



NEGRIL MARINE PARK NEWS

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July-September 2007

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International Coastal Cleanup 2007

This year marked the 22nd celebration of International Coastal Cleanup here in Negril, commemorated by the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society. While the official International date was Sept. 15, NCRPS pushed back celebrations to allow the many area schools participating to ready themselves as this school year started later than usual. Approximately 40 students from Negril All Age, Sheffield All Age, and Whitehall Prep joined the efforts and vied for the grand prize of the Green Team Trophy, awarded to the school that did the best job in cleaning the section of beach they were assigned. The winner this year was Sheffield All Age. Other schools also participated— Rhoads Hall High, and Little Bay All Age cleaned areas of shoreline near to their schools. Besides students and teachers, others joined in as well such as community members from fishermen cooperatives at the various beaches, other community members, US Peace Corps Volunteers, and staff of NCRPS. Representatives from Couples Resorts, Sandals Resorts, and Hedonism II/ Grand Lido all participated, taking a leading role.

There were many sites for the cleanup this year. Community cleanup sites included Homer's Cove, Little Bay, 2 beaches at Orange Bay, and 2 beaches in Green Island. Within Negril the Negril fishing beach and Bloody Bay were cleaned. There were also underwater cleanup sites located along the west end and beach in Negril. In all, approximately 150 persons participated, and 140 bags of garbage were collected.

Examples of the types of debris found are: Styrofoam food containers, plastic silverware and straws, box juice boxes, bag juice bags, glass bottles, plastic bottles, etc. Some unusual items found were an umbrella and a toilet seat cover.

International Coastal Cleanup is an annual event spearheaded by the Ocean Conservancy and carried out in countries all over the world. In all over 170,000 miles of shoreline have been cleaned. You can visit the Ocean Conservancy website at www.oceanconservancy.org to find out more information on ICC and other important topics that pertain to the marine environment. Let us take this event to remind us that we need to always be mindful of our environment, not to litter, and that wherever we might litter, it will eventually make its way to the sea which is so vitally important to our health and the health of the planet.

NCRPS would like to thank the following for their generous contributions, of lunches, drinks, transportation, etc: Alfred's Ocean Palace, CB Chickens, C&E Hotel and Restaurant Supply, Couples Swept Away, Earthbound, First & Last of Orange Bay, Hedonism II, HiLo Negril, Travelers, Hotel Club RIU, Burger King, Idle Awhile, JUTA Negril, The Jungle, Kuyaba, Treehouse Resort, Moon Dance, Negril Cash'N'Carry, NSWMA, P&S of Orange Bay, Shopper's Choice of Savannah-la-Mar and Green Island, Valuemaster Negril, and Wildthings.



Students preparing to clean at Bloody Bay.



Community members in Green Island.

Did you Know...

- Penguins "fly" underwater up to 25 miles per hour!
- Oils from the orange roughy, a deep-sea fish from New Zealand, are used in making shampoo!
- Many fish change sex over the course of their lives!

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Junior Ranger Summer Programme

The Junior Ranger Summer Programme was held over the course of two weeks, from July 16-20 and July 23-27. Altogether 24 children participated in the camp. Participants were from a number of different schools in both Jamaica and abroad- two participants were from the US.

Educational topics included Coral Reefs, Endangered Species, Wetlands and Mangroves, CPR, Watershed Protection, Pollution, Garbage Management, the Marine Environment, and Environmental Laws such as the NRCA, the Wildlife Protection Act, and others. They learned by completing the Junior Ranger Manual and through art projects.

Besides classroom learning, children also got practical lessons in swimming and floating techniques. Campers were also introduced to snorkelling techniques and were able to utilize these when aboard the Sea of Tranquillity glass bottom boat which took them on an educational field trip to Sandy Cay reef.

NCRPS would like to thank the following for their generous contributions for the camp in the form of lunches for the participants: Rockhouse, Mariner's Inn, Negril Gardens, Beaches Sandy Bay, Margaritaville, Sandals, Sunset at the Palms, CoCo la Palm, Pirate's Cave, Negril Escape, Couples Negril, and RIU Tropical Bay.



Campers on a field trip at the Royal Palm Reserve.



Looking at the undersea world through a glass bottom boat.



Learning CPR techniques from NMP Ranger Vernon Sommerville.



Campers practicing their swimming and snorkeling on a trip to Sandy Cay.

