

The BEAT

PEOPLE FASHION

BOOKS HEALTH LIFESTYLE RECIPES MUSIC ART



THE Portuguese man-of-war. PHOTO BY JEFFREY WONG SANG.

Learn to conserve

beautiful TT

"In the end we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught" - Baba Dioum, Senegalese conservationist

PART of the process of ensuring the protection and wise utilisation of our natural environment in the long run, is to educate citizens about the country which we all share.

To this end, the Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club (TTFNC) offers several publications and activities for the public.

Features focus on the Portuguese

man-of-war (*Physalia physalis*), the spectacular tufted coquette, the mysterious tamandua and our endemic El Tucuche golden tree frog as well as a guide to the wildflowers of TT.

If your interest goes beyond a love for things "green" to things scientific, research papers covering different facets of the natural environment are easily available. Or, fancy finding out more about plants? If you seek an in-depth understanding of our native plant species, Native Trees of Trinidad & Tobago may be just the handbook that you find resourceful. It provides colour photographs and identifying features of 49 different

species of native trees along with short notes on their ecology and possible uses.

The TTFNC's natural history calendar for 2015 continues in this tradition of providing exposure to a range of subjects which people may not ordinarily have a chance to see. The cover photo features the often misunderstood Portuguese man-of-war (*Physalia physalis*). This beautiful creature is often mistaken for a jellyfish. It is not! It is actually made up of a group of organisms. The top part that one normally sees is a gas-filled bladder which allows it to drift

in the ocean, and there are tentacles below the surface of the water which allow it to feed, digest food and reproduce. It resembles an 18th century warship, hence the name.

The Living World is the club's annual journal which contains research papers covering different facets of the natural environment of TT, with occasional coverage of the wider Eastern Caribbean. Alongside these scientific articles there are more casual observations in the form of "Nature Notes". Additionally, a fascinating compilation of the earliest editions of this journal (1891-1896) is available for sale on com-

puter disc. For more casual reading, The Field Naturalist, a quarterly bulletin, is available for download on the TTFNC's website. The bulletin features reports on field trips, other adventures by members and general observations of the local environment. Additionally, for the past three years, the fourth quarter issue of the bulletin has been dedicated to covering the annual TT BioBlitz event.

Spending too much time out in the bush to do much reading? Perhaps the lightweight, waterproof, fold-out guide to the wildflowers of TT could be helpful.

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Kids Newsday

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ENVIRONMENT



The general fact about the size of a beautiful, really they call to mind a carry but will stay on the tree for a long time before falling off.

is a species of the large black bee, *Alysiinae*. There are no obvious means of dispersal. *Bambusa* gives the food of bees as "rooms, tubes, boxes, from seeds and succulent vegetation" and fruits commonly as a food plant without specifying the part that is eaten. Other notes say they eat it.

One of its showy flowers, outside flowering habit and fully developed stage, this tree has been planted as an ornamental in some public parks. The wood is soft and light and is used in construction.

THE Trail Guide and Native Trees of TT.

Helpful guide to wildflowers of TT

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The club's Trail Guide may also be of interest to keen hikers, featuring 52 different trails from both islands.

Speaking of the outdoors, the club organises at least one field trip each month (except December), alongside more specialist trips for interest groups, such as birders. These trips provide an opportunity to explore the outdoors, develop your particular interest, and learn from the expertise of other members.

The club's monthly lecture series is also an excellent source of information on the environment. The lectures are also available on its YouTube page.

Visit the TTFNC's website, www.ttfnc.org for a schedule of activities for more information on planned trips and lectures - as well as for information on how to join the club. Additional information on publications and activities via facebook page or contact admin@ttfnc.org.



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