



CURRENTS

THE BAHAMAS NATIONAL TRUST

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Lynn Holwesko Steps Down As President

At our Annual General Meeting held in March of this year, Lynn Holwesko stepped down as President of the Bahamas National Trust. Mrs. Holwesko had been elected to that position for a total of fifteen years. No other President has ever served the Trust as long. In recognition of her exemplary leadership, her outstanding accomplishments and the endless sacrifices she made in the name of the Trust, Council passed a special resolution naming her an Honorary Life Member of the Bahamas National Trust.

At the AGM Mr. Hugh Sands, then Chairman of the Executive Committee, made the presentation to Mrs. Holwesko on behalf of the Trust's Officers, members of Council, the Executive, and you, the members of the National Trust. It is only fitting that the presentation to Mrs. Holwesko is recorded in its entirety, here in the members' newsletter:

"Ladies and Gentlemen. It is a distinct honor to present this part of the evening's program, on behalf of the Council of the Bahamas National Trust

Lynn Holwesko first became active in the work of the National Trust in the early 1970s. She was elected to the position of Honorary Secretary in 1972 and in 1976 she was first elected President. She served in this capacity until 1982, taking two years "off" to pass her bar exams and become an attorney-at-law. We re-elected her to the Presidency in 1984. Now, after a total of fifteen years of inspired leadership Lynn is stepping down. Lynn's achievements are as great

as they are varied. One of her very first successes immediately changed the way in which the Trust operated and continues as one of the Trust's most successful programs to date. Under her direction a resolution was passed in 1976, the first year of her Presidency, instituting the Standing Committees of the Bahamas National Trust. Her goal was to mobilize our membership. In her first President's Report she recorded, "It is gratifying to note that this plan has indeed directly involved more of our members in the work of the Trust than ever before in its history and the Trust is richer for the talents and energy which these members have brought to it." While the efforts of the many committee members can never be understated, you should know that Lynn served on every committee in those early years and helped each define and implement their many programs.

One of the immediate results of this move was unprecedented growth in the membership of the National Trust. In 1976 membership stood at 380. In 1977, at her first Annual General Meeting as President, Lynn recorded a record increase of 102 members in one year. In her second year another record of 160 new members was set. By 1979 membership had grown to 764 and the following year to 900. In the decade to follow membership continued to grow and at the close of the '80s membership had swelled to almost two thousand.

In every area of the Trust's work she had vision. She saw the critical need to reach out to people in all walks of Bahamian society. During the early years of her Presidency the Trust held its first public education meeting in a church hall on East Street. Basil Kelly wrote in his President's Report of 1983, "If I am forced to choose the one accomplishment that to my mind leads all the others it would be her success at making known to all Bahamians the existence of and major purposes of the Bahamas National



Mrs. Holwesko receives the Resolution of Council from Mr. Hugh Sands. Mr. Patrick Erskine-Lindop, Mr. Michael Taylor, and Mr. William Allen flank Mr. Sands and Mrs. Holwesko from left to right.

Trust. Before Lynn, nine out of ten Bahamians would say - 'Bahamas National what?' After Lynn, nine out of ten Bahamians know who and what we are."

She also had the vision to involve the Trust in the mainstream of international conservation. During her tenure as President she represented the Trust at many international conferences, all of which brought benefits to our organization. At her own expense she travelled to these meetings. In New England in 1980 she first introduced the Bahamas National Trust to the International Conference of National Trusts with a most memorable keynote address. Six years later she represented us again at the same Conference of National Trusts in the United Kingdom. The benefits of these meetings to the Trust became apparent and in 1984 an anonymous donation made it possible for her to attend the General Assembly of the International Union of the Conservation of Nature in Madrid, Spain. It was there, in the context of conservation, she finally "introduced" the Bahamas National Trust to our Royal Patron, H.R.H. The Prince Philip. At that General Assembly she as an individual was also appointed to IUCN's Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas, a position she has retained to date. She returned to the International Conference of National Trusts, in Bermuda in 1989, again delivering a keynote address. Last year she travelled to St. Lucia to help position the Caribbean as an IUCN target area for the coming triennium. Her presence at that meeting was of great benefit when, last November, she went across the planet to Australia for IUCN's 18th General Assembly.

Her leadership has touched everyone. She sat for hours with Sam and Jim Nixon in the outdoor kitchen of our camp in the Inagua National Park and listened to the stories and advice those veteran conservationists had to offer to their new President. She went out of her way, and again at her own expense, to visit that remote National Trust post as often as her many responsibilities permitted to make certain that our Inagua wardens knew the Trust cared for them and appreciated what they were doing.

She spent many hours with Margaret Langlois as well, walking the paths of "The Retreat" erasing Mrs. Langlois' fears about the future of this priceless garden which would become the home of the Bahamas National Trust. Bahamians from all walks of life came to know her as "the National Trust lady" and turned to her at all hours of the day and night for her help with their own environmental problems.

She saw the need to nurture those who had the resources to support the Trust financially. The 1978 Flamingo Ball is still talked about by long-time Trust supporters as one of our most successful fund-raising events. She arranged for our

Royal Patron to formally open "The Retreat" and had him end up in the Director's office to warm up all the prospective donors to The Heritage Fund! She then brought Prince Philip back at the culmination of the Heritage Fund to thank those who had given so generously. The Spencer Hodge Art Exhibition, held during our 30th Anniversary year, was also opened by The Duke of Edinburgh, and was an event of unprecedented financial success.

