



2014 Annual Report

The Bahamas National Trust
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Cover photograph by Lynn Gape





BNT Officers

Lawrence Glinton	<i>President, Elected Member</i>
Janet Johnson	<i>Deputy President, Elected Member</i>
Alistair Chisnall	<i>Honorary Secretary, Elected Member</i>
Simon Townend	<i>Honorary Treasurer, Appointed Member</i>

BNT Council 2014

Geoffrey Andrews	<i>Elected Member</i>
Glenn Bannister	<i>Elected Member</i>
Kelley Bostwick-Toote	<i>Elected Member</i>
Teresa Butler	<i>Elected Member</i>
Andy Fowler	<i>Elected Member</i>
Kristofer Lehmkuhl	<i>Elected Member</i>
Amanda Lindroth	<i>Elected Member</i>
Pericles Maillis	<i>Elected Member</i>
Neil McKinney	<i>Elected Member</i>
Karin Sanchez	<i>Elected Member</i>
Patrick Thomson	<i>Elected Member</i>
Barbara Thompson	<i>Elected Member</i>
Felicity Arengo PhD*	<i>American Museum of Natural History</i>
Karen Bjorndal, PhD*	<i>University Florida</i>
Anthony Bostwick*	<i>Governor-General's Representative</i>
Michael T. Braynen*	<i>Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources and Local Government</i>
Brian Carlstrom*	<i>U. S. National Park Service</i>
Dion Hepburn, PhD*	<i>College of The Bahamas</i>
Matthew Jeffery*	<i>National Audubon Society</i>
David A. Oehler*	<i>Appointed Member Wildlife Conservation Society</i>
Valerie Paul , PhD*	<i>Smithsonian Institution</i>
Pamela Reid, PhD*	<i>University of Miami</i>
Christopher Russell*	<i>Ministry of The Environment</i>
Prescott Smith*	<i>Ministry of Education</i>
Ellison Thompson*	<i>Ministry of Tourism</i>

Scientific Advisors

Alan Bolten, PhD	<i>University of Florida</i>
Dan Brumbaugh, PhD	<i>University of California, Santa Cruz</i>

**Appointed Member*

President's Message

The Bahamas National Trust (BNT) remains focused on the integration and expansion of a comprehensive and sustainable national park system.

This was clearly demonstrated in March 2014 when Primeval Forest National Park was officially opened by Acting Prime Minister the Hon. B. Nottage, Minister of National Security. The 7.5 acre park features defined trails with interpretive signage, a visitor centre and state-of-the-art composting toilets.

In April, 2014, Phase II of the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve was opened by the Rt Hon Perry G. Christie, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. The second phase of this special park features a new freshwater wetland designed by world-famous landscape architect Raymond Jungles. The edible history garden includes a Lucayan Indian Canaye and a cedar lathe house for propagation of native plant and tree species.

The BNT, as a member of the National Implementation Support Partnership for the United Nations Biodiversity Convention, has worked with partners and presented to the government a White Paper which recommends the protection of 19 new areas and the expansion of three existing national parks.

Of particular importance to the BNT are the proposed protected areas in Abaco, Grand Bahama, San Salvador, and the Joulter Cays. The expansion of Moriah Harbour Cay, Lucayan and Peterson Cay National Parks are also high priorities. These new areas will move us closer to our national commitment to protect 20% of our nearshore marine in compliance with the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, which I am proud to say was launched by The Bahamas and Grenada at the 2008 United Nations Convention on Biodiversity.

We applaud the government of The Bahamas for

the recent decision to implement a fixed annual closed season for Nassau Grouper. Unfortunately, although implementation of the closed season is a key element for the continued existence of this most important marine resource it must now also be combined with strict enforcement and punishment of persons found violating the law.

As we all are painfully aware from numerous news stories highlighting the far too high incidences of poaching in Bahamian waters as well as the harvesting of grouper and crawfish during closed seasons, the creation of parks is not sufficient unless they are properly managed and patrolled and this requires wardens, scientists and other support staff.

