



October – December 2011

“Greetings from the Chairman”

I take the opportunity presented by this, our first TRUST NEWS for 2012 to extend to our members, Councillors, staff and the general public, wishes for a prosperous new year.



The Trust is on the threshold of launching a number of initiatives which will advance our heritage conservation agenda and related national policies and frameworks. In this regard, we will be exploring partnerships with relevant Government agencies and will be calling on our members for support as the need arises. As has been our practice, we will be meeting with our members regularly to report on our progress and to seek your guidance with our programmes.

Sylvester Clauzel
Chairman

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“La Plas Nwel 2011!”

The Christmas Market was originally scheduled to take place from December 2nd to 4th. Due to the threat of thunderstorms throughout the weekend, the festival was postponed to the following weekend. As a result many vendors pulled out entirely, however, a very successful event was held on Sunday December 11th, 2011.



On the day of the event, there were many patrons who had the opportunity to purchase unique gift items, decorations, confectionaries and other holiday foods. The children particularly enjoyed the visit of a jolly Santa Claus who came bearing many gifts. Before he could disappear, he and his elves were the first to witness the traditions such as masquerade and bamboo bursting. A very happy Ms. Mary Anna Charles walked away with the prize for winning the fruitcake contest. There were musical appearances by Gene Lawrence, Emerson Nurse and Friends, Black Antz Jazz band, The Secret Band and De Invadah.



**“Southern Chapter’s
Christmas Party!”**



On 10th December 2011, the Southern Chapter held their Christmas party at Ms. Diana Theodore’s residence in Morne Sion, Choiseul to celebrate the achievements for the last year.

We began at 5 pm. This time was picked so that we could watch the spectacular sunset and the views of St. Vincent and of course the Pitons. About 25 persons were there including some new faces from the Lekol Kweyol. There was an interesting variety of food as each person brought a dish and of course Crysto, Brian and Cyril were BBQing away outside.



After dinner, the furniture was pushed back and the sitting room turned into a dance hall until we had all had enough for the night.

A good time was had by all!

Cyril Saltibus
**Saint Lucia National Trust Southern Chapter
Chairman**

**“SLNT Youth Chapter - Eco
lodge Adventure”**

As a fairly new member of the SLNT Youth Chapter, I was eager to be a part of the much talked about eco lodge experience. It is said that being one with nature seems to have the effect of bringing people together, regardless of differences in behavior, character or opinions.



The cabin, in Micoud, is about 45 minutes inland due to the jagged terrain. The high spirited members, with their conversations and jokes kept everyone occupied. As the cabin came into view, the negative feeling of being away from technology and civilization began to set in. However, as we drove closer and more of the surrounding of the cabin was revealed, the ‘spirit of nature’ and beauty began to overpower this negative feeling. The sounds of forest birds, insects and running water were a warm welcome as we exited the bus.

There were many educational activities scheduled for the weekend. Although our guided hike was unable to take place, those thirsty for adventure ventured into the forest to explore. A vast number of the Amazona Versicolour bird was encountered on our walk. The creation of a camp fire was the most tedious of all the activities which were undertaken throughout our expedition.

This for me was more than enough of a great experience to bring back home as a memory. The sighting of our national bird allowed a greater appreciation for this rare beauty within me as well as the environment on a whole.

Hans Mathurin
Saint Lucia National Trust Youth Chapter Member

“Sea Grape Trees Update”



Our attempts to Save the Sea Grape Trees on Sandy Beach in Vieux Fort, which have been badly affected by white fly infestations, mealy bugs and sooty mold, are ongoing.

During the 2nd week of November, two workmen from the NCA used a mist blower lent to us by the National Fair Trade Organization to spray the sea grape trees on Sandy Beach to the north of The Reef. This exercise took approximately 4 days, after which the workers were re-assigned to different tasks.



As we had use of the mist blower for a little longer, we contacted Ms. Rubin at the Vieux Fort Town Council, who graciously consented to let us have two of their workmen for one day, and one workman for the following day. With help from staff from the water sports centre at The Reef Kite + Surf, we managed to spray for another two days during the 3rd week of November, carrying the barrel with soapy water on the back of our pick-up truck to a point south of The Reef on Sandy Beach, so the workmen could refill the sprayer without needing to trek back all the time. The Reef also donated the petrol needed for the mist blower.

Most of the large trees on both sides of the highway received treatment during this stint but, unfortunately, a number of large trees in the area of the Recreation Park were not included - even though they perhaps need to be sprayed most urgently of all!

At this stage, a number of tasks need to be performed:

- 1) An assessment of the trees that have been treated, to see whether the level of white fly, mealy bug and sooty mold infestations has dropped.
- 2) Continuation of spraying, particularly of trees in the area of the Recreation Park.

