

# Youth corner

## Answers to Kids Environmental Quiz

1. What is the meaning of the word Environment?  
Ans. Everything around us
2. What does the term 'natural resources' mean?  
Ans. Things made by God, not man-made
3. What is the meaning of pollution?  
Ans. The contamination of soil, water or the atmosphere through the discharge of harmful substances.
4. Name three types of pollution  
Ans. Land, Air, Water
5. Name three diseases you can get from pollution  
Ans. Cataract, Asthma, Cancer
6. What is the meaning of extinct?  
Ans. No longer exists
7. What is the meaning of endemic?  
Ans. Only found in a particular area/place
8. Name three things you can do to protect the environment?  
Do not burn garbage or any other items and ensure that garbage is disposed of properly.  
Reuse and recycle whenever possible.  
For every tree that you cut down remember to replant at least two
9. What is the meaning of deforestation?  
Ans. The Cutting down of all the trees in a forested area
10. Name three animals or plants that are endemic to Jamaica  
Ans. Jamaican Coney, Jamaican Boa/ Yellow Snake, Jamaican Iguana



Recycling is in the bag!  
Crossword Puzzle

P A P E R A D E B G C  
L O X R E D U C E F L  
A G J L C R E U S E  
S M K O Y I P Q H R A  
T R Q R C S V T W U N  
I T S G L X O Y I S B  
C V U A I Z A X Y N G  
W Y X N N X M E T A L  
I O Z I G I K J M L A  
D B E Z H N O P Q R S  
G C F E T V B U C A S

Find these words in the puzzle above:

recycling	organize
reduce	plastic
reuse	paper
clean	metal
glass	

## From the "Doc"

Can you believe that once again we soon will be celebrating the birth of Christ and the Christmas season? Seems like only yesterday it was Christmas 2004. Here in Jamaica we have several customs, folklore and myths related to this season. In this article we will take a look at a few of them.

### DUPPIES

Duppies are thought to be restless spirits of the dead which are capable of doing harm to the living. There are many types of duppies but one of the most feared is the "Rolling Calp". It is described as having blazing eyes and has a chain attached to its neck. This chain usually makes a loud rattling noise that is heard for a great distance. This duppy is capable of taking the form of various animals and it roams at night. It can be seen lying on country the roads and loves to block the path of persons who may be out late at night. During the day it usually

'lives' by the roots of the great cotton trees. Another duppy that seems to enjoy roaming during the season is the "Whistle Boy". It said that this duppy likes to hang out in trees and loves to whistle.

### Jonkunnu

Historically, Christmas was the only free time the slaves had in which to enjoy themselves, free from work and Massa's domination - usually for three precious days. In the sugar islands of the Caribbean, although there are significant similarities stemming from common African heritage and European influences, different ways of jollification sprung up and were maintained after slavery was abolished.

Jonkunnu, (sometimes spelt Johnkunnu) or John Canoe originated during slavery when the slaves made the best use of the free period to entertain themselves by forming bands and dressing up in various costumes. Along with a

music band, usually made up of gumbay drums, banjo, grater and fife, they would roam the land entertaining inhabitants of both Great House and slave quarters and gaining some small payment for their trouble-money, food or liquor.

In earlier years Jonkunnu bands with characters such as the horned Cow Head, Horse Head, Policeman, Wild Indian, BellyWoman, Devil, Pitchy-Patchy, and perhaps a Bride, would roam the streets of various towns dancing, prancing, entertaining and sometimes scaring the crowds, after which they would collect money. Today Jonkunnu bands no longer roam the streets of our towns as they did before but through the efforts of the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission there has been a revival of the Jonkunnu among younger Jamaicans.

# Nepsetter

Vol 1 No. 5 December 2005

National Environment and Planning Agency

## Christmas messages

For many people, Christmas is a time of celebration, reflection of the year past and anticipation of the year to come. The same is true for us here at The National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA). As we reflect on the experiences of 2005 let us be grateful that we are managing to overcome the challenges.

Without doubt, the staff represents our

greatest asset, for without such a competent, committed, skilled group of professionals NEPA could not have fulfilled its mandate during 2005. I thank you for your dedication to the work of NEPA over this year. Whatever the challenges for 2006, I believe that we are all well poised to take them on with forthrightness and dedication and therefore I anticipate a good year.