The BNT implemented new anchorage and mooring fees in the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park and we will be working with the government and the corporate community to increase financial support for national parks and the BNT in general.

Working with our partners - the National Audubon Society, the Ministry of Tourism, and with funding provided by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) - the BNT is implementing a three-year regional programme to achieve high-value sustainable birding tourism programmes in the Americas. Andros and Inagua are the Bahamian islands selected for this project, which will provide a model that can be replicated on other islands.

Our ability to create meaningful employment opportunities in national parks in our lesser developed islands will significantly increase support and buy-in in local communities. Our education programmes currently introduce thousands of students to national parks and our Discovery Club programme provides a unique and exciting opportunity for our youth to learn about the environment and actions they can take to preserve natural areas and the wildlife they support. The success of the previously mentioned IDB project will allow these students to have more career opportunities related to the environment and this certainly bodes well for our future.

We continue to work with the Department of Marine Resources and other conservation organizations to promote sustainable management of our marine resources. As part of the Conchervation Campaign, the BNT with partner The Nature Conservancy, will be conducting a Knowledge Attitude and Practice (KAP) Survey.

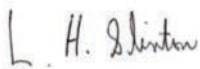
The KAP Surveys will scientifically measure how Bahamians feel about conch populations, how many people directly depend on conch fishing for their livelihoods and many other crucial parameters related to conch management. The results will be provided directly to the government to guide their development of better management policies for the country.

Management of national parks is undoubtedly the primary role of The Bahamas National Trust but robust programmes of science and environmental education are vital to support the management of the parks. Finding the necessary resources to strengthen and support these programmes is vital to the success of the organization.

Increasing BNT membership will not only provide financial support for the organization but also valuable stakeholder support for national park expansion, as well as other national resource management issues endorsed by the BNT. I implore each of you to speak to your friends, work colleagues and family to encourage them to become members and financial supporters of The Bahamas National Trust.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your president this year I thank my executive committee, council members and the entire management and staff of the BNT for their support and commitment to the organization.

Sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. H. Ginton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and "G".

Lawrence H. Ginton,
President

The Bahamas National Trust, as the mandated manager of the national park system, continues to work with government, partners and local communities to implement management processes for national parks that respect and conserve nature while contributing to human health and prosperity. The BNT realizes that balancing the relationship between human society and nature is essential. Ecosystems and their variety of life support our cultural and spiritual identity as well as our economic well-being. This report is a summary of the BNT's work for the year 2014, providing highlights of activities in the areas of parks, science, education and development.

NATIONAL PARKS

Primeval Forest National Park (PFNP)

The Primeval Forest was officially opened on March 21, 2014 by Minister of National Security, the Hon. Dr. B.J. Nottage, who also delivered a keynote address as Acting Prime Minister. Past President of the BNT, Mr. Pericles Maillis was honoured for his tremendous contributions to this national park. The 7.5-acre park features defined trails with interpretive signage, a visitors' centre and state of the art composting toilets. The park is open Mondays, Thursdays and Saturday from 9 am to 4 pm





Harrold and Wilson Ponds National Park: The invasive Cattail issue at this highly used national park continues to be an issue. The BNT held Earth Day activities focusing on removing Invasive Species from the park. Over 100 volunteers removed cattails from the pond, and





Brazilian Pepper and Casuarinas from the outer edges of the park. Minister of the Environment and Housing, the Hon. Kenred Dorsett, attended the event and was able to promote the need for invasive species control in an interview with local television.

The BNT continues to work with volunteers to address this issue. Caribbean Landscaping and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity have pledged financial support and manpower assistance to help manage these invasive plants .

Second Phase of the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve

The second phase of the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve was officially opened on April 11. This 25-acre sanctuary was jointly created by the BNT and the Leon Levy Foundation at Governor's Harbour Eleuthera. New features include a freshwater wetland designed by world-famous landscape architect Raymond Jungles; an edible history garden with a Lucayan Indian Canaye; and a cedar lathe house for propagation of native plant and tree species.





