



NEGRIL MARINE PARK NEWS

Volume 4, Issue 4

October-December 2007

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National Wood and Water Day

National Wood and Water Day is held annually in Jamaica on the first Saturday of October, this year falling on October 6. On Thursday the 4th, NCRPS along with the National Environment and Planning Agency held a "Watershed Awareness Workshop." The theme for the day was "A Sustainable Environment for a Better Future" and was held at the Negril Community Center.

The day commenced at 9:30am with Jean P. Brown, President of NCRPS, as the Master of Ceremonies. One of the first activities of the day was a tree planting of three poui trees on the grounds near the NCRPS headquarters, right off Norman Manley Boulevard. Barrington Taylor, one of the coordinators of the day gave opening remarks and greetings were made by Ms. Grace Lee of the Negril Chamber of Commerce, and Ms. Keisha Spencer of the Negril Area Environmental Protection Trust. Presentations were made by representatives of various organizations throughout Jamaica; guest speakers were: Mr. Edward Samuels of the Westmoreland division of the Rural Agricultural Development Authority, Mr. Lee Taylor of the Pesticides Control Authority, Ms. Brooke Anderson of the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society, Ms. H. Tate of the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management, Ms. Tanika Nelson of the National Solid Waste Management Authority, Mr. Rowan Stevens of the Westmoreland Health Department, Mr. Glenn Ivey of the Forestry Department, and Mr. Vivian Blake of the National Environment and Planning Agency.



Mr. Barrington Taylor of NEPA addresses the participants.



Students plant pouies around the Community Center.

Presentations were on a variety of different environmental topics, depending on the area of expertise of the presenter. Common themes were watershed protection, how to maintain a healthy self and surroundings, garbage management, farming techniques, biodiversity protection, etc. All emphasized the interconnectedness of the water cycle, land, nutrients, air, and how all of these affect people.

Approximately fifty-five persons participated in the day. A teacher and student came out from Mt. Airy All Age, Churchill Primary, Rhodes Hall High, Little London High, Broughton Primary, Sheffield All Age, Negril All Age, and Green Island Primary. There were multiple people from the various organizations that presented, the staff of both NCRPS, NEPT and the Planning Authority, Peace Corps volunteers, a representative from Sandals, fishermen from the communities of Green Island, Orange Bay, and Little Bay, farmers from the Santoy Farmers' Cooperative, as well as others.

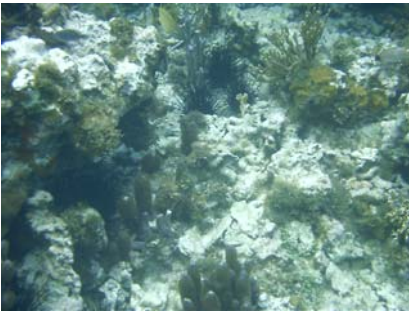
Lunch was provided to all participants, catering done by Sweet Spice. The day ended at 3pm with closing remarks and a vote of thanks delivered by Ms. Jean Brown. NCRPS would like to thank all those that came out for the event, and we look forward to repeating this type of educational seminars in the future.

Did you Know...

- Reefs are the basis for 10% of the world's diet.
- The world's largest reef is the Great Barrier Reef off Australia and can be seen from space!
- If the current rate of destruction continues, 70% of world's coral reefs will be destroyed by 2050.

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Reef Check International



An underwater reef scene.

Reef Check here in Negril was held on the weekend of October 20. Participants ranged from divers from the UWI dive club, to marine park rangers, to US Peace Corps volunteers. Sites where Reef Check was carried out were Ireland Pen, Bloody Bay, El Punto Negrilo, and Little Bay. These sites are revisited year after year, and we are then able to track changes to the reef. The primary things being looked for are fish, invertebrates, coral cover, and substrate type.

This is the 7th year that NCRPS has been conducting these surveys. Reef Check is an international effort to monitor the health of coral reefs worldwide. The data here has been collected by a combination of scientists, Negril Marine Park staff and recreational divers. The data collected will be analyzed by the Caribbean Coastal Data Center and UCLA.

Reef check focuses on three things: fish, invertebrates, and substrate. These have proven to be good indicators of overall reef health. Specific fish and invertebrates have been selected as those to be monitored based upon their relative importance and that they are easily identifiable. There are ten different substrate categories such as hard coral, nutrient indicator algae, or recently killed coral.

