



# NEGRIL MARINE PARK NEWS

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## International Earth Day 2007

Earth Day is one of the biggest days of celebration here at the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society. This year we had approximately 650 people out for the day including students, teachers, volunteers, and organizations. The theme for the day was "A Call for Action on Climate Change." Earth Day was held at the Negril Community Centre and Norman Manley Beach Park on Friday, April 20. Earth Day is generally observed on April 22, but being a Sunday the date was moved up this year.

Students from 16 area schools were in attendance from Westmoreland and Hanover, all within the Negril watershed. These were Negril All Age, Whitehall Basic and Prep, Mt. Airy All Age, Revival All Age, Sheffield All Age, Little Bay All Age, Little London Primary, Little London High, St. Paul's Primary, Churchill Primary, Cacaoon All Age, Upper Rock Spring All Age, Green Island Primary, Cave Valley All Age, Rhoads Hall High, and Braughton Primary. Each school was invited to bring as many as 50 students.

There were many competitions held in honor of Earth Day, the most prominent of which was the Best Kept and Greenest School Competition which was won by Negril All Age. Every school demonstrated very good practices in helping to protect their environment such as using a water catchment system, not using Styrofoam, etc. Other competitions were either entered by individuals or whole schools/groups of students. These included Poster, Essay, Poetry, Drum Painting, Drama, and Mini Mascot Competitions. Congratulations to all the winners!

Besides the competitions, all of which were on display or being done on the day itself, activities included field trips, either to the coral reefs on glass bottom boats, or to the Royal Palm Reserve in the Great Morass wetland. There was also tree planting and a cleanup of the beach area. Some other organizations were present to give information to children, we would like to thank NEPA's Integrated Watershed and Coastal Zone Management, National Solid Waste Management Authority, the National Forestry Department, NEPT, and others for their participation.

NCRPS would like to give thanks for the monetary contributions from EFJ, IGL, Blue Cave Castle, LTU, and Beachcomber Club, as well as the numerous in-kind contributions from many area hotels/restaurants/stores which can be found on page 2 of this publication.



From top: Students going on glass bottom boat tour of coral reef; students and schools receiving awards at the end of the day; the drum painting competition; essays, posters, and "mini mascots" on display.

### Did you Know...

- The oceans contain 99% of the living space on the planet!
- A group of jellyfish is called a smack.
- The remains of diatoms, algae with hard shells, are used in making pet litter, cosmetics, pool filters and tooth polish!

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## World Oceans Day

June 8 is recognized as World Oceans Day. This important date was originally created in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro but is not yet officially designated by the United Nations. To commemorate this important date this year, NCRPS teamed up with Beaches and Sandals. Schools from within the watershed were invited to participate in an informational session. Students gathered in the morning at the Long Bay Beach Park where the day was commenced by NCRPS President Jean Brown talking about the importance of the world's oceans. The theme for the day was "Climate Change: A Factor Affecting the Our Oceans." Students then marched down the Beach Road towards Beaches Sandy Bay with a police escort. Once at Beaches, students enjoyed some cultural performances, a video about the status of reefs worldwide, and a panel discussion of the importance of our oceans and how they are being affected by climate change. Schools were invited to enter into the poster competition, the winner of the competition was a student from Cacoon All Age. Two letters were produced by the students, one a memorandum to the United Nations requesting that World Oceans Day be an officially recognized international holiday by the UN, and another letter to the major newspapers of Jamaica letting others know about the day and the great importance of the oceans all around the world and especially the Caribbean Sea right here at home. Students learned of how the oceans impact their everyday lives and therefore how vitally important they are. They expressed this in their letters and also let others know what part they can play in helping to protect our oceans, such as not littering and saving energy. NCRPS would like to thank the helpful staff at Beaches as well as all participating students for making this day a success.



Students listen to the panel on climate change and watch cultural performances at Beaches Sandy Bay.



The winner of the poster competition, submitted by a student of Cacoon All Age..



