



THE FIELD NATURALIST

Quarterly Bulletin of the Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club

October - December 2007

Issue No. 4/2007



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October - December 2007

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Shane T. Ballah

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The Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation

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Cover Photo

Editor's Note*Editor*

By now recipients of the Bulletin would have observed a number of change, beginning in the 3rd quarter issue of 2007. Some of these include the standardisations of the format across pages, improvements to the layout and arrangements of articles into discrete section. These sections include Club Field Trips (Trips of the Botany, Birding and Bug Groups), Lecture Summaries and Nature Notes. Management Notes and the Notice to Contributors round off the list of fixed sections. Featured articles will be added if and when available. I believe as well that the last issue was the first use of a photo solely on the cover.

In an effort to break the monotony of articles and make the Bulletin more interactive some subsection are being considered such as a photo corner, occasional environmental facts throughout the Bulletin, member highlights and a flashback corner. These items will appear in upcoming issues. One such item the Junior feature was already introduced in the last issue. It is my hope that with time other improvements such as the quality of paper used and the introduction of colour photographs will occur thereby further enhancing the Bulletin experience.

Members and interested persons can also contribute by submitting articles outside of the usual reporting of field trips and Club activities.

This issue, although late includes reports for the Tamana Hill and Chacachacare Trips. Regrettably

no reports on the birding or botany trip which took place in the fourth quarter were received up to print time. A summary of the presentation made by Lester Doodnath at the March lecture is provided as well as a feature on the Living World Journal done by Prof. Julien Kenny and originally published in the daily newspaper. An interesting article by Elisha Tikasingh on yellow fever vaccinations and Eurico Jardim's response to Dr. Starr should be well appreciated by all. The Guidelines and Objectives of the recently formed Environmental group are also included and should be of interest especially for those looking to join the group.

At this point I extend an invitation for persons interested in working with me on an editorial committee for the Bulletin. Such a committee does not exist at present and has not for some time, but I believe it is needed. A redistribution of the workload involved in the compiling of the Bulletin should at the very least improve the timely delivery of the issues. At present individuals familiar with word processing are required to assist in reviewing of articles.

As always your comments and suggestions for improving the issues are welcomed.

Shane T. Ballah**Correction**

The Cover photo of the QB 3/2007 was incorrectly identified as showing the view from the town of Mucuro. It was in fact taken from one of the bays along the north coast of the Paria peninsula, Venezuela, visited by the group during their trip.

Tamana Hills & Caves - September 30 2007

Brandon McIvor & Alyssa C. Gomes

Club Trip



Our group of 28 individuals departed from UWI at approximately 7 a.m. and by 9 a.m. we had arrived and begun our walk up Tamana Hills. The first sight that greeted our eyes was that of a logger, Joseph with his 23 year old water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) Janey. Janey was, by means of a harness, pulling several logs of pink pouis or apamatte (*Tabebuia pentaphylla*).

We left Joseph and Janey behind and continued our journey. A number of butterflies were to be found at the hill's base including the Postman Butterfly (*Heliconias melpomene*), the Red Rim Butterfly (*Biblis hyperia*) and the more common Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). We passed a cultivated estate of cocoa (*Theobroma cacao*), oranges (*Citrus sinensis*) and nutmeg (*Myristica fragrans*) along the path. On nearing the trail leading into the forest we found a very laden avocado (*Persea americana*) and a Mamiseepot tree (*Mamia americana*). Shortly after entering into the thick of the forest, we came upon the curious Toporite or whistling fruit of the forest (*Hernandia guianensis*) which, sure enough, resisted all attempts to make any noise when blown by anyone but by Dan. The familiar face of the yellow-rumped cacique (*Cacicus cela*) and the crested oropendola (*Psarocolius decumanus*) were also spotted on our ascent.

Shortly after 9:30 a.m. we arrived at one entrance to Tamana cave. There we met some hikers on their descent from the hill, including a club member, Graham White, who gave a brief description of the cave:

The Tamana cave is one of the most studied caves in the tropics; it extends about 400 feet into the hill and is populated by multiple species of bats. Approximately 1 dozen new species of bats have been discovered in the cave since it was first studied. It is estimated that the caves house some 700 000 bats in the dry season and up to 1 500 000 in the rainy season. Most of these bats are nectar

feeding although the cave does house vampire bats as well. The lower regions of the cave are still unexplored as deadly pockets of carbon dioxide are believed to exist in the lower levels. The rock formation on the hill and about the cave was predominantly limestone.

