



# 2011 **ANNUAL REPORT**



March 2011 – March 2012

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John F. Bethell, Deputy President

Lawrence Ginton, Honourary Secretary

Peter Stokes, Honourary Treasurer

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Patricia Collins	Ministry of Education
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Nancy Clum, PhD	Wildlife Conservation Society
Matt Jefferey	National Audubon Society
Valerie Paul, PhD	Smithsonian Institution
Pamela Reid, PhD	University of Miami
Mark Lewis	US Parks Service

## SCIENTIFIC ADVISORS

Karen Bjorndal, PhD, Scientific Advisor , University of Florida

Alan Bolten, PhD, Scientific Advisor, University of Florida

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Bahamas National Trust continues to make tremendous strides in improving the infrastructure and management of the national parks. Work has continued at the Primeval Forest with the final Phase in progress for this jewel of a park. In Andros our park wardens in partnership with students from the University of Maryland have worked in the Blue Hole National Park to create firewalls and build benches and tables for visitors.

The BNT has recently completed a conceptual plan for the Abaco National Park and will be conducting community consultation to introduce the plan and receive feedback on our proposed infrastructure at this very important park. The BNT continues to support Caroline Stahala in her studies of the endangered Bahama Parrot and her studies provide increasingly valuable information as move forward with our plans to place infrastructure in the park. The Predator Control Programme is now in place 12 months a year and has been successful in reducing parrot predation during the nesting season.

Close to heart of all Bahamians is sustainability of our marine resources. The Bahamas is blest with abundant resources but overfishing, unsustainable fishing practices and threats from poaching in our waters will threaten the livelihoods and culture of Bahamians and we will need to change the way our resources are managed if we are to maintain healthy marine stocks. The BNT has taken a proactive stance on sustainable marine resources. We have pledged our support to the Department of Marine Resources to support the establishment of the five approved Marine Reserves. Our BNT Education office is coordinating a multi-agency conch conservation campaign to develop a programme for students and adults which will create an awareness of the need for conservation measures for this our most treasured marine resource.

The BNT has grown tremendously in the last five years. We have quadrupled our staff – having wardens and offices on Andros, Abaco, Eleuthera, Grand Bahama and Inagua . People are important in managing national parks and increased infrastructure demands more wardens for our parks. The downside of this growth is the that BNT has outgrown The Retreat Garden. This oasis in the middle of suburban Nassau needs to be returned to its original vision and a park where people can experience an amazing palm collection planted in a native coppice forest. In order to find the BNT a new home, we have been working with the Ministry of the Environment, stakeholders and planning experts

to develop a plan for the redevelopment of the Nassau Botanical Gardens. Part of our vision for the gardens is to sustainably build office building for the BNT that will meet our current and future organizational needs.

Membership is the lifeblood of the BNT. The BNT promotes membership at all BNT events but I challenge all of you to step up to the plate and encourage your friends to support our work. Our national parks belong to all Bahamians and provide increasingly important economic opportunities and outdoor classrooms for students.

The BNT continues to be committed to developing an integrated national park system. We are working with partners and stakeholders to develop management plans and sustainable funding mechanisms for our parks. We also continue to lobby for new national parks and hope to see the Abaco East Creeks Proposal, Abaco Blue Holes Proposal, and Western Marine Managed Area be added to the protected area system by the end of 2012.

It is indeed an honor to serve as your President and we continue to work hard for conservation and protection of the Bahamas amazing biodiversity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil McKinney", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Neil McKinney  
President, Bahamas National Trust



# INTRODUCTION

The BNT entered 2011 with a view to strengthening our education and outreach programmes, the responsibility of implementing several important projects and continuing to provide infrastructure in our national parks so that they provide open green spaces, recreational opportunities and outdoor classrooms for our young people.

## Protection for Sharks in The Bahamas

Concern for marine resources was a reoccurring theme throughout 2010. The BNT had entered into a partnership with the Pew Environment Group in the fall of 2009. The BNT in partnership with Pew launched a far reaching public outreach campaign which promoted protection for sharks in Bahamian waters. Pierre Yves Cousteau, son of famous underwater photographer Jacques Cousteau visited The Bahamas to lend support to the campaign. Guy Harvey, internationally recognized marine artist and conservationist gave a special public meeting, visited schools on New Providence and donated a special poster promoting shark conservation in The Bahamas. The Shark Campaign traveled to Grand Bahama, Abaco, Andros, Eleuthera, Long Island, Cat Island and Inagua speaking to schools and the general public sending the message that by protecting sharks in The Bahamas, we would also be helping to keep our coral reefs, and fisheries healthy. On July 5, The Bahamas once again made conservation history by announcing that all commercial shark fishing in the approximately 630,000 square kilometers (243, 244 square miles) of the country's waters is now prohibited.

## Shark Campaign

The Education Department has implemented the educational components of the Shark Campaign. The campaign seeks to educate the general public on Shark biology and threats. The Campaign is being supported





through a partnership grant with the Pew Environment Group. Activities that resulted from this partnership were a travelling shark photo exhibition, public meetings and school visitation by Pierre Yves Cousteau, Cartoonist Jim Toomey and Guy Harvey, artist and marine conservationist. The Shark Campaign travelled to Abaco, Andros, Grand Bahama, Long Island, and Cat Island.

## Sanctuary

*Last Stand for Sharks* was produced by videographers Shawn Heinrichs and John Weller with funding from our partners the Pew Environment Group. The film highlights the importance of shark conservation in Bahamian waters and commends The Bahamas for joining in the support and protection of these majestic sea creatures. Scenes in the film were shot in a number of islands including Andros, Grand Bahama, and New Providence where locals also participated. The film completed its northern Bahamas tour in October and will continue on a tour through the central and southern Bahamas in 2012.

## Global Reef Expedition

The Bahamas was the first country to host the Global Reef Expedition financed by the Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation. The Living Oceans Foundation has built a core expertise around coral reef research, conservation and restoration activities. The BNT was approached by the foundation in 2009 with regard to having the expedition implement part of the five-year study in The Bahamas.

Consultation with the Ministry of the Environment resulted in an invitation being issued and in early April, the motor yacht *Golden Shadow*, a 67 meter (220 ft) logistical support vessel for the Expedition arrived in Nassau before it began coral reef studies in remote areas of The Bahamas. Three sites were visited in The Bahamas: Cay Sal Bank, Hogsty Reef and surrounding areas in Inagua and Andros and Abaco. The Bahamas leg of the expedition was completed in October. The expedition was supported by Bahamian

scientific and regulatory agencies, the primary scientific goals of the expedition were to map and characterize coral reef ecosystems, evaluate their current status and major threats and identify factors that enhance their capacity to resist, survive and rapidly recover from major disturbance events. This information is critical for the development of sound management strategies for coral reefs. Five young Bahamian scientists from the BNT, TNC, DMR and College of The Bahamas joined the expedition on a rotation basis for each leg of the voyage.

