



2012 Annual Report

Photo by: Melissa Maura

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Lawrence Glinton	Deputy President
Shirley Cartwright	Honorary Secretary
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Dan Brumbaugh, PhD	<i>-American Museum of Natural History</i>
Nancy Clum, PhD	<i>-Wildlife Conservation Society</i>
Matthew Jeffery	<i>-National Audubon Society</i>
Valerie Paul PhD	<i>-Smithsonian Institution</i>
Pamela Reid, PhD	<i>-University of Miami</i>
Not appointed	<i>-US Parks Service</i>
Karen Bjorndal, PhD	<i>-University of Florida</i>
Betsy Boze PhD.	<i>-College of the Bahamas</i>

Scientific Advisor

Alan Bolten PhD *-University of Florida*



President's Message

2012 has been a busy and productive year for the Bahamas National Trust. As the manager of 27 national parks around the country, I can with authority say that our work is literally never done.

Our National Parks and protected areas are unique and we continue to be proud of our efforts to protect the biodiversity of the country. In May of 2012, we were able to celebrate the expansion of the national park system when the Andros West Side National Park was expanded to over 1.4 million acres, Fowl Cays National Park in Abaco was created and the marine environs out to the 100 fathom mark at Conception Island were annexed to that existing park.

Education continues to be a priority for the BNT. Our Discovery Club Programme continues to grow and engage young people in environmental stewardship, school visitation to national parks on New Providence, Eleuthera, Abaco and Grand Bahama grows exponentially and environmental education materials on important conservation topics like water and where it comes from provide support for the Ministry of Education's science and social studies curriculum.

Sustainable Marine Resources, in particular conch, continue to be a concern and the Trust has pledged and embarked on a Conchservation Advocacy and Outreach Campaign to begin the conversation on how we plan to manage conch for the future. This issue of national concern is daunting and the BNT is committed to engaging Bahamians so that they can understand the issue and make the right management choices for this culturally important marine resource.

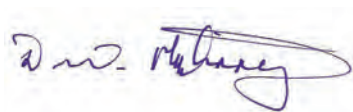
In spite of a challenged economy, the Trust has managed to continue its programmes and expand park infrastructure providing accessibility for residents and visitors alike to our national parks. This is due in no small part to you our loyal members who support us through your annual membership, the annual appeal and corporate memberships and we thank you for



your commitment to our work. I would like to ask you to help us by encouraging your friends, family and co-workers to become members.

The Trust has written a new strategic plan and over the next five years we will seek to insure that all national parks have management plans and that ecological gaps in the protected area system are addressed with the protection of new area. Additionally a key area of work will be making sure that local communities become engaged in national parks on their island but are also able to derive economic benefits for the areas which have a high nature tourism value.

I would like to thank the staff of the BNT for their dedication and commitment to the national park system of the Bahamas and the Executive Committee and Council for their support over the last year.



Neil McKinney

President of the BNT



Introduction

The Bahamas National Trust continues to develop its staff as conservation professionals and work with the government of The Bahamas to identify new areas for inclusion in the national park system. The identification of areas important for biodiversity and the sustainability of marine resources is a priority for the Trust.

Strong science has always been at the core of the BNT's recommendations to government on protected areas and environmental issues. In recognition the Trust in 2011 separated the Parks and Science Department to create a Science Division to provide support for national parks but also to strengthen the BNT's relationship with the scientific community and to begin to develop the monitoring protocols for national park inventories.

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.

2012 has been an extremely busy year for the BNT and what follows are highlights in our four core areas of work.



Membership and Development

The expansion of the BNT's membership base is key to the success of the organization. One of the goals this year was to provide our membership with more activities to come together to socialize and share their ideas for the organization.

The Monthly Market continues to be popular with our membership and has expanded to Abaco and Grand Bahama. Homemade bread, cakes, juices, backyard gardening and unique crafts are featured at this monthly event. Members were encouraged to put on their dancing shoes at the Golden Oldies evening, where members were able to dance the night away under the pavilion that was transformed into a Saturday Night live nightclub complete with Disco Ball by Jim Whitehead The Nassau Florist. The Independence weekend also provided BNT members a chance to show their patriotism and party like true Bahamians with another great social affair.

The BNT's Annual Fundraising Events continue to be popular and raise needed funds for BNT programmes and national park infrastructure.

