



2017
Annual Report



BNT COUNCIL

BAHAMAS NATIONAL TRUST
COUNCIL - APRIL 28,29 2017

Janet Johnson	President, Elected member
Geoffrey Andrews	Deputy President, Elected member
Alistair Chisnall	Honorary Secretary, Elected member
Simon Townend	Honorary Treasurer, Elected member
Felicity Arengo PhD	American Museum of Natural History, Elected member
Lawrence Ginton	Past President, Elected member
Glenn Bannister	Past President, Elected member
Karen Bjorndal, PhD	University of Florida, appointed member
To be appointed	Governor General's Rep., Appointed member
To be appointed	Governor General's Rep., Appointed member
To be appointed	Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources, Appointed
Brian Carlstrom	U. S. National Park Service, Appointed Member
Andy Fowler	Elected Member
Colin Higgs	Elected Member
Matthew Jeffery	National Audubon Society
Kevin Cartwright	Elected Member
Pericles Maillis	Past President, Elected Member
Neil McKinney	Past President, Elected Member
David A. Oehler	Wildlife Conservation Society, Appointed Member
Pamela Reid, PhD	University of Miami RSMAS, Appointed Member

Continued on inside back cover



Presidents Message

As we reflect on 2017, we are proud of our accomplishments and have renewed commitment to developing an integrated national park system. We are working with partners to develop management plans and sustainable funding mechanisms for our parks. We also have continued to collaborate with scientists and stakeholders to identify the final 10% of near shore and marine areas which will complete the Bahamas pledge under the Caribbean Challenge to protect 20% of our marine environment.

BNT Science Officers worked collaboratively with scientists and researchers working in The Bahamas conducting research on the endangered Bahama Oriole, Piping Plover, Rock Iguana and Kirtland's Warbler. The BNT Science Division also works closely with the Parks Division to conduct Rapid Ecological Assessments of areas proposed for addition to the National Park system and to develop monitoring protocols for the national parks on an annual basis.

Training of our wardens so that they are better able to enforce the Park Bylaws has progressed and will continue. We have also completed the re-drafting of our Park Bylaws and in the next year will have in place Bylaws for all of the parks in the system.

Our Education Department reaches over 15,000 constituents annually through the Parks Experience and Discovery Club programmes. These programmes provide both children and adults with meaningful experiences inside our national park promoting a love of these special places and developing stewardship and awareness of our precious island environments.

Strengthening the Bahamas National Trust so that it is prepared to face future challenges both

to island biodiversity as well as organizationally are a priority. This process has begun with the updating of our standard operating procedures and the establishment of a nominations committee with guidelines for recruitment of individuals to serve on the BNT Council.

One of our greatest accomplishments this year is the establishment and training of a strong advancement committee. Providing the financial resources for a well-run and well-established national park system is a priority for the organization and our Advancement Team is committed to developing an effective system of financial support for our programmes and parks.

We are extremely grateful to our donors, volunteers, members and partners for their continued support. A very special thanks goes to the Council, Executive Committee and Staff for their commitment and dedication to the organization.

We will continue to enhance our national parks by providing the necessary infrastructure to make them more accessible to students, communities and visitors. We hope to encourage people to invest in our national parks by connecting parks to people. I challenge all of you to encourage your friends to support our work.

I am proud of the BNT's accomplishments this year and I am honoured to have served as your President.

Janet Johnson

Janet Johnson
President



Introduction

2017 was a year of reflection and planning for the future of the BNT. We began the process of drafting our new strategic plan for 2018 - 2022 and this afforded us the opportunity to look at our challenges and achievements and consider new ways to achieve our goals. Our education programmes continue to be popular and well received with our Discovery Club receiving special recognition from the Ministry of Education. Financial sustainability continues to be a priority for the organization as we strive for transparency and accountability for our donors and supporters. BNT Staff attended training and continued conducting Rapid Ecological Assessments for potential protected areas, assisting scientists with research initiatives, coordinating events for volunteers and were generally engaged at a high level in all areas of our work.

What follows is a summary of the BNT's work for 2017 with highlights of our activities in the areas of Parks, Science, Education and Development.

NATIONAL PARKS

The Bahamas National Trust as the mandated manager of the National Park System, continues to work with government, conservation partners and local communities to implement management processes for national parks that respect and conserve nature while benefiting human health and prosperity. The BNT realizes that balancing the relationship between human society and nature is essential, and that ecosystems and their variety of life support our cultural and spiritual identity as well as our economies and well-being.

