



# Trust News

## Morne Pavillon: More than a donation



Mrs. Holly Schadler holding plaque

Saint Lucians and visitors to the island have received a wonderful gift from an exceedingly generous benefactor - Mr. Christopher Lutz out of Cambridge, Massachusetts. On March 23, 2011, the official handing over ceremony for Morne Pavillon, formerly known as Point du Cap was held on the 22 acre site. In attendance were the Parliamentary Representative for Gros Islet, the Honourable Lenard Montoute, Former Chairman of the Trust, Monsignor Patrick Anthony, dignitaries, 'The Friends of Morne Pavillon', Councillors and staff of the Saint Lucia National Trust (SLNT), the media and other invited guests.

Morne Pavillon, the second highest point at Cap Estate, was donated to the Trust for the benefit of all the citizens of Saint Lucia. The property was transferred through The Nature Conservancy to the Trust on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2010. Mr. Lutz's stipulation for the Nature Reserve with its heritage assets is that it remains in its natural state in perpetuity for the enjoyment of Saint Lucian residents and visitors.

The newly appointed Chairman of the Trust, Mr. Sylvester Clauzel said that "As far back as 1992 when the Trust prepared the first Systems of Protected Area for Saint Lucia,

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this area was earmarked for protection and sustainable use. Of course we had no authority to enforce development controls, as this is the job of the Development Control Authority (the DCA). However, we are aware that the residents of this area were concerned about the rate at which green spaces were being lost to development." He also acknowl-



Msgr. Patrick Anthony invokes spiritual guidance

edged Mr. & Mrs. Rip and Julie Van Camp who made the initial contact with Mr. Lutz about donating the property, Mr. Geoffrey Jennings-Clark and the wider 'Friends of Morne Pavillon', Mr. Robert Devaux who has done extensive research and has built a trail around the property and the SLNT Youth Chapter who has adopted the property and has assisted with



Rip and Julie Van Camp

its upkeep. Mr. Clauzel also said that "Its inclusion in sites we manage enhances our conservation work and the Trust looks forward to opening it very soon for public and visitor patronage."

Speaking on Mr. Lutz's behalf, his attorney, Mrs. Holly Schadler said "There were a couple of times when it seemed like this worthwhile project would have been suspended in limbo for decades, nevertheless, everyone mentioned and many others have persevered because they believed that the end result would be good for Saint Lucia and the environment and the protection of heritage." She said Mr. Christopher Lutz and his wife Sally Lutz, send their sincere congratulations and express their gratitude for all that has been done and they are looking forward to meeting you in the future."



Invited guests attending the ceremony



Gun emplacement at Morne Pavillon

According to the SLNT Director, Mr. Bishnu Tulsie, “As the new owners of the site we do intend to maintain the trails and to put in interpretation (signs) and to work with the local tour companies and the hotels in the area to encourage visitation to the site on a controlled basis. He also mentioned the possibility of developing packages whereby visitors will get to see our sites in Vigie, the Pigeon Island National landmark and Morne Pavillon, so that we can keep the funds afloat to ensure the sustainability of this site.”



SLNT Chairman, Mr. Sylvester Clauzel hands appreciation plaque to Mr. Geoffrey Jennings - Clark



View from Morne Pavillon

In his address to the gathering, the Honourable Lenard Montoute, extended apologies for the Prime Minister’s absence and conveyed his best wishes to the Trust. Minister Montoute said “The Government would like to express our appreciation to Mr. Lutz for the great generosity and progressive outlook which he has demonstrated through the donation of what is evidently a very valuable parcel of land.” He went on to state that, “The existence of green space (nature reserve) in developed housing areas such as Cap Estate carries great value which cannot be underestimated and this may actually present a model which could be offered to the rest of the country for replication.”

Additionally, plaques were presented to Mr.

Rip and Julie Van Camp, Mr. Robert Devaux, Mr. Geoffrey Jennings-Clark and the Friends of Morne Pavillon for their various contribution and dedication to the initiative. The process was indeed lengthy but eight years later the Trust, through The Nature Conservancy and the kind generosity of Mr. & Mrs. Lutz, has been given a beautiful property rich in flora, fauna and history to conserve for present and future generations.



