



TRUST NOTES

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Bacardi Gives \$150,000 To The Bahamas National Trust

Harrold and Wilson Ponds National Park and Nassau Environment to Benefit

As part of its ongoing commitment to the advancement of The Bahamas, Bacardi & Company Limited today announced a \$150,000 donation to The Bahamas National Trust to further the environmental conservation of natural and historic resources of The Bahamas and its national park system.

Bacardi's gift specifically supports the Harrold and Wilson Ponds National Park, the first national park in New Providence. The Bacardi donation will allow for the extension of the boardwalk nature trail, as well as the construction of a viewing platform to observe the more than 100 different bird species in the park, including the globally threatened Bahama Swallow.

"Bacardi is thrilled to be making this donation for the betterment of The Bahamas and our precious national parks," said Andy Fowler, vice president of administration, human resources and environmental compliance for Bacardi & Company Limited. "Around

the world, Bacardi makes environmental stewardship a top priority."

The Bahamas National Trust Executive Director Eric Carey said, "The Trust has big dreams for this national park—dreams of school children working in outdoor classrooms, families walking along the boardwalks and trails and nature enthusiasts staring in wonder at the beautiful species that call The Bahamas home. We also dream of a first-class visitor centre with informative educational exhibits. We thank Bacardi for its generous support in helping make these dreams a reality.

"Bacardi – both the corporation and the family – have been great supporters of The Bahamas National Trust for

many years. We encourage other corporations and private citizens to follow suit," added Francisco Carrera-Justiz, chairman of the board of Bacardi & Company Limited and the former president and chief executive officer of the Nassau facility.

Bacardi announced the \$150,000 donation to The Trust on February 20 at an event at the Harrold and Wilson Ponds National Park alongside Minister of Culture Hon. Charles Maynard; Minister of Lands & Local Government Hon. Sidney Collie; Minister of Works and Utilities; Hon. Earl Deveaux, Environmentalist Pericles Maillis, and executives of both The Trust and Bacardi, as well as other governmental and environmental leaders.



From left: Vice President of Human Resources Bacardi, Andy Fowler; Minister of Housing Sidney Collie; Chairman of the Board Bacardi & Co. Ltd Francisco Carrera-Justiz; Deputy President BNT, Pericles Maillis; Executive Director BNT, Eric Carey and Minister of State for Culture Charles Maynard.

Glory Harris Banks Gallery Opening

On 22 February, the Glory Harris Banks Gallery at the Rand Nature Centre in Grand Bahama was officially opened. The Gallery has been in use since its completion in 2006 and the Trust was pleased to honour the unique Glory Harris Banks who donated a million dollars to the Bahamas National Trust to provide a venue for young artists to display their creations.

Mrs. Banks was a professional commercial artist in the United States during the 1940's and 1950's before she moved to Europe and then Germany with her first husband. She remarried Alexander Banks in 1974 and continued to develop her artistic skills, becoming an avid photographer and having a one-woman show of her watercolors. The Banks retired to Freeport in 1977, and Mrs. Banks became very active in the Freeport community. She was a volunteers' "volunteer", participating in the activities of the Hawksbill Yacht Club, the Grand Bahama Humane Society, the American Women's Club, the Sir Charles Hayward Library and of course, the Bahamas National Trust.

Mrs. Banks was remembered by her close friend Ivy Elden and Minister of Tourism and Aviation Neko Grant who told the audience that Mrs. Banks used to visit him in his office before his political career, remarking "You just could not tell that little lady 'no'."

Trust President, Glenn Bannister, said, "the Bahamas National Trust is aware that the delay in the formal opening of this gallery and many issues which have surrounded it have created consternation and mistrust amongst the members of the Freeport community.

"Indeed," he said, "the Grand Bahama regional branch has made a concerted effort to communicate these concerns and I must tell you that the Bahamas National Trust has heard what they have to say. So I speak to you this evening, in a spirit of communication and working together to build, maintain and support that national park system throughout The Bahamas.

The Gallery was officially opened by Lucaya MP Neko Grant with his wife and President Glenn Bannister. After



Mrs. Neko Grant cutting the ribbon to officially open the Glory Harris Banks Gallery. Pictured from left: Eric Carey, Cecilia Bodie, Karin Sanchez, Mrs Grant, Minister Grant, Glenn Bannister and Carolyn Milligan.



Pictured from left are BNT President Glenn Bannister, a photo of Glory Harris Banks, GB Regional Committee Chair Karin Sanchez and Deputy President Pericles Maillis.

the gallery was opened, those attending were invited to see Mrs. Banks work along with the work of several students from Jack Hayward High School, Eight Mile Rock High School, St. Georges High School, Catholic High School and Lucaya International School.

"We are very proud to showcase Glory's work and the work of several students tonight," said Cecilia Bodie, Administrator and Education Specialist, BNT Rand Nature Centre. "This is exactly what Glory wanted to see—young artists exhibiting and showing their many talents, we hope to make her proud."

