



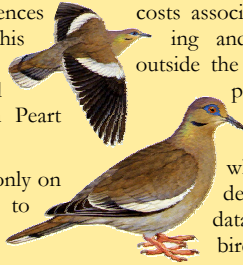
Vol 2 No. 1 August 2006

National Environment and Planning Agency

2006 Bird-Shooting Season Started August 19

The 2006 bird-shooting season which opened on Saturday, August 19 will run for approximately six weekends, ending on Sunday September 24. Hunting Licences have also been increased by a \$1000 this year. The 2006 season was officially declared open when Minister of Local Government and Environment Dean Peart signed the Orders in late July.

During the season, hunting is allowed only on weekends: on Saturdays, from sunrise to 9:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to sunset and on Sunday mornings from sunrise to 9:00 a.m. The bag limit for bird shot is a total of 20 birds at each shooting, except for the Baldpate of which no more than 15 may be taken in any one shoot. Only the following four birds may be shot: the Pea Dove (*Zenaida aurita*), the White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*), Bald-pate (*Columba leuco-*



The White Winged Dove

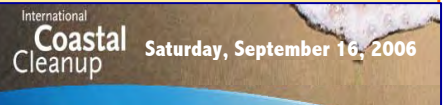
cephala) and Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*). The increase in the price of the Hunter's Licence from \$7,000 to \$8,000 will help to offset costs associated with increased monitoring and surveillance during and outside the season, as well as the bird population survey. Now in its second year, the survey will be used to determine whether or not a season is declared each year and provides data on the status of the game bird population in Jamaica.

The National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) is reminding hunters that **breaches of the Wild Life Protection Act will not be tolerated.** While in the field, each hunter must ensure that he or she has in his or her possession, a shot-gun licence and a valid

Bird Hunter's Permit issued through NEPA. Hunters are also being reminded that shooting is prohibited in the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park, inside or within 50 metres of a game reserve and no less than 40 metres from population centres.

Last season a record nine (9) persons were warned for prosecution and four convicted for breaches of the Hunters' Regulations of the Wild Life Protection Act. Enforcement Officers, Game Wardens, and members of the Island Special Constabulary Force (ISCF) have begun monitoring and will be in the field throughout and after the season to ensure that the laws are upheld.

Zadie Neufville zneufville@nepa.gov.jm



NEPA educates and entertains at Denbigh 2006



The NEPA booth provided an exciting treat for patrons at the 2006 staging of the Denbigh Agricultural and Industrial Show held during August 5 to 7 at the Denbigh show grounds in Clarendon.

The Drylands and Watershed displays in the main booth, the intriguing surveillance equipment showcased by the Enforcement

Branch, the kiddies section, garden theatre, poster display and nature trail were all a hit with the hundreds of adults and children who visited the booth over the three days. This year the grounds included a picnic area which proved a tranquil getaway for many who stopped to rest after viewing the protected animals along the nature trail. The baby crocodile, Jamaican Iguana, Turtles, Yellow Billed Parrot and Jamaican Boa had hundreds of patrons pressing against the barriers

along the trail to catch a glimpse of these animals which were on display courtesy of the Hope Zoo. The entire display was a wonderful example of effective edutainment.

On Sunday morning the NEPA family held a small memorial and tree planting ceremony in memory of our dear friend and colleague, Villair Barrett. His family members who were in attendance were visibly touched and expressed their gratitude for the warm and meaningful gesture.

Congratulations are in order to the Denbigh Planning Committee which comprised representatives throughout the Agency for their contribution of ideas

and talents and in particular to Kojo Dawes who oversaw the preparation of the grounds.

Special thanks are in order to the team which came out and worked to make Denbigh a success and also to those who assisted with planning but could not attend. Kudos to the National Youth Service (NYS) interns who gave it their all.

The best of NEPA is never lost when it counts. Here's to Denbigh 2007.

-Natalie Fearon
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Editorial

Another school year has come and, as always, preparing for the rigours of this process is never 'an easy road', as (Dancehall artiste) Buju Banton says. Many parents will attest to this. Some usually take vacation, at this time, to ensure that the needs of their children are properly addressed, at least for the first month of the new school year. Getting them over that important hurdle is an acknowledged demand about which most parents express some levels of anxiety, but also about which they are agreed is very significant in starting off the new school year on the right foot. How will my child fit into his new school? Will she do better this time in her new class? What about after school programmes? And, the list continues...

At the other end of the spectrum, some of us will also have enrolled in various academic and professional development courses. We too, no doubt, will be experiencing similar anxieties and first time jitters. However, unlike the children, our concerns almost always include other, just-as-pressing-if-not-

more-so, demands in our lives such as marriage, family and, as always, making that necessary house or car payment. When added to this mix, school, fees and the daunting possibilities of completing assignments on time, graduation and, possibly, failure, are always very real concerns with which we contend. This is especially the case in the context of our professional demands. How will we survive it? What are the tricks, if any? Is there a 'How-To' manual? The simple answer to the last question, of course, is no. We wonder how and via what miracles we were able to accomplish these objectives, in the end. Still, it is comforting to note that we are not alone. All of us experience these and other challenges, in some ways, at some time during our lives.

According to the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), significant numbers of Jamaicans are, currently, engaged in some type of full or part-time study, whether in terms of professional development, or possibly, with the intention to change careers. Despite the reasons, the concerns are, indeed, very real.

At the last staff meeting on Thursday, July 6, members of staff were informed that the Agency is, presently, reviewing Study Leave and will put out a statement reflecting its official position on this subject. Manager of the Human Resources (HR) Management and Development Branch, Gervaise McLeod said that, "the Agency [NEPA] is doing this in an effort to ensure a standard policy, particularly as the need to train (staff) is one it (NEPA) recognizes as very important in terms of staff development...and has also established a committee to deal with this." It is hoped that the revised policy will be available soon.

Mr. McLeod's remarks will surely be welcomed by those who are, presently, engaged in studies of various kinds, and will also act as a boost, hopefully, to get others to think about their own personal and professional futures. The important question becomes, then, what obtains after these studies are completed? How will the Agency

benefit from these newly trained professionals?

Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Dr. Leary Myers has indicated that he has a direct investment in this process. According to him, developing the overall skill-set of his team is priority. This is based on his plan to improve NEPA's efficiency, both in terms of handling applications as well as other areas of our work.

So, for those of who are, currently, preparing to go 'back to school' this September, there is hope. Chin-up, you will get through this... somehow!