Hon. Lenard Montoute, Monsignor Patrick Anthony & SLNT Chair, Mr. Sylvester Clauzel share a lighter moment

## Our Mission: SLNT Champions Fair Helen’s Patrimony

### PROTECTING OUR PATRIMONY

The Saint Lucia National Trust notes with considerable satisfaction that Government has “decided to rescind the option offered to the Company (*Jalousie Beaches Ltd.*) to purchase Crown Lands (part of the Queen’s Chain)” at Jalousie. We note that in making this decision Government took into consideration “certain historical factors and conventions as well as the need to safeguard what is considered to be the patrimony of the State”. We posit that this decision reflects Government’s consideration of public opinion on the matter, which is reflective of good governance principles as well as a recognition that development and heritage conservation can co-exist. The Trust looks forward to Government taking steps to develop a comprehensive legislative and policy framework for coastal zone management which promotes sustainable development whilst preserving the Queen’s Chain, thereby, ensuring public access to beaches.

We are mindful of the urgency with which Government needs to promote job creation and economic development as well as the pressures exerted by developers to acquire sensitive lands for development purposes. We view this decision by Government as a demonstration of its commitment to balance these pressures with its responsibility to protect the rights of citizens. In this vein the Trust reaffirms its statutory mandate to serve in an advisory capacity to Government and to this end offers as a resource, the considerable knowledge, expertise and commitment which reside in its membership as we chart the way forward towards sustainable national development.



Photo courtesy Dani Devaux

We thank our members, the media and the public for their support for this initiative. We also thank our attorney, the law firm of Gordon, Gordon and Company, particularly its lead attorney in this matter Mr. Leslie Prospere for his guidance and support.

## Taste the World International Food Fair; A Spectacular Family Event



Approximately 2700 patrons attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Taste the World International Food Fair organized by the Saint Lucia National Trust on Sunday, February 27, 2011. The event was a success as many Saint Lucians and visitors alike enjoyed cuisines from 15 countries around the world while basking in the ambience of the picturesque Pigeon Island National Landmark.



Here is an idea of what you missed. There were exotic and mouthwatering foods from Saint Lucia, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, India, Italy, Britain, Mexico, Cuba, Venezuela, Taiwan, France, Nigeria, and the Philippines. Plus there were vegan and vegetarian dishes and scrumptious desserts on sale.



But Taste the World was more than a 'food' affair, as patrons enjoyed entertainment which had an international flavor. The entertainment included Salsa/Meringue dancers, Lapo Kab-wit Drummers, a masquerade performance by the Silver Shadow Dancers, Limbo and fire-eating dance by Lightning Stars and music from some of the countries represented. The kids were well taken care of, as they bounced away in Bouncing Castles and got their faces painted. But the highlight of the Food Fair was the various competitions which saw participation from the very young to the young at hearts. Patrons had a whale of a time as they participated in 'potato/guava and spoon race', sack race, donut and ice cream speed eating contests and beer drinking contests.



## Meet Our Councillors

Seven Councillors of diverse background were elected to govern the affairs of the Saint Lucia National Trust (SLNT). The election took place at the SLNT's 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday, January 22, 2011 at the National Insurance Corporation Conference Room with a total of fifty members and staff in attendance.

The newly elected Council is well placed to steer the organization on the right course. These individuals are experts in various fields including Sustainable Development, Agricultural Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Education and Community Service to name a few.

The full composition of Council is: Mr. Sylvester Clauzel - Chairman, Mr. Martin Satney - Vice Chairman, Mr. Cyril Saltibus - Secretary, Ms. Simone Mondesir, Ms. Maureen Louis, Ms. Lydia Cox and Mr. Calixte George Jr. Representing the GOSL are Mr. Duane Marquis and Mr. Crispin d'Auvergene with Mr. Robert Harvey and Mr. Gregor Williams representing the Archaeological and Historical Society.

For a complete update, please log onto our website: [www.slunatrust.org](http://www.slunatrust.org).

## The Sustainable Livelihoods Project Moves into High Gear



Programme Officer at the SLNT, Ms. Lavina Alexander, represented the Trust at the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Caribbean Expanded Constituency Workshop (ECW) held in Belize City from March 1-3, 2011. The workshop sought to keep stakeholders abreast of GEF strategies, policies and procedures, with participation of GEF Focal Points, focal points from the main Conventions (Biodiversity, Desertification, Climate Change and POPs), representatives from civil society and representatives from GEF agencies.

Throughout the session, participants were provided with "...opportunities to interact with staff from the GEF Secretariat and the GEF Agencies to discuss priority issues and share lessons and experiences from the development and implementation of GEF projects and their integration within national policy frameworks". The workshop also included highlights of the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) in Belize City, with visits to the Community Baboon Sanctuary and Flowers Bank Village.

Following the session, the SLNT was provided with the opportunity to join other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) across the region to report back to the GEF on the opportunities provided and the challenges faced by CSOs as it relates to the implementation of GEF initiatives at the national level.



