

# Nepsetter

Vol 1 No.4 September 2005

National Environment and Planning

## Pub-Ed Goes Back to School In September ...Children come learn about the environment campaign

### PUB-ED PRIMARY



Members of the PECC Branch in school uniform

In an effort to increase awareness about environment and planning matters in Jamaica and to realize some behaviour change with how they are treated, the Public Education and Corporate Communication Branch will embark on its "Back to School" Project, starting in September. Members of the Branch will go on what Manager Dr. Grace Turner is calling "an island-wide run" where more than 100 school visits are slated for the coming Christmas term. Teams of two 'Pub-Ed' officers will visit schools,

mostly during general assembly each week in designated zones. All schools in Jamaica will be visited over a five year period.

Dr. Turner outlined the strategy during a Branch meeting, in which she apprised her staff of the new approach which she said was due to budgetary shortfalls for the current financial year, coupled with the need to fulfill the Agency's mandate of "managing and protecting Jamaica's land, wood and water." According to Dr. Turner, "it is still business as usual." Adjustments will be made to the PECC's work programme and several of its officers are to be incorporated into Phase 1 of the project, which ends December 2005.

The PECC Branch is responsible for engaging a range of publics with whom NEPA interacts, in order to ensure public understanding of and buy-in to the roles, functions, programmes and policies of NEPA. The Branch also works to engender stewardship towards Jamaica's environment. As part of that mandate, the PECC Branch hosts stakeholder meetings; meets with citizens associations; community and other special interests groups and conducts seminars and press conferences. These are aimed at spreading the word about the need to handle our environment with care. These activities are geared towards making safe environmental practices and wise planning decisions, second nature while supplying information needed to facilitate dialogue between NEPA and its stakeholders. She said that, "the success of the "Back to School" Project will be evaluated in Decem-

ber for further application."

Among the "Back to School" initiatives is the schools' environment quiz that will also be launched in September. Schools will be grouped according to counties, Cornwall, Middlesex and Surrey. Students will be quizzed on environmental stewardship questions which will target the pre-primary, primary, secondary and tertiary levels. Schools which answer their questions correctly will earn the designation of being called a "NEPA Partner" and will earn certificate. There will also be an environmental song competition component where students may vie for champion of the zone trophies for each level. A total of twelve trophies will be awarded.

-Agostinho Pinnock

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# Editorial

**Foreword:** *This edition of NEPSETTER highlights educational initiatives across the Agency and gives updates and insights of various kinds on the topic.*

In a few days school resumes after the long, hot summer vacation. This time bring with it a lot of business and excitement. First time 'parents-in-school' are anxious. The more experienced are somewhat familiar with the routine. We here at **NEPSETTER** are equally excited by the promise that the new school year holds. We are going back to school! That's right; you read correctly! The Public Education and Corporate Communication (PECC) Branch, in an effort to 'spread the word' about planning and environment in Jamaica, will, in the words of Manager and our Editor-in-Chief Dr. Grace Turner, do an "island-wide run".

Under a revamped set of strategies which we have appropriately entitled the "**Children, Come Learn!**" Project, members of 'Pub-Ed' will visit at least two schools each week. We look at some of these plans in greater detail in our **Cover Story** appropriately entitled "**Pub Ed Goes Back to School in September**", which while the title is obviously a pun; the plans are more than just imagination at work.

The "**Come Learn**" Project shows the PECC Branch's keen awareness of and a

consequent willingness to rise up to embrace the challenges faced by the Agency as it forges ahead to expand awareness of Jamaica's sustainable development agenda which, *inter alia*, is premised on principles of inclusive partnerships; environmental justice and public education.

In acknowledging education as very important, which is crucial to uplifting any society and which also complements another very important activity – child rearing and caring, **NEPSETTER** recognizes its role in facilitating stewardship of the environment. We are convinced that in choosing this approach, NEPA is displaying a willingness to successfully tackle some of the challenges inherent in Jamaica's education system.

Due to a lack of sufficient funding and resources, schools and other groups consistently make requests for technical experts with environmental and other knowledge to supplement information in their syllabi. Pub Ed invites other members of the Agency to join us with the "**Come Learn**" Project in ensuring that it meets its targets?

We are confident then that as a result of this new thrust environmental education will make the ever so necessary difference to national life. **NEPSETTER** is at once, therefore, grateful and appreciative of the

constant demand from our external audiences for presentations of the kind off of which the "**Come Learn**" project is modeled. which tells us that our offerings are being recognized.

As a nation we cannot ignore the imperatives of our environment; if we do so, it is done at the peril of sustainable development, and this will ultimately result in continued environmental degradation. As a tribute to the success of some of the Branch's initiatives, we also print comments of appreciation for similar initiatives in the past, in our newly introduced "**Feed Back**" column.

Our **Pictorial** is a snapshot review of the recently concluded Denbigh Agricultural Show in May Pen, Clarendon, which is also part of the educational outreach of NEPA. You will notice too, that in this edition, we have included new features such as "**Computer Talk**", which allows us to expand the range of topics we cover as well as to reach different audiences. We ask that you bear with us in the coming months as we continue to improve our products to your liking.

Please enjoy, and do not hesitate to contact us with your comments, suggestions and observations for improvement whether by telephone at: 754-7540 ext. 2434 or email at: [apinnock@nepa.gov.jm](mailto:apinnock@nepa.gov.jm) Pleasant reading!