Sadly one of the things being consistently seen is the decline of the reefs worldwide, and especially relevant to here, the decline of the Negril reefs. There are many factors contributing to this, and most have signs that anyone can see when out snorkeling or scuba diving. Excessive algae growth indicates there is excess nutrient pollution; coral bleaching is caused by global warming; anchor damage; and many coral diseases such as black band disease are obvious.

Reef Check was begun in 1997, the International Year of the Reef. Since then it has become an annual event in many of the 101 countries around the world that have coral reefs. In it's 10 years, over 1,500 reefs have been monitored, by a combination of scientists, recreational divers, and locals such as fishermen who have a vested interest in the health of the reef. Reef Check can be an important educational tool, increasing awareness of the declining state of the reefs and fostering a better connection of people to the reefs on which they rely. 2008 has also been designated as the International Year of the Reef by the International Coral Reef Initiative and NCRPS hopes to bring about even more awareness about reef importance and ways to protect it.

NCRPS would like to thank the contributions of SunDivers, Ceylon Clayton, Merrill's, Fun Holiday, Shield's Negril Villas, Coco La Palm, and Rockhouse.

Earthbound: A Progressive Solution

We are always talking about the three main types of pollution: air, water, and land. In Jamaica, Styrofoam is a prime contributor to all three. You can see it along the roadways and clogging gullies, in the water, and it is all too often burned releasing poisons into the air. At NCRPS we have clean-ups along beaches, removing Styrofoam litter from the land and water and putting it in the garbage where it can be properly disposed of, but there is a company that is attacking the problem at its source. Earthbound is a progressive company with a product you're unlikely to see anywhere else.



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Lunch boxes (available in a variety of sizes) are made out of sugar cane baggass, and are 100% biodegradable. Also available are cutlery and straws made from wheat, these items are traditionally made out of plastic which is also harmful to the environment.



Some hotels and restaurants in Negril are already purchasing from Earthbound as an alternative to Styrofoam, and hopefully in the future even more will be. Contact Earthbound by phone at 905-9257 or 314-2290, or by e-mail at earthboundja@yahoo.com for a complete list of products offered and to start purchasing Earthbound products today!

Recycling is Back!

Dealing with solid waste is a big issue in Jamaica, especially because it is a small island state with limited space to put all the waste that is created. Recycling helps the environment in multiple ways. If you recycle you do not need to go back to the earth for raw materials, many of which are non-renewable, and you are decreasing the amount of garbage going into landfills that often takes centuries to biodegrade (break down).

The Negril Recycling Center is located in Whitehall, Negril (near the Scrub-a-Dub Car Wash). Hours are Monday-Friday 9am-5pm. The Center is now accepting all recyclable items– this includes plastics, paper, metal, and glass. While nothing is actually recycled on the property, the RC instead is more of a collection facility. Huge loads of these recyclable materials will be picked up and then shipped off to re recycled elsewhere. There are plans to expand the workings of the facility in the near future to include making sea glass tiles, homemade paper, as well as possibly creating a bottled water facility as an income generating project for the center.



Glass being crushed and prepared to be shipped off for recycling.

The six R's are: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink, Refuse, Repair. By following these we will all be able to reduce our "environmental footprint" and make the world a better place for all. Recycling is just one way you can help the planet, get involved even more!

New VISITOR CENTER and GIFT SHOP Coming Soon to the NMP Headquarters!

The NMP Headquarters is getting a new style. Starting in February, the space outside of the NCRPS offices will become the new Educational Visitor Center and Gift Shop. This is being funded by a grant from the Small Projects Assistance through USAID and the Peace Corps.



Important Dates!

January 13-19: Earthquake Awareness Week

February 2: World Wetlands Day

March 22: World Water Day

March 23: World Meteorological Day

Trip to Pedro Cays

The Pedro Cays are located off the southern coast of Jamaica, spanning from south of Kingston to south of Whitehouse. This is one of the most prominent areas for fishing within Jamaica and many fishermen live there for months at a time. NMP Rangers Daniel Scarlet, Vernon Somerville, Everton Frame, and Granville Johnson along with Brooke Anderson, and Kendra Daily, a student from UWI Barbados, all had the pleasure of visiting the cays on October 11 of this year. They were escorted to the small sand bar islands by the Jamaican Coast Guard.

The cays consist of four small, flat islands. They are especially important ecologically as seabird roosting sites, and also as sea turtle nesting grounds. It is one of the primary harvesting locations for conch, and many other fish and invertebrates of importance for this fishing industry are found in high numbers here.



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