Lavina Alexander

### Sailing the Seas

The SLNT is now in possession of a new 25ft Boston Whaler vessel. The vessel was provided as an investment of the OECS Protected Areas and Associated Livelihoods (OPAAL) project, and will be used mainly to conduct surveillance and monitoring exercises within the Pointe Sable Environmental Protection Area (PSEPA). It is anticipated also, that the boat will provide a means of transport to sites within Pointe Sable, including the Maria Islands Nature Reserve. The vessel was officially handed over to the Trust by the OECS Secretariat at a ceremony held on February 23, 2011 at the Vieux Fort Fisheries Complex.



In photo: SLNT Councilors and Members look on while Peter A. Murray OECS hands vessel keys to SLNT Director, Bishnu Tulsie

Lavina Alexander

## MAKING BIODIVERSITY SEXY!

Why aren't media houses covering or writing more stories about biodiversity? Is it because it is not sexy enough? These were two of the questions raised at a two day training session for media practitioners on their role in public awareness and education on protected areas and biodiversity conservation. The workshop, organized by the OECS Secretariat was held on January 10-11 at the Bay Gardens Hotel. In addition to media practitioners, representatives from various environmental agencies were also in attendance.

Dr. Maria Protz – a Jamaican-based Communication Consultant was the main facilitator along with Mr. Jerry George – the Focal Point for the Association of Caribbean Media Workers in Saint Lucia. Many of the participants were amazed at the myriad of angles that the facilitators highlighted that could be used to write stories about protected areas (PAs) and biodiversity.

Additionally, the organizers challenged participants to write an article to coincide with the various observances on the Environmental Calendar in an effort to increase the number of stories relating to PAs and biodiversity that are published or aired. Furthermore, participants were given a preview of a Media Tool Kit on Protected Areas which is designed to strengthen the ability of the media for greater and improved coverage of the topic. Below are two articles written by participants over the two day period of the training session.

### "Biodiversity for you and me"

Biodiversity is important to you and me because it focuses on the variety of living things around us that produces many valuable services that are important for our well being. And I am sure that our well being is very important to all of us. Can we do without food, clothing, shelter and medicines? No! Well, biodiversity provides these elements for us.

Currently, we live in a world of increasing disasters especially natural ones. Biodiversity can help us reduce the impacts of these disasters on our lives. For example, when we plant trees with deep roots they can prevent landslides, which devastated so many homes and structures as we saw occurred with Hurricane Tomas in October 2010. Biodiversity can help reduce the impacts of climate change. Biodiversity also helps provide us with water, so essential to life through the vegetation which is able to help hold water in the soil and produce water for rivers and streams. Biodiversity also helps us with scenery and greenery

so essential for our sanity and good mental well being. Very importantly, biodiversity provides us with items for sustaining our livelihoods and in that way assists in reducing poverty. Farmers, fishers, craft producers among many other natural resource users benefit from it in that way. Livelihoods are very critical for our survival.

Protected areas help conserve our biodiversity and should be supported by everyone.

I hereby call upon all of us to conserve Saint Lucia's biodiversity for our own posterity.

**Anita James**  
**Biodiversity Coordinator**

### *"The Potential of Biodiversity in recreation and wellness:*

#### *"Peace of mind on the battlefield"*

Well known throughout the island, the Caribbean, and by now the world, Pigeon Island National Landmark is a protected area under the management of the Saint Lucia National Trust.

Originally, an island just off the northern coast of Saint Lucia, the island was annexed via a man-made causeway in the early seventies; steeped in historic importance in the heyday of the English and French territorial disputes. The Island is said to have changed hands some fourteen times between English and French maritime settlers. The island boast's occupation by then British Admiral Rodney among its list of other delegates who breeched her shores after whom she is named. Also reputed to be among its famed inhabitants, French Admiral Leclerc, also known as Jambe De Bois, for his peg leg – a restaurant is named after him at the landmark.

In recent years, it has become more evident that we need to preserve such natural environments, for the survival of our species and to help stop the extinction of our natural animal and plant life. We interrupted the sea path used by fish species which would traditionally have fed and bred closer to shore, but now have to circumnavigate the island, thereby cutting off an easier fishing experience for Gros –Islet fishers who now may have lost out on this or have to go further out to realize a profitable catch. It is believed that the Mongoose may have been introduced inadvertently, raiding the low perched bird nests. The interference with nature by building a causeway did have its effects on the biodiversity of that island and the northern area.

Because of our tropical climate, our ecosystem is rich in various plant and animal species. Biodiversity can be described as a measure of the health of ecosystems. In short, biodiversity is our life blood; it is what keeps us alive!

In today's world, stress is a major issue; with the lagging economy, and even the unpredictability of the weather. Rest and recreation are the most important factors in increasing wellness. Forest and marine reserves, parks and many open spaces are used as recreational facilities where we can relax and enjoy the kiss of nature.

