

Nepsetter

Vol 1 No.3 June 2005

National Environment and Planning Agency

Preparing for the 2005 Atlantic Hurricane Season... ...a National Imperative!

With the start of the Atlantic Hurricane Season, the Meteorological Service (Met Office) is predicting a seventy percent above average hurricane season this year. Like last year, more storms are expected to form due to warmer sea surface temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean. The prediction is for 12-15 tropical storms, with 7-9 becoming hurricanes and 3-5 of which will become major hurricanes. This is particularly worrying to Jamaica.

According to Cowell Lyn, Project Consultant with the Kingston Harbour Institutional Strengthening Project, at the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), "in the last century the more powerful storms have approached Jamaica from the south and east, on trajectories which are especially threatening to the Palisadoes." The tombolo was nearly breached by Category Five heavyweight Ivan, last year.

NEPA is advising Jamaicans to prepare for potential fall outs from hurricanes. If indications are correct, early warnings issued by Hurricane Adrian which flooded many parts of El Salvador, Ecuador and Honduras, then disaster planning must become a way of life in Jamaica. Adrian reportedly killed three people, it

was part of the Eastern Pacific weather system and struck parts of Central America in



This house in Portland Cottage, Clarendon was destroyed by Hurricane Ivan

mid-May. This was well before the official start of the hurricane season.

According to the Office of National Reconstruction (ONR), damage caused by Ivan last year, mainly impacted the housing and agricultural sectors. Damage was estimated at J\$35.5 billion, including loss of earnings. This coupled with the spate of forest fires earlier this year and the miraculous 0.6 percent growth in the economy reported by the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), in the first three months of 2005; underline the urgent need to learn from the lessons of the past. The National Labour Day Committee, under the rubric "Prepare for Disaster, Recover Faster" took a proactive approach this year. Labour Day Projects focused on drain-cleaning, fixing shelters and tree-planting.

NEPA has submitted a report to the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation (KSAC)

and the ONR which recommends a minimum setback of 50 metres for new developments close to the shoreline. Hopefully, this will be adopted by local planning authorities island-wide.

Additionally, NEPA has also partnered with the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona to complete storm surge and hazard mappings, coastal area setbacks, development re-design and drainage system works for parts of

Kingston and St. Andrew. Similar projects will be undertaken in other parishes later. Disasters can strike anytime! Support these initiatives and obey relevant laws and guidelines! Planning for hurricanes is a national imperative. Both Ivan and Gilbert have taught us this!

Useful Facts:

Approximately 400,000 Jamaicans were affected by Ivan last year. Beat the stress this time or at least minimize your heartaches. Take steps to prepare for natural disasters. Start stocking up on dried and canned foods, as well as candles, flashlights, batteries and a transistor or battery powered radio. Save money and beat the mad rush occasioned by unplanned emergency expenditures. Practice disaster drills and keep important emergency numbers near at hand. Secure valuables such as jewelry and property titles and deeds.

Listen to your radio for updates and track the progress of the storm.

Know the location of the nearest storm shelter in your area.

Weathering hurricanes can be quite stressful! Will you be ready?

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News Briefs

Ab, here come the rains again!...And the 2005 Hurricane Season!

While a welcomed relief from the scorching drought earlier this year, one of the longest in Jamaica's history, we are nonetheless aware that there is an urgent need to mitigate the impacts of flooding, during this period.

Thankfully, the National Labour-Day Committee, last month, had the good sense to focus on preparing for natural disasters, given the impacts of Ivan last year and the spate of forest fires earlier this year. Another disaster, natural or otherwise, will certainly place additional stress on already strained resources and frayed nerves! Let us plan wisely for the hurricane season! We have been warned!

Atlantic Hurricane Season

According to the Meteorological Service (Met Office), the 2005 hurricane season will be seventy per cent above average, in terms of activity. At the time of writing, the first Tropical Storm had already formed in the Caribbean Sea – Tropical Storm Arlene, which while not a threat to Jamaica has certainly influenced weather conditions here.

In Jamaica, we are keenly interested in Atlantic weather systems given the impacts of last year's Category Five heavyweight Ivan and the other members of his dysfunctional family, which trekked across the Caribbean last year. We should certainly all be better prepared this time round!