Art for the Parks Abaco. Supporting the 6 national parks on Abaco, Art for the Parks continues to grow in popularity and attract more artists. Over 30 artists and artisans participated at this annual event which has added a Heritage Lecture Series and a Fresh Market on the Saturday.

The Cuban Pig Roast brings east and west together raising over \$20,000 for national park infrastructure while patrons enjoy a traditional Cuban Meal on the beach at the Maillis Farm in Adelaide. The BNT added a new event in 2012 as they partnered with the Mexican Community to celebrate Cinco De Mayo the first weekend in May.

Walk on the Wildside: BNT members showed their support for Migratory Birds and their habitats in October by participating in an early morning Fun Run / Walk which raises money for habitat conservation. All funds from the walk are used for cattail management



at Harrold and Wilson Ponds National Park. The event teamed up with the very popular BNT monthly fresh market and the education department offered activities designed to teach young people about migratory birds and the challenges they face each spring and fall.

Annual Wine and Art Festival celebrates fine wine and fine art. With over 50 talented artists and a selection of wines from around the world from Bristol Wines and Spirits, this event kicks off the holiday season.



Christmas Jollification continues to draw large crowds and features wonderful hand made crafts for the discerning shopper while raising money to support The Retreat Garden. This year Jollification showcased a new format which created a wonderful family atmosphere. Commonwealth Bank is a major sponsor of the event along with Bristol Wines and Spirits, Sands Beer, John Bull Ltd., Caribbean Bottling and Bahamia Rental.

Festival Noel also introduced a new look for this popular Event. “A Not So Silent Night” ushered in the holiday season for Grand Bahama with a selection of wine from Bristol Wines and Spirits, a fabulous selection of arts and crafts , brews by Bahamian Brewery and music by Upper Cut and Ultra Vibes. The annual fundraiser supports the National Parks on Grand Bahama.

The Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve hosted the second annual *‘Twas The Night Before Christmas’* holiday celebration. The event was attended by BNT Discovery Club members of North Eleuthera, Governor’s Harbor and Tarpum Bay as well as students attending the primary schools in Governor’s Harbor, Palmetto Point and Tarpum Bay. Their families we encouraged to attend as well. Over 140 young people attended the event.





The Membership and Development Office also coordinated opportunities for corporate Bahamas to get involved with their national parks . Employees of Starbucks literally waded in to Harrold and Wilson Ponds National Park and assisted with cat-tail removal while Deloitte and Touche worked in the Primeval Forest remulching the paths.

Annual Appeal raised

The support of our membership is invaluable. Becoming a member of the BNT shows your support for the national park system of The Bahamas and your commitment to the preservation of Bahamian biodiversity. Our members give in many ways through volunteering for special events, in kind donations from their businesses and monetarily. This year our Annual Appeal raised almost \$28,000 which supported education and outreach and park infrastructure initiatives.

Membership growth for 2013

Our membership continues to grow with our membership standing at 1,503. A total of 521 new members joined the BNT. Jollification and Wine and Art being key events to promote membership for the organization.



Education

The BNT's Education Office continues to provide opportunities for students and adults to learn about the national park system and the natural environment of The Bahamas.

Over 8000 young people received presentations coordinated by the BNT Education Department and over 400 educators participated in the workshops that focused on wetlands, marine resources and the avifauna of The Bahamas

The Bahamas National Trust Education office is always pleased to partner with other organizations. One of these opportunities was with The Mall at Marathon in July in the Mall's very special Kidz Corner. The BNT took the opportunity to create a displays and activities that focused on the Coppice Forest Ecosystem and the importance of Water conservation. Visitors to the corner were introduced to the flora and fauna of the coppice forest including a live friendly Brown Racer. There was also a special display on Bush Medicine and an opportunity to taste a "bush tea". Water Conservation and where water comes from was also featured at the Kidz Corner. Visitors were able to view a special exhibit on water conservation sponsored by the Royal Bank of Canada and participate in a number of water related activities.

RBC Blue Water Project: The Education Department continued with the implementation of the educational component of the RBC Blue Water project, which focuses on Fresh Water Conservation and Use. Several educational resources including 6 Exhibit posters were produced in partial fulfillment of this projects outputs. The Educational Exhibition will be organized as a public educational event in New Providence and Andros. As part of Water Week the BNT mounted a Water Conservation and National Park Exhibition displays at Royal Bank (RBC) Bay Street and RBC Carmichael Rd in recognition of Water week and in collaboration with RBC.

