

THE JETTER

VOL 1. NO 2



Celebrating 20 years



Editorial



Celebrating 20 years

Summer is typically an opportunity for some downtime for the Jetters; many of our programmes run with the academic year and also without air conditioning our office in Kingston can become quite hot. This year in particular downtime has been welcome. With only two environmental education project staffers and five active environmental education projects since January, the first half of our 20th year in operation has been hectic. This has been coupled with our Legal Director filing action in the Palisadoes case single-handedly, and numerous other ongoing legal and advocacy projects.

Since we don't really have funding for a big splash we decided in January to incorporate a 'likkl bit' of our 20th anniversary into all our events this year. This started with our Annual General Meeting in March and has so far also included celebrating with Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ) at their Earth Day Expo in April, the launch of a new environmental education campaign - *Born Jamaicans*, Green Expo, and the Jamaica Environmental Action Awards (JEAA's) and Schools' Environment Programme (SEP) Expo, both in June.

We also have the good fortune of having a great friend in documentary film maker Esther Figueroa of Vagabond Media. Esther and Diana dedicated much of the month of May to the filming and production of a short film celebrating JET's 20th anniversary. The result? *'From small beginnings...Jamaica Environment Trust'*, which can be viewed on JET's YouTube channel jamentrust. The short film premiered at the JEAA awards ceremony and SEP Expo on June 22, a few days after the actual date of JET's incorporation, June 19, 1991. The symbol of a sea turtle is used in the film, with turtle hatchlings making their way towards the ocean, in a similar way I imagine the founders of JET embarked on an uncertain journey to conserve Jamaica's natural environment. At the end of the film, a lone adult sea turtle swims against the backdrop of one of Jamaica's algae-covered coral reefs, still a striking and hopeful presence in a degraded environment, much like JET itself.

JET will continue to celebrate our 20th year for the remainder of 2011 and part of 2012. In September we celebrate International Coastal Cleanup Day led by our flagship beach cleanup on the Palisadoes strip. We also have secured funding from the EFJ to continue the Schools' Environment Programme and Building Appreciation for Nature in children at Risk project next year. We will

continue the sea turtle monitoring project in four communities, and of course our law and advocacy programme into 2013. Even after two decades JET still struggles to raise funds to keep our doors open, but we continue tirelessly, unrelenting, an unfaltering voice for the protection of Jamaica's natural resources...

Suzanne Stanley, Programme Director
September 2011



Formed in 1991, the Jamaica Environment Trust is a non profit nongovernmental environmental organization in the island of Jamaica. We are a membership organization and anyone who supports protection of the environment can join. Our activities are focused on education and advocacy.



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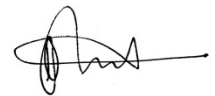
YouTube youtube.com/jamentrust



Chairman's Message

I am very proud to be writing the Chairman's message for JET's 20th anniversary issue of the Jetter. I have been on the JET Board for two years and have only very recently taken over as Chairman, so I was not been around for many of the amazing events described in these pages, but as a Jamaican who loves his country, I have admired and supported JET's work for many years. Last year I was in charge of beach safety at the annual international coastal clean-up day in September and it was heartening to see the huge number of volunteers who turned out to clean our beaches. I have been to several Schools' Environment Programme awards ceremonies and been impressed by the knowledge and commitment of both students and teachers. More recently, JET has taken strong steps to build environmental jurisprudence in Jamaica, an approach that may not have won us friends, but has certainly gone a long way to putting protection of the environment squarely on the national agenda.

It is easy to think of the environment as a luxury, something we can turn our attention to once we have ensured an adequate standard of living for all Jamaicans. The truth is, however, that we will never achieve that goal if we destroy the natural resources on which our lives and livelihoods depend. JET is playing a critical role in educating our young people, our business leaders and our policy makers about the environment – why it is important and what we stand to lose if we do not protect our forests, rivers, wetlands, coral reefs, plants and animals. I am proud to lead JET at this critical time as we approach our 50th anniversary as an independent nation, and I congratulate all who came before me to build this inspiring organization. I sincerely thank my fellow Board members, the Jetters (past and present), the many volunteers and every single donor, large and small, for your contributions. We certainly could not have done it without you all.



*Douglas Stiebel, Chairman
September, 2011*

I'M A BORN JAMAICAN Jamaican Blue Kite Swallowtail



Photo Credit:
Susan Koenig

*Love where
you
live*



Jamaican Blue Kite Swallowtail arrives at the beginning of the spring rains after living in a cocoon for months. Many of them can be seen around Cockpit Country. They fly from plant to plant sipping nectar so quickly they are hard to see.

*The Born
Jamaicans
campaign
was launched
on the
International
Day of
Biodiversity
in May 2011.
It seeks to
highlight
Jamaica's
endemic and
native
species,
through the
use of photos
and basic
information*

• JAMAICA • ENVIRONMENT • ADVOCACY • ELAW • SAVE KINGSTON HARBOUR • SAVE COCKPIT COUNTRY • SAVE PELLEW ISLAND •

• SAVE OUR SEA TURTLES • RECYCLING • NO NUCLEAR WASTE • JAMAICA FOR SALE • BORN JAMAICANS • SCHOOLS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME • EARTH HOUSE



HARBOUR VIEW SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT • SAVE FONT HILL • PROTECT PALISADOES • EDUCATION • GREEN EXPO • JAMAICA ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION AWARDS •

BUILDING APPRECIATION FOR NATURE IN CHILDREN AT RISK • INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP DAY • • TREE PLANTING



JET turns 20

Diana talks with children at the first JET cleanup in the Grants Pen community in St Andrew, 1991

DIANA McCAULAY

JET Founder & CEO

2011 marks the 20th anniversary of