New Providence

The redevelopment of the Retreat Garden began in 2017. A new exit gate that accesses Greenwood Road has been erected. Construction on the original Langlois House has commenced, with updates to facilitate a gift shop, deli, and additional bathrooms are near completion.

Grand Bahama

The mangrove boardwalk at Lucayan National Park, which was heavily damaged from Hurricane Matthew, was replaced with funding support from The Nature Conservancy, the Grand Bahama Regional Branch and private donations.

The Freeport Harbour Company and Grand Bahama Airport Company have committed their support of \$60,000 per year for three years, for the Grand Bahama National Parks. Projects will include, signage for the Rand Nature Centre (RNC), new trees and plants for the RNC arboretum, coral nurseries within Grand Bahama Marine Parks, support for BNT Educational Programmes, and planning for a new MPA in West Grand Bahama.

The BNT held their 2017 Fall Council Meeting in Grand Bahama. Council Members visited the



Lucayan National Park to discuss infrastructure needed, and plans to increase sustainable funding mechanisms for this highly visited national park.

Abaco

The BNT Abaco Office coordinated two National Park Emphasis Days at the Abaco National Park (ANP) and Pelican Cays Land and Sea Park (PCLSP). Volunteers assisted with signage installation and trail clean up at the ANP. Volunteers, including RBDF officers, removed invasive casuarinas at PCLSP.



Volunteers and BNT Personnel Pose for camera.

Working with PhD Candidate Maya Wilson of Virginia Tech, the BNT organized school presentations on endemic birds with special focus on the Bahama Swallow, at five primary schools on the island.

In partnership with the Leonard M. Thompson International Airport, a *Cash for*

Conservation donation box and banner were put in place to provide support for the National Parks on Abaco.

Andros

The BNT team on Andros continued to provide support to nature writers and scientists conducting research on the island. These projects included research on shorebirds and the Bahama Oriole as well as supporting surveys by J. Pollom from the University of Miami; oceanic blue holes in North and Middle Bights and the Andros North Marine Park. Expansion of the trail system at Blue Holes National Park to provide better access to park features for camping and birding watching is ongoing.

Eleuthera

On March 2nd, 2017, Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve collaborated with the Ministry of Tourism of Eleuthera to celebrate the winter resident community here on the island. It was an afternoon of culture and fun with the Island Flavour Band all the way from Deep Creek, food by Unique Village Resort, and a number of local artists sharing their craft. The event ended with a fashion show displaying stunning work of local designer, Verda Gardiner.

Three Bahamian college students, Alexandra Sinclair, Gaybrielle Smith and Brent Walkine were



the fourth cohort of students to participate in the annual internship offered by the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve and the Bahamas National Trust on Eleuthera in May 2017. The students gained field experience in botany, geology ornithology and herpetology. This exposure gives the students skills that can lead to future employment in the conservation areas.

Phase III of the park expansion initiative for the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve is underway, with the acquisition of an adjacent property. Phase III will include construction of an administrative office, storage area, research space and student housing. Architectural site survey commenced January 8th.



Exuma Cays Land & Sea Park (ECLSP)
Thanks to a Legacy gift from Teresa and Gregory Pentek, the ECLSP moved forward with a number of projects. A new communications system was installed, and renovations to Peggy Hall Headquarters, the Peggy Hall dock and the dinghy dock were completed. A new reverse osmosis system was acquired at the end of 2017, and a pre-owned 21-foot Parker vessel was purchased as a work boat for mooring maintenance from Soldier Cay who donated half the purchase price to the park.

In June, former ECLSP Park Administrator, Andrew Kriz donated his time and expertise towards the installation of nine new mooring systems at Warderick Wells and in the Hawksbill Cay south mooring fields.

Captain Joseph Ierna Jr. and Nicola Ierna were hired as the Park Administrator and part



ECLSP volunteers repair the Peggy Hall Dock.



time Administrative Assistant for ECLSP in December. They assumed their duties January 1st 2018.

A new MBMI Metal Building purchased for Warderick Wells, will house a storage room, workshop, boathouse, wet lab, bunkhouse space for visiting scientists, researchers and students and office space from the Pentek Legacy Gift.

Inagua

Park Wardens Henry Nixon and Casper Burrows continued weekly patrols in the park monitoring the flamingos and noting other birdlife in the park. Hurricane Irma hit Inagua in September 2017 however patrols into the park after the hurricane showed the flamingos to be back and their habitat to be relatively undisturbed. Hurricanes

highlight the need to continue to study our flamingo population in order to be able to properly assess the impact of hurricanes on their numbers.