A newly installed weather station will record meteorological data at the Preserve, including wind speed and direction, temperature, relative humidity, radiant light, rainfall, and barometric pressure.. Real time data will be available on the Preserve's website.

Grand opening attendees included the Rt. Hon. Perry G. Christie, Prime Minister; the Hon Obediah Wilchcombe, Minister of Tourism; the Hon. Philip Davis, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Works; the Hon. Alfred Gray, Minister of Agriculture and Marine Resources, the Hon. Kenred Dorsett, Minister of the Environment and Housing; BNT President Lawrence Ginton and BNT Council members; BNT Executive Director Eric Carey, Shelby White, founding trustee of the Leon Levy Foundation, local government officials, community members and others.

Global Environment Facility Supports User Fee Implementation at Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park

New Anchorage Fees are being introduced and implemented in the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park to help cover annual operating expenses and administrative costs, infrastructural upgrades and costs for the Sustainable Tourism Model developed as part of the Global Environment Facility's pilot demonstration project. The proposed fee structure was agreed in principle in 2013, but more research was and consultation was recommended prior to implementation. The user fee structure was reviewed by the BNT Council, approved by the Executive Committee, and implemented in September 2014.



Proposed National Parks

As part of the National Implementing Support Partnership, the BNT is working to complete the Global Environment Facility Full-Size Project's main deliverable — the addition of 22 new areas to the country's protected area system. Of particular priority are:

San Salvador National Parks— The BNT has worked with the San Salvador Living Jewels organization for over a decade to protect five areas on San Salvador. A grant from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund will fund the public education and outreach when these areas are set aside as important seabird nesting cays; iguana habitat; and marine nurseries and dive sites

Moriah Harbour Cay—Expansion of this national park will include marine nursery areas that were originally proposed but not included in the 2002 park designation.

Grand Bahama Parks—Two new national parks - East Grand Bahama and Northshore Gap - and the expansion of the existing Lucayan and Peterson Cay National Parks are proposed. Extensive public consultation has taken place and the proposals have received wide community support.



Joulter Cays National Park—These three cays off the northeastern tip of Andros form a large intertidal area of stabilized sand flats, penetrated partly by tidal channels with seagrass beds. Designation as an Important Bird Area does not provide sufficient protection to sustain the habitats that support the socioeconomic and biological importance of the area. Wide consultation has taken place in North and Central Andros communities to move the park planning process forward. This is an important traditional fishing area, while the cays themselves are important for migrating shorebirds like the endangered Piping plover, Wilson’s plover, Red knot, Western sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher and Reddish egret. Shorebird censuses conducted in 2011 and 2012 confirm that 4% of the global population of Piping Plovers and 9% of the Atlantic population are found wintering in the Joulter Cays. Additionally one per cent of the global population of Short-billed Dowitcher are also found on the Joulter Cays.

Abaco Parks—The BNT has worked with Friends of the Environment on the proposed East Abaco Creeks National Park and conducted Rapid Ecological Assessments for Cross Harbour and the Marls, which are important areas for bonefish aggregations.



Funding for community outreach and research was provided by a grant from the Bonefish and Tarpon Trust.

Security Challenge: It has become apparent recently that **better security is required** at national parks on New Providence, which are located in outlying areas. Signage and infrastructure have been vandalized and there is concern for the safety of students even when accompanied by BNT education officers. Police support has been solicited and wardens are being considered.



