



CURRENTS

THE BAHAMAS NATIONAL TRUST

Volume 9 Number 1

March 1992

PARROT PROJECT OFF AND FLYING

The Bahama Parrot Conservation Project, now in its tenth month, is meeting with unprecedented success. Based on a twelve month program developed by the U.S. RARE Center for Tropical Conservation, the Bahamian project is capturing the attention of the entire community!

The Bahama Parrot is a critically endangered species, with less than 3,000 remaining in the wild. Once found throughout The Bahamas, the Bahama Parrot is today found only on Great Inagua and Abaco and nowhere else in the world. The Bahama Parrot is uniquely Bahamian. Using corporate marketing techniques and intensive educational activities the Bahama Parrot Conservation Project seeks to save our only Amazon parrot from possible extinction.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Our 1992
Annual General Meeting
has been set for
Thursday, April 30 at 6:00 p.m.
The Retreat, Village Road
Please Join Us!

Project Highlights

Commonwealth Brewery and Kalik sponsored a Boxing Day Bahama Parrot Junkanoo Competition and put to tremendous use this national festival and art form. The results were outstanding; the winning entries are absolutely beautiful and will be used at many different locations to promote the project and the plight of the Bahama Parrot.

An island-wide Bahama Parrot T-Shirt Day in October saw hundreds of school children, restaurant and bank employees, tour operators, corporate citizens and politicians decked-out in the official Bahama Parrot Conservation Project T-Shirt. Prime Minister Pindling was presented with a shirt by "Quincy", the project mascot. Several thousand T-Shirts were sold on New Providence. Funds generated from the sale of the T-Shirts have been channelled back into the project to support other activities.



Hugh Sands, Bahamas Manager, Barclays Bank, presents Dr. Keith Campbell, Chairman of the Bahama Parrot Conservation Committee, with the official Parrot Conservation Project Bumper Sticker.

Abaco and Grand Bahama will hold their own Bahama Parrot T-Shirt days in April and May respectively. Please contact Nancy Albury, Man-O-War Marina, or Michelle Knowles, Freeport Agriculture Office, for more information on these upcoming events.

Barclays Bank caught the spirit and sponsored the production of 26,500 bumper stickers - a most generous action indeed! With the cooperation of the Ministry

The Trust owes a great debt of gratitude to the numerous people and organizations who contributed to the success of this event with their time, talents and equipment, in particular, George Kelly and Wholesale Wines & Spirits for spearheading the organization of this Festival, and Diane Holowesko, The Trust's coordinator for this event, whose energy and hard work really made it all possible.

Due to the overwhelming and enthusiastic response from the public and the artists who supported the event, the Second Bahamas National Trust Wine & Art Festival has been scheduled for Saturday, November 21st, 1992 from 11:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. at The Retreat on Village Road, Nassau. Mark your calendars and plan to join us for this cultural, educational and thoroughly enjoyable day!



Minister Perry G. Christie enjoyed a full day at the 1991 Wine & Art Festival. He is joined by BNT president, Pericles Mailllis, "Quincy", the mascot of the Bahama Parrot Conservation Project, Grahame Martin, Wine Director of Wholesale Wines & Spirits, and Gary Larson, Executive Director of The Bahamas National Trust.



On Location at The Retreat

Nippon Television is one of many international entities producing documentaries on Christopher Columbus in commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of Columbus' landfall in the New World. Film producers arrived at "The Retreat" in late February to shoot a segment around the Lucayan Canaye. Local residents played the part of Columbus, his men and the Lucayan Indians. Pictured at right are the "residents" of the Canaye who were discovered by Columbus and his men during the shoot.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES: GLOBAL CHALLENGES

The United States Information Service and The Bahamas National Trust have joined together in a cooperative effort to present "Environmental Issues: Global Challenges". This environmental book festival, which is travelling around the world, will be held at "The Retreat", Village Road, Nassau from Monday, April 6 through Wednesday, April 8, 1992.

Over eighty American publishers and environmental groups have provided books, journals, and resource materials for this most pertinent exhibit. The Bahamas National Trust will have on display the environmental education materials it has produced on its own and those acquired from international sources. United Bookshop, Logos

Bookstore, and Island Merchants will also participate in the festival contributing environmental materials from their respective establishments.

Because of the diversified interests of the publishers, local merchants and environmental organizations participating in the exhibit, the book festival promises to hold something for everyone. Children's activities, appreciation of nature, citizen action, biodiversity, endangered species, economic development and the environment, and ozone depletion are a few of the many topics which are covered.

During the three day event The Trust will place special emphasis on reaching teachers in Bahamian schools. The National Trust's Education Department will supplement the festival with daily workshops designed to acquaint schoolteachers with the myriad of materials available to them to supplement their classroom teaching, specifically the conservation units in the new BGCSE curricula.

BNT members are invited to an Open Viewing of the book festival at "The Retreat" on Wednesday, April 8 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. More information will be forthcoming but please reserve the date and plan to join us!

1992 MARINE MAMMAL SURVEY

In a cooperative effort with the Center for Whale Research, Inc. The BNT is again distributing Survey forms to its two thousand-plus members. The results of the 1991 survey were so encouraging. Many, many members took the time to complete the form and return it to us, others even called in their information. Please keep your form (enclosed) in a safe place a fill it out at any time during the year. Thank You!