At about 10:10 a.m. we left the pungent cave and continued our hike, despite being temporarily delayed by intermittent rain showers. We happened upon the cashima tree (*Annona reticulata*), a relative of the more common sugar apple (*Annona squamosa*) and soursop (*Annona muricata*). By means of a well aimed stick we soon had the fruit in our hands and quickly shared it around. It was delicious; sweet, slippery and smooth in texture. As we continued our trek, visions of the awesome view of the lower lands from on high peeked through the thick cover of the hill. Yet these brief spectacles were none compared to the majesty of the summit, which we reached at 10:35 a.m.

To the west we could see the faint outline of some Point Lisas edifices and more to the right we could see the Arena Dam. American Black Vultures or corbeaux (*Coragyps atratus*) dotted the sky. Some roosted and others took off from the taller trees that grew on the hillside. There was little left of the clouds that had so recently burst on us and there was only blue skyward. Shade was offered however by a small ring of cashima trees located just about the summit's clearing.

Forty-five minutes and many cashimas later, we began our descent. We passed the all too familiar *Bactris majors* and the rubber tree (*Ficus elastica*) which secreted a white goo when cut and solidified into a dark material that can be used to make. Not far from the rubber tree was the sizeable cannonball tree (*Couroupita guianensis*), which showed off a plethora of its hard inedible fruit both on and around its girth. Bois Pois (*Swartzia pinnata*) was

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Tamana Hills & Caves - September 30 2007

Brandon McIvor & Alyssa C. Gomes

Club Trip



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found growing on some of the tree trunks as well.

At 11:50 a.m. the group found its way back to the cave, however this time we were at the other, more accessible entrance. The cave was pitch black and smelled horrible because of the bat guano. The guano is a key component which supports the many aspects of cave life found there.

We eventually made it back to the cars and were graciously provided with cold drinks courtesy of Selwyn. After having our fill and a quick wash we were off again to our final destination. It was fondly referred to as Bobby's Paradise and was a house belonging to a member of the club, Bobby Oumdath. We arrived at 1:40 p.m. and Bobby proudly showed us the collection of aesthetic bonsai trees he had grown. There were junipers

(*Juniperus communis*), Chinese Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*) and many others, whose growth had been stunted for their containment. The intricate curves of the tree were achieved through the use of wires, which effectively molded their limbs. Not surprisingly, the bonsais which took years to grow could be sold for up to \$5000 per tree, but Bobby admitted that he had grown too fond of the delicate plants to part with them.

The last stop at Bobby's ended the epic trip and we then all parted and returned home for a well deserved rest.



Chacachacare - October 27 2007

Esperanza Luengo

Club Trip

October's fieldtrip took us to Chacachacare, not only the largest of the isles on the north-west coast of Trinidad but the westernmost outpost, just seven miles across the Gulf of Paria from Venezuela.

The name of the island seems to be Amerindian. One of the hypotheses about the origin of the name is explained by Anthony de Verteuil in his book *Western isles of Trinidad**: *E.L. Joseph has it that its name originates from a bird that chips repeatedly Chikichicario. This might possibly be the Rufous Nightjar, which is found on the island and has a five-syllable cry of Chuck-wit-wit-wee-o.*

The group of forty members gathered at the jetty of Island Property Owners in Chaguaramas, from where two motor boats took us in forty minutes to Chacachacare. Although physically the same the island is quite a different place from the one Christopher Columbus reached in August 1498. On our arrival at the trashed Stanislaus Bay vultures welcomed us, unlike a group of monkeys did for Columbus's crew as A. de Verteuil narrated in his book.

Upon our arrival at 8.30 a.m. and after a brief pre-trip talk, we divided in two groups. Dan Jagger-nauth led the smaller group of eleven to the Salt Pond at the south-west of the island, and Glen Wilkes the remainder to the lighthouse which was built by the Government on the highest point of the Northern ridge- Morne Cabresse 825 feet high - in 1870. By 1900 electricity powered the light source. Since then it has been renovated and modernised.

The island forest has been greatly changed by human interference. Most of the huge trees have been cut and the large cedars have all disappeared. As a result of the scarce rainfall (45'' per annum) especially in the dry season, the island is covered with seasonal deciduous and xerophytic forests.