In our Cover Story Executive Editor Agostinho Pinnock, takes a look at the 2005 Atlantic Hurricane Season and the urgent need for a proactive national response. His article is a reprint from a **Sunday Herald** publication of Sunday, June 5.

NEAW 2005/ Disaster Awareness Week

National Environmental Awareness Week (NEAW) 2005 and World Environment Day (WED) were celebrated this year under the theme "**Green Cities: Plan for the Planet**". A retrospective of NEAW, which was observed in Jamaica from June 1-7, is included in this edition.

Disaster Preparedness Month is being observed in Jamaica from June 1-30 under the theme "**Learning From Today's Hazards to Prevent Tomorrow's Disasters**". The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) in association with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Relief Agency (CDERA), hosted a one-day National Media Seminar on Tuesday, June 21, 2005, at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel entitled, "**Emergency Broadcasting, Early Warning Messages and the Jamaican Media**". The consultation sought to renew stakeholder commitment to sustaining the nation's preparedness and strengthen Disaster Management information dissemination in Jamaica.

Earthquakes

While Caribbean and international fashion designers rocked the National Indoor Sports Complex on Sunday, June 12, others had their worlds and homes turned upside-down by the tremors which registered 5.4 on the Richter Scale on that same evening. Since that time, there have been a total of four earthquakes on the West Coast of the US, in the state of California. Fears about a tsunami are now rampant in places affected. Earlier this year, the islands of the South-East Asia were also given another serious scare when an earthquake registering well over 7 on the same scale rumbled through that part of the world. Thankfully, there was not a tsunami, however, what is clear is that we are all sitting on an environmental time bomb as scientists contend that the earth is continuing to form itself, as evidenced in places like Iceland and the South Pacific. **NEPSETTER** promises to unearth when and where possible all the news you can use in terms of your preparation for disasters of various kinds. This edition has at least one such article for your information.

NEPA Act

The long awaited Environment and Planning Act, which is currently in draft format and is awaiting further comments from the Ministry of Local Government; one of the principal stakeholders in this discussion is featured in this edition. Find out what is the latest

with those plans.

Down to Earth

Warmest thanks to the hard-working and committed members of the newly formed **NEPA Players** and the cast of **Down to Earth**.

Sheries A. Simpson, Angella Norman, Khalice Bradshaw, Shakira Azan, Shann Demetrius, Phillip Seaton, Junior Nicholson and Elvis Richards; all participated in our recent **Actor Training Workshop**. Trainer Robert "Bobby" Clarke of the LTM Pantomime Company Limited was impressed with their progress and was convinced that they are all stars in the making! Good work **Players**! They have recorded four episodes to date. These will be aired in the three-month long series scheduled to debut **soon**! We all wait with bated breath for the unveiling of this *show-stopper*!

We are also happy to report that the Applications Secretariat Branch were feted recently for winning the "**Rename the NEPA Radio Drama Series**" Competition.

NEPA/ Gleaner Alliance

The PECC Branch, recently invited members of the Agency to collaborate in a unique partnership with the widely read daily, **The Gleaner**. Under this agreement, NEPA will submit monthly articles, approximately four hundred words long, for publication in the newspaper which has a readership of half a million (500,000) people.

IIEP Conference

Kudos to the Jamaica Institute of Environmental Professionals which successfully staged their second national conference on the environment under the theme: "**Sustainable Development: Myths and Realities**" at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, from June 15-16. A range of issues exploring the topic was discussed by industry professionals. The conference ended on a high note with a viewing of the Creative Production and Training Centre's (CPTC) video "**The Green Tunnel**" and the President's Reception.

Monthly Stakeholder Meetings

NEPSETTER acknowledges Peter Wilson-Kelly's presentation at the **Monthly Stakeholder Meetings**, which was launched in

March. Mr. Wilson-Kelly who was centrally involved in assessment of the impacts of Ivan spoke about "**Post-Ivan Coastal Assessment**". As Manager of the Integrated Watersheds and Coastal Zone Management Branch, Peter is uniquely placed to offer insights on this subject. Cowell Lyn, Project Coordinator and Consultant with the Kingston Harbour Institutional Strengthening Project, was the first presenter at the Monthly Meetings. He discussed the integrity of the Palisades tombolo, which was breached during Ivan. The **Stakeholder Meetings** happen every last Tuesday afternoon (after work) in the Red Room at 'Number Ten'. There is a standing invitation to you and other members of the public!

