

Editorial

During 2003 our Club lost three of its stalwart members: Professor Peter R. Bacon, Sylvia Kacal and T. Francis "Frankie" Farrell.

Professor Bacon lost a long battle with cancer. He was a former President of the Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club and an Editor of the Club's Journal. As noted by Starr and Lambie on p.1. Dr. Bacon was the prime mover in the formulating of Trinidad and Tobago's legislation for the protection of turtles as well as his involvement in preventing a commercial enterprise from intruding into the Caroni Swamp. This issue of Living World is affectionately dedicated to Professor Peter R. Bacon.

"Frankie" Farrell died 10 days short of his 96th birthday, and was probably our longest-lived member. Like Professor Bacon he was also a President of the Club. His interest was in botany and was a co-author with Victor Quesnel and Paul Comeau of the book "Native Trees of Trinidad and Tobago." The 1987-1988 issue of Living World was dedicated to him. A tribute to "Frankie" is written by Victor Quesnel on page 49.

Sylvia Kacal succumbed to malaria while working on a project in Malawi. Sylvia Kacal was an active Club Member, a conservation activist and played a leading role in the formation of the Caribbean Forestry Conservation Association, one of many off-shoot organisations of the Club. Detta van Aard-Buch provides us with a tribute to Sylvia on page 48.

I welcome to our Editorial Committee for this issue, Dr. Christopher Starr who wrote the tribute to Prof. Bacon. Along with others, Dr. Starr also reviewed and edited the papers dedicated to Bacon. These papers include two on birds, two on frogs and one on insects.

Floyd Hayes *et al.* mention seasonal variation of gull populations on the west coast of Trinidad with the Laughing Gull being the dominant of seven species observed. Graham White and M. Kenefick discusses the species of birds using the mudflats at Brickfield. Roger Downie and his group from Glasgow University have been visiting this Country for many years. We welcome them to our pages as they discuss the comparative ecology of two species of frogs and he joins with M. Jowers to discuss the distribution of the frog *Mannophryne trinitatis* in central Trinidad. The last of the dedication papers is by Christopher Starr and Jo-Anne Sewlal describing their observations on nest and colony structure of *Dolichoderus attelaboides*.

Other papers in the latter half of this issue include the continuing series of papers on the skipper butterflies by Matthew Cock. He also reproduces excerpts from the diary of an early 20th century butterfly collector, Margaret Fountaine, in Trinidad. David Bass records 86 species of macroinvertebrates from streams in Grenada. Also working in streams, Azad Mohammed records four species of cladocerans (water fleas) new to the fauna of Trinidad. Hans Boos summarizes data on the Water Coral Snake and describes an unusual colour form of the species. Some people have to climb high to get a "high" out of research, so Howard Griffiths describes some of his experiences in collecting, studying and describing the research results he has obtained on bromeliads in Trinidad.

Nigel Gains, a member of our Editorial Committee, has had to resign through illness. He was a keen member of our Committee and we want to thank him for his assistance and the many suggestions he has made for the improvement of the Journal.

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In Memoriam

As we went to press, we learnt of the death of
NIGEL GAINS
(23 January, 1944 - 30 July, 2004)

Nigel served as President of our Club
and more recently served on the
Editorial Committee of Living World.
We extend our sympathy to his wife and children.