I encourage you to recognize the true meaning of the season, which is the

coming of Christ and his message of salvation to the world. I wish you a holy and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous 2006.

Hopeton Heron  
Acting CEO

Christmas is that time of the year when we reflect on the birth of Christ and those imperatives that result from this phenomenal and spiritually enriching event. One of those imperatives is the celebration of love, joy, and peace which can only emanate from a people who are committed to the idea of stewardship, the kind that dictates how we treat with each other as individuals and how we respond to the environment generally around us. After all, if being 'our brothers' keeper' is to have meaning in contemporary Jamaican society with all its attendant challenges, then we as a people must see ourselves more than mere custodians over those things which truly belong to us, but rather to see ourselves as true custodians over those things which belong to others, and those natural elements that have no voice of their own. This translates to our children, our neighbours, and even those about whose mishaps we learn daily. This concept of stewardship also means exercising custody with due care over our natural and built environments.

As we celebrate this season and look forward with expectancy to the New Year, the National Environment and Planning Agency invites you to work with us as we seek to exercise stewardship over our natural and built environments.

To all Jamaicans and, in particular, the members of staff of NEPA, our clients, customers and friends, we wish for you and your families a very holy, peaceful and productive holiday season.

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Editor  
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Reporters:  
Yolanda Mittoo  
Natalie Fearon  
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## Editorial

Editorial, December 2005

"Christmas ah come mi waan mi lama!" is surely a very popular and appropriate sentiment in Jamaica, at this time of the year!

The coming holidays promise a reprieve from the challenges of the last eleven months; some will be afforded an opportunity to rest, relax and recharge their batteries. While, others will catch up with family and friends not seen or heard from in a while! The Christmas holidays, undoubtedly, also marks a milestone for this publication, as it was this time last year that we revamped the previous publication and changed its name to **NEPSETTER**. Thanks are certainly in order to Wilma Kenton, who renamed the publication and to all the others over the past year who have contributed to making this publication the success it has become. Your inputs, feedback and suggestions have not gone unnoticed.

To those who have participated in the various activities in which the Agency worked in the course of 2005 and who were instrumental in offering hope to the Jamaican people at a time when it was easy to believe otherwise, many thanks; and, as we say in Jamaica – BIG UP!

We also pause, at this time, to extend heartfelt thanks to one of our colleagues who will be leaving us shortly after this publication goes to press – Laetta Davis-Mattis, Director of the Legal Standards and Enforcement Division. Surely, we will miss your keen insights and critical judgment on a range of environmental, planning and other development issues which the Agency tackles, in the course of its work. NEPA's loss is, undoubtedly, the Jamaica National Heritage Trust's gain. We are indebted, dear friend, and will miss you! Walk good in your new endeavours, which we are confident you will discharge with professionalism, cordiality and pizzazz!

To all of our other colleagues who worked on the 2005 Bird Shooting Season; who advised the Minister (of Land and Environment) on a range of issues, including forest fires, the 2005 Atlantic Hurricane Season which seemed like it would never end, among other topics, many thanks! Due to your commitment of purpose, dedication of spirit and professionalism NEPA has been able to stay the course and has made meaningful contributions to national life. We are also encouraged by other efforts elsewhere like Jeffrey Carlyle and others, who walked away with numerous awards in the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission's (JCDC) National Photographic Competition. They have demonstrated that a fulfilling life is one which is balanced between the demands of our professional commitments and the rewards of an active personal life. Thanks for your examples!

And, best wishes for you and yours during this time of reflection and meditation symbolized by the birth of the Christian Messiah Jesus Christ, as well as in recognition of all other religious and other holidays during this period – Hanukah and Kwanzaa, all the best! May the peace and joy associated with the season abide with you, always!