Disclaimer:

With the exception of the views expressed on this page, all other opinions, comments and concerns reflected herein are not, necessarily, those of NEPSETTER.



Agostinbo Pinnock

To send us your feedback, email your comments, questions and observations to: apinnock@nepa.gov.jm.



Minutes With... the CEO

In our new feature Five Minutes With, NEPSETTER takes a closer look at some of the activities and people in NEPA. Today we train the spotlight on Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Leary Myers, Ph.D., P.E.

NEPSETTER: *What is your vision for NEPA?*

Dr. Myers: For NEPA to become more self sufficient in relation to the technical requirements of the Applications' Processing System.

NEPSETTER: *Do you think that this is an achievable goal?*

Dr. Myers: Yes, I do! I will not, however, say just yet when I think NEPA will take over the process, completely. We are currently working to review and improve this process

NEPSETTER: *Would you care to elaborate?*

Dr. Myers: Ideally, we would like to bring in-house, all the pieces of the Applications Review Process...My style of leadership is to empower people to do their work effectively.

NEPSETTER: *Tell us about your training plans for the Agency?*

Dr. Myers: I have initiated discussions with members of the Diplomatic Community and other agencies to begin this process. Under the plan, our personnel will participate in on-the-job training and attachments with other agencies, both, locally and internationally. I believe that through these partnerships NEPA stands to benefit. Many of our technical experts will be able to upgrade their skills. By acquiring additional knowledge, we will strengthen the quality of the services we are able to offer the public through the application of industry best practices. Jamaica will, definitely, benefit in the long run! Upon their return, their skill-sets will be marketed as part of our thrust to single-handedly manage the Applications Processing System.

NEPSETTER: *The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process is crucial to your*



plans. Why is this so, and how will it be improved?

Dr. Leary Myers: We are currently seeking a means by which persons who conduct Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) will become certified. This means that they will be able to offer professional quality services.

As I indicated before, in the future I am envisioning, consultants who conduct EIAs will be able to act with some level of autonomy beyond NEPA. However, in the interests of maintaining professional standards, they will also have to be subjected to some sort of regulation. In essence, we are aiming to centralize all activities related to this process at NEPA while, simultaneously, empowering our experts to act with the highest levels of professionalism

We feel it is important to make our activities transparent and customer service friendly. This partially, arising from the recent court ruling in the Bahia Principe case.

NEPA Round-Up:

Below is a snapshot of some stories which happened earlier this year, which you may have missed.

National Environmental Awareness Week (NEAW) 2006

National Environmental Awareness Week (NEAW



2006) was observed this year from June 4-11, under the theme: "Don't Desert Dry Lands: Protect Our Biodiversity". Underlined as a local modification of the United Nation's World Environmental Day (WED) theme "Deserts and Desertification: Don't Desert Dry Lands!" NEPA and other Government, non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and environmental NGOs (ENGOS), planned several activities to mark this special event.

Some of the highlights included a church service at Unity of Jamaica, in Kingston, which was held on Sunday, June 4 and an Open Day, held at NEPA's offices in Cross Roads on

Friday, June 9. CEO Dr. Leary Myers, P.E., in his messages for week, said NEPA is currently reviewing its Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines and Approvals Process, in keeping with the recent Bahia Principe Hotel court ruling. NEPA's annual WED Expo and Concert, which was held at the Hope Gardens and Zoo this year was delayed from its original June 5 date because of bad weather. The event which was

rescheduled for June 16, saw a number of schools, NGOs and other participants in attendance. The celebrated Tivoli Dance Troupe and Alpha Boys Band provided entertainment. The Hope Zoo launched its "Adopt an Animal Programme" at the event. NEPA also partnered the Ministry of Local Government and Environment (MLGE) to launch the annual Environment Water Safety Month Campaign. The event was broadcast live in two national media.

Businessman convicted of illegal possession of protected birds



seized 76 Ring-tailed pigeons and a Black-billed Parrot from the hunters in the Parksmount area of Portland and arrested seven hunters. The Ring-tailed Pigeon and Black-Billed Parrots are both protected under the WLPA 1945.

Resident Magistrate Andrea Collins fined Mr. Seaton \$30,000 under Section 6 of the WLPA for having 27 Ring-tailed Pigeons in his possession and \$30,000 under Section 6a for hunting protected birds. He was also charged \$2,000 under Section 13 of the WLPA (Hunters' Returns) Regulations 1999, for failing to retain the feathers on one wing of the birds shot. The Wild Life Protection (Hunters' Returns) Regulations 1999, requires that every holder of a hunter's licence retain the feathers on one wing of each bird shot for inspection by a Game Warden or other such officer. This allows scientists to carry out much research on the game bird population. Mr. Ramocan was charged \$8,000 for failing to carry a hunters' licence on or about his person while hunting. Section 6, of the WLPA, states that any hunter who fails to carry his hunter's licence while hunting may be charged up to \$100,000 or imprisoned for up to six months.

Businessmen Y.P. Seaton and O. Ramocan were convicted for breaches of the Wild Life Protection Act (WLPA) 1945 when they appeared in the Port Antonio Resident Magistrate's Court on Friday (March 24, 2006). The men were in court to answer charges of hunting and possession of protected birds. They were among a group of seven hunters charged for various offenses five years ago during the 2001 Bird Shooting Season. Charges included hunting protected birds, hunting without a permit and failure to leave the feathers on one wing. On September 8, 2001 enforcement officers from NEPA

NEPA's Inner-City Housing Composting Project



The National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), in partnership with the National Housing Trust (NHT), the National Solid Waste Management Authority

(NSWMA) and the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA), has introduced composting to the community of Denham Town. The Inner City Housing Composting Project which began in December 2005 is intended to educate communities about

environmental stewardship and other practices and is part of NEPA's drive to fulfill its mandate of managing and protecting Jamaica's natural environment. Under

the project members of the Denham Town community and primary school traveled to and met with their counterparts in Sligoville, St. Catherine. They were introduced to composting and other environmentally friendly practices which have been successfully integrated into the Sligoville All Age School's curriculum. The visit resulted in the "twinning" of the two groups. With support from the students and teachers of Sligoville, who also traveled to Kingston since, Denham Town Primary has started its own environmental club.

At a RADA workshop, held on Sunday, February 26, students of Denham Town Primary were taught the three 'Rs' of environmental conservation - reducing the amount

of waste generated; re-using items where and when possible and recycling waste materials. Several other workshops are planned under the programme. In another component of the project residents of Denham Town and representatives from RADA and the Consumer Affairs Commission (CAC) met for a one-hour training session at the Community Centre. The focus of the presentation was Recycling and Composting and Energy Conservation. The CAC, the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (PCJ) and Burger King have also joined the partnership.