She has also made many quiet, unknown contributions to the Trust. She, and her husband Bill, have been the sole underwriters of the Trust's Bahama Parrot Captive Breeding Program since its inception in 1979. When her family sold its retail business, Lynn donated to the Trust desks, typewriters, cabinets, chairs, and beautiful mahogany display cases, all of which are still being used today. At any notice the Holowesko home was made available to the Trust for out of town guests, meetings and functions. Many, many family hours were given in service to meet the needs of the National Trust.

The annals of the Bahamas National Trust will record forever her many great achievements. But perhaps the greatest of all is the creation of The Heritage Fund. As the Bahamas National Trust grew in responsibility it was still restricted by limited funding and personnel. Lynn was ever concerned about the Trust's long term financial security. Determined to establish mature and dependable long term funding she hired an experienced, professional fund raiser (who also had a degree in wildlife biology) as the Executive Director, with the understanding that he would have to raise his own salary. At the first fund raising meeting Gary asked us to identify someone who would make a ONE MILLION DOLLAR donation. Half of us laughed, the other half thought Gary was crazy - except Lynn. Lynn went to Freeport and with confident poise asked Sir Jack Hayward to make a challenge donation of \$1M to the Trust's Heritage Fund. Sir Jack's public response is known to all. What he said that day to Lynn reflects the magnitude of her legacy to the National Trust. Sir Jack responded that he would pledge one million dollars to the Trust because of its invaluable work in the Bahamian community, but also, because comparatively speaking Lynn, herself, had already given at least the equivalent in service to the Trust. Thanks to Lynn's tireless efforts The Heritage Fund has been highly successful and will endow the work of the Trust into the future.

Lynn recently received a letter from Donald Kester, a member of Council who was unable to be with us tonight. As a fellow colleague in the National Trust I am sure Don would not mind if I share his closing remarks with you. They sum up what each of us feels. "I wish to express", he wrote, "my deep appreciation and admiration for the direction that you

have given this organization... You bring such an incredible curiosity and enthusiasm to the whole mosaic of what the Bahamas National Trust is and what it should be. I have been proud to have been one of your officers and counselors."

I gives me great pleasure to present this special resolution of Council to Lynn Holowesko, on behalf of the members of Council, the Executive Committee and the members of the Bahamas National Trust.

Resolution of The Council

WHEREAS Lynn Holowesko has served The Bahamas National Trust for well over twenty years distinguishing herself not only in the office of President for fifteen years, but also by her understanding of the valuable natural and historic treasures and beauty of these islands and by her deep commitment to their enhancement and preservation.

AND WHEREAS Lynn Holowesko, by her spirited leadership and devotion has been largely responsible for involving the membership of The Bahamas National Trust in the fulfillment of its role of preserving our lands and submarine areas of beauty or natural or historic interest, and its animal, plant and marine life for the benefit and enjoyment of our community.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Council records its sincere appreciation to Lynn Holowesko for her devoted service and her inspired leadership and for all the time and talents which she has so unselfishly given to the fulfillment of the purposes of The Bahamas National Trust.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council in recognition of her service and commitment hereby declares Lynn Holowesko to be an Honorary Life Member of The Bahamas National Trust and an Honorary Vice-President of The Bahamas National Trust.

Nassau, Bahamas - 9th March, 1991"

Changing of the Guard

Mr. William Allen, Deputy President, Mr. Michael Taylor, Honorary Treasurer, and Mr. Hugh Sands, Chairman of the Executive Committee also stepped down at the Annual General Meeting in March of this year. The Trust is truly indebted to each of these gentlemen. Mr. Allen and Mr. Sands have contributed many,

many hours to the Trust. Although both have stepped down from day-to-day involvement, they remain members of Council and as committed as always to furthering the aims and objectives of the National Trust.

The Trust is especially grateful to Michael Taylor, who served as Honorary Treasurer for 7 years. Mr. Taylor worked tirelessly in that capacity, spending many hours with the Director and Accounts Secretary, and donating resources and personnel from his own office to complete the increasingly complicated finances of our growing organization. Mr. Taylor always made himself available in other areas of the Trust's work and his desire to continue that involvement in the coming years is to the great benefit of our organization.

The changing of the guard brought in our new President, Mr. Pericles Maillis, and a new slate of officers. Mr. Maillis' enthusiasm for the work of the Trust is already known to all and his level of activity in the first months of office bear testimony to this. The Trust is fortunate to have a man of his energy and capability leading it at this time. Mr. Maillis has many projects lined up and Trust members are encouraged to contact him and get involved!

BNT Officers for 1991

President

Mr. Pericles Maillis

Deputy-President

Mr. Basil Kelly

Honorary Treasurer

Mr. Macgregor Robertson

Honorary Secretary

Mr. Patrick Erskine-Lindop

Wildlife Survey Gets Underway

The Bahamas National Trust, the Department of Lands and Survey's Division of Forestry and the Department of Agriculture began conducting a wildlife survey on June 1, 1991 on New Providence, Grand Bahama, Abaco and Great Inagua. The survey, which will run for three weeks, is part of a 12-month campaign to save one of the designated Quincentennial mascots from possible extinction. One percent of the population on each of the islands will be surveyed, bringing the survey total to over 2,500. This will be the largest wildlife/conservation survey ever conducted in our country. The survey is designed to assess public knowledge of this important national symbol and the results will be used to design an effective educational campaign to save the targeted species. Immediately following the survey an intensive educational campaign will be launched on all four islands. School-children, business men, Government officials and employees, church-goers and Bahamians from all walks of life will be impacted by this unique campaign. Participants of the survey will receive a special badge as a small token of appreciation. Survey results will be announced in July as well as the components of the educational program to follow.

