RODENT CONTROL on Little Water Cay

The mandate of the Turks and Caicos National Trust encompasses the protection and preservation of habitat and species in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

For quite some time, the Trust had been receiving reports of illegal activities taking place in the Half Moon Bay area, and staff had encountered tour operators with their guests on the north shore of Little Water Cay infringing on the Rules and Regulations of the Protected Area.

The lighting of fires, feeding wildlife, harassing wildlife, littering, careless wandering through the habitat, have all taken place and to an extent still happening in the Half Moon Bay area.

These illegal, thoughtless actions and particular the feeding of wildlife (iguanas) and littering have given rise to another problem. That’s the proliferation of rats. The situation spiraled to the point where rats could be seen climbing trees during the day time while the wardens were conducting tours. The Trust, not being familiar with eradication of invasive alien species, brought the matter to the attention of its international partner, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

The RSPB was able to assist the Trust in providing training for staff through an Invasive Alien Species Eradication Workshop in May 2014 and later facilitated the study and production of the Operation Plan for control of black rats on Little Water Cay.

In November of 2015, Ms. Karen Varnham, Invasive Alien Species eradication specialist, visited Turks and Caicos for two weeks where she was able to guide the staff of TCNT through the implementation of the LWC Rodent Control Project. More than eighty (80) bait stations have been deployed on Little Water Cay and Half Moon Bay. These stations are monitored by the Little Water Cay Wardens. Post project monitoring activity is ongoing.

The Trust would like to enlist the cooperation of all tour operators and users of these two sites as we strive to protect the natural heritage of these Beautiful by Nature Islands.

Should you have any questions or would like to get involved in the project or assist the Trust in any way, please feel free to contact us on 649-941-5710 or email tcnattrust.director@gmail.com. 

Photo shows the warning poster placed on LWC regarding the project

WARNING

Rodenticide bait (rat poison) is in use on this island

As part of ongoing work to protect the critically endangered Turks & Caicos Rock iguanas, the Turks and Caicos National Trust are currently carrying out rat control work on this island. The rats, which are not native to the Caribbean, eat iguana eggs and hatchlings as well as many other native species.

The rat poison (Rokin™ mini-bait, containing the poison alpha-mono) is active inside locked plastic bait stations. If you see a bait station (pictures right) please do not touch it or allow any children in your party do so. If you do touch one, wash your hands thoroughly before eating or drinking.

Enjoy your visit and thank you for helping us keep this island special.

For further information please contact
Brijesh Gibb-Williams, Tel. +1(649) 731-6772
Thank You...

The National Trust would like to acknowledge the generous contribution from Rev. Courtney Missick of Kew, North Caicos in aiding the Wade’s Green Historic Programme, with a temporary solution to the problem experienced with the road, during the month of December, as a result of heavy rain and flooding. The Trust certainly appreciated the donation of quarry material.

Attention please...

We hope that the Ministry of Infrastructure, Housing and Planning would give some attention to this public access in the new financial year 2016-2017.

International Migratory Bird Festival 2015
(Celebrating Bird Migration in the TCI)

For two months, October and November, the Turks & Caicos Islands celebrated the importance of migratory birds. Under the theme, “Restore Habitat, Restore Birds”, several events were conducted with the primary objective of increasing the level of awareness on the importance of migratory birds in biodiversity.

The Turks & Caicos National Trust (TCNT) and Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs (DEMA) had partnered to conduct activities which involved students, the general public, bird enthusiasts and the media.

IMBD (International Migratory Bird Day) is coordinated throughout the Western Hemisphere by Environment for the Americas (EFTA). In the Caribbean, EFTA works with BirdsCaribbean and other organizations to promote awareness of migratory birds in this region. Locally, we call it International Migratory Bird Festival.

Among the activities during IMB Festival were:

- Bird exhibit at two locations on Providenciales: Town Centre Mall, sponsored by TCNT and National Environment Centre sponsored by DEMA. The exhibits featured students’ artwork, posters, photos, merchandise depicting birds, books, etc.