GREAT NEWS FOR MEMBERS

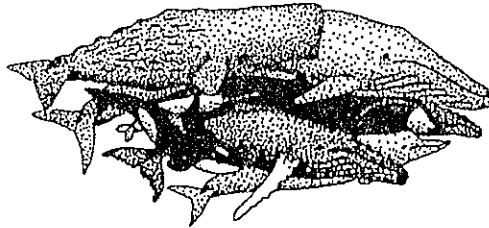
Please take note of the following incentives, keep your membership card safe when it arrives, and patronize these businesses that are supporting The Bahamas National Trust through their generosity to you.

When you show a valid membership card you will receive:

- Half price admission to Coral World
- Half price admission to Ardastra Gardens & Zoo
- 15% Discount at The Body Shops
- 10% Discount at Modernistic Gardens
- 10% Discount at Mr. Photo

The Bahamas National Trust
P.O. Box N-4105
Nassau, Bahamas

Conservation and Preservation for a Better Quality of Life for All



CENTER FOR WHALE RESEARCH, INC.
a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

BAHAMAS MARINE MAMMAL SURVEY

Help us to document the presence of marine mammal species in the Bahamas and adjacent waters. Please record the following information and take photographs of species encountered, if possible.

Observers Name(s) _____

Vessel Name _____

Location _____

Date _____ Time _____

of Animals _____ Species _____

Size (in feet) _____ Color _____

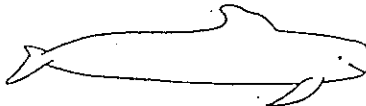
Spots or Stripes? _____

Comments _____

IDENTIFICATION GUIDE:



dolphin
7-14 ft.
grey



pilot whale
12-20 ft
black



beaked whale
16-25 ft.
brown/grey



sperm whale
40-60 ft.
brown



humpback whale
25-45 ft.
black

If in the Abaco area, you may contact the survey team on VHF Channel 16 (call sign **Widgeon**) from December 1, 1991 to June 1, 1992. Alternatively you can mail this form to:

Bahamas National Trust
P.O. Box N-4105
Nassau

or

Center for Whale Research
P.O. Box 1577
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

If you would like a summary of the results of this survey or more information about marine mammals in the Bahamas, please include the following information.

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Country _____ Phone No. _____

B A H A M A S N A T I O N A L T R U S T

OFFICIAL NOTICE

The 1992 Annual General Meeting of The Bahamas National Trust will be held on Thursday, 30 April at "The Retreat", Village Road, Nassau, Bahamas at 6 o'clock in the evening.

Members of The National Trust are reminded of the following provisions of The Bahamas National Trust Act:

(a) "Notice of any motion proposed to be made at a general meeting by any person not being a member of Council shall be sent to the Secretary of The Bahamas National Trust fourteen (14) days before the general meeting. Such notices shall be signed by a proposer and two seconders being members of The Bahamas National Trust and no motion made by any member other than a member of Council shall be entertained by a general meeting unless notice thereof has been given as aforesaid".

(b) Nine (9) members of the Council "shall be elected annually from among the members at the Annual General Meeting of The Bahamas National Trust".

Please make a very special effort to contribute to this vital annual meeting. Your contributions and support will ensure the continued success of The Bahamas National Trust.

of Transport the bumper stickers will be distributed during the 1992 motor vehicle licensing period. Please display your bumper sticker when you get your car licensed and help promote the project and the plight of our endangered parrot.

"Parrotmania" is sweeping the island! This extravaganza features photo opportunities with "Quincy", the project mascot, parrot posters, badges, T-Shirts, puppets, a "Save the Parrot" board game, fact sheets with puzzles and word games. Schools and Corporate citizens can schedule their own Parrotmania - just give us a call.

Hundreds of letters from Bahamian schoolchildren have poured into Minister Christie's office asking that Government do more to save the Bahama Parrot, including establishing a National Park in Abaco to protect the parrot and its habitat there. The letters come as a result of the project's school visitation program. To date close to 10,000 schoolchildren have been exposed to the project! Minister Christie has graciously responded to every letter. The establishment of a National Park

in Abaco is one of the primary objectives of The Bahama Parrot Conservation Program.

The Postmaster General, whose keen interest in Bahamian birds is evident in our beautiful stamps, has added the support of his office. Last month a "Save Our Parrot" cancellation stamp appeared on all national mail.

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce is sponsoring a national Bahama Parrot Art Competition, open to any schoolchild in The Bahamas. Entries from the competition are due on March 31st. Great prizes are in store for the winners, including an all expense paid trip for two to the Inagua National Park for the Best-in-Competition winner. Entries will become the property of the Bahama Parrot Conservation Committee and will be used as promotional material throughout the remainder of the project.

Bahamian nightlife has also been affected by the project. Club Waterloo, one of the hottest late night spots in town, sponsored a special Parrot extravaganza and featured the new Bahama Parrot rap song, which was performed

live by TMC Rappers. Entry to the popular club was free that night for anyone wearing a Bahama Parrot T-Shirt.