An Exemplary Model for Promoting Sustainable Development

...Initialization, Implementation and Institutionalization: The three T's of ENACT

The Environmental Action (ENACT) Programme was started in 1994 with an initial two year phase, which consisted of a series of preliminary and planning sessions which were geared towards programme design and management. It involved a wide cross-section of stakeholders and is considered the initialization phase.

The second phase saw the implementation of the programme design and lasted for a period of eight years. Five components were established and a host of implementation strategies were used to execute them. These include: Greening of Government Operations; Strengthening of NEPA; Local Sustainable Development Planning (LSDP); Environmental Education for Sustainable Development (EESD) and Environmental Management Systems (EMS) for the Private Sector.

Currently, ENACT has been extended beyond the original ten years. This may be considered to be the most critical of all the phases, as it is geared towards institutionalizing the initiatives devel-

oped and implemented in the earlier phases.

The Programme was designed out of the joint participation of the Government of Jamaica (GoJ) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) with the promotion of sustainable development as its goal and capacity development as its ultimate objective. In March 2007, the ENACT Programme will celebrate its twelfth anniversary in Jamaica. ENACT overcame many challenges over the last decade in an effort to create a programme which could continuously be compatible with the changing nature of the country's social, economic, environmental and governmental structures and needs.

Capacity Development

Capacity development is the cornerstone of the Programme. Its activities are aimed at strengthening organizational structures and processes so that institutions and individuals have the ability to implement effective policies, programmes and procedures for sustainable development. Stakeholders'

participation is a critical part of the implementation processes.

Challenges and Achievements

The loss of champions from crucial institutions such as the Ministry of Education, Youth and Culture, changes in the Cabinet and the merger which created NEPA have all brought their own challenges.

However, ENACT has sought to manoeuvre around these. Some of the key achievements accomplished recently include the approval of GoJ Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Policy, and the completion of the Kingston and St. Andrew (KSA) Sustainable Development Plan which was presented to the Mayor of Kingston, Desmond McKenzie. The Programme co-hosted with UWI, UNICEF and other partners, at the Regional Conference on Education for Sustainable Development and is also responsible for the infusion of environmental components into thirteen core courses in the Management Institute for National Development (MIND) curriculum. MIND is also the executing agency for the first online course in environmental

management for the Jamaican Private Sector entitled "Environmental Management for Business Leaders."

Finally, members of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) and Island Special Constabulary Force (ISCF), as well as other enforcement officers have completed training in enforcement and planning legislation.

In conclusion, the GoJ has committed to achieving a sustainable future for Jamaica by being a signatory to the 1992 Earth Summit Agenda 21 and by initiating actions through the ENACT Programme. Although there is still a long way to go towards achieving a sustainable future, ENACT has demonstrated through its achievements that Jamaica is on course to accomplishing these goals. The values, strategies and processes employed by this joint effort on behalf of the Jamaican people deservedly affords ENACT the title of "an exemplary model for promoting sustainable development."

- Michael Myles
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NEPA Round-Up cont'd from page 3

NRCA commits \$4.8 million to manage Negril Marine Park

The Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA) presented the first installment of a \$4,829,008 donation to the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society (NCRPS) on Wednesday March 8, 2006 at the NEPA's head offices in Kingston. The NRCA manages the Natural Resources and Conservation (Permits and Licences) Regulations as prescribed in the NRCA Act. NRCA Chairman Mr. James Rawle, presented the cheque to Ms. Jean Brown, President of the NCRPS. Valued at \$1,207,252, the monies will be used in the management of the Negril Marine Park. The balance will be disbursed in quarterly installments over one year. In December, the NRCA presented 25%

of beach licensing fees collected between 2000 and 2005 valuing \$1.56 million to the NCRPS. At that time, Mr. Rawle noted that the Authority hoped to provide greater financial support to the Society. The NCRPS works within the Negril Environmental Protection Area and manages the Negril Marine Park, one of Jamaica's nine protected areas designated under the Natural Resources Conservation Authority Act.



NEPA and JACHM launch student Websites.



On Wednesday, March 8, NEPA and the Jamaica Clearing-House Mechanism (JACHM) joined forces to launch individual student-focussed websites, at NEPA's head offices in Kingston. Entitled 'Pickney Ting', NEPA's website is the result of the combined efforts of its staff and represents a collection of stories, poems, environmental facts and activities that are designed to teach children how to protect the environment. The Pickney Ting website targets children between the ages of four to eleven year olds. The JACHM website which was created as a part of the Institute of Jamaica's (IOJ) mandate under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to disseminate information on biodiversity to the local community specifically targets high school students. The website aims to provide information in a format similar to that of the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Exam (CAPE) Biology Syllabus. You may view the websites at the following addresses www.nepa.gov.jm/kids and www.jamaicachm.org.jm.

Male Pigmy Sperm Whale Dies in St. Thomas

A male pygmy sperm whale (*Kogia breviceps*) was found stranded in St. Thomas on Friday, March 31, 2006. Officers from the Jamaica Environment Trust (JET) and NEPA attended the scene and attempted to rehabilitate the animal. Approximately five feet in length, the whale which was in considerable distress was floated to calmer waters to make it more comfortable in order to better assess its health. The whale's breathing was monitored by the combined NEPA/JET team which comprised Sean Green, Capute Tyndale and Noreen Chambers

and Christine O'Sullivan and Kerry-Ann Curtis, respectively. They attempted to coax the animal to swim back to sea. However, on each occasion it returned to the beach and eventually died. Illness and, or noise from a nearby naval/industrial activity were identified as possible factors responsible for the animal's death.





Recruitment – New Employees

Ramón Hutchinson – *Applications Processing Officer*, Applications Processing Branch
 O'rane Gray – *Information Technology Specialist*, Information Technology Branch
 Randall Remekie – *Internal Auditor*, Internal Audit
 Claudette Edwards- *Project Assistant*, National Ozone Unit
 Rasheed Hodges – *End User Support Technician*, Information Technology Branch
 Mary Lindo – *Corporate Planner*, Strategic Planning & Policies Branch
 Jeffrey Brown – *End User Support Technician*, Information Technology Branch
 Dion Kelly – *Environmental Officer*, Pollution Monitoring & Assessment Branch
 Elvis Brady – *Driver*, Facilities Management & Operation Branch

Promotion

The following employees were successful in their applications for the respective positions:

Simone McCulloch – **Senior Physical Planner**, Planning Branch
 Bernard Blue – **Coordinator, Management Operations Unit**, Protected Areas Branch
 Joy Nelson-Graham – **Internal Auditor**, Internal Audit
 Ainsley Henry – **Coordinator, Ecosystems**, Integrated Watersheds & Coastal Zone Management Branch
 Michelle Grant – **Snr. Customer Service Officer**, Applications Processing Branch

Transfer

Tameka Clough-Transfer from Regulations Standards & Guidelines Branch to Applications Processing Branch

In Memoriam

We regret the passing of our colleague Villair Barrett

Birth

Frances Blair and Michelle Hamilton-Sucklal each had a daughter.