SMILE Teachers Workshop. Each Summer the BNT offers a special educators workshop. This year the SMILE (Science Math Integrated Learning Experience) engaged 25 educators in a workshop focused on Ba-



hamian Ecosystems and each Environmental Science Lesson incorporated a Math based activity. Morning classroom sessions were followed by afternoon field trips to the different ecosystems. The educators visited Bonefish Pond and conducted a Conch survey, visited the Pine Forest on a Bug Safari and traveled to Rose Island and snorkeled two reefs.



Summer Safari Camp. Summer Camps were organized on New Providence, Grand Bahama and Eleuthera. Thirty –two young people in New Providence and 10 on Grand Bahama spent a week at the BNT Summer Safari Camp learning about conch. Camp Conchservaion provided the boys and girls with an opportunity to get to know conch on all levels.

Summer Safari Camp in Eleuthera was all about Tradition. The BNT and the Haynes Library in Eleuthera partnered to offer young people in Eleuthera a very special summer camp at the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve July 16 – 21. Bahamian Traditions and our Natural Resources was the theme and Levy Preserve Staff had organized a week of amazing activities.

Eco- camp: The Education Department organized and hosted 24 young people to the fourth annual Bahamas Eco-Camp on Andros August 2-10. The young people all between the ages of 13 – 15 traveled from Abaco, Acklins, Bimini, Cat Island, Crooked Island, Eleuthera, Exuma, Inagua, New Providence and South Andros. Eco- Camp is designed to develop an appreciation for the natural environment and to facilitate the development of environmental stewardship. Eco- Camp takes



place over a 6-day period and is an intense immersion experience as the students participate in classroom and field experiences in all of the Bahamian ecosystems – coral reefs, mangrove wetlands, Rocky and Sandy Shore, Coppice and Pine Forest. In order to be selected the young people have to write an essay detailing why they would be the best candidates to attend the camp. The Camp is supported by Forfar Field Station, Bahamas Ferries, Lindroth Development, Atlantis, Sheraton Cable Beach, Nassau Palm Hote, Cable Cares and the Ministry of Youth and Sports.



Teachers Workshops and Shorebird Conservation Workshops for Andros

The BNT Education Office traveled to North and South Andros to conduct workshops using the BNT developed Educator's resource Treasures in the Sea . The workshops were implemented as part of the Kerzner Marine Andros West Side Project and benefited 30 educators.

The Education Department implemented a shorebird camp for young people on Andros. The camp, which was attended by 15 teenagers, introduced the young people to common shorebirds: how to identify them and their habitat needs. The need to protect critical habitats on Andros for shorebirds was an important part of the workshop.

School presentations to remote Family Islands are still being made possible through our Distance Education program and the commitment and diligence of volunteers Steve Con-



nett and Barbara Crouchly.

Discovery Club:

The Discovery Club (DC) year ended strong with 35 active clubs achieving from 2-4 badges for the 2011- 2012 school year. The leaders of DC were hosted to the 4th DC Leader's symposium where they achieved first aid certification, administered by Doctor's Hospital and water safety certification administered by the Royal Bahamas Defence Force. The camping expedition of the symposium was held on Eleuthera, where the leaders also visited The Levy Preserve. Islands represented at the symposium this year were Eleuthera, Inagua, Exuma, Andros, New Providence, Grand Bahama and Acklins.



Navigators' Leaders Symposium: Navigators' is the high school level of the Discovery Club. Navigators Leaders were also hosted to a training workshop. Leaders were given an intense week-long exposure to content for the three level bird certification (Level 1- Chimmy; Level 2- Thrasher; level 3- Osprey). The full implementation of each level of the program will be 12 weeks long, with the entire program being 36 weeks



Caribbean BirdSleuth. The BNT partnered with SC-SCB (Society for the Conservation and Study of Birds) and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to host a three day BirdSleuth International Training Workshop at The Retreat. Twenty-five Bahamian and Caribbean middle school educators participated in the workshop. Educators took part in classroom and field sessions and learned how to identify, collect and publish data on Bahamian and Caribbean birds as well as migratory birds from other countries. The purpose of the workshop was to create and equip project managers for a special Caribbean BirdSleuth curriculum that is currently under development. Workshop participants are expected to return to their home countries and schools to share their knowledge and use the programme in schools, youth clubs and related activities.

Nature Tour Guiding Course for Grand Bahama. The BNT in conjunction with the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism conducted a tour guide training programme on Grand Bahama in March . Twenty persons successfully completed that course which included bird iden-



tification, tour guide training, business skills and ecosystem familiarization. The course was facilitated by Lynn Gape, Deputy Executive Director and Predensa Moore, Science Officer.



