



Friends of the Environment

Abaco, Bahamas

SUMMER 2018

PROVIDING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES SINCE 1988

VOL. 25, ISSUE II

Youths Making a Difference

Every summer, we share news of our camps because they are one of our most impactful programs. By now you should know the what and the where, but this summer we want to share the why and the who. FRIENDS has been running environmental education programs across Abaco for a solid 12 years now. We are very proud of this accomplishment, but even more so, proud of the students who have made their way through our programs and are doing bigger and brighter things. They are the future of our community and the hope for a healthy and sustainable environment. We hope you will join us in congratulating them and encouraging them through their journeys!



Khalea Richard

School status: 12th grade
FRIENDS participation: summer camps and school programs, events volunteer, teaching assistant, Sea Beans club teacher.
Accomplishments: FRIENDS Environmental Award, Junior Minister of Tourism, Runner up for Junior Minister of the Environment.



Mone't Brown

School status: enrolled at St. Cloud State University, Chemistry major
FRIENDS participation: high school work study program, summer camp intern
Accomplishments: Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association essay finalist



James Boyce

School status: BA in Economics and Environmental Studies, UC Santa Cruz, 2018
FRIENDS participation: school programs, field courses, summer camp and event volunteer, research assistant
Employed by: OceanGate, & Perry Institute for Marine Science



DaShane Knowles

School status: enrolled at Penn State, Mechanical Engineering
FRIENDS participation: summer camps and school programs, event volunteer, camp intern
Accomplishments: Deans list, honors achievement.



Ebany Hanna

School status: Graduate of Forest Heights Academy (2018, 4.0GPA), applied to Penn State University, Biology
FRIENDS participation: school programs, summer camp intern
Accomplishments: 2nd highest BJC results in country, 1st place Rotary Speech Competition.



Adrianna Phillipot

Degrees: BS in Psychology, Berry University, MS in Clinical Psychology, Nova Southeastern Univ., Doctorate in Clinical Psychology in progress.
FRIENDS participation: school programs, high school work study
Accomplishments: Psychology intern at Broward Health Medical Center, volunteer for Good Karma Pet Rescue, South Florida

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Staff Reflections



This September made 12 years since I joined the staff of FRIENDS. It's hard to believe how much time has passed, but when I think back on how much the organization has achieved, I can't help but be proud. In that time, FRIENDS has assisted with the establishment of 5 national parks, 3 wetland/coastal restorations, developed the Kenyon Centre and provided over 20,000 environmental education experiences for Bahamian students, and more.

FRIENDS holds a special place in my heart because I have been fortunate to be involved in a number of projects with the organization since my primary school days and I have seen their benefits. I remember joining Board meetings that were held during lunches at Abaco Inn, participating in some of the first beach cleanups on Elbow Cay, and going on a field trip to the mangroves in Hope Town Harbour with a visiting scientist (at age 10). That field trip heightened my awareness that there was more to our environment than meets the eye. Since then, I have held a desire to help ensure that future generations may enjoy and benefit from the environment in the same way that I have (although it wasn't realized in that way until later on...). We are so fortunate to be able to live here; Abaco truly is a special place. Our natural resources are diverse and relatively healthy compared to many places, and the unique network of people who live and visit here is unmatched. That's why I feel the role of FRIENDS in providing environmental awareness is critical. If we can engage Abaco's network in support of the environment we can do great things together.

Even though I have always grasped the importance of conservation for Abaco, becoming the mother of a now-toddler has given me a renewed appreciation for what we do here at FRIENDS. Watching his growing fascination with his surroundings and delight for animals and outdoor experiences gives me the confidence to know that I am doing what's right for his future, and for all of Abaco's children. The next generation deserves a healthy and sustainable environment, and to be given the tools to understand it, and manage it. Thank you for enabling us to make that happen!