## NEPA Comes Under Access to Information Act...

*...Four Applications Successfully Completed to date!*

**N**EPA officially came under the Access to Information Act or ATI on July 1, 2005. The Access to Information Act which was passed in June, 2002 gives citizens and other persons a general legal right of access to official government documents which would otherwise be inaccessible. Under the ATI, persons **do not** have to give reasons as to why they wish to gain access to such documents.

Documents that might have been unavailable to the public in the past are now in the public domain. The public has the right to request reproduction in a variety of forms or simply to view these documents, which fall within two main groups.

There are exempt documents and non-exempt documents. The non-exempt documents are made available to clients as a matter of course. The exempt documents are governed very specifically by the ATI. A sub-group of exempt documents is that which is partially exempt. This means that the document will not be made available in its entirety, but in selected portions.

Persons can request documents by any of the following methods:

- written requests;
- completing an application form;
- via telephone; via mail or by sending in a fax.

All applicants need to complete an application form for each request.

Requests must be dealt with within 30 days after they have been received by the agency in question. This means that all staff members have to be mindful of this time frame.

To date four applications have come under the ATI and all were addressed within the 30 day time frame. Members of the Registry, Legal and Applications branches, as well as the Laboratory and Public

Education and Corporate Communication Branch are to be thanked for promptly expediting these requests.

### ATI COUNTER

Client/Applicant	Date Made	Completion Date	Topic	Status
Gladys Campbell	June 28, 2005	August 1, 2005	Terminal Bay, Old Harbour	COMPLETED
Jamaicans for Justice	June 17, 2005	August 1, 2005	Water Quality Tests Kingston Harbour	COMPLETED
JET	July 4, 2005	August 4, 2005	NRCA Minutes	COMPLETED
JET	June 28, 2005	August 1, 2005	RIU et al	COMPLETED



# HR Update

As is customary, staff news is replete with the activities and achievements of those who make up the structures and networks of the Agency. From the quiet achievers who make strides of one kind or another, to, sadly, those who have lost a loved one, there is never a dull moment in HR. Below we track the movement of the staff in their varied capacities. Have a read; yours might be the name you come across.

## Appointments

Congratulations to Novlette Douglas, who was recently appointed as Programme Manager of the Environment Action Programme (ENACT).

In August, we also welcomed 'new blood' into the Agency. Congratulations to: Kurt Noble – (Applications Processing Branch); Natalie Fearon (Public Education & Corporate Communication Branch) and Leonard Hylton (Pollution Monitoring & Assessment Branch) on their recent appointments. Best of luck in your endeavours!

## National Youth Service (NYS)

Members of the National Youth Service (NYS) have come onboard in the interest of professional development. As always, you are urged to offer guidance when and where possible as these smart, young and talented professionals-in-training take their place in the Agency. Their names are listed below:

1. Sharee Greenland
2. Samuel Rowe
3. Letitia Bartley
4. Ian Thomas
5. Sheena Reid
6. Tahaya Phillips
7. Gareyene Williams
8. Suelyn Pilliner

## JAMVAT

We are also happy to report that NEPA is collaborating with the Jamaica Values & Attitudes Programme (JAMVAT). Two participants have joined us. They are: Nadia Wilson and Natalie McPherson. They are stationed in Applications Processing and HR Branches, respectively.

## Training

Bernard Blue participated in the International Seminar on Protected Areas Management, at the University of Montana, from August 3 to 20, 2005, and;

Ricardo Miller attended the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Society for the Conservation & Study of Caribbean Birds in Guadeloupe from July 31 to August 6, 2005.

## Public Sector Summer Training Programme

### Participants were:

1. Joy Nelson
2. Stacy-Ann Reid
3. Hillary Seaton
4. Novalee Moffat
5. Sophia Gayle
6. Telesia Fearon
7. Sheryl Muirhead
8. Kevin Atkinson

## Memoriams

Life, in its range of mysteries, is a subject which has awed some of mankind's greatest thinkers, writers and artists since the dawn of time. **NEPSETTER** can only reflect with those, who like these thinkers have wondered about those "gone too soon" Sadly, our colleagues Sonia Haynes and Elaine Kelly both lost their mothers, recently, and Clarence Parkes lost his father. Our prayers and thoughts are with you in this difficult time.

## Resignation

Dwight McKoy, formerly of the Pollution Monitoring & Assessment Branch has resigned. Godspeed and best wishes in your new endeavours!

## Achievements

We are delighted to report that Michelle Johnson, Senior Secretary in the Facilities Management & Operations Management Branch successfully completed her Certificate of Accounting (CAT) examination in the December 2004. Good work, Michelle!

And finally, Jeffery Carlyle and Sean Green, as well as our former colleague Krishna Desai recently won national awards and commendations in the annual Jamaica Cultural Development Commission's photography competition. In true Jamaican style we say "BIG UP" to you all.



Here is one of Mr. Carlyle's pictures which won gold.

## ATTENTION ALL

"There will be a General Staff Meeting on Thursday, September 15, 2005 starting at 1:30pm. Venue to be confirmed.

One of the items for discussion will be the results of the **Employee Opinion Survey** and the recommendations that were made by staff, the management team and the Focus Groups.