Bahamas Protected Project

Stakeholder meetings were held to discuss areas being considered for inclusion in the final 10% of the near shore and marine areas to be protected as part of the Bahamas Pledge under the Caribbean Challenge. They included the area near Lee Stocking Island, Great Exuma; the expansion of the Inagua National Park and Little Inagua National Park in Inagua; and Curtis Creek and the offshore reef system on Mayaguana.

The management planning process for the San Salvador National Parks was concluded and electronic copies were circulated along with brochures and large-scale maps featuring park boundaries and coordinates.

The second draft of the management plan for Moriah Harbour Cay National Park (MHCNP) was completed, and undergoing internal reviews by the BNT team. The Exuma Core Team met to begin drafting park mission, vision, and park management goals and objectives.

Activities for the final year of the Bahamas Protected Project include:

- Planning and convening the third round of stakeholder consultations to define boundaries and discuss proposed management of the next 10% of Marine Protected Areas;
- Submitting to Government, the 20 by 20 White Paper: Marine Protection Plan, outlining existing and newly proposed MPAs (20% protection);
- Producing a Marine Protected Area Guidance Document, to accompany the 20 by 20 White Paper: Marine Protection Plan to define the types of MPAs currently under protection, and proposed as new MPAs,
- Publishing and disseminating the management plan for Moriah Harbour Cay National Park;
- Publishing park specific bylaws, for Andros West Side National Park, Abaco National Park, and Walker's Cay National Park,
- Producing financial briefing document for existing 32 national parks, and 2015 protected

- area designations to be managed by BNT; and
- Initiating co-management pilot with the San Salvador Living Jewels Foundation.



Bahamas National Park Safaris

The BNT launched Bahamas National Park Safaris (BNPS) at the annual Cuban Pig Roast in February. Working with a number of partners on Andros and Inagua, BNPS will offer visitors personalized tours of our national parks. Initial parks to be targeted are the Andros West Side National Park and the Inagua National Park.

BNT Park ByLaws

The park bylaws working group led by past President Pericles Maillis, incorporated contributions from Spring Council meeting into the Overarching

Bahamas Protected - Group



Bylaw Draft. The final draft document was completed in December and will be submitted to the Minister of the Environment and Housing. Mr. Maillis was supported by a team from, the Eugene Dupuch Law School, Megan Curry, Berchel Williams and Andrew Smith supervised by Raquel Williams and Lynn Gape, BNT Deputy Director.



SCIENCE

Strong science has always been at the core of the BNT's recommendations to government on protected areas and environmental issues. Our Science Division provides support for national parks and strengthens the BNT's relationship with the scientific community as we begin to develop monitoring protocols for national park inventories.

Eco Tour Guide Training and Marketing
A project funded by Audubon and the Inter-American Development Bank trained 49 Basic Bird Guides and 10 Advanced Bird Guides on Andros and Inagua. Advanced Guides were trained by Scott Johnson, BNT's Terrestrial Science officer, and graduated at the programme launching ceremony on January 26th at the Hilton.

Walker's Cay National Park REA
During the week of March 12 -18th, 2017, Science Officers Lindy Knowles and Giselle Deane accompanied the Parks Department and Dr. Craig Dahlgren to Walker's Cay National Park (WCNP) to conduct Rapid Ecological Assessments (REAs). This was the first ecological assessment done in this park and was instrumental in completing the management plan for the Abaco Marine Parks.





REA Reef

Savannah Sound REA

During the week of August 15th, Lindy Knowles; Lashanti Jupp; Craig Dahlgren, (BNT); Dr. Heather Masonjones (University of Tampa); and Candice Brittain (CEI) performed surveys to assess the health of the mangrove and reef areas around Savannah Sound, Eleuthera.



ECLSP Monitoring

ECLSP Monitoring

Led by Dr. Craig Dahlgren, a team of scientists completed the annual survey of the ECLSP in August. Members of the team included Lindy Knowles, BNT Sr. Science Officer, Agnessa Lundy, BNT Science Officer, Dr. Dan Brumbaugh, University of California, Brook Gintert, University of Miami, Allanah Vellacott, Perry Institute of Marine Science, Tanya Kamerman of Nova Southeastern University. The team found that fish populations

in the park are healthier than other sites surveyed in The Bahamas.

Tracking Wildlife in The Bahamas

The first Motus Wildlife tracking system was installed in Andros on Kamalame Cay which is housing the equipment on their property. The system was donated by the University of Massachusetts, Amherst with support from Audubon and Virginia Tech.



Bahama Oriole Project

The Bahama Oriole Project is a joint collaboration between the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) and the BNT to conduct research on the endemic Bahama Oriole, considered to be the most endangered bird species in the wider Caribbean.

