

# Monthly Activities Report

May 2008



## BARBADOS MARINE TRUST



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*To Preserve and Protect Our Marine Environment!*

## **MEMBERS!**

Special greetings to all of our members! Here's a little challenge for you. We've reached the magic number of 100! Now, we want to get to the 200 mark! We're asking each member to bring in one new member to the Trust – let's see how fast we can reach 200, maybe we can beat Bolt's record!

Additionally, we're also inviting interested members to make short contributions to our Monthly Reports. If you have any marine-related experiences or made any observations that you want the other members to know about, send the details to us at the Barbados Marine Trust at [info@barbadosmarinetrust.com](mailto:info@barbadosmarinetrust.com).

## **THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME (GEF SGP) GRANTEES NETWORK**



*Photo taken during a meeting of the GEF/SGP Barbados Grantees Network. (Photo by BMT)*

The local SGP grantee organisations met in May and over the month of June – Environment Month – the Network will be embarking on a Public Awareness Programme aimed at increasing the awareness of the public, and especially other NGOs and Community Based Organisations about the GEF Small Grants Programme, and also about the different environmental projects being implemented under the grant programme.

The first one is a video production featuring each of the Grantees and highlighting aspects of their environmental projects that have been funded by the Small Grants Programme. Each Grantee will also be featured on Morning Barbados throughout the month of June – every Tuesday, the first three Thursdays and the last Friday.

Another activity is a Grantee Network display at the upcoming 'De Heart Uh Barbados' exhibition – on the grounds next to the Department of Natural Heritage at Sturges, St. Thomas on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June. The Grantees will have information on hand about their organisation, current projects and activities. All are encouraged to come out and visit our stall at this event.

## **THE WHIT MONDAY BEACH WALK - "WHIT-WALK"**

On the Whit Monday Bank Holiday (Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup>), 35 people gathered bright and early at the Barbados Marine Trust to participate in our "Whit-Walk". The group walked along the South Coast from the Trust to the edge of the boardwalk being constructed (just beyond Coconut Court Hotel). Some of the water enthusiasts even took a plunge in the Bay.



Along the beach, the Directors of the Trust stopped at various points to highlight important facts and figures. Discussion topics included marine

*Everyone listens to President Michael Young making a point on Beach Litter in Carlisle Bay (Photo by BMT)*



*Above: The crowd gathers under a coconut tree and listens to Director David Gill (Photo by BMT).*

and beach litter, sea turtles around the Needhams Point area, the benefits of coral reefs and the threats facing reefs in the area, the historical significance of the Garrison area and military graveyard behind the Hilton Hotel, amongst other things.

It was a good balance of education and exercise. After the walk, the group came back to the Trust/Underwater Barbados, where we relaxed and interacted.



*Right: Back at Finally Michael's Beach Café after the walk (BMT).*

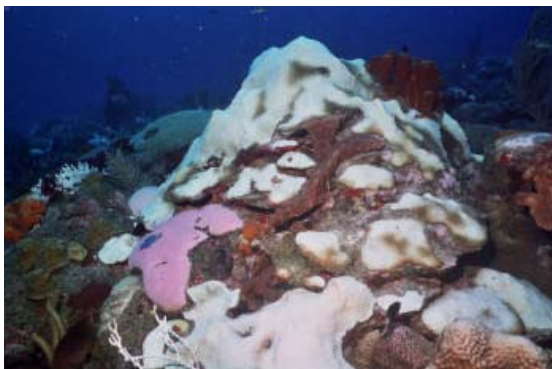
## **ST. GABRIEL'S BROWNIE PACK**

The Barbados Marine Trust would like to sincerely thank the St. Gabriel's Brownie Pack who made a donation to the Trust. The Trust is very grateful to Ms. Vicky Merrick, their leader, for promoting the work of the Marine Trust to young people. We are also grateful to the Brownies who came together to make a monetary contribution to support our work, and signing up as Junior Members of the Trust. We at the Trust are very pleased with the enthusiasm of the Brownies in the environment, and encourage them to continue on!

## **MONTHLY LIME: CORAL BLEACHING AND IT'S IMPACT ON BARBADOS – By Dr. Hazel Oxenford**

The fourth BMT Monthly Lime was held on Friday, May 02<sup>nd</sup> at 6.00p.m. at Finally Michael's Beach Café – c/o Underwater Barbados.

On this occasion, the featured speaker was Dr. Hazel Oxenford, Professor of Marine Ecology and Fisheries, CERMES, UWI. The presentation was entitled **“What is the Impact of Coral Bleaching on Barbados”**, and reinforced the fact that coral reefs are being globally threatened. Barbados is no exception. Our island is surrounded by fringing reefs, patch reefs and bank/barrier reefs and we rely heavily on the health of these ecosystems which support our beaches, fisheries and tourism industry.



*Left: Bleached corals at Atlantis Bank reef. (Photo by Dr. Hazel Oxenford).*



*Right: Photo of Bleached Coral*

reinforced the fact that coral reefs are being globally threatened. Barbados is no exception. Our island is surrounded by fringing reefs, patch reefs and bank/barrier reefs and we rely heavily on the health of these ecosystems which support our beaches, fisheries and tourism industry.

Coral bleaching is basically seen as a stress response usually associated with human-induced and natural disturbances, such as an unusually high water temperature. Underwater, there are areas where the water can reach significantly high temperatures called “*hot spots*”. These hot spots can be several feet deep below the sea surface, and span quite large distances. Despite being so deep underwater, hot spot temperatures can get hotter than land or sea surface temperatures!



*Bleached corals at Batts Rock Patch reef.  
(Photo by Dr. Hazel Oxenford)*

Bleaching is described as the temporary or permanent loss of photosynthetic microalgae (zooxanthellae), which results in the coral losing its pigment and becoming totally white in colour. Bleaching has occurred across Barbados on the Atlantis bank reefs, and the patch reefs at Batts Rock. Although this may look pretty to an unknowing eye, it is actually a very critical state of health for coral reefs.

Such events may become more frequent and severe as the climate continues to warm, exposing coral reefs to an increasingly hostile environment. Projections globally suggest that the mass coral bleaching could become an annual event within the next 30-50 years with the highest incidence in the Caribbean. Significant attention therefore needs to be given to the monitoring of coral reef ecosystems as in the future we can face losses of marine biodiversity, fisheries, and shoreline protection. Such losses can have severe impacts on local livelihoods and our economy.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Special thanks go out to our Volunteer Administrative Assistants in the office – **Ms. Donna Sealy and Ms. Joan Bynoe** – who have been a great help in easing some of the administrative demand in the office.

## **DONATION – MOULDS FOR MINI REEF BALLS**

The Trust would also like to take the opportunity to thank one of our members, **Ms. Dagny Ross**, for kindly donating new mini Reef Ball moulds (Baby Balls) to the Trust which are valued at BDS \$500. The moulds will be used to create mini Reef Balls, and will be a catch especially for our younger members!

Any other persons who're interested in assisting in the office or making donations, please contact the Trust at 228-8071 or send an e-mail to [info@barbadosmarinetrust.com](mailto:info@barbadosmarinetrust.com)