Olivia Patterson-Maura, Deputy Director

FRIENDS Thanks Friends

Lionfish Derby: Green Turtle Club & Marina, Brendal's Dive Center, Abaco Tourist Office, The Bahamas Department of Marine Resources, Bobbie Lindsay, Chris Burdett, Sara Gordon, James Boyce, Jim Richard, Jevaughn Toote, Sarah Ann Showell, Vernae Porter
Advertising and Awareness: Coastal Angler Magazine, The Abaconian, Abaco Cruiser's Net, Conch Salad TV, Steve Dodge and Cruising Guide to Abaco, The Abaco Scientist blog, Abaco Life.

Rockin' with FRIENDS: Hope Town Inn & Marina, Doug's Place, Delphi Club, Wally's, Pete's Pub, National Marine, Dive Guana, Standard Hardware, Abaco Neem, Hope Town Canvas, Pineapple Beach Club, The Thompson Group, Justin & Journey Higgs, Aly & James Boyce, The Aberle Family, Chris & Jessica Farren, Patrick Stewart, Rob Sands, Christopher Lightbourn, Elizabeth Covington, Reinhold Probst, Tim Givens, Sunil Lyer.

Summer Camp & Field Courses: Disney's Animals Science and Environment, Disney Cruise Line, Kelly Delancy and Adrianna McPhee (AMMC), Beth Whitman (FIU), Ryley Parent, Jody Albury, Vernae Porter, DaShane Knowles, Jasper Broad, Ebany Hanna, Jaro Curry, Ketia Knowles, Eunecia Butler, Lexi Welch, Craig Dahlgren/Perry Institute, Ariane de La Baume/BEP Foundation, Mercedes Russell, Maxwell Cooper, Bahamas Marine Mammal Research Organisation, Chevelle Burrows, Grand Cay All Age School, Maxine Cephas, Greg Cephas, Big Grand Cay, JA Pinder Primary, Estelle Pinder, St. Martin's Anglican Church

Upcoming Events!



Abaco Science Fair - November 15th, New Vision Ministries, MH

This year's theme is "Investigating and implementing ways to eliminate single-use plastics". All Abaco schools are invited to participate and the general public are welcome to attend (10am - 2pm).

Reggae Night, November 16th, Snappas, MH

Join us for a fun celebration and live music by Sailor Jane!
\$10 entry donation

Turtle Trot - November 22nd, Hope Town Harbour Lodge

The best way to work up an appetite for your Thanksgiving meal! Join us for a 5k fun run/walk through Hope Town and North End all in support of marine environment education and awareness!

Sixth Annual Hope Town Music Festival - December 7th - 9th

The Combustion Music Hope Town Music Festival is a memorable three-day-long celebration of music and giving back to Abaco. Venues include: Hope Town Harbour Lodge, Harbour's Edge, Abaco Inn, and Hope Town Inn and Marina.

Reef Ball Dinner, Dance, and Fundraiser

Hope Town - Jan. 26, 2019, Marsh Harbour - Feb. 16, 2019

The best night(s) of the year, when we can celebrate the work made possible by our members and come together in support for exciting new work in the coming year. Live music, silent and live auctions, and yummy menus at some of your favorite local venues!

Coastal Christmas Ornaments by Kim Rody.
Partial proceeds to support FRIENDS! Buy online
at www.rodyChristmas.com.



Please use the enclosed envelope or visit our website and make sure you are a member for 2018! Your support helps make all of our exciting programs possible!



Thanks to Jane Patterson of Damianos Sotheby's International Realty for her support of FRIENDS through a recent sale.