View of Salt Pond from atop trail
Photo courtesy Esperanza Luengo

At Stanislaus Bay we saw black mangroves (*Avicennia germinans*). Along the trail near the coast in the vicinity of the Salt Pond, we evaded the Manchineel (*Hippomane mancinella*) a deciduous tree which bears a yellow fruit. All parts of the tree are said to be poisonous, even the smoke from the burning of its wood. A young Poui (*Tabebuia chrysantha*) was identified. Along the overgrown track a variety of shrubs and plants were observed including *Lantana* sp., the Century plant (*Agave* sp.), an unidentified cacti and other thorny plants, all indicative of the dry conditions. Mushrooms and ground orchids, (*Catasetum* sp.) rounded off the ground community.

Along the trail two nests of the wasp *Polybia rejecta occidentalis* were seen as well as those of the termite *Naustitermes* sp. One termite nest was obviously abandoned and on which birds and insect fed.

It took us an hour and a half to reach the Salt Pond. A small body of water trapped by a 40 feet wide barrier at the west and slightly wider at the

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Chacachacare - October 27 2007

Esperanza Luengo

Club Trip



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east. It is composed of sand with stretches of shingle and quartz boulders (Bacon). In the early 19th century it was a source of salt for the inhabitants. The salt concentration is high enough for the brine shrimp *Artemia* to thrive. Unfortunately we just got to see some algae in the water, dragonflies overflying it and some crabs shells on the shore.

From there we headed to the nearby bay Bande du Sud, however before reaching it we encountered nine full jumbo trash bags. On the rocky coast of the bay we rested, had lunch and enjoyed the view of the pelicans (*Pelicana occidentalis*) fishing.

On leaving the bay we found what appeared to be egg shells that puzzled us. A. de Verteuil in the same book reports that on the beach at La Tinta Bay a few Hawksbill Turtles have begun to lay their eggs. Speculation is that birds may have brought them that far.

On the way back we took a detour to Marine Bay and came across the cemetery where ten Dominican nuns were buried between 1927 and 1942. Further along the trail we visited the remnant structures of the Marine Bay Convent, which may well be the best preserved of all the buildings. Hopefully the government will restore this historical site before it is too late. Before heading back we had a refreshing dip near the jetty.

The island is also known for the number of butterflies and moths found there. A. de Verteuil explains that there are 35 species of Lepidoptera on Chacachacare, five of which do not occur elsewhere in Trinidad. We saw the White-tailed page moth (*Urania leilus*) and the common Postman butterfly (*Heliconius melpomene*). Charles de Gannes reported having seen and identified the following as well: *Hypolimnas missippus*, *Eurema albula*, *Lepidotes cassius*, *Cyanophrys herodotus*, *Strymon faunalia*

and the following three which are not found in Trinidad: *Euptychia* sp, *Ascia menciae janeta* and *Heliopetes domicella*.

Although mammals are few on the island, Stephen Smith spotted two squirrels (*Sciurus granetensis*) and Dan one, probably the results of introductions in the past.



Bird life is not remarkable due to the severe annual drought and the lack of fruit bearing trees. On the trail we spotted an osprey, a Sugar Bird (*Coreba flaveola*) and an Eulus Flycatcher which made a display for us. Overhead the call of a hawk could be heard. Clayton Hull reported hearing a Pale-breasted Spinetail and sightings of the following: Yellow-bellied Seedeater, Tropical Kingbird, Blue-grey Tanager, Bananaquits, Tropical Parula, White-lined Tanager, Blue-black Grassquit, Turns, White-fringed Antwren, and a Violaceous Euphonia.

Lizards were abundant, and Stephen saw two *Oxybellis aeneas*, an extremely thin ash-grey or brown snake growing up to 6 feet in length, and like most thin snakes in Trinidad, known as horse whip. He could not guess if they were fighting or mating. Kay Hinkson found a fluorescent green thin-bodied beetle near the lighthouse. It was later identified by Dr. Starr as a June beetle (*Scarabaeidae melolonthinae*).

Today looking at the few remaining ruins it is hard to envisage that a large population inhabited Chacachacare for over two centuries. By 1777 there were no more Amerindians living there and cotton plantations were established. At the beginning of the 19th century it became home for Venezuelan refugees plotting against the royalist in Venezuela. After 1850 the main industry became whaling. By the beginning of the 20th century the island was well-established with health and holiday re-

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Chacachacare - October 27 2007*Esperanza Luengo**Club Trip**(Continued from page 7)*

sorts, which despite opposition had to give way to the Leprosarium that was active from 1927 until 1984 when the last patients left.