SCIENCE AND POLICY

Bahamas Natural History Conference

The Bahamas Natural History Conference was held March 3-7 at the College of The Bahamas (COB). A collaboration between the college and the BNT, the goal of the conference was to inspire new avenues of research and cooperation across disciplines while promoting the value of such research to The Bahamas in general. The conference's theme was 'Discovering our Ephemeral Isles', inspired by David G. Campbell's book, *The Ephemeral Isles*, which was the first comprehensive natural history of The Bahamas. Dr. Campbell gave the keynote address at the conference. The Atlantis Resort provided a venue and funding for the conference's opening reception, which was attended by the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Environment. The star attraction was Dr. Sylvia Earle, a world-renowned oceanographer who gave two presentations during the conference.. There were 74 presenters, including many Bahamians. Of the 270 registrants, 120 were COB students and 10 were faculty members. The next conference is scheduled for 2016 and the BNT will work with the Ministry of the Environment to increase participation by public officers.





Conchservation

The BNT continues to work with partners, including the Department of Marine Resources and Community Conch, to raise public awareness of conch conservation issues in The Bahamas. A high school education programme (My Science! My Conch!) was implemented on Grand Bahama and Abaco to introduce people to the scientific method and explain conch biology and conservation issues. The BNT will implement a Knowledge, Attitude and Practice Survey in 2015 in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy to measure public awareness of these issues and to assess the level of support for management of the conch fishery.



Audubon Shorebird Conservation Project

The BNT worked with the Audubon Society to conduct a Piping Plover Census at Andros and Abaco from January to August, 2014. The project also trained teachers to identify shorebirds and helped to launch Discovery Club branches at nine elementary schools.

Booby Cay Ecological Assessment

The BNT is partnering with Island Conservation on a project to reduce the threat of invasive species to the critically endangered Rock Iguana on Booby Cay, Mayaguana. A research team visited the island in March 2014 to conduct an ecological assessment and examine the feasibility of controlling invasive species like goats, rats, cats and casuarinas on the cay. Plans will be developed for their removal at a later date.



Strengthening Bird Based Tourism

The BNT is working with the Ministry of Tourism to implement a one-year bird tour guide training programme on Andros and Inagua. The project was initiated in July 2014 at a week-long meeting sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism. Community meetings have also been held to introduce the upcoming opportunity to residents. Courses are taking place in 2015, and the project will span three years. Following initial training exercises, the programme will focus on the marketing of bird tours. Test tour groups from the Audubon Society will help to perfect the guiding skills of participants.

Walt Disney—Reverse the Decline Project

The BNT collaborated with Dr. Craig Dahlgren to submit a proposal for a \$250,000/year grant from the Walt Disney Company to study Bahamian coral reefs over a 10-year period. This conservation project will be of national importance, with the BNT taking a lead role in research and monitoring, conservation, education and policy.

IUCN Naming Category Workshops

The BNT collaborated with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature to apply protected area management categories to the national park system. The United Nations and many governments recognize the categories as the global standard for defining and recording protected areas. Representatives from the BEST Commission, the Clifton Heritage Authority, the Forestry Department, the Department of Marine Resources and the Antiquities Corporation collaborated on three work-



shops to define the naming categories. Implementing the categories will improve information management on protected areas and help to regulate activities within these areas. The categories will be finalized in 2015.

Pigeon Cay Assessment

An assessment was conducted of Pigeon Cay (within the boundary of the Moriah Harbour Cay National Park) by Past President Sandra Buckner, BNT officer Lindy Knowles and BEST Commission staff. The goal was to evaluate the suitability of the cay to translocate the repatriated rock iguanas (*Cyclura rileyi cristata*) stolen from San Salvador by wildlife smugglers. The iguanas are now happily living on Pigeon Cay. Several females will be captured and moved to the cay in 2015 to balance the population.

Iguana Monitoring Workshop

The BNT collaborated with San Salvador Living Jewels and the Gerace Research Centre to host an Iguana Monitoring Workshop on San Salvador December 15-18. The free seminar sought to involve local communities in the monitoring of their iguana populations.



EDUCATION and PUBLIC OUTREACH

The BNT Education Department organised special workshops and presentations to varied school, church and community groups during 2014. More than 8,000 students and 300 teachers were engaged at these meetings, as well as 200 non-teacher adults.