Members of staff are being asked to send in specific issues that they would like to be added to the Agenda by Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Directors and Managers are reminded to ensure that their out of town staff are advised of this meeting as we would like their full participation

# Three Days of Denbigh...

*Agricultural Show Hailed a Success!*

The three day agricultural expo, organized by the Jamaica Agricultural Society (JAS), came to an end on Emancipation Day, Sunday, August 1 at the Denbigh Showground in May Pen, Clarendon. Hailed as a success, the event which was held this year under the theme: "Grow What We Eat and Eat What We Grow", saw thousands of Jamaicans participating in the fair.

Dr. Grace Turner, Manager of the Public Education and Corporate Communication Branch of NEPA described the event as "ideal for the type of educational thrust needed, at this time, to fast-forward NEPA's environment and planning agenda." She spoke about the continued need to showcase the Agency in a positive

light and had high praises for those responsible for the set-up as well as the manning of NEPA's booth.

Denbigh is an annual agricultural show which showcases the work of farmers and others in the agricultural industry in Jamaica. Since its inception in 1952, many Jamaicans have viewed the first weekend in August as

synonymous with Denbigh. High quality agricultural produce and craft items among a range of other items are usually available for purchase. NEPSETTER takes you back to the sights and scenes of Denbigh 2005. See whether you can identify any of the people in the pictures.



Biodiversity mural in the main booth

## Staff working at Denbigh



An animated discussion



Fixing breakfast



The Garden Theatre



Turtles in the "Woodie" pond



The Enforcement section



The Watershed section

Grace Turner, Tannisha Scarlett, Phillippa Mills, Sheryl Muirhead, Kay-Ann Miller, Agostinho Pincock, Lancelot McCalla, Everol Anderson, Onyije Chigozili, Jennifer Rankine and Nadine Flowers

would like to extend a special thank you to the following persons for their time and effort as they joined us in making Denbigh 2005 a successful event:

- Special Thanks to:**
- Kojo Dawes
  - Magnus Young
  - Patrick Henry
  - Heckford Thompson
  - Hopton DaCasta
  - Austin Bailey
  - Carlington Brown
  - Charlton Lindo
  - Phillip Seaton
  - Vivian Blake
  - Sharon Davis-Thomas
  - Faith Walker
  - Noreen Chambers
  - Yvette Strong
  - Rayon Gayle
  - Marjorie Brown
  - Marva Smith-Moodie
  - Andrew Richards
  - Keith Jones
  - Carole Miles
  - Anna Miles

- Catherine Miles
- Keith Jones
- Telesia Fearon
- Canute Tyndale
- Michelle Ogilvie
- Joseph McCarthy
- Michael Myles
- Kapleton Hall
- Hilory Seaton
- Stacy Swaby
- Sophia Gayle
- Angella Norman
- Shawn Demitrius
- Monica Bennet
- Rochelle Afflick
- Yola Anglin
- Audrey Cameron
- David Reid
- Peter Wilson-Kelly

Zoo Keepers "Patrick" Hyllon Nickoy Grant

And last but not least Valoris Smith and her cooperative team (Finance & Accounts).

*If you participated in any form or manner and your name was not included, we sincerely apologize.*

# Scenes from the Pickney Corner



## Time Out...



*Just cooling out under the tree*



*Pose fi mi nuh?!*



*The Devil' Spawn?*



*Mr. GQ?*



*Sleeping on the job?*

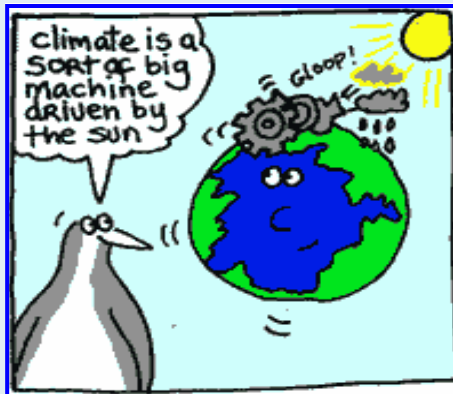
# Climate or Temperature Change...

...*What's Behind this Heat?*



This summer, like every other before it, is hot!

But do you have the feeling it's a little toastier than usual? If so, you are not alone. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) based in the United States, "during June, there were above average temperatures over much of the eastern half of the U.S., Alaska, Canada, southern Brazil, Western Europe, eastern Australia, southeastern Asia, India, Siberia and Japan". Some countries have even experienced triple digit temperatures since May and there have been a number of heat related deaths, in some places,



though the Ministry of Health advises that there are no reported cases here in Jamaica.

Scientists and observers worldwide have noted significant increases in temperatures over the last one hundred and fifty years. They estimate that the "mean global" temperature, which is the average of all temperature changes throughout the world has increased by 0.5 to 1.0

degree Fahrenheit (0.3 to 0.6 degree Celsius) in the last century. In 1998, it was so hot that it is now noted as the warmest year on record with 2001 taking second place. However, recent preliminary data from the NOAA suggests that 2005 could take second place as the warmest year on record.

Though it seems to be getting hotter everywhere, in reality temperature changes have not been consistent across the globe. While some places have warmed, others have cooled. Colder than average temperatures were recorded in the North-western United States, western Australia, southern Argentina and parts of Mexico. Climate change and by extension changes in temperature is not an anomaly, but is in fact a natural occurrence, it is however significant variations in temperature over relatively short periods which have in recent times given cause for concern and comment.

With that said; the question remains; what accounts for climate changes? Climatologists have found evidence suggesting that there are a limited number of factors contributing to recent changes in climate and temperature around the globe.

