



NEGRIL MARINE PARK NEWS

Volume 2, Issue 2

June 2005

Inside this Issue:

Workshop to Improve NMP	2
Update of NMP Coral Reefs	2
Earth Day Contest Winners	3
Swim Lane Project	3
Marine Park Regulations	3
Membership Form	4

Did you Know...

- Coral reefs first formed more than 500 million years ago!
- The Great Barrier Reef on NE coast of Australia is the largest coral reef in the world, measuring 2000km long!
- It is illegal to discharge or deposit any toxic or polluting substance into marine parks waters!

Production of this newsletter provided by the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ).



Unveiling of Katy Thacker plaque



Students depart on glass bottom boat



Students prepare to plant flowers



Students view displays from organizations



Students view items for competition

Earth Day 2005

On Friday, April 22nd Negril celebrated International Earth Day 2005. The Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society in collaboration with the Negril Area Environmental Protection Trust organized activities to commemorate this 10th Anniversary for Negril. Over 670 persons were present for the celebration. A total of 543 students from fifteen area schools participated in activities for this event themed, "Protecting Our Children's Health and Our Future."

The day commenced with Ms. Jean Brown, NCRPS director welcoming participants to Earth Day 2005 and further dedicating this year's celebration to Katy Thacker, the late founder of the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society and pioneer of Earth Day activities in Negril. This was followed by the unveiling of a plaque in Katy's memory.

The day's activities began with glass bottom boat tours to the coral reefs and tree & flower planting within the Norman Manley Beach Park and surrounding areas. Members of the Westmoreland Health Department also gave presentations on the importance of HIV/AIDS awareness. Exhibits from the Negril Chamber of Commerce, National Water Commission, Hanover 4H Club, Dolphin Head Trust, Swept Away Resort, Westmoreland AIDS Committee, NCRPS and NEPT displayed and distributed environmental information to students. Along with the day's celebration, there was a display of items submitted for Drum Painting, Mini Mascot, Poetry and Poster Competitions. An awards ceremony completed the day's activities where certificates of participation were presented to all schools and winners of the various competitions (winners on page 3). By the end of the day, it was clearly evident that this year's celebration of Earth Day was tremendously successful.

Negril's celebration of Earth Day 2005 was made possible with funding from the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), the National Environmental Societies Trust (NEST), and the Caribbean Regional Environmental Programme (CREP).

THANK YOU! NCRPS greatly appreciates Earth Day 2005 in-kind contributions from the following:

- CoCo la Palm
- Couples Swept Away
- Hedonism II
- Couples
- Charella Inn
- Mariner's Beach Club
- Negril Gardens
- Sweet Spice Restaurant
- Merrill's Beach Resort
- Moon Dance
- White Sands Hotel
- Juicy J's Restaurant
- Beaches Sandy Bay
- Burger King
- Sunset at the Palms Resort
- Club Hotel RIU
- Pirate's Cave
- Grand Lido, The Caves
- Margaritaville
- Alfred's Ocean Palace
- Idle Awhile
- Rondel Village
- Wild Thing Watersports
- Rayon Hotel
- Sandals Beaches
- Jamaica Tamboo
- Kuyaba
- Sun Divers
- Texaco
- Petcom
- Shell
- City Sports Ltd
- Hi-Lo Supermarket
- P&S Wholesale
- Valuemaster Supermarket
- Hi-Lo Basix
- D&Y Wholesale
- Superplus
- Talrich Enterprise
- Negril Hardware
- Samuels Hardware
- Bank of Nova Scotia
- National Commercial Bank
- Tents N Events: Douglas Arnold
- St. James Forestry Department
- Dawn/Children's Bread
- Clarke/Kuyaba
- El Salvador/Salvado
- Morgan/Sea Shells
- Veronica McIntosh/Niagara
- Rose
- Carlton Vickas/Tranquility
- Rondel Pusey/Dream Girl
- Michael Rhyne/Mike Glass
- Bottom
- Everton Reid/Wild Wild West
- Mrs. Linnette Williams, Mr. Philip Williams
- Mr. Levi Brown Arlene Pearce
- Clifton Robinson
- JUTA-Negril Chapter
- Caribic Vacations
- Jamaica Tours
- Emile Beck
- Eltado Watson
- Lenbert Williams
- Bertel Moore
- Negril Police Youth Club
- Venezuelan Army
- Jamaica Defense Force: Commander Ascanos
- Cevance Stephans
- Mr. Clive Pringle
- Lovette Stewart
- Negril Craft Traders Association
- T-Water: Mr. E. Williams
- Trevor Hart
- Gem of the West Youth Club
- Lazeme

Workshop to Improve Management of Negril Marine Park

The Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society (NCRPS) hosted two workshops on April 13 and 14 2005 to develop techniques to further improve the management of the Negril Marine Park. Workshop participants included representatives from fishing communities, water-sports industry, tourism, environmental and business groups as well as government, funding, planning and management agencies.

The first workshop on April 13 was done in association with the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI). This workshop facilitated by Tighe Geoghegan of CANARI, focused on how the Negril Marine Park can contribute to and sustain the livelihoods of people who live in the area and use the park. The workshop held on April 14 was done in association with the UWI Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES). This workshop facilitated by Dr. Patrick McConney of CERMES, focused on Social and Economic Monitoring (SocMon) for coastal management, and fisheries management planning for the Negril Marine Park. Participants of the workshops discussed how they believe the Negril Marine Park has positively and/or negatively affected their individual areas of business, and suggested beneficial ways in which the Park could become more sustainable for all entities involved, while remaining environmentally friendly.