At 2.15 p.m. we left the island to the mercy of the now regular deliveries of the Treasure Queen and Pier 1 boats. The 50 minute ride back turned more exciting from the waves of the Bocas and those generated by the passing fast ferry the T&T Spirit. It was a sunny beautiful rainy season day for

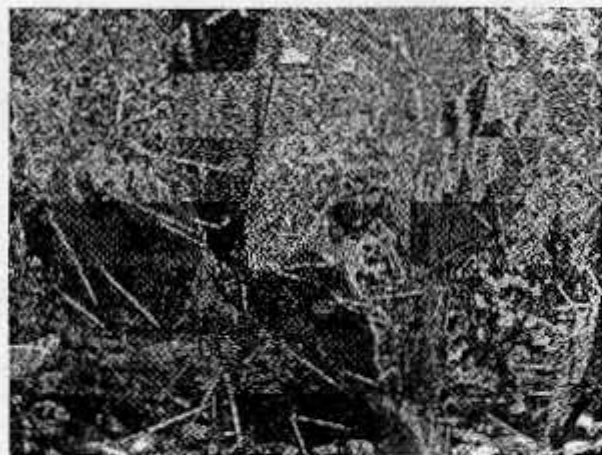
an environmental, historical and recreational trip.

References:

Bacon A. Peter (1967) *The TTFNC Journal*
 De Verteuil Anthony. (2002) *Western Isles of Trinidad*. The Lito Press. Trinidad



Photo Corner



Top: Lighthouse on Chacachacare

Left: Cactus along path to Salt Pond, Chacachacare
 Photos courtesy Esperanza Luengo

Population Ecology of Birds in the Caroni Rice Fields - March 2007 *Lester Doodnath*

Lecture Summary



The Caroni Rice Fields in Trinidad comprise a dynamic agricultural ecosystem in which a changing water level regime and differing heights of rice support an ephemeral population of birds. Systematic 5 minute censuses of bird populations within 25 one hectare plots were conducted in these rice fields on a weekly basis for 1 year (July 2001-July 2002) to assess the importance of rice farming for resident and migratory water birds, land birds and raptors. Habitat use for each species was quantified by using four wetness categories (dry fields; wet fields; wet fields <50% with standing water; wet fields >50% with standing water) and four rice height categories (no rice; rice <10 cm tall; rice 10-50 cm tall; rice >50 cm tall).

In terms of results 26 avian families comprising 83 known species were observed. Of these known birds approximately 48% were migrants. It was found that the most abundant bird throughout the year was the Cattle Egret. There was a variety of resident and migrant bird species during the year.

Of resident birds the Cattle Egret was the most abundant followed by the Yellow-hooded Blackbird then the Short-tailed Swift. For birds that are residents that may also be northern migrants (winter visitors from the north from September to March) the most abundant was the Snowy Egret. Of birds that are northern visitors the most abundant was the Barn Swallow from August to May. Southern visitors are present from June to September and the most abundant of these was the Large-billed Tern. The only species that is a resident that may also be a southern migrant was the Fulvous Whistling Duck.

A preliminary assessment of the importance of rice fields as a substitute wetland for birds may be achieved by comparing the results of this study with other local comparable studies of bird populations in natural marsh wetlands. The preliminary

comparison suggests that rice fields may be of greater importance than marsh areas for migratory birds but more statistical tests will have to be done.

There is great implication for these migratory birds and the possible spread of diseases such as the West Nile Virus and Bird Flu. Wild waterfowl such as ducks are considered the natural reservoir of the influenza viruses. They have probably harboured these influenza viruses with no apparent harm for centuries. However interactions between wild birds and domestic poultry such as chickens may lead to the introduction of the virus. It is likely that migratory birds are now directly spreading the H5N1 highly pathogenic form and further spread to new areas is expected. However this has not reached to Trinidad and Tobago as yet but most likely will be here in the near future.



