



# TRUST NOTES

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## First Wine and Art Members Evening a Great Success!

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The BNT's annual Wine and Art Festival has been a popular event for 17 years. This year in addition to the Saturday, 27 October event which featured over 40 talented Bahamian artists, event coordinators organized a special Friday evening Silent Auction for BNT members.

Each year, participating artists donate a piece of art to the Silent Auction. This year Art and Wine coordinators worked with Rusty Scates of Bristol Wines and Spirits to provide members an opportunity to have first choice of the art donated by the artists at the special Friday evening event.

"It was a great evening!" commented Lynn Gape, Deputy Executive Director. "Our members were enthusiastic and had fun bidding on the art, but more importantly it provided an opportunity for our members to get to know the artists who are such an important part of this annual event. We feel sure that the Members Silent Auction evening will become an important part

of the Annual Wine and Art Festival."

The Saturday event welcomed a record crowd who spent the afternoon enjoying and learning about wine and visiting with the talented artists. The event is sponsored by Bristol Wines and Spirits and Rusty Scates, Wine Director commented "We look forward each year to providing this opportunity for the public to taste and learn about wines. It has also become an event where new young artists have an opportunity to introduce the public to their work and we are delighted to sponsor an event that showcases so many talented Bahamians."



Kimberly Sturrup Roberts showed her tropical images and fabric designs.



Artist Lemerio Wright took advantage of the day to create a new work.



Artist Malcolm Ray convinces Cindy Wilde and Sarah Lobosky that they need to have their portraits painted.



Our generous sponsor Bristol Wine & Spirits provided new wines for tasting.



# BNT Celebrates the Holiday Season

## Christmas Jollification

“A Groovy Kind of Christmas” opened on Friday, November 17 with a special members evening featuring beautiful decorations by Cacique Food Art and a buffet of tasty treats that had BNT members coming back for seconds.

“The Jollification really starts my holiday season” said one BNT member. “I come Friday, Saturday and Sunday and wish it could continue on to the next weekend.”

Over 70 talented artists and artisans displayed beautiful straw work, designer jewelry, hand painted furniture, designer pottery, homemade jams and jellies and cookies and sweet treats for the most discerning sweet tooth. Children found plenty to do in the Bluebird Juice Crafts area, as well as playing Awari, hoopla and lollipop pull. Desi’s Balloons were popular and the St. Andrew’s Interact Face Painting team who must have artistically decorated the faces of hundreds of children.

Those planning to put their gardens in order found a variety of plants to choose for their holiday plantings. With orchids from Flamingo Nurseries and the

Potting Shed; impatiens and poinsettias from Tall Pines Nursery and unusual Tslandias from Roscoe Darville, the Jollification was a one-stop shop for those with a green thumb.

No one went hungry at Jollification – delicious Greek and Filipino food as well as native delicacies from Inagua’s Best Kept Secret - JMJ’s were on hand for lunch and the smart shopper would have stocked up on desserts and sweets by visiting the Inner Wheel Sweet Stall. Bristol Wines and Spirits offered a sampling of holiday spirits but the big hit of the event was the Sports Bar where football and darts were available for those not interested in shopping.

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

## Festival Noel

Grand Bahamians gathered at the Rand Nature Centre on Friday, 7 December for an elegant evening of food, wine and Bahamian art. The seasonal celebration on Grand Bahama

was sponsored by Bristol Wines and Spirits, Cool 96, Parfum de Paris, John Bull and Ginn Sur Mer. The event is the major fundraiser for the Grand Bahama Regional Committee with proceeds going to support the national parks on Grand Bahama.

Art is showcased at the event and this year a Trio of Artists: John Thompson, Nikita Sheil Rolle and Derek Rodrick celebrated the amazing biodiversity of The Bahamas through photographs and botanical drawings.

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 Bikini Bottoms, China Beach, Ferry House, Harbour Room, Grouper Grill, Sabor and Joe Ret with his famous Roast Pig served up delicacies for the festival attendees.

On Saturday, the Annual Rand Nature Centre Art and Craft Festival featured local crafts, Bahamian Food and fun activities for children.

All proceeds from Festival Noel support national parks on Grand Bahama.





Workshop participants thoroughly enjoyed their field trip to Camp Abaco.

