February 2009 Issue 4



ReefComm

A bi-monthly bulletin of the Community-based Coral Reef Monitoring and Management project

Project Notices: Adopt-the-reserve initiative

More People and Coral workbooks to be distributed

MPA Effectiveness workshop

In this issue:

Welcome1
Understanding Reef Watchers Protocol1
Water quality monitoring with JCRA2
Learning and Observing2
First Aid lessons in Marine Life Injuries2
Reef Watchers Video-take3
Exhibit at Holetown Library3
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Welcome

Welcome to the fourth issue of the ReefComm newsletter. Since this project comes to an end next month, one of the key areas of focus is on efforts aimed at ensuring that groups such as the Reef Watchers and the Junior Coral Reef Ambassadors are able to sustain themselves in the long-term.

Understanding Reef Watchers Protocol

The second Reef Watchers Training Workshop was held on Saturday, 24th January 2009. It attracted both new and old members of the programme. Among the "old members" were Edwin Blackman and Simron Browne of HIGHTIDE Watersports.

The theory section of the Reef Watchers Training Workshop involves an introduction to the manual, data sheets and the Reef Watchers underwater identification guide for fish, invertebrates, benthics and coral diseases. It was held at the CERMES and facilitated by the Reef Watchers Team Scientist, Renata Goodridge of CERMES.

The site for the practical session of this workshop was the nearshore South Bellairs Fringing Reefs. These reefs are situated in the scientific zone of the Folkestone Marine Reserve (FMR) and are opposite the Bellairs Research Institute.

At the end of the workshop, each



Reef Watchers at workshop

participant was provided with a copy of the Reef Watchers Instructional video, which is expected to assist them with their upcoming dives. The next Reef Watchers dive is scheduled for Saturday March 7th 2009.

HIGHTIDE Watersports is the only dive operator within the **FMR** involved in the Reef Watchers Training component the of Community-based Coral Reef Monitoring and Management Project. assist **CERMES** They with coordinating the dives and providing the boat and dive tanks.

Water quality monitoring with JCRA



Renata showing two JCRA members about measuring salinity

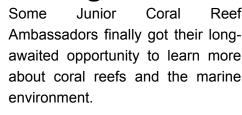
Fifteen students of the Junior Coral Reef Ambassador programme at The Alexandra School participated in a water quality monitoring 15th Monday exercise on 2008. December. **Before** the exercise. Renata Goodridge, Marine Technician with CERMES. the students briefed about mangroves and their importance in relation to coral reefs.

The monitoring was conducted at the Holetown Lagoon (Holetown

Hole) in St. James, a site with remnants of a mangrove stand.

Ms. Goodridge introduced the students to the various types of water quality equipment and allowed them to test parameters such as turbidity, salinity and temperature within the water of the lagoon and the adjacent sea. The session concluded with a of the tour water quality laboratory the **Bellairs** at Research Institute.

Learning and observing



Twenty students of the Junior Coral Reef Ambassador programme at The Alexandra School attended their first workshop "Coral reefs, Mangroves and Seagrasses". The workshop facilitator was Marine Biologist with the Coastal Zone Management Unit (CZMU), Angelique Brathwaite.

At the end of the workshop students participated in the snorkeling field trip at the shipwreck within Carlisle Bay. The workshop was held on Saturday 31st January 2009, at Barbados Blue, a dive operation located at the Hilton Hotel.



JCRA members learning about reefs from Ms. Angelique Brathwaite

Christie informs JCRA about marine life injuries and treatment

First aid lessons for marine life injuries

While underwater life exploration is fun, students must also be aware of the threats that can be faced while under the sea.

At the JCRA members' second workshop, they were introduced to marine life injuries by Dive Instructor and Marine Biologist of Barbados Blue, J. Christie Finney.

Ms. Finney is an Emergency First Response CPR and First Aid Instructor for Adults, Children and Infants.

The one-day workshop was held on February 4th 2009 at the Folkestone Marine Reserve.

Page 3 ReefComm

Reef Watchers Video-take

A Reef Watchers Instructional Video has been developed to inform volunteers of the Reef Watchers programme about the required protocol.

Scenes for the eight-minute video were shot at Folkestone Beach and Team scientist of Reef Watchers; Renata Goodridge donned another hat and took on the roles of narrator and presenter. The video has been distributed to participants at the



Cast of Reef Watchers' video
Reef Watchers II workshop.
Special thanks to the Reef
Watchers cast and all of those
who helped in the development of
the video.

Exhibit at Holetown Library

The current achievements of the Community-based Coral Reef Monitoring and Management project were showcased at the Holetown public library. The aim of this display was to increase community awareness about the project and to provide information on the importance of coral reefs, and on protecting sea turtles and the marine life in general.

Lessons learnt

On February 5th 2009, Park Manager of the Folkestone Marine Reserve. Mr. John Nicholls, attended a workshop entitled "The Knowledgebase for and Lessons Learned **Best** Practices Coral in Reef Management".

Held at the Pavilion, UWI Cave Hill Campus, the purpose of the workshop was to formalize the experiences and lessons learnt



Coral reef exhibit designed by St.

Alban's Primary School

The exhibit was displayed from January 5th to February 7th, 2009.

Global from previous Environment Facility (GEF) projects, as well as non-GEF initiatives involving coral reefs and associated ecosystems. The Community-based Coral Reef Monitoring Management and project was identified as one of the GEF projects to be analysed. The workshop was facilitated by David Gill of Meridian **Environmental Consulting Agency** (MECA).

Visit our Website

http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes/folkestone.html



ReefComm

newsletter

The Community-based
Coral Reef Monitoring and
Management is a project
of the Caribbean
Conservation Association
in collaboration with:
National Conservation
Commission
and
Centre for Resource
Management and
Environmental Studies