## A Sustainable Future for the Exumas

### **Environmental Management, Design and Planning**

The Ministry of The Environment of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas in conjunction with the Bahamas National Trust and the Harvard University Graduate School of Design (GSD) held a one-day conference at the Sheraton Nassau Beach Resort on Friday, July 8, 2011. An international and local group of practitioners, scholars, and legislators addressed current environmental strategies and imagined future scenarios for the sustainable development of the Exumas, the chain of Bahamian islands that includes the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park. The conference program featured presentations by The Rt. Hon. Hubert Ingraham, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, The Bahamas, and The Hon. Earl D. Deveaux, Minister of The Environment and President Neil McKinney of the Bahamas National Trust. The list of speakers included national and international experts on sustainability and planning and a number of Harvard University faculty. The overall goal is the development of a land use plan for the Exuma Cays, to support implementation of the provisions of the new Planning and Subdivisions Act. The intention for this first exploratory event was to identify key issues and goals for a possible multiyear research initiative that will analyze the Exumas from environmental, social, economic, design, and planning perspectives.

## Hurricane Irene

On August 25 and 26, Hurricane Irene, a category 3 hurricane, travelled the length of the Bahamas. The storm impacted almost all of the national parks, with the exception of the Andros National Parks which were unaffected. Despite the fact that the storm passed through many of the National Parks, they suffered minimal damage.

**BNT Council travels to Inagua:** The BNT Council held their fall council meeting in Matthew Town, Inagua from September 23 – 26. The meeting was hosted by Past President Glenn Bannister, CEO of Morton Salt Bahamas Ltd. Council conducted the business of the



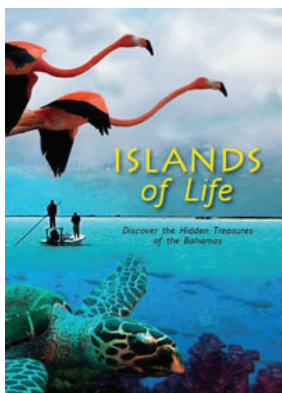
Trust receiving updates from divisional managers and executive management. Priority items discussed were fundraising initiatives and

the need for stronger advocacy for marine resources protection. The Hon. Earl D. Deveaux was in attendance at the meetings and spoke on the expanded role of the Trust as an advisory body to government and the need for collaboration in implementing the new Forestry Act.

The BNT held a special meet and greet event for its members in Inagua on Friday evening, which was graciously supported by Morton Bahamas Ltd.

On Saturday, Council members visited Camp Vernay, the original flamingo research camp, established by Robert Porter Allen and Alexander Sprunt IV. It was from this site that Allen and Sprunt conducted the historical research which helped to bring the flamingo back from the edge of extinction. The camp was extensively damaged during Hurricane Ike and an assessment and evaluation for rebuilding of the research camp will be carried out.

On Sunday the Council visited Union Creek to make an assessment for the future of this area. The trip to Union Creek was led by Dr. Karen Bjorndal and Senior Warden Henry Nixon. Dr. Bjorndal has conducted over 35 years of sea turtle research at Union Creek. The decisions at Union Creek centre around the accessibility of the area. Hurricane Ike opened up two new entrances to the tidal creek which breached the road that once led to the reserve.



## Islands of Life Film Documentary

The documentary produced by Bo Boudart was about the ecology, life, and environment of the Bahamas. The film prominently features many of the National Parks of The Bahamas and by extension highlights the history and programme of work of the Bahamas National Trust. It premiered on December 1, the opening evening of the Bahamas International Film Festival. The BNT was proud to be featured in the film and will be working with the producer to take the film to all of the major islands in The Bahamas. Proceeds from sales of the DVD will go to support BNT Media productions and young environmental film makers.

# PARKS

As mandated by the BNT Act, the management of the national park system is our primary area of focus. The 27 national parks and protected areas protect habitat for endangered species, unique and diverse ecosystems as well as unique geological features. The BNT continues to work with local communities to put in place management plans for existing parks and to work with constituents to identify new areas that need protection. Providing access to our parks so that they can be enjoyed by Bahamians and visitors is a priority for the Trust and we continue to work with the corporate community as well as international agencies to source funding for the necessary infrastructure.



The continual need for scientific support for the national park system and the increased interest in scientists wishing to work in our national parks caused the BNT to consider and then implement a management change. The Parks and Science Division is now two separate divisions with David Knowles, appointed as the new Director of Parks and Tamica Rahming moving to head the new Science and Policy Division.

The passage of the **2010 Forestry Act** opened several opportunities for collaboration with the Forestry Division. The BNT and the Ministry of the Environment entered into a Memorandum of Understanding which provided the BNT with a \$100,000 grant to hire wardens on Abaco and Andros as well as a GIS Officer to assist with forestry initiatives and the implementation of an FAO project to promote small scale sustainable lumbering on Abaco and Andros. The wardens will be



trained in Forestry Monitoring protocols and will assist the Forestry Department in the implementation of their five year strategic plan.

The New Providence National Parks of **Harrold and Wilson Pond, Bonefish Pond and The Retreat** have all recently had upgrades in infrastructure. Visitation to Bonefish Pond and Harrold and Wilson Pond National Park continues to grow and these two parks are increasingly visited by educators and their classes. The Retreat as the headquarters of the BNT is the site of Public meetings, fundraisers and educational tours. Propagation of the rare palms and work on the Pergola area have been the focus this year along with general maintenance. **The Primeval Forest** is in its second phase of development with a second set of trails and spiral staircase to the cave/hole which features unique fossils being completed. The BNT is in the process of finalizing the plans for the welcome centre and the interpretive signage for this unique and special seven acre park. We expect to officially open the Primeval Forest National Park in March of 2012.

Our presence in Abaco continues to grow. With six national parks on an island with a growing population that values the natural environment, Abaco is an important area of growth for the BNT.

The BNT Council in April voted unanimously to hire a warden specifically for the **Abaco National Park** with his primary duties being to implement a 12 month predator control programme. The population of the Bahama Parrot on Abaco maintains itself at approximately 2,500 birds, but the population needs to be more robust to withstand hurricanes and droughts which have become stronger and longer as a result of climate change. Feral cats and racoons are the major threat to the parrot and the increased nest monitoring with remote cameras is providing excellent information on how the predators operate. The Trust continues to provide support for Caroline Stahala, PhD, candidate at Florida State University who continues to study the breeding behaviour and communication and group dynamics of the Abaco population.

Volunteer, Robert Clipper of Colorado State University worked with the BNT to complete the first set of nature trails in the park. The half mile of trails are suitable for hiking. The BNT is working with Wilderness Graphics of Tallahassee Florida to create a conceptual plan for the park which includes a system of driving trails, visitors centre, camp site and a warden research residence.

David Knowles, Director of Parks is working with the Green Turtle Cay Community to identify funding for the implementation of infrastructure at **Black Sound Cay Reserve** a small but important mangrove wetland on Green Turtle Cay.