The main factor is: Atmospheric carbon dioxide variations. Studies of long term climate change have discovered a connection between the mean global temperature and the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. The removal of forest cover increases this effect. Carbon dioxide, one of the more important gases responsible for the Greenhouse Effect and makes the planet hotter when forests are cut down. According to the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), Jamaica has one of the highest rates of deforestation in the world. Carbon dioxide emitted from natural gas and oil; coal burning, vehicles and industries stays in the atmosphere and pushes up temperatures.

The important question now is - how

might we slow this process? What role can you play



## What can you do?

Here are some tips:

Try to limit practices which contribute to carbon dioxide emissions

- Reduce use of Chloroflourocarbons, which are found mainly in refrigerants. These not only contribute to global warming but also cause depletion of the ozone layer
- Conserve electricity generated by oil
- Do not cut down and burn trees in declared forest reserves, without a permit. If you must, please replant a seedling and,
- Car pool when and where you can. Use solar energy

Climate and temperate changes have a direct impact on the severity and increasing number of hurricanes and droughts in the Caribbean. The heat may seem to be only an annoyance but it in fact points to significant environmental changes. Jamaicans must begin to recognize that we too contribute to factors which negatively affect the environment and must examine and participate in activities which will favourably impact our land, water and the air we breathe.

Remember, we all have a vested interest in protecting Jamaica and planet earth!

- Natalie Fearon

Source of pictures:  
[uk.oneworld.net/.../global\\_warming/effect8](http://uk.oneworld.net/.../global_warming/effect8)

# FEEDBACK

**Foreword:** In this newly introduced segment, we feature some of the comments we have received about our work at NEPA or about articles seen in previous editions of **NEPSETTER**.

If there is one thing that rarely ever makes news, as we can all attest, is 'good news'. Too often we hear that only the 'bad stuff' gets reported. In an effort to offer balance **NEPSETTER** publishes some of the comments we received from schools, community groups and others with whom we have worked in the past.

We invite you to send us your views also. Please bear in mind, however, that we reserve the right to edit for space and content, though no opinion will be altered. Write to: [apinnock@nepa.gov.jm](mailto:apinnock@nepa.gov.jm) with the caption "FEEDBACK!" Not all responses can be published though all will be considered.

Happy reading!

On behalf of the Institute of Jamaica's Junior Centre we wish to express our sincere gratitude to the National Environment and Planning Agency...The presentation was quite beneficial and certainly contributed to the success of our Workshop...We look forward to benefiting from the expertise in your organization in the future..." -

- Lisa Henlin,  
Institute of Jamaica.

"...the St. Catherine 4-H Clubs...express our sincere thanks to you and your organization...The day was successful...This would not have been possible without your valuable and much appreciated support...We look forward to your continued support..."

- Collin Woodham,  
St. Catherine 4-H Clubs.

The Jamaica Red Cross...wishes at this time to thank you and organization for taking part in our annual disaster conference...Your presentation was readily and gladly received by all those who attended...As a result the event was successful...Thank you!" -

- Donna Thomas,  
Jamaica Red Cross,  
St. Catherine Branch.

"The Caribbean Coastal Area Management (C-CAM) Foundation wishes to thank the NRCA...The information on display...was very informative...Again accept our thanks for your assistance."

- Peter Espeut, Caribbean Coastal Area Management (C-CAM).

## Beat the Heat...Save Money and Car-Pool!



September is here. Soon we will be spending more on gas; there will be longer lines of traffic; the heat; horns blaring; people cursing; reckless drivers; car fumes creating respiratory problems and we are late for work *again!*

Car-pooling can rectify many of these problems. It reduces traffic congestion; less time is spent on the road and, of course, it is easier to find parking spaces, as there are fewer

cars on the roads, as a result. Less is also spent on gasoline and on repairs to our vehicles. There is less stress and less emissions, one of the chief sources of air pollution.

For many Jamaicans, however, car-pooling is not considered a choice, but with the double jeopardies of traffic congestion and astronomical gas prices it is something well worth considering.

Find alternative ways to carpool which are more suitable to your life styles. If your neighbours and friends' children attend the same school or are going in the same direction take turns driving each other to work and

school. Arrange drop-offs and pick-ups. This reduces the number of persons going out at the same time in the morning and also reduces lunchtime and mid-afternoon traffic Stress levels will be lower.

Just the thought of sleeping in a little later or enjoying that wonderful "info sharing" over a sumptuous fare at lunchtime is quite blissful and stress free compared to the alternative!

If you are considering car-pooling here are a few tips:

1. Determine your route and schedule ahead of time;
2. Establish pickup points;
3. Draw up a schedule for

4. driving responsibilities; Decide amongst yourselves if you want to alternate on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis;
5. Reestablish a method of reimbursing driving expenses. If all members of your car-pool do not share the driving equally come to an understanding of how the costs will be shared and agree on payment dates;
6. Be punctual. Decide how long a driver is expected to wait;
7. Establish policies. Smoking or non-smoking; music and volume; etc;
8. Make car-pooling serve one purpose. If it is commuting to and from work do not

let it become a shopping or errand service;

9. Establish a chain of communication. If a driver is ill, or will not be going to work one day an alternative driver should be notified to ensure that all members of the car pool will have a ride. If a member is ill or will not be working, the driver must be contacted as soon as possible;
10. Keep the vehicle in good repair, clean and drive carefully;
11. Respect your fellow car-poolers' wishes and good luck!