Scott Johnson conducted outreach and research in October 2017 using DISTANCE software for the surveys to estimate population densities. Currently, the software indicates there are approximately 2,000 Bahama Orioles, which is 10 times more than initial estimates of the population. Over 500 people in various schools and communities were engaged through presentations on the research and value of this endemic bird. A Bahama Oriole poster has been produced and distributed across Andros. A film crew from Nikon's "Bird Adventures" visited Andros in November and documented the charismatic endemic.

Rotary Club Partnership

On December 16th, our Science team spearheaded a mangrove restoration day at Bonefish Pond National Park for the Rotary Club of East Nassau (RCEN).

The group planted mangrove seedlings and propagules and cleared a small channel to

improve water flow. The event was organized in preparation for a larger initiative that will occur in spring this year, where we expect to host 400 International Rotarians in a similar mangrove restoration project.



Conchservation

The Conch Gone music video was launched on January 12th, 2017 at the Green Parrot and Harbour Front Lounge. Under the direction of Lavado Stubbs from Conchboy Films, this avantgarde public service announcement complements the ongoing Conchservation Campaign. The Conch Gone song was written by Dyson Knight, Wendi, Anwar McDonald, Ton Ash and MDeez. The song was performed by Dyson Knight, Sammi Starr, Rik Carey, Chase Fernander, Sketch Carey, Wendi, Lady E., Bodine, Fanshawn, Ton Ash and MDeez. The Rake ‘n’ Scrape mash up promotes the need for sustainable fishing of the iconic Queen Conch. The launch was featured in local print media, social media and in Trust Notes. The video to date has over 28,122 “unique views” and directs people to sign the petition to support a sustainable conch fishery.

Agnessa Lundy, BNT Marine Science Officer led outreach activities for the Conchservation Campaign to Abaco Cat Island, Grand Bahama and Inagua, which was supported by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).



EDUCATION

The BNT's educational activities continue to support and promote national parks. Special workshops for teachers are increasingly requested and Discovery Club continues to grow and train our environmental stewards of tomorrow.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT Education and Outreach Numbers 2017	
Total Number of Adults	2,772
Total Number of Students	14,784
Period Total	17,556
Adults monthly average	231
Children's monthly average	12,223
Overall monthly average	1,463
Number of Public Schools Reached	39
Number of Private Schools Reached	32
Number of Civic/Community Groups	13
Number of Tertiary Groups Reached	6
Number of Church Groups	4
Number of Summer Camps	20
Number of Teacher Training Presentations	5
Number of Public Events	11
Number of Government Groups	1
Number of Tourist Groups	1
Total Individual Groups	117
Total Education/Outreach Activities	217

National Park Experiences

Over 17,000 students and adults visited national parks during 2017. BNT hosted four Service Days in national parks during the year in an effort to

accommodate the large number of high school students interested in fulfilling their environmental community service requirement.



Discovery Club
The BNT Discovery Club was recognized for the positive impact it has made on primary and secondary students. The innovative programme received first place in the Ministry of Education's National Education Good Practice Awards. Prizes to the Discovery Club included \$10,000 and an additional \$7,500 in support of professional development and training.



The Discovery Club engaged 1,300 children, approximately 1,000 of whom are now fully paid members. Navigators, the

new tertiary level clubs, were started at BAMSI in Andros, University of the Bahamas (UB) on New Providence and UB North on Grand Bahama.

The BNT partnered with Bonefish and Tarpon Trust to develop a Flats Curricula that was the basis for the development of a Discovery Club Flats Badge at the Explorer and Guardian level.

Badge activities include tagging simulations, hands on crafts and activities, and how to measure a bonefish using a model. The Bonefish Conservation Teachers Guide was designed to facilitate teaching basic biology, ecology and economic value of bonefish. This guide designed for educators provides information on the cultural, economic and historical significance of the bonefish

industry, as well as, providing information on habitat conservation, best catch and release practices and career options in the industry. The materials are available on the BNT and Bonefish and Tarpon Trust websites.

Earth Day

Over 600 people attended the Earth Day Family Fun Day at Bonefish Pond National Park in April, 2017. Attendees snorkelled, kayaked and learned about the unique mangrove ecosystem that serves as a marine nursery for the southern side of New Providence. BREEF, TNC, Dolphin Encounters, Ardastra Gardens and Atlantis Water Features joined the celebration and provided participants with opportunities to learn about sharks, Bahamian Wildlife and the importance of our marine environment.