With the addition of **Fowl Cays National Park**



and the implementation of monitoring of Tropic Bird Nesting on **Tilloo Cay Reserve**, the BNT needed a patrol boat. Thanks to the efforts of James Pleydell-Bouverie and Michael Albury, a 27 foot World Cat speed boat was donated to the BNT by Bob and Gail Bardin. The boat has been of great assistance to the BNT this year and we are grateful to the donors and the Abaco Community for the assistance given in getting the boat ready for patrols.

The opening of the **Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve** celebrated its grand opening on March 24 in Governor's Harbour Eleuthera. The 25-acre sanctuary was created jointly by the Bahamas National Trust with



the support of the Leon Levy Foundation, a New York foundation created from the estate of famed Wall Street financier, Leon Levy. The Preserve is the first national park on Eleuthera and its creation was the long standing dream of Shelby White, Leon Levy's widow. Visitors to the Preserve enter a tropical sanctuary with a mangrove wetland, a specimen medicinal plant garden, a mile of trails and a lookout tower which offers breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean. Its founders intend for the Preserve to be an educational resource for kindergarten to grade 12 students, from Eleuthera and other islands, to experience the bio-diversity of a Bahamian forest and a place to explore wildlife and engage in activities that encourage environmental awareness and individual

stewardship for the natural world around them.

The **Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park** continues to be a highly used park as well as the park with the most pressing management issues. This year a great deal of discussion and controversy was in the public domain regarding the development of Bell Island a private cay situated in the ECLSP. The owner of 349-acre Big Bell Island received government permission last year to expand an existing service/utility area for his vacation home, excavate an inland yacht basin, and dredge a portion of the seabed to provide navigable access to his private yacht basin.

About a third of the land within the Exuma park is privately owned (including Big Bell Island and Little Bell Island.) This land was not included in the 1958 Crown lease to the Trust, and no legal restrictions have ever been placed by any government on private land transfers within the park.

In the case of the current project on Bell Island, an environmental impact assessment was undertaken at the owner's expense, and strict environmental conditions and protocols were stipulated by both the BEST Commission and the BNT in the form of a detailed Environmental Management Plan.

The impact of offshore dredging and excavation on land is very limited. Dredging of an existing service area, and to create a navigable channel, is affecting less than five acres of seabed.

It should be noted that the areas of the seabed affected by dredging were substantially reduced and modified from the original plans due to the intervention of the BNT, based on scientific advice.

The net area of impact from development on land is five acres. A shallow salt pond near the coast is being excavated to create a private yacht basin. The excavated material is being transported at the owner's expense to Black Point or Nassau.

## Incorporation of Renewable Technologies at the ECLSP

The BNT and the BEST Commission are working to put together a proposal to the IDB for the incorporation of renewable technologies at the Exuma Park. The demonstration project is intended to demonstrate in a remote location, of practical examples to compare the type, scale and cost of deployment and replacing fossil fuel generation facilities with renewable technologies (solar hot water heating, photovoltaic, lighting alternatives CFLs and LEDs, small wind turbine, battery backup and storage) and other energy saving devices.

## Sustainable Tourism and Coral Reef Health in the ECLSP

The Bahamas National Trust is implementing a pilot

project on Coral Reef Health and Sustainable Tourism in the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park as part of the National GEF full –sized project. Quarterly benthic and fish surveys are conducted at eight sites in the park. Krista Sherman, GEF FSP Coordinator, BNT, Dr. Daniel Brumbaugh, GEF Scientist, Dr. Craig Dahlgren, GEF Scientist, Lindy Knowles, BNT Assistant Parks Planner, and Nicola Smith. DMR make up the team.


Dr. Dahlgren has conducted two Reef Check Surveys, which will be submitted into the Global Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN). Photographs are taken of each surveyed quadrant for cross referencing and archival purposes. This work will form the baseline database for the continuing monitoring of the ECLSP. Developing monitoring programmes for national parks is a priority management activity for the BNT and especially for the Exuma Park to be able to document the long term effects of boater impact on the environment of the park.

## GEF Small Grants Invasive Species Removal at Moriah Harbour Cay and Bonefish Ponds National park

BNT Parks Staff led by Assistant Parks Planner Lindy Knowles travelled to Great Exuma in October and November to conduct invasive species removal at Moriah Harbour Cay National Park. The first trip removed 300 casuarina trees that are less than 3 inches in diameter. Initial reports had stated that there were a small amount of casuarinas to be removed but the initial site visit indicated that there were over 1000 casuarinas. The project looks at the removal of invasive plants from within two BNT national parks and restoration of the systems with native species. Casuarina trees dominate the island along with other coastal vegetation. The only other invasive species found on the island was Love Vine. The team has been able to put into practice the training they obtained in herbicide usage and invasive removal. The project will be completed in December.

## Western Marine Park/Dive Tag Programme

The Bahamas National Trust conducted community outreach to stakeholders concerning the creation of



### Why is the Casuarina an Invader?


**Australian Pine**  
*Casuarina equisetifolia*

This fast-growing tree was introduced to The Bahamas in the early 20th century as an ornamental, and also used as a windbreak to protect residential areas along coastlines. Time proved the species to be unsuitable for either purpose. The shallow spreading roots are disruptive to beaches, lawns and sidewalks, and the tree is easily blown over in storms. This pest has become a major pest, and the National Invasive Species Strategy identifies *Casuarina equisetifolia* as a high priority for control and eradication.

The Casuarina is deadly to coastal duneplants and suppresses other native species. It is a highly competitive species. Seedlings are tolerant of shade and grow in open coastal habitats, including beaches, dunes and rocky shores. Casuarina trees make the island with a thick layer of needles containing chemical compounds that discourage the growth of native plant species. Large stands of Casuarina reduce soil surface vegetation and other native plants.




Casuarina is the way of forest in habitat to native wildlife. Casuarina are easily trapped because of their shallow root systems. Rooted trees normally beach erosion and inhibit nesting by sea turtles and nesting to endangered birds like the Frigate Bird.

The intrusion of Casuarina into coastal margins can reduce nursery habitat for important marine species, as well as contribute to the loss of nesting and roosting habitat for birds.



### How You Can Help – a 3-STEP PLAN

1. Remove Casuarina seedlings or saplings whenever possible.
2. Plant recently disturbed beach habitat with native vegetation such as Sea Grape, Sea Ox-eye Daisy, Sea Oats, Sea Lavender and Bullroarer Vine. These coastal plants have strong and deep root systems, which help hold the sand dune together during storms.
3. Contact the Bahamas National Trust to learn more about Casuarina removal in your community.

The Invasive Coastal Species through the National of Invasive Species Project Species in Invasive species removed at Moriah Harbour Cay National Park and Bonefish Ponds National Park and was funded by a grant from the GEF FSP. If you would like to request a grant for invasive species removal, contact BNT Parks Department at 242-265-1217 or [info@bnt.org](mailto:info@bnt.org).

managed and zoned protected area off of Western New Providence. The area is used by local dive companies as well as recreational fisherman. The park proposal process was supported by Stuart Cove's Dive Bahamas. The BNT renewed its efforts and reengaged Vanessa Haley to move forward with the Dive Tag Programme which will provide funding support for the wardens and boats that will be needed to manage the zoned marine park. The proposal for the park was submitted to the government in 2010.