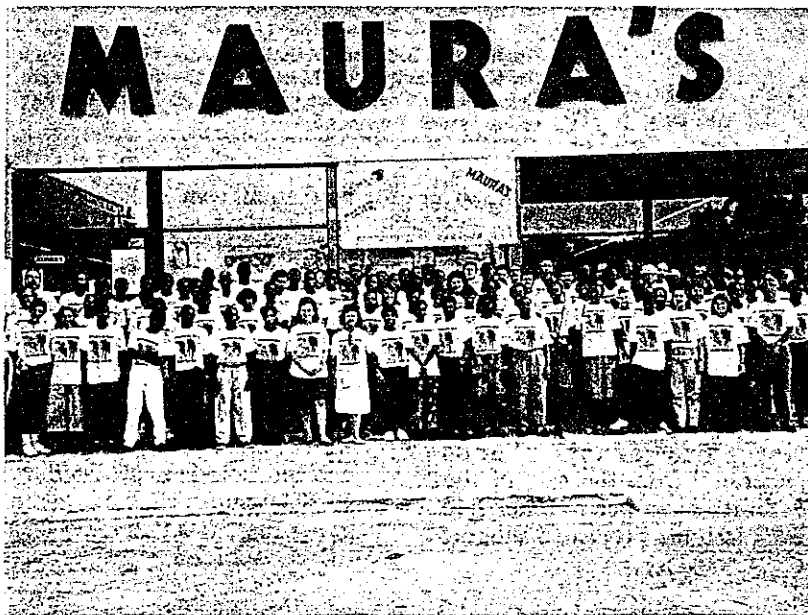
Many more activities are planned during the remainder of the project, which will run through December 1992. Soon billboards will appear on the four target islands - New Providence, Great Inagua, Grand Bahama and Abaco - placing the project's message in daily view of all motorists. An "A-Z" booklet on Bahamian wildlife and wild places is being produced. A music video is under production and promises to be great! Ten thousand more schoolchildren have been targeted. A special newspaper supplement is planned. The "Save Our Parrot" board game is being prepared for mass production and will go on sale soon.

The project has certainly surpassed the expectations of everyone involved. Even RARE Center, the originator and biggest, single sponsor of the project, is impressed. Similar programs have been implemented in seven other Caribbean countries. Mr. Paul Butler, RARE's Caribbean Program Director, has the highest praise for The Bahamas Project. "More original ideas", he said, "and greater successes overall have come out of The Bahama Parrot Conservation Project than in any other country we have been in. The Bahamas is now being used as the best example of our program, it has become the standard by which other countries are going to measure themselves."

For more information on how to get involved in the Bahama Parrot Conservation Project please call 325-1839 or 393-1317...now!

Maura's Supports T-Shirt Day

At left, some of the 250 employees of Atlantic Caribbean Trading proudly wear their Bahama Parrot T-Shirts.



BNT STAFF COMINGS AND GOINGS

Since our last issue of "Currents" there have been some changes in the staff of The Bahamas National Trust. New faces have arrived on the scene and old dear friends have moved on. A look at what's been happening...

Administrative Changes

Joan Moss joined our administrative ranks as Executive Secretary/Office Manager in August of last year. A Canadian by birth, Joan has been living in The Bahamas since 1962. She is an avid boater, loves to fish and is a member of the Operatic Society. She will readily admit how much she enjoys her new job, a small sign of her sincere commitment to helping protect our environment. In filling this position Mrs. Moss has relieved other staff members of some very time consuming administrative details.

Susan Larson returned from maternity leave in the New Year and was promoted to Director of Education. Mrs Larson, the longest standing employee at The National Trust, has finally been relieved of many administrative duties and given the go-ahead on some exciting educational projects. Receiving top priority will be the production of an educational manual entitled, "Teaching In The Out-of-Doors: A Guide to Environmental Education in The Bahamas". The manual, based on

the ten-year experiences of The Trust's School Education Committee, promises to be one of the most valuable additions to science teacher resource material in The Bahamas. Mrs. Larson will also reactivate The Bahamas Naturalist, the out of circulation journal of The Bahamas National Trust.

Park Personnel

1991 was a year of great change in our oldest park, The Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park. Bob and Anita Rader retired after three years of hard work. Bob's fix-it-all skills and Anita's flair with administrative details will be missed. Their dedication to The Exuma Park was exemplary and The Bahamas National Trust wishes them the very best in the future.

The Exuma Cays Senior Park Warden, Peggy Hall, also retired as of February 28, 1992. Peggy was a remarkable influence in the Exuma Park and is largely responsible for the transformation the Park has undergone in the last few years. (See special story on page 4.)

The new Park Warden is Lester Albury. Lester joined the ranks of National Trust employees on February 1, 1992 and spent a month-long transitional period with Peggy at Warderick Wells. Lester officially became the Senior Warden on March 1,

1992. The son of Dr. and Mrs. E. Paul Albury, Lester becomes the first Bahamian to fill the Warden position in the Exuma Park, an event that is as exciting for him as it is for The National Trust. Lester will be joined in Exuma by his new wife, Miranda, who has eagerly agreed to serve as a voluntary warden/administrator. A former schoolteacher, Miranda will manage the Park Headquarters, develop educational programs on the Park, and tend to the Park's general administration. Please support the Albury's in every way possible during your next visit to the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park.