...And, here is to a productive and prosperous 2006...*Auld lang syne!*

## Christmas Symbols

*Ever wondered about some of the familiar symbols of the yuletide season? Well, if you are like most others, then the answer is probably, Yes! Below, Natalie Fearon takes you on an exploration of some of these symbols, information about which may surprise you.*

### Poinsetta

"While most Christmas plants date back several hundred years to Europe and the Mediterranean," the poinsettia is a relatively recent Christmas symbol based in the Western world. The plant is native to Mexico and was cultivated by the Aztec Indians. In 1828, Joel Roberts Poinsettia, the first U. S. Minister to Mexico discovered the plant that now bears his name. Today the city of Encitas, California, is called the poinsettia capital of the world because of the large numbers of poinsettias found there. In Mexico, this plant is known as "the Flower of the Holy Night."

Potted Poinsettias can last for weeks when placed in indirect sunlight at least six hours a day and should be kept away from cold drafts and excessive heat. It should be watered when the soil feels dry, and after the blooming season it is recommended that an all-purpose fertilizer be used once a month.

### Christmas Carols

A carol is defined as a song of rejoicing, usually associated with festive occasions and religious celebrations. The first Christmas carol was said to be sung by the angels who announced the birth of Christ to the shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem. Since that time many carols have been sung to honour the birth of Jesus. In fact, more than 500 English carols from the 15th century still survive, with the earliest printed copy of a carol that still exists being the "Boar's Head" carol.

### Gift-giving

The tradition of giving gifts at Christmas is attributed to the wise men who gave gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the Christ Child. However, the true origin of gift-giving at Christmas is this: "For God so loved

the world that He gave His only begotten Son. That whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

### The Christmas tree

The Christmas tree is thought to have developed from the "Paradise Tree," an evergreen tree decorated with apples and used in a popular play about Adam and Eve held on December 24<sup>th</sup> in medieval Germany. Martin Luther is credited with being the first to decorate a tree with lights. As he walked through the woods near his home, he looked up into the night sky and thought about the star that led the wise men to the Holy Child. He then took home a small tree and decorated it with candles to represent the stars he saw that night and told his family about his walk through the woods and recounted to them the story of the Christ Child.

Decorating the Christmas tree was very popular in Germany. In fact many of the first ornaments were made in Germany. No tree could match the splendor of the German Christmas trees.

*Adapted from the internet*



## Christmas Recipes

### Rich fruit cake

#### Ingredients

5oz. Margarine  
1 teaspoon ground nutmeg  
1 1/2 cups brown sugar  
1/4 cup guava jam  
3 eggs  
1 1/2 cups prunes  
2 cups all purpose flour  
2 cups raisins  
1 table spoon dry instant coffee

12 cup glace cherries  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/2 cup bread crumbs  
2 cups red wine (for soaking fruits)  
2 teaspoons cocoa  
1 cup brandy  
3/4 cup crushed peanuts  
1 cup mixed peel & fruits  
1/2 teaspoon mixed spice  
1/4 cup hot water

#### Method:

Combine prunes, raisins, cherries, mixed peel and fruits, wine and brandy. Allow to soak overnight.

- Cream margarine and sugar until light and fluffy.
- Add eggs, one at a time
- Stir in combined coffee, cocoa, water and jam.
- Sift flour, Baking powder and mixed spice, fold into batter half at a time
- Drain fruits and reserve liquid. Add fruits and peanuts to batter half at a time. Mix well.
- Spread batter into greased. Lined 9' cake pan. Bake at 300 degrees Fahrenheit for about 2 hours
- Brush reserved liquid over hot cake, cover and allow to cool in pan.



## Computer Talk... Upgrades

Below is the second installment in our **Computer Upgrade Series**.

**CPU + Motherboard Combination Kits:** The advantage of buying a CPU + Motherboard Combination Kit is that the CPU is pre-installed on the Motherboard. The CPU fan is also installed with the silicon heat conducting compound properly applied. The jumpers are set for you and the Kit is tested before shipping. All you have to do is install the motherboard in your existing case and then install memory and your drives etc.

You may want to have the Motherboard installed in a computer case as well, or you might opt for a bare-bones system. You may also select a computer case. This may be installed by your technician along with the CPU and the Motherboard Kit.

**Video Memory** – If your only grudge with your current system is the quality and the number of colors you can see, you can add more **memory** to your video card or buy a new **video card**. No need to buy a whole new system.