Public Meetings: The Trust continues to offer public meetings to the General Public on Environmental Issues and scientific research that is taking place in The Bahamas. During 2012 the following public meetings were offered : Krystal Ambrose (Marine Debris) Dr. Javier Ortega , Plant Collecting Expeditions of David Fairchild to The Bahamas, Matthew Jeffrey , Update on Piping Plover Research in The Bahamas, Ecological Impacts of Lobster Condos- Angee Doerr, Conch for the Future – Catherine Booker. Public Meetings took place not only on Nassau but on Grand Bahama, Abaco and Eleuthera.



Parks

National Parks are at the core of the Trust's Mandate. The recent national park expansion announced by government in March 2012 expanded the Bahamas National Park System to over 2 million acres. The Trust takes its responsibility to manage the parks and the biodiversity of The Bahamas seriously. Infrastructure improvements, training for parks staff and monitoring of the flora and fauna protected in these parks were all part of the work plan for 2012.

National Park Expansion On March 2012, the former Minister of the Environment Dr. Earl D. Deveaux announced the establishment of the Fowl Cays National Park, a new national park for Abaco between Scotland Cay and Man o' War Cay; the expansion of the Conception Island National Park and the expansion of the West Side National Park on the island of Andros.



Fowl Cays National Park

Fowl Cays has long been identified on marine charts as a protected area. Local people recognized that the area was special and it has long been a popular recreational site. The new Fowl Cays National Park is a 1,920-acre reserve that is conveniently reached from most central Abaco Cays and settlements.

This park is particularly attractive to scuba divers



and is also an extremely popular area for local boating and snorkeling. The reefs and three 25' to 40' dive spots in untouched water are renowned.

Fowl Cays National Park also has great value as a “spillover” area, whereby surrounding habitat is enriched because of the park’s protection. In addition to fish, rays and sponges, the park is also home to endangered stag horn and Elkhorn coral, along with 12 other coral species.

The Conception Island National Park

The land area of Conception Island was placed in the national park system in 1964. The park (island) has historical significance as one of three islands visited by Columbus in 1492. The 2,100-acre island is important for nesting sea turtles and as a seabird nesting area. It is important as a nesting site for Tropicbirds, Noddy Terns and Sooty Terns. It was designated an Important Bird Area in 2002. The new park expansion protects the marine environs of Conception Island out to the 10 fathom mark.

A vast *Montastraea* reef lies to the north of Conception Island and is the largest continuous example of such habitat in the Caribbean, measuring 40 km2 (more than four times larger than the island itself). *Montastraea* reefs are important because these habitats possess the highest diversity and density of reef organisms in the Caribbean.

In general, the island’s marine resources are unique, extensive, self-contained, and in exceptionally good health, having high levels of resilience after disturbance.

Expansion of the Andros Westside National Park

Andros Island currently has five national parks which were declared by The Bahamas Government in 2002. This system of 5 national parks is the country’s largest protected area.

The west side of Andros Island is a relatively untouched and remarkably astounding area that is both ecologically and economically important to Andros and the greater Bahamas.

The west side plays a vital role in sustaining the nation’s local and commercial fisheries market. Its intact, healthy mangroves provide breeding and nursery areas for commercially important marine species which re-



plenish marine stocks throughout The Bahamas. The west side's tidal creeks and flats also support thriving bonefish populations which contribute significantly to the island's bonefishing industry. Sport fishing is an important multimillion dollar industry which benefits many Androsians.

The West Side National Park is also an important feeding area for the endangered West Indian Flamingo. In this park, marine resources will be protected from destructive fishing practices, ensuring that the West Side remains a natural wilderness for the people of Andros forever.

Andros West Side Management Planning. A number of community meetings were held to discuss the West Side Management Project, funded by the Kerzner Marine Foundation. Two park consultants who also participated in the meetings throughout the island. The meetings were well attended and very informative. The Andros West Side management Plan has been completed and is in circulation for final comment from stakeholders.