(continued on next page)
The exhibit ran from October 19th to November 30th, 2015

Bird watching and monitoring at Provo Golf Club, headed by Eric Salamanca from DEMA. Bird watching tours on Oct. 18th and Nov. 8th

School visits - There were lectures and short talks on the importance of migratory birds as well as the activities for the IMB Festival.

List of schools visited by Jonathan Sayao, TCNT and Amy Avenant, DEMA:

**Providenciales:**
- Ianthe Pratt Primary School
- Richmond Hill Preparatory School
- International School of the Turks & Caicos
- Provo Primary School
- MILLS Institute
- BEST Institute
- Wesley Methodist School
- Enid Capron Primary School
- Alpha Christian Academy
- Community Christian School
- Osetta Jolly Primary
- Holy Family School
- Provo Christian School

**North Caicos:**
- Charles Hubert James Primary School
- Adelaide Oemler Primary School
- Raymond Gardiner Primary School

Making bird feeders at Edward Gartland Youth Centre

Primary Schools Colouring Contest (ran from October 19th to November 19th)
Contest winners:
- Janear Forbes, Grade 6 - BEST Institute
- Trisha Duncan, Grade 6 - Ianthe Pratt Primary School
- Daquant Duncanson, Grade 6 - Richmond Hill Prep
- Brooke Rivers, International School of the Turks & Caicos

Mangroves Planting at Wheeland Pond on November 20th, 2015.

Through this exercise, students and the general public were encouraged of the great need to protect and conserve migratory birds that visit the country every now and then.

Before the mangroves planting, it was stressed to the communities that birds play an integral part in the ecosystem and humans should help in protecting their existence. While at the site, the students also did a field exercise on migratory bird identification.

Schools that participated were Osetta Jolly Primary School, BEST Institute, International School of the Turks & Caicos Islands and Provo Primary School.

(continued on next page...
Every year, the Turks & Caicos National Trust, and its partners, conduct an annual awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the protection of migratory birds and their habitats.

NORTH CAICOS Visit/ Nov. 30th, 2015

Visit with the District Commissioner proved beneficial to the Trust as the DC, Mrs. Cynclair Musgrove discussed with the Trust’s Education Outreach Manager plans to promote North Caicos and Wade’s Green Plantation in particular, and her intent to work closely with the National Trust. She was presented with a copy of the three volumes of Our Land, Our Sea, Our People educational resource material produced by the National Trust.

Presentations were also made at Adelaide Oemler Primary School (Mrs. Jane Williams) and Raymond Gardiner High School (Vice Principal, on behalf of Mrs. Janet Walkin) in Bottle Creek and Charles Hubert James Primary School (Ms. Commonceita Campbell) in Kew. All schools, including the Kew Library, received copies of the Our Land, Our Sea, Our People modules. Principals expressed thanks and were appreciative of the modules, recognizing it as a valuable resource reference for their teachers and students.

Earlier in the semester, education institutions in the nation’s capital Grand Turk received the said modules. They were HJ Robinson High, Elisa Simmons Primary and Ona Glinton Primary School.
New ticket prices for LWC South Shore Tours and Wade’s Green Tours

Effective December 1st, 2015 guided tour on the south shore at Little Water Cay increased by just $2.00 making the fee $10.00 per person. The extended trail to the North Shore is still $15.00 per person. The north shore, including Half Moon Bay will be monitored daily. Cash will not be accepted on the Cay for tours. Tour operators are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance.

Ticket price for Wade’s Green Plantation tour has also changed – from $8.00, it is now $10.00.

Tour fees at Conch Bar Caves and Cheshire Hall Plantation remain unchanged.

The Turks & Caicos National Trust continues to carry out the important mandate of safeguarding the heritage of the Turks and Caicos Islands through the protection of habitat and wildlife, preservation of traditional skills, conservation of natural resources and preservation of historic sites and public education. The Trust also develops, implements and wisely manages income generating programmes.