**Modem** – If you have anything less

than a 28.8kbps modem, surfing the Internet can be an exercise in patience and very frustrating. Select a **modem** that fits your budget and you will see life around your computer a little more bearable.

**Disk** – Most modern software applications require a lot of disk space. If you have an older disk you may be squeezed for space and that may also slow down your system as it tries to fit in the data as best as it can. Besides, your old hard drive may be very slow. Newer disk drives will not only give you more storage space, their faster speeds will also help improve overall system performance.

**Printer** – Are your print jobs taking too long to finish and tie up your system? It could be that your system is too outdated but quite often it is because your printer has very little memory of its own. Adding a little **printer memory** can expedite the printing process. You can also look into buying a faster printer. However, be careful. Buying a printer that is just a shade faster than your current one is not going to help much. Go for a **Printer** that has a

## Christmas Roaster

Bread stuffing  
Allow 3/4 cup stuffing for each pound of ready-to-cook chicken

#### Ingredients

1/2 cup finely chopped onion  
3/4 cup chopped celery  
1/2 margarine of butter  
4 1/2 cups soft bread cubes  
1 tsp. salt  
3/4 tsp. dried sage leaves  
1/2 tsp. dried thyme leaves  
1/4 tsp. pepper

**Method** Cook and stir onion and celery in margarine in a 10-inch skillet until onion is tender. Stir in about 1/3 of bread cubes. Place in deep bowl and add remaining ingredients, toss. Stuff chicken just before roasting.

4 1/2 cups stuffing  
2 oz. chopped garlic  
4 oz. chopped onion  
1 oz. chopped sage  
Salt to taste  
1/2 oz. black pepper  
1/2 oz. chopped thyme

**Method:** combine all seasoning ingredients in mixing bowl and season the roaster.

**Timetable for roasting chicken**  
Unstuffed - 5-7 lbs. Oven temp. – 325 degrees Fahrenheit Approximate cooking time – 2.5 -3.5 hrs.  
Stuffed – 5-7 lbs. Oven Temp. – 325 degrees Fahrenheit Approximate cooking time – 2.7-3.75 hrs.

*Recipes adapted from the Jamaica Observer Cookbook Collector's item 2004*

significantly faster output than what you have now.

**Monitor** – If you have an old VGA monitor, using the more colorful software applications can be a little boring. To see better colors or if you need a bigger screen, buy a new **Monitor**. No need to change your complete system.

**CD-ROM Drive** – If you like to play games on your computer but your **CD-ROM Drive** is very slow, you can upgrade to a faster drive and that will help improve performance of games. Upgrading to a faster **CD-ROM Drive** will also help improve performance of databases that are on **CD-ROMs**.

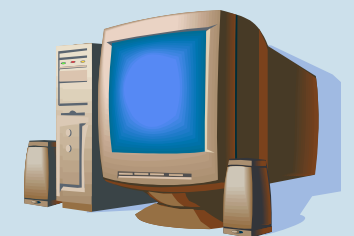
**DVD Drives:** Want to watch movies on your computer or play games with better pictures? If so, buy a **DVD Drive**. It serves the function of a **CD-ROM Drive** as well as play movies. Basically it replaces your **CD-ROM Drive**. When buying a **DVD Drive**, buy an **MPEG Decoder Card** also. It will help run the movies much more smoothly.

**Laptops:** If you are upgrading a laptop, in most cases you can only upgrade the **Memory, Hard Drive**

and **Modem**. The rest you have to live with. If you cannot, then consider replacing it with either a **new** or **used laptop**.

If the above information does not answer your questions or your situation is different, **e-mail** us at [canderson@nepa.gov.jm](mailto:canderson@nepa.gov.jm) and we will try our best to help you.

*Source: [www.comcal.net/upgrade.html](http://www.comcal.net/upgrade.html)*





## Dr. Mona Webber: Making Wetland Biology, a Layman's Turf

Dr. Mona Webber has a dream. She hopes to attract new people and new interests to marine biology while, at the same time, halt the destruction of the wetlands by making every single Jamaican knowledgeable about the value and diversity of what we generally call swamps.