The exhibition of Mrs. Banks work was on display for a month. The GB Regional Branch plans to use the gallery to showcase other Bahamian artists. For more information about the gallery or to visit the new display, contact the Rand Nature Centre 352-5438.



Andros Field Trip: Blue Holes, Botany, and Bonfires

On March 14, thirty-five “Andros Adventurers” boarded the Bahamas Ferries *Sea Wind* and departed for Fresh Creek, Andros on the BNT’s first member’s Field Trip to the Central Andros National Parks.

The group were rewarded with a calm crossing and once in Fresh Creek were treated to a delicious native breakfast at the Lighthouse Club, and then a visit to the Androsia Factory where they experienced first hand the process used to make the colorful native Androsia Fabric.

The highlight of the trip on Friday was the visit to the Blue Hole National Park.



The Adventurers were the first to experience the new board walk and observation deck recently built at the park. Former Professor of Geography and author of Bahamian Landscapes, Neil Sealey introduced the group to Blue Holes and how they were formed and the uniqueness of Andros

as home to more Blue Holes than any place else on earth.

Guided tours were given by BNT staff of the Coppice Forest and Pine Forest areas surrounding the Blue Hole.

Naturalists were further delighted on Saturday, with a visit to the Maidenhair Forest an incredible area of mature broad-leaf forest. This is a unique and special area which was recommended for inclusion in the Central Andros National Park system but was not included when the park was created in 2002. Participants were impressed with the sites natural beauty and encouraged the Trust to continue its efforts to have this area included in the protected area system.

After lunch at Forfar Field Station, a special mangrove creek tour of Stafford Creek introduced the Adventurers to this amazing and productive ecosystem. Snorkelling and exploration of the creek was enjoyed by all.



It is the goal of the BNT to encourage and support tourism facilities on islands where we have national parks and special visits were paid to Small Hope Bay Lodge, a world famous dive resort and to Stafford Creek Lodge, a Bahamian owned fly-fishing lodge located on the banks of Stafford Creek.

The group enjoyed special presentations on Friday and Saturday evening by local tourism and conservation advocates. Benjamin Pratt of the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism spoke on Friday evening and Prescott Smith, President of the Bahamas Sportfishing and Conservation Association of his vision of a multi-million dollar fly-fishing industry in The Bahamas. A bonfire on Saturday night introduced the group to Androsian Folklore.



Trip participant Cynthia Stanko had this to say “Thanks very much to all of you for all the work that you did to put the weekend together. My daughter and I enjoyed every adventurous minute of it and are still smiling ... as well as looking forward to joining you on your next trip. Just want you to know that it was appreciated, as well as the work that you always do to protect our environment. The Trust has a new image to me, and it is a very good one. Will spread the word!!!!”

The positive feedback from participants on the Andros field trip ensures that there will be another Family Island adventure. For a detailed trip report go to the BNT Website and see article on the Andros Field Trip.

Pig Roast Supports the Primeval Forest

BNT members spent a wonderful afternoon in February enjoying authentic Cuban Cuisine, music and mojitos. The Cuban Pig Roast, the brainchild of Mr. Manuel Cutillas was held at the Maillis Farm with tables right on the beach. "It was just the most perfect day," said Carlton Robertson, one of the organizers of the event.

After eating a fabulous lunch, guests danced and relaxed in the wonderful setting. The silent auction offered trips, art and jewellery and was well patronized with guests bidding quickly for their favourite items. All of the proceeds from the event will go to the advancement of the Primeval Forest National Park, a protected area in southwest New Providence.



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS AND VOLUNTEERS

Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Cutillas
The Maillis Family
Mr & Mrs Macgregor Robertson
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Kamalame Cay
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Odessey Airlines
Bahamas Fantasies

UPCOMING BNT 50TH ANNIVERSARY WAS HONOURED

by the Stepping Stone Quilters have donated six wildlife panels depicting the beautiful wildlife found on our islands and in our seas which will be auctioned by the Trust and the funds used in our continuing work to protect and manage the national park system. The panels were designed and quilted by Maria Chisnall: Flamingo, Robin Symonette: Bahama Parrot, Ruth Lightbourne: Rock Iguana, Sarah McClean & Bonnie Phillips: Blowfish, Kathy Schaerer: Sea Horse, Vee Jenkins: Sea Turtle.



Congratulations to the New 2008 Officers for the Bahamas National Trust

President: Glenn Bannister
Deputy President: Neil McKinney
Honorary Secretary: Robin Symonette
Honorary Treasurer: Peter Stokes

Congratulations to our new BNT Grand Bahama Regional Committee Officers

Chairman: Karin Sanchez
Deputy Chairman: Tiffany Dennison
Secretary: Barbara Stollery
Treasurer Linda Osborne



**Bahamas
National
Trust**

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