Ms. Brown giving introduction to students at Long Bay Beach Park.

## Funding from NEPA for '07/08

When NCRPS was first founded back in 1990, it was an unofficial association of people who were concerned about the status of the reefs around Jamaica and in Negril in particular. NCRPS precedes even the creation of the Negril Marine Park which was created by the government in 1998 along with the Negril Environmental Protection Area, largely due to the efforts of NCRPS. Since the creation of the NMP, NCRPS has taken the responsibility for maintaining the Negril Marine Park on behalf of NEPA. This is in line with the plans of NEPA for Protected Areas Land Management, one of the components of which is providing institutional capacity for managing natural assets. For a few years now NCRPS has been receiving funding from NEPA as management fees for maintaining the NMP. We have made application to NEPA for another year's funding and all signs are favorable that funding will be received soon. We look forward to a continuing favorable relationship between NCRPS and NEPA as both organizations strive towards making Jamaica a cleaner and more beautiful island to protect the natural resources which are part of Jamaica's rich heritage.

## Give Tanks

NCRPS would like to thank the following for their generous contributions to our Earth Day event: Beaches Negril, Buck's Restaurant, Catch a Falling Star, Choice's Restaurant, Cosmo's, Country Country, Couples Negril, Couples Swept Away, Firefly Beach Resort, Hedonism II, Hotel Club RIU, Juicy J's, Mariner's Negril Beach Club, Negril Gardens, Pirate's Cave, Rayon Hotel, Rockhouse, Royal Kitchen, Sandals, Sea Star Inn, Sunset at the Palms, Sweet Spice, Tensing Pen, The Caves, Xtabi, Moon Dance, Grace Food Products, Negril Hardware, Icon Supermarket, HiLo Valuemaster Supermarket, Samuel's Hardware, Alfred's Ocean Palace, Burger King, Suave Fashions, JUTA Negril, Margaritaville, Jamaica Tours, Montego Bay Area 1 Police, Dudley Warren, US Peace Corps, National Youth Service, Glass bottom boat operators, Negril Area Environmental Protection Trust. Contributions included hot lunches, drinks, ice, transportation, metal drums, paints, garbage bags, and volunteering to help on the day.

## Climate Change

Climate change, or global warming, is often in the news these days because it is so vitally important and affecting us and our environment so greatly. It is a problem that must be attacked locally, regionally, and internationally in order to ward off potentially drastic and devastating impacts.

One thing that is often talked about in reference to climate change is the greenhouse effect which is how certain gases that are in our atmosphere, like carbon dioxide, trap heat instead of letting it all radiate out into space. The greenhouse effect is a good thing though! Without these gases in our atmosphere, the temperature of the Earth would be so cold it would be uninhabitable. The problem is, we are now having a buildup of too much of these gases and the world is therefore getting too hot.

Climate change is having a wide range of impacts. One that is particularly concerning to us at NCRPS is the increase in temperature it is causing in the oceans, and this is causing coral bleaching. When coral gets bleached because of too high of temperature, if the high temperatures are sustained for too long the coral will die and not be able to come back. Other consequences besides having a hotter climate include rising sea levels, an increase in number and intensity of tropical storms/hurricanes, species shifts/mass extinctions, changes in agriculture, flooding and drought, spread of diseases, and reductions in the ozone layer.

There have been many proposals for the reduction of these greenhouse gases. One of the most promising is the switch from fossil fuels such as oil, coal and natural gas to renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, biodeisel, and other energy. Even the power of waves and tides could be harnessed to produce energy while being much less environmentally detrimental. Things you can do are reduce your own "carbon footprint" by conserving energy. Use bicycles and other means of transportation instead of cars, or when using a car, carpool. Do not leave refrigerator doors open, turn off lights when not in a room, use energy-saving light bulbs, etc.