The dream is almost reality now, as she finalises work on a project that aims not only to

research mangrove biodiversity, but also to make easy-to-understand scientific information available to the public. A series of booklets, posters and a CD ROM are among items being produced by the UWI Marine Lab at Port Royal with funding from the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ). "It is very difficult to teach the non-scientific and particularly the young about wetland diversity," Dr. Webber explains. The magnificence and "fascinating" secrets of wetlands will become accessible to all, as a result of an eighteen-month project, which began in December 2003 with the photographing and identification of the most interesting and fascinating of the swamp dwellers.

Dr. Webber, or Mona as she is sometimes called, was introduced to the sea at a young age. At a time when most little girls were content playing with dolls, her best days, she recalls were those spent exploring the area around Kingston Harbour with her father in their little boat. In fact, she believes that she got "some sea water in her blood" during the weekly trips from Rodney's Arms to the Lime Cays. Her easy smile radiates pure joy, as she recalls the trips that firmly paved the way to her future.

Mona explains, however, that while she thoroughly enjoyed the sea, and the captivating collection of shells in principal Winston Roberts' office at Ardenne High School, it was not until she entered the UWI, at Mona in 1981 to study Zoology, that she became hooked on becoming a marine biologist. "There was no formal introduction to marine biology", she says expressing the hope that that the new CD and booklets will stimulate interest among students and win new believers in the area of marine science.

In fact, Mona Webber is passionate about passing on her knowledge. A lecturer for the

past fifteen years, she says teaching marine ecology interacts with and supports her research. Mona began as an Assistant Lecturer during her student days.

Trained in zooplankton ecology and with many publications in this area, Dr. Webber has diversified. As a researcher she has developed an interest in applying her vast knowledge of the marine environment in studying



the wetlands, their problems and how to fix them. Her interest she says, developed from having examined a small piece of mangrove root and discovering the diversity of animals living on that single piece of root.

The mother of two, who is married to noted UWI marine biologist Dale Webber, is passing on her's and her husband's love of the sea to their two daughters. At age nine and six years, they are already very good swimmers, she says and have begun accompanying their parents to sea.

As part of the EFJ funded project, Dr. Webber is overseeing the setting up a few public aquaria, which along with the booklets, posters and CD will familiarise the ordinary person with the animals that live in the Port Royal/Palisadoes mangrove area and help them to identify the animals in the wild. The posters will carry the scientific names and pictures and the CDs and booklets will, in addition to identifying the creatures carry additional information on their lifecycle and communities, among other things. The field-work has almost been completed and incorporates the research of well-known UWI marine biologist, professor Ivan Goodbody.

Dr. Webber says the project is only a start in a wider programme to list of all of Jamaica's

wetland organisms. While earlier researchers have done work on particular groups such as oysters, the listing of the animals and other organisms she says, is a never-ending task particularly in the Harbour areas into which new species may be introduced via the ballast water of ocean going vessels.

Dr. Webber points to a previously undocumented species of edible Oysters now being

reaped as food by locals, which was introduced in the last few years. She notes that new species are being discovered daily, some that may have been overlooked in previous studies and others that have been introduced through international shipping. She notes that while some species have taken significant footholds, they have not yet begun to replace local species.

Despite the work of others like Professor Goodbody, Dr. Webber says, "there is lot of work yet to be done in documenting the species not only because of their usefulness but also because they are potentially beneficial.

Dr. Webber points out that the mangrove lagoon waters support quite a lot of animals, adding that new species of indigenous sponge, has also been found. She also revealed that in recent times, a chemical found in a small local orange-coloured sea squirt, has been found to retard the growth of tumors and a drug is now being developed in association with the University of Illinois in the USA. Dr. Webber also noted that some of her students are looking at developing industries around particular shellfish and at making the mangrove more productive.

Her biggest wish she says, is getting someone interested enough to continue the work she has started researching the natural systems and improving the survival rates of marine animals. While Dr. Webber loves the idea of a first world marine lab at the UWI, she is contented to work within the constraints and carve out a niche for herself.

By Zaidie Neufville



## HR Update



### Editorial Note:

Seasons greetings from the Human Resources Development and Management Branch! All the best for the holiday seasons! Here is to hoping that you will all have a productive, peaceful and prosperous New Year!