Marine Mammals Get a Closer Look

For the first time ever, a preliminary survey of marine mammals in The Bahamas was conducted earlier this year. With the support of the Bahamas National Trust, whale specialist, Kenneth Balcomb, from the Center for Whale Research, and associates Diane and Rhonda Claridge, began a census of whales, dol-

phins and manatees in the Family Islands.

The Bahamas National Trust and the survey team issued marine mammal identification forms encouraging BNT members and sea travellers through our country to report any marine mammal sightings. The response to this exercise was encouraging.

The survey team conducted their work from a 22 foot Novurania rigid-hulled inflatable. They counted all mammals they saw, noting where and when they were sighted and observing their behavior. With the aid of a hydrophone, an underwater microphone, the team was able to locate the whereabouts of the marine mammals as they vocalized and record them. Photographs taken during the survey established a photo-identification catalogue, the first such record of these individually unique mammals in The Bahamas.

Ken Balcomb, a renowned marine mammal specialist, has conducted successful surveys of Killer Whales in Puget Sound, Washington, for the past fifteen years. His results, which indicate the reproduction rate and social dynamics of these whales, are important to biologists worldwide.

So encouraged by the preliminary results of The Bahamas survey, plans are underway to continue the work annually and compile a comprehensive record of these special inhabitants of our waters. In the meantime, the Bahamas National Trust will continue to receive mail-in or call-in sightings of marine mammals in The Bahamas.

Marine mammal survey team member, Rhonda Claridge, recently completed a brief lecture tour of primary and secondary schools on New Providence. Sponsored by the Bahamas National Trust Rhonda visited several schools with slide presentation and whale-song recordings in hand. Speaking about the

recent survey of marine mammals in The Bahamas, the children were easily captivated by the ever-popular topic of dolphins and whales. Rhonda also emphasized the plight of these mammals worldwide and urged the children to learn more about them and do their part to save them from possible extinction.

Lucayans Re-Visited

A unique project got underway at "The Retreat" during May. Beyond the huamil (an indian word for corn field) and nestled in the native coppice of the garden, construction of a Lucayan indian hut, or "canaye" began. Under the watchful eye of Tony Aarons, from the Department of Archives, the construction of this Lucayan home has been carried out in the most historically accurate manner possible.

Mrs. Cyprianna McSweeney, contracted by the Italian Quincentennial Commission to find the best location for the "canaye", approached the Trust several weeks ago. The "canaye" will be included in a film on the life of Christopher Columbus which is being shot by Panorama Productions, an Australian film com-

pany also contracted by the Italian Commission.

Members of the Trust's Executive Committee, including our President and Mrs. Keva Hanna-Lawrence, and young residents

from Adelaide put in many hours to complete the tightly budgeted project, learning unique skills in the process. The "canaye" has the distinction of being the first Quincentennial structure built in New Providence for 1992.

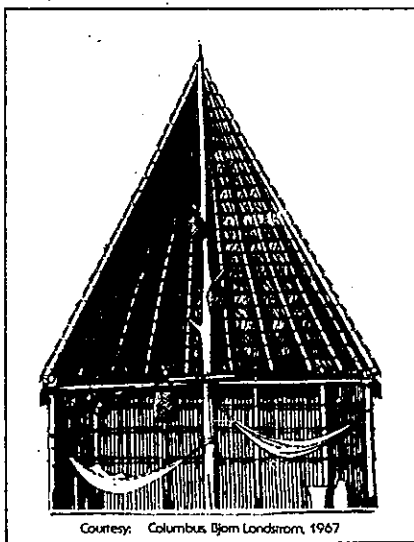
Open House Stamped!

The success of our fourth annual Open House in January of this year confirmed the popularity of this family event. Members of the Executive Committee who manned the gate throughout the day were overwhelmed by the public response. At day's end close to one thousand people had come to "The Retreat" and participated in the many activities and programs which ran continuously from 10 am until 4 pm.

Tours of the garden were filled to capacity each half hour. The story-telling proved to be as popular for the adults as it was for the children and the Director's office was bursting each session. The film festival was, again, one of the best attended events of the day and the special presentation on Marine Mammals was undoubtedly the highlight of this mini-festival. Visitors young and old delighted at the live animal exhibit, set very appropriately along the native coppice path. Toddlers and grandparents had a chance to hold a friendly boa constrictor; the hutia could not stand the excitement and had to withdraw to a quiet corner of the garden. Under the shade of the casuarina wind-break children's crafts had been organized. The enthusiasm of the children carried this originally scheduled two-hour event right through the day. The Rotary Club of East Nassau sold out their famous hamburgers three times. The plant sale enticed the early birds and by noon almost everything had been sold. We gratefully acknowledge and thank all those persons who contributed to the success of the day.