Participants of the workshops guided the design of research that will be done in the area over the next few months. The information will then be used for making decisions about park use, especially relating to fisheries, tourism and coastal development. Educational material based on the Negril Marine Park will be developed from the projects and shared locally with stakeholders, nationally, regionally and internationally so that others can learn about the successes and challenges here at the Negril Marine Park. It is hoped that people from around the Caribbean and the World will learn from the experiences of Negril as they try to set up their own marine parks.



Tighe Geoghegan facilitates workshop



Dr. Patrick McConney facilitates workshop

Seminar on Nutrient Impacts on Negril's Coral Reefs



Dr. Brain Lapointe

From May 6-8, NCRPS scientific advisor, Dr. Brain Lapointe from the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute in Florida visited the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society. During his trip, Dr. Lapointe followed up on the condition of the reefs in order to reveal information on nutrient enrichment within the Negril Marine Park, based on data that he and NCRPS rangers have been collecting over the past seven years.

Dr. Lapointe's presentation of his findings was held Friday, May 6 at Swept Away in Negril. Representatives from various community, environmental, government organizations and the U.W.I were in attendance for this seminar. In it, he revealed from data collected in monitoring studies that the coral reefs of Negril have been degrading, specifically those along the West End. Data from a monitoring program established in 1998 revealed that 70 to 80 percent of these coral reefs are now completely covered with algae in some areas.

This can be seen by the extensive growth of *Codium spp.*, a plant which grows in the presence of sewage pollution. Extreme nutrient enrichment of the South Negril River, the base for this monitoring program, have proven to be caused by the sewage outfalls along the river. Dr. Lapointe concluded that the reefs along the West End are heavily influenced by these outfalls. Furthermore, he strongly recommended to the Negril stakeholders that immediate action be taken to correct this problem.

Also at this seminar, NCRPS director, Lenbert Williams gave a presentation on water hyacinths, a plant that utilizes and consequently removes nutrients in sewage treatment facilities. He discussed how these plants could be beneficial to the sewage problem in Negril, both economically and environmentally, and should be fully considered as an option to Negril's problem.

NCRPS staff and community members have and will continue to plan to resolve this environmental concern within the Negril Marine Park, as it effects not only the coral reefs but pose health issues to all who utilize this precious resource.

Earth Day Contest Winners

Mini Mascot Competition —1 Churchill Primary, 2 Negril All Age, 3 Sheffield All Age, 3 Cave Valley All Age

Drum Painting Competition — 1 Cacoon All Age, 2 Negril All Age, 3 Broughton Primary

Best Kept and Greenest School—1 Negril All Age, 2 Green Island Primary, 3 Sheffield All Age

Poetry Competition— Grand Prize, Collinea Guthrie, Cacoon All Age; [11-14] 1 Ronord Dixon, Negril All Age; 2 Erdley Breemer, Nathaniel Bennett, Little London Primary; [7-10] 1 Britney Williams, Sheffield All Age; 2 Sancene Crooks, Cacoon All Age

Poster Competition — Grand Prize, Travis Evans, Broughton Primary, [11-14] 1 Damion Lourie, Negril All Age; 2 Moya Rancharan, Little London Primary [7-10] Ricardo Maye, Whitehall Basic and Prep



Mini Mascot Competition Winner
Churchill Primary: Molly the Mascot

Swim Lane Project



NCRPS rangers prepare buoys

The Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society is currently implementing a project to reinstall swim and entry lane buoys within the Negril Marine Park. This project was lobbied by the Tourism Product Development Company (TPDCo) and funded by the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica and was deemed necessary as about 75% of these buoys were destroyed or disappeared as a result of Hurricane Ivan. The 1st phase of the project is hoped to be completed within the next 3 months due to the number of buoys in need of replacement and the amount of time necessary to install them.



Rangers connect buoys to anchors

The Long Bay segment of the swimmer's lane is composed of one hundred and fifty five white buoys with a red band around the diameter. The lane stretches in a line from Rutland Point to the South Negril River. Each buoy extends approximately 300ft out from the beach (slightly varying in areas where sand has been eroded) and spaced about 1500ft apart. The buoys marked with bright red upper halves identify the entry lanes for watercrafts to access the beach areas. Eleven such lanes are placed along the beach in Long Bay. Funds for this project will allow similar buoys to be placed in these areas where older buoys have been destroyed or blown away. The project will also allow the swim and entry lanes to be extended and added to Bloody Bay and the West End during the second phase.

In the past, both these lanes have helped to enhance safety between swimmers and motorized operators along Long Bay. It is hoped that this project will continue this positive relationship and also encourage environmental and safety issues along Bloody Bay and West End.

Marine Park Regulations

Under the NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION AUTHORITY ACT, the Marine Park Regulations Regulation 6.1., specifically states, a person shall not discharge or deposit in or on the waters of a marine park any refuse, oily liquids or wastes, acids or other deleterious chemicals or any toxic or polluting substances of any kind injurious to plant or animal life. If found liable, a person may be convicted before a Resident Magistrate to pay a fine or possibly face imprisonment.

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

Negril P.O. Box #2563
Westmoreland, Jamaica
West Indies

Phone: 876.957.3735
Fax: 876.957.4626
Email: coralreef@cwjamaica.com
Website: www.negrilcoralreef.org

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, \$1000 JA/\$50 US
- Family Membership, \$700 JA/\$35 US
- Full Individual Membership \$500 JA/\$15 US
- Student Membership, \$50 JA/\$5 US



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

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