- Kay-Ann Miller

# News Briefs:

## Human Trafficking

One of a set of posters aimed at sensitizing Jamaicans on human trafficking was handed over to Prime Minister PJ Patterson, by NEPA's Dr. Grace Turner, at the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) on Wednesday, August 10. Mr. Patterson, in receiving the poster, said that "Jamaicans love their children". He was speaking against the background of a damning US State Department June report on human trafficking, which charged that Jamaica was not doing enough to stem the problem. The Prime Minister, said the report was a wake up call for Jamaicans to act. Three posters and a bumper sticker explaining what to do in the event human trafficking activities are detected by citizens; were produced by the PECC Branch, as part of the Government Communication Group (GCG) Initiative.

## Conference on the Built Environment

The built environment took centre stage when planning and building professionals from the Caribbean, Europe, America and Australia met at the Jamaica Conference Centre, on Wednesday, August 3. The occasion was the University of Technology's first three-day conference entitled "Built Environment Issues in Small Island States". Topics included but were not limited to: the need for public accessibility to information, online services and decision making tools; the need to generate/ increase political support for disaster preparedness; proper planning regulations and adherence to development plans and the use of technology to facilitate integrated planning and scenario plan. The seminar was hailed as a success. The PECC Branch designed and produced the banner for the conference.

## Regional Conference on Education for Sustainable Development:

Come October 18-20, 2005, the Joint Board of Teacher Education (JBTE), in collaboration with the UWI, the Institute of Education, UNESCO, UNEP and the National Environmental Education Committee

(NEEC) will host the Regional Conference on Education for Sustainable Development. Under the theme "New Approaches for the Future", the conference aims at providing a forum to discuss education for sustainable development (ESD); facilitating the exchange of information and experiences and foster dialogue among education professionals. Target groups include the formal and non-formal education sectors, including early childhood teacher and trainers across the Caribbean. Presentations, discussions, work sessions and times of informal interaction will follow the opening ceremony and reception. The conference will also serve as the launch of the United Nations (UN) Decade on Education for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean.

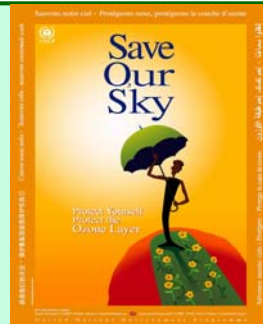
## Gully Project

A Pilot Project for the Sandy Gully Area; aimed at educating persons who live and work along the gully course about the benefits of proper disposal of liquid and solid waste is to be launched soon. No date however, has been set for the project which was initiated in December, 2004. According to Onyije Chigozili, Community Animator at NEPA, several discussions have been held with the partners and two Observation Walks completed between Papine and Liguanea. Plans are also afoot to expand the project island-wide once the pilot is started.

With behaviour change as its main focus, partners include: NEPA; National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA); Social Development Commission (SDC); Kingston & St. Andrew Corporation (KSAC); Local Animators who will be trained by NEPA; National Works Agency (NWA); Ministry of Health (MOH) and the National Water Commission (NWC). Others may be included later. The project is the brainchild of Dr. Turner whose pet peeve is the condition and effects of the gullies across the island.

## September 16 is International Ozone Day 2005

International Ozone Day will be celebrated on Friday, September 16 2005. Plans are currently in high gear to mark this year's celebrations with a week of activities. These include:



- the publication of a feature in the Gleaner on September 16, 2005
- The staging of an exhibition
- visits to schools between September 12 and 16
- Radio and television interviews

An official roll-out of the project activities will be announced, shortly. Keep watching this column and the Press for details!

## September 17 is International Coastal Clean Up Day



The twentieth anniversary of International Coastal Clean Up Day (ICCD) will be celebrated on Saturday, September 17, globally. Local plans include:

### Clean Up of two sites:

- The waterway of the Rio Grande Watershed
- Continuity the Halfmoon Bay of Hellshire Beach
- Underwater clean up being considered for Hellshire as well
- Refreshments will be provided for volunteers, who will also include representatives from sister ministries and agencies
- Transportation will be provided to Hellshire if requested
- Cleaning tools and implements will also be available, as well as, a garbage truck for disposal of refuse collected.



## Bird Shooting Season UPDATE!!

An abbreviated and delayed version of the Bird Hunting Season was declared by the Minister of Land and Environment (MLE). The Season, which was declared on August 19, runs from August 27 to September 3. Based on a survey of the bird population, NEPA's science officers determined that birds began nesting

later than normal due to the ravages of Hurricane Ivan, forest fires earlier in the year as well as the recent drought.

NEPA invited bird hunters to discuss the proposed changes to the regulations to allow juveniles and foreign



Richard Nelson, Coordinator Biodiversity Branch at NEPA holds the attention of from left to right, Errol Ziadie, Chairman of the Game Bird Sub-Committee; Roger Williams, Manager of the Enforcement Branch and Hopeton Heron, Acting Chief Executive Officer of NEPA at the National Environment and Planning Agency's Hunters Forum, which was held at the Knutsford Court Hotel in Kingston, on August 8.

nationals to participate in the hunting season; increases in the licence fees and the pending 2005 season.

Hunters expressed their concerns that a season had still not been declared. Based on a NEPA survey of the bird population, questions about the sea-

son are still being reviewed up until the time of the season.