The Trust will not be publishing a rate for the Bird Rock Point Heritage Fields at this time. Meantime, tour operators are encouraged to experience the trail first hand. We welcome feedback.

TOURISM ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS MONTH

The Turks and Caicos Tourist Board along with other stakeholders, including the National Trust, joined together in celebrating Tourism Environmental Awareness Month under the theme, ‘Tourism is key, it starts with me’ throughout the whole of November.

Among topics on the agenda were the discussion of environmental impacts of increased tourism numbers and heightening the awareness of our culture and heritage aspects.

Guests and invitees to the National Tourism Symposium visited Cheshire Hall Plantation on Providenciales, as well as other notable tourist spots and historical places in the sister islands.

JOB AD

The Turks & Caicos National Trust is seeking applications for HERITAGE SITES OPERATIONS MANAGER.

The primary goal of this post is to ensure the conservation and cultural value of TCNT heritage sites is maintained and enhanced through: the effective day to day management and development of the Trust's site management team, ensuring the implementation of existing management plans and leading the development and implementation of new plans as appropriate.

Applicants must possess excellent communications and leadership skills and be able to work efficiently in a diverse team setting including supervision of tour guides/wardens and oversight of our heritage sites.

Other qualifications include: Bachelor’s Degree in social sciences, environment, development or related fields; Minimum three year experience in project management, preferably in a non-profit organisation or tourism related entity; Minimum two years of experience managing sites for natural and cultural importance.

Now accepting applicants.

Interested persons may contact the Turks & Caicos National Trust on (649) 941-5710, or e-mail tcnattrust.director@gmail.com.
VISIT OUR HERITAGE SITES

Tour Info:

CHESHIRE HALL PLANTATION:
Open Monday – Friday
Time of tours:
8:30 AM to 11:30 PM
2:00 PM to 4:30 PM
For appointment and inquiries:
Call (649) 941-5710
(649) 244-0000

LITTLE WATER CAY:
Open Sunday - Saturday
Time of tours:
9:00 am – 5:00 pm
For appointment and inquiries:
Call (649) 941-5710
(649) 244-5354

WADE’S GREEN PLANTATION:
Open Monday – Saturday
Time of tours:
9:30 am – 12:30 pm
2:30 pm – 4:30 pm
For appointment and inquiries:
Call (649) 941-5710

CONCH BAR CAVES TOUR:
Open Monday – Saturday
Time of tours:
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
For appointment and inquiries:
Call (649) 941-5710

For Group tours and special appointment,
Please call
(649) 231-1172

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:

- Education and Outreach Programme
- Historic Preservation Programme
- Office
- Gift Shop
- Fish Fry

Contact us at (649) 941-5710 or visit us at Town Centre Mall, Downtow, Providenciales.

You may also send an e-mail to: tcnattrust.director@gmail.com

BUY our beautiful hand crafted products!

We have straw hats and bags, fanner baskets, ceramic mugs, jugs, bowls, t-shirts, tote bags, and a lot more!

Plus... purchase tickets to our Heritage Sites and...

Sign-up to become a member of the National Trust

Purchase of any merchandise helps sustain the local craft industry and manage some of our country’s most stunning and vulnerable habitats, preserving our rich biodiversity for future generations.
Membership for the Quarter:
October to December 2015

Junior Members (New):
BEST Institute:
A'Janae Robinson
Stethaine Parker
Kirnae Rigby
Jada Amari Ingham
Naisha Charite
Janear Forbes
Mychael Rathschild Jarrett
Kamani Kenrick Gardiner
Devon Gardiner
Christ Valbrun

Charles Hubert James Primary (North Caicos):
Kazeta Williams Simmons
Esther Dirasier
Jobaney Ewing
Melrico Romel Phillips

Members (Renewal):
Nicquell Garland - Donor
Mike & Ann Pienkowski - Family (2 years)
Norma & Ernie Jackson - Family

Members (New):
Elizabeth Radford - Individual
Lyndon John - Individual