Resignation

Kimberley Foster, Rupert Pryce, Kevin Reid, Jennifer Martells, Peter Wilson-Kelly, Orlon Hamilton, Salome Jackson, Maureen Dillon, Tannisha Scarlett, Grace Turner, Donna Brodber

Retirement

Hopeton DaCosta

NYS Participants who have been here since June 2006

Garth Lumsden, Timoy Thompson-Taylor, Sashanna Duncan, Romaine Nembhard, Roxon Lafayette and Donna Bailey

Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU) participants

NEP is, currently, hosting two YOU participants who are on a two week "Shadow Week" programme. This programme aims at orientating young people to the world of work. They are Noel Jones and Kimberly James

Work Experience Programme

Three Portmore Community College students and Two EXED Community College students were here on a three-week work experience programme. They were placed in the Information Technology and Finance & Accounts Branches.

Temporary Employees

Laurel Hewitt- Senior Secretary, Applications Processing Branch, Lorraine Mendez – Senior Secretary, Finance & Accounts Branch, Kimarley Lorraine- Research Assistant, Public Education & Corporate Communication Branch, Betsy Bandy- EMS Officer, Regulations Standards & Guidelines Branch, Jennifer Scott-Gordon- Senior Secretary, Boards Secretariat, Georgia Sinclair—Training Officer, Human Resources

Educational Achievement

Michael Myles- B.Sc. Public Sector Management

Training/ Workshop

Anthony McKenzie-Manager Participated in IMO-UNEP Regional Forum in the UK from May 2-5, 2006.

Dr. Leary Myers—Chief Executive Officer

Attended the annual CSDC Technology Application Conference (CTAC) in Sarasota, Florida from May 14-18, 2006.

Marc Rammelaere-IT Manager

Attended the annual CSDC Technology Application Conference (CTAC) in Sarasota, Florida from May 14-18, 2006

Sean Green — Environmental Officer

Attended the Sea Turtles Field Training Workshop in Barbados from May 22-26, 2006.

Christine Sutherland—Coordinator

Attended a Workshop on Participatory Wetlands Management, in Trinidad from May 31- June 2, 2006

Paulette Kolbusch—Manager

Attended a workshop on Emission Factors Assessment in Mexico City from May 31 – June 2, 2006.

Simone McCulloch—Physical Planner Attended workshop on Population, Health and Environmental Dynamics in Coastal Resources Mgt. from June 6-9, 2006 in Antigua.

Roger Williams—Manager Attended an Association of Natural Resources Enforcement Trainers workshop in Clive, Iowa from June 18-21, 2006.

Charmaine Morris—Environmental Officer Attended an Association of Natural Resources Enforcement Trainers workshop in Clive, Iowa from June 18-21, 2006.d

Marvette Brown—Senior Physical Planner Participated in Urban Forum and World Planners Congress in Vancouver from June 17-23, 2006.

Dione Chambers Physical Planner Participated in Urban Forum and World Planners Congress in Vancouver from June 17-23, 2006.

Carla Gordon—Manager Attended Caribbean Protected Areas workshop held in Miami, Florida from June 20-22, 2006.

Winsome Townsend—Director

To attend Regional LAC meeting on the implementation of NPAs in preparation for the 2nd Inter-governmental Review meeting of the GPA (IGA-2) to be held in Panama from July 4-5, 2006.

Kapleton Hall—Conservation Technician

Attended the Biology and Conservation of Marine Turtles International In-Water Course from July 17-28, 2006 in Bermuda.

Paulette Kolbusch—Manager

Attended Regional Promotional Workshop on the Protocol Concerning Pollution on LBS, in St. Lucia from July 24-26, 2006.

Kurt Noble Environmental Officer

Attended Workshop on Designing Sustainable Energy Systems held in Quito, Ecuador from July 24 to August 4, 2006.

Peter Wilson-Kelly—Manager

Attended Training Workshop for the Caribbean on Marine World Heritage Nominations from February 27 to March 3, 2006.

Elizabeth Emmanuel—GoJ Advisor to ENACT attended a Study Tour and GLOBE Conference to Vancouver, Canada from March 25-April 1, 2006. *cont'd on page 9*

HIGHLIGHTS OF DENBIGH 2006... ...“WORK AND PLAY”



Onlookers at the Petting Zoo.



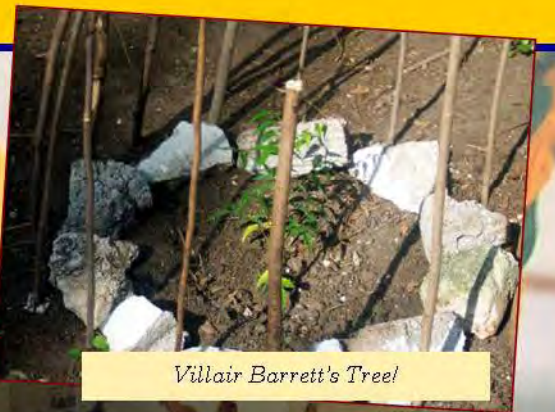
These visitors eagerly await their turn to pet the animals at the Petting Zoo.



NEPA's Model of a Dry Limestone Forest



Guests at the Garden Theatre relax and take in the scene.



Villair Barrett's Tree!



Visitors to the Children's Booth engaged in learning activities.



Visitors to the NEPA Petting Zoo being taken through the paces by Karlene Craig.



Natalie Fearon smiles at the camera, while Sophia Givans (back turned) avidly devours the information at the display table.



Peter Wilson-Kelly (back turned centre) uses the watershed model to explain the functions of Jamaica's watersheds to curious onlookers.



Villair Barrett's family seated at the tree planting ceremony in his honour.