The Pelican Cays Land and Sea Park has its first-ever Park Officer. As of March 1, 1992 Diane Claridge has been employed on a part-time basis to over-see this sister park of the Exuma Cays. Diane, a Bahamian, will patrol the Pelican Cays Land and Sea Park, monitor its use by visiting yachtsmen and protect it from offending poachers. The duties of the Pelican Cays Land and Sea Park Officer will also include surveying Park visitors to develop a data base on Park usage and monitoring the moorings at Sandy Cay Reef. You may remember Diane's name from the 1991 Bahamas Marine Mammal Survey. She will continue her work with the Center for Whale Research and the Bahamas Marine Mammal Survey.

ENVIRONMENTAL ARTIST CONTRIBUTES TO EXUMA PARK

Renowned Florida environmental artist Hal Stowers presented an unprecedented Bahamian art collection entitled "The Bahamian Gap - Exotic Moods and Adventures" in Clearwater, Florida late last year. Part of the proceeds benefitted the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park. In a

letter to Trust Executive Director Gary Larson, Stowers and his wife, B.J., wrote, "Although we have visited in the Bahamas since 1986, our first visit to the Exumas was while cruising with (some) good friends in February of 1991. They were most anxious for us to experience the beauty of The Exumas Land and Sea Park, and

the caring and support it has received from cruising people who have visited from around the world. We were most taken with the pristine qualities, incomparable colors of the waters, and were charmed by Peggy Hall and her dedication. When leaving, we said we wanted to contribute in some way to these efforts. Although we love all of the

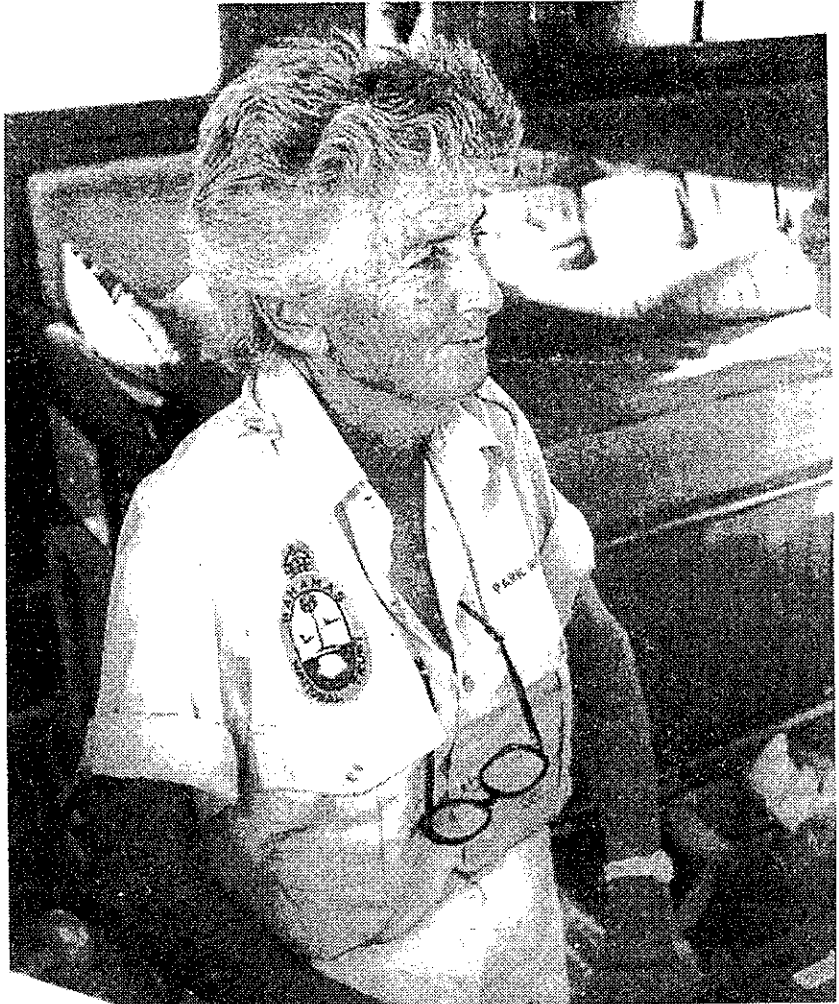
Bahama Islands, the creativity and energy to carry out this major exhibit was greatly inspired by the Exumas Park". The October show marked the 20th Anniversary of Hal Stowers' first solo exhibit. Mr. Stowers' Bahamian collection included watercolors as well as mixed media. The exhibit also featured his Florida works. Florida's Pinellas County proclaimed Stowers a "national treasure" in 1987.

IN PRAISE OF PEGGY

Seven years ago, as a member of The National Trust's Parks Committee, Peggy Hall was involved in trying to find a new warden for the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park. The Trust was still without a warden after much searching and interviewing when Peggy herself volunteered to be warden until a permanent warden was found. Little did she know that she would become the Exuma Park lady, that the Park would undergo wonderful transformations, and that a world-wide Support Fleet would be developed to support the pristine Park. Likewise, she never imagined that she would end up chasing and being rammed by poachers, and that day in and day out she would be the protector of 176 square miles of National Park.

On March 1, 1992 Peggy Hall formally stepped down as Senior Warden of the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park. Her tenure there has seen remarkable accomplishments: a land-based headquarters at Warderick Wells was constructed; an unprecedented volume of scientific research was performed on the Park's terrestrial and marine resources; trails and interpretive materials were created to enhance visitor experience; a network of volunteers - known as the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park Support Fleet - was developed to help in almost every area of the Park's existence; and, new bye-laws stipulating a strict no fishing policy went into effect.