Teachers Workshop

Some 240 Catholic School Board teachers and staff participated in a one-day environmental education workshop designed and implemented by the BNT Education Department. The meeting provided teachers with hands-



on activities that they could apply to their classrooms, and was sponsored by the Sandals Foundation. Schools participating in the workshop included Aquinas College, Every Child Counts, Grand Bahama Catholic High, Mary Star of the Sea School, St. Cecilia's, St. Francis De Sales School, St. Francis Joseph, St. Thomas More, and Xavier's Lower School.

Discovery Club Expansion

The BNT Discovery Club is being implemented at 56 locations around The Bahamas, and current membership totals 834 (388 Explorers; 350 Guardians and 96 Navigators). Students earn environmental achievement badges and learn camping skills while working towards their National Parks Badge. This year the Navigators Programme for high school students was supported by a grant from the Atlantis Foundation. Participants focused on the marine environment and 15 participants from St. John's High School, Central Andros High School, and Nassau Christian Academy completed the PADI SCUBA Open Water Diving Course. The student certification was supported by Kamalame Cay Resort and Stuart Cove's Dive Bahamas.





Eco Camp

Thirty students (aged 13 -16) from 10 Bahamian islands participated in the annual Eco-Camp at the Forfar Field Station on Andros. The young people learned about the natural environment through a combination of classroom study, outdoor activities, and interaction with a diverse group of education specialists and volunteers. The Camp was supported by the Audubon Society, the Ministry of Youth, the Lyford Cay Foundation, Bahamas Business Solutions, Bahamas Ferries, the Atlantis Resort, Cable Bahamas, Royal Bank of Canada, Forfar, the Lyford Cay Club, and The Bahamas Hotel Association.

RBC Blue Water Project

The Blue Water Project funded by RBC Royal Bank of Canada focuses on water conservation issues around the world. In The Bahamas the project engaged schools, church groups, government agencies and Rotary Clubs





on Grand Bahama, Abaco, Andros and New Providence, to learn about different water ecosystems that play an important role in The Bahamas. Booths featuring Blue Water Project merchandise (water bottles, key chains, posters, and T-shirts) were set up at various public locations on New Providence, Andros and Grand Bahama. The BNT also mounted two major exhibitions on water and water conservation at the Mall at Marathon. A guide for the construction industry was developed and distributed to local contractors.

International Wetlands Day Recognition

World Wetlands Day was celebrated on February 2 under the theme Wetlands and Agriculture. World Wetlands Day is a public outreach project of the Ramsar Convention, an international treaty aimed at conserving wetlands around the world as among the most diverse and productive ecosystems. The BNT submitted a proposal to the BEST Commission for Harrold and Wilson Ponds National Park, Bonefish Pond National Park and the Andros West Side National Park to be considered as Ramsar sites for The Bahamas. Currently, Lake Rosa on Inagua is designated as a Ramsar wetland of importance. A World Wetlands Day webinar was coordinated by the BNT with the Water and Sewerage Corporation to discuss wetlands and agriculture in The Bahamas. Groups of young people contributed to a clean-up of Bonefish Pond National Park and Environment Minister the Hon. Kenred Dorsett toured the park and addressed the need for protection and care of wetlands. On Grand Bahama an educational fun day was organized at the Lucayan National Park.

Shorebirds of The Bahamas Conservation Project Phase III:

This project is being implemented in partnership with the Audubon Society and focuses on teaching Bahamians, about birds. More than 140 primary school students are enrolled in *For the Birds*, an elementary education programme that teaches environmental awareness and appreciation of nature through the study of birds. Participating schools on Andros include Bowen Sound Primary, Stafford Creek Primary, Staniard Creek Primary, Lowe Sound Primary, Behring Point Primary and Red Bays Primary. Training for Discovery Club leaders on Andros was also funded by this project.

