



# ReefComm

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

**Project Notices:**

*Adopt-the-reserve initiative*

*More **People and Coral workbooks** to be distributed*

*MPA Effectiveness workshop*

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## Welcome

Welcome to the fourth issue of the ReefComm newsletter. Since this project comes to an end next month, one of the key areas of focus is on efforts aimed at ensuring that groups such as the Reef Watchers and the Junior Coral Reef Ambassadors are able to sustain themselves in the long-term.

## Understanding Reef Watchers Protocol

The second Reef Watchers Training Workshop was held on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2009. It attracted both new and old members of the programme. Among the “old members” were Edwin Blackman and Simron Browne of HIGHTIDE Watersports.



*Reef Watchers at workshop*

The theory section of the Reef Watchers Training Workshop involves an introduction to the manual, data sheets and the Reef Watchers underwater identification guide for fish, invertebrates, benthics and coral diseases. It was held at the CERMES and facilitated by the Reef Watchers Team Scientist, Renata Goodridge of CERMES.

The site for the practical session of this workshop was the nearshore South Bellairs Fringing Reefs. These reefs are situated in the scientific zone of the Folkestone Marine Reserve (FMR) and are opposite the Bellairs Research Institute.

At the end of the workshop, each

participant was provided with a copy of the Reef Watchers Instructional video, which is expected to assist them with their upcoming dives. The next Reef Watchers dive is scheduled for Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup> 2009.

HIGHTIDE Watersports is the only dive operator within the FMR involved in the Reef Watchers Training component of the Community-based Coral Reef Monitoring and Management Project. They assist CERMES with coordinating the dives and by providing the boat and dive tanks.

## Water quality monitoring with JCRA



*Renata showing two JCRA members about measuring salinity*

Fifteen students of the Junior Coral Reef Ambassador programme at The Alexandra School participated in a water quality monitoring exercise on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2008. Before the exercise, Renata Goodridge, Marine Technician with CERMES, briefed the students about mangroves and their importance in relation to coral reefs.

The monitoring was conducted at the Hometown Lagoon (Hometown

Hole) in St. James, a site with remnants of a mangrove stand.

Ms. Goodridge introduced the students to the various types of water quality equipment and allowed them to test parameters such as turbidity, salinity and temperature within the water of the lagoon and the adjacent sea. The session concluded with a tour of the water quality laboratory at the Bellairs Research Institute.

## Learning and observing

Some Junior Coral Reef Ambassadors finally got their long-awaited opportunity to learn more about coral reefs and the marine environment.

Twenty students of the Junior Coral Reef Ambassador programme at The Alexandra School attended their first workshop “Coral reefs, Mangroves and Seagrasses”. The workshop facilitator was Marine

Biologist with the Coastal Zone Management Unit (CZMU), Angelique Brathwaite.

At the end of the workshop students participated in the snorkeling field trip at the shipwreck within Carlisle Bay. The workshop was held on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009, at Barbados Blue, a dive operation located at the Hilton Hotel.



*JCRA members learning about reefs from Ms. Angelique Brathwaite*

## First aid lessons for marine life injuries

While underwater life exploration is fun, students must also be aware of the threats that can be faced while under the sea.

At the JCRA members’ second workshop, they were introduced to marine life injuries by Dive Instructor and Marine Biologist of Barbados Blue, J. Christie Finney.

Ms. Finney is an Emergency First Response CPR and First Aid Instructor for Adults, Children and Infants.

The one-day workshop was held on February 4<sup>th</sup> 2009 at the Folkestone Marine Reserve.



*Christie informs JCRA about marine life injuries and treatment*

## Reef Watchers Video-take

A Reef Watchers Instructional Video has been developed to inform volunteers of the Reef Watchers programme about the required protocol.

Scenes for the eight-minute video were shot at Folkestone Beach and Team scientist of Reef Watchers; Renata Goodridge donned another hat and took on the roles of narrator and presenter. The video has been distributed to participants at the



*Cast of Reef Watchers' video*

Reef Watchers II workshop.

Special thanks to the Reef Watchers cast and all of those who helped in the development of the video.

## Exhibit at Hometown Library

The current achievements of the Community-based Coral Reef Monitoring and Management project were showcased at the Hometown public library. The aim of this display was to increase community awareness about the project and to provide information on the importance of coral reefs, and on protecting sea turtles and the marine life in general.



*Coral reef exhibit designed by St. Alban's Primary School*

The exhibit was displayed from January 5th to February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

## Lessons learnt

On February 5<sup>th</sup> 2009, Park Manager of the Folkestone Marine Reserve, Mr. John Nicholls, attended a workshop entitled "The Knowledgebase for Lessons Learned and Best Practices in Coral Reef Management".

Held at the Pavilion, UWI Cave Hill Campus, the purpose of the workshop was to formalize the experiences and lessons learnt

from previous Global Environment Facility (GEF) projects, as well as non-GEF initiatives involving coral reefs and associated ecosystems. The Community-based Coral Reef Monitoring and Management project was identified as one of the GEF projects to be analysed. The workshop was facilitated by Mr. David Gill of Meridian Environmental Consulting Agency (MECA).

## Visit our Website

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



## ReefComm 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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