Eco Camp

This year's EcoCamp was sponsored by Audubon, BahaMar and ALIV who committed to providing





funding for the programme over the next three years. As such, EcoCamp featured the ALIV Challenge and a shorebird conservation component. Thirty young people between the ages of 14 – 18 spent a week in Andros being immersed in the environment, camping in the Blue Hole National Park, visiting the Andros West Side National Park and snorkelling in the North and South Marine Parks.

Shark Conservation

With support from the Pew Charitable Trust the BNT visited Abaco, Andros, Eleuthera and Inagua to meet with island administrators, local government and conservation partners to distribute materials highlighting the fisheries regulations on sharks and discussing the benefits for the Bahamas in becoming a Shark Sanctuary. The BNT, working with Lavado Stubbs of Conch Boy films and Dr. Ed Brooks of the Cape Eleuthera Institute also produced a PSA which focused on the economic benefits provided to the economy by shark conservation efforts.



DEVELOPMENT

Corporate Partnership Programme

The necessary cultivation of the Corporate Partnership Programme began with the official launch on June 27th, 2017. The breakfast event, held at The British Colonial Hilton Hotel, formalized the establishment of a supportive corporate community for The BNT. Representatives from twenty companies attended the event hosted by China State Construction.

New partnerships announced at the launch were with ALIV telecommunications company who agreed to support the BNT with an annual gift of \$35,000 for the next three years and Baha Mar for its donation of \$50,000 to be used for Discovery Club. BNT also acknowledged Commonwealth Bank for its corporate support of \$25,000 and Bahamas Hot Mix for their \$18,000 donation.

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Advancement Committee

The Advancement Committee continues to plant the seeds for a robust major gifts programme to the BNT by capitalizing on opportunities and stewarding potential donors with the moves management strategy.



Shelby White New York City Event

Shelby White graciously hosted a major fund-raising event for the BNT in her New York City home. The event was held on May 9th and in attendance were members of the Advancement Committee, Janet Johnson, Simon Townend, and Peter Andrews as well as BNT's Executives, Eric Carey and Lynn Gape. Robert Bull of the BNT fundraising counsel, was also present. The gathering provided the team the opportunity to share the BNT's work and fundraising needs with a number of very influential prospects.

Young Professionals Organization (YPO)

The Texas chapter of the Young Professionals Organization (YPO), a global membership group for young executives, chose The Bahamas as the destination for their spring retreat and the Advancement Committee capitalized on an opportunity for a special series of exclusive engagements with this group.

Among the highlights of these engagements was special trip to Highbourne Cay during which



members of the BNT management team were able to talk about the work of the Trust, funding needs and build strategic relationships. This stewarding effort by the Advancement Committee yielded positive benefits as the YPO Texas chapter has agreed to support the BNT by making introductions to, and assisting with, potential prospects in the Dallas area.

Membership

Members Matter

Showing appreciation of our members is part of our overall strategy to increase our membership base. Some of those strategies include:

- Hosting regular member appreciation events
- Expanding our member discount programme
- Strengthening our reciprocity agreements with participating national trusts, museums and zoos around the world.

Through the above approaches, and other strategies within our Members Matter campaign, we hope to grow our membership to 5,000 by the end of 2020.

People for Parks

Another vehicle that the BNT will use to foster relationships, steward donors and build bridges to wider community engagement is the People for Parks (P4P) volunteer programme. P4P is the Bahamas National Trust's Ambassador Programme for dynamic professionals and entrepreneurs who have a deep appreciation for the natural



environment of the Bahamas that intersects with a love of community service and philanthropy.



The People for Parks volunteer programme was formally launched on June 13th with a reception at the Nassau Yacht Club. In the short time since launching this invitation only, volunteer programme, an enthusiastic and committed leadership group has emerged consisting of; Marcus Laing, Principal; TDG Architects; Lenise Flowers, Attorney; Rachel Lightbourne, Lightbourne Marine; and Deno Moss, Senior Wealth Advisor. They have already begun using their expertise, reach, and resources to advance the work of the BNT and support for national parks.

Summary of BNT Events for 2017

Cuban Pig Roast

In February, the Cuban Pig Roast was held at Philosophy Smokehouse due to Hurricane damage at the Maillis Farm. With Cuban Cuisine prepared by Events by Alexandra and Mojitos sponsored by Bacardi (Bristol Wines and Spirits) the afternoon event was relaxing and fun. The BNT launched a new initiative, Bahamas National Parks Safaris, to take people on luxury trips to our outstanding national parks.