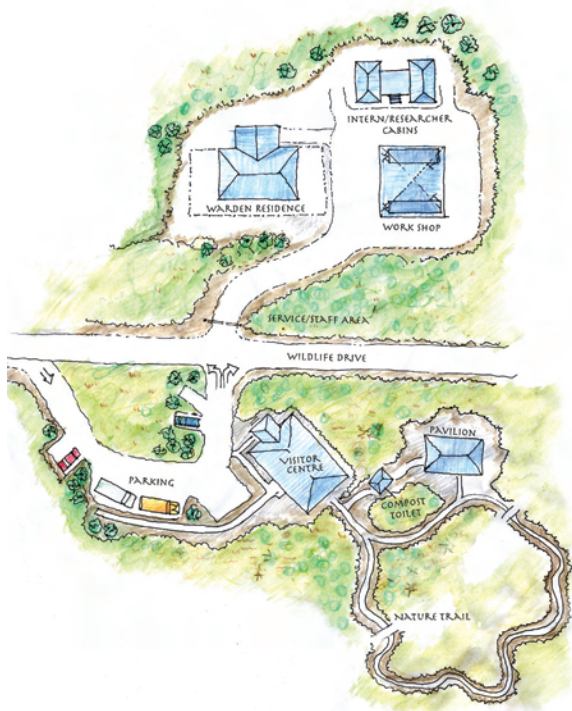
New Park Information Kiosks for Andros. Andros is home to five national parks protecting both terrestrial and marine habitat. In order to create a greater awareness of these parks and the resources that they protect four national park kiosks have been put in place at the Andros Town Airport, San Andros Airport and at the airports in Mangrove Cay and South Andros. The kiosks display information on the national park system highlighting in particular the newly expanded West Side National Park. The kiosks were funded by the Kerzner Marine Foundation with support from participating agencies: BNT, TNC, ANCAT , Nature's Hope for South Andros and the Department of Marine Resources.



Grand Bahama Park Expansion Park expansion meetings continue in Grand Bahama. The BNT has currently identified four areas on Grand Bahama which they are focusing their efforts. New areas identified will support traditional fishing practices and promote sustainable use (i.e. eco-tourism). Detailed specifics on the locations have yet to be announced, however the areas that are being reviewed are the expansion of Peterson Cay National Park to include the marine environment, expansion of Lucayan National Park to include more of the underground cavern system, Gold Rock Creek, and part of North shore portion of East Grand Bahama a blue hole area and the surrounding area on Sweetings Cay.

BNT staff and volunteers conducted a Rapid Ecological Assessment of the areas for consideration in the park expansion initiative. The Park Expansion efforts are being led by Lakeisha Anderson, Parks Planner for the BNT and BNT Regional Branch Chairman Lloyd Cheong.

Abaco National Park Conceptual Plan.



Working with Caribbean Heritage Concepts the BNT has completed a conceptual plan to create experiences, programs and facilities within the Abaco National Park. The conceptual plan includes a visitors centre, wilderness drive, cabins for researchers, recreational camping area, hiking trails and a warden's residence. The BNT's vision is for the park to be used by both residents and visitors for recreation and appreciation of nature. This infrastructure project is funding dependent.

Inagua National Park Camp. Camp Vernay, the historic flamingo research camp was destroyed in Hurricane Ike. The BNT working with Marvin Arrington of Sagoma International has developed a design for a structure to accommodate research and visitation for the Inagua National Park. This infrastructure project is funding dependent.



Levy Preserve

The Levy Preserve, which just celebrated its 1st Anniversary on March 24, 2012 continues to grow in popularity amongst the local community. On March 1, Ministry of Tourism held their annual 'Thank You/Meet and Greet' event for the Second Homeowners of Central Eleuthera at the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve. On March 17 Haynes Library in Governor's Harbour Eleuthera, held their Eighteenth Annual Silent Auction at the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve. The Chargé d' Affaires of the U.S. Embassy in New Providence, accompanied by two members from the Embassy, visited the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve on March 27. They were greeted and taken on a short tour by Ms. Shelby White, Dr. Ethan Fried, Eric Carey and Mark Daniels. The ever popular morning radio talk Show Immediate Response with Hostess Chrissy Love, was aired live from the Education Pavilion at the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve on March 23 and 30. Featured guest included: Ms. Shelby White (Trustee of the Leon Levy Foundation); Dr Ethan Fried (Botanist); Eric Carey (BNT Executive Director) and other community members on Eleuthera.



Earth Day weekend! April 20-22, 2012, the BNT / Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve joined the One Eleuthera Foundation and in presenting “Jammin’ for Nature – Earth Day Weekend 2012 Live from Eleuthera. On Saturday, BNT staff were at the park with a special arts and crafts table. Young people enthusiastically made beautiful crafts celebrating Earth Day. On Sunday, Earth Day, the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve was the main focus for the first part of the day. In spite of early rain, guests arrived at the Preserve for a lovely brunch to be entertained by Gospel singer, Brendalee Petty who sang a special song about the Preserve.