Due to the unavailability of the former Town Clerk Errol Greene and now head of the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) – the next scheduled speaker, the June Stakeholder Meeting was postponed.

World Wetlands Day/ Ramsar Designation/ Belated Happy Birthday

Congratulations to the hard working team from the Protected Areas and Biodiversity Branches, who worked on Jamaica's application to the international Ramsar Committee for the inclusion of the Port-Royal-Palisades wetlands in the **Wetlands of International Importance** directory. The designation ceremony which was held on **Earth Day** at the Caribbean Maritime Institute (CMI) also marked our fourth anniversary as an executive agency. Belated **HAPPY BIRTHDAY, NEPA!**

Births and Deaths

The universal mysteries of life continue to unfold in the Agency in myriad ways. Some of our colleagues, sadly have experienced personal tragedies of their own and closer to home we have lost one from among the flock. We are saddened, however, we are thankful that there is also good news; new life was also invited into their lives. We are humbled by these milestones. Our **HR Update** feature gives further insights on these and other developments in Agency.



HR Update



From focus groups to resignations, a number of Human Resource (HR) activities have happened since our last publication. Below we give you an update of some of the major HR developments in the intervening period.

Focus Group/ Employee Survey

In response to some of the findings of the recently conducted Employee Survey, three Focus Group sessions were conducted on Thursday, May 5. Staff members were randomly selected to participate in the discussions, the outcomes of which are to be collated and filtered into the HR mandate of the Agency.

New Employment

Congratulations on the appointments of the three newest members of the Public Education and Corporate Communication (PECC) Branch – Kay-Ann Miller, Librarian, (Documentation Centre), Everol Anderson, Webmaster and Nadine Flowers, PE Officer. Ricky White, Work Experience Student from Excelsior CC is stationed in the Finance & Accounts Branch.

Resignations

Time certainly marches on as have some of our former colleagues. To those who have gone on to 'greener pastures', we say: "**Bon Voyage!**"

NEPSETTER has also learned that plans are in gear to recognize those of our peers who left the Agency since September last year. More anon!

Former Chief Executive Officer Patricia Sinclair McCalla heads the list. She has since moved on to a new post at the Office of Prime Minister (OPM), as the Permanent Secretary

(PS). All the best with your new appointment Mrs. Sinclair McCalla!

Others include:

Georgia Sinclair, formerly of **Human Resources Management Branch**; Damion Miller – formerly of **Registry (Operations and Facilities Management Branch)**; Meegan Scott – formerly of **Strategic Planning, Policies and Projects Division**; Patroy Foster – formerly of **Applications Processing Branch**; Byron Blake – formerly of **Internal Audit**; Veronica Alleyne – formerly of the **National Ozone Unit (NOU)**; Tina Williams – formerly of the **ENACT Programme**

Scholarships/ Bursaries and Internships

Gilroy English, Manager of the Legal Services Branch has been granted an Organisation of American States (OAS) Scholarship. He will attend a development course entitled **Ocean Governance: Policy, Law and Management**, to be held at the International Ocean Institute, Dalhousie University in Canada. He will be away for two months – May 25 to July 22, 2005.

Good luck with your studies Gilroy!

Memoriam

Regrettably, tragedy struck the Agency recently. We are saddened to report the untimely passing of our dear colleague Mr. Cecil Freeman, Caretaker at the Lab, on Friday, May 6. Mr. Freeman was shot and killed by the police under admittedly confusing circumstances.

While we are still unclear about the details of this very unfortunate incident; we nonetheless wish for all those he left behind, including family, friends and colleagues, fortitude and

courage in this moment of darkness. Our prayers are with you!

We also extend condolences to Tannisha Scarlett of the PECC Branch, Veronica Alleyne of the National Ozone Unit (NOU) and Sonia Haynes of the Human Resources Branch, all of whom lost their mothers recently. Shakira Azan, of the Biodiversity Branch, also lost her uncle and another family member under tragic circumstances.