2007 - Living World Coming of Age

Julien Kenny

Feature



The following article by Prof. Julien Kenny, was originally published in the Express Newspaper of November 2007. It is reproduced here for the benefit of the membership with his kind permission

It is now ninety pages long, perfect bound, lavishly illustrated in colour and appears regularly and annually. I write of the Journal of the Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists Club, a journal that can trace its history back over one hundred years. It is true that after the first two or three volumes at the end of the nineteenth century it slid into deep aestivation only to be awoken about fifty years later. It has however been with us since and how has it changed, both in form and content. Its early volumes that appeared every two years, were invariably slim stapled productions of about thirty pages, produced at the cost of the Club's membership, with an appeal largely to its membership. Since these early days the club's name has changed from the Trinidad Field Naturalists' Club to the Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club and the journal changed simply to *Living World* and its format and content enlarged and broadened. Prior to its change to the new format it did grow in size with substantial sections devoted to a single topic such as the fauna of Bush Bush wildlife sanctuary, with growth being supported by a few corporate citizens.

Now I do not expect that a journal of this kind may be everyone's cup of tea. Some of the publications are on subjects that have been reported serially over many numbers. Ornithology is a subject often covered. The latest volume contains the fifteenth part of a broad account on the skipper butterflies of Trinidad by Dr. M. Cock of CABI in Switzerland. This may not attract many readers but work of this kind is an integral part of the building of a knowledge base on the biodiversity of the country, something that we are supposed to do under the Convention of Biological Diversity that we signed in 1992. But the new format seems

to have settled down into a maturity that compares with science journals in developed countries.

The new format includes an editorial, followed by two review articles, a varied core section of research papers, all properly refereed, a section on a committee report, a section on brief nature notes, and, book reviews. Also of interest is the now regular dedication section at the front of the journal, this one to Dr Tommy Aitken of the Trinidad Regional Virus Laboratory who worked here in the nineteen-fifties and sixties, leaving a lasting legacy on the natural history of the island. Certainly one of the more striking articles is a review by Professor Emeritus Julian Duncan, and I will not give readers the full title and pronunciation of the scientific name of the tree species, about the "Chaconia".

Very often in science a subject after being researched by many over the years is subjected to a technical review. There are even scientific journals that publish only review articles. Such reviews are extremely useful to researchers and even general readers. Professor Duncan's review will certainly be extremely interesting to many readers and upper level secondary school students enrolled in CAPE science courses, and possibly even in history. As he emphasized the biological uniqueness of the double "chaconia" and its origin in Trinidad, possibly someone in authority might get around to making the necessary changes to the name of our national flower from the single to the double "chaconia" and to spell it correctly as "chaconier", a name recognized by Williams and Cheesman as

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TTFNC

VENEZUELA 2008

For 2008 we will be running another trip to Venezuela. This year the trip will be divided in to two parties, one repeating the successful tour of 2007, and the other to the Orinoco delta. Date June 18th to June 25th. Both will start and finish at Pier 1 Chaguaramas, transport by the "Sea Prowler" to Guiria, and thereafter with Venezuelan the tour company Natura Raid.

Members as a first priority and non-members introduced by a member, as second priority, are invited to join. Persons who went to Macuro in 2007 will have first priority on the Orinoco trip. Please note however that the TTFNC is not a tour company and must warn that responsibility for the tour, total cost, and for the welfare of those who participate cannot be accepted by the Club. Indicative price at this stage is TT\$5000 each including all transport, accommodation and all meals. A pack lunch should be brought for the first day on board the Sea Prowler and lunch on the last day will be your own responsibility together with tips and purchases.

Persons interested in going on the trip should indicate to the Treasurer (Selwyn Gomes 624-8017) immediately and full payment must be made by 8th May 2008. The trip is open to a maximum of 26 persons, 13 in each party.

Party 1

Guiria – Macuro – Uquire - Rio Caribe – Caripe – Cumana – Araya – Guiria



The first part of the tour is by pirogue to Macuro, hiking or pirogue to Uquire and Rio Caribe, and bus thereafter.

Party 2

Guiria – Maturin – Uracoa river – Ubanaco Camp – Isla de Pajaros – Ubanoco – Chacachacal – Guiria.

Transport Guiria to the Uracoa river is by bus and into the delta by traditional open boat



Note:- A visa for Venezuela is not required for holders of TT and British passports. Valid yellow fever vaccination is recommended. See the Quarterly Bulletins for report on 2007 trip

2007 - Living World Coming of Age

Julien Kenny

Feature



(Continued from page 10)

early as 1928! And the review is stunningly illustrated in colour, particularly strikingly so on the cover of the journal, which can only be described as seamless fusion of nature and art. The research papers are on varied topics.