The Bahamas National Trust Council held their annual fall meeting at the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve in Governor’s Harbour, Eleuthera September 20 and 21. During their twice yearly meetings the Council discussed the business of the Trust and this meeting focused on reviewing the 2013 – 2018 Strategic Plan for the organization and concern for the status of Bahamian Marine Resources.

Additionally The Council held a special meet and greet with Eleuthera residents on the Friday evening and visited the Island School and Lighthouse Point on the Saturday.

GIS Training. As part of the UNEP–CEP Project which is focusing on the development and management of Marine Protected Areas in Abaco a core BNT Team has participated in a one-week training workshop in GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Levels 1 and 2. The BNT Team is made up of Lakeshia Anderson, Shelley Cant, Lindy Knowles and Latonya Williams traveled to Australia in May, where the core GIS team of BNT were trained in the production of spatial marine maps at the University of Queensland, Australia. The group were hosted by Dr. Peter Mumby and Nicholas Wolff Once the training is completed, it is anticipated that the team will go out into the field (Abaco



MPA's), collect the precise locations of national park boundaries and produce maps of the areas, a key tool in the management planning for any national park.

MPA Enforcement Training. At the end of August, Director of Parks, David Knowles and ECLSP Warden Henry Hayley travelled to Key West, Florida to participate in the first regional CaMPAM MPA Enforcement Workshop. Over twenty representatives from the Caribbean including Mexico, Belize and Honduras attended the conference. This was the first such regional effort to address law enforcement needs of Caribbean Marine Protected Areas.



Social Marketing Workshop. The Regional Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Project, “Mitigating the Threats of Invasive Alien Species in the Insular Caribbean” (MTI-ASIC), sponsored a 1-week Social Marketing Training Workshop in Trinidad from 17th – 21st September 2012. The Bahamas was represented at the training by BNT Andros Park Warden Tavares Thompson, BNT Science Officer Lindy Knowles, BNT Parks Planner Lakeshia Anderson and Indira Brown, Fisheries Officer for the Department of Marine Resources. The workshop attracted 19 participants from all over the Caribbean. The workshop focused on increasing awareness of Invasive Alien Species, and how to involve key stakeholders in long-term management efforts. The workshop sessions took on several aspects of social marketing to give participants first-hand experience of the steps involved in implementing a campaign; from administering surveys to hotel guests, and performing puppet shows and skits to presenting information to a wide variety of stakeholders. Each group developed a draft social marketing strategy to be implemented in



their respective countries under the MTIASIC Project, which will cover the top five (5) Invasive Alien Species found in The Bahamas; Lionfish, Casuarina, Scaevola, Brazilian pepper and Melaleuca.

GEF Full-sized Project

The second year of the GEF FSP pilot 3 demonstration project – “Tourism & Coral Reef Health in the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park (ECLSP)” was highly productive through collaborative work between BNT, consultants, National Implementation Support Programme (NISP) partner agencies, the Ministry of Tourism and funding from the Waitt Foundation. Major accomplishments for 2012 include 1) quantitative and qualitative assessments of fish community structure and benthic composition across 21 sites that cover coral reef, seagrass and mangrove habitats 2) presentation of key research findings at the 65th Annual GCFI Conference in Santa Marta, Colombia 3) continued capacity building and strengthening for Bahamians 4) development of the ECLSP business plan, poster and Sustainable Financing Mechanisms (SFM) 5) implementation of one of the SFMs 6) completion of a series of training and certification workshops in the Exuma Cays and 7) the production of a draft sustainable tourism model for the Exuma Cays.



REEF Check Training

As part of the Development and effective Management of Marine Protected Areas in Abaco, the BNT facilitated an Eco Diver training course in Abaco for 7 certified Scuba Divers to assist in monitoring Abaco Marine Protected areas early in 2012. The MPA project for Abaco is being supported by grant funding from UNEP, CEP, CaMPAM and the Italian Government with assistance from Dive Guana Enterprises. A Reef Check EcoDiver Certification workshop was also held at the Staniel Cay All-Age School during 13-18th of August, 2012. Reef Check is an internationally recognized monitoring programme that is used to survey and compare the status of the world's coral reefs. Five participants completed the course held at Staniel Cay. The programme has several objectives, which include improving public awareness and education on the status of coral reefs, establishing a global network of volunteers to conduct regular monitoring, using sound scientific practices to investigate changes within coral reef ecosystems, facilitating collaboration among various groups (e.g. scientists, policy-makers, etc.), and stimulating local communities to become actively involved with protecting coral reefs by engaging in environmentally and economically sound practices. The Bahamas has adopted this protocol to supplement ongoing coral reef monitoring efforts in the country as a way to involve local communities in scientific research.