"The Park is what the Public Treasury is for The Bahamas - in the fish way", Peggy says when talking about her vision for the Exuma Park. She calls the Park a



national treasure and knows its value will continue to increase for future generations of Bahamians. These beliefs have been the motivating factors behind her boundless energy, her sincere commitment, and the general enthusiasm by which she became known.

"At this stage of my life", she said, "I'd like to be able to do a little cruising, not selling T-Shirts and postcards and chasing poachers all day, every day...it's a very demanding job." Being Senior Warden of the Exuma Cays Land

and Sea Park was demanding. Peggy Hall filled that job so well she will be the standard by which other wardens are measured for many years to come. The members of The Bahamas National Trust, and indeed, the citizens of The Bahamas, owe this wonderful lady a great debt of gratitude for all she accomplished as Warden of the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park. The Trust is delighted that Peggy will continue to be involved in the Park having taken on the volunteer position of Chairman of the newly formed Exuma Park Committee.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL PRESENTATION TO PEGGY HALL AT THE AGM ON APRIL 30, 1992

LANGLOIS TREASURE DISCOVERED

A stunning collection of files written by Margaret Langlois was recently discovered at The Retreat by Susan Larson, The Trust's Director of Education. The files contain Mrs. Langlois' personal diary of the history of the gardens since 1925, complete with photographs showing how each section of the garden was first developed and then how it grew over the years.

In referring to the discovery Mrs. Larson remarked, "it was like finding treasure, when I opened the box and realized what I had found I was stunned. The obvious

part Mrs. Langlois put into recording the complete history of the garden is in itself overwhelming. Additionally, her story is personal and poignant; her photographs totally captivating."

The find has sent a ripple of excitement through everyone involved with the maintenance of the garden. Mrs. Godfrey Higgs, Chairman of The Retreat Committee called the files remarkable. She and Mr. Oris Russell were among the first people Mrs. Larson contacted after the files were discovered. Mrs. Higgs plans to call together a group of relevant individuals to discuss the future of the files. The production of a book on Mrs. Langlois' story is a strong possible outcome.

TRUST AT TOURISM CONFERENCES

The Ministry of Tourism's Third Annual Hospitality Leadership Conference was held last fall. Close to four hundred delegates from around the country participated in the two and a half day event held at Carnival's Crystal Palace. The Conference focused on attitudes and environmental issues as they relate to the hospitality industry and, with regards to the latter, The Bahamas National Trust played a leading role.

Key-Note Address

Bahamas National Trust President, Pericles Maillis, addressed the Conference at the Opening Ceremony. He was followed by Prime Minister, Sir Lynden Pindling, who gave a hard-hitting speech on both attitudes and the

environment. Mr. Maillis also gave the key-note environmental address to the entire Conference the following day. The Trust's Education Department provided the Conference with a ten panel exhibit illustrating the need for conservation in The Bahamas. The Trust's Executive Director, Director of Education and its Public Relations Officer all served as panelists in the workshop sessions.

Bahamian Awareness Growing

Susan Larson spoke highly of the Conference and the level of participation of the delegates. She remarked, "it was refreshing to hear so many people speak openly about their concerns of the threats to our environment. The average Bahamian has begun to understand that development cannot continue to abuse our environment. The connection between the well being of our environment and the future well



A Pleasing Vista

1944

"...Everywhere one looks one sees a different vista, a pleasing vista - at least in the wet season. One looks not at all during a drought!"

being of our entire country has been made and it was great to hear!"

'92 Preparations Underway

As a result of The Trust's very positive impact on last year's Conference, the Ministry of Tourism has again invited The National Trust to play a leading role in the 1992 Conference. Mr. Maillis and Mrs. Larson are members of the overall Planning Committee and are also serving on the Conference's Environment Sub-committee.

The biggest challenge for the Ministry of Tourism will be to spearhead the development of an innovative program that illustrates to the participants and the wider Bahamian community that something real is being accomplished as a result of the recommendations made each year.

FIFTEEN HUNDRED SUPPORTERS FLOCK TO OPEN HOUSE

Close to 1500 people flocked to "The Retreat" for The National Trust's annual Open House on January 25th this year. Visitors were treated to more activities than ever before and their response was completely positive!

Human Thunderstorms Bring the Pavillion Down!

One of the special presentations of the day was "Circles and Starbursts", an environmental, one-man show performed by Michael Weilbacher. The U.S. environmentalist has a tremendous North American reputation and was recommended highly to The Trust for the Open House. "Circles and Starbursts", a participatory performance, led the audience on a journey in which

Environmental Actor Michael Weilbacher puts Open House goes through the paces in "The Story of the Sun in Six Part Harmony". Hundreds of Trust members and visitors were delighted with Weilbacher's performances.

they discovered the four life support systems of Spaceship Earth. Who would have thought that our sixtysomething year old members would have enjoyed themselves so much! There was the "Ballet of Air", "The Story of the Sun in Six Part Harmony", the unforgettable rainstorm, complete with lightening and thunder, and the magic rainbow. Michael Weilbacher's performances were captivating and certainly the highlight of the day.