### Other News

### Recruitments:

Oswald Chinkoo has now been appointed as Coordinator, Technical Services, in the Pollution Monitoring and Assessment Branch

### Separations:

The following persons are no longer with the Agency. We wish them all the best in their new endeavours and thank them for their sterling contributions over the years.

1. Anthony Murray
2. Laleta Davis-Mattis
3. Beatrice Elvey

### Memoriam:

Our prayers are with Errol Morris, who lost his grandmother and Sandra Walters, who lost her mother.

### Temporary Employment:

Several persons have joined us on a temporary assignment in the Applications Management Division. They are currently working on a project to clear the backlog of applications in the Applications Processing Branch. These persons are

1. Constance Tyson-Young
2. Sara Simpson
3. Marlon Douglas
4. Necia Evans

Get well soon, Errol Morris!

### Conferences and Seminars

Name of Employee	Name Course/ Country	Dates
Ainsley Henry (Integrated Watershed & Coastal Mgmt. Branch)	Ramsar Conference of the Parties, Kampala, Uganda,	November 8-15, 2005
Christine Sutherland (Protected Areas Branch)		
Elizabeth Emanuel (ENACT)	Distinguished Lecture Series, San Fernando, Trinidad	November 19-24, 2005
Winsome Townsend (Policy, Programmes and Projects Division)	Blue Flag Meeting, Dominican Republic	December 8-9, 2005
Sharleane Williams ((Pollution Prevention and Assessment Branch)		
Anthony McKenzie (Strategic Planning and Policy Branch)	UNEP-GEF meeting, Bridgetown Barbados	December 12-16, 2005

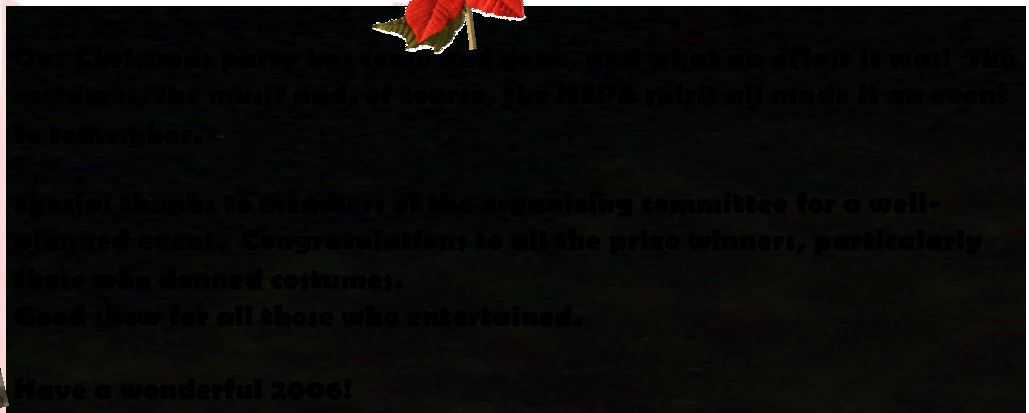
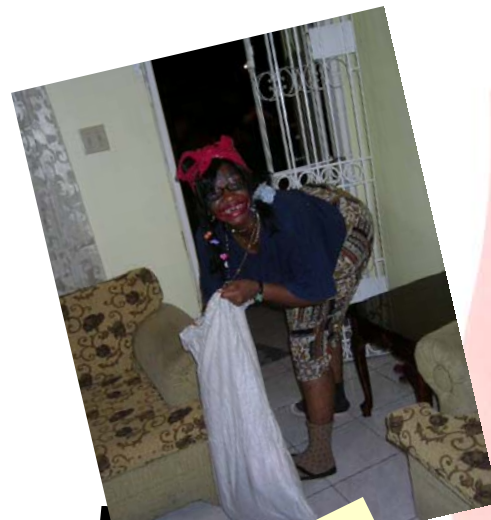
## Scenes from NEPA's Carol Service 2005...







# Christmas Party 2005...



*catch the winners 4 costume!*



*We're 3 hott 4 this!*



*Caan dance like me!*



*Clear the way... we coming!*



*Gi dem the diva pose!*

