

THE FIELD NATURALIST

BULLETIN OF THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FIELD NATURALIST CLUB

HAPPY NEW YEAR

FIRST QUARTER OF 1990

You are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the club to be held in the Audio-Visual Room of St. Mary's College on Thursday January 11, 1990 at 5.30 p.m. Please note that this is the time to make any changes to the Management Committee so attend the meeting and cast your vote.

A G E N D A

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the last A.G.M.
2. Business arising out of the Minutes
3. Honorary Secretary's Report for 1989
4. Honorary Treasurer's Report for 1989
5. Reports from all interest groups
6. RESOLUTION - "That, to preserve the memory of Neville Acham who died in April 1989 while president of the Club, a fund be established to be called the Neville Acham Memorial Fund. The purpose of the fund shall be the promotion and financing of scientific investigations with emphasis on publication of the results. The Fund shall be administered by a committee appointed for that purpose by the management committee of the Club"
7. Adoption of Proposed Amendments to the Rules **
8. Other Business
9. Election of Officers for 1990

** We are unable to quote the proposed amendments because up to time of typing these were not available.

NOTES to the Election of Officers:

With the exception of Haroon Hussain for whom we cannot speak as he could not be contacted and John Seyjagat who cannot serve this year, all other officers being eligible offer themselves for re-election. However, this does not mean that they have to be re-elected.

(2) Members elected to the Management Committee must be (a) Financial and (b) prepared to attend all meetings of the Committee and as far as possible of the Membership.

(3) Honorary Auditors and other Committees - must also be financial members.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Became due on January 2, 1990. Please pay early so that you can receive all bulletins etc. Adults \$30.00 - Juniors \$15.00.

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YOU are also invited to attend the Monthly Meetings to be held on Thursdays February 8th and March 8th 1990 at 5.30 p.m. at the Audio-Visual Room of St. Mary's College. Also the field trips as listed hereunder:-

A G E N D A

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

L E C T U R E S

Feb. 8th - Electrical Responses of Visual Neurons of the Optic Tectum of the Frog and Toad - by Prof. R. Saunders

Mar. 8th - Fruit-eating Birds by Dr. V. Quesnel

F I E L D T R I P S

Jan. 27/28th - FIG WALK (Camp)

Feb. 24/25th - PLATANAL =Cerro del Oropouche (Camp)

Mar. 25th - ARIPO CAVE (Survey if possible)

ESPECIALLY FOR NEW MEMBERS

What to expect from the Club and what the Club expects of you.

1. The Club has monthly lectures/meetings and outings which you are invited to attend. When on outings members are required to observe the objectives of the Club, especially in the conservation of Nature and natural resources which of course demands that the surroundings be left as intact and as clean as possible. All garbage should be taken back with you to be disposed of and not left behind for other members to have to collect. NO musical instruments should be brought on field trips to the forests - on these trips we want to listen to the music of nature. Young children will be allowed only if accompanied by parents or guardians. Every member should bring along his or her basic requirements for the day i.e. water and food. In the rainy season a change of clothing is recommended.
2. Quarterly bulletins are sent to all financial members. The annual subscription becomes payable in January.
3. Biennially you will receive a copy of the Club's Journal "Living World"

REPORT ON FIELD TRIP TO MONOS, 25-26th NOVEMBER 1989 by Clayton Hull

Members of the Club were the guests of Dr. and Mrs. Stuart Millar at their house on Grand Fond Bay, Monos.

Eleven of us (including our hosts) embarked on Saturday from the Island Property Owners' facility at Chaguaramas. The group was much smaller than had been expected, and we were accommodated very comfortably.

We spent the early afternoon relaxing around the house. Sea conditions were exceptionally calm, and the water was beautifully clear. The house is located on the north-eastern point of the bay, where the shoreline is quite rocky.

There was an abundance of fish in the shallows and around the dock. While I was snorkelling near the shore, a small remora (*Echeneis nauphrates*) attached itself to me with its suction disc and rode along for half an hour. It abandoned me abruptly on sighting a small school of fish (grunts or snappers) hardly more than twice its own length. It attached itself, surprisingly, to the narrow dorsal surface of its new host, successfully resisting the host's frantic efforts to shake it off. A turtle was also observed quite close to the dock.

Late in the afternoon we were given a boat tour of the eastern part of the island, as far as the rock known as Madame Teteron's Tooth at the northern end of the First Boca. An osprey was seen near the water's edge.

In the evening a number of fish-eating bats were seen feeding under the lights from the adjacent houses.

On Sunday we were joined by eight more members, including Glen and Joanne Wilkes and Diane Renaud, who came over in their kayaks. We set out to climb to the summit of the peninsula overlooking the First Boca. The original intention had been to climb the main peak of the island, but Stuart Millar advised that the vegetation would make that very difficult and it would be better to attempt it during the dry season.

The party set out from the Johnson's house on Morris Bay directly up the south-western side of the hill, hoping to strike the old jeep road that had been cut during the war. Before long we were out of the shelter of the trees, where the undergrowth was relatively sparse, and cutting our way through a tangled mass of razor grass and shrubs. Large areas of Monos are covered with this vegetation, which looks deceptively like a pasture from sea level.

After an hour's slow progress we gained the ridge and found ourselves on what remained of the old road. The going was easier here, although the road was heavily overgrown and we still had to do a lot of cutting.

There was a marked contrast between the heavily wooded eastern side of the ridge and the scrubland on the western side. The purple flowers of a vine were prominent in the scrubland areas.

Report on Field Trip to Monos continued

There seemed to be an almost complete absence of birds, apart from a few corbeaux.

Two hours after setting out we reached the highest point of the peninsula, at the extreme northern end of the ridge. From this point a sheer cliff drops off into the sea. The islands of Huevos and Chacachare were both visible.

Our descent took less than forty-five minutes, in spite of a heavy shower which started just as we left the summit.

This field trip was a particularly enjoyable experience for all those who took part. We take this opportunity to thank the Millars for their hospitality.

At the invitation of Minister L. Myers, Mrs. Y. Commeau and Mr. G. White attended a meeting at the Forestry Conference Room on December 5, 1989. The purpose was to request the assistance of the various non-government organizations to plan environmental programmes regarding (1) Clean up campaign in January (2) Earth Day in April and (3) World Environment Day in June. Most of those present thought there was insufficient time to plan for the Clean-up campaign. The N.G.Os subsequently met and among other things agreed to quarterly meetings of the Presidents so as to plan what can be done without overlapping into each others programmes.

Luisa Zuniaga
Honorary Secretary
January 2, 1990.