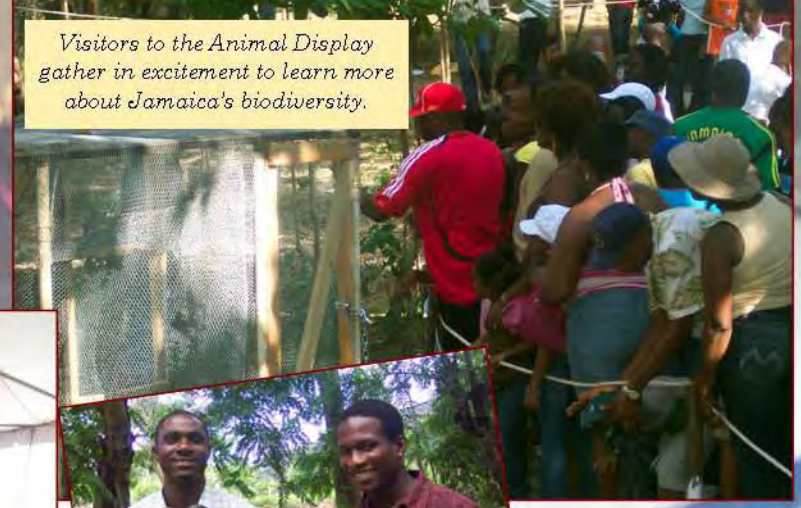
Timoy Thompson-Taylor engrossed in a game of dominoes.



Just Chillin'!



Enforcement Officers Marva Smith-Moodie (left) and Keith Jones (left) of Enforcement Branch oversee equipment, turtle shells and crocodile skins at the display booth.



Visitors to the Animal Display gather in excitement to learn more about Jamaica's biodiversity.



Audrey Cameron and Hecford Thompson chill out, during Denbigh 2006



Kojo Dawes (right) and Zadie Neufville (left) go over the game plan.



The Zoo keepers



The Jamaican Iguana



The Yellow Snake

HR Update Cont'd

Gina Sanguinetti Phillips—Advisor National Environment Education Study Tour to Vancouver, Canada from March 25-April 1, 2006.

Valoris Smith—Acting Director, Corporate Management Study Tour and GLOBE Conference in Vancouver, Canada from March 25-April 1, 2006.

Paulette Kolbusch—Manager Study Tour and GLOBE Conference in Vancouver, Canada from March 25-April 1, 2006.

Simone McCulloch—Physical Planner Study Tour to Vancouver,

Canada from March 25-April 1, 2006.

Managers, Directors, Coordinators and selected employees participated in:

1. Media and
2. AMANDA Training

In case of Accidents...

The National Environment & Planning Agency (NEPA) and the Nuttall Medical Centre/Hospital have entered into an agreement to provide emergency medical assistance, on the event of an accident on the job.

Procedures to be followed include:

1. When an accident occurs every

effort must be made to take the employee to the Nuttall medical facility.

2. HR will forward to the Nuttall Medical Centre/Hospital a letter guaranteeing the coverage of the cost of providing this service, as will be required by the employee.

3. Staff who are covered under the Blue Cross Health Plan provided by NEPA, should present their Blue Cross cards in order to gain access to treatment services.

4. All invoices received should be presented to HR.

5. A full report of the accident must be sent to the Managers of the HR and Facilities and Operations Branches soon thereafter. The earlier

this is done, the better.

If the accident occurs while you are in the field, that is, outside of Head Office, every effort should be made to seek medical assistance by, or for the injured employee, and **Procedures 2 - 5** followed.

Please contact us for any additional information.

Gervaise McLeod

Manager,

Human Resources Management and Development Branch

Email: gmcLeod@nepa.gov.jm

Tel: Ext. 2442

Storm Forecast Modified For Remaining 2006 Atlantic Hurricane



Half way through the 2006 Atlantic Hurricane Season, forecasters are predicting relatively good news. Projections for the rest of the season have been reduced from the total 16 storms previously forecast to a range of 12-15 storms. According to the latest consensus data from the Miami-based National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Climate Prediction Center (CPC), National Hurricane Center (NHC), and Hurricane Research Division (HRD), there is a 75% chance of an above-normal hurricane season. There is also a 20% chance of a near-normal season. The 2006 forecast is the tenth above-normal season in the last twelve years.

Based on the updated outlook, 7-9 of the expected storms are predicted to become hurricanes, and three to four (3-4) will become major hurricanes (categories 3-5 on the Saffir-Simpson hurricane intensity scale). To date, five tropical storms/hurricanes Alberto, Beryl, Chris, Debbie

and Ernesto have already occurred. The predicted 2006 activity mainly reflects a continuation of conditions associated with multi-decadal signal which favored above-normal Atlantic hurricane seasons since 1995. These conditions include warmer than average sea surface temperatures (SSTs), lower vertical wind shear, reduced sea level pressure and a more conducive structure of the African easterly jet.

While NOAA is predicting an active season, a repeat of last year's record season is unlikely. This year is expected to be slightly less active than previously forecast on 22 May 2006, when in addition to the thirteen to sixteen (13-16) Named Storms, eight to ten (8-10) hurricanes, and four to six (4-6) major hurricanes were also predicted. The expected activity is lower for three reasons: 1) atmospheric and oceanic conditions are not as conducive as previously forecast, 2) the transition away from La Niña-like rainfall patterns occurred more quickly than expected, and 3) the very persistent upper-level ridge pattern over the eastern U.S. and western Atlantic, which contributed to the extremely active 2003-2005 hurricane seasons, is not present.

Head of the Climate Branch of the local Meteorological Service (Met Office), Jeffery Spooner says, "Scientific findings have shown an increase in the frequency and intensity of storms, due to climate change as a result of global warming." Mr. Spooner said that, "the increase in sea surface temperatures will go on for awhile, even if emissions are capped." According to him, "there is merit in remembering the childhood nursery rhyme about hurricanes: June too soon; July standby; August a must; September remember; October all over." Mr. Spooner, however, is

careful to remind Jamaicans that this does not apply in all instances.

The Hurricane Season officially ends on November 30. Last year was the most active season on record with a storm developing at the end of December.