Science and Policy

Flamingo Banding. The Inagua National Park was the site of a Banding and Monitoring Project in June. A team of vets, ornithologists, volunteers from Mexico and Bonaire, BNT Executive Committee, BNT Staff and Volunteers from the Inagua Community banded 198 young flamingos. The exercise was led by Dr. Nancy Clum of the Wildlife Conservation Society, who has been working with other researchers to track flamingo populations in the Caribbean. The project was carried out under strict protocols and the information garnered over the next several years will help scientists learn what habitats are being used in the Caribbean for nesting, as well as how the birds move between the islands. Director of Parks, David Knowles and Inagua Warden Henry Nixon coordinated the logistics with in kind support from Morton Salt Ltd. President Neil McKinney, Deputy President Larry Ginton and Honorary Secretary Shirley Cartwright participated in the banding project with BNT Staff providing additional support.

NFWF – Restoring Allen Cay for Audubon Shearwaters: The final iguana removal and restoration activities occurred during May 12th – June 1st, 2012. The 8 member field team consisted of Dr. Will Mackin, Island Conservation field biologists (Aurora Alifano and Wesley Jolley) and BNT technical staff (David Cooper, Arlington Johnson, Cameron Saunders, Scott Johnson and Predensa Moore). The group traveled to Allen Cay to implement the project's mice eradication component. Allen Cay is noted as one of the primary Audubon's Shearwater (AUSH) nesting sites in The Bahamas but has suffered high population predation over the past several years from Barn Owls. The theory is that the owls are attracted to the Cay for the mice – their favourite food source. This project entailed: 1) Installation of signage on the cay to provide information and awareness of the project's activities 2) Cutting/clearing transects across the island 3) Two mice baiting sessions 4) Twice daily monitoring of bait absorption by mice 5) Monitoring of bait absorption by non-target species (birds/crabs etc.) 6) Collection of dead AUSH and monitoring of fresh kills 7) Search for Barn Owl



roosting/nesting sites on Allen and nearby cays

The overall project was coordinated by Dr. Will Mackin. The local logistical coordinator was Science Research Officer, Predensa Moore.

Bahama Parrot Census: Caroline Stahala and Dr. Frank Riviera conducted a population survey in May/June 2012. The Survey (the first to be conducted since 2002) showed a marked increase in the parrot population from 2,500 to 4,000. The BNT hired warden Marcus Davis who has supported predator control since 2008. The increase in the population indicates that these conservation measures are supporting an increase in the parrot population on Abaco.

Piping Plover and shorebird surveys in the Bahamas 2012: In February 2012, researchers from National Audubon Society and Bahamas National Trust ventured into remote areas of the Bahamas (the Berry Islands and the Joulter Cays) to survey populations of Piping Plover and other rare wintering shorebirds. In total they found 450 wintering Piping Plover - about 5% of the global population.



Celebrating 30 Years of the Flora of The Bahamas:

A group of top scientists in the fields of botany, forest management and environmental science participated in an international symposium that was jointly organized by the Bahamas National Trust, College of The



Bahamas, Fairchild Tropical Gardens and Florida International University at the end of October. The Symposium provided a platform for discussing pertinent issues relating to conservation and scientific research of the unique flora of The Bahamas. Additionally the symposium celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the publication, *Flora of The Bahamas Archipelago*, the latest comprehensive catalogue of Bahamian Plants by Donovan and Helen Correll with Illustrations by Priscilla Fawcett.

Sea Turtle Research. The collaborative study of sea turtle biology by the Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research at the University of Florida and the Bahamas National Trust at the Union Creek Marine Reserve continued into its 38th year in 2012. It was another successful year with 119 sea turtles being caught and tagged.