## UNEP Project – Development and Effective Management of Marine Protected Areas in the Abacos

The Parks Department submitted a project proposal to and was successful in receiving \$44,860 from the United Nations Environment Programme-Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP-CEP) and the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum (CaMPaM) in August, 2011. The project objectives are to develop management plans for all Abaco Marine Protected Areas (Pelican Cays Land & Sea Park, Fowl Cays, Walker's Cay National Parks and the Department of Marine Resources, No-Take Marine Reserve). Activities to be executed under this project include the establishment of a core management planning team, train staff and management team in GIS mapping, design and produce educational materials on the MPA's; and train community members in Reef Check which allow them to assist in the active management of the MPA's.

## Kerzner Project Andros

The BNT, TNC and ANCAT with support from the Kerzner Marine Foundation continue to work with local communities to create awareness of the resources of the newly expanded West Side National Park on Andros. This year a fish identification workshop was held for residents, signage about the Andros National Parks created and installed and PSA's both radio and television about Andros and its environment were produced and are now being aired on local radio and television stations.



# SCIENCE

## Iguana Research

A team of international “citizen scientists,” U.S. researchers from the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, Illinois, and staff from the Bahamas National Trust visited Andros Island this year to continue a 12 year study of the Andros Iguana. The iguana, scientific name *Cyclura cychlura cychlura*, is found only on Andros Island and is endangered due to habitat loss, hunting by people, and introduced predators that kill iguanas of all ages.

Shedd Aquarium and the BNT began studying the Andros Iguana in order to understand the little-known species. At the time, it was understood that iguanas were being found more often in cooking pots and less in the wild, especially on North Andros. Over the years, the researchers have captured hundreds of iguanas in order to take weights, measurements, draw blood samples for genetic analysis, tag each with a microchip, and then release them. The chips have enabled the team to identify iguanas that were first captured as far back as 1999. With radio receivers, they have tracked chipped individuals to learn about their home territories and roaming behaviours. The hatchlings have been



tracked to learn about survival rates and where they go after leaving their nests. The nesting behaviour of the Andros iguana is unique among iguanas: females deposit their eggs on termite “ant” mounds of their choice, and then guard the mounds from other females for up to three months! They are very protective of their eggs.

During the first week of May 2011, the *Coral Reef II* anchored in Middle and South Bights, where the team met up with Tavares Thompson, BNT Andros Park Warden, and Cordero Bullard, BNT Warden for New Providence. In addition to the regular capture-and-release work, study sites were expanded to include cays in North Bight where iguanas previously had been too difficult to find. The new research sites could provide important blood samples from captured iguanas that should assist in eliminating some of the remaining mysteries about Andros iguanas, such as how they might move between islands, genetic relationships between the current study populations and iguanas living on nearby cays, and whether Andros has any isolated iguana populations that have unique genetic signatures. Armed with this knowledge, the BNT and Bahamian government will have more tools to better protect and manage Andros iguanas.

## Adapting to Climate Change in Coral Reef Management July 18 – 22, 2011

Eleven countries throughout the wider Caribbean and coral reef managers from the Great Barrier Reef came together to share knowledge and experiences. The workshop was organized by the Australian Government and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority with logistical support from the BNT. It was divided into classroom discussions and field-based learning and sharing modes. Participants visited and dove the proposed West New Providence Marine Managed Area and the Barrier reef off Andros Marine Park. The five day workshop encouraged participation from several agency representatives with a range of skills and responsibilities.

This workshop provided the forum for an update on climate change science and current knowledge about risks to coral reefs. The workshop also explored in detail the experiences of coral reef managers in dealing with coral bleaching, coral disease, ocean acidification, and severe tropical storms, and facilitated discussions that focused on strategies for dealing with these major challenges.

## Zamia Lucayana Conservation Action Plan (July 26-28, 2011)

Public meetings were held, at the Retreat and in Long Island to give an update on the fieldwork that was done on several islands. One of the many highlights from this project is that it was discovered that there is an endemic

species to The Bahamas. The researchers were assisted by BNT Science Officer, Lindy Knowles.

**Bahama Parrot Research Update** Caroline Stahala, PhD Student at Florida State University finished her tenth year of research on the Bahama Parrot *Amazona Leucocephala bahamensis* at the end of August this year. The purpose of Ms. Stahala's research is to study the ecology and behaviour of the Abaco Population to inform conservation efforts, implement management strategies and evaluate the effectiveness of these practices in protecting the Bahama Parrot on Abaco. This is particularly important since the parrot on Abaco is the only known underground nesting parrot and Dr. William Hayes and Caroline Stahala have submitted genetic and behavioural evidence to support the Abaco Parrot as separate sub-species from the



Inagua Parrot.

The biggest threat to the Abaco Parrot is predation by non-native feral mammals such as cats and raccoons. Feral cats are a major concern because they increase the mortality of nesting adults and chicks by climbing into the nest cavity and killing the adults and chicks directly inside the nest or by waiting outside the nest for

the adults to emerge and then attack them.

A predator control programme to protect the nesting parrots has been in place for several years. This year efforts were increased by the BNT. Prior to the 2011 breeding season the BNT purchased 10 cameras that were positioned next to the nest openings. Previously only the aftermath of predation events were documented. This year with the help of the Rare Species Conservation Fund and the BNT, Ms. Stahala was able to set up motion sensitive cameras and electrified excluder fences around selected nest sites. The motion sensitive cameras were utilized because we are interested in learning how predators stalk and enter nests in order



to adapt our predator control programme. Evidence indicates that shallow nests with larger openings have a greater chance of being predated, this criteria was used to select 10 active nests to monitor 24 hours a day with the cameras.

Additionally the BNT has employed a full time warden to implement the predator control programme all year long not just during the breeding season.



## Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB) Regional Meeting in Grand Bahama

One hundred and sixty-two delegates representing thirty countries attended the 18th Regional Meeting of the SCSCB on Grand Bahama Island at the beautiful new conference centre at Pelican Bay Hotel. The meeting was hosted locally by The Bahamas National Trust. It was one of the largest SCSCB meeting ever held.

During the opening ceremony, Minister of the Environment, the Hon. Earl D. Deveaux, encouraged delegates to find ways to increase public awareness and influence planning decisions related to development that would ensure the preservation of natural habitats. The conference showcased a kaleidoscope of speakers such as Dr. Kelly Bricker of the University of Utah and chairperson of The International Ecotourism Society, who presented a workshop on Sustainable Tourism Business Development. John C. Robinson, Ornithologist and Environmental Consultant from Iowa State University, chose as his topic: Connecting our Youth to Nature. Dr. Pete Marra, Ornithologist at the Smithsonian Institution's Conservation Biology Institute spoke about his lessons learnt through the lens of a scientist, while Eric Carey, the Executive Director of (BNT) and Lynn Gape, Deputy Executive Director





(BNT) enlightened the conference attendees about the unique partnership between the BNT and decision makers to achieve successful outcomes for the environment. There were expert ornithologists and biologists conducting workshops on Kirtland's Warbler Research, Cornell University's e-bird Caribbean, Threatened Birds Working Group, Caribbean Flamingo Workshop, Birds and Media Workshop, Working with Decision Makers, Sustainable Bird and Nature Tourism Sessions and many more.