Some tips to remember before and during a storm:

- In preparation for the hurricane season here are some important items which you should have in supply: flashlights, candles, lamps, get kerosene oil and a battery operated radio (transistor).
- Listen to your radios for weather reports.
- Identify your containers for storing drinking water by labeling them properly.
- Pack survival kit. You may have to leave home suddenly if your house is likely to be flooded, or if it is not strong enough.
- Refill and secure all prescriptions for special medication, e.g. ventolin, insulin, blood pressure tablets, et cetera.
- Organize your family and practice hurricane drills.
- Purchase canned foods and food that will not spoil easily.
- Make arrangements to have your pets cared for.
- Identify storm shelters in your area and be prepared to move to higher ground at short notice

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Tribute to Villair Barrett



The following is an edited excerpt of a Tribute to Villair Barrett, our fallen colleague, formerly of the Integrated Watersheds and Coastal Zone Management Branch (IWCZMB). Fondly referred to as 'Barrett', by those with whom he worked, he has, in the timeless words of US Pop star Michael Jackson, "Gone too Soon"...

Below Watersheds Coordinator Lisa Kirkland, and other members of the IWCZMB reminisce on the enormity of his contributions. In their words, he was a "gentle giant".

"...after interacting with someone over a period of time, sharing, caring and growing; that person becomes our friend and then our family. Today we refer to Villair as our "brother"! - Lisa Kirkland

"Brother, because he has always been there for us."

In fact, members of the IWCZMB, the branch to which Villair was assigned, and those with whom he worked directly had this to say:

"As our watershed boundaries were similar we worked close to each other, I could always depend on Barrett for assistance, especially when it came on to public education. He was always willing; easy to get along with; very friendly and co-operative. He will be sadly missed!" - Barrington Taylor, *Conservation Officer, IWCZMB*

"Very reliable, soft spoken." - David Hall, of the former Sustainable Watersheds Branch

"Very jovial, always pleasant and kind" - Hillary Seaton, *Administrative Assistant, IWCZMB*

"Good friend and good co-worker" - Clarence Parks, *Environmental Officer, IWCZMB*

"Words alone will never convey the sorrow and the pain caused by the loss of a 'True Friend', who has gone too soon. Rest in peace Villair! In my thoughts you are always near!" - Selvyn Thompson, *Conservation Officer, IWCZMB*

"Your memory lives on..." Michael Johnson, *Conservation Officer, IWCZMB*

"Barrett was a gentle giant." We never saw him upset or ever heard him say a harsh word. Indeed, he had a very kind spirit! We would reminisce about the good old days we had at our alma mater St. Catherine High School. Although years apart, we could still point out the same teachers and recall with fondness our favourite jokes about them.

"Barrett always told me: 'Lisa, 'bird can't fly pan one wing.' He meant, of course, that I needed to come up with child Number Two, (which I am yet to do!). But most of all, the other members of the branch will attest to the fact that Villair was a very hard worker. This was evident even in his final days with us. Denbigh was his "baby". The Saturday after his death, he was slated to have gone with a team to Denbigh. Checks made with Operations (Branch) revealed that Barrett had confirmed his attendance and had prepared to do the "necessaries" to make the event a success. So, you can imagine our collective shock and deep regret at the news of Villair's passing. If you can imagine it, Villair even called about work from his hospital bed.

NEPA Family:

He was also very proud of his daughter and son. Although we did not really know them (his family members), we knew everything about them, including their graduation and wedding dates. You see, at NEPA, we are a family and Villair ensured that we knew everything about his immediate family.

We can never forget Villair's kindness. Many of us have benefited from his vegetable garden, including the many canes and yams we received with pleasure, of course, as well as the lychee and other seedlings, and tonnes of technical advice to go along with it.

So, it is with mixed feelings that this tribute is delivered. Mixed because we will miss our 'Dear Brother', but we are resolutely comforted by the knowledge that he has gone to be with the Lord, in a better place.

My last visit with him in the hospital I asked him the question: "So Barrett, how are you with the 'Man Upstairs'?" He responded positively. So we are confident that God saw it fit to take his loving son home. He knows best!

Hopefully, we will use Barrett's example of how to live our lives with love and respect for all.

Villair Barrett started working with the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA), in September 1994. During that time, he served as a Conservation Officer and went on to become an Environmental Officer in the IWCZMB, until he passed on Thursday, June 15, 2006. He was directly responsi-

ble for the watersheds of Black River (largest Watershed Management Unit (WMU), Martha Brae and parts of Guts River-Alligator Hole. These watersheds encompass the parishes of Westmoreland, St. James, Trelawny, St. Elizabeth and Manchester.

Villair worked extensively in these areas, employing various land husbandry techniques at various levels. He has conducted countless numbers of watershed awareness programmes, at schools, colleges and other institutions. His forte was the Denbigh Agricultural show, the Hague and the Trelawny Yam Festivals, *which will never be the same without him* (emphasis added).



Villair Barrett, and the Watershed Branch staff



At the burial site



EIA Review Process

What is an Environmental Impact Assessment?

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) can be defined as a systematic process that examines the environmental consequences of development actions in advance, where the emphasis is on prevention (Glasson et al. 1999). Simply put, an EIA is ‘an assessment of the impacts of a planned activity on the environment’ and vice-versa.

The requirement for an EIA comes within the context of the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA) Act 1991 and the Permit and Licence Regulations (1996). Under these regulations a permit is required to undertake any construction or development of a prescribed nature anywhere in Jamaica or its territorial seas. Whereas, a licence is required for handling of sewage or trade effluent and poisonous and harmful substances to be discharged into the environment, the processing of an application may require that an EIA be conducted. **An EIA is not required in all instances.**

The preparation of an EIA Report is a very important part of the EIA Process as it documents the information obtained from the assessment and it is the report informs the decision making process.

Application and Review Guidelines for EIAs:

The following outlines the nature of the Applications and Review Processes for EIAs, as authorized by the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA).

NEPA acts in consultation with other agencies, such as the WRA, NWA, EHU, M&G, JBI, NWC and others, in making these decisions.

