

Environment Tobago

World Wetlands Day 2010



Caring For Wetlands: an Answer to Climate Change

Tobago
February 2nd 2010
Submitted by Hema Singh



Education and awareness of wetlands have been a core topic for Environment Tobago for many years. This year ET chose to celebrate World Wetlands Day 2010 by hosting a series of activities which seek to raise awareness, improve understanding and encourage involvement in activities with the ultimate aim to protect and conserve the wetlands of Tobago. Our “Caring For Wetlands” campaign was conducted over three days with the Launch our **“Caring For Wetlands Postcards”** series kicking off the events.

The postcards (featured below) all included artwork done by students throughout Tobago. With the help of local sponsorship 500 postcards were printed. The launch was held at our office in Tobago and attended by principals, teachers, students, members of the local government agencies, the private sector and reporters from our local television station. Our small office was transformed for that day into an art exhibition and information distribution centre. Participants were also invited to watch short videos on wetlands around the world. The videos highlighted some of the threats which wetlands are currently facing and also some of the innovative ways people were sustainably managing their precious wetland resources.

The event was later televised on Channel 5 and a press release appeared in the February 5th print of the Tobago News (local newspaper).

On February 5th Environment Tobago took the Wetland Art Exhibition to the Gulf City Lowlands Mall where there was an opportunity to showcase the work of our young artists as well as interact with the general public.

On Sunday 7th February, over 35 people gathered to clean the Belle Garden Wetland. Participants included the Coral Cay Conservation group, the Water and Sewerage Authority employees, the Montgomery Government Primary School 4-H Club, the Solid Waste Management Company Limited and the Belle Garden Wetland Association. The local supermarkets sponsored old onion and potato bags to be used as collection bags for this event. One hundred and fifty-two (152) bags of garbage were collected from this wetland alone!

The wetland is currently used by eco tour guides and the local people to earn a sustainable income. The presence of so much garbage threatens the biodiversity in this area as well the community livelihood.

The state of this wetland continues to be an indication of the improper disposal of solid waste on land and the urgent need for education and awareness.

As the events and activities concluded it became increasingly apparent that even more focused efforts among the government, the people, Ngos and private sectors are needed to counter negative effects on wetlands. Environment Tobago will continue its campaign to promote wise management of our wetland ecosystems.

Wetland Postcards



Kedon Thompson
Age 14 Roxborough Secondary



Kadisha Brasnell
Age 13 Roxborough Secondary



Shakir Daniel
Age 13 Roxborough Secondary



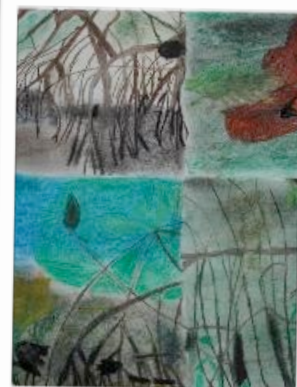
Ajani Denoon
Age 10 Speyside Anglican



Carlson Orr
Age 17 Goodwood HighSchool



Lehron Brooks
Age 17 Goodwood HighSchool



Karissa Murray
Age 17 Goodwood Highschool



Affisha Trotman
Age 16 Goodwood HighSchool



Ashlon Foster
Age 17 Goodwood HighSchool

Wetland Art Exhibition



Our Exhibition at the Mall



Interacting with the public



Sharing information

Getting Involved!