Linda Thomson and her committee for the wonderful job done handling the tours. Carol Brown was a marvelous story-teller; Mr. Photo made possible the slide illustrations of Dr. Suess' environmental book, "The Lorax". Rionda Deleveaux and Irene Tiliacos were captivated by the children and manned the crafts throughout the day. Nancy Mitchell and "The Retreat" Committee pulled off a great plant sale; Jack Sands, the "Betty K", and Amanda Meyers, from Fox Hill Nursery, were very instrumental in making it possible. Ardastra Gardens & Zoo provided the live animal exhibit and curators Rick and Kathy Oliver were on hand to watch over them and enhance visitor appreciation of these endangered species. We are indebted to Brent Symonette for organizing and manning the Spencer Hodge Watercolor sale and Dawn Hutton for running the BNT Shop. The Rotarians of East Nassau did a great job with the hamburgers and the "Chill-Out" bar. Young Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme participants volunteered where and when needed throughout the day. Lastly, we owe our biggest vote of thanks to Susan Larson and Lynn Gape who co-chaired the event and made everything possible.

Our January Open House has clearly become one of our most popular traditions. Make a mental note to be with us next year: it will be the Open House's 5th Anniversary and Columbus' 500th Anniversary of discovery. Both warrant an extra special day!



Courtesy: Columbus, Bjorn Landsman, 1967

BNT Hosts World Wildlife Fund Speaker

Members of the National Trust arrived at the Royal Bahamian in mid-February expecting a presentation on endangered species by World Wildlife Fund U.S.'s Director of Public Programs, Mr. Richard Block. However, they did not expect to see our speaker lose his shirt - which he did, several times! Mr. Block spoke about the importance of endangered species worldwide and illustrated his remarks, not only with slides, but with a series of WWF t-shirts that he had hidden under his coat and tie. Mr. Block emphasized the critical need to protect the habitats of our native animals and stressed that Man, other animals and the environment are interdependent: what we do to one, we ultimately do to the other.

Mr. Block remained with the Trust for a week after his public talk. He visited several primary and secondary schools and the Rotary Club of East Nassau promoting the Trust and the need for greater environmental consciousness.

Mr. Block has proven to be a true friend of the National Trust.



Pat Cash and BNT Recycling Volunteers sort aluminum and bottles.

During his visit he heard we were participating in the Rotary Circus Fair Day and needed prizes for our "Save the Coral Reef" booth. A few days after his departure a box full of WWF mugs, notecards, pencils and t-shirts arrived at the Trust office via Federal Express. He also supplied the Education Office with invaluable teaching materials. The Trust truly enjoyed and benefitted from Mr. Block's visit. We hope he will come and see us again in the very near future.

Jersey Wildlife Trust BNT Guest in May

Our May Public Meeting featured Mr. Quentin M.C. Bloxam of the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust (J.W.P.T.). Mr. Bloxam highlighted the work of the Jersey Trust, which is an international breeding center for some of the world's most endangered species.

Mr. Bloxam, Senior Curator of Herpetology, spoke about some of the resident endangered species at the J.W.P.T., including the Spectacled Bear from South America, the St. Lucian Amazon Parrot, and Brazil's Golden Lion Tamarin. His presentation also touched on the animals of Madagascar. The Trust is in-

debted to Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Buckner who not only offered Mr. Bloxam the hospitality of their home, but also arranged for him to visit the Bahamian Rock Iguanas on Allan's Cay and the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park, where he was lucky enough to catch a glimpse of our rare Bahamian hutia.

Committees in the News

If You Are Not Recycling You Are Throwing It All Away

Our Environmental Protection Committee began its bottle and can recycling program in February of this year. In conjunction with our celebrations during Earth Week the Committee set their goal at 10,000 cans and 5,000 cases of bottles. The project continued through May with committee members meeting every Saturday to sort and process the thousands of bottles and cans that have come in from concerned individuals and the many restaurants participating in the program. Our billboards, placed strategically around New Providence, have promoted the project and informed the public of our progress.

To date the committee has recycled 23,300 cans and 23,976 bottles (1007 cases), far exceeding the goal for cans and falling short of the goal for bottles. Committee members Dennis Sutton, Pat Cash, John Hamerton, Jeannie Sawyer and Courtney Curtis have put their hearts into the project. Ethan Bain, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee, and Bahamas Waste Management Company have provided all transport for the project and we are indebted to Mr. Bain and the company for this invaluable contribution.

Recycling will continue through the summer, collecting bottles and cans once a month during June, July and August. The com-

mittee needs volunteers who would be willing to work one Saturday morning each month. Anyone with a truck would be particularly welcome! Interested members can call Lynn Gape at 393-1317.

Special Note: Recycling Subcommittee Chairman, Dennis Sutton, will be speaking at Toastmasters #1234 on June 12th at 8:00pm at the Royal Bahamian Hotel. Trust members are invited to attend the event and support him.

Summer Recycling Days

June	July	August
15th	20th	17th
9am - 12noon, The Retreat, Village Road		

Membership on the Move

The Membership Committee, under the leadership of James Cole, has been working hard. The Open House was the committee's first activity for the year. Offering free mahogany saplings to anyone joining the Trust on that day, the committee signed up 24 adults and 12 students as new Trust members. At the beginning of Earth Week, members manned the exhibition at the Mall at Marathon on Clean-up Day, and signed up 18 new members.

The committee has also personally invited members of the Bahamas Bar Association, the Bahamas Chartered Accountants Association and corporate citizens to become members of the National Trust. The response has been very positive. Corporate members (paying \$1500 per year) have been recognized with a beautiful membership certificate. To date, John Bull Limited (our oldest corporate member), Nassau Cruises,

Premier Cruise Lines and two new corporate members - The Mall at Marathon and City Markets Limited - have received these certificates.

The Membership Committee is still small and needs more volunteers to effectively deal with all their responsibilities. Anyone interested in joining this committee should contact its chairman, Mr. James Cole at 322-7511.