Wine and Art Festival

Featuring local fine art and Bristol Wines and Spirits fall wine selection, the Wine and Art Festival



was extended from a one day to a two day event. The Festival featured Culinary demonstrations, a Kids Corner, Live Art and Musical Performances throughout the weekend.

BTC and Jet Blue joined the event as major sponsors for 2017.

Christmas Jollification

The Annual Christmas Jollification once again hosted some of the finest arts and crafts in The Bahamas with a fine selection of food and a tasting of holiday spirits from Bristol Wines and Spirits and Bahamian Brewery. Caribbean Bottling and Coke Zero No Sugar partnered with the BNT to offer a special membership promotion.

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CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING & MEETINGS

Drone Training

Parks staff, David Knowles, Lashanti Jupp, Ellsworth Weir, Cameron Saunders and Stephen Smith benefitted from drone training sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, the week of April 25th. TNC donated three drones and support equipment to BNT to aid in its conservation efforts. Since the training, parks staff have used the drone equipment to survey Moriah Harbour Cay National Park.



MPA Capacity Assessment Meeting

A meeting was arranged to conduct an assessment of the management and capacity outputs of PCLSP and Andros North & South Marine Parks to update the last assessment conducted in 2011. The two-day meeting at the end of May at the BNT Abaco office was attended by the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coral Reef Conservation Program. BNT had the opportunity to enlist Moriah Harbour Cay National Park for the assessment, which could attract funding and technical assistance. Participants included

Emma Doyle (GCFI), Scott Frew (NOAA), DOP Lakeshia Anderson and CPW David Knowles.

Highly Effective Team (HET) Training

In early June parks staff from New Providence and Grand Bahama participated in the second round of HET training. During the sessions, a HET Plan was drafted for the redevelopment of The Retreat, BPNP and HWPNP to allow for greater success in tracking and implementing projects with team members.

Strategic Planning and Annual Work Planning

Parks staff from Abaco, Eleuthera, Grand Bahama and New Providence participated in the budget exercise for the strategic plan in August 2017, which also included sessions for completion of the 2018 annual work plans with Paige Macleod.

Strategic Enforcement Planning Workshop

Senior Park Warden Ellsworth Weir participated in a workshop held in Punta Gorda, Belize in July, hosted by Jason Harydom of MPA Enforcement International, and sponsored by Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute and NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Programme. The workshop's goal was to support effective marine protected area management in the Caribbean, and brought together conservation and compliance units from The Bahamas, Belize and Honduras. The training provided by this workshop with offer guidance to the development of an enforcement programme for the BNT National Park system.

International Visitor Leadership Programme (IVLP)

Director of Parks, Lakeshia Anderson was selected by the US Embassy in Nassau to participate in the Parks and Protected Areas theme under the IVLP from August 19th to September 9th. The programme brought together 23 participants from 20 countries, for a three-week exchange visit to Washington DC, Washington State, Louisiana and New York. Meetings took place with several Federal Government agencies, State Government Agencies, NGOs, Native American Tribes,



ecotourism companies, and other entities associated with Parks and Protected Areas throughout the US. During the visit to Washington DC, a meeting was arranged with US National Parks Service staff, BNT Council Member Brian Carlstrom, Mark Herberger from the Operational Leadership programme and Steve Morris from International Affairs Herberger from Operational Leadership Programme and Steven Morris from International Affairs.

Wilderness Training

Two education officers completed Wilderness Training at the Forfar Field Station on Andros.

Google Earth Pro Webinar

Our GIS Specialist Lindy Knowles also facilitated a Google Earth Pro Webinar for 40 registrants from the BNT and partners.

Boat Captain "B" License and CPR Training

During the week of October 16th, 11 Parks, Science and Education staff from Andros, Grand Bahama and Nassau, participated in a one-week course to obtain a Boat Captain "B" License and CPR Training. This training increases the capacity for enforcement, surveillance, mooring maintenance and scientific monitoring, at the Exuma Cays Land & Sea Park, and other marine parks in the NPS.



FINANCIAL REPORT 2017

FINANCE & OPERATIONS

On the Income Account side, we saw a strong revenue performance for 2017 relative to the prior year. This arose primarily as a result of an increase in the fair value of investments in the Heritage Fund and an increase in donations due to the fundraising efforts of the Advancement Committee, and a \$100,000 increase in the Government subvention in the fiscal year. This increase in income combined with ongoing monitoring of actual expenses versus budget resulted in net income for the year of \$224,607 compared to a net loss of (\$2,142) in 2016.