In preparation for the upcoming bird-shooting season members of NEPA's enforcement teams are brought up-to-date on existing procedures and proposed changes to the Wild Life Protection Act, at an Enforcement Workshop held July 21 at the Medallion Hall Hotel, in Kingston. Teams include Wild Life Wardens, NEPA officers and members of the Island Special Constabulary Force (ISCF).

## Biodiversity - Jamaica, a Hotspot for Medicinal Products

Jamaica ranks fifth worldwide for the number of endemic organisms, plants and animals found here, which means these exist nowhere else in the world.

There are: 822 endemic species of flowering plants; and more than 730 indigenous species of animals; these include 505 species of land snails, 22 frogs, 30 endemic land birds and one sea bird. There are also 20 species of butterflies, 6 species of fish, 9 crabs and 33 reptile species in Jamaica.

This vast majority of living organisms means that Jamaica has tremendous potential as a producer of herbal remedies and other medicinal products.

Jamaica is one of the primary producers of all spice which is also grown in parts of Central America and the Caribbean. Cultivated mainly for its dried unripe berries, it is also used medicinally and as a spice mainly in pickles and relishes. The leaves and berries produce oil that is used for flavouring and in liqueurs; aftershave and as an ointment for pain and as a mouthwash.



The Noni Juice is known to be one of the richest sources of proaxeronine available.

Jamaica is also a prime producer of ginger and has the reputation for producing the "world's best ginger". Researchers have been working to validate claims that ginger is useful in the treatment of nausea and vomiting, preventing coronary artery disease and in the healing and prevention of both arthritic conditions and stomach ulcers. Ginger has been proven to be effective against tumor growth, rheumatism and migraine headaches and is active as an antioxidant in the body. It is used by some to treat menstrual cramps and

diarrhea.

The annatto is used in Jamaica and across the world as food colouring. However, it also used to cure skin problems. In April this year, St. Mary native Leonard Lewis announced that he had developed a skin care lotion from the annatto plant. Lewis, who now lives in the United States, applied to the Ministry of Health for permission to distribute the lotion which he first introduced as a cure for sores. He calls the potion Cumsee Ointment, named for the small St. Mary district he once called home

The Cumsee Ointment has proven itself and has a growing reputation for curing hard-to-cure ulcers and sores. At least one St. Ann-based doctor has given his seal of approval. According to a recent *Observer* report, District Medical Officer for St Ann, Dr Arthur Green, has used the product to treat two of his patients.

- Zadio Neufville

# Down to Earth and Brief Facts Launched... *...NEPA Gets Increased Air Time!*

**N**EPA will be front and centre in the next couple of weeks, at least as far as being on radio goes. **Down to Earth**, the radio drama series, began broadcasting on four radio stations, nationally, on August 4. The stations include: KLAS Sports Radio, RJR 94FM, LOVE 101FM and HOT 102FM.



*Some of the faces behind the voices of the "Down to Earth" radio broadcast.*

Service Announcements (PSAs) have also been developed by the Agency and will be rotated in several programmes on national radio, over the course of the next five weeks to three months. The series, popularly referred to as "Brief Facts", look at a range of issues related to the Agency's mandate and which will help the public understand better NEPA's programmes and policies. The Brief Facts series are also available, internally, online at:

<http://nepaweb.nepa.gov.jm/media>.

A similar procedure applies as in the case of the radio drama for external listeners.

### Broadcast Schedule

Be sure to listen to **Down to Earth** and tell us what you think. You may also listen online at our website. Below is a listing of the stations and broadcast times for **Down to Earth**.

### Stations/Date and Time:

#### **HOT 102FM**

Wednesday - 12:20 p.m.  
 (During Disclosure with John Maxwell)

#### **RJR 94FM**

Thursday - 8:55 p.m.  
 (After Good Parenting)

#### **KLAS Sports Radio**

Friday - 11:35 a.m.

#### **LOVE 101FM**

Saturday - 7:55 a.m.

Those who missed the airing of the episodes of **Down to Earth**, on radio, you can listen **online**, internally, by clicking on the following link below:

<http://nepaweb.nepa.gov.jm/media>.

If you are listening outside of NEPA, click on either of the following links:

<http://www.nrca.org/media>, or  
<http://www.nepa.gov.jm/media>.

### Brief Facts Series

Meantwhile, a set of eleven Public

**"Be sure to listen out for our Brief Facts Series on POWER 106FM; MUSIC 99FM; RJR 94FM and HOT 102FM. Other stations will come on stream, shortly!"**

Feedback for **Down To Earth** has been mostly positive. Listeners shave begun sending in responses to the questions asked in episodes aired so far. To date, **Down to Earth** has discussed issues related the following:

- Forest Fires
- Proper Watershed Managment
- Crocodile Season
- Kingston Harbour
- Birdshooting