Reaching Out in Education

Susan Larson and Lynn Gape, the Trust's Education Officer and Public Relations Officer respectively, continue to reach further into the Bahamian community with educational programs.

For many years now Mrs. Larson has lectured every recruit class at the Bahamas Defense Force. She describes these lectures as some of the most rewarding lecture experiences in her tenure at the Trust. Defense Force recruits, Mrs. Larson reports, have always shown incredible interest in the reasons behind our conservation laws, the focus of her lectures there.

Recently, Mrs. Larson and Mrs. Gape were invited to the Police College, Oakes Field. Their presentation was part of a Junior Command Course for Officers with the ranks of Chief Inspector and Inspector. Mrs. Gape made a slide presentation giving a broad overview of the work of the National Trust. Mrs. Larson's presentation covered environmental legislation in The Bahamas.

Both Mrs. Larson and Mrs. Gape remarked positively about the course, which was attended by approximately 50 officers. The many questions asked by the participants clearly indicated their concern for our environment. Our thanks to Mr. Michael

Pike, Police Advisor and BNT member, who was instrumental in including the National Trust in the course.

Mrs. Gape moved on from the Police College to Coutts & Company (formally NatWest) which internationally recognized 1991 as the year of the environment. Mr. John Lawrence, Coutts & Co. controller and a member of the Trust, invited Mrs. Gape to give a presentation to approximately 100 staff members of the company. Mrs. Gape's presentation highlighted the National Park System under the jurisdiction of the National Trust, endangered species in our country and the work of the Standing Committees within the National Trust. The response to Mrs. Gape's presentation was so enthusiastic Coutts & Co. has ordered a follow-up field trip to "The Retreat", and indicated an interest in starting an office recycling program.

Mrs. Gape and Mrs. Larson make educational presentations every week. Any member wishing to arrange one for their company should feel free to call the office (393-1317) at any time!

Trust Representative at CNPPA Sessions

Lynn Holowesko, our immediate past President, returned recently from Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic, where she took part in the 35th Working Session of the World Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas (CNPPA).

Mrs. Holowesko was invited to be one of the panelists in the week-long session, at which 20 of the Caribbean's 25 island nations were represented. Travel expenses for the Trust's representative were provided by the organizers of the sessions. Also in attendance were representatives from the United Kingdom, United

States and Canada, as well as the Chairman of the CNPPA, Mr. Bing Lucas of New Zealand.

CNPPA, one of five standing Commissions of the IUCN, is a prestigious body of world-wide professional park managers and consultants. Mrs. Holowesko was appointed to the Commission as a consultant-member in October, 1985 when she first attended a meeting of the IUCN as representative of the Bahamas National Trust. The BNT holds and manages the National Parks of The Bahamas.

Prior to the meetings in Santo Domingo, Mrs. Holowesko had attended the 18th General Assembly of the IUCN, and the 34th Working Session of the CNPPA, in Australia last year. The Santo Domingo sessions were held to coordinate the Caribbean region's participation in the IV World Parks Congress, in Caracas, Venezuela in February, 1992 by clearly identifying the issues which affect parks in developing island countries.

Previous World Park Congresses, held each 10 years, have resulted, among other things, in recognition that the natural and man-made treasures of the world belong to mankind, and not solely to the individual country where they are located. As such, they are a universal heritage, and deserve recognition and protection of world bodies.

Because the IV World Parks Congress is to be held in this region, much emphasis will be placed on the role of national parks in the sustainable development of countries where the economy is based largely on tourism.

In Santo Domingo it was agreed that parks of the Caribbean would make a coordinated appeal in Caracas for technical and monetary assistance from international sources which are able to provide for these needs.

Earth Week 1991 Another GREAT Success

At the invitation of the Prime Minister the Bahamas National Trust again celebrated the international observance of Earth Day with a week long schedule of activities. Following the international emphasis on children, the Trust's Earth Week Committee, chaired by Susan Larson and Lynn Gape, designed a myriad of programs which specifically reached into the schools of our island, as well as organized an island-wide clean-up campaign, numerous restoration projects, film festivals and much more. The week was another resounding success! Here are some highlights...

School Skit Competition

A novel idea was introduced to the schools and became one of the major events for our celebrations. Under the theme "Protect Our Common Wealth" schools were invited to write and produce 10 minute plays which focused on environmental problems facing our country and suggested solutions to deal with them. The competition was a refreshing change from the many slogan, essay, and art competitions held in schools each year and prompted a very enthusiastic response.

Mother Nature appeared in a dramatic performance, along with earth, sky and water, telling the story of Man's irreverence for the natural environment and the inevitable consequences of his careless, unthinking ways. Minister Perry C. Note, representative of the Potter's Cay Dock, appeared in a ZNS news production, "Get the Truth", to respond to stories in "The Crunch" that our marine resources were in jeopardy. Beach Bins performed a rap urging Bahamians to stop littering; bottles and cans appeared in a relentless litterbug's nightmare with a message of doom; and, Mother Elizabeth worked the church congregation up into a frenzy during "Litter Awareness Week".