Our Balance Sheet strengthened also as a result, with the primary positive movement being in the investments account. We also saw a net increase after depreciation in our fixed assets, as we invested during the year in a number of capital areas, including ongoing capital improvements to the Retreat, a new reverse osmosis system, utility building and satellite system upgrade in ECLSP. We purchased new development software (E-Tapestry) and enhanced our websites, and these investments are shown in the balance sheet under the heading “Intangible Asset”.

In accordance with our strategy, a major focus for 2018 and beyond will be on our capital campaign. The funds from this campaign will be used to significantly enhance infrastructure in, initially, ten priority parks. This investment will be made with a view to making these parks more financially sustainable for the long-term through increased park revenues from user fees, concessions, retail and other sources.

We are pleased to present (page 29) a summary of our Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2017.

SUMMARY AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2017

BALANCE SHEET

	2017	2016
CURRENT ASSETS		
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AND TERM DEPOSITS	\$ 337,137	\$ 626,206
RECEIVABLES & PREPAYMENTS	178,569	123,549
INVENTORY	78,199	63,439
INTANGIBLE ASSET	37,743	-
TOTAL PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	1,075,146	965,905
INVESTMENTS	5,070,995	4,747,846
TOTAL ASSETS	\$6,777,789	\$6,526,945
LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL		
DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 829,133	\$ 817,957
ACCRUED EXPENSES AND OTHER LIABILITIES	254,598	239,537
CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,083,731	1,057,494
TOTAL CAPITAL	5,694,058	5,469,451
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL	\$6,777,789	\$6,526,945

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	2017	2016
TOTAL HERITAGE FUND INCOME	\$ 326,219	\$ 249,293
UNRESTRICTED INCOME:		
GOVERNMENT GRANT	1,500,000	1,400,000
UNRESTRICTED DONATIONS & MEMBERSHIP FEES	902,461	492,479
PARK FEES, MOORINGS, ANCHORAGE & EVENTS	653,055	725,835
OTHER INCOME	184,776	169,014
INCOME FROM OPERATIONS	3,240,292	2,787,328
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED INCOME	3,566,511	3,036,621
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED EXPENSES	3,413,943	3,102,304
NET INCOME/(LOSS) UNRESTRICTED ACTIVITIES	152,568	(65,683)
RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES		
PROJECT INCOME FROM OTHER NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS	1,041,284	972,409
PROJECT EXPENSES	969,245	908,868
NET INCOME RESTRICTED	72,039	63,541
NET INCOME /(LOSS)	\$ 224,607	\$ (2,142)

IN MEMORIAM

Sir Geoffrey Johnstone:
September 19, 1927 – August 4, 2017

Judy Mae Nixon:
January 25, 1960 – August 8, 2017

Larry Andrew Smith:
December 19, 1950 – August 27, 2017

Alastair "Sandy" Auld Mactaggart:
March 11, 1928 – July 3, 2017

SUPPORT:

Gifts of \$500 or more including in-kind
Donations

Abaco Beach Resort
Abaco Petroleum
Albany
Albury's Ferry Ltd.
ALIV Bahamas
Geoffrey and Lynn Andrews
Peter Andrews
Anonymous
American Bird Conservancy
Aquacat Cruises
Asa H. Pritchard
Atlantis
Baha Mar
Bahama Rock Ltd.
Bahamas Ferries
Bahamas Hot Mix
Bahamas Ministry of Tourism
Bahamas Waste Ltd.
Bahamas Wholesale
Agencies
Bahamia Rental
Bahamian Brewery &
Beverage Company
Marvin and Zelia Bethell
Bell Island
Birds Caribbean
Boat 4 A Day
Bonefish and Tarpon Trust
Bristol Wines and Spirits
BTC
Carmen Butler
Teresa Butler
Caribbean Bottling Co.
(Bahamas) Ltd.
Commonwealth Bank
Conch Boy Films
Charles and Norma A. Dana
Dane and Linda D'Aguilar
Ignacio de la Rocha
Elegant Weddings
Engel & Volkers

Richard Farrington
Paul S. Ferber
FOCOL
Forfar Field Station
Frankie Gone Bananas
Freedom Sound Productions
Freeport Harbour Company
Lawrence Glinton
Basil Goulandris
Bob and Adele Graham
Grand Bahama Airport
Company
Grand Bahama Port
Authority
Green Parrot
Hope Town Lodge
Inter-American Development
Bank (IDB)
Island Destination Services
Island FM
J.S. Johnson
Scout Jemison
Jet Blue Airlines
Barbara Jordan
David Johnson
Keys Bahamas Realty
Lampkin Marine Services
The Lary Foundation
Leandro Vazquez
Leon Levy Foundation
Macgregor and Carleton
Robertson
Mactaggart Third Fund
Sidney and Anne Marie
Maddock
Maillis & Maillis
Tim and Jane Meyer
Ministry of Tourism
Basil Minns
Moore Foundation
Morton (Bahamas) Ltd.

