

# THE FIELD NATURALIST

BULLETIN OF THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

## MEETINGS - 4th QUARTER 1983

You are invited to attend the monthly meetings of the club to be held in the Audio-Visual Room of St. Mary's College on Thursdays October 13th and November 10th 1983 at 5.30 P.M.

### A G E N D A

1. Confirmation of Minutes
2. Business arising out of the Minutes
3. Lecture
4. Announcements
5. Exhibits and Miscellaneous notes
6. Other Business

### LECTURES AND FIELD TRIPS FOR THE QUARTER

- October 13th - Lecture "Northern Range Reforestation Project - Practical Conservation in action" by Mr. Narine Lakhan.
- 29/30th - TOBAGO by boat - leaving afternoon of Friday 28th.
- November 10th - Panel Discussion "Conservation in the Eighties"  
(there will also be a Photographic Exhibition on Conservation)
- 26/27th - GASPAREE Island - camp

### C H R I S T M A S P A R T Y

As in the past the Club will be organising an end of the year Party. It is our party and the only activity for the month of December so please come to the meeting prepared to discuss it. What about Saturday 3rd as the date. Last year it was on the 4th. This date should leave us clear for office parties, etc. which usually come later in December.

### 1984 PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

Members are invited to submit to the Honorary Secretary without delay, their suggestions for Lectures and Field Excursions for possible inclusion in the 1984 Programme of Activities. Please do not delay since the Management Committee will like to consider all suggestions at its next meeting.

FIELD TRIP TO LAS CUEVAS ON 3rd JULY 1983 (F. Farrell)

As the trip to Tobago on the 18th and 19th June had to be aborted a substitute trip was hastily arranged for 3rd July 1983. It was not surprising that only eleven people turned out for the trip. The plan was to drive to the head of the Maracas Valley and then take the old bridle path leading to Las Cuevas Bay. Actually a group of seven started up first and their intention was to walk to Las Cuevas and to walk back. A second group of four which arrived later and never connected with the first group arranged for a car to meet them at Las Cuevas.

The weather that day was extremely rainy. The first group however braved the rain and found that the old bridle path was no longer being taken care of. In many places there were landslides and detours and in one place the path passed through what was probably a squator's plantation. Near to the top of the ridge there was a 'T' Junction and the party unfortunately took the wrong turning because it seemed to go uphill. Actually the path taken lead back to the starting point and was in much better condition than the other one. Four of the party went right down to this end whereas the other three turned back and eventually reached the ridge where they could clearly see the peak of El Tucuche on the right. At this point the party found an old and possibly slightly demented woman living in an incredibly ramshackle hut. She was obviously a religious recluse living, as she described it, in the wilderness. She stuck up two notices on trees which said the same thing; Jehovah Labintan. According to her God operated from that area and in time to come a holy city would arise there. The group turned back at this point. I was informed on a subsequent day that of the other group of four two turned back and two walked right over to Las Cuevas finding on their way that the path joined up with Rincon Trace.

From the naturalist's point of view this trip was not very successful. Victor Quesnel collected some plant specimens and I (Frankie) collected many mangoes which I enjoyed both on the trip and at home. This trip has, however, been noted down as a possible trip for next year.

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON PREVIOUSLY REPORTED FIELD TRIPSField Trip to Mt. Chaguaramal on 30th January 1983 (F. Farrell)

Two plants collected, not given in the previous report, are listed below:-

<i>Aspilia verbesinoides</i> (DC) Blake	Family - Compositae
<i>Neurolaena lobata</i> (L) R.Br.	" Compositae

The second plant is called locally "Zeb-a-pik"

Exploratory Field Trip to Moruga Bouffe on 13th February 1983 (F. Farrell)

The following plants were collected by me mainly along the pathway leading to Moruga Bouffe. These are not included in the previous report.

<u>N A M E S</u>	<u>F A M I L Y</u>
<i>Vigna vexillata</i> (L) A. Rich	Leguminosae
<i>Synedrella nodiflora</i> (L) Gaertn.	Compositae
<i>Ludwigia</i> Sp	Onagraceae
<i>Dactyloctenium aegyptium</i> (L)	Graminae
<i>Stigmaphyllon grenadense</i> Ndzu	Malpighiaceae
<i>Triumfetta lappula</i> L	Tiliaceae
<i>Malachra alceifolia</i> Jacq	Malvaceae
<i>Thunbergia alata</i> Bojer	Acanthaceae

Field trip to Caltoo Trace on 29th May 1983 (F. Farrell)

Further to the account of this trip the following plants were collected:-

<u>N A M E S</u>	<u>F A M I L Y</u>
<i>Heliotropium indicum</i> , L.	Boraginaceae
<i>Commelinopsis glabrata</i>	Commelinaceae
<i>Protium guianense</i> (Aubl.) March	Burseraceae
<i>Cyperus surinamensis</i> , Rottb	Cyperaceae
<i>Myrcia arimensis</i> , Britton	Mrytaceae
<i>Heteropteris macrostachya</i> , Juss	Malpighiaceae
<i>Lacistema aggregatum</i> (Berg) Rusby	Lacistemaceae

FIELD TRIP TO GALEOTA POINT ON AUGUST 28, 1983 (V. Quesnel)

When this trip was scheduled it was hoped that Peter Morgan would be available to act as a guide to the area which he knows well. However, Peter has returned to England and we had to fall back on the services of an Amoco geologist, Mr. Horace Tuitt. Shortly after we arrived a heavy shower sent us indoors where Mr. Tuitt gave us a short lecture on how oil was formed and trapped in the sediments that made up that part of the country. Briefly, oil is formed under heat and pressure from organic matter in shale. It later migrates to the sand stone layers where it is trapped by faulting. When the rain stopped we proceeded to the beach where we could inspect the various strata and Mr. Tuitt explained how they were formed and how certain peculiarities arose. We looked for fossils but found none. There was a notable absence of sea birds, the reason for which was not obvious, and we saw no other animal life. I don't remember even seeing crabs on the beach.

There is a spectacular sandstone formation at the very tip of Galeota but the fencing of the Amoco compound seems to have made access to this difficult so we were not able to see it. Some unfamiliar plants were collected within the compound for later identification.

The official trip was then at an end but the Botany Group explored a small area north of the compound finding nothing very remarkable. The lower land was swampy with lots of Bactris palms and on the drier ground there was the seaside mahoe (Pariti tiliaceum), a medium-sized tree with large, yellow, Hibiscus-like flowers that gradually change to orange and then brown in the course of the day. Here there were some birds and insects to add interest but the afternoon was very hot so we did not stay long.

Luisa Zuniaga  
Honorary Secretary