Seabirds of the Cay Sal Bank. The Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds, Biodiversity Research Institute and the Bahamas National Trust came together in the summer of 2012 in a major effort to assess the seabirds of the Cay Sal Bank. Biodiversity Research Institute(BRI) instituted a special Science Expedition from May 26th – June 1 , 2012 to allow scientists and volunteers to estimate the number of breeding seabirds on the Cay Sal Bank. The goal of the expedition was to locate and carefully estimate current numbers of breeding seabirds, including: Audubon's Shearwaters, Brown Boobies, Sooty Terns, Bridled Terns, Brown Noddies, Least Terns, Roseate Terns, Royal Terns, and Sandwich Terns. The expedition, visited three major island groups—Cotton and Anguilla Cays in the southeast corner of the Bank, the Double-Headed Shot Cays on the western side, and the Elbow Cays in the southwestern corner. At each stop, the group divided into teams, each led by an experienced field biologist. Teams set up permanent census plots to document the populations and enable monitoring of the health of the populations with future surveys. All of the fieldwork was voluntary.



Financial Highlights for 2012

Income

Investment income from Heritage Fund	\$ 184,731
Project support from other non-profit organizations	952,424
Government Grants	1,125,000
Proceeds from festivals and other events	239,993
Other unrestricted income	1,304,274

TOTAL INCOME	\$ 3,806,422
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Expenses

Projects supported by the other non-profit organizations	\$ 1,040,031
Education, public meetings and conferences	148,875
Park Maintenance	280,881
Management and administration	1,966,940
Depreciation of buildings & equipment	182,201
Other expenses	299,192

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 3,918,120
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In Memoriam

The Bahamas National Trust lost two long time BNT supporters in 2012 and early 2013.

Sonny Waugh - August 7, 2012

The BNT notes with great sadness the passing of this true Bahamian of high integrity and deep love of The Bahamas. Mr. Waugh was an avid outdoorsman and sportsman and served on the BNT Wildlife Committee, the White –crowned Pigeon Management Committee and as an appointee to the BNT Council for many years. Mr. Waugh served as the first Chair of the Grand Bahama Regional Committee to establish the BNT on Grand Bahama and working to establish the Lucayan and Peterson Cay National Parks.

Peggy Hall - January 3, 2013

Peggy Hall of Georgetown, Exuma and formerly of Nassau passed away January 3, 2013 peacefully in her sleep at the age of 89 years old. Peggy Hall was one of the BNT's living legends with regard to the development of the national parks system. An accomplished sailor, she had cruised the Bahamas for 45 years and in the later days she was accompanied by her dog Powerful. Peggy and Powerful were the subject of many stories and they were well known in the park where she lived aboard the Moby, a 37 foot Victory Tug.

She started the Exuma Support Fleet which was made up of volunteers who gave time or money to the park. She was honored and loved by many and when the new warden headquarters was built as a result of generous donors, they insisted that it be named the Peggy Hall Warden's Residence.

Peggy Hall was dedicated to the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park and worked tirelessly so that future generations of Bahamians would be able to experience the pristine marine environment that she had grown to love. She believed strongly that the park was for Bahamians and that it would become a mecca for visitors to The Bahamas benefiting the local communities surrounding the park.



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Lynn Gape

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Deputy Executive Director

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Bookkeeper
Human Resources Officer
Office Manager, Abaco
Office Manager, RNC
Administrative Assistant
Security
Security
Support Staff
Receptionist

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Urmie Braynen
Chantel Davis

Director of Development
Development Assistant (Part-time)
Membership Officer

Education
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Cecilia Bodie
Shelley Cant
Vanessa Turnquest
Bianca Green
Juanita Munroe
Scott Johnson

Director of Education
Education Specialist RNC
Senior Education Officer
Discovery Club Coordinator
Education Officer
Black Point Education Officer
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Omar Micklewhyte
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Andrew Kriz
Henry Haley
Henry Nixon

Director of Parks
Parks Planner
New Providence Warden
New Providence Warden
Levy Preserve Manager
Levy Preserve Deputy Manager
Office Assistant Levy Preserve
Levy Preserve
Levy Preserve
Levy Preserve
Levy Preserve
Levy Preserve
ECLSP Administrator
ECLSP Warden
Chief Warden Inagua National Park



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Warden Andros
Warden Grand Bahamas
Warden Lucayan National Park
Warden Rand Nature Centre
Warden Abaco
Warden Abaco
Retreat Garden
Retreat Garden

Science

Vanessa Haley Benjamin
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Latonya Williams
Krista Sherman

Director Of Science and Policy
Science Officer
Science Officer – Research
Assistant Science Officer
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