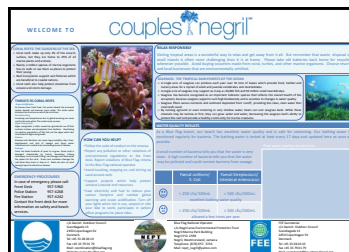


Blue Flags Flying High!

On November 1st, 2010, NEPT celebrated the opening of the 2010—2011 Blue Flag season with representatives from our 11 certified properties, National Jury members, NEPT staff and members of the media. Beaches Negril was our host for this year's ceremony and as such were the first to raise the flag for the season.

Blue Flag is a program of the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE International). The purpose of Blue Flag is to ensure proper environmental management of beaches and marinas through adherence to 26 stringent criteria. This includes water monitoring every fortnight, proper waste management on the properties, adequate safety and services and proper restroom facilities. The criteria also places a large

emphasis on environmental education of both the staff and the guests of the properties. Blue Flag beaches must host a variety of environmental activities throughout the year, and must also have



An example of the Blue Flag Common Information Board that can be seen at Couples Negril

a Common Information Board to inform guests about the environmental initiatives taking place at that property.

Blue Flag is an annual, voluntary award that has been

active in Jamaica since 2004. Our first Blue Flag beach was Merril's I, and the Jamaica Blue Flag family has since grown to include 10 additional properties: Traveller's Beach Resort, Coco La Palm, Couples Swept Away, Couples Negril, Merril's II, the Errol Flynn Marina, Beaches Negril, Ocho Rios Bay Beach, Bluefields Bay Beach and Long Bay Beach Park I. NEPT is especially excited to see these last three public beaches coming on board with the Blue Flag and commends UDC for their hard work in getting these beaches certified!

The work to ensure the beaches are clean and safe never stops, and these properties are already working hard towards certification for

Look for the Blue Flag to make sure the beach you are visiting is safe and clean!



next season! NEPT is also busy recruiting new properties for Blue Flag to ensure that beaches all over Jamaica are working towards comprehensive environmental management. For more information on Blue Flag International, please visit their website: www.blueflag.org.

About NEPT

The Negril area Environmental Protection Trust (NEPT) is a non-profit environmental NGO (non Governmental organization). We were formed in 1994 by organizations and citizens of the Negril area, following a meeting to consider land-based sources of pollution affecting the marine and coastal ecosystems.

NEPT's mandate is to serve the Negril Environmental Protection Area (EPA) in order to achieve a better quality of life for present and future generations. We do this by preserving, protecting, conserving and restoring the environment through planning, and implementing environmental activities that serve as examples for others

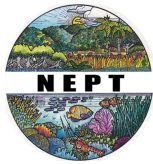
to follow.

NEPT also operates two environmental certification programs—the Blue Flag and Green Key. These programs ensure proper management of beaches and hotels, respectively.

We host various community events and workshops, so stay tuned for more details!

Inside this issue:

NEPT MERCHANDISE!	2
NEPA & NEPT RELEASE A YELLOW BOA	2
WORLD WATER DAY 2011	3
NEPT TO MANAGE NEGRIL MARINE PARK	3
WHAT IS BIODEGRADABLE?	3
RECYCLING MAZE	4
SUPPORT THE NEGRIL FARMERS' MARKET!	4



NEPT Merchandise For Sale!

Support NEPT and the conservation of Negril's biodiversity! We have 3 items for sale in a variety of colors. They make great gifts and are useful and durable. You or the lucky recipient will get a life time of use out of our products! These also make great additions to your hotel gift shops.

To place an order, email us at nept_negril@yahoo.com with the quantity and color specifications. Items can be delivered free of charge within the Negril area, or shipped, domestically or internationally. Buyer must cover all shipping costs.

Aluminum Water Bottles, available in blue, silver or green. Holds about 16oz of liquid. J\$1,000/ US\$15



Logo on each of the items. Text says: Negril Area Environmental Protection Trust Help Us Conserve Negril's Biodiversity Wwww.nept.wordpress.com

Market bag available in blue, red, black and green. Bag folds up for easy carrying. J\$800/ US\$10



Drawstring backpacks with front zipper pocket. Available in dark & light blue, dark & light green, light & dark khaki and black/ silver. J\$1,000/ US\$15

NEPA & NEPT Release an Endangered Yellow Boa

On February 21st, 2011 NEPA and NEPT joined forces to release a wild Jamaican Boa back into its native habitat.

The snake was dropped off at NEPA's office in Negril (which is behind the community center) earlier that day by a very conscientious farmer who found it on his property that weekend. The snake had even eaten one of his newborn kid goats, and the farmer still knew better than to kill this endangered animal! He carried it to the NEPA office in a crocus bag, and NEPA and NEPT took care of the rest!