Importance of Mooring Buoys

Mooring buoys have been placed throughout the Negril Marine Park at strategic locations that are popular for dive and snorkel sites, or where boats are likely to want to be anchored. Without the mooring buoys, in the past boats would drop anchor when they wanted to stop, but now they can hook up to mooring buoys and therefore do not have to damage the reef. Considering coral usually only grows one centimeter a year, or even less, it is important to keep from breaking it off! One anchor could destroy hundreds of years of coral growth. In the first year after mooring buoys were installed, in 1991 with 35 buoys, an estimated 20,000 anchors were stopped from dropping on the reef. Over the course of the past 16 years since then, hundreds of thousands of boats have been able to hook up to mooring buoys instead of damaging the reef.

More mooring buoys have just been installed at The Caves, and there are plans for the replacement of mooring buoys in areas where they have disappeared. These additional mooring buoys, as well as an expansion of the swimmers lane, is being financed by a grant from the TPDCo's Tourism Enhancement Fund.

New Head Ranger at NCRPS

NCRPS would like to introduce the new Head Ranger here at NCRPS, Mr. Daniel Scarlett. Mr. Scarlett comes with much experience in the marine field, having served nine years with the Jamaican Coast Guard. He is easy-going and has already become part of the team here as he has been with us for over two months, having come on board in August of this year. He is looking forward to working with the staff and communities which fall within the Negril Marine Park.

NCRPS is anticipating more new staff as we are currently seeking a new Project Manager.



Mr. Daniel Scarlett

Hurricane Dean Hits Jamaica

On August 19, 2007 Jamaica was preparing for a hit from a category 4, near to a category 5 hurricane. Jamaica seems to have a force field around it, spearheaded by the Blue Mountains in the east, and again a hurricane that was headed straight for here veered away at the last minute. The south and east coasts were hit the hardest, and the only part of the land that was hit by the eye was Portland Bight. Our thoughts and prayers here at NCRPS go out to all those that were effected.

NMP Rangers here have been diving to assess the damage to the reef within the Negril Marine Park. Dives were conducted in the Negril area, at shallow and deep sites in Green Island which is near the most northerly reaches of the Marine Park, and Little Bay which is the most southerly section. Little damage was evident, more being seen in the shallow areas. Examples of damage are overturned boulders that once provided substrate for soft corals, or broken segments of corals such as the fire coral, or staghorn coral.

Soon after Dean was Felix which passed well to the south of Jamaica, by about 300 miles, but still had impact by the intense waves created, especially along the West End of Negril.

There is a strong connection between coral reefs and hurricane damage. Hurricanes damage reefs, often breaking off large sections of corals that will eventually die. Hurricane Ivan in 2004 reduced live coral cover from 21% to only 10%. Also, coral reefs help to break up the energy intensity of waves hurricanes create. Without healthy reefs out there, more hurricane damage is experienced.



Important Dates!
October 1: World Habitat Day
October 6: National Wood & Water Day
October 7-13: Fire Safety Awareness Week
October 10: International Day for Disaster Reduction
October 16: World Food Day
November 1-30: Science & Technology Month
November 8: World Town Planning Day
November 14: GIS Day
December 11: International Mountain Day

Beach Restoration Meeting

September 5, 2007: A meeting was held at Couples Swept Away in Negril regarding the proposed beach restoration. The main speaker for the day was Dr. David Smith of Smith Warner International. The first stage of the beach restoration project is the collection and analysis of data leading to suggestions of implementations to put in place. This has been completed and the findings were presented and discussed at the meeting. There are three main avenues to choose from in deciding how to proceed from here: beach nourishment only, breakwaters, extension of the reef, or a combination. Each plan would have to incorporate beach nourishment, which is expanding the width of the beach by adding sand which would be harvested from the outer shelf from a depth of 20-40m; it is the additional structures in the other plans that would allow the nourishment to last longer than nourishment alone. Each option varies in expense and life-span. On the beach restoration panel are Mr. Daniel Grizzle, Mr. Davis, Ms. Brown, Ms. Grace Lee, Mrs. Evelyn Smith, and Mr. Cliff Reynolds. The next step in the process is the Environmental Impact Assessment of the different suggestions on how to deal with the problem of beach erosion. Hopefully after the EIA, will be implementation, but a large sum of money will be needed to proceed. The Environmental Foundation of Jamaica provided funds for the work that has been done thus far.

Marine Park Regulations

Under the NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION AUTHORITY ACT, the Marine Park Regulation 11.1, A person shall not, except with the written permission of the Authority, erect, display or cause to be displayed in a marine park any sign, slogan or marker containing any advertising or other kind of message. Under 11.2, any offenders are liable on summary conviction before a Resident Magistrate 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

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