**Restoring Allen Cay for Shearwaters** The Bahamas National Trust has been awarded a \$150,000 grant from the US-based National Fish & Wildlife Foundation to restore Allen Cay as a critical nesting habitat for Audubon's Shearwaters. The project will also create ideal nesting sites for endangered iguanas. Allen Cay, in the Northern Exumas, is home to endangered Allen Cay Rock Iguanas and a declining population of Audubon's Shearwaters. The project is a collaborative effort with Dr. William Mackin, Dr. John Iverson, biologists from Island Conservation and BNT's Parks staff. A project feasibility trial will be conducted in December 2011.

### White Crowned Pigeon Monitoring/Hunting

The BNT continues to provide leadership and support for the management of hunting activities in the Bahamas. BNT staff is collaborating with the Ministry of Environment to enforce hunting regulations, develop volunteer game warden training and develop a monitoring programme for the White Crowned Pigeon, The Bahamas most popular gamebird.

David Knowles and Tavares Thompson, BNT Director of Parks and BNT Andros Park Warden attended a regional White Crowned Pigeon Monitoring Meeting coordinated by the SCSCB in the Dominican Republic in November of this year.

### Annual Christmas Bird Count:

The BNT Ornithology Group annually organizes the New Providence Christmas Bird Count and supports the Abaco and Grand Bahama counts. The group has been coordinating the count since 199\_. Data collected from the count is tabulated and sent to National Audubon in the United States where it is stored in their database. President Neil McKinney acts as the tabulator for the count. This data is important for following trends in bird populations, changes in migratory patterns and new introductions to areas.

The Ornithology Group has also introduced a special beginner's bird walk once a month in order to introduce people to birds as well as increase the pool of



people with identification skills to support monitoring initiatives. The Abaco Office is also working to expand the skills of interested birders on that island and is also coordinating monthly bird walks with the assistance of volunteers Reg Patterson and Dr. Woody Bracey.

## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The BNT Education Office conducts education programmes to schools and teachers throughout the year. Over 10,000 adults and young people have received or participated in BNT outreach efforts throughout the year. They also implement a number of projects for our national parks that have educational components. The BNT Discovery Club, the Trusts after school youth programme is coordinated by the Education Office.

### New Office Area for Education

Through a generous donation, the physical space of the BNT education office was expanded in September. The new Education Annex provides space for four officers.

### Marine Litter

Through a grant from the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, the BNT Education office was able to engage schools, community groups, and local marinas in discussions on how to combat marine litter in The Bahamas. Posters, Brochures on the effects of marine debris and ways to fight this problem have been distributed to schools throughout The Bahamas. Signage asking the public not to litter have been placed at strategic locations on New Providence.

### Sea Turtle Research Programme

BNT volunteers Stephen Connett and Barbara Crouchley are coordinators of the Turtle Research and Internship Program. The project aims to evaluate movement and distribution patterns of sea turtles through a series of study sites in The Bahamas. Young students apply to be interns and assist with all aspects of the research. This data collection will serve as a foundation for further studies on growth rates and the role of turtles in



sea grass ecosystems. The expeditions survey the major sea turtle habitats around Cat and Conception Islands. Participants are required to assist with giving presentations about the Bahamas National Trust in schools on Cat Island. Stevie and Barbara's sailing vessel the *Foxy Lady* is used as the research vessel. The programme, is coordinated in partnership with the Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research at the University of Florida.



## BNT Discovery Club

With over 25 clubs on New Providence, Abaco, Andros, Grand Bahama, Eleuthera and Inagua, BNT Discovery Club provides young people with opportunities to experience the environment of The Bahamas through exploration and hands-on experiences. The Education Department conducted the fourth Discovery Leaders' Training Programme July 24-30 2011. Leaders again endured a rigorous schedule of activities aimed at preparing them to facilitate learning as well as to excite and encourage club members' interest in nature.

The Navigators Programme for ages 13 – 25 was introduced this year in addition to the bird and marine certification programmes. The courses last 36 weeks and have three levels. Nassau Christian Academy is engaged in the Bird Certification Programme, St. Augustine's College and C.R. Walker are in the Marine Programme. Central Andros High will be participating in 2012.

In December, 275 club members from 11 schools and organizations on New Providence participated in the bi-annual badge presentation ceremony receiving their Fish, Environment, Camping and National Parks Badges.



## Summer Camps

Week long annual summer camps were staged on New Providence and Grand Bahama with 40 and 20 students respectively. Through a series of PowerPoint presentations, road trips and hands-on activities participants were introduced to conservation themes.

The Education Department organized and hosted 19 young people to the third annual **Bahamas Eco-Camp** on Andros July 2011. The emersion camp introduced participants to environmental issues and concepts, life skills and real life scenarios as well as a number of cultural skills such as bonefishing, stargazing and crabbing. Two conch conservation PSA's for television and radio were written and produced by the camp participants to be aired in the first quarter of 2012.

The “**The All Andros Camp**” month-long camp that benefit kids on Andros was instituted this year as an annual event. The BNT provides education office staff members to support the camp. The BNT also supported the South Andros Handicraft and Manufacturers Association Children's Summer Camp.



## Teacher's Workshops

Fifty-four high school teachers participated in an Ecosystem workshop organized and facilitated by the BNT and Ministry of Education in late July. The Ministry is implementing a new curriculum focused on the environment and the workshop included activities on ecosystems, endangered species, ethno botany and climate change. Many of the activities were from *Wondrous West Indian Wetlands*, *Treasures in the Sea* and *Exploring the Bahamian Pine Forest*, Teachers' Resources developed by the BNT in support of the

Ministry of Education's environmental component in the Science and Social Studies curriculum. The educators were able to visit all of the major ecosystems on New Providence including the Primeval Forest and Bonefish Pond National Parks, as well as experiencing the marine environment on a snorkelling expedition with Stuart Cove's Dive Bahamas. Twenty-eight Primary School teachers travelled to Eleuthera for the day to experience the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve on Eleuthera. These workshops were coordinated with Louise Barry, Ministry of Education officer for Secondary Science and Barbara Dorsett, Ministry of Education officer for Primary Science.

The Bahamas National Trust coordinates teacher workshops throughout the year with both public and private educational institutions with at least two of the workshops being held on the Family Islands. This year workshops were held in Inagua where 22 educators participated and in Grand Bahama 25 participated.

### BREEF Workshop:

The BNT once again supported the BREEF educators week long workshop on San Salvador at the Gerace Field Station. The BNT provides an education officer to assist BREEF with the workshop. BNT also develops and runs the *Treasures in the Sea* component of the workshop.