This species is endemic to Jamaica, meaning it is found nowhere else in the world. It is also endangered, and as such has been deemed a protected species in Jamaica. So it is actually illegal to kill or hunt this animal, as its population is already dangerously low.

There are a lot of misconceptions about snakes in Jamaica,

especially about the yellow boa. These snakes are not dangerous to humans, and will not attack humans. Unlike cobras, they are not aggressive and tend to slither away quickly when threatened.

They are constrictors, and kill their prey by wrapping their bodies around the animal until the animal suffocates to death. Their bites are non-poisonous, so even if the snake does bite you, it is not dangerous.

Typically the yellow boa eats rats, mice, birds or other animals. They are actually beneficial to farmers, as they eat a lot of animals that destroy crops. Yellow boas like to spend most of their time sleeping under rocks, sunning itself on top of a warm rock or digesting a recent meal up in a tree. Some people say that it's actually lucky for a farmer to have a yellow boa on their land, as they take care of all the rodents naturally!

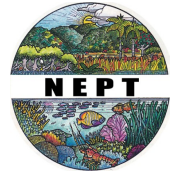


The endangered Boa slithering away into the bush

One of the questions people often have about snakes is if they can breed with other snake species. For example, many people think that if a constrictor such as a yellow boa and a venomous snake like a rattlesnake could breed, it would produce a form of super-snake who is both poisonous and can constrict its prey. While this is an interesting theory, scientists have found that it is unheard of for different breeds of snakes to mate in the wild, and that the

chances of such a pair producing viable offspring are almost non-existent. So don't worry—we won't be seeing and cobra-boa hybrids any time soon!

So if you are lucky enough to see one of these rare snakes, appreciate its beauty and leave it alone. But if you really don't want it anywhere near you, call your local NEPA office and they can organize someone to come and relocate it for you.



World Water Day

Each year, March 22 is celebrated as World Water Day. The holiday dates back to 1992, when the United Nations General Assembly adopted this day to acknowledge the importance of water to our daily lives and the health of the planet in general.

Each year's celebration has a specific theme, and the designated theme for this year is: *Water for Cities: Responding to the Urban Challenge*. Half of the world's population lives in cities, and 40% of urban

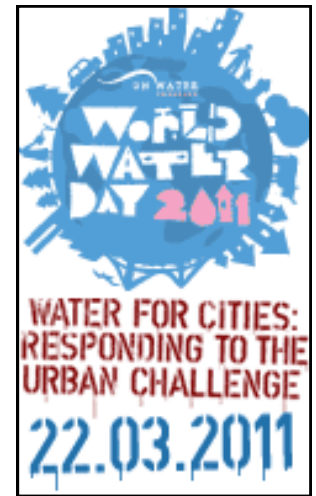
growth is in slums where access to clean water is slim, if accessible at all.

In Jamaica, this is an especially pertinent theme, as 52% of Jamaica's population live in urban areas such as Montego Bay and Kingston.

The goal of World Water Day 2011 is to educate people about the issues surrounding providing clean water to all the world's cities. More specifically, the day is focused on encouraging people to conserve their water and

recycle it wherever possible. For example, you can use dirty dish water to flush your toilet or water your garden. This is called "grey water", and is totally fine to be used in anything other than cooking and drinking. There is only a finite amount of clean water available in the world, and recycling water is a great way to stretch that supply.

For more information on World Water Day, please visit the official website at: www.worldwaterday.org.



NEPT, NEPA & NCRPS Partnering to Manage the Negril Marine Park

The National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) is to provide oversight and technical support for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA) and two Negril Non-Government Organizations.

On 15 March, 2011 the NRCA signed the MOU with the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society (NCRPS) and the Negril Area Environmental Protection Trust (NEPT) for the

management of the Negril Marine Park. The two-year agreement will empower the organizations to undertake the day-to-day management activities on behalf of the NRCA. Funding by the NRCA will cover staff and other operational expenses. NEPA will also provide additional technical support.

Negril Marine Park was designated a marine park in March of 1998 by the Natural Resources Order under the

Natural Resources Conservation Authority Act. The park is an area of approximately 185 km² extending from Davis Cove in the parish of Hanover to St. John's Point in Westmoreland. The boundaries of the park begin at high water mark on shore to approximately 3.2km out to sea. The area contains a wide range of physical features and bio-diversity, including beaches, estuaries, coral reefs, sea grass beds, mangrove communities, rocky

shores and cliffs. It provides several national benefits including tourism, recreation, fishing, education and research.

This MOU marks the first between the NRCA, the NCRPS and NEPT for the management of the park. In 2002, and then again in 2008, the NRCA collaborated with NCRPS to manage the Marine Park. This new collaboration marks a new beginning for the Marine Park.

What is Biodegrading?

When you see trash on the side of the road, do you ever wonder how long it has been there? It might be a lot longer than you think. Most trash will eventually break down, and this process is called biodegrading.

