



TRUST NOTES

October 2007

Issue 4 No.3

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BNT Opens Boardwalk at Pride Estates Subdivision



Pictured from left: Don Cooper, Lynn Gape, Eric Carey, Tamica Rahming, Larry Cartwright, Pedro Johnson, Glenn Bannister, Ralph Forskin at the opening of the new boardwalk.

Residents of Pride Estates, BNT members and Staff and East Nassau Rotarians gathered at Harrold and Wilson Ponds National Park on Friday, August 24th to celebrate the opening of the second boardwalk in the park. The Rotary Club of East Nassau partnered with the BNT to provide a boardwalk and viewing platform in the Pride Estates subdivision which borders the park. Pride Estates is unique, as it has a national park right in its backyard making the residents of Pride Estates an important component in the development of the park.

The Boardwalk was officially opened by the Hon. Larry Cartwright, Minister of Agriculture and Marine Resources. "The Ministry of Agriculture

and the Trust have a long history of cooperation on matters concerning the wildlife of The Bahamas. My Ministry is responsible for the Wild Birds Protection Act, which regulates hunting and provides protection for the avian wildlife of our nation. We commend the BNT for its work at Harrold and Wilson Pond which has been identified as an Important Bird Area and a Watchable Wildlife Area. These boardwalks will allow residents and schoolchildren to become familiar with the birds that frequent ponds creating an awareness and appreciation of our national parks and the wildlife that call them home." commented Minister Cartwright. The Minister expressed the hope that the residents of Pride Estates would partici-

pate in the development of the park.

Dr. Donald Cooper speaking for the Rotary Club of East Nassau remarked "It is wonderful to partner with the Trust on this project. and we look forward to continuing our support for Harrold and Wilson Ponds National Park."

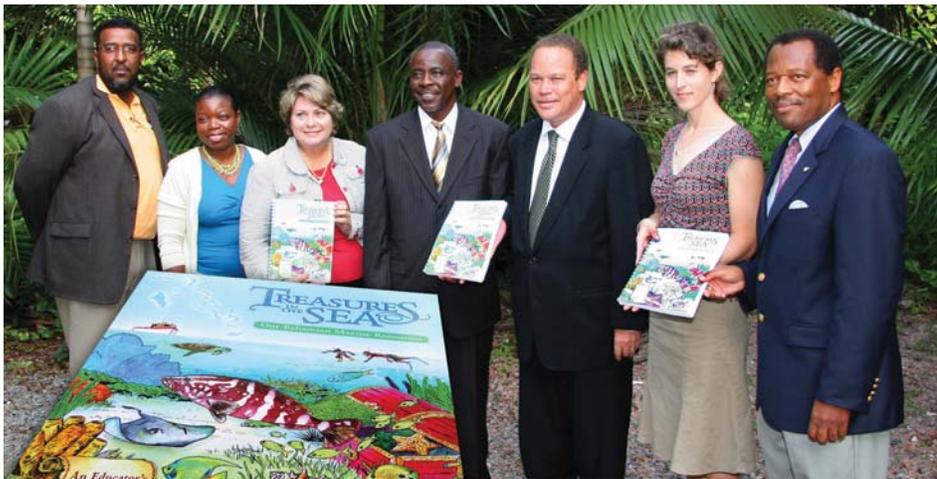
Harrold and Wilson Ponds National Park is now open on the weekends from 8am to 5pm. Anyone needing information on the park can call the BNT at 393-1317 or email bnt@bahamasnationaltrust.org

HWPNP Squatter Evicted

The Trust moved to forcibly and immediately remove Henry Moxey from land in the Harrold and Wilson Ponds National Park on Wednesday, August 29th, 2007 after four years in court using the strength of the 2002 Lease which gave the Trust the land concerned to manage as a national park.

"We want to send a clear message to the Bahamian public that we will not tolerate illegal occupation or "squatting" on lands that have been set aside in the national park system." commented Eric Carey, Executive Director of the Trust.

Teacher's Resource a Treasure!