That a journal should evolve in the past fifty years from a thin 5 x 8 inch stapled item with a mixture of equally slim articles and natural history observations into a perfect bound letter sized volume confirms that *Living World* has matured and is here to stay. But it also bears noting that this could not possibly have happened without the continued interest of its members, its contributors, its corporate supporters and above all its editors and editorial committees who have worked tirelessly over the past five decades to make it a permanent feature of our culture.

It strikes me however that *Living World* given support could go even farther. Much has been made recently of the role of science in our future and I have no doubt that there is more than enough science produced in the country in biology to support two numbers annually. Surely with the \$1 billion of the Green Fund and annual subvention might be made to the Club to support the growth of the journal, possibly say through employment of support staff. After all can one really manage an environment without knowing what is there? The knowledge base accumulated over the years could really inform us. And one of the first review articles might be of the ecology of the southwestern peninsula.



Yellow fever Vaccination

Elisha Tikasingh

Nature Note



I enjoyed reading Kay Hinkson's article "Venezuela - July 10 - 19, 2007" and wished it was possible for me to make that trip! Nevertheless, there is one point I wish to make and that is the seriousness of having yellow fever vaccination. Those Health Inspectors in Venezuela were on the ball and not the Venezuelan Embassy. Anyone going into the forests in Trinidad or Venezuela or Guyana or Suriname or elsewhere with howler monkeys present, should have yellow fever vaccination. The yellow fever virus exists in silent cycles in which monkeys are involved in most of these countries. Remember, you actually heard howler monkeys on that trip!

In Trinidad there is a yellow fever epizootic (an outbreak of a disease in animals) every 10-15 years and therefore members of the Club are at high risk if they are not vaccinated against yellow

fever. New members from overseas who join the Club and wish to go into the forests should be encouraged to have yellow fever immunization. I suggest that an advisory or disclaimer should be printed in our "Programme of Activities".

Since the 1978 outbreak of yellow fever in monkeys and humans, the Government enacted a law requiring children entering school for the first time to have yellow fever vaccination. Once vaccinated, it is good for 10 years. My personal feeling is that once immunized against yellow fever it should be good for life, but that is my personal view. Anyone wanting to go in the forests on a regular basis, as naturalists do, are at high risk and should have a booster shot every 10 years.

A word to the wise!



A Response to Dr. Starr's commentary

Eurico Jardim

Nature Note



Dr. Starr has an engaging entertaining style, and his piece in that bulletin entitled "Why Are We So (Self-) Deceived" was no exception.

After entertaining us with his story of his self-deception in recognising a snake he considers "the familiar (if extreme) example" of a woman seeing a stain on a wall. In his ever-so-scientific mind the willing suggestibility that he imputes to her and her simple-minded neighbours soon elevates this stain to an image of the Blessed Virgin. This leads, in Dr Starr's vivid imagination, to "hordes of Catholics praying to a decaying wall." Now I have no doubt that many people see what they want to see but I doubt very much that any of those "hordes of Catholics" were "praying to a decaying wall". They were praying to the person that their

imagination (over-active, perhaps?) led them to believe the stain represented.

May I enlighten Dr. Starr on some elements of Catholic worship? We WORSHIP Jesus as the Son of God but VENERATE his Mother Mary. When we pray to her it is with the belief that she can intercede with her son on our behalf. I could regale Dr. Starr with lots of examples of miracles wrought by Our Lady at places like Lourdes and Fatima (no wall stains there!) but I fear his perceptions in this area are too solidly entrenched to be capable of change. In any case the well-known aphorism is apposite here: "For those who believe no explanation is necessary; for those who do not believe no explanation is possible."



The Environmental Group Objectives, guidelines and activities

Special feature

The Environmental Group, formed in mid 2007, has crafted a series of general objectives, mission and guidance notes, which will direct the operations of the group over the coming year. These are listed below:

1. To maintain an awareness of the state of the environment in and around Trinidad and Tobago, neighboring countries, and the globe, in that order of priority, to a practical extent determined by the resources of the sub-committee.
2. To learn as early as possible of plans for legislation, or developments or other activities that result in the clearing of land, conversion of natural or agricultural areas, changes, or need for such changes to existing institutions that affect flora, fauna or the natural environment, or environmental disruptions, in T&T, and consider if such plans are in the national interest and the potential environmental impacts.
3. To be aware of dangers to the environment from burning, use of weedicides or defoliants, other chemicals, or effluents that may despoil natural beauty, be injurious to human health, or endanger wildlife, fish stocks, or domestic animals in T&T.
4. To advise the Management Committee on the above matters where they represent any threat to the reasonable preservation of the natural or agricultural environment. Formulate appropriate Club positions, advice and statements to parties responsible, public positions, statements, advisories, and further action as deemed necessary.
5. Attempt at all times to be helpful and non-confrontational, propose alternatives to inappropriate developments. Be non-political, and earn a reputation for sound and sensible proposals that enhance the reputation of the Club.