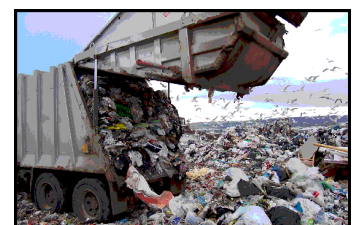
Natural items like fruit trash or other food break down pretty quickly since they are made of purely natural elements. They also release these elements back into the environment as they biodegrade,

creating a natural fertilizer. Because of this, there's nothing wrong with throwing natural trash like fruit peels into some bush.

But most trash takes a long time to breakdown. Much of what is thrown on the road will still be around when our children's children are born! The closer things are to their natural state, the quicker they break down. So something like newspaper would only take about 2 months to biode-

grade. Scandal bags take a bit longer, lasting about 20 years and tin cans take about 100 years. But thin plastic bottles that most of us drink out of every day will take about 250 years! And the Styrofoam containers that cook shop food comes in? Or glass Red Stripe bottles? Neither of those will ever break down completely.

To ensure that your trash isn't lingering around for generations, make sure you find a bin to dispose of it properly!



Garbage being dumped in a land fill. This garbage could take centuries to degrade.

Negril area Environmental Protection Trust

Ridge to Reef Protection of the Negril Environmental Protection Area

Contact us:

Marine Park Building
Negril PO Box 2599
Negril, Westmoreland
Jamaica, West Indies

Phone: 876-957-3736

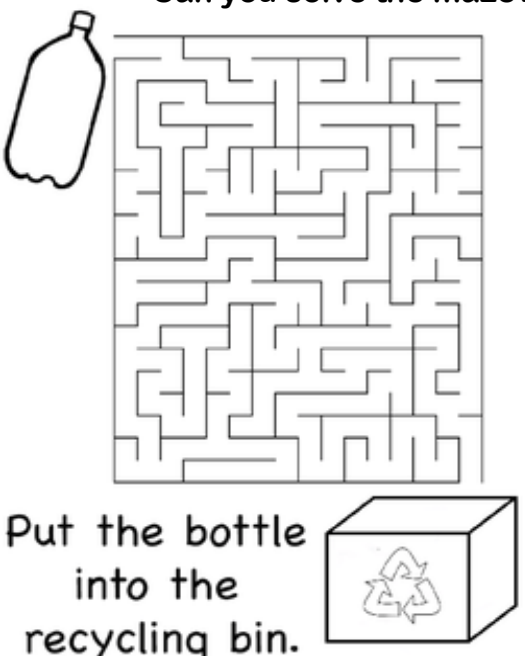
E-mail:

nept_negril@yahoo.com

Recycling is an extremely important part of environmental conservation. Recycling turns trash into something new and useful. You can recycle by taking things like plastic and glass to places like the Negril Recycling Center, but there are other ways to recycle. Most people don't realize that reusing anything is recycling. So when you reuse a scandal bag, you are recycling! When you make a box drink into a toy car or truck, you are recycling! When you reuse any sort of bottle for another kind of liquid...yup! You're recycling! Keeping these items out of our landfills will go a long way towards keeping our island and our planet beautiful.

For the latest news on NEPT, visit:
www.nept.wordpress.com

Can you solve the maze?



Put the bottle into the recycling bin.

Copyright 2005-2008 abc4teach.com



Some of the items that will be available March 30 (above); And a proud Jamaican farmer showing off her fresh scotch bonnet peppers.



Negril Wholesale Farmers' Market—March 30

Buy Jamaican, support Jamaica! Come out to Negril's first Wholesale Farmers' Market on March 30th for some great deals on a wide variety of fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables. The market will be held at the Norman Manley Sea Park, right behind the Negril Community Center and the Negril Craft Market, and will run from 7am—6pm.

The market is the result of a collaboration between the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MOA&F) and the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA). It is aimed at cutting down the amount of produced that is

left to rot in the fields due to a lack of demand or market. It also serves to connect the farmer directly to the buyer, cutting out the middle men of "higglers" who often buy extremely cheap from the farmers and mark up the produce significantly at market.

Similar markets have already been held elsewhere on the island, and they have been a huge success. These markets are part of the MOA&F's recently launched "Eat Jamaica" campaign. This campaign's goal is to decrease Jamaica's dependence on imported fruits and vegetables, which have

become more and more expensive.

As Minister of Agriculture Dr. Tufton recently said, "Consumers need access to adequate, nutritious and safe supplies of products. Our farmers are up to the task of supplying these foods".

So come and support our local farmers. It's not just the farmers who will benefit—you will also be getting some of the fresh, tastiest and best priced produce around!

For a more information please visit the NEPT website or call the Westmoreland RADA office at 955—2726 or 955—4446.