"Play-offs" were held to reduce the large field of entries and the finalists' Gala Performance was held on Friday, April 26th at The Mall at Marathon. Mr. Glen Archer, Director of the Department of Environmental Health Services, Mr. Mik Bancroft, from the Ministry of Education's Learning Resources Unit, Mrs. Keva-Hanna Lawrence, Director of Product Development at the Ministry of Tourism, and Mrs. Lynn Holowesko, immediate Past President of the Nation-



C.I. Gibson's dramatic performance, "Our Birth Right", made off with Best-in-Competition during Earth Week 1991's Environmental Skit Contest.

al Trust, comprised the panel of judges faced with the most difficult task of selecting the winners and the best in competition.

The children's performances exceeding the highest expectations of the organizing committee and at the earliest possible moment after Earth Week the Trust marched all the winning performers down to the recording studios at ZNS and captured each production on film. A full-length video will be put together and used as resource material for environmental studies with school-children.

Every participant in the competition received a certificate of appreciation from the Earth Week Committee. Medals and plaques were awarded to the top three performances in each division and a beautiful trophy was presented to the school with the best-in competition performance. The winners are listed below.

Best-in-Competition

C.I. Gibson Secondary School

Division I

1st - Mabel Walker Primary

Division II

1st - William Gordon Primary

2nd - Ridgeland Primary

3rd - Willard Patton Primary

Division III

1st - C.C. Sweeting Secondary

2nd - C.H. Reeves Secondary

Division IV

1st - C.I. Gibson Secondary

2nd- S.C. McPhearson
Secondary

3rd - A.F. Adderley Secondary

The Trust is indebted to the following companies which, in making generous donations to the Earth Week Committee, made possible events such as the Skit Competition: *Barclays Bank PLC, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Central Bank of The Bahamas, Commonwealth Bank, Finance Corporation of The Bahamas Ltd., Gotthard Bank Nassau, Pictet Bank and Trust Ltd., and Swiss Bank Corp. (Overseas) Ltd.*

Film Festival & Exhibition

The Trust is very grateful to The United States Embassy's Information Service (U.S.I.S.) which recently donated to us a highly acclaimed National Audubon Society series of environmental films. These, along with other films in the Trust's video library, were the basis for the Film Festival which ran throughout Earth Week at The Mall at Marathon.

Over two thousand school-children participated in the festival, offered free of charge to every school on the island. Students sat captivated as they watched spectacular footage of dolphins and whales. They were intrigued to learn that other Caribbean countries face environmental problems so similar to those of The Bahamas. The plight and diversity of endangered species of the world touched them all and aroused in them a curiosity to learn more.

Complementing the Film Festival was the Trust's exhibit on conservation in The Bahamas. Accompanied by live animal, marine and plant displays, the exhibit caught the attention of all visitors and truly brought home the message that all Bahamians need to begin to live environmentally sensitive lives.

Our sincere thanks go to: The Mall at Marathon Limited for allowing us the use of the Mall and

its many facilities throughout the week; Keva Hanna-Lawrence and the Ministry of Tourism for helping transport the exhibit from our headquarters to the Marathon Mall; to Mary Reeber and U.S.I.S. for their continued support for and interest in the work of the National Trust; to Fox Hill Nursery for the beautiful foliage which added a touch of class to our activities at the Mall; to Island T.V. Limited for generously donating all the equipment used throughout the film festival; and, to Ardastra Gardens and Zoo, Coral World (Bahamas) Limited and the Department of Fisheries for supplying that extra bit of excitement to the exhibit with their live animal displays. It is through the great generosity from such varied organizations as these that the Trust can continue to achieve its goals and implement projects of high quality for the benefit of all Bahamians. We are indebted to each for their support.

Restoration! Restoration!

The restoration of the Adelaide Creek and Wetlands begun during Earth Week 1990 was unprecedented. While work at the historic settlement of Adelaide will continue for many years its success is already clearly evident. The restored natural flushing of the creek, brought about with the change of each tide, has brought new life to the waters. Marine life and waterfowl have returned to the ecosystem in vast numbers. While much remains to be done, the restoration at Adelaide has become a model and the impetus to begin work in other threatened areas.

And so, our new President, Pericles Maillis, his committee and "army of volunteers", turned to Millar's Sound and Creek during Earth Week 1991. Located in southwest New Providence the Sound and Creek have suffered tremendously in past years from over-fishing, unchecked development, and ac-

tions which unknowingly caused slow strangulation of the ecosystem. The project calls for dredging around and through the culvert at the Bacardi Bridge, the removal of all man-made fish dams on either side of the bridge down to the sea, the cleaning and removal of any obstructions at the creek mouth, the removal of all derelict vehicles from throughout the system, and eventually the replacement of the bridge itself with a structure which would restore the free-flow of the creek waters.

Mr. Maillis' Restoration team also tackled the Lyford Cay Bay (West) Beach Project. Here they sought to save an extraordinary stand of native trees which included among them the "Rauwolfia", so rare a tree, its common name is unknown. Additionally, a freshwater pond was under attack from a dredging company, beach sand thieves were removing tremendous amounts of sand, threatening the integrity of the beach ecosystem itself, and the entire area was overrun with litter and debris. The committee worked tirelessly and have made dramatic improvements to the area.

Restoration of the South Beach Freshwater Pond was also started during Earth Week 1991. The Residents' Association of South Beach approached the Trust for assistance and guidance with this project. This cooperative effort will continue until the goals of the project have been met.

A Native Tree Seedling Project was also initiated during Earth Week by our new President. The next issue of "Currents" will carry complete details.

The projects are well underway and work will continue throughout the summer. Our President is always in need of volunteers. Please call Mr. Maillis (322-4292) if you want to pitch in!