<b>Important Dates!</b>
<b>June 1-Nov 30:</b> Hurricane Season
<b>July 11:</b> World Population Day
<b>July 16-27:</b> Junior Rangers Summer Camp
<b>September 15:</b> International Coastal Cleanup
<b>September 16:</b> International Ozone Day
<b>September 23-29:</b> Maritime Week
<b>September 27:</b> World Tourism Day

## Swimmers Lane Expansion and Moorings

We have submitted a project proposal to the Tourism Product Development Council for a Tourism Enhancement Fund grant. We have recently received project approval for improvements to the swimmer's lane and mooring buoys. The swimmers lane is marked with white buoys with a red stripe, and run parallel to shore approximately 100m from the beach. Mooring buoys are one of the most important initiatives of NCRPS. These buoys are placed in strategic locations throughout the Negril Marine Park where many boats go, especially for dive and snorkel sites where boats must be stationary for an extended period. Without mooring buoys, boats will usually drop their anchor to remain where they are and this causes much damage to the reef. Corals are very sensitive and when abraded by an anchor it is likely at least a portion will die. Through data collection, it is estimated that within the first year of mooring buoy installation back in 1990 of just 35 mooring buoys 22,000 anchorage's were prevented. Today there have been even more buoys installed and every year they are preventing anchor damage.



A Marine Park Ranger preparing a Swim Zone Buoy for installation.

## Marine Park Regulations

Under the NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION AUTHORITY ACT, the Marine Park Regulation 10.1, A person shall not, in a marine park (b) deposit or leave any noxious, noisome, offensive substances, matter or thing; (c) deposit or leave any offal, dead animal, dung or other filth; (d) deposit in any receptacle provided for litter any domestic garbage; (e) willfully break any article of glass, china, pottery, plastic or other similar material. Any offenders are liable to a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars or to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a term not exceeding twelve months.

All users of the Negril Marine Park should endeavor to become more aware of the Park, so as to become conscious of the potential threats to the reef and other natural marine resources in general. If you have any questions regarding the NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION AUTHORITY ACT, please call the National Environment & Planning Agency (754-7543), stop by the Negril Marine Park Headquarters or call NCRPS at 957-3735.



For our children's children.....

*The Mission of the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society is to protect and preserve coral reef ecosystems, locally, regionally, and globally, through education, research, training, monitoring, lobbying, and the creation of marine protected areas.*

## Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society

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## Join NCRPS and Support the Negril Marine Park!

You can support the Negril Marine Park and help protect the fragile coral reef ecosystem by becoming a member of the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society.

Members receive newsletters.

I wish to become a member of NCRPS (Membership fees are for a one year period)

- Business Membership, \$3000 JA (Jamaican residents)/\$50 US (Overseas residents)
- Family Membership, \$2000 JA (Jamaican residents) /\$35 US (Overseas residents)
- Full Individual Membership \$800 JA (Jamaican residents) /\$15 US (Overseas residents)
- Student Membership, \$100 JA (Jamaican residents) /\$5 US (Overseas residents)

I wish to make a tax deductible donation to NCRPS to benefit the Negril Marine Park

(NCRPS is registered as a non-profit, charitable organization in Jamaica, West Indies)

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ E MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques payable to: NCRPS, Negril P.O. Box #2563, Westmoreland, Jamaica, West Indies



Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(membership good for one year from the above date)

### US TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS THROUGH FRIENDS OF JAMAICA USA

NCRPS works in partnership with Friends of Jamaica (FOJ) USA, a US based organization dedicated to providing economic assistance to organizations in Jamaica. FOJ is recognized by the US Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit charitable organization, 501 (c) (3). All contributions made to NCRPS through FOJ are US tax deductible. FOJ will retain 5% of all contributions for administrative purposes. Those wishing to make donations to NCRPS through FOJ will become members of FOJ and receive membership benefits. [www.friendsofjamaicausa.org](http://www.friendsofjamaicausa.org)

Please make cheques payable to Friends of Jamaica USA, 1312 W. Empire Street, Freeport, Ill. 61032