knowles led a team which conducted a nest and total count survey of White-tailed Tropicbirds in the Tilloo Cay Reserve.



# Education

**School and Community Presentations:** The BNT continued its educational presentations for schools on New Providence and Grand Bahama. The presentations focus on national park ecosystems and their associated species. Teachers receive collateral material, including posters on key species to follow up the class visits. During 2009 there was an increase in requests for visits to national parks, especially Harrold and Wilson's Ponds National Park and Bonefish Pond National Park. Over 7,000 students and adults took part in BNT educational presentations.

**Public Meetings:** The BNT hosts public meetings throughout the year that allow scientific researchers to present their findings to the Bahamian public, as well as featuring speakers on topical environmental issues. This year there were presentations on sea turtles, groupers, mangrove restoration, shark diving and climate change.

**Teacher Workshops:** The BNT is committed to providing teachers with classroom tools. We work with the Ministry of Education's Science Curriculum coordinators to develop teacher resources on Bahamian ecosystems, endangered species and other environmental subjects. The BNT has developed three ecosystem teaching resources: Wondrous West Indian Wetlands, the Bahamian Pine Forest and Treasures in the Sea (a resource on marine biodiversity with emphasis on conch, crawfish and grouper). Four teacher workshops were held this year featuring the class materials: three on Treasures in the Sea and one on Wondrous West Indian Wetlands. Two of the workshops were conducted as part of the BREEF summer



teachers workshop and one was conducted on Eleuthera as part of a professional development workshop. One hundred and fifty-six teachers received training in environmental education as a result of these activities, which are supported by a five-year grant from Colina Insurance.

**Discovery Club:** The BNT's youth environmental club supervised by Education Director Portia Sweeting has expanded to over 21 clubs on Andros, New Providence, Grand Bahama, Eleuthera, Exuma and Inagua. This innovative badge programme provides young people with a fun outdoor learning experience. Students learn camping skills and can earn badges in a variety of areas covering the marine and terrestrial environment. An important component of Discovery Club is the promotion of environmental stewardship. Discovery Club receives support from FirstCaribbean International Bank and Colina Insurance with the Lyford Cay Foundation supporting clubs on Andros and Inagua, and a special grant from the Mactaggart Foundation supporting the club at Black Point, Exuma.

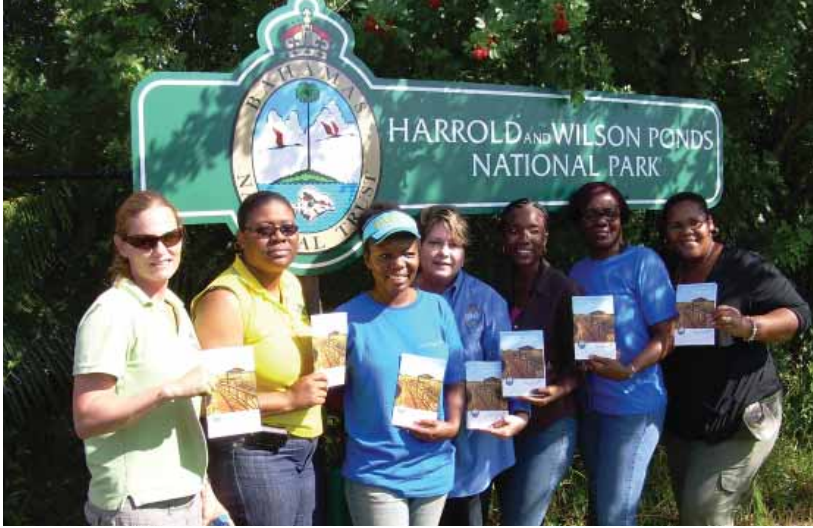


support from FirstCaribbean International Bank and Colina Insurance with the Lyford Cay Foundation supporting clubs on Andros and Inagua, and a special grant from the Mactaggart Foundation supporting the club at Black Point, Exuma.

**Parks Pal Programme:** The BNT and Bahamas Ferries are working to develop a programme on Andros and Abaco to facilitate school visits to national parks on these islands. The first phase of the programme has

seen school visits to Central Andros and the Blue Hole National Park. Each group is guided by a BNT staff member and receives an information booklet on the flora and fauna in the park.

**Earth Day and Bahamas Million Tree Campaign:** As a member of the Biodiversity Subcommittee, the BNT actively supported the Earth Day tree planting initiative promoted by the Ministry of the Environment. The edu-



cation office also coordinated two seed planting activities for horseflesh and mahogany with Bahamas Girl Guides and Discovery Club. The BNT has actively promoted the Bahamas Million Tree Campaign, featuring it on our web site and encouraging BNT members to plant native trees in their gardens.