The Kenyon Centre

for Research, Education, and Conservation

Project Coral

FRIENDS has partnered with the Bahamas Environmental Protection Foundation (BEP Foundation) to collaborate on “Project Coral”. This project is a prime example of what we can make possible through the Kenyon Centre, highlighting our focus areas of research, education, and conservation while building on community partnerships. Project Coral’s goal is to raise community awareness on coral reefs, including education, threats to coral reefs, and daily actions we can take to protect them. This summer, we began working with Loggerhead Productions on a video to help achieve those goals. Some of the students from our summer camp programs will be featured in this video, and they even got to help Dr. Craig Dahlgren from the Perry Institute for Marine Science build some coral nursery trees. We plan to incorporate Project Coral into the syllabi for our after school clubs, especially for our teen club, Island Investigators. This way, students in the community can feel a personal connection to the project, and most importantly to helping coral reefs in their daily lives. Stay tuned for progress on this project and for Facebook and Instagram posts about daily actions you can take to help coral reefs!



BEP FOUNDATION



Above, right: Students get their first taste of snorkeling on a field trip at Mermaid Reef in Marsh Harbour. **Left:** Teen summer campers help build coral nursery trees out of PVC. **Left, below:** Coral fragments are strung from PVC trees and left to grow. Those fragments will be used for coral restoration projects. Photo credit: Ariane de La Baume, BEP Foundation.

Below: FRIENDS will be sharing reef facts and tips on how to help coral reefs through daily actions. Please share them!



DID YOU KNOW?

Each type of fish on the reef has a specific job to do. Parrotfish help keep the reef clean by grazing on algae. This ensures that algae does not smother the coral and leaves open spaces for new coral polyps to settle.



Project Coral: Sharing the importance of Bahamian Coral Reefs

www.friendsoftheenvironment.org



Summer Camps: Fun, educational, life-changing



Camp at St. Martin's Anglican Church Hall, Sandy Point

Our signature camp programs were the highlight of summer here at FRIENDS. This camp is all about building connections with the environment and fostering environmental pride amongst students. 6 camps, 3 communities and 106 students from ages 3-16 have left us encouraged and inspired for the future of conservation in The Bahamas. This summer, we had the opportunity to return to the Sandy Point community in South Abaco after a few years, and it was great being back! Between many "firsts" from our campers - first time swimming in a blue hole, first time snorkeling on a coral reef, and more - to impromptu beach clean ups without being told to do so, to many fun experiments and field trips, this summer was an unforgettable one.

10th and Out Lionfish Derby

Boat Name	# of Lionfish	Smallest (cm)	Largest (cm)
Spearbender	300	3.6	32.9
Lil Big Fish	211	-	33.6
Infinity	98	6.2	29.71
Starlight	98	10.6	31.5
Raich	10	-	-
No Way	9	13.11	26.2
Sole	1	-	-
TOTAL	727		



The Green Turtle Cay lionfish derbies would not have been possible without the partnership and support of the wider Abaco community, second home owners, and friends in West Palm Beach. The derbies have done their job in getting the message out about the impact of lionfish and how to manage them. It's now up to us all to help reduce the lionfish population in Abaco! *Catch 'em, clean 'em, eat 'em!*

FRIENDS' Mission: To preserve and protect Abaco's terrestrial and marine environments in order to achieve sustainable living for the wildlife and people of Abaco, Bahamas.

FRIENDS' Contact Information

Education Center:
#1 Conservation Lane
Marsh Harbour, Abaco

Tel: (242) 367-2721
Fax: (242) 367-0722
info@friendsoftheenvironment.org
www.friendsoftheenvironment.org

Mailing Address:
PO Box AB-20755
Marsh Harbour,
Abaco, Bahamas

Officers:

President, Wynsome Ferguson. *Vice President*, Jim Richard. *Secretary*, David Knowles. *Asst. Secretary*, David Price. *Treasurer*, Charlotte Dunn.
Directors: Justin Higgs, Diane Claridge, Reg Patterson, Jody Albury, Joy Chaplin, Jeremie Saunders, Michelle Bailey

Staff:

Executive Director, Cha Boyce
Deputy Director, Olivia Patterson-Maura
Administrative Coordinator, Ruth Albury
Education Director, Cassandra Abraham
Education Officer, Lianna Burrows