Both Royan Gayle and Nickoy Grant of the Protected Areas and Operations and Facilities Management Branches, respectively, lost their father recently. The loss is all the more profound with the proximity of Father's Day on Sunday, June 19.

We are poorer for your losses and empathize with you in this time of despair!

Births/ Mothers' Day

On a more pleasant note; despite her April 1 "landing", new mom Kerine Senior of the Enforcement Branch was no 'April Fool'. Ms Senior gave birth to a bouncing baby boy!

Hardworking Carole Graham of the Applications Processing Branch is the proud mom of baby boy Chase on Saturday, April 23.

Deneise Tulloch of Applications Management and Sophia Hunt of Map Registry and Data Management Branch and their babies made a landing on the tarmac of motherhood recently. *Congratulations, Moms!*

Fathers' Day

Happy belated Father's Day to all fathers in the Agency.

Preparation for New Environment and Planning Act Well Advanced... NEPA Awaits Comments from Key Stakeholders



Laleta Davis-Mattis, Director, Legal, Standards and Enforcement Division makes a point about the Environment and Planning Act which is currently in draft format.

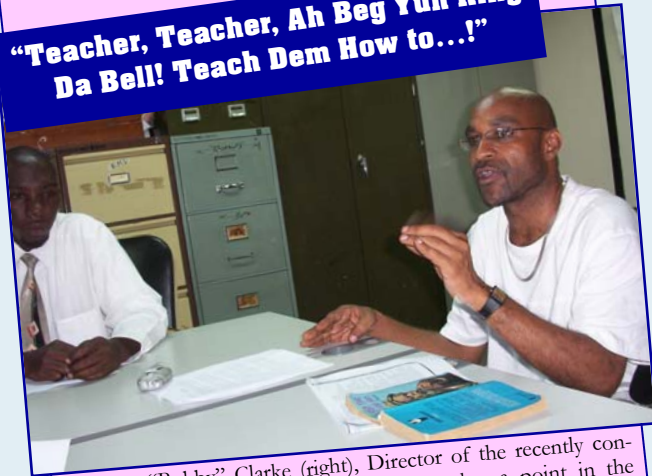
Under the authorship of the Office of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Legal Services Branch, a new Environment and Planning Act is scheduled to be promulgated by year end. However, discussions are being held with primary stakeholders. The Ministry of Local Government, one of the principal stakeholders, is currently reviewing the document.

So far, the committee set up to examine the proposals in the draft legislation includes representatives from the Cabinet Office, Attorney General's Chambers, internal staff of NEPA and the Ministry of Land and Environment (MLE). The committee has met with some heads of public sector agencies as well as their legal officers, parish councils, the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA), the Land Development Utilisation Commission (LDUC) and the Town and Country Planning Authority (TCPA).

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Pictorial

"Teacher, Teacher, Ah Beg Yuh Ring Da Bell! Teach Dem How to...!"



Robert "Bobby" Clarke (right), Director of the recently concluded Pantomime "**Iffa Nuh Soh**", makes a point in the "**Down to Earth Actor Training Workshop**", held at 'Number 10' on Wednesday, May 4. The three-day workshop was attended by all the actors in the radio drama series which is scheduled to debut in national media.

Those in attendance were: *Sheries A. Simpson, Angella Norman, Khalice Bradshaw, Shakira Azan, Shawn Demetrius, Phillip Seaton, Junior Nicholson and Elvis Richards.*

Down to Earth, is a five minute radio drama series which features environment and planning issues in Jamaica. The series which focuses on a Working-Class Jamaican family will run, in the first instance, for three months on national radio. A ten thousand dollar grand prize will be awarded to listeners who follow all the episodes and are able to answer questions at the end of the series.

Applications Secretariat Receives Award for Down to Earth Name...

... Branch meets for lunch in Red Room.

"Lawd ah Massy! Den a Fi Wi Own People ah Bun Dung Di Country?!"