Some specific activities which the group will undertake in fulfilling its objectives are:

- a. Check regularly with the EMA for new developments, updates on existing developments, CEC's issued, changes to CEC's and maintain a listing of such projects.
- b. Keep watch over other developments or activity that may fall outside of the EMA CEC process, through observation and media reports, and keep records of such.
- c. Hold meetings as necessary, and appoint suitable persons to head and run the sub-committee as deemed necessary from time to time.
- d. Make site visits to areas of concern and meet and/or correspond with persons with responsibility for the developments.
- e. Submit comments on TOR's, EIA's, or proposed plans or activity that has commenced or may commence without regulatory oversight.
- f. Attend public or special consultations and meetings concerned with projects or proposals of interest, or coordinate with persons who attend same, and record status.
- g. Take directions from the Management Committee on environmental matters and report back as necessary. Present status and stage of projects or proposals to the main Club membership.

The group remains open to all members interested in assisting in any of the above areas.



Upcoming Events Membership

Management Notices



Monthly Meetings & Lectures

Members are asked to take note of the following lectures to be held at our regular monthly meeting on the following dates

- February 14 2008
Sustainable Agriculture for Trinidad and Tobago - *Dr. Shango*
- March 13 2008
Electrifying Coral Reefs - *Lee Ann Beddoe*

Field Trips

Members are asked to take note of the following upcoming field trips:

- January 13 2008
Birding Group - Morne Bleu & Arima
Blanchisseuse Road
- January 27 2008
Club Trip - Platanaal
- February 17 2008
Birding Trip - Cumuto / Aripo
- February 24 2008
Club Trip - Geology Trip (location to be announced)
- March 15 2008
Botany Group - Monos Island
- March 16 2008
Birding Group - Chancellor Hill
- March 30 2008
Club Trip - Mt. St. Benedict (tea with the Coopers)

Special Dates

- Club Christmas Luncheon - Mariposa Café in Lopinot - December 09 2007
- The Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers - January 10 2008

New and Returning Members

The Club warmly welcomes the following new members:

Junior member

None for the period

Ordinary member

Marie Grav. Perejoan, Ulrike Krauss, Helena Doodnath-Assue and Sharda Surujdeo-Maharaj

Volunteers Publications

Management Notices



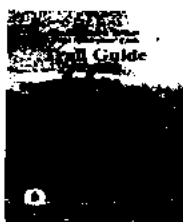
VOLUNTEERS/ASSISTANCE

Volunteers are required to assist in the following:

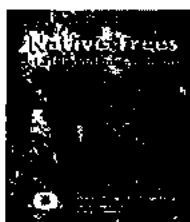
- Typing of an index for the Quarterly Bulletin covering 16 issues for the period 1986 to 1988.
- Becoming a part of the newly formed Environmental Group. Interested persons are asked to contact the Secretary.
- Assisting the Club in finding a permanent location to conduct our business and house our historic records and materials

PUBLICATIONS

The following Club publications are available to members and non-members:



The TTFNC
Trail Guide
Members =
TT\$200.00



The Native
Trees of T&T
2nd Edition
Members =
TT\$100.00



Living world
Journal 1892-
1896 CD
Members =
TT\$175.00



Living World Journal 2007
Living World Journal back issues
Members price = free



MISCELLANEOUS

The Greenhall Trust

Started in 2005, in memory of Elizabeth and Arthur Greenhall, dedicated artist and zoologist respectively, the Trust offers financial assistance to aspiring artists and biologists (in areas of flora and fauna) in Trinidad and Tobago. Full details are available on their website:
<http://www.greenhallstrust-wi.org/link.htm>

Club Polo Jerseys

Available Sizes:
medium

Colours:
Kahki and green

Costs:
TT\$50.00

Thank you

To author Philip Dodd for donating a copy of his book "The Reverend Guppy's Aquarium"

To Club member and author Ismael "Angelo" Samad for donating a copy of "In A Carpenter's Overall"