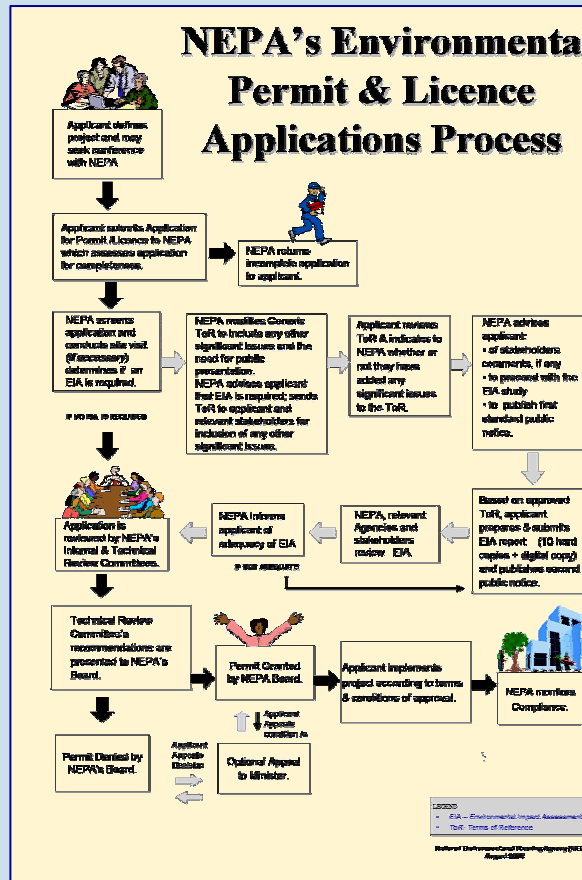
EIAs are not conducted by NEPA; however, the standards for their execution must be authorized by the Agency, which also monitors the adherence of developments to these guidelines.

The Application Process

An applicant is required to complete an application form (for Permit and or Licence) and a Project Information Form (PIF) for submission to the NEPA. The

Permit Application and Project Information forms require description of the project as well as selected aspects of the existing biophysical and built environments in which the development will be carried out. These forms can be obtained at NEPA and its regional offices and at NEPA’s website: www.nepa.gov.jm. Guidelines for Project Proponents are issued along with application forms to assist applicants.

- Ensure that environmental matters/ issues are taken into consideration early in the planning stage of projects.
- Monitor the discharge of certain waste stream into the environment.
- Ensure compliance with established NRCA environmental standards and conditions of approval.



- Ensure that goods and services are produced in an environmentally sound manner.
- Bring existing facilities into compliance with environmental standards.

Persons undertaking new developments that fall within a prescribed category are required to obtain a permit. **Licences will be required for the discharge of trade or sewage effluent and for the construction or modification of facilities.**

Approach to EIA Report Review

The method outlined below, which is used by NEPA is an adaptation of the Lee & Colley (1990) **Review Criteria for Environmental Statements.** These criteria were developed in the United Kingdom (UK) and have been widely amended to be used in specific contexts worldwide.

The process of the review is conducted in a four step approach:

1. Determine the compliance of the Report with the Terms of Reference (ToR)
2. Identify the deficiencies, if any, in the EIA Report using the review criteria and a review of any comparable EIA Reports and their reviews.
3. Focus on any crucial shortcomings observed in the EIA report and determine which shortcomings are so crucial that they directly influence the decision.
4. Recommend how or when any serious shortcomings should be remedied to assist decision-making and improve its implementation.

The manual for the review of EIAs is presented in two sections. Section 1 outlines the process of EIA review, whereas Section 2 contains the tools needed to conduct the review.

The Application Process as managed by the Permit and License System, which came into effect on January 1, 1997. The Permit & License System (P&L) is a mechanism to ensure that all Jamaican facilities (developments), which fall within the prescribed categories, meet required standards in order to minimize negative environmental effects.

The System seeks to:

- Ensure compliance with Sections 9 & 10 of the NRCA Act of 1991, which gives the NRCA the right to issue permits to persons undertaking any construction or developments of a prescribed nature and request EIAs where necessary.

A Crocodile's tale

The docile American Crocodile crawled lazily towards the watering hole, nothing like a midday dip to cool its well-armoured body. Its gray-green tough scaly skin was barely visible in the murky waters as it laid in waiting for its next prey. The reptile remained in the waters of the Black River swamp for about an hour before a carefree frog happened by and became a light snack. It had fed the night before on dead fish and wasn't very hungry, the unlucky frog would do for now.



After lunch it swam around for a while near the bank, propelling its huge eight-foot 150 pound body with its tail and webbed feet. It would not stray far from the bank though, it was April, four months into the breeding season and after

two months of courtship it had laid its eggs and was awaiting the three-month nesting period for the birth of its hatchlings. This was the young crocodile's first set of hatchlings; at eight years of age it had only just reached sexual maturity. It would of course get longer and heavier as it

got older and could potentially live up to 100 years. One of its older companions in the watering hole was over 14 feet and weighed in excess of 400 pounds. The huge animal was an imposing figure; none of the other crocodiles dared get in its way, lest they become its next meal.

The mangrove swamp where the young mother chose to make home was the perfect habitat with its brackish water and adequate banks for sunning to regulate its body temperature. It would stay there until July to oversee the birth of over 35 hatchlings. The baby crocodiles leave their eggs and the nest to go off on their own. Until then, the female crocodile would stay close to vigorously defend her offspring.

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NEPA Advisory:

*The public is hereby advised to call the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) upon discovery of a crocodile at: 1-888-991-5005, or 754-7540, the nearest police station, or 119. Harming a crocodile or selling any part thereof is considered an offence under the Wild Life Protection Act. Offenders face prosecution in the amount of \$100,000.00, and or twelve months in prison. Obey the law, **DO NOT KILL OR HARM CROCODILES!***

Computer Update "Top Ten Back-to-School PC Buying Tips"

Desktop, notebook, or tablet.

If you like to type notes in class or work on papers in the library, choose a notebook. Tablets work well in classrooms because the writing is noiseless, and if the professor draws diagrams, you can too. If you'd rather have high performance over portability, and cost is a top priority, choose a desktop.

Picking the right processor.

For a desktop system, you don't necessarily need the fastest processor. A 2.5-GHz (or equivalent) processor will get you through even the toughest class workload. To help with better multi-tasking, go with one of the new dual-core CPUs, such as the Intel Pentium D or the AMD Athlon 64 X2.

How far to go with graphics.

If your schoolwork is basic word processing, spreadsheets, Web surfing, and e-mail, then an integrated graphics (onboard) chip will suffice. If you do 3D rendering or have a digital-editing sweet tooth, steer clear of integrated graphics and get the best graphics card you can afford. If you're into gaming, a graphics card can make or break a winning streak. If you're a middle-of-the-road gamer, go with cards like

the ATI Radeon X700 or the nVidia GeForce 6600 for desktops and the ATI Mobility Radeon X700 or the nVidia GeForce Go 6600 for notebooks.

Hard drives (where size matters).

Get a big hard drive—200GB minimum on a desktop and 80GB for a notebook—if you're tackling Video Editing and such other related course. However you can survive on less 40GB to 60GB for both desktops and notebooks.

Upgrade to 512MB of memory.

Many budget systems come standard with 256MB, but to squeeze out the best performance from your system, your best option—and the least expensive—is to upgrade to more memory.

