



SPOTLIGHT

Getting rid of phobias

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While impossible to showcase all our herpetofauna in one evening, TTFNC president and managing editor of the publication, Renoir Auguste was able to highlight several species in a vivid slideshow display.

For some, the collection of bottled specimens of frogs and snakes and the skeletal remains of sea turtles was their closest encounter with herpetofauna.

This can be of little surprise as for many people, a cultural dislike and phobia towards frogs and snakes in particular has been ingrained through custom and religion.

This was captured by local contributor Ryan S Mohammed's recollection of his own experiences.

Ryan's early childhood fear of amphibians and reptiles is perhaps one which many in TT can identify with.

For the layperson, the Field Guide to the Amphibians and Reptiles of Trinidad and Tobago remains an easy to use instrument to satisfy a gurgling curiosity about an aspect of our local wildlife.

For others, it can be used as an educational tool to stifle old fears.

This guide coupled with online platforms such as iNaturalist can also be used to enhance community identification and verification of species as well as stimulate further research, as expounded upon by UWIZM curator Mike G. Rutherford.

As local contributor Dr Jo-Anne Sewlal elaborated, it is the collective hope of all involved in its publication that this field guide will not be viewed "as another book", but that it would instead spark a change in thinking about our amphibians, reptiles and the wider natural environment.

For more information on our natural environment, contact the Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club at admin@ttnfc.org or visit our website at www.ttnfc.org and our Facebook or YouTube pages.



Thin crust or stuffed crust?

Mac Pie Mania

WIN TT\$700

Challenge us with your Wildest Macaroni Pie Idea

- How to Enter:**
1. Visit the CARNATION Caribbean or MAGGI Caribbean FB page & post your mac pie idea
 2. Ideas must be made with straight or elbow macaroni only
 3. Ideas MUST be baked and contain CARNATION® Full Cream Evaporated Milk & any MAGGI® product
 4. The ideas with the most creative ingredients will be chosen. 10 winners will be awarded TT\$700 each
 5. Impractical suggestions will not be eligible
 6. Judges' decisions are final

Promotion runs from 22nd July - 8th August, 2018 | Winners will be announced on 10th August and contacted via Facebook. Employees of NESTLE, Trinidad Ltd., their advertising agencies and their immediate families are not eligible to enter.

Check out [CARNATION Caribbean](#) or [MAGGI Caribbean](#) for details.



Bajan celebrates 100

The family of Melcina Brereton Noreiga, also known as Bajan, hosted a grand celebration for her 100th birthday on July 21.

The event took place at Pleasantville Community Center, Prince Albert Street, San Fernando, where she spent most of the time chatting with guests. She even asked for her customary shot of brandy.

The Moruga born Noreiga is the mother of eight, grandmother of 18, great grand mother of 21 and great great grandmother of three.



Centenarian Melcina Brereton Noreiga is all dressed up and ready to party.

Her favourite foods are mangoes, roasted corn, stewed pork, Creole rice, ice cream, calaloo and salt fish.



Brereton Noreiga celebrates her 100th birthday with family and friends.

Naughty Minister finale

The curtains will come down on the Naughty Minister at the Central Bank Auditorium this evening. The production features actresses Nikki Crosby, Penelope Spencer, Debra Boucaud Mason, Ria Ali and Leslie Ann Lavine, alongside Richard Ragoobarsingh and Bradley Logan.

The show throws the spotlight on a smooth-

talking minister who bases his entire campaign on the issue of morality and family values—he won. His wife goes to a retreat for the long weekend in Salybia organised by the prime minister's wife. The minister decides to have a fun filled long weekend while his wife is away and it turns into a chaotic night with interruptions from unexpected visitors.



A scene from The Naughty Minister.