The Bahamas National Trust is indebted to the Rotary Club of East Nassau whose generosity made possible Mr. Weilbacher's trip to The Bahamas. And, a very heartfelt thank you is extended to Resorts International for providing our special guest with his accommodations.

Crafts, Encounters, Live Animals and More...

The growth of the 1992 Open House saw the expansion of activities into areas of the garden previously unused. The Huamil (an Indian word for cornfield) was the site of Children's Crafts. The inspired and creative leadership of Avon Roberts made the Huamil a favorite spot during the day. Bird feeders and "Glovosauruses" were among the

stamatic camera - courtesy of Mr. Photo. "Quincy", the Parrot Conservation Project mascot, presented posters, badges, chances at the board game and led all visitors in a rousing rendition of "Amazona Leucocephala", the parrot song for schoolchildren.

Plants, Plants, Everywhere!

The Trust's volunteer Retreat Committee put on another spectacular plant sale. This year The



items from which children could chose to make. Around the corner, at the Canaye, Tony Aarons presented the "Lucayan Encounter". Lucayan stories, reproductions of Lucayan face-painting and shell stringing produced many more than ten little Indians that day! And again, with the generous cooperation of Ardastra Gardens, visitors met and held Bernadette, the gentle Bahamian boa, and marvelled at the young Blue Macaws.

The Poinciana Lawn was the site of "Parrotmania" and "Save the Coral Reef". Players who successfully eliminated the threats to our coral reef won an in-

Cathedral housed bromeliads, palms, orchids, anthuriums, native trees, African violets and much, much more. The Open House Plant Sale was a tremendous success and the proceeds will go the maintenance of The Retreat gardens.

Members of the Retreat Committee also conducted the ever-popular garden tours. The 1992 tours ended on a very special note - a never before seen exhibit - created from the diary and photographs of Margaret Langlois - was unveiled at the Open House. The historic files were discovered by Susan Larson at The Retreat in 1991. Retreat

Committee members will discuss the future use of these precious Langlois files, the production of a book on the history of the gardens is quite possible! (See special story on pg. 5)

We are indebted to Ron Clarke and Mr. Photo for their continued generosity and support of our events. Mr. Clark painstakingly reproduced the black and white photographs that made up the Langlois exhibit, in addition to donating the instamatic cameras for the Coral Reef game.

Kapoks, Iggy and The Lorax

We are grateful to Carol Lightbourn for delighting young and old with environmental stories. In addition to the Dr. Suess environmental favorite, The Lorax, and a beautiful new book on the rainforests called, The Great Kapok Tree, Carol read several of her own children's stories. Carol hopes to publish her work in the near future and we wish her the best in this very worthwhile venture.

The Rotary Hamburger Van, the "Chill-Out Bar", and TCBY's mobile unit were crowd favorites. Our sincere thanks go out to all the people who made these added features possible.

The BNT Shop, manned by a most efficient group of volunteers, enjoyed a very fruitful day. Its success would not have been possible were it not for the help of Dawn Hutton, Wendy Cole, Donna Knowles, Beth Bethell and Susan Lawrence.

Looking Ahead

The BNT Open House is now well established as one of the most popular annual events on our calendar. Many months go into planning each Open House and almost the entire burden rests on the shoulders of Susan Larson and Lynn Gape. As the popularity of the event grows and the crowds get larger, expectations for the next year also in-

crease. Any member interested in helping to plan the 1993 Open House should contact The National Trust now - we need people and ideas to ensure the continued success of our most popular day!

NATIONAL TRUST TAKES OVER RAND MEMORIAL NATURE CENTER

The Rand Memorial Nature Center has become the newest addition to the National Parks System of The Bahamas which is managed by The National Trust. Over the past two years the Nature Center Trustees discussed the possibility of transferring responsibility for the Nature Center to The National Trust. During the summer of 1991 the Trustees informed the BNT that their financial support of the Nature Center was coming to an end and the Center would be closed. They again offered to transfer the Nature Center to The National Trust. After many meetings with relevant individuals and groups the details were finally worked out. All along The Trust's major concern has been the increased financial burden acceptance of the Center would place on The National Trust. The Trust's decision to accept the Rand Trustee's offer was made with the understanding that the Center will have to become self-

supporting in the very near future.

Nature Center a Bahamian Treasure

The 100-acre sanctuary, situated in downtown Freeport, was the first Bahamian Center of its kind. Named in memory of James H. Rand, Freeport philanthropist who died in 1968, the Nature Center is a National Treasure. The heart of the Nature Center is the 2,000 foot trail which wanders through the pristine beauty of a Bahamian forest. One hundred and thirty five Bahamian plant species have been identified along the trail, among them a dozen varieties of native orchids. For many years the Center has maintained a small flock of West Indian flamingos transported there from the Inagua National Park. The Center is also equipped with an education building providing ample lecture and exhibit space,



a lab room, and an outdoor program area.

Exciting Future

Gary Larson, Executive Director of The National Trust, spoke enthusiastically about the acquisition, saying, "the Rand Nature Center is an exciting addition to Bahamian National Parks and we are looking forward to developing it to its full potential for the benefit of all Bahamians and as a special attraction for tourists. We

believe", he continued, "that it can become self-supporting and we have begun developing a marketing/promotional plan to bring this about. We have already received serious offers of assistance from Freeport residents and will be looking for more!"