Birdsleuth

The BNT hosted a Caribbean BirdSleuth International Training Workshop in conjunction with Birds Caribbean and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, to share the new Caribbean curriculum with 27 participants from 15 countries including the Bahamas. The BNT will be introducing Birdsleuth to volunteer groups on New Providence as well as working with youth groups on Abaco, Eleuthera and Inagua.



DEVELOPMENT

Annual fundraisers continued to provide financial support for the BNT's education and science programmes.

Art for the Parks on Abaco marked its fifth year in January, with special recognition given to the Abaco Beach Resort, the venue for the event since its inception. Funds are raised to support the six national parks on Abaco as well as public outreach programmes.

Festival Noel on Grand Bahama celebrated its 20th anniversary in December. This popular holiday event supports the three national parks on Grand Bahama. The Grand Bahama Regional Committee gave special recognition to long-time supporters like Bristol Wines & Spirits, Freeport Advertising, artist Ken Heslop, and event founders Barton and Carolyn Milligan.





The BNT is working hard to expand its membership. To keep members better informed, a weekly email news brief is now being produced, in addition to the more complete monthly newsletter. Membership totalled 1500 at the end of 2014 compared to 1593 at the end of the previous year. This slight fall was due in part to postponement of the popular annual Wine and Art Festival which had to be rescheduled for early 2015. Ordinary Family and Ordinary Single memberships continue to be very popular and the BNT's demographic is slowly changing to embrace a younger audience.

PROJECTS

Audubon Nature Tourism Initiative

The BNT and the Audubon Society recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding to create opportunities for improved partnership and to facilitate an easier working relationship.

Over the next three years we will jointly execute the Bahamas component of an Inter American Development Bank-funded regional nature tourism project. Audubon has secured \$2.6 million in funding to promote high-value sustainable birding tourism programmes in the Americas. This novel regional programme uses bird-watching to create local community jobs while protecting biodiversity



and natural resources. Project locations include Belize, Guatemala, Paraguay and The Bahamas.

This programme will provide opportunities to create sustainable jobs for locals on Andros and Inagua through the development and marketing of birding tour guide activities. The project will also demonstrate the potential economic value of the Inagua and Andros National Parks, and provide a model that can be replicated in other islands.

The project will also help to spur the development of much-needed park infrastructure, particularly on Inagua where Camp Vernay was destroyed by a recent hurricane. The camp will be replaced by a more substantial visitors' cabin at an estimated cost of \$800,000, but funds need to be raised.

On Andros, diving, hiking, back country camping and wilderness experiences are all waiting to be developed and marketed. Many of these activities will take place in the national parks, thereby demonstrating their value and importance to sustaining local economies.

These initiatives are designed to be long-lived and supported by appropriate park infrastructure and equipment.

Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund

Disney's multi-million-dollar granting programme focuses on protecting wildlife and connecting children and families with nature. Since 1995 it has disbursed some \$27 million to protect thousands of square miles of habitat, conserve hundreds of species, and educate millions of people.

The BNT has collaborated with Dr. Craig Dahlgren of the Caribbean Marine Research Centre on a proposal for a 10-year coral reef conservation project. The project will be coordinated with several local and international partners, with the BNT taking a lead role in research and monitoring, conservation, education and policy.

Financial Highlights

Year ending 2014

Income

Investment income from Heritage Fund	\$	120,132
Project support from other non-profit organizations		765,773
Government Grants		1,125,000
Proceeds from festivals and other events		206,246
Other unrestricted income		1,070,977

TOTAL INCOME \$ 3,288,127

Expenses

Projects supported by the other non-profit organizations	\$	788,236
Education, public meetings and conferences		94,686
Park Maintenance		187,337
Management and administration		1,919,271
Depreciation of buildings & equipment		176,886
Other expenses		557,211

TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 3,723,627

Special Recognition

2013 Annual General Meeting



The Annual General Meeting offers an opportunity to recognize outstanding support from individuals and corporate Bahamas. In 2014 the BNT recognized two outstanding corporate supporters - the Abaco Beach Resort and Bahamas Waste Ltd. The resort provides a venue and other support for the annual Art for the Parks event. Bahamas Waste provides infrastructure support for all BNT events and activities. Pictured from left: Lynn Gape, deputy executive director; Frannie de Cardenas, CFO of Bahamas Waste; Emmanuel Alexiou, president, of Abaco Beach Resort; Neil McKinney BNT Council member; and Eric Carey, BNT executive director.

