



ReefComm

A bi-monthly bulletin of the Community-based Coral Reef Monitoring and Management project

Project Notices:

- Distribution of **People and Corals** workbooks continues
- Completion of the JCRA's training manual
- Preparation for the initiation of the JCRA programme

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Welcome

Welcome to the third issue of the ReefComm newsletter. Since the last issue there have been positive responses to some of our programmes. Please keep reading to find out more!

Training for JCR Ambassadors begins

Students attending schools in close proximity to the Folkestone Marine Reserve now have the opportunity to become stewards of the environment through the Junior Coral Reef (JCR) Ambassador programme.



JCRA members at the Alexandra School"

Twenty-seven students from the Alexandra School have already enrolled in the programme. The students' enthusiasm about joining the programme was based on their interest to learn more about coral reefs, associated marine organisms and the marine environment.

According to Zicala Thomas, the programme will give her the knowledge to help educate other young people about our reefs and seas. Another student, Rhea Parris, indicated that the programme will assist her in determining her career path when she leaves school. The students conducted their first meeting

on Monday 10th November 2008 to discuss the plans for the programme. During that meeting, they chose the members of the Junior Coral Reef Ambassador Committee, which is comprised of:

- Armand Piggot - President
- Drifa Mahdi - Vice President
- Kyle Herbet & Khodi Gibson - Treasurers
- Shamar Roberts & Sachan Ellcock - Public Relations Officers
- Derreck Alleyne - Secretary
- Rhea Parris & Zicala Thomas - Junior Representatives.

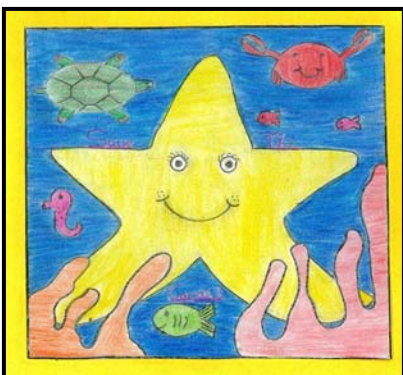
JCR Ambassador logo winner announced



Danielle Gill, winner of logo competition



Tontré Gibson-Harris, the second prize winner



The winning JCRA logo

Danielle Gill of the George Lamming Primary School, is the winner of the Junior Coral Reef Ambassador Logo Competition.

Danielle's winning design which was entitled "Save the Corals", illustrated various marine organisms and best represented the theme of the competition, which was "Protecting our coral reefs".

The winning logo will be incorporated into the Junior Coral Reef Ambassador Training Manual. Tontré Gibson-Harris, also of the

George Lamming Primary School, placed second in the competition.

Both students were presented with their prizes by Ms. Katherine Blackman of CERMES, University of the West Indies (UWI), during assembly on November 14.

During her address to students, Ms. Blackman encouraged them to join the Junior Coral Reef Ambassador programme.

JCRA manual completed

The Junior Coral Reef Ambassador (JCRA) Training Manual has been completed. This manual has been designed for JCRA trainers in both primary and secondary schools. It lists the activities that must be completed in order for a student to become a Junior Coral Reef Ambassador.

The JCRA programme comprises of workshops and associated field trips. There will also be some academic specialty programmes,

e.g. water quality monitoring, as well as some non-academic programmes such as swimming and snorkelling.

Ambassadors are expected to participate in activities on International Earth Day and World Environment Day.

The manual will be distributed to schools that are currently initiating the programme.

Corals in the classroom



Ms. Johnson receiving workbooks for George Lamming Primary

Protecting coral reefs today will not guarantee that they are protected tomorrow. Coral reef conservation must be the fabric of every society and to ensure this, a long term approach must be taken which targets the youth of all ages.

During the months of October and November all primary schools in Barbados will be receiving five copies of the People and Corals workbook. The distribution of these workbooks is expected to assist with incorporating coral reef

biodiversity conservation and management into the primary schools' curricula.

Thus far, principals have been quite thankful for the donation of "People and Corals", especially since these workbooks will assist teachers with on-going coral reef projects.

The distribution of the workbooks also provided the opportunity to inform more schools across the island about the project.



Reef watchers preparing for survey

Reef Watchers strike again

The rainy Saturday morning of November 15th did not stop the Reef Watchers from conducting their second reef survey dive at Fisherman's Bank reef and Sandy Lane Bank reef. For this session, the Reef Watchers team grew to 11, excluding the team leaders, Renata Goodridge and David Gill, as members of the Barbados American Divers Association

participated in the survey.

Various equipments for the reef surveys were obtained for the Reef Watchers. These will be stored at Hightide Watersports for subsequent dives. In addition, a Reef Watchers instructional video will be prepared for divers to supplement the Reef Watchers manual.



Learning to swim at Carlisle Bay

Students learn to swim

Splash! This was the sound heard as the Junior Coral Reef Ambassadors of the Alexandra School began their swimming lesson with Mr. Michael Young of Underwater Barbados.

swimming skills and a chance to overcome the fear of the ocean for others. The swimming programme will run for eight weeks and includes other activities such as kayaking, snorkelling and boat trips.

It was an opportunity to improve



In the spot light

All aboard!

On Saturday, August 30, 2008, the St. James Parish Independence Committee conducted an educational tour aboard the glass bottom boat 'Fantasea'. Patrons boarded at Weston Beach and were treated to a two hour tour along the coast of St. James.



Feeding the fish'

The well experienced tour guides were able to offer invaluable information about how the reef fish, coral reef and sea turtles play an integral role in the sustainability and protection of our marine reserve. All persons who participated in this activity were

given the opportunity to experience first hand, most of information that the Ambassadors would have been explaining to them during their community outreach campaign.

Several stops were made during the tour allowing persons to snorkel so they could better observe the corals and swim with the turtles.

The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who participated. The St. James Environmental Movement (JEM) has recruited several residents from the parish to assist them in upcoming reef and beach clean ups aimed at protecting our precious coast and keeping our beaches beautiful.



West Coast beach that they are trying to preserve

Visit our Website

<http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes/folkestone.html>



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newsletter

The Community-based Coral Reef Monitoring and Management is a project of the Caribbean Conservation Association in collaboration with: National Conservation Commission and Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies



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