Pictured from left at the launch of the new educational resource: Eric Carey; Monique Sweeting; Lynn Gape; Lionel Sands, Director of Education; Hon. Carl V. Bethel, Minister of Education, Meg Domroese and Glen Bannister

The Bahamas National Trust, the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture and the American Museum of Natural History's Center for Biodiversity and Conservation began a partnership in 2004 to produce a brand new resource for teachers in The Bahamas, *Treasures in the Sea: Our Bahamian Marine Resources*. This new teacher's resource was presented to the Minister of Education, Hon. Carl V. Bethel at the conclusion of the three day workshop conducted in New Providence in which 28 teachers were introduced to the new resource.

This educator's guide to teaching marine biodiversity complements the Ministry of Education's curriculum guidelines for grades 3 – 6, though many activities may be adapted for other levels in both formal and informal settings. Marine biodiversity—the variety of life found in oceans, coastal waters, and estuaries—is an ideal topic for interdisciplinary studies, touching on science, social studies, language arts, mathematics, and the creative arts. To encourage students to discover, cherish, and protect their sea and all of its treasures, *Treasures in the Sea* introduces marine conservation concepts by focusing on some of The Bahamas' most important marine species, the Nassau grouper, Queen conch, and Spiny Lobster. These species, familiar to all of us, will help students understand

life cycles, critical habitats, cultural and economic connections, and the urgency of conservation and management.

Over 50 teacher's from Abaco, Andros, New Providence and Grand Bahama were introduced to the new resource at workshops on New Providence and Grand Bahama in August. The purpose of the workshops was to familiarize the teacher's with the new resource and provide hands-on-experience in using *Treasures in the Sea* so that they could in turn train teachers at their school in using the resource.

Teacher's participated in Peer Teaching exercises, hands on arts and crafts sessions and a field trip to the beach to familiarize them with the seashore and a special

activity called Sea for Yourself. Atlantis Water Features hosted the New Providence teachers for a Fish Scavenger Hunt at The Dig where the educators were able to experience the marine environment in a virtual setting. Educators on Grand Bahama visited the Lucayan National Park and were able to experience not only the seashore but the mangrove tidal creek which acts as a marine nursery for conch, crawfish and grouper.

All of the educators thoroughly enjoyed learning about the anatomy of



the conch up close and personal as the facilitators used live conch for the biology lesson. Several of the activities use educational games such as the Grouper Race for Survival to provide fun learning experiences about the threats faced our fishery resources and Pass the Part a relay game that challenges the students to become familiar with the anatomy of the conch, crawfish and grouper.



Educators had fun displaying their creative skills with Home Sweet Habitat, an educational mural making activity which encourages students to learn about the different marine habitats and the marine life that uses them, the Conch Life Cycles Wheel reinforces the knowledge about the life cycle of the conch and Crawfish Critters allows students to use their artistic skills in creating a model of a crawfish.



Teachers were further assisted in taking the marine message to their classrooms by a donation from The Nature Conservancy of posters on conch, crawfish, grouper, seagrass beds, marine protected areas and Elkhorn coral.

According to Lynn Gape, Deputy



Executive Director of the BNT, " This has been a truly collaborative effort, other associates – Friends of the Environment (Abaco) , the Department of Marine

Resources, BREEF, Private School Teachers, Dolphin Encounters and the BEST Commission participated in workshops held to review the activities. The BNT has worked with Bahamian educators for over twenty

years and is delighted to have been a partner in this project which has produced a resource which will assist Bahamian educators in effectively teaching marine biodiversity and engaging students in conservation."

Teachers had very positive comments about the workshop. Here are some samples of feedback from the evaluation forms completed by the educators at the end of the workshops:

"Excellent workshop! I am far more comfortable with so many areas now than I was prior to the workshop. There is a great need for this type of exposure amongst teachers. With this type of seminar we can enhance the way that science is approached and taught in the schools. In doing so we will prepare more Bahamians for careers in science- marine science which will lead to more research by informed Bahami-

ans, more conservative efforts by educated Bahamians, and more changes by enthusiastic Bahamians. (Also great resource materials- thank you)

"I am extremely happy I did the workshop. It has awakened a new awareness of the importance of conservation and the responsibility I have to pass the message on."