The importance of being wireless.

All notebooks today have wireless capability, whether it comes integrated or as an add-on in your PC Card slot. Some campuses have wireless 802.11 networks in place, but you'll need to check to see what type they use—802.11a, 802.11b, or 802.11g—and purchase accordingly. If you're not sure, go with 802.11b, which will work on 802.11g if the campus allows, but not 802.11a

DVD/CD-RW or bust. Don't settle for anything less than an optical drive (or drives, if you're getting a desktop) with both DVD reading and CD burning. Nearly all desktops now come with dual-layer DVD+/-RW drives that can write to optical discs that hold up to 7.95GB of data. If you primarily download and make music CDs and watch DVDs, a DVD/CD-RW combo drive is just right. For making DVDs, look into getting a dual-layer DVD+/-RW drive.

Easy on the eyes.

Consider a 17-inch LCD monitor for your desktop; it's a good-size display that will still save space on your tiny dorm room desk. If you're looking to grab a minor in gaming or you are a budding graphic artist, go for a CRT; it's better at high-speed motion and color calibration than an LCD—and also a lot cheaper.

Windows XP Pro, Home, Media Center Edition, or Professional x64 Edition?

Most people will choose between Windows XP Professional and Win XP Home. XP Pro supports features such as remote desktop & encrypted file system. XP

Home does not. In other words, XP Pro supports those things that corporations would need. Most home and college users will do just fine with XP Home. Windows XP Media Center Edition is a superset of XP Pro, building on it to provide multimedia capabilities and a "10-foot interface." Windows XP Professional x64 Edition offers 64-bit support for AMD 64 and Intel EM64T processors.

Splurge on the warranty.

With the excessive wear and tear a student can put on a system, especially a notebook, invest the additional money in a longer-term warranty than the standard one year parts, one year labor

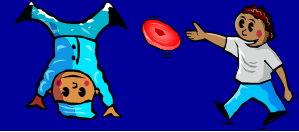
Source: <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,1895,1841628,00.asp>

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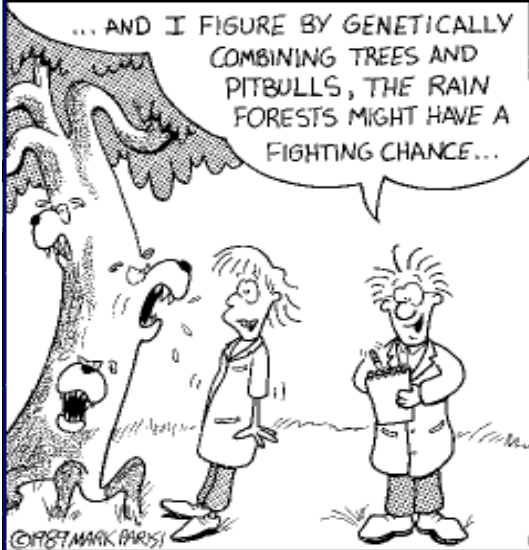




Youth Corner



off the mark by Mark Parisi
www.offthemark.com



Energy Word Scramble

Below are 9 words that have something to do with energy, but the letters are all mixed up.

Unscramble the letters and write the answer in the space next to the jumbled letters. When you are done circle any words that are kinds of renewable energy and write FF beside any words that are fossil fuels.



- DIMLNILW _____
- LRCRTEETIY _____
- LOCA _____
- NAGTUARASL _____
- RREAWLOOPS _____
- ERNGYE _____
- SOLEFUSIFLS _____
- RYDOH _____
- THOGLAMEER _____

FROM THE "DOC" Centre

There was a buzz of excitement this summer in the Doc Centre. Members of staff prepared for and executed several presentations to participants of the Jamaica Library Service's Summer Programme' Junior Departments. Presentations were made at the Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Library (KSAPL), the St. Catherine Parish Library and the Bridgeport Branch Library. The Doc Centre was also involved in judging activities at the Bridgeport Branch Library closing ceremony.

The children who ranged in ages 4 to 15 years old were informed about the structure, role and function of NEPA, pollution, endangered/protected species, among other relevant topics. Two PowerPoint presentations on Compact Disc (CD) were made to the audience. The first was on Jamaica's biodiversity, while the second brought much fun and excitement in the form of CD-based game created by Kay-Ann Miller of the Doc Centre. Another of the treats included a quiz on wetlands and a Scrabble game, both of which were created by Marsha Mason of Protected Areas Branch.

The children were informed about plants and animals associated with Jamaica's history and culture. This was based on KSAPL theme "Restore the Jamaican Culture.

The Jamaica National Heritage Trust (JNHT) was also invited to present at one of the sessions. The presentation was made by the communications officer, who was assisted by their archaeologist and two other members of staff of the JNHT. The oral presentation accompanied a very interesting and educational display of artifacts.

Menu Planning for Cooked School Lunches



Cooked lunches are provided in most schools through a subvention from the Ministry of Education and or initiatives of teachers and parents. To develop creative, economical and nutritious meal solutions, these are guidelines that will be useful to canteen operators. Plan a three-week cycle menu with standard recipes, using food groups of the Caribbean – this prevents monotony and provides a variety of foods to enhance nutrition. Lunch should provide one-third of the Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDA) for vitamin A, vitamin C, iron, calcium and calories.

Emphasise fruits, vegetables, whole grains, low-fat milk and milk products.

Some foods help the brain work better and these should be used lavishly in the preparation of school lunches.

Brain-builders:

- Ripe bananas, lean beef, cheese, chicken, callaloo, eggs, peas and beans, milk, oats, fruits, peanut butter, potatoes, tuna, yogurt.
- Some foods hinder brain performance. These should be avoided in the choices for school lunches.

Brain-drainers:

- Colas, high-sugar drinks, junk

sugars, white bread, corn, syrup, artificial food colourings, artificial sweeteners.

- School lunches should have the right balance of proteins and carbohydrates. Meals with too much carbohydrates may lead to sluggishness after eating.
- Limit the amount of fat used, as high fat meals diminish mental alertness after lunch
- Restrict deep fried foods to two portions a week. Reduce the use of saturated fats, trans fats and cholesterol.

Source: The Daily Gleaner, August 24, 2006.

DID YOU KNOW



Recycling 1 ton of paper saves:

- Seventeen (17) trees
- Seven-thousand (7,000) gallons of water
- Six-hundred and eighty (680) gallons of oil
- Three (3) cubic yards of landfill space
4,000 kilowatt hours of electricity
(enough energy to power the average home for 6 months)