

The World Wetlands Day

2 February 2007

US Virgin Islands



School Presentations in St Croix

“World Wetlands Day has never been formally recognised in the US Virgin Islands before, in fact I’ve never heard of it”.

This statement was made by a leading environmental educator in St Croix, USVI just before the 2nd of February. Later that week she requested the details of the RAMSAR mailing list regarding this important event.



International events like World Wetlands Day, Earth Day and World Oceans Day are becoming more important on the social and educational calendar throughout the Virgin Islands each year. With groups like the Virgin Islands Network of Environmental Educators (VINE) and the Virgin Islands Coral Conservation Consortium (VICCC) taking a strong lead in promoting conservation of natural resources both with the local population and the ever growing tourism sector there is definitely hope for improved stewardship throughout the islands.

**Coral reefs are thousands of years old.
Respect your elders.**

Keep hands, fins and anchors away from our living treasures in the United States Virgin Islands

Learn More at www.coralreefs.vi

The image is a promotional poster for coral reef conservation. It features a vibrant underwater scene with a school of yellow fish swimming over a diverse coral reef. The text is overlaid on the image. At the bottom, there are three logos: the NOAA logo, the United States Virgin Islands Department of Environment and Natural Resources logo, and the Virgin Islands logo.

The World Wetland Day Event



“A Coral Story” is presented at Good Hope School as part of the celebration of World Wetlands Day

The Nature Conservancy is in the process of establishing an outreach and education campaign aimed at improving stewardship of natural resources throughout the US Virgin Islands. We used World Wetlands Day as a launch point for this campaign in local schools on St Croix with great success.

In partnership with the Virgin Islands Network of Environmental Educators (VINE) we have a great opportunity to continue to raise awareness of critical wetland habitats throughout the Caribbean

Posters and CDs were distributed to the Science Departments of 10 schools on St Croix and World Wetlands Day was mentioned in the assembly halls of 4 of those schools on February 2nd. Two groups of school children were exposed to presentations based around local habitats including salt ponds and mangrove environments.

The events began with students learning about important habitats on St Croix and the role the RAMSAR plays in the protection of vital ecological systems around the world. The documentary supplied on the World Wetlands Day CD was shown to both groups. Both groups also participated in “fish building” using the World Wetland Day materials supplied. A Series of educational games were also played during each presentation.



Nature Conservancy Staff working with an after-school brownies group to help raise awareness about World Oceans Day and coral reef conservation