



TRUST NOTES

December 2006

Issue 3 No.4

BNT OFFICERS

Members of Council

Glenn Bannister
President

Stacey Wells-Moultrie
Deputy President
Peter Stokes

Honorary Treasurer
Robin Symonette
Honorary Secretary

Michael Albury
Sir William Allen
John F. Bethell
Michael T. Braynen
Daniel Brumbaugh Ph.D.
Teresa Butler
John Cecil
Nancy Clum, Ph.D.
Pericles A. Maillis
Livingston Marshall Ph.D.
Earlston McPhee
Macgregor Robertson
The Ambassador for the
Environment
Anthony White
Peter Young

Executive Committee

Sir William Allen
John F. Bethell
Glenn Bannister
Teresa Butler
Michael Braynen
Livingston Marshall
Stacey Wells-Moultrie
Peter Stokes
Peter Young

Scientific Advisors

Karen A. Bjordnal Ph.D.
Alan B. Bolten Ph.D.

**Patron His Royal Highness
The Duke of Edinburgh**

BAHAMIANS APPOINTED TO TOP POSTS AT BNT

Bahamians Eric Carey and Lynn Gape are the new executive director and deputy executive director of the Bahamas National Trust.

“We decided to look internally for candidates to fill these top posts,” said BNT President Glen Bannister. “Both Eric and Lynn have been committed Bahamian environmentalists and dedicated executives for years, and we are confident that they will be able to move the Trust forward as the nation’s leading conservation organisation.”

Mr Carey had been director of parks and science liaison since 2003. He came to the Trust through the Parks Partnership Project, a Bacardi-funded initiative which is responsible for producing management plans for the BNT’s 25 national parks. The administration of national parks and protected areas is the BNT’s chief mandate.

Mr Carey led the development of a management plan for the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park, one of the most successful marine fishery reserves in the wider Caribbean. He has worked with local communities to develop management plans for the Abaco and Andros National Parks, and he is working with local people to establish a national park on San Salvador.

In his role as science liaison Mr Carey helped organise the BNT’s Scientific Advisory Committee, which provides a forum for techni-

cal input from international scientists on a range of Bahamian conservation issues. He is also one of the biologists working with the internationally

recognized Kirtland’s Warbler Research and Training Project in The Bahamas.

Before joining the Trust, Mr Carey was a volunteer on the BNT’s wildlife, ornithology and game bird committees for 10 years. As a conservation officer at the Department of Agriculture he was responsible for processing research applications, managing the Botanical Gardens, participating in scientific projects and representing The Bahamas at international meetings on wetland and biodiversity conservation.

He is the past president of the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds, the largest bird conservation and research organisation in the region.

“As I reflect on the long and distinguished history of the Trust - built through the hard work of dedicated volunteers, officers, and staff both past and present -

I hope that Bahamians will join us by the thousands,” Mr Carey said. “We want to ensure that our national parks allow Bahamians of today to experience the wonders of nature, while protecting our unique biodiversity for future generations to enjoy.”

As deputy executive director, Mrs Gape will retain responsibility for the Trust’s educational
Continued on page 3



Eric Carey



Lynn Gape



Pig Roast a Great Success!

Over 200 BNT supporters gathered on Saturday, December 2 at St. Paul's at Lyford Cay to experience a traditional Cuban Pig Roast with all the trimmings. The event was the brainchild of Mr. Manuel Cutillas who wanted an event that would support the Bahamas National Park system and bring the eastern and western residents of New Providence together at a fun event.

Guests were treated to a delicious meal of roast pork, black beans and rice, cassava, plantain, guava shells and cheese. Mr. Cutillas roasted the pigs,

Mrs. Cutillas cooked the black beans and Alexandra's Catering prepared the rest of the meal.

A silent auction featured Bahamian artwork and trips to the mysterious island of Andros, and the grand raffle offered the lucky winner a weekend for two to Inagua, home to 50,000 flamingos and the Inagua National Park.

In the afternoon, after a great meal and Mojitos prepared and served by Bacardi, guests were able to dance to the rhythm of Sol Caribe. As the sun began to set and guests were departing, mem-

bers of the Trust were delighted to hear the question, "When do you plan to do this again?"

Pictured at top left, BNT President Glenn Bannister presents a gift of appreciation to Manuel Cutillas. Centre, Liz and Larry Roberts enjoy the luncheon. XXX an authentic Cuban band entertained the crowd with music and dancing. XXX danced the afternoon away.



Students from the Black Point All Age School in Exuma visited The Retreat in December. The students were in Nassau visiting Dolphin Encounters and getting a special tour of the Atlantis Aquarium. The trip was organized by Twyla Herrington, the BNT's part time community educator stationed in Exuma. A special presentation on endangered species was part of the Retreat Tour.

Inagua warden attends RAMSAR workshop



Henry Nixon, Warden of the Inagua National Park, attended a Ramsar Course for wetland managers in October of this year.