Community-Wide Clean-Up Campaign

The highly successful clean-up campaign initiated during Earth Week 1990 was repeated this year with the same overwhelming results. Under the leadership of the ever-capable Ethan Bain, the Environmental Protection Committee pulled off a community-wide clean-up campaign which, in spite of the downpour, came close to repeating the extraordinary results of 1990. Last year 200 tons of litter were collected; this year we manged 180 tons. Over one hundred community runs were made during the day, responding to the organized groups out on the road and the calls that came in over our hotline hour after hour. The control center, located in the parking lot of The Mall at Marathon, oversaw the choreography of trucks and heavy equipment, all the while serving complimentary drinks and hot dogs to volunteers who pitched in during the day.

While many people continue to question the value of clean-up campaigns, the Trust's Earth Week efforts are a shining example of what can be accomplished when the public, private and corporate sectors of our community come together. We all must become part of the solution if we are ever to completely rid ourselves of the horrible litter problem.

T-Shirts Sell-Out!

We owe a big thank you to Melissa Maura for designing our beautiful Earth Week t-shirts. They were very popular and sold out almost right away. St. Andrew's School successfully organized their own t-shirt day. So many students wanted the t-shirts that the small sizes disappeared on day one and 5 year olds ended up with extra large shirts that all but swallowed them! We have planned a second printing and we will let you know when they are ready.

Steering Committee

The organization of Earth Week is a huge undertaking. The Trust saves its most grateful thanks for the members of the Steering Committee (listed below) who conceived the activities, organized, implemented and manned them. Their commitment is one of the biggest factors in the success of this great event.

Earth Week 1991 Steering Committee

Mrs. Susan Larson

Mrs. Lynn Gape

Mr. Ethan Bain

Mr. James Cole

Ms. Rionda Deleveaux

Mrs. Dawn Hutton

Mrs. Keva Hanna-Lawrence

Mr. Pericles Maillis

Mrs. Beverly Taylor

BNT Participates at Rotary Circus Fair Day

The final event of Earth Week for the Trust was held on May 4th at the Rotary Circus Fair Day.

An innovative fair activity was organized by the Trust's Education Office called, "Save the Coral Reef". This bean bag pitching game called upon players to eliminate threats (pyramid stacks of cans) to our coral reefs. Each pyramid represented a different threat, such as bleaching, anchor damage, and souvenir taking.

The game was set up on a huge mural depicting the beauty of tropical coral reefs. The mural, hand painted by a 12th Grade marine biology class at St. Andrew's School, stole the show. One of the Rotarians even wanted to purchase it for the

lobby of his office building. We are very grateful to Linda Brown and her 12th Graders for putting such time and talent into making the Trust's project outstanding!

Understanding "The May Cruise"

Each year in May many yachtsmen set out on what has become known as "The May Cruise". The following is a brief history of these cruises, included here for our members because misconceptions about the trips have sprung up over time.

"The May Cruise" was first launched by Basil Kelly in 1979 with only three boats. In recent years, including 1990 and 1991, the fleet grew as large as fourteen. The cruises have gone as far south as Ragged Island, Cay Verde and Mira Por Vos; east to Hogsty Reef and Plana Cays, and out to Samana Cay; north and west to Walker's Cay in the Abacos, and many places in between.

It was first called "Bahamas National Trust Expedition" because the organizers, closely related with the Trust, wanted to take inventory of the total Bahamas, to see and explore first hand what needed preserving and determine how best to go about it. To this end, the then President, Lynn Holowesko, asked Alexander ("Sandy") Sprunt IV, National Audubon Society's Director of Research and their representative on BNT council, to join the cruise and give guidance and advice on aspects of the Bahamian environment about which participants wanted to learn more.

For a few of the early "May Cruises", the Bahamas National Trust organized a "rendezvous" in the Exuma Park as an added educational element. As the "May Cruise" evolved over the years, it moved away from its original purpose as stated above and therefore the Bahamas National Trust name has not been used since 1985. Most of the

people that take part in the "May Cruise" are members and supporters of the Trust and all boats that have expressed an interest in joining the cruises have been welcome.

The Bahamas National Trust did benefit from the early years of "The May Cruise". Conception Island, which comprises a National Park under our jurisdiction and about which little was known, was explored in depth over a number of years. In 1983 the filming of "A People's Trust", by the world famous underwater photographer, Stan Waterman, was accomplished on "The May Cruise." Alexander Sprunt's observation of birds on these trips enabled him to contribute the chapter "Sea Birds of The Bahamas" to a world book on Sea Birds. The log of Mr. Basil Kelly's boat, "Saga Boy", provides a wealth of information and any member interested in reading it is always welcome.

Reports from Council

The ever-important annual meetings of Council were held on March 8 and 9 of this year. A total of twenty-four members of Council and invited guests attended the marathon meetings. Because of the great diversity of the Trust's programs, the invaluable input available from our very experienced overseas members, and the demands on the time of our local expert members, an enormous agenda usually faces Council each year. 1991 was no exception. Meetings began at 9 a.m. on Friday morning, a short lunch was tolerated, and sessions continued until 6 p.m. Council began again on Saturday at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 1 p.m.

The 1991 Meeting of Council completed very important items. Newly revised bye-laws for the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park were approved and after making the necessary legal rounds will be

gazetted and put into effect. Two extremely important documents were also approved: Policy Statement on the Aims, Objectives and Priorities of The Bahamas National Trust, and Policy Statement for National Parks. Council has asked that both be published in the members' newsletter and these will appear as special publications in the coming weeks.