**Summer Camp:** The BNT held week-long summer camps at the end of June on New Providence and Grand Bahama. Seventy-five young people learned about Bahamian ecosystems, visited pine forests and snorkelled with Stuart Cove.

Over 20 students participated in the first Bahamas Environmental Youth Programme on Andros during the last week of July. The week-long camp, held at the Forfar Field Station, was organized by the BNT with support from the Andros Conservancy and Trust, the Bahamas Hotel Association, the Ministry of Tourism's Coastal Awareness Committee, and BREEF, in cooperation with



contributing corporate partners. Students snorkelled, learned how to bonefish, met Miss Marshall of Red Bays, identified plants and camped in the pine forest.

**Rare Pride Programme:** The Pintail Pride Campaign was conducted to highlight the benefits of wetlands and promote their sustainable use. One of the goals is to make trucking companies aware of the harmful effects of dumping in wetlands. A major component of the project was to encourage schools and community to groups to adopt a wetland. This initiative was supported by RARE, the Audubon Society and the US Parks Service.

## Finance Department

The BNT was not spared the effects of the global economic downturn, and early in the year made the decision to defer non-critical elements in the respective departmental work plans. Careful and prudent spending by managers resulted in our being able to successfully retain most of our core programmes.

Having placed great emphasis on improving the BNT's financial systems these past two years, we are pleased to now be in a position of financial credibility. Annual audits which were formerly years behind are now current and we expect the 2009 audit to be completed early in 2010.

The proposed detailed Financial Policies and Procedures Manual, developed through a grant from The Nature Conservancy, is now before the Finance Committee for approval. This provides financial tools to help ensure sound decision making by management while providing clear directions to all employees. It will also demonstrate



to external parties, including donors and auditors, our commitment to financial best practices.

We once again utilised external consultant Paige MacLeod to facilitate our strategic financial planning exercise to develop the draft 2010 organization budget. Demonstrating their commitment to the financial planning process, department managers were better prepared this year, with clear projections of funding needs to achieve their work plans. Our 2010 budget reflects a conservative approach to estimating projected income. We will remain cautious until we are confident of economic recovery.

We also concluded preparation for the determination of our ICR (Indirect Cost Recovery) rate. This work is also being funded by our partners, The Nature Conservancy.

## **Administration and Human Resources**

Our administrative staff are instrumental in coordinating the day to day business of the BNT - scheduling meetings, managing information technology and ensuring that communications systems are always up and running.

To meet growing demands, the BNT upgraded its electrical service at the Retreat and installed fibre optic cable for digital phone service in 2010. We also installed a terminal server to allow staff remote access to information systems as well as WiFi access points for all departments at Head Office.

## **BNT Membership and Development**

Membership is the lifeblood of the organization. The BNT is developing events and outreach activities designed to increase membership and expand our support base, both financially and politically. To date we have nearly 1800 active memberships, including families, individuals and corporations (up from 1600 at the end of 2008), representing a 17% revenue increase and a 13% increase in membership subscriptions. We initiated corporate membership outreach with Scotiabank and Commonwealth Bank.

Our reinstated membership committee will be developing more off-site membership development opportuni-




ties as well as maintaining a large presence at our annual fundraisers - Wine and Art, Christmas Jollification and Festival Noel.

The BNT began to move forward with its Preservation Partners Campaign, a major fundraising initiative which will seek to raise \$25 million for Parks, Education, and Science, \$12 million of which will be used to build the endowment fund to provide increased annual income for the park system. We are in the first stages of the campaign with pledges to date of \$1.4 million and contributions of \$1.6 million.

**Fundraising Events:** The BNT engaged in a number of fundraising events in 2009. The most successful events are the Cuban Pig Roast (which raised over \$20,000), the Wine and Art Festival (which raised over \$20,000) and the Christmas Jollification (which raised over \$70,000 to support The Retreat Garden). Festival Noel in Freeport was also successful in raising needed funds to improve the watchable wildlife area at The Rand Nature Centre.

The BNT is grateful for the loyal corporate support that we have received. These events could not have taken place without the support of Bristol Wines and Spirits, Asa H. Pritchard, Bahamia Rental, Gourmet Markets, Cacique Food Art, King's Realty and Sands Beer.

**Government Subvention:** The BNT is especially grateful to the government for the annual subvention of \$1 million and the additional grant of \$250,000. This investment in the work of the BNT has allowed us to significantly advance our programmes and to become a fully



functional organisation. The government subvention supports our core staff, especially much-needed wardens on Grand Bahama, New Providence, Exuma, Andros and Abaco.

