



**BARBADOS MARINE TRUST – Charity # 549**

Carlisle Bay

Bay Street

St. Michael

BARBADOS

Tel: (246) 228-8071

Email: [info@barbadosmarinetrust.com](mailto:info@barbadosmarinetrust.com)

Web: [www.barbadosmarinetrust.com](http://www.barbadosmarinetrust.com)

**TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT OUR MARINE ENVIRONMENT**

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## **MONTHLY ACTIVITIES REPORT**

### **MARCH 2008**

March was a particularly busy period for the Barbados Marine Trust: it exhibited at Holders Season 2008, Sci Tech Xpo 2008 and the Oistins Fish Festival.

#### **PUBLIC AWARENESS ACTIVITIES:**

In March, the Barbados Marine Trust made three Presentations/ Exhibits highlighting its BMT-GEF-SGP Project entitled: *REEF BALL GARDENS: A SOLUTION TO CORAL DEPLETION AND COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS IN OISTINS.*

Over the month, directors and members of the BMT spoke directly with hundreds of people who wanted to learn more about the Reef Balls which weigh up to 1.5 tons each.

Essentially these monster balls are able to attract spores of coral (little living animals) which attach themselves to the specially made Ball, and they also attract fish which use the Reef Balls as their “condo” home.

Shown at the presentations was a fascinating video, filmed and edited by the BMT’s David Gill, showing the launch and installation of the first 30 “test” Reef Balls into marine waters off Hastings over 3 years ago. It then showed the resulting growth of a great diversity of coral on the reef balls today, and the many fish enjoying their underwater “condos”.

Because of the success of this pilot project, BMT is planning a major undertaking of the “1,000 Reef Ball Project” to replenish the reefs in Barbados (more about this project in later newsletters).

If anyone wishes to participate or contribute to this initiative to help replenish our coral, please contact the BMT at 228 8071 or email us at [info@barbadosmarinetrust.com](mailto:info@barbadosmarinetrust.com).

#### **BMT UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:**

- **Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**BMT Monthly Lime**  
6.00p.m. @ BMT grounds  
‘What is the Impact of Coral Bleaching on Barbados?’  
Dr. Hazel Oxenford  
(UWI CERMES)

- **Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**BMT Beach Walk**  
Whit Monday – ‘Whitwalk’  
Starting at BMT grounds  
Time to be announced.

Please call the Trust at 228 8071 for further details.



### **HOLDERS Season 2008:**

The first of the 2008 Exhibitions occurred at the **Holders Season 2008**, where Wendy Kidd generously donated space for the three weeks of the Season. A One and a half TON Reef Ball and a 2 pound 'Baby' Ball were both on display at the BMT tent. At left is a photo of the BMT display at Holders Season 2008. Special thanks go out to members and volunteers who assisted us throughout the Season – Jon Sealy, Don Sealy, Donna Roach, Dagny Ross, Tanya Staskiewicz and Karla Callender.



### **Sci Tech Xpo 2008:**

The next week in March, a truck and crane moved the 1.5 ton Reef Ball into the Sherbourne Conference Centre for **Sci Tech Expo 2008** – hosted by the National Council for Science & Technology (NCST) - where hundreds visited the BMT display. Thanks again to Kendra Perch and Dagny Ross for donating their time to assist. In photo at left, the BMT 1 ½ ton Reef Ball and the fibreglass Reef Ball mould on display.



### **Oistins Fish Festival:**

At the same time, the BMT moved a second 1.5 ton Reef Ball to the Oistins beachfront for the **Oistins Fish Festival** held on the Easter weekend. This was particularly important because part of the BMT-GEF-SGP project is “Reef Ball Gardens: A Solution to Coral Depletion and Community Livelihoods in Oistins”. The photo on the left shows the 1½ ton Reef Ball and the BMT tent in the background (More about that aspect of the Project in later newsletters). Our sincere thanks go to Jon Sealy and Donna Sealy who volunteered their time.

These three Presentations resulted in many new members signing up, and the BMT is still receiving new members' applications and donations from both local and overseas people wanting to help protect our marine environment here in Barbados. (You can sign up by emailing us at: [info@barbadosmarinetrust.com](mailto:info@barbadosmarinetrust.com))

Helping with the preparation of these Presentations via DONATIONS in KIND were Julie Hoyos of 809 Design, St James; James Cole of Coles Printery in Wildey; Sign Station in Hastings; Ryan Arthur, Tavel Waterman and Online Trucking Services.

### **British Women's Club:**

Also in March, over 60 members of the British Women's Club heard James Blades of the BMT talk about the work of the Marine Trust to protect the Barbados fringe coral reefs which are under severe stress from poor water quality and physical damage from human activities. Many donations were made and many BWC members signed up to the Trust to offer support.

### **Presentations to Primary and Secondary Schools Students:**

Michael Young, President of the Trust addressed students from Harrison College and the St. George Secondary School on the necessary work they can do to help protect our marine

resources. He also talked about Camp Aquarius which he directs for young people 4-18 years during the three School Holidays, teaching youngsters about the marine environment through water based activities and coastal hikes.

The St. Gabriel's Brownies Group led by Vicky Merrick came to the Marine Trust where the BMT's Nicholas Fields showed the Reef Ball Video, talked to them about coral reefs and Reef Balls, and answered questions on how young people can help protect the marine environment.

### **MONTHLY LIMES:**

The Barbados Marine Trust's second Monthly Lime was held on Friday, March 07, 2008; at Finally Michael's Beach Café - Underwater Barbados, Bay Street.

The focus of this Lime was 'Reef Balls: What are They and What Do They Do?' The presentation was delivered by David Gill, Environmental Consultant and Director of the Barbados Marine Trust.

Reef Balls are artificial reef structures made with specially mixed concrete (with a reduced pH level and increased structural strength) that are used for coral reef rejuvenation, Fish Attraction Devices (FADs) and shelter spaces for marine life.

The Trust has conducted a pilot project to test the effectiveness of the Reef Balls, and having seen the success of the pilot project; will install Reef Balls along the South and West Coast of Barbados to help support and rejuvenate existing reef systems.

We had a great turnout at our March Lime and special thanks go out to our Monthly Lime Sponsors who continue to support the event.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION STEWARDSHIP (EES) PROGRAMME:**

In preparation for the expansion of the Environmental Education Stewardship (EES) Programme, which was initially funded by SHELL Western Supply & Trading and also by GEF-SGP (Global Environment Facility – Small Grants Programme), Diorys Pérez worked on the Training Manuals for the Oistins Bay Stewards, soon to be recruited.

Diorys also completed the Report on the EES Programme of the Carlisle Bay Pilot Project for SHELL and GEF-SGP where she analyzed all the data collected by the Stewards over the last 12 months on the marine environment in the Bay.

### **THANKS TO OUR GROUP OF CORPORATE DONORS:**

The Barbados Marine Trust would like to sincerely thank our Corporate Donors for their continuing support of our work and efforts:

- The Global Environment Facility – Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP)
- Shell Western Supply and Trading Ltd.
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