"It was a pleasure being here. Initially I only wanted to attend 1 day, but it was so interesting that I kept coming out each day!"

"This workshop was very enjoyable. I am especially glad that I decided to attend. I feel that the book is an excellent resource and I cannot wait to start implementing the activities in my classroom. I really, really, really enjoyed the field trips. A job well done!!"

The core team for production of the book was led by Meg Domroese and Christine Engels of the American Museum of Natural History's Center for Biological Diversity, Lynn Gape, Deputy Director of the Trust , Monique Sweeting, independent consultant (former BNT Education Officer) and Portia Sweeting, Primary Science Education Coordinator for the Ministry of Education, Youth Sports and Culture. Science Curriculum Planners for the Ministry of Education: Ronique Curry, Barbara Dorsett, Sheriece Lightbourne-Edwards, Joan Knowles, and Dorothy M. Rolle with further assistance and support from Mrs. Beverly J.T. Taylor, Assistant Director of Education.

Treasures in the Sea Supporters

The Tiffany Foundation
Lynette and Richard Jaffe
Colina Imperial Insurance Ltd.
National Science Foundation
Tropical Shipping
The Nature Conservancy
BREEF Bahamas Reef Educational Foundation
Department of Marine Resources
Atlantis Water Features Department
The Maillis Family
Robin Symonette



Conceptual Plan for LNP



Ministry of Tourism officials, representatives of the Grand Bahama Development Company, residents of East Grand Bahama and tour operators who regularly use the park were presented with a draft conceptual plan for the Lucayan National Park on September 12 and 13.

After closing the Gold Rock Creek Bridge, in April of this year, "We assured the Grand Bahama Community, we were committed to replacing the bridge with a first class structure. We are back to present the community not only with a plan for rebuilding the bridge but with

a vision for the Lucayan National Park which will greatly enhance the visitor experience."

Earlier this year, the BNT engaged Wilderness Graphics, a Florida firm with expertise in planning and producing interpretive programmes, to prepare a conceptual plan for the park to enhance the public's experience of the site. The phased approach would include the new bridge and boardwalk path to the beach, a visitor centre, covered picnic area and interpretive signage that explains the natural characteristics of the site.

Behind the Scenes

Many people give time to help us with our work for which we are grateful but some of them go above and beyond the work of a normal volunteer. In this light, the Trust would like to express special

thanks to Mr. Robin Brownrigg of Bahamas Realty who donated his time and appraised all of the BNT properties. We also want to thank our Honorary Treasurer, Mr. Peter Stokes, who gives many hours of personal time, assisting us getting our financial affairs in order.

Calendar of Events

Welcome Back Migrants: October 6 at 8 am
The Retreat Village Road

Art Exhibition of HIV/Aids Junkanoo Awareness Quilt: October 19
Glory Banks Art Gallery, The Rand Nature Centre, Freeport, Grand Bahama

BNT Nature Walk at Perpall Tract: October 20 at 8am

BNT Wine & Art Festival: October 27
from 12 noon – 6 pm The Retreat, Village Road

Ornithology Group: Bird Walk, Saturday, November 3. Email cwardlef@yahoo.com for more information.

BNT Nature Walk: Maillis Farm, Adelaide, Saturday, November 10 at 8am

BNT Christmas Jollification Members Event: Friday, November 16 from 5pm – 8pm

BNT Christmas Jollification: November 17, 18, at The Retreat, Village Road

Ornithology Group Bird Walk, Saturday, December 1. Email cwardlef@yahoo.com for more information.

Festival Noel: December 7, 2007 – The Rand Nature Centre, Freeport, Grand Bahama

Grand Bahama Christmas Bird Count: Friday, December 14, 2007

New Providence Christmas Bird Count, Saturday, December 16, 2007

BNT Nature Walk: Harrold and Wilson Ponds National Park in 2008. TBA.



**Bahamas
National
Trust**

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