In Memoriam



Sir Jack Hayward BNT Benefactor Passes

The BNT was saddened to learn of the passing of Sir Jack Hayward O.B.E. on January 13, 2015 at the age of 91. Sir Jack was a long-time friend, and benefactor of the BNT, supporting the Operation Raleigh initiative which built the first bridge in the Lucayan Park, as well as purchasing half the property value of the Retreat, (which became BNT headquarters) from Arthur Langlois in 1975, allowing his widow to remain in the home until her death in 1985.

Sir Jack is probably best known among BNT supporters for his challenge gift of \$1 million, which created an incentive to donate to the Heritage Fund Endowment, eventually raising \$2 million. Sir Jack honoured his pledge in 1989 - an act of unselfish generosity. The Heritage Fund helps to finance the work of the Trust.

In 2005 due to damage from hurricanes the BNT was forced to close the bridge built by Operation Raleigh in 1984. Raising \$250,000 to replace the bridge was a daunting task made easier by another generous donation of \$130,000 from Sir Jack. In a special ceremony in 2012 to thank donors, Sir Jack was the keynote speaker at the ceremony.

As honorary chairman and co-owner of the Grand

Bahama Port Authority, Sir Jack was a renowned philanthropist, giving money to causes close to his heart. He had been unwell for several months and died in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.



William Saunders

William Saunders was a life member of the BNT and a strong supporter of our national park system. He died on February 23, 2015 at the age of 85.

As the founder and president of Majestic Tours, one of the country's leading tour agencies, Mr. Saunders was a well-known and successful entrepreneur and pioneer in the development of Bahamian participation in the tourism industry.

He generously supported many BNT initiatives and events over the past half century, and was particularly interested in supporting national park visitation.

Mr. Saunders started Majestic Tours in 1959. Today, Majestic is the largest ground tour operator in The Bahamas and one of the largest in the Caribbean. It has grown to include a travel agency, a European division and local cruise excursions. It represents tour operators based in the United States, Canada, and Europe.

He won a Cacique Award for his tourism leadership in 2011.

Donors

Abaco Beach Resort
Abaco Gold
Abacays-Carib Freight
Abaco Ceramics
Abaco Inn
Abaco Petroleum
Adler ANB, INC.
Advanced Document
Systems
Albany Developers
Albury's Ferry Service
Mr & Mrs Geoff and
Lynne Andrews
Anonymous
Mr & Mrs Robert &
Jacqueline Arnold
Atlantis
Barefoot Marketing
Bristol Wines and Spirits
Bahamian Brewery
Bahamas Ferries
Bahamas Hotel
Association
Bahamas Business
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Bahamas Wholesale
Agencies
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Ms Amanda M. Graham
Mr & Mrs Peter and Irene
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Graham Thompson & Co.
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Ms Helena Hermes
Mr & Mrs Helmut and Jean
Ann Holm
Hope Town Hideaways
Mr Richard F. Hull
Island Conservation
Ms Janet Johnson