Sheries Simpson (right), Project Assistant with the Kingston Harbour Institutional Strengthening Project, is decidedly in character, as she delivers one of her dramatic lines as the nosy and excited neighbour Miss Joyce of the soon to be aired **Down to Earth** radio drama series. Meanwhile, Khalice Bradshaw of the Planning Branch, who plays the pre-pubescent Michelle Mathews, Joyce's neighbour and one of the main characters ponders the excitement of the moment! The occasion was the Down to Earth Actor Training Workshop held in the Meeting Room at Number 10, from May 4-6. The training was conducted by Director of the National Pantomime "**Iffa Nuh Soh**", Robert "Bobby" Clarke.

Applications Secretariat Feted...

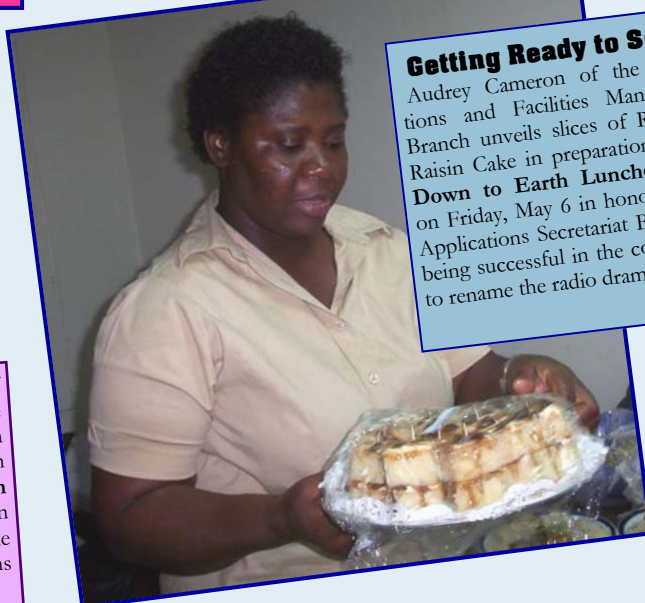
... Luncheon for Branch Members for Renaming Radio Drama.

Getting Ready to Serve!

Audrey Cameron of the Operations and Facilities Management Branch unveils slices of Rum and Raisin Cake in preparation for the **Down to Earth Luncheon** held on Friday, May 6 in honour of the Applications Secretariat Branch for being successful in the competition to rename the radio drama series.



"Yum-Yum! I am Ready to Dig In!" is what Kevin Reid of the Applications Secretariat Branch seems to be thinking, as he prepares to take a bite out of the sumptuous fare. The occasion was the awards luncheon for the Applications Secretariat Branch which recently renamed the Agency's radio drama series, **Down to Earth**. The luncheon which was held in the Red Room, on Friday, May 6 was catered by the Pantry. Crystal Gregory, the National Youth Service Volunteer attached to the branch seems to be in agreement!



Pictorial

Here are pictures of some of the presentations made to schools and community groups since our last publication. See whether you can identify the people in the pictures.



Preparation for New Environment and Planning Act Well Advanced...

cont'd. from page 3

Island-wide public consultations are scheduled to begin this Month. The Act will replace the NRCA, the LDUC and the TCP Acts and will establish a new Authority. The new statutory body's primary role will be to make decisions on applications which come before the Agency. NEPA's CEO will be a member of the new Authority.

According to Laleta Davis-Mattis, Director of the Legal, Standards and Enforcement Division, "the Authority will have the power to establish committees to carry out its work. The Act will also create a Tribunal which will hear appeals against every decision of the New Authority, the CEO or the local planning authority."

The Act recognises the roles of the local planning authorities and the local government reform programme and seeks to retain those roles with additional ones.

The objectives of the Act are to protect the environment, which is essential to the integrity of ecosystems, human health and the well-being of society within the context of sustainable spatial planning. The Act also recognises that Jamaica's economic growth and prosperity should occur in a context where physical planning and development

take account of environmental imperatives.

Additionally, the Act takes account of the principle of sustainable development. This ensures development activities, which include the use of natural resources, are conducted in a way that ensures present needs are met without compromising future generations' ability to do the same. This principle ensures the mitigation of environmental damage.

