

Trust Notes



The Newsletter of the Bahamas National Trust

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Baha Mar Supports BNT Educational Initiatives



Baha Mar cheque presentation, (L to R): Kirsty Cowper, Baha Mar Vice President of Human Resources and Operational Development; Eric Carey, BNT Executive Director; Graeme Davis, Baha Mar President and CEO; Janet Johnson, BNT President; Vannessa Haley-Benjamin, Chief Scientist; Lynn Gape, BNT Deputy Executive Director; Astra Armbrister-Rolle, BNT Director of Development and Robert Sands, Baha Mar Vice President of Government Relations.

The Bahamas National Trust recently received a \$50,000 donation from the Baha Mar Resort Foundation to support conservation efforts in the Bahamas, including educational programming, volunteer initiatives and conservation projects designed to protect the Bahamian ecosystems.

The donation will support BNT educational programs for Bahamian youth, including the "Discovery Club Leader's Symposium," an annual workshop for Discovery Club leaders to assist them in running Discovery Clubs, a programme that educates 1,000 students on 10 islands of the Bahamas about protecting natural resources within the

Bahamas National Parks, as well as, "Eco-Camp," a one-week camp where young people explore the natural ecology of the Bahamas.

"The Baha Mar Resort Foundation is guided by the three pillars of Baha Mar: culture, community and conservation, and we actively seek out partners that share our values," said Graeme Davis, Baha Mar President. "Our environment is one of our greatest treasures, and working with The Bahamas National Trust with help us preserve and protect it."

Baha Mar will collaborate with BNT to execute various on-property conservation initiatives, including eco-tourism projects benefiting the guest

experience, Bahamas parrot repopulation efforts, support for the Baha Mar flamingos in residence program, coral reef restoration programs, Hobby Horse nature tours, fundraising events to support BNT and numerous other initiatives.



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Parks

Abaco Park Moorings Maintenance Partnership

The old saying “many hands make light work” is certainly applicable to the recent mooring maintenance for eight dive and snorkel moorings at Sandy Cay Reef located in Pelican Cays Land and Sea Park. The mooring can accommodate boats up to 28 ft. and volunteers came together to replace buoys and down-lines. This replacement exercise was made possible through donations by the Bahamian Environment Protection Foundation and other donors along with the assistance of Friends of the Environment; a local Abaco NGO, Cruise Abaco owned by Mark and Pattie Gonsalves, and Dive Time owned by Michael Sherratt. The BNT assisted with importation of the material needed to conduct the upgrade and was on hand to observe the installation. The group plans to install new pins and replace downlines in both Pelican Cays Land and Sea Park and Fowl Cays National Park. David Knowles, BNT Chief Park Warden on Abaco said, “Volunteers are a crucial part of our maintenance plan for the park moorings. We extend sincere thanks to all persons who donated funding and time to install the buoys and down-lines.”

PCLSP and FCNP are the most popular snorkeling and dive sights on Abaco providing pristine habitat, rich valuable coral reefs and undersea caves. As such they experience a heavy visitation rate, these mooring are very important and serve to protect reefs from boat anchors. Moorings are very costly to maintain and they need to be replaced throughout the year due to our natural summer and winter weather conditions. Interested persons wishing to support this effort can contact the BNT Abaco Office or BNT Head Office in Nassau.



Diver secures mooring down-line.



David Knowles along with donors, representors from Friends of the Environment and volunteers.



Buoys and volunteers in the water.