## Treasures in the Sea Travels to Abaco

Twenty-one Abaco educators participated in a special Treasures in the Sea Training Workshop over the midterm break. The workshop was facilitated by D'Shan Maycock of Friends of the Environment and Monique Sweeting, workshop facilitator for the Treasures in the Sea Working Group. They were assisted by Candace Key, Principal of Hope Town All Age School. Funding for the workshop was provided by the Bahamas National Trust through a grant provided by the Discovery Land Company, Developer's of the Baker's Bay Golf and Ocean Club at Great Guana Cay.

The two day workshop provided

teachers with the opportunity to become familiar with this new teacher's resource developed by the Center for Biodiversity of the American Museum of Natural History, the Bahamas National Trust and the Bahamas Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture. The resource focuses on the Bahamas three main fishery resources Conch, Crawfish and Grouper to teach the concepts of form and function, Life Cycles, Habitats, Interdependence, Economic and Cultural Values and Conservation. All teachers received a copy of the book and a folder with materials to complement activities in the resource. The production

of Treasures in the Sea was supported by Colina Imperial.



Teachers designed brochures promoting Grassland Acres as the perfect neighbourhood for local conch.

## BNT and Stuart Cove Partner for Conservation



In October the BNT and Stuart Coves's Dive Bahamas entered into a partnership to promote a marine protected area in the southwest district of New Providence and to cooperate in the implementation of a pilot dive tag programme.

## Ducks and Native Trees Star at Maillis Farm

BNT members participating in the November Nature Walk saw over 100 White-cheeked Pintails and over 20 Blue-winged Teal at the Maillis Family Farm at Adelaide. Mr. Pericles Maillis, Deputy President of the BNT, led the walk and explained how he started with eleven ducks on his pond. These in turn attracted wild ducks who now regularly visit and feed on his farm pond. In the winter, migratory waterfowl such as Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shovelers and Northern Pintails also use the pond.

The property also boasts many native trees—Lignum Vitae, Native Cedars, Brasileto, Crabwood, Mahogany and Bullwood. "The Trust has been very excited by the participation of members and the general public in our nature walks," said Eric Carey, Executive Director. "Our next walk will be in January at Harrold and Wilson Ponds National Park and we are planning a special trip to the Central Andros National Park in March 2008 for our members."



# Parks Staff Attend Flamingo Meeting

BNT staff members attended the recent Caribbean Flamingo Network Meeting at Rio Lagartos Field Station in Yucatan, Mexico. The attendance of the BNT was made possible by a generous donation from Majestic Travel Ltd.

The purpose of the meeting was to gather biologists from all the range countries of the Caribbean Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) in order to set priorities for in situ research.

Attendance at the meeting was crucial as in such a nomadic species, complete understanding and management cannot be achieved without sharing information and coordinating activities across borders.

Tamica Rahming, Director of Parks and Rivean Riley, Andros Warden gave a 20 minute presentation on the history and current research activities that are being conducted on flamingos in The Bahamas. Their presentation highlighted the work done in the Inagua National Park, which is credited with regionally



saving the flamingo, which had nearly disappeared from much of its range.

“It was wonderful to have the opportunity to attend this meeting and meet other people working on flamingos in our region. We are looking forward to moving forward on joint initiatives which will further contribute to our knowledge of our national bird.” Said Tamica Rahming, BNT Director of Parks.

The Inagua National Park is one of 25 parks and protected areas managed by the Bahamas National Trust. The park protects Lake Rosa which is essential habitat for over 40,000 flamingos in The Bahamas.

## New Boat for the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park



The ECLSP now owns a 28ft Contender with new twin four stroke engines. The new larger boat will allow long range patrols and provides greater safety for our wardens in inclement weather. The new boat was made possible by the generosity of :

**Mr. & Mrs. Jim and Barrie Loeks**  
**Mrs. Sigrid Dassler**  
**Little Halls Pond Cay**  
**Mr. Deiter Monhiem**  
**Mr. & Mrs. Michael Brown**  
**Mr. & Mrs. Charles & Molly Thayer**  
**Mr. Peter Daitch**  
**Numerous park visitors and**  
**Support Fleet Members**

**Support the Nassau grouper closed season**  
**DECEMBER 15, 2007 – FEBRUARY 28, 2008**



**Bahamas  
National  
Trust**

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