Corresponding with these principles, the new Act underlines the need for Government leadership in areas of environmental research, technology and environmental protection standards and the shared responsibility of all Jamaicans for ensuring the protection, enhancement and wise use of the environment through individual actions and the responsibility to work co-operatively with other countries to prevent and minimize environmental impacts.

Under the proposed legislation, polluters will pay for the costs of their action. Administering and enforcing the law will be comprehensive and responsive, a need which has been continuously identified as important in the effective administration of environment

and planning laws.

The need to provide for the protection of the environment, especially those aspects that are matters of national significance have also been targeted. The protection of biodiversity has been identified as a critical element of the new Act.

The law also recognises the necessity for the formulation and implementation of a national sustainable development plan and the review of and formulation of development orders for each parish in Jamaica. While NEPA will have overall responsibility for the national plan in consultation with local planning authorities, the local planning authorities will have ultimate responsibility for formulating development plans for their individual parishes.

Retrospective!

National Environmental Awareness Week (NEAW) 2005 ...

... "Green Cities: Plan for the Planet"

National Environmental Awareness Week was celebrated this year from June 1 – 7, under the theme "Green Cities: Plan for the Planet", which was also the theme of World Environment Day (WED). WED was observed this year on Sunday, June 5. NEPA, in collaboration with several other environment non/governmental agencies, organized several activities to mark the week. World Ocean's Day, another international environmental celebration was also observed on Wednesday, June 8.

Both WED and World Oceans Day are annual international United Nations (UN) celebrations. The Natural Resources Conservation Division (NRCD), in 1978, was the first agency to move from a day to week of activities. The start day, however, usually varies depending on whether June starts on a Sunday.

Two new activities were introduced this year – a National Environment Film Festival and the World Environment Day (WED) Concert, both of which were very successful. The Film Festival was held in partnership with Palace Amusement Company Limited, Island Cove Cinemas and Digicel. Students and teachers from approximately 100 schools across Jamaica participated. Three films were shown: **Shark's Tale, Ice Age and Day After Tomorrow.**

The WED Concert was held at the Emancipation Park, Knutsford Boulevard, New Kingston. Popular drummer



Phillip Seaton of Registry, in performance at the World Environment Day (WED) Concert, held recently at the Emancipation Park, New Kingston. The Concert was one of the events organized to mark National Environmental Awareness Week (NEAW) 2005 featured items from a number of schools, winners of the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission's festival competitions and members of staff.

Desi Jones and the **Worl' of Drums** quartet and Jamaica Cultural Development Commission (JCDC) two-time Popular Song Contest winner Steffan Penicillin were the headline entertainers. Our own colleagues Phillip Seaton, Warren "Muddy" Davis and Winston Peynado also performed as well as schools from the Corporate Area. The event was well received by those in attendance.

On World Environment Day, Sunday, June 5 worshippers gathered in praise at the WED Church Service and to listen to the Minister of Land and Environment's WED Message, at Grace Missionary Church, in Kingston. The Minister's message was also read in a number of other churches island-wide.

NEPA also launched the Used Lead Acid Battery (ULAB) project on Monday, June 6 at the Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Library. A display on the "History of Solid Waste Management in Jamaica" was also mounted by the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA).

Film Festival Thank You:

Mrs. Gonzalez Brown from the United Learning Centre in Upton, St. Ann says: "We are grateful for the invitation to attend the Environmental Week Film Festival at the Cove Cinema. It was a very good learning experience for the children."

Earth Day 2005

Designation Ceremony/ NEPA's Birthday



Kingston Harbour Takes Centre Stage on Earth Day 2005

In animated discussions about Kingston Harbour are: (from left) Sheries Simpson (left), Assistant Project Coordinator of the Kingston Harbour Rehabilitation Project, housed at the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA); Dr. Mona Webber (second left), Lecturer – Department of Life Sciences, UWI, Mona; (centre) Hopeton Heron, Acting Chief Executive Officer of NEPA; Cheyenne Blake (second right), Manager – Environment and Occupational Health and Safety at the Airports Authority and Penny Budball (right), Public Awareness Relations Consultant – Kingston Harbour Rehabilitation Project.