A National Conservation Strategy for The Bahamas was also discussed, as it has been for several years. This Strategy, based on a complete inventory of nation-wide natural resources, establish priority areas needing special protection, determine environmental guidelines for development, and provide factual data on which critical decisions affecting the environment can be based. The National Trust has been advocating a National Conservation Strategy for some time. However, such an undertaking requires funding and technical assistance from international conservation organizations, all of which require the full commitment of The Bahamas Government. At the 1991 Meeting of Council our Past President reported that an international funding organization has the considerable funds available for such an undertaking in The Bahamas. It is hoped that Government will see the urgency and need for a National Conservation Strategy in The Bahamas.

The IV World Congress on National Parks, to be held in Venezuela in February, 1992, was another important agenda item discussed by Council. The World Congress on National Parks is only held every ten years. The occurrence of this Congress in our region holds particular significance for our National Parks. The Bahamas National Trust has been represented at preliminary organizational meetings for this Congress. The Caribbean aim is to better position the region, and therefore The Bahamas, as recipients for technical and

financial assistance which will be available from many international sources to undertake critical work in parks of the region. Additionally, parks in the greater Caribbean will be showcased to the world as never before.

Hold On To Your BNT Membership Card!

Following a decision at the 1990 Meeting of Council reciprocal membership privileges were sought with National Trusts around the world. At the Council

Meeting in March of this year it was reported that the following organizations have formalized reciprocal membership privileges with the Bahamas National Trust:

Barbados National Trust
Cayman Islands National Trust
National Trusts of Australia
National Trust of Fiji
National Trust of Great Britain and Wales
National Trust of Jersey
Netherlands Trust for Historic Houses

Netherlands Landscape Trust
New Zealand National Trust

Bahamas National Trust members holding a valid membership card will be afforded member privileges, including entry to National Trust properties in the above mentioned countries.

Staff Changes at BNT

We were very sorry to say goodbye to two members of staff this year. Ms. Mabel Eldon, our Executive Secretary, left in January. She arrived just prior to the

SUMMER WORK PROJECTS

RETREAT GARDEN WORKDAYS:

Sat, June 29 - 9:00 am - noon

Sat, July 13 - 9:00 am - noon

Sat, July 27 - 9:00 am - noon

Volunteers will be helping clear the gardens, and are encouraged to bring gardening tools (rakes, etc.) and gloves. There is a garden project that could be worked on during the week and Mr. John Bethell will explain it to those who would like to participate on the 29th of June.

RECYCLING SATURDAYS:

Sat, June 15, 9:00 am - noon

Sat, July 20 - 9:00 am - noon

Sat, Aug. 17, 9:00 am - noon

Volunteers are needed to assist with the processing of cans and bottles. Meet at "The Retreat" on Village Road at 9:00 am.

RESTORATION AND SURFACE EXCAVATION OF POTTER'S CAY BATTERY

This is a joint project with the Department of Archives and the Ministry of Tourism. Dates will be available after a meeting on June 5th.

REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

The Historic Preservation Committee and the Department of Archives have put together a form and a list of historic buildings that need to be recorded. More information will be available after the June 5th meeting.

WHITE CROWNED PIGEON BANDING

Volunteers should be at least 13 years old. Banding trips comprise full day excursions away from New Providence. Work is hard (very hot and exhausting) but very exciting. Dates will be set during the summer. Participants will be called one week in advance of trip. (Trips are usually on Saturdays.)

Please call the Trust (393-1317) to indicate your interest in the project(s) of your choice.

onslaught of Earth Week 1990 and her help in getting through that undertaking was invaluable.

Mrs. Dawn Hutton left the Trust at the end of April, after she and her husband decided to return to Freeport, Grand Bahama, to live. Mrs. Hutton joined the Trust several years ago as the Accounts and Membership Secretary. Her dedication to the Trust was always evident as she readily applied herself to many other areas of our work as well. As our local members will know, we have advertised to fill both positions and in recent weeks the Executive Director has been conducting interviews regarding the same.

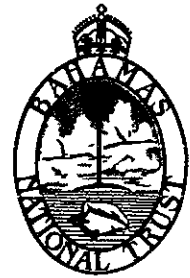
Late last year we added to the administrative staff of the Trust by hiring Mrs. Lynn Gape to serve as Public Relations and As-

sistant Education Officer. Among her various duties is the coordination of BNT volunteers. Mrs. Gape has been with us for six months now and she brings great dedication and enthusiasm to her work.

Thank You Mr. Hing-Cheong

As always, volunteer involvement at the National Trust is indispensable. Although we have many, many people pitching in, in many ways, Mr. Tony Hing-Cheong's recent efforts deserve special recognition. Almost single-handedly Mr. Hing-Cheong has undertaken a professional survey of "The Retreat". The mapping of the many paths and locations of the hundreds of palms was a huge project which Mr. Hing-Cheong took on will-

ingly. The results of his efforts will be invaluable to The Retreat Committee in long-range planning for the gardens. Immediate benefit will be in the publications which are produced to advertise and enhance visitor experience of the gardens. The Committee hopes to complete a self-guided tour "loop" which would be illustrated by Mr. Hing-Cheong's map. We are indebted to Mr. Hing-Cheong, past member of Council and a long-time friend of the National Trust, for his outstanding contribution.



**BAHAMAS NATIONAL TRUST
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Conservation and Preservation for a Better Quality of Life For All