- 3) Re-spraying the areas north and south of The Reef.

Mr. Leroy St. Louis of the Pest Control Department at the Ministry of Agriculture located at Beausejour will be conducting a monitoring exercise. Preliminary findings seem to indicate that while the white flies are diminished, they have not been fully eliminated as yet - which is in line with our general expectations that incidental re-spraying will be necessary.



Ms. Rubin at the Vieux Fort Town Council has agreed to lend us two workmen again (including the keen and very capable Didacus) for the period 12-14 December, which - weather permitting - will give us at least another two or three days of spraying. Mr. Anthony Phillip will arrange to borrow the mist blower from the Fair Trade Organization for those days, and bring it to The Reef. We still have sufficient dishwashing liquid left for another week or so of spraying.

We take this opportunity to once again thank the NCA, the Vieux Fort Town Council, Chemico Ltd, the National Fair Trade Organization, the Department of Forestry and the Ministry of Agriculture, as well as the water sports staff at The Reef for their support thus far, and hope we can continue to work towards Saving the Sea Grape Trees on Sandy Beach!

Jolien Harmsen
Member of the Southern Chapter

✧ “Rehabilitating our Forests, Sustaining our Lives” ✧

Approximately 200 persons gathered in different parts of the island on November 11, 2011 to plant 447 trees. The “Tree Planting Initiative” organized by the Saint Lucia National Trust in collaboration with the Forestry Department was filmed as part of a media participatory project dubbed “One Day on Earth”, which saw filmmakers and other groups recording various stories which they wanted to encapsulate on 11.11.11.



But more significantly, recognizing the importance of our forests to our lives, we joined the rest of the world in observing the *International Year of the Forest*, and along with our colleagues at the Forestry Department selected areas which were in need of rehabilitation due to severe damage by Hurricane Tomas in 2010. The sites selected were three (3) landslides in Forestierre; two (2) landslides in Belle Vue in Vieux Fort; a degraded area near a watershed in Fond Doux in Soufriere and four (4) sites along the Mabouya Valley River Bank in Dennery. Approximately four-hundred and forty-seven (447) native and indigenous trees were planted in the four (4) locations. Of the 447 trees about eighty (80) were fruit crops which were planted along the Mabouya Valley River Bank.



Our partners who participated in this project included the Bank of Saint Lucia; Bank of Nova Scotia; Saint Lucia Electricity Services Limited; the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation; the Rotary Club of Saint Lucia; Our Planet Centre; Sandals Halcyon Beach St. Lucia; the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry and Fisheries (specifically the Agriculture and Forestry Departments); the Caribbean Student Environmental Alliance and members and staff of the Saint Lucia National Trust.



What was most heartwarming is the number of students who participated and exhibited much enthusiasm to be a part of the activity. They hailed from Carmen Renee Memorial School, Grande Riviere Secondary, Sir Ira Simmons Secondary, Babonneau Secondary, St. Joseph’s Convent and the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College. Specials thanks to Mr. Alfred Prospere and the team at the Forestry Department for their guidance and assistance in making this initiative a reality.



This project also forms part of the Trust’s contribution to the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Celebration, where countries in the Commonwealth were challenged to undertake a tree planting initiative. Our target is to plant 5000 trees in an effort to rehabilitate some of the riverbanks across the island. Additionally, a few easily accessible areas will be identified by the Trust and the Forestry Department for interested groups who are unable to venture into the remote areas. That project is expected to take place between December 2011 and June 2012. All trees planted on 11.11.11 will count towards meeting our 5000 target for the Jubilee Celebration.

✧ "Antilitter Campaign 2011" ✧

The Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority this year hosted two Antilitter Schools' Marches (ALSM) under the theme "On Litter Put a Ban, St. Lucia Yes We Can." The first Antilitter Schools' March was held on Friday, October 14, 2011 from the Phillip Marcellin Grounds through the town of Vieux Fort and back to the Phillip Marcellin Grounds while the second was held on Friday, October 21, 2011 from the Vigie Playing Field to the Derek Walcott Square. All infant, primary and secondary schools on the island were invited to participate.



Approximately two hundred and fifty (250) students representing ten (10) schools assembled at the Phillip Marcellin Grounds in Vieux Fort and marched south along New Dock Road, then onto New Dock Lane, north along Clarke Street, then right onto the Vieux Fort-Laborie Highway, along New Dock Road and back to the Phillip Marcellin Grounds, encouraging the public to keep St. Lucia clean. Students carried placards with anti-litter messages and chanted slogans as they moved to the beat of music. On arrival at the Phillip Marcellin Grounds students and teachers gathered for a ceremony where they were addressed by the General Manager of the Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority, Mr. Vaughn Louis-Fernand and representative of Education District Six, Ms. Janey Joseph. Students of the Vieux Fort Comprehensive Secondary School Campus A, Pierrot Combined School, Technical Vocational School and the Augier Combined School performed skits and songs demonstrating good solid waste practices.