As a historic site, the nature preserve has an alluring character all on its own. The manicured lawns beckon for a frolic. The continuous blast of the Atlantic refreshes your every thought. And the trees bend in a never ending refrain. No wonder the site was chosen as the lush background and home of the annual Saint Lucia Jazz Festival.

And so not be outdone, the rest of us take the family or friends for lovely picnics or as we say in the Caribbean, beach parties. This protected area is not without its rules and regulations but it seems that this is what makes for sustainable fun party occasions. It is surprising that this very place can be used to meditate in the hope of finding oneness with the universe, peace and harmony, imagine that- a place settled in time of war can bring inner peace. Biodiversity also provides direct benefits like food, as major food crops, including corn and wheat depend on new genetic material from the wild to remain productive and healthy. One must not dismiss the importance of Biodiversity in the provision of medicines, both prescription and traditional, as these are formed from plant and animal extracts. Biodiversity is also needed for the recycling of essential elements, such as carbon, oxygen, and nitrogen. It lessens pollution, protects watershed and helps prevent soil erosion.

The recent passing of Hurricane Tomas may be a call from nature to protect our environment. Because of man's carelessness, we look forward to a year where we may not have enough crops to provide nutrition; where we may not have enough clean water for our basic day-to day needs. The bottom line is that Biodiversity helps protect us against these extreme weather variations.

Biodiversity is not only important for the Pigeon Island National landmark, or even Saint Lucia. It is a global issue, as country leaders are forced to take notice of the effects of poor management of our environment. More and more there has been a world wide increase in floods, storms and catastrophes never seen before. There is an old saying, 'prevention is better than cure'. If we begin taking better care of our environment, we will be making an investment in the environment that our children and grandchildren will be growing up in; an investment which will undoubtedly bring great returns.

**Canice Alexander**

**The Wave - Accounts Executive**

## Upcoming Activities

Earth day viewing of film (Saint Lucia: An Island Nation under Pressure)	TBA
Membership Field Trip	May 2, 2011
Quarterly Membership Meeting	TBA

Further details will be communicated to members subsequently.

## STAFF BIRTHDAY CORNER!

### February

*Vincent St. Ange - 6<sup>th</sup>*  
*Lavina Alexander - 14<sup>th</sup>*  
*Eleanor Mauville - 19<sup>TH</sup>*  
*Murlina Murray - 28<sup>th</sup>*

### March

*Augustin Paul - 12<sup>th</sup>*  
*Ganther St. Omer - 13<sup>th</sup>*  
*Anthony Norley - 25<sup>th</sup>*

And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.  
 - Abraham Lincoln -

## Your Views

We solicited feedback from members who attended our second annual fundraising activity, Taste the World International Food Fair. Here is what they had to say:

I think it was a marked improvement from last year; the choices were quite varied and it was great being able to do a lot more sampling. I reckoned that since there were so many other activities on that same day, probably the Trust needs to revisit the date of the event. There was the gospel fest in Babonneau and the SLP launching etc. Congratulations on a well organized event.

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I think the Food fair should be held at least twice a year. It is a great family day, with activities for children as well as adults. I think though that the entrance fee should not be raised....that way it would be accessible to more persons, many of whom never come to Pigeon Island with their families normally, a great way to promote the place locally.

There should be more variety in the foods available (many regions were not represented), instead of full meals, smaller portions should be available at a cheaper cost so that people are able to taste a variety of cuisines...

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I've only been three times to the International Food Fair and must say that this one was by far the best. I had a wonderful time! It would be nice if all the stalls were as organized as the Taiwanese stall though. Their assembly line worked like magic. Individuals were served in a matter of seconds. All in all it was very nice! Good work!

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The 2011 Food Fair was very well organized, and most enjoyable! Please continue to follow this year's style and venue, not forgetting to continue to provide the light entertainment for the years to come!

Small suggestions:

1. Please have many more visible garbage units...we want to keep Pigeon Island clean!
2. The payment procedure at the gate MUST be speeded up. I personally saw a few people leaving before they got to the entrance booth, because they could not be bothered to queue. Keep up the good work!

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The food fair was great.

I believe that the experience would be further enhanced by:

1. Implementing a chit system to purchase sample or small portions of dishes as desired from various booths.
2. Booths should sell food in small portions per dish in lieu of a full meal.

Problem addressed

The booths provided full meals and not portions of what one desired. I was full by time I ate a full meal at the first booth. I did not have the opportunity to experience additional dishes from as many booths as I would have liked. Of course the experience in that regard was limited.