## OUTREACH AT EVENTS

- Education Department led the World Wetlands Day 2011 activities in January. The week of activities included an exhibition at the main post office, school trips to Wetlands on New Providence and a family fun day at Bonefish Pond National Park.
- The department partnered with the Marathon Mall to host a Native Plant Exhibition and a hands-on native tree seed planting exercise. Over 175 persons participated in the event.
- National Parks Exhibition was held at the Marathon Mall June 11-18.
- The department ran simultaneous educational corner at the Goombay Festival and Summer Kiddy event at the Mall at Marathon. Over 200 persons were engaged at these two events.
- BNT Education Office participated and provided logistical support for the Coral Reef exhibition at the Lynden Pindling International Airport and Rand Nature Centre in Grand Bahama.

### Bahamas Environmental Stewards Scholarship Programme (BESS)

The Bahamas National Trust has participated in the BESS programme since its inception. Five BESS scholars



have interned with the BNT experiencing the day to day work of the organization. This year Brandon Jennings and Ann Marie Carroll are the BESS interns working at the BNT. Brandon interned at The Retreat and Ann Marie was assigned to the Rand Nature Centre in Grand Bahamas.

The students have assisted with school presentations and field trips to national parks. Brandon was also able to assist with the BLUE Project and participate AGRRA (Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment ) methodology training.

However, the highlight for both students was a two week field work trip with Steve Connett's Sea Turtle Research programme. The interns travelled with Stevie from Spanish Wells to South Eleuthera, and then on to Little San Salvador. Here the crew met up with Dr. Ed Brooks who was tagging sharks in the area. Twenty sharks were tagged in this exercise with the interns actively participating. Shark Species tagged were Silky, Tiger and Caribbean Reef Sharks.

The voyage continued on to Cat Island where the team tagged 30 sea turtles, mainly Green, at Bennett's Harbour and Orange Creek.

## Tour Guide Training Partnership with Ministry of Tourism

The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism in partnership with the BNT held Nature Tour Guide Training Courses in Abaco and Andros. This certified training course exposed participants to national parks, the History of Birding in The Bahamas, Wildlife and Environmental regulations of The Bahamas with educational presentations on the key terrestrial Bahamian ecosystems – wetlands, pine forest, and Coppice forest . Bird identification was a key component of the course with the tour guides in training receiving extensive bird identification training in the classroom and the field as well. The course also incorporates a business component with marketing and advertising advice. Twenty participants successfully completed the course and earned their designation as Nature Tour Guides. The course was coordinated and facilitated by Janell Campbell of the Ministry of Tourism, Lynn Gape, BNT Deputy Executive Director and Predensa Moore, BNT IBA Coordinator and Grants and Projects Administrator.

## BNT Public Meetings

The BNT seeks to keep the general public informed of Scientific Research, Environmental Programmes and Projects that are being conducted in The Bahamas. In 2011, a number of public meetings were held in conjunction with the Shark Campaign, as well as other subjects.

**Yves Pierre Cousteau:** Support for the Bahamas Shark Campaign presented in New Providence, Abaco,





## Andros and Grand Bahamas

**Guy Harvey:** Support for the Bahamas Shark Campaign presented in New Providence. Donated Shark Campaign Poster and T-Shirt Design

**Jim Toomey:** Popular American Cartoonist famous for his comic Sherman's Lagoon; He traveled Long Island, Andros and Grand Bahama speaking to schools carrying a message of marine conservation.

**Dr. Javier Francisco Ortega:** Zamia Conservation Action Plan, presented in Long Island and New Providence

**Dr. Venetia Hargreaves-Allen:** What is the Value of Conservation in The Bahamas?

## Development of Educational Resources

One of the ongoing activities of the BNT Education Department is the development of environmental education materials and interpretative signage and brochures for the national parks.

The following materials and park support materials were developed by the BNT Education Department in 2011.

- First draft of the Levy Preserve Educators manual, Teachers' package and Student Preserve Pal Booklets were completed
- Levy Preserve General Brochure and Birds of the Levy Preserve completed and produced.
- Levy Preserve General Bush Medicine Brochure developed.
- Blue Hole National Park Brochure developed.
- Abaco National Park Brochure developed .
- Abaco National Parks Poster developed, completed and produced.
- Marine Debris Poster and Brochure Completed
- Piping Plover Poster and Shorebird Brochure completed and produced
- Rand Nature Centre Brochure completed and produced.
- Shark poster, T-shirt and bottle openers were designed and produced for the National Shark Campaign
- Comic book on climate change in partnership with the PEO Sub-committee developed and completed.
- Kirtland's Warbler Project Poster and Brochure
- National Parks and IBA Poster completed and produced.

- Invasive Species signage developed and produced for Bonefish Pond and Moriah Harbour Cay National Park.

## DEVELOPMENT

The BNT Development office coordinates membership, the Annual Appeal, events and fundraisers, fundraising initiatives and Corporate Partnerships. Our annual fundraisers not only finance park work and education products, they also provide the organization with opportunities to showcase the Trust's conservation work and the importance of the national park system.

### Membership

The recruitment of new members as well as the servicing of our members continues to be a part of our work. BNT members are committed to the environment and the national parks of the Bahamas. The Membership office has worked diligently to improve communication with our members and to inform them of events and activities which are part of the organizations calendar.

The Membership office travelled to Great Exuma, Long Island, Grand Bahama and Abaco supporting the organizations events and activities. BNT events in New Providence continue to promote the work of the Trust and encourage attendees to consider membership in the organization.

Two special Public Meetings were coordinated by the membership office in 2011. Dr. Ida Mae Hanna presented on General Health Issues and Mr. Deno Moss of Scotiabank Trust encouraged our members invest in their future by developing a sound financial savings and investment plan.

As many of our members have indicated that they want to help with conservation initiatives, the first annual "Walk on the Wild Side" was hosted by the membership department. Over 80 persons participated in



support of Migratory Birds and their habitats the first Saturday of October and the event raised over \$2500 which was used to remove cattails at Harrold and Wilson Pond National Park.

Our Annual Appeal which is circulated to BNT members continues to grow and the organization realizes approximately \$20,000 annually from this fundraising effort. As an organization we are grateful for the loyalty and support of our membership.

In 2011 we were able to recruit over 500 new members with our membership standing at just over 2500 members.

## BNT Events

**Da Market:** The Monthly BNT Fresh Market event, that is held monthly continues to be popular with our membership and market vendors. Taking advantage of the agricultural sector on Abaco. The Market expanded to Abaco this year and has been well received.



**Art for the Parks, Abaco:** Art for the Parks was held for the second year in 2011. The event is supported by Abaco Beach Resort and other corporate sponsors including Bristol Wines and Spirits. The stars of the show are of course the local artists and artisans who came together with the idea to support the six national parks of Abaco. Last year the event added a silent auction “Take a Seat for Conservation” which featured hand-painted stools and chairs. The event has supported mooring maintenance in the Pelican Cays Land and Sea Park, a schools education poster on the six Abaco National Parks and Bahama Parrot Research.