Deno Moss
 National Audubon
 National Audubon Society
 Olivia Orr
 Perry Marine Institute
 PEW Charitable Trust
 Pharachem
 Philosophy Smokehouse Bar
 & Grill
 Polymer's International Ltd.
 Mario Portuondo Sr.
 Robert Bruce Purdy
 John and Susan Robertson
 Sagoma Construction
 International
 Sandypoint Resort
 Sawyer's Fresh Market
 Scotiabank
 Scotia Wealth Management
 Securities Commission

Shedd Aquarium
 Sherwin Williams
 Joseph Steensma
 Sol del Solar
 Summit Insurance Company
 Super Value Food Store
 The Nature Conservancy
 The Varuna Trust
 Donald W. Tomlinson
 Charles and Molly Thayer
 Treasure Cay Hotel Resort &
 Marina
 Tribune Media Group
 Trilogy
 University of North Carolina
 - Asheville
 Shelby White
 Sandra Whitman
 Xpressions

BNT Staff

NEW PROVIDENCE

Eric Carey	Executive Director
Lynn Gape	Deputy Executive Director
Catherine Pinder	Director of Finance & Operations
Dorcas Miller	Human Resources & Operations Manager
Maureen Taylor	Accountant
Daphne Brooks	Bookkeeper
Alera Smith	Office Administrative Assistant
Gregory Rolle	Security Officer
Kim Iturriaga	Custodian
Portia Sweeting	Director of Education
Steffon Evans	Education Officer, Navigators Coordinator
Antonette Hudson	Education Officer
Juanita Munroe	Education Officer
Jewel Thompson	Education Officer, Discovery Club Manager
Shelley Cant	Director of Science and Policy
Lindy Knowles	Senior Science Officer
Scott Johnson	Terrestrial Science Officer
Agnessa Lundy	Marine Science Officer
Giselle Dean	Assistant Science Officer
Dominique Martin	Director of Development
Falon Cartwright	Grants & Projects Administrator
Raquel Rolle	Membership Officer
Urmie Braynen	Development Associate
Antone Barrow	Website and Graphics Officer
Mark Daniels	Retreat Curator
Shannan Yates	Assit. Retreat Curator
Cameron Saunders	Park Warden

Anwar Rolle	Park Warden
Kristoff Francis	Park Warden
Jack Atillus	Retreat Gardener

ABACO	
David Knowles	Chief Warden
Kaderin Mills	Office Administrator
Marcus Davis	Abaco Park Warden

ANDROS	
Steven Smith	Andros Park Warden
Lehron Rolle	Education Officer

ELEUTHERA (Leon Levy Preserve)	
Heidi Johnson	Preserve Manager
Ethan Freid	Botanist
Camilla Adair	Deputy Manager
Alvanna Johnson	Office Assistant
Arlington Johnson	Site Supervisor
Hermane Exament	Maintenance Supervisor
Jason Moxey	Preserve Attendant
Omar Micklewhite	Preserve Attendant
Brian Smith	Preserve Attendant
Courtney Kemp	Education Officer

EXUMA	
Joseph Ierna	Park Administrator
Nicola Ierna	Admin. Assistant
Chery Elliot	Office Manager
Brent Burrows	Warden
David Maillis	Deputy Park Warden

GRAND BAHAMA	
Lakeshia Anderson	Director of Parks
Lisa Wildgoose	Office Manager, Rand Nature Centre
David Cooper	Deputy Park Warden, Lucayan National Park
David Clare	Deputy Park Warden, Rand Nature Centre
Ellsworth Weir	Grand Bahama Parks Manager
Jinnel Sturridge	Memberhip Officer/ RNC Administrative Assistant

INAGUA	
Henry Nixon	Senior Park Warden
Randolph Burrows	Park Warden

Christopher Russell	Ministry of The Environment, Appointed Member
Karin Sanchez	Elected Member
To be appointed	Ministry of Education
Rodney Smith, PhD	University of The Bahamas
Barbara Thompson	Elected Member
Ellison Thompson	Ministry of Tourism
Patrick Thomson	Elected Member

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORS

Dan Brumbaugh, PhD	University of California, Institute of Marine Sciences
Alan Bolten, PhD	Univ. of Florida, Archie Carr Centre for Sea Turtle Research





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