The occasion was the Designation Ceremony of the Palisadoes-Port Royal wetlands as a Wetland of International Importance, in the Ramsar Convention's international directory. The ceremony which also marked Earth Day celebrations in Jamaica and NEPA's fourth birthday was held at the Caribbean Maritime Institute (CMI), on Earth Day, Friday, April 22. The Palisadoes-Port Royal wetlands are Jamaica's second wetlands to be named by the Ramsar Convention.

Digicel Hands Over Cheque to NEPA



"Educating Jamaica's youth about the environment is, indeed, a priority!"

This seems to be what Heather Shields (left), Head of Marketing at Digicel Jamaica Limited and Dr. Grace Turner, Manager of the Public Education and Corporate Communication Branch at NEPA are saying to each other. The occasion was the **Cheque Handing Over Ceremony** held at the telecommunications giant's head office in New Kingston, on Wednesday, June 8.

Digicel handed over \$50,000 to the Agency towards the staging of its first and very successful **National Environmental Awareness Week Film Festival**, which was held on Wednesday, June 1 at Palace Amusement cinemas island-wide and Cove Cinema in Ocho Rios.

The **Environmental Film Festival**, which was targeted at primary and secondary school-aged children across Jamaica, was one of many activities planned by NEPA to celebrate **National Environmental Awareness Week (NEAW)** which was celebrated under the theme: "Green Cities: Plan for the Planet" from June 1-7.

From the Doc Centre

Plants are very important in our lives providing oxygen for our existence. However have you ever stopped to admire their beauty? Do you know the names of the plants and flowers in your garden or yard? Do you know the names of those you see on a daily basis? Take time out to 'visit' Monica

F. Warner's book "Flowers of Jamaica", in the Documentation Centre. It is beautifully illustrated and tells you the names of the flowers, both their local and scientific names. Information such as whether they are endemic to Jamaica or originally natives of other countries is also given. The narra-

tive is very interesting.

Flowers included are: 'Shame-o-Lady', sometimes referred to as 'Shamey Lady', Donkey Fee-Fee, Cat Tail, Castor Oil, Okra and Ram Goat Dash Along (Ram Goat Nation).

Poems

From a Child's Heart to Yours

Turtles, Beetles
Manatees
Trees

Insects, seas
Snails
Quails

Dancing raindrops
Soil absorbing
Man and beast
All depending

Air pollution
Ailing children
Dying trees
Who really sees?

Crowds of children
Round a table
What are they doing?
One child is rising.

Stop! She says
This ongoing madness
Look around you
Relieve the sadness!

On the air we must depend
The trees

The rivers
They are our friends.

If they go
We go too
Life is intertwined
Let's refresh our minds

The environment
Is part of us
Respect is a must
Let's do our best.

You and me
He and she
Let's aim to be
An environmentally friendly
family.

By Laleta Davis-Mattis



Barbara Butterfly

I am Barbara Butterfly
Flitting and floating way up
high
Twisting and twirling and
passing by
Harry Hummingbird's
home way up in the sky

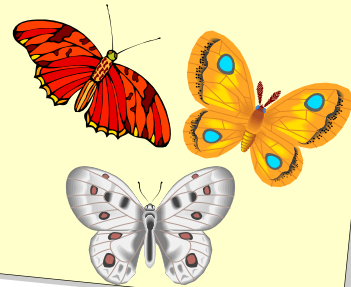
Do you see my pretty
wings?
With dots, and spots and
little things
I spin and dance when
Polly Parrot sings
But hide in the bushes
when Melvin swings

His big and heavy crocus
bag
To capture me and make a
tag
With words that end up in a
'mag'
That make any little
doggy's tail wag

But tell you what Melvin
Man doesn't know
That I have friends that will
tell him "no"
That's not the way to come
and go
Nor capture little butterflies
so

I pray and hope that soon
someday
All men will learn to accept
and play
With all creatures that
come their way
Despite the odds or come
what may

By Cynthia Vaughan



Polly the Parrot sat in a tree. She called out to Tom Turtle and May Manatee. "Hey, why are you throwing garbage there? Don't you know it will pollute the air?"

Said May Manatee, in response, "I know and soon there was no more mess on the land. what we'll do, we'll clean the sea and the beaches too!"