**Annual Pig Roast:** This annual fund raiser is reminiscent of family gatherings in Cuba where a pig was roasted and the joy of good friends and family celebrated. This event is a popular fundraiser hosted at the Maillis Farm with pigs roasted by Mr Manuel Cutillas and his loyal volunteer chefs. This event raises over 20k for National Park infrastructure.

**Green Earth Festival:** The BNT partnered with

Seedlings Place in April to provide the public with an opportunity to sample and visit with over 50 vendors providing products that support a sustainable, green and holistic lifestyle.



**Wine and Art:** On Saturday, October 29th, the Bahamas National Trust opened its gates for 21st Annual Wine and Art Festival. The Annual Festival featured over 50 artists, a selection of over 50 wines from Bristol Wines and Spirits and a new feature this year a wine and food pairing area sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism's Culinary Tourism Division.

**Christmas Jollification:** Caribbean Christmas, the 20th Annual Christmas Jollification featured over 90 vendors and was supported by Bristol Wines and Spirits, Bahamia Rental, Commonwealth Bank, Asa H. Pritchard, Bahamian Brewery, Caribbean Bottling and Sky Bahamas. This annual fundraiser supports the Retreat Garden. A new initiative this year was the conch conservation corner in the Jolly Land area.

**Festival Noel:** This annual fundraiser organized by the Grand Bahama Regional Committee supports the three national parks on Grand Bahama. This year the Sparkling evening of Wine and Art once again featured the popular Chef Noel Competition with Jack Hayward High School going head to head with Freeport High School. Guest artists Marco Mullings and Trevor Tucker travelled from Nassau to exhibit their colourful and nature inspired work. Festival Noel is generously supported by Bristol Wines and Spirits, Sawyer's Market, Cool 96, Bahamian Brewery, Pelican Bay Resort at Lucaya, Colombian Emeralds, Grand Bahama Port Authority, Sky Bahamas, Freeport Advertising, Barefoot Marketing, Borco, City Services Ltd., Bahama Rock, Kelly's Freeport, and Pharmachem Technologies.

## Planning for 2012

As we reflect on 2011 and move forward with planning for 2012, the quotation from William Ruckelshaus, *Business Week*, 18 June 1990 "Nature provides a free lunch, but only if we control our appetites" holds special meaning for us.





The Bahamas as a nation has been environmentally thoughtful. A national park system of 27 national parks, a new forestry Act which provides the foundation for a managed forest estate, a pledge to protect 20% of our marine and near shore environments by 2020 shows a recognition of the importance of our marine resources.

It will be up to environmental organizations like the BNT and its partners to work with the scientific community to provide the support necessary to convince government of the need to create a system of marine reserves with the human and technical infrastructure that insures their success. No one wants to contemplate a Bahamas without conch or grouper, or the day when the average Bahamian is unable to catch a fish, crab or lobster for dinner. The BNT will be actively working with the Department of Marine Resources, Partner Environmental NGO's, fishermen and local communities to ensure that the Bahamas establishes a culture of sustainable harvest of our marine resources.

Monitoring the biodiversity success and services that our national parks provide as well as completing management plans for the national park system become essential as we look for grant support for national park systems. Establishing base line data on the resources the parks protect are necessary if we are to manage them to protect and enhance the biodiversity of The Bahamas.

The work done by our Grand Bahamas Regional Committee continues to inspire us and show us the value of BNT Regional Committees. The Trust will continue to work with residents on Great Exuma to strengthen their regional group and will continue its work with the people of Long Island to establish protected areas as well as begin a regional BNT arm for that island. With the expansion of the Conception Island National Park, Long Island becomes the ideal place for support for this tremendously important national park which is an Important Bird Area, habitat for juvenile sea turtles and an important no-take marine area.

The Retreat Garden has served as the headquarters



of the BNT since 1985 when the staff was approximately 10 strong. Now with over 50 employees we have outgrown the Retreat and we need to find a bigger administrative home. The Nassau Botanical Gardens provides the Trust with an opportunity to create a national botanical garden while providing a location for administrative headquarters for the organization. The goal would be to build an office building that could demonstrate the use of “green” construction materials and renewable energy technologies. Working with Steve Mouzon of the Urban Guild and Orjan Lindroth of Lindroth Development and other partners, the BNT hopes to develop a building that will meet our future needs while setting an example of how these new technologies can help mitigate our built footprint. The move would also allow The Retreat to be managed and developed as a very special glimpse into life in The Bahamas in the early part of the 20th century and the development of a centre of horticultural excellence and celebration of the rare palm collection.

The BNT’s environmental education programme continues to be a source of pride for the organization. The support, expansion and strengthening of Discovery Club will continue to be a priority. Our programmes seek to instil a culture of environmental stewardship in our young people and as such the BNT can have no higher priority than to continue our work in this area.

Managing the national park system, supporting a national Discovery Club programme, lobbying for sustainable resource use and the development of a new headquarters for Bahamas National Trust area important and ambitious goals.

In order to achieve these goals the BNT will need to garner greater corporate membership support and impress the philanthropic community with our need for support. The work of the BNT is national and far reaching in its scope and importance. Members and supporters of the BNT will be asked in 2012 to consider carefully and thoughtfully how they can support conservation initiatives and goals of the organization.

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2011

## Income

Investment income from Heritage Fund	\$ 163,902
Project support from other non-profit organizations	1,598,617
Government grants	937,500
Proceeds from festivals and other events	148,536
Other unrestricted income	<u>1,370,022</u>

**TOTAL INCOME** **\$4,218,777**

## Expenses

Projects supported by other non-profit organization	\$ 1,595,581
Education, public meetings & conferences	87,724
Park Maintenance	207,633
Management & administration	1,740,732
Depreciation of buildings & equipment	166,155
Other Expenses	<u>132,380</u>

**TOTAL EXPENSES** **\$ 3,930,205**

Note: Audited financial statements for 2011 are not yet available. Audited financial statements and opinion letter for 2011 are available at the Trust's head office in Nassau.

## Notes on financial information

*Copies of the financial statements of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2010, as audited by Price Waterhouse-Coopers, Nassau, Bahamas, will be available from our office.*

*The affairs of the Trust are administered by the Council and the Executive Committee, under the provisions of the Bahamas National Trust Act 1959, as amended in 1961.*

*The Trust prepares its financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments at fair value.*

*BNT Finance Committee: Peter Stokes, Shirley Cartwright, Wayde Christie, Susanna Moss, Lawrence Ginton, Andy Fowler, Neil McKinney. Ex officio: Eric Carey, Lynn Gape, Philip Pinder, John Bethell.*

# WAYS TO GIVE

As a non-profit membership organization, Bahamas National Trust relies on donations from a variety of sources to fulfill its mission. Here are a few examples of how you can support the Trust:

**Membership donation.** Consider increasing your membership donation either by **cheque** payable to *Bahamas National Trust* or by **credit card** and online.

**Corporate donation.** Employers can match the charitable gifts made by their employees or donate a small percentage of every customer dollar spent. Corporations may also give to specific projects.