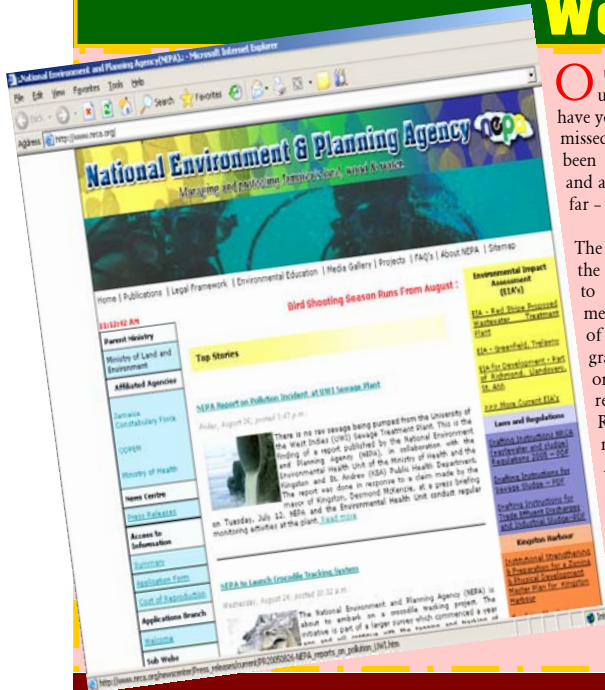
Write and tell us which ones you have heard and make suggestions for other scripts.

### Audience Count for Radio Stations airing "Down to Earth"

Stations	Day	Time	Audience Count	Source
RJR 94FM	Thursday	8:55PM	700,000	All Media Survey
KLAS FM 89	Friday	11:35AM	558,000	Omnibus Survey
LOVE 101FM	Saturday	7:55AM	120,000	All Media Survey
HOT 102FM	Wednesday	12:20PM	400,000	All Media Survey

*Note: KLAS is the only station of the four that has not used the **All Media Survey** to track their performance. They advise that they chose to use the survey commissioned by them in lieu of the All Media Survey after questions arose on the reliability of the data.*

## Website Update!



Our website has been undergoing changes; have you noticed? Well, if you missed it, the front page has been significantly improved and according to feedback so far – “much much better!”

The overall appearance of the site has been changed to include drop down menus, a hit counter, a tip of the day and photographs have been placed on the preview page in relation to current Press Releases or any other news item. A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) will be activated shortly as well as a Photo Gallery.

Here are some excerpts of comments we have received to date:

–“The web page looks plain and not appealing, it doesn’t pull out ones curiosity, by the way where is the information on planning, everything speaks to environments and application where is planning.” – Khalice Bradshaw, Planning Branch

–“Much Better!!!! Looks more attractive and in line with other similar home pages” – Kevin Atkinson, Applications Branch

–“This is a vast improvement on the previous homepage. I think it looks very professional and it is easy to navigate Good Job!!” – Ker-rine Senior, Enforcement Branch

– “Good job on the front page; I particularly like the top banner.” – Ainsley Henry, Integrated Watersheds and Coastal Zone Management Branch

–“This is a much improved web site and I for one am impressed at the changes. It’s far more professional. There are a couple questions/comments/suggestions People always want to know NEPA’s structure and what we

do. Maybe a breakdown on the organization and the role of each branch would be in order.

- Can we tie into the web pages of some of the NGO partners with whom we work? ...Can we put in a photo gallery? ...Congrats and good luck!!” - Roger Williams, Enforcement Branch. The Pub Ed Branch urges all Divisions and Branches to take ownership of their respective sections by updating the information, sending relevant information monitoring related trends and communicating these to the Webmaster

Be sure to look out for our “Pickney Ting” website. More details later! The PECC Branch wishes to urge and remind Division and Branches to take ownership of the individual areas by updating and monitoring the relevant information and relating trends and communicating these to these to the Webmaster.

## Computer Talk... Windows XP Tips

### Only a Single Click Away

If you click Start, hold down the mouse button, and drag the pointer to the programme you want to run, that programme will launch as soon as you release the mouse button. It does not matter how deep you have to go to locate your programme. All you have to do is keep the mouse button down until you reach your programme.

### Shortcuts

Ctrl + Esc displays the start menu  
Ctrl + F4 closes a window  
Alt + Tab will switch you between applications/programmes  
Ctrl + P prints current document

Ctrl + S saves current document

### Quickly creating a shortcut to a web site.

To quickly create a shortcut to a web site on your Desktop, simply right-click the URL and click Copy Shortcut while browsing. Switch to your Desktop, position your mouse where you want the shortcut to appear, right-click your mouse and click Paste Shortcut. The new shortcut will immediately appear!

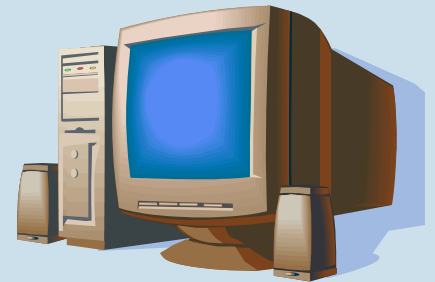
### Creating a background picture for a folder.

To create a background picture for a folder:  
Open the folder;  
Open the View menu;  
Click Customize This Folder;

Select “Choose a Background Picture.”