## **Final Thoughts and Looking Ahead**

2009 has been both a challenging and exciting year for the BNT. In celebrating our 50th anniversary we had the unique opportunity to reflect on our many successes. Despite the global economic downturn, we were fortunate to have received significant funding from the government and our broad constituency of supporters.

As we enter the third year of our Strategic Plan we are energised by this support and by a dedicated staff and Council who all believe fervently in our mission. 2010 starts us on our path to our next 50 years, and we can only hope to live up to the standard of our founding members and achieve even greater conservation successes in the years ahead.

# Support

**The BNT relies on many sources of funding to fulfil its mission. We are especially grateful to the following corporations, foundations and individuals that provided major support in 2009 (gifts of \$500 or more).**

Abaco Beach Resort  
Abaco Exporters and Importers  
Abaco Gold  
Abaco Outboard  
Abaco Petroleum Company  
Albacore Construction  
Albany Developers  
Michael and Nancy Albury  
Susan and Glen Allard  
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Peter Barratt  
Jonathan Bethel  
Louise and Robin Bleakley  
Drs. Alan Bolten and Karen Bjorndal  
Bristol Wines and Spirits  
BSI Overseas (Bahamas) Ltd.  
Hugh and Sandra Buckner  
Susan Burnside  
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Cacique Food Art



Canadian Women's Club of Grand Bahama  
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M/M Anthony C. Hepburn  
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Inagua General Store  
Avo Izmirlian  
Dave Jennette  
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Tiamo Resorts  
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The Leon Levy Foundation

The Mactaggart Third Fund  
The Maillis Family  
The Moore Charitable Fund  
The Nature Conservancy  
Donald and Debbie Tomlinson  
U.B.S. International Trust Ltd.  
M/M Leandro Vasquez  
Peter and Pippa Vlasov  
Waldorf Astoria  
Gordon Ward  
Waugh Construction  
Wax Cay, Exuma  
Niels Werring  
Nakira Wilchcombe  
Del Foxton and Bill Willms  
Windemere  
M/M Peter Young

# Financial Highlights for 2008

## Income

Investment income from Heritage Fund	\$ 178,399
Project support from other non-profit organizations	733,410
Government grants	1,125,000
Proceeds from festivals and other events	122,783
Other unrestricted income	657,273

**TOTAL INCOME** **\$2,816,865**

## Expenses

Projects supported by other non-profit organization	\$ 761,305
Education, public meetings & conferences	104,244
Park Maintenance	310,329
Management & administration	1,345,994
Depreciation of buildings & equipment	174,722
Other Expenses	216,221

**TOTAL EXPENSES** **\$2,912,815**

Note: Audited financial statements for 2008 are not yet available, audited financial statements and opinion letter for 2007 are available at the Trust's head office in Nassau.

### **Notes on financial information**

*Copies of the financial statements of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2007, as audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers, Nassau, Bahamas, will be available from our office.*

*The affairs of the Trust are administered by the Council and the Executive Committee, under the provisions of the Bahamas National Trust Act 1959, as amended in 1961.*

*The Trust prepares its financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments at fair value.*

*BNT Finance Committee: Peter Stokes, Shirley Cartwright, Wayde Christie, Jeff Robertson, Lawrence Ginton, Glenn Bannister, Neil McKinney. Ex officio: Eric Carey, Lynn Gape, Therese Adderley*

# Ways to Give

As a non-profit membership organization, Bahamas National Trust relies on donations from a variety of sources to fulfill its mission. Here are a few examples of how you can support the Trust:

**Membership donation.** Consider increasing your membership donation either by cheque payable to *Bahamas National Trust* or by credit card and online.

**Corporate donation.** Employers can match the charitable gifts made by their employees or donate a small percentage of every customer dollar spent. Corporations may also give to specific projects.

**Land.** The BNT can either preserve or liquidate gifts of land depending on their location and the wishes of the donor.

**Membership gift.** Purchase a gift membership for a friend or relative on birthdays and holidays.

**Memorial.** Gifts can be made to the BNT in memory of a loved one or in lieu of flowers.

**Bequest.** Gifts written in your will can take the form of money, land, a house or other asset.

**Gifts of securities.** Owners of stock can save on taxes by donating appreciated stock.

Donations can be tax deductible in US and Canada.

For more information please contact our Development Office.

**Bahamas National Trust** is a non-profit membership organization established by an act of Parliament in 1959. It is charged with:

- Managing the country's 26 national parks covering over 700,000 acres of land and sea,
- Providing environmental education services and programmes to Bahamians, and
- Advising government on environmental policy matters.

Your support is vitally important in assisting the Trust to fulfil its mission.