The course was held in the Republic of Panama and was attended by wetlands managers from the Caribbean and Central America.

Participants visited wetland sites in Panama and interviewed local people identifying factors that affected the site and made recommendations for management of the site. Ducks Unlimited conducted a GIS Training workshop introducing participants to the use of GIS for assessment, inventorying and monitoring of RAMSAR sites. Mr. Nixon gave a presentation at the workshop on the Inagua National Park, designated by Ramsar as a Wetland of International Importance.



BNT Nature Walks

Beginning in September the Bahamas National Trust introduced nature walks which took BNT members and members of the general public on outings to wetlands, pine forests and broad leafed coppice forests. Adelaide Creek, the Water Well Fields and Per-pall Tract have been the sites visited. Trust staff and volunteers have provided information on the native vegetation and unique features of each of these areas.

BNT member, Tracy Toogood, had this comment "I feel very fortunate to have enjoyed all three of the nature walks which The Bahamas National Trust presented this past October and November. I learned new and interesting facts about mangroves, pine forests and broad-leaf coppice. My son, James, was fascinated to discover the variety of wildlife, in the form of birds, reptiles and insects, that could be found in each ecosystem. We look forward with enthusiasm to future adventures." Three more nature walks are planned for 2007.



Continued from page 1

programmes and public communications, a role which she assumed in 2004. Mrs Gape first became involved with the Trust in 1985 as honorary secretary and was appointed education officer in 1991. She represents the BNT on the Coastal Awareness Committee and the BEST Commission's biodiversity subcommittee.

She is responsible for all BNT publications and acts as a contributing editor to The Bahamas Naturalist and Journal of Science. A former school teacher, she has coordinated several projects producing training and educational materials for

Bahamian teachers, including the West Indian Whistling Duck and Wetlands project, which produced an internationally acclaimed teacher's resource guide.

Her participation in the People and Parrots Project for the Abaco National Park, a partnership with the University of Florida, has produced materials promoting the park as well as a teacher's resource guide for the pine forest ecosystem. Mrs Gape also acts as coordinator for the Bahamas Important Bird Areas Programme in partnership with BirdLife International, which provides training for

citizen science initiatives. And she has been the driving force behind the BNT's successful fundraising activities, including the annual Wine and Art Festival and Christmas Jollification.

"In my new role I hope to expand opportunities for education and outreach and bring a greater environmental awareness to all Bahamians," Mrs Gape said. "We will continue to foster true collaborative partnerships with local and international conservation agencies to provide as broad a base as possible for natural resource protection in The Bahamas"

Bristol Wines & Spirits Supports Bahamas National Parks



Art & Wine



October through December are busy months for the BNT as they prepare each year for their three major fundraisers: Wine and Art, Christmas Jollification at The Retreat in Nassau and Festival Noel at the Rand Nature Centre in Grand Bahamas. These three events are sponsored by Bristol Wines and Spirits who combine corporate marketing with a donation to the Bahamas National Park system. These events which support the BNT, The Retreat Garden and national parks on Grand Bahama were more successful than ever and the BNT thanks and recognizes Bristol Wines and Spirits for their outstanding contribution to our work.

Wine and Art Festival The Bahamas National Trust held their Annual Wine and Art Festival on Saturday, October 28, 2006 at The Retreat on Village Road.

This year's event featured the work of over 40 artists in a variety of styles. New artists to the Festival included Imogene Walkine, Lynn Parotti, Jeremy Cartwright, Moya Strachan and Christine Knowles. Photography has become an important part of the exhibition and Sabrina Lightbourn, John B. Gynell, Tim Higgs and Roland Rose showed new and exciting images. The island of Abaco was well represented at the Wine and Art with Marjolein Scott, Jeep Byers, Racquel Russell, Kimberly Roberts, Hermann Schadt and Sonya Weatherford.

The BNT membership office was busy all day signing up new members and the chance to win a Nokia Cell phone courtesy of BTC gave guests a good reason other than support of conservation to join. Ms. Barbara Pettigrew was the winner of the phone and she was thrilled with her good luck. Ms. Pettigrew said she has always had an interest in the work of The Bahamas National Trust and was proud to be a new member.

According to Rusty Scates, Wine Director for Bristol Wines and Spirits, "The event was a tremendous success, more artists, more people learning about wine and helping to support our country's national park system – what more could you ask?"

Jollification The annual Christmas Jollification opens on Friday evening with a special members evening sponsored by Cacique International and Bristol Wines and Spirits. This year's members evening was truly a "White Christmas Dream". Decorations and Food by Cacique International were truly amazing as they created a winter wonderland of white and silver in the pavilion area. "We feel that this is the start of the Christmas season for us," said Sean Sawyer, President of Cacique International. "We enjoy making the members evening special for the Trust."