The acquisition of the Center by The National Trust brings the total acreage of National Parks and protected areas presently managed by The Bahamas National Trust to 300,584 acres.

the other individuals who have made this project possible.

Conservation Trees

A very generous donation from the Rotary Club of West Nassau enabled The Trust to purchase 1,500 tree conservation posters from the National Arbor Foundation in the United States. These posters, designed primarily for schoolchildren, illustrate how planting trees helps fight global warming.

Both posters were formally presented to the Ministry of Education and will be distributed to every school throughout the country.

These projects have come as a result of Rotary International declaring the "Year of the Environment". However, Rotarian generosity is no stranger to The National Trust. Many critical projects and badly needed supplies and equipment have been realized because of the on-going support received from these exemplary service clubs.

ROTARIAN YEAR OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The generosity of Rotarians continues to be of tremendous benefit to The Bahamas National Trust.

Environmental Choice

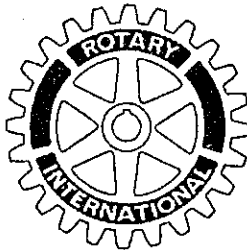
The Rotary Club of East Nassau's involvement in the work of The National Trust has been exemplary. In 1991 the East Nassau Club sponsored a new Bahamian environmental poster with the message "THE CHOICE IS IN YOUR HANDS". Designed by The Trust's Education Department the poster shows contrasting images of our natural environment: one of pristine areas; the other of abused and neglected areas. The negative images are stark reflections of the damage man reaps on the environment.

To start off the new year East Nassau donated to The Trust's Education Department a VCR and 27" color television. This wonderful present is soon to be followed by a Kodak Slide Projector and screen. These essential items, which The Trust has been renting for many years, will greatly facilitate the implementation of The Trust's educational programs.

Rotarians of East Nassau have also been the backbone of our recycling efforts. Club members have participated on almost every recycling weekend, helping to sort, providing truck support, and facilitating the pick-up and delivery of cans and bottles from contributors and to the deposit sites.

The current on-going project of the Rotary Club of East Nassau is the re-surfacing of the paths at The Retreat. The overall project was coordinated by Basil Kelly, Deputy President of The National Trust and a member of Rotary/East Nassau. Mr. Kelly approached the Ministry of Works and succeeded in convincing them to

donate to The Trust an enormous shipment of gravel which was not being used by Government. With the cooperation of Nassau Ready Mixed Concrete Co., Ltd. the gravel was transported to Village Road. Using the survey drawn by Tony Hing-Cheong, East Rotarians and Queen's College InterAct Club members have begun the re-surfacing of the paths throughout the garden. The Trust is indebted to Peter Gordon, Director of the Ministry of Works, for graciously allowing the donation of the gravel and all



NATIONAL TRUST & INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

IDB Consultative Meeting on the Environment

BNT immediate past President, Lynn Holowesko, and the Trust's Director of Education, Susan Larson, travelled to Caracas, Venezuela last year to attend the Inter-American Development Bank's (IDB) Third Consultative Meeting on the Environment. The Bahamas delegation included Mr. Glen Archer, Director of the Department of Environmental Health Services, and Mrs. Jacqueline Murray of the Ministry of Finance in whose portfolio IDB projects fall.

Preparing For the United Nations' Earth Summit

IDB called this Environmental Conference especially to better prepare IDB member countries for the United Nation's Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), which will be held in Brazil this June. UNCED is being touted as the Earth Summit and promises to be the most important environmental conference of the decade. One of the main goals of the IDB Meeting was to expand and further develop the Latin American and Caribbean for UNCED. Towards this end delegates were called on to critically review a document entitled "Our Own Agenda", especially the section regarding a new international pact for sustainable development. Excerpts from The Bahamas delegation's review follow...

"We agree in principle with the concept that an international pact for sustainable development should be pursued.

"...(The document) states that tangible results can be achieved through the application of regional approaches derived from well thought out and consensual positions devoid of any

trace of prejudice. While there is a justifiable bias against the North, it is equally important that we recognize and accept our own responsibility as contributors to and correctional agents of environmental problems in the region.

"...The marine and ocean environs of the island and coastal territories as a resource in relation to the tropical forests and concerns of desertification in the continental territories are of equal importance to the global issues of biodiversity (and) resource over-exploitation... Given these factors, the need for equity in addressing protocols and mechanisms geared towards environmental compliance and justice are seen as crucial to the integrity of the Pact".

Other items on the Consultative Meeting Agenda included the development of environmental legislation in the region and IDB's interaction with non-governmental environmental organizations (NGO's). It is essential that The Trust continue to play an active role in the national, and in many senses, regional development of environmental strategies. The Trust's input at this very impor-

tant meeting will serve the environmental movement in The Bahamas well.

IDB is developing more and more into a "green" bank and its commitment to cooperating with and including NGO's in the environmental process is exemplary. The Trust is indebted to the Inter-American Development Bank for funding its participation at these meetings.

IV WORLD CONGRESS ON NATIONAL PARKS & PROTECTED AREAS

Trust representatives returned to Caracas last month for the once a decade World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas. Hosted by the World Conservation Union (formerly IUCN) the by invitation only World Parks Congress is seen as the most important international gathering of Park officials. The Trust's Executive Director, Gary Larson, and immediate past President, Lynn Holowesko, were invited to attend this prestigious two week event. A complete report of this Congress will appear in the next issue of "Currents".