Click Next and simply follow on-screen instructions

**NB** Choose thumbnail view to see what you have created.



## From the Doc Centre

### Recent additions to the Doc Centre collection include:

Hospital Waste Audit Manual: first steps toward waste reduction, reuse, recovery and recycling. Environment Canada, 1993 [22126](#)

Reefs at Risk in the Caribbean – Laurretta Burke, 2004

A Proposed Institutional Framework for Environmental Education for Sustainable Development in Jamaica – NEEC, 2004 [27230 Ja/Pam](#)

The Challenge of Building Capacity for Participatory Natural Resource Management: the case of Jamaica’s National system of Protected Areas – CANARI, 2004 [12769 Ja/Pam](#)

National Environment and Planning Agency, Annual Report 2004/2005

Wetlands Mitigation Banking – Cowell L. Lyn, 2002

Hellshire Hills Management Plan (Draft), 2002

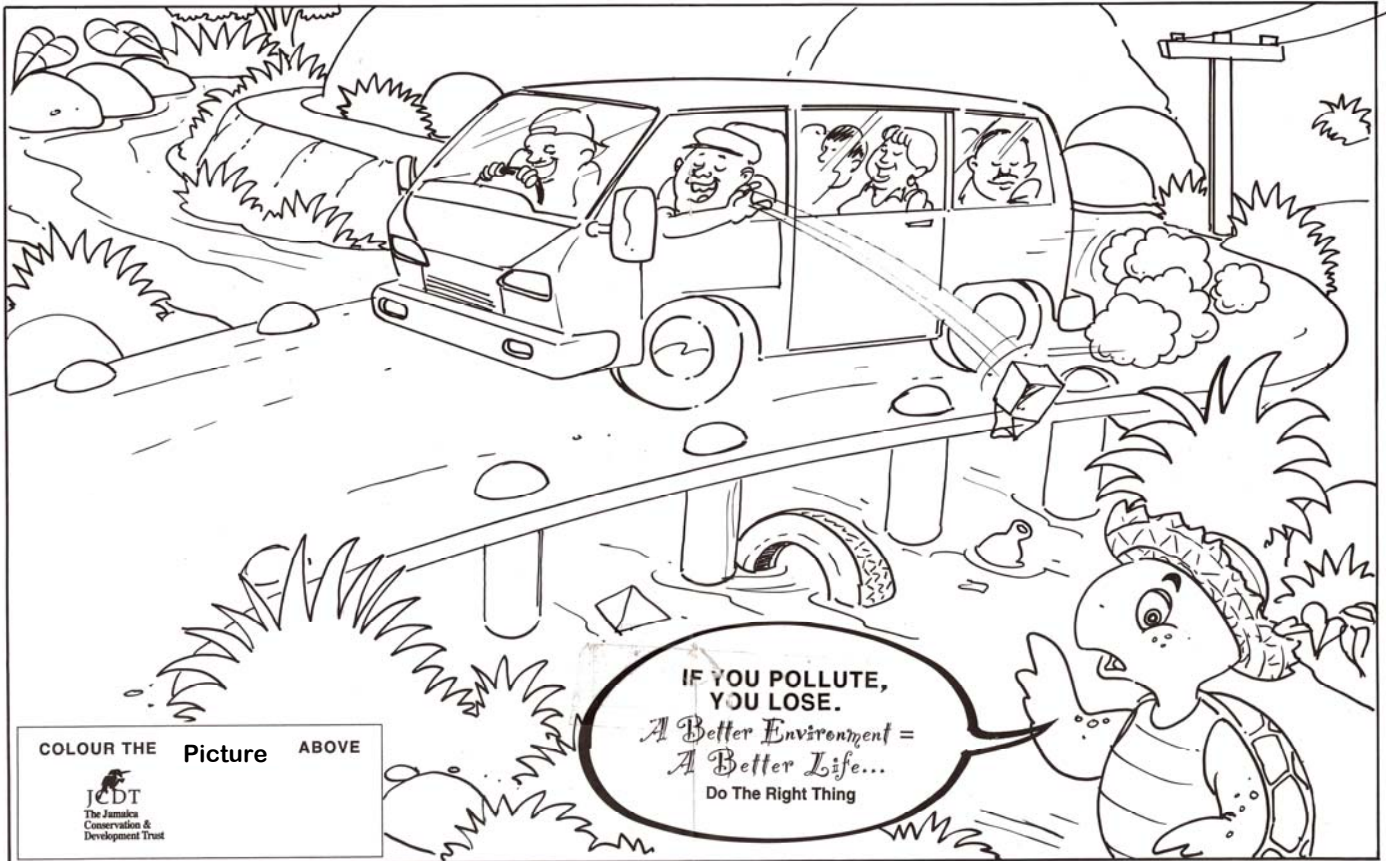
A Directory of Environmentally Sound Technologies for the Integrated Management of Solid, Liquid and Hazardous Waste for SIDS in the Caribbean Region – UNEP, 2004

The 2004 Bird Shooting Season Report - NEPA, 2005

Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development of the Great River Watershed, Initial Period, January 2004 – December 2008



# Youth corner



COLOUR THE Picture ABOVE



**Calling all students – Pre-Primary through Tertiary levels!**

**Coming SOON!**

## NEPA's Schools' Environment & Planning Quiz

Become a "NEPA Partner" in gaining knowledge about and taking care of Jamaica's land wood and water. Try to compete for regional trophies!!!

Detailed information will be sent to each school in September 2005  
Watch the press and our website for details

Family members of NEPA staff are not eligible to enter.

## 2005 ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANNING CALENDAR

International Ozone Day	September 16*
International Coastal Clean-up Day	September 17
Maritime Week	September 25–October 01
World Tourism Day	September 27*
National Wood & Water Day	October 01
World Habitat Day	October 03
International Day for Disaster Reduction	October 13
World Food Day	October 16*
Fire Safety Awareness Week	October 23-29
Science and Technology Month	November 01–30*
World Town Planning Day	November 08*
GIS Day	November 16
International Mountain Day	December 11*

\*Denotes set dates every year