The event once again featured over 60 of the country's most skilled artisans and craft makers. Jewellery, ceramics, wood-turning, silk paintings, copper mobiles, hand made soaps and Christmas decorations were just some of the wonderful creations available for purchase. Gardeners were able to visit 8 plant nurseries with one visit to the Jollification Plant area. Orchids, tislandsias, bromeliads, annuals and Christmas poinsettias were all beautifully displayed. The area also featured unique garden fountains and accessories. Bristol Wines and Spirits featured tastings of Christmas spirits and food vendors provided wonderful snacks and lunches through the day.

The event provides fun and entertainment for Bahamians from all walks of life but more importantly it helps underwrite the ongoing preservation of the BNT's Retreat Garden.

Festival Noel The annual Festival Noel held on 1 December provided a glittering setting for Grand Bahamians to enjoy lovely wines, delicious food and fabulous art. The event is the annual fund raiser for the Grand Bahama Branch of the BNT held each year at the Rand Nature Centre.

Art is show-cased at the event and this year's featured artist was Bahamian legend Eddie Minnis. Mr. Minnis was joined by his talented daughter Nicole Minnis-Ferguson. A new sponsor this year was John Bull who offered special items in the Silent Auction.

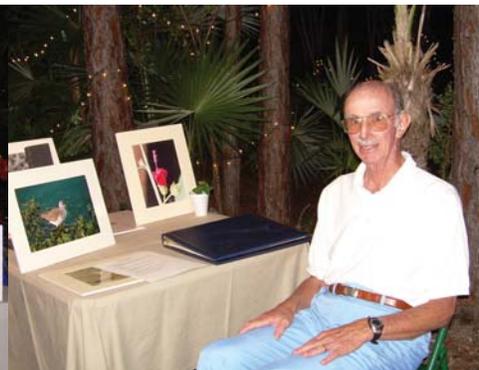
The Chef Noel Competition provides patrons with the opportunity to taste offerings from some of the best restaurants on Grand Bahama. Competition was indeed fierce this year as Chefs from Our Lucaya, Old Bahama Bay, The Harbour Room, Grouper Grill and Iries Restaurant served up delicacies for the festival attendees. All proceeds from Festival Noel support national parks on Grand Bahama.



Jollification



Festival Noël



Thank You All...

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude all of our sponsors and members for their support in 2006. We have accomplished much this year and hope 2007 is even more successful. But none of this would have been possible without the generous support of the business community, members and volunteers, and we thank you for it.

We hope that during this holiday season you will take time out to enjoy our beautiful environment and consider how lucky we are to live in The Bahamas. Our mission is to conserve this unique beauty for generations to come.

Amoury Company Ltd
Arctic Water
Asa H. Pritchard
Avis Rent-A-Car
Bacardi
Bahamas Fantasies
Bahamas Realty
Bahamas Supermarkets
Bahamas Waste Management
Bahamas Wholesale Agencies Ltd
Bahamia Rental
Bethell Estates
Bristol Wines & Spirits
Colina Insurance Company
Commonwealth Bank
Credit Suisse Bahamas Ltd.
Damianos Realty
Deltec Bank & Trust
Edmiranda Restaurants Ltd
Emerald Palms
Esso (Bahamas) Limited
Family Guardian Insurance Co
Fox Hill Nursery
Graham Thompson & Co.
Highborne Plantation Ltd
Insurance Management
International Merchant Bank

J.S. Johnson & Co Ltd
John Bull
Julius Baer Bank & Trust
K&S Auto Service
Kamalame Resort
Lucayan Lands
Lucianos of Chicago
Majestic Tours
Marlin Marine
Morton Salt Bahamas
Nassau Agencies Ltd
Nature's Way Landscaping
Pictet Bank & Trust
Prime Bahamas
RBC Royal Bank of Canada
Restaurants Bahamas Ltd
Royal Star Assurance Ltd.
Sentinel Bank & Trust Ltd
Spring Fresh Ltd
Sun Manufacturing
Super Value
Taylor Industries
Tiamo Resort
The d'Albenas Agency
Wild Seed Designs
Windermere Day Spa & Salon



Trust works with locals on San Sal to create parks

Called by some "The Forgotten Island" San Salvador remains relatively pristine and undeveloped. Local people in San Salvador realize that sooner or later that the island's fragile ecosystems will come under increasing pressure as development inevitably brings more residents, tourists, construction, pollution and exotic species to the islands.

Taking initiative they have organized themselves as The Living Jewels Foundation, developed a Dive Tag programme to provide funding to support their activities and are working with the Bahamas National Trust to have six identified areas placed under protection in the National Park System.

The BNT has supported protection in San Salvador since 1983. Support to do the public consultation and outreach to the local community regarding just what placing these areas in the National Park system would mean has been provided by the Jerry Taylor and Nancy Bryant Foundation.

Creating a system of national parks on San Salvador will benefit more than just the iguanas, seabirds and woodpeckers. Tangible benefits will accrue for humans as well as other flora and fauna.



**Bahamas
National
Trust**

P O Box N-4105,
Nassau, The Bahamas