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE IN BNT PROGRAMS

One of the highlights of The National Trust's public activities continues to be the educational programs organized each month.

The 1991/92 season got underway with our new President as the guest speaker at the September presentation. In his usual exuberant style Mr. Maillis spoke of wetland restoration, environmental degradation, native trees and the role of The National Trust in each, sparking an interest in every member of the audience.

Lucayan Remains

November '91 was a busy month with The Trust co-hosting two special events in addition to organizing its own monthly presentation. In a cooperative effort with the Bahamas Archaeological Team (BATS), the Bahamas Historical Society and the Department of Archives, The Bahamas National Trust co-sponsored the Project Sanctuary Presentation. Mr. Robert Palmer, an internationally famous cave and cavern diver, was the evening's principle speaker and as usual his presentation was very

well received. Project Sanctuary, the April 1991 diving expedition to Andros uncovered at a depth of 120 feet the largest collection of Lucayan Indian remains ever found in The Bahamas. Professor George Amalogus, Chairman of the Department of Anthropology at the Florida State Museum of Natural History, joined the evening program and reported on the findings of his department which is currently analyzing and preserving the Lucayan remains.

The Project Sanctuary Meeting, held at Le Meridien Royal

Bahamian, was followed by a fund-raising dinner. All proceeds from the evening were donated to BATS in aid of further archaeological expeditions in The Bahamas.

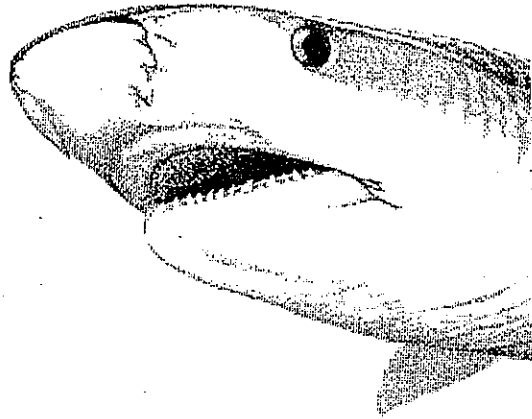
BNT Support Architects

In support of Architects Week, The Bahamas National Trust and its co-sponsor the Bahamas Historical Society presented "New Uses for Old Buildings", with Professor Ralph Johnson, Assistant Dean and Director of the Research and Education Center for Architectural Preservation at the University of Florida, Gainesville. Professor Johnson's presentation highlighted outstanding examples of historic preservation in the U.S. and the Caribbean. As head of Preservation Institute Caribbean, Professor Johnson expressed a keen interest in working with The Trust and the Department of Archives on historic preservation in The Bahamas.

Architects Week featured a series of talks at the Institute of Bahamian Architects Trade Show and Exposition at The Mall at Marathon. Key speakers in-

cluded BNT President, Pericles Maillis, BNT Historic Preservation Committee Chairman, Anthony Jervis, and BNT Historic Preservation Committee member and consultant archaeologist

The Trust is indebted to Mr. Gore for talking his guest into sharing his African experiences and breathtaking photographs with members of The National Trust.



to the Department of Archives, George Aarons.

Spectacular Africa

The final presentation of 1991 featured East Africa's Spectacular Wildlife. Mr. Peter Davey, a Director of Ker and Downey Safaris in Nairobi, Kenya, and former Chairman of the East African Wildlife Society, gave a truly spectacular presentation. Mr. Davey had come to Nassau to visit the British High Commissioner and

Love Them Sharks!

The New Year began with a bang when Dr. John Morrisey, Assistant Professor of Biology at Hofstra University, came to Nassau to tell "The Truth About Sharks". Over two hundred people flocked to the Coral Reek Tank Room at Coral World and were entertained and educated about sharks - a misunderstood but key player in the ocean ecosystem. A sincere vote of thanks is extended to Coral World for graciously allowing The National Trust to hold this very popular event in their facility.

Mrs. Lynn Gape, the Trust's Public Relations Officer and Chairman of the Public Education Committee, promises an equally exciting schedule in the months ahead. Stay tuned and plan to join us at one of our ever-popular monthly presentations.

WINE, ART, NATURE CREATE FANTASTIC FESTIVAL

Despite inclement weather, the Wine & Art Festival hosted by The Bahamas National Trust on November 9th of last year was a shining success. The Retreat Garden was the venue for this exciting event where 42 wines from 15 different countries and the works of twelve distinguished artists were showcased.

The concept was the brainchild of Mr. George Kelly, General Manager of Wholesale Wines &

Spirits (WWS). An active supporter of The Trust and wanting to "do something different" for a wine tasting, Mr. Kelly approached Trust executives with his unique idea. "It seemed a natural combination", said Mr. Kelly, "wine, art, and the beauty of the gardens". The three components, he knew, would attract a wide diversity of people who, while enjoying the wine and art, would simultaneously be exposed to the work of The Trust

and the importance of conservation.

Over 1200 people braved the weather and spent hours strolling through marquees to view the art, watch conservation films, learn about the work of The Trust from the BNT educational exhibit, tour the garden, nibble on hors d'oeuvres donated by Kraft General Foods, and taste a selection of WWS wines.