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Kerzner Marine
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Kris Colvin Trust
Mr & Mrs Jack and
Michele Lafield
Levy Foundation
LexThree Ltd.
Mr & Mrs Orjan Lindroth
Mr & Mrs Yves & Matty
Lourdin
Lyford Cay Foundation
Lyford Cay Members Club
Mr & Mrs Robert
MacDonald
Mr Sidney Maddock
Mr & Mrs Alexander and
Caliope Maillis Sr.
Maillis Family
Majestic Tours
Mr & Mrs Mike and Nancy
McCarthy
Mr Michael W. McConnell
Mr J. Andrew McKinney
Mr Neil McKinney
Mr & Mrs Wally & Jan
McLaughlin & Saigal
Mr David McNaughtan
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Ministry of Tourism
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Sheila Schwartz
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Bahamas
Mr & Mrs Brent & Robin
Symonette
Ms Diana Symonette
Mr & Mrs Charles & Molly
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The Mactaggart Third
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Foundation
The Nature Conservancy
The Owl Foundation
The Varuna Trust
Mrs. Barbara Thompson
Mr & Mrs Patrick and
Linda Thomson
Mr & Mrs Leandro
Vazquez
Mr & Mrs N.D. Wardle
Wildquest Retreats Inc.
Zipx Bahamas Ltd.

BNT Staff

NEW PROVIDENCE

Eric Carey, Executive Director
Lynn Gape, Deputy Executive Director
Karen Panton, Director of Finance and Operations
Lavanda Rahming , Accountant
Claudine Green, Grants & Projects Administrator
Daphne Brooks, Bookkeeper
Lindy Knowles, Science Officer
Predensa Moore, Science Research Officer
Regina Smith , Marine Resources Coordinator
Shelley Cant Woodside, Parks Planner
Cameron Saunders, Deputy Park Warden, New Providence
Kristoff Francois, Deputy Park Warden, New Providence
Anwar Rolle, Deputy Park Warden, New Providence
Portia Sweeting, Director of Education
Scott Johnson, Education Officer
Claire Adderley Sands, Discovery Club Coordinator
Juanita Munroe, Education Officer
Steffon Evans, Education Assistant
Timothy Bethel, Retreat Curator
Gregory Rolle, Security Officer
Stephen Wright, Garden Staff
Jack Atilus, Retreat Gardener
DeToro Bethel, Garden Staff
Davion Wallace, Garden Staff
Dorcas Miller, Human Resources & Operations Manager
Raquel Rolle, Operations Assistant
Brittany Minnis, Human Resources Assistant
Alera Smith, Office Assistant
Kim Iturriaga, Custodian
Astra Armbrister-Rolle, Director of Development
Katrina Cartwright, Membership Officer
Urmie Braynen, Development Associate
Antone Barrow, Web Design and Graphic Officer

ABACO

David Knowles, Director of Parks
Kaderin Mills, Office Administrator
Marcus Davis, Deputy Park Warden

ANDROS

Stephen Smith, Andros Park Warden
Leslie Brace, Andros Office Administrator

ELEUTHERA

Falon Cartwright, Preserve Manager, Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve
Dr. Ethan Freid, Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve Botanist
Camilla Adair, Deputy Preserve Manager, Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve
Arlington Johnson, Site Supervisor
Hermane Exament, Maintenance Supervisor
Jason Moxey, Preserve Attendant
Omar Micklewhite, Preserve Attendant
Ezra Reid, Preserve Attendant
Alvanna Johnson, Office Assistant

EXUMA

Andrew Kriz, Park Administrator
Chery Elliott, Office Manager
Henry Hailey, Park Warden
Kendedo Marshall, Deputy Park Warden

GRAND BAHAMA

Lakeshia Anderson, G.B. Parks Manager
Lisa Wildgoose, Office Manager, The Rand Centre
Sharon Campbell, Office Assistant
David Cooper, Deputy Park Warden, LNP
David Clare Deputy Park Warden, RNC
Ellsworth Weir, Deputy Park Warden

INAGUA

Henry Nixon, INP, Senior Park Warden
Randolph Burrows, INP, Deputy Park Warden

Director of Science and Policy, Vanessa Haley Benjamin moved to become Executive Director of “Save the Bays” in February 2015.

Krista Sherman former GEF FSP Coordinator is attending University of Exeter pursuing a PhD degree.