**Land.** The BNT can either preserve or liquidate gifts of land depending on their location and the wishes of the donor.

**Membership gift.** Purchase a gift membership for a friend or relative on birthdays and holidays.

**Memorial.** Gifts can be made to the BNT in memory of a loved one or in lieu of flowers.

**Bequest.** Gifts written in your will can take the form of money, land, a house or other asset.

**Gifts of securities.** Owners of stock can save on taxes by donating appreciated stock.

Donations can be tax deductible in US and Canada.

For more information please contact our Development Office.

**Bahamas National Trust** is a non-profit membership organization established by an act of Parliament in 1959. It is charged with:

- Managing the country's 26 national parks covering over 700,000 acres of land and sea,
- Providing environmental education services and programmes to Bahamians, and
- Advising government on environmental policy matters.

Your support is vitally important in assisting the Trust to fulfil its mission.

# IN MEMORIAM

The BNT notes with sadness the passing of four members.

**Mr. William Holowesko, Secretary of ESPF**

**Mr. Durward Archer Past Council Member  
from Grand Bahama**

**Mr. Ernest Grindrod, Past Honourary Treasurer**

**Mr. Michael Lightbourn, Past President**

These four gentlemen gave countless volunteer hours to the Bahamas National Trust. Often working quietly behind the scenes to give support. Their contributions and vision helped to build an organization that today manages 27 national parks and protected areas with over 1.2 million acres under protection.



# SUPPORT

**The BNT relies on many sources of funding to fulfil its mission. We are especially grateful to the following corporations, foundations and individuals that provided major support in 2011 (gifts of \$500 or more).**

Abaco Groceries	Craig Wiggins
Abaco Outboard	Denise Goulimis
Abaco Petroleum'	Gavin McKinney
Albury's Ferry	Mark Hagen
Auskeil	Nancy Kelly
Damianos Realty ( Abaco)	Paula Balfe
Marsh Harbour Importers and Exporters	Peter and Alexa Daitch
The Paint Place (Abaco)	Robert and Lyn Parks
Standard Hardware	Tavares Thompson
Shirley Cartwright	William and Barbara Parfet
Texaco Star Quality Auto Service	Adler ANB, Inc
Wood You Furniture (Abaco)	Bahamas Waste
Froggies	Bahamas Yacht Services
Royal Society of St. George	Blackbeard Charters
Lyford Club Members Club	Clemson University
Henry and Cecilia Perry Foudation	Clifton Heritage Authority
Integrated Business Solutions	Commonwealth Bank
Golden Harvest	Florida International University
Supermarkets	International Cultural Festival
Reef Tours	Kerzner Marine Foundation
Solomon's Super Centre	Living Oceans Foundations
Royal Star Assurance	Marsh Harbour Boat Yard
Nature's Way Landscaping	RBC Foundation
NAD	Rotary Club of East Nassau
Morton Bahamas Ltd.	St. Cecilia's Catholic Church
Bobbie Hallig	Summit Insurance Co. Ltd
Mr. and Mrs. Christian Shulte	The Nature Conservancy
	The New York Community Trust
	The Pew Charitable Trust
	Windermere Island

Foundation Inc	Mr. David McNaughtan
YPI Foundation	Mr. & Mrs. Stew Morrison
KPMG	Mr. & Mrs. Ignacio de la
Ministry of Tourism	Rocha
The Mactaggart Third	Mr. & Mrs. John & Tanya
Fund	Crone
Sir Geoffrey and Lady	Mr. & Mrs. John F. Bethell
Johnstone	Mr. & Mrs. Helmut Holm
Mr. & Mrs. Godfrey Kelly	Kris Lehmkuhl
Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey	Mr. Lawrence Ginton
Lightbourn	Mr. & Mrs. Leandro Vazquez
Mr. J. Andrew McKinney	Ms. Margaret A. Butler
Mr. & Mrs. Jorge E. Bacardi	Mr. & Mrs. Macgregor
Mr. Michael Crothers	Robertson
Mike Elsworth	Mr. Manuel Cutillas
Mr. Niels Werring	Nathalia Schuetz
Mr. William M. Pinder	Mr. Neil McKinney
Mr. & Mrs. Yves Lourdin	Mr. Peter Andrews
Albany Developers	Esso Standard Oil S.A. Ltd.
CIBC First Caribbean	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas F. Orr
International Bank	Mr. Thomas Watjen
Mr. & Mrs. Arturo Salas	Mr. William M. Webster
Mrs. Barbara Thompson	
Ms. Barbara Jordan	
BREEF	
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Raine	
Mr. Charles Kline	
Bamont Trust Company	
Limited	

# BNT Staff

Eric Carey	Executive Director
Lynn Gape	Deputy Executive Director

## Administration

Philip Pinder	Director of Finance
Joanne Powell	Senior Bookkeeper
Daphne Brooks	Bookkeeper
Claudine Green	Grants and Projects Administrator
Alexandria Wemyss	Human Resources Officer
Kaderin Mills	Office Manager , Abaco
Lisa Wildgoose	Office Manager, RNC
Darcy Lesh	Office Manager, ECLSP
Shacara Scavella	Administrative Assistant
Gregory Rolle	Security
Sylvan Monestine	Security
Claudette Minnis	Support Staff

## Development

Natasha Wright	Director of Development
Urmie Braynen	Development Assistant (Part-time)

## Education

Portia Sweeting	Director of Education
Cecilia Bodie	Education Specialist RNC
Shelley Cant	Senior Education Officer
Larissa Ferguson	Discovery Club Coordinator
Bianca Green	Education Officer
Juanita Munroe	Black Point Education Officer
Regina Smith	Education Officer, Shark Campaign Coordinator

## Parks

David Knowles	Director of Parks
Lakeisha Anderson	Parks Planner
Cordero Bullard	New Providence Warden
Cameron Saunders	New Providence Warden
Mark Daniels	Levy Preserve Manager
Camilla Adair	Levy Preserve Deputy Manager
Darlicia Sands	Office Assistant Levy Preserve
Jason Moxey	Levy Preserve
Stanton Cooper	Levy Preserve

Hermane Exament	Levy Preserve
Omar Micklewhyte	Levy Preserve
Arlington Johnson	Levy Preserve
Andrew Kriz	ECLSP Administrator
Henry Haley	ECLSP Warden
Henry Nixon	Chief Warden Inagua National Park
Tavares Thompson	Warden Andros
Wavell Hanna	Warden Andros
Michael Flowers	Warden Grand Bahamas
David Cooper	Warden Lucayan National Park
David Clare	Warden Rand Nature Centre
Marcus Davis	Warden Abaco
Marvin Russell	Warden Abaco
Dejacville Atilus	Retreat Garden
Stephen Wright	Retreat Garden
Desmond Jolly	Retreat Garden

#### **Science**

Tamica Rahming	Director of Science & Policy
Lindy Knowles	Science Officer
Predensa Moore	Science Officer
Latonya Williams	GIS Intern
Krista Sherman	GEF FSP Coordinator