Sandy the Snake replied, "I'll make a hiss and swing my tail like this and this!" With one big swipe she piled up a load, while Charlie the Croc swaggered down the road. He beckoned to Tom Turtle to give a hand

You see boys and girls there is more than one way to dispose of your garbage every day. Just place them in a box or a bin For Trevor the Truck to take them all in.

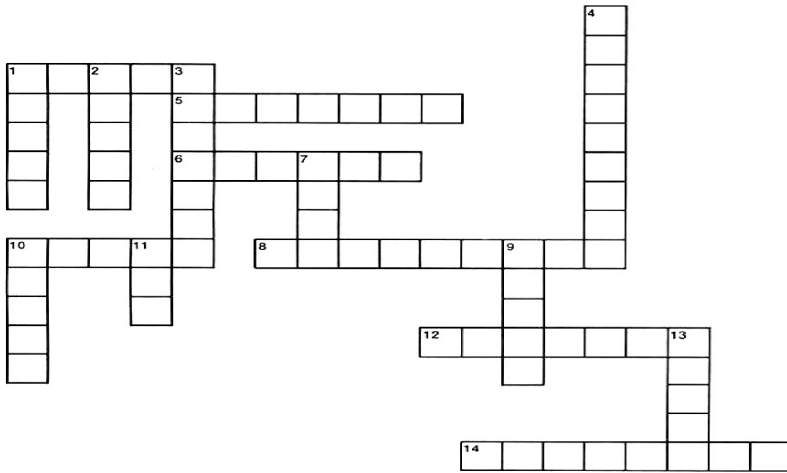
By Cynthia Vaughan



Youth Corner



MARINE CROSSWORD



Solve this crossword puzzle by figuring out the clues below:-

ACROSS

1. This tiny animal lives in colonies which form the bulk of the reef.
5. Locally known as sea-cat, this animal has eight arms.
6. This colony of animals looks like a beautiful, lace fan.
8. This pollutant fertilises seaweeds, making them overgrow the corals on the reef.
10. Corals can only thrive if this is warm, clean and clear.
12. We all enjoy a day at, which is protected by coral reefs.
14. Cows eat grass and sea-cows and turtles eat this.

DOWN

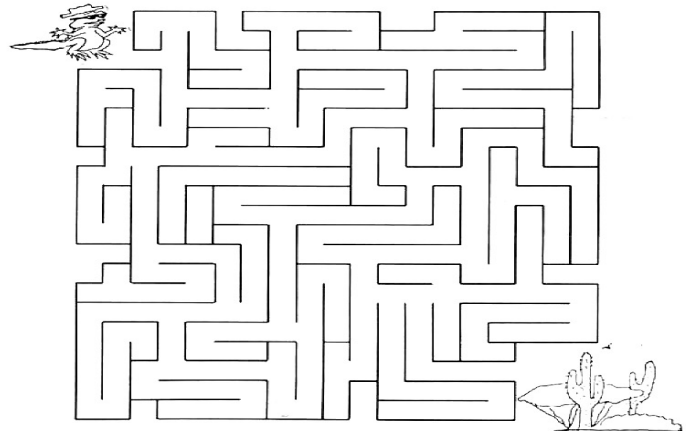
1. A type of sea snail with a big, pretty shell. It makes a tasty soup.
2. This starts on land but eventually empties into the sea.
3. It is illegal to catch this animal at certain times of the year. It has a close relative in rivers.
4. These trees live in water or mud along rivers and coasts.
7. A wide variety of these are found swimming on the coral reef.
9. Too many of this type of plant will smother corals.
10. A large, sea-mammal related to the dolphin.
11. A long, ribbon-like fish which hides in crevices, sometimes poking its head out.
13. This kind of equipment is used to dive under-water to view coral reefs.

FOREST FIND A WORD

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

Find and circle the following words in the puzzle below. Words can be found vertically, horizontally and diagonally.

- | | | | |
|-------------|----------|--------|-----------|
| Forest | Frog | Water | Soil |
| Rivers | Rain | Lizard | Limestone |
| Trail | Spring | Trees | Birds |
| Iguana | Cave | Orchid | Flowers |
| Butterflies | Wildpine | | |



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