In Castries approximately three hundred (300) students representing twelve (12) schools assembled at the Vigie Playing Field and marched along the John Compton Highway onto and up Peynier Street, then right up Micoud Street, left onto Bourbon Street, left onto Brazil Street, then left onto Laborie Street, and onto the William

Peter Boulevard. These students and teachers also gathered for a short ceremony where they were addressed by the General Manager of the Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority and representative of Education District two, Ms. Christine Merville. Students of the Anglican Infant School, Gros Islet Infant School, Vide Boutielle Primary School, Anse la Raye R.C. Infant School, and the Vide Boutielle Primary School performed during the activity. Messages from the performances highlighted the need for proper waste management practices.



As in previous years, prizes will be awarded to the participating schools. Winning schools will be announced at the Awards to be held in February, 2012 at which time prizes will be given out in various categories.

With respect to the National Clean up Activity (NCUA) hosted from November 4 – 6, 2011, approximately one hundred and seventy (170) groups throughout the island participated over the three-day cleanup activity. Forty-six of the participating groups were schools. The highest level of participation was recorded in the Castries Inner/Castries South/Anse La Raye zones.

The Authority is grateful to all individuals and groups who participated or supported the annual Antilitter Schools' Marches as well as the National Cleanup Activity. Sincere thanks to the business community for the financial and in-kind donations. Special thanks to the waste collection contractors for their assistance with the haulage of waste. The Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority would like to encourage and solicit support from all Saint Lucians for future events that seek to improve the quality of our environment.

Emlyn Jean
Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority

“A New Addition to Council”



There is one new elected member of the Saint Lucia National Trust (SLNT) Council in the person of Kemar Louisy. Mr. Louisy is a member of the SLNT Youth Chapter. The other members of Council who were re-elected at the Trust's 35th Annual General Meeting on November 19th, 2011 are Mr. Sylvester Clauzel, Mr. Calixte George Jr., Mr. Cyril Saltibus, Ms. Maureen Louis, Ms. Simone Mondesir and Mr. Martin Satney. In order to have the full complement of Councillors we await the Government and the Saint Lucia Archeological and Historical Society to confirm their representatives.



We are thankful to all members who attended and contributed to the discussions. For more details regarding the AGM which took place at Morne Coubaril Estate in the breathtaking town of Soufriere please go to <http://www.slunatrust.org/userpages//PressReleaseAGM2011.pdf>.

“Re-development of Pigeon Island!”

The third quarterly membership meeting for the financial year was held on October 9th, 2011. Approximately 30 members, staff and Council members were present. The Chairman, Mr. Sylvester Clauzel, welcomed members present and the Director, Mr. Bishnu Tulsie, gave a brief description of a few items on the agenda. Mr. Clauzel explained the main purpose of the meeting which was to discuss the future development plans for the Pigeon Island National Landmark. The Southern and Youth Chapters made brief presentations on their past activities for the quarter, challenges faced and future plans.



Mr. Duane Marquis, Architect & Planner, informed the members that there was always a desire to refurbish and enhance Pigeon Island as the flagship site. He explained that the rate at which buildings are refurbished or developed would be directly affected by cost implications and funds availability. He delivered a 3D PowerPoint presentation on the preliminary plans for Pigeon Island, which was covered in more detail in a document distributed to members.

The meeting proved to be very informative and interactive which was noted by the Director who applauded members.



“Let’s Welcome...”



Ms. Shirlene Simmons is the Trust’s new Conservation Manager.

OUR MISSION

The SLNT champions Fair Helen’s patrimony!

OUR VISION

The natural and historical patrimony of Saint Lucia is conserved for present and future generations.

Staff Birthday Corner

October

Shirlene Simmons – 16th
Lloyd Jn. Pierre – 24th

November

Ernest Hippolyte – 23rd
Alexander Paul – 24th

December

Barbara Antoine – 04th
Dawnelle Eddison – 13th
Esther Myers – 14th
Merwin Myers – 21st
Augusta Duplessis – 24th

Just remember, once you’re over the hill you begin to pick up speed. Old age isn’t so bad when you consider the alternative.

Happy Birthday!

Thought For The Quarter

Waste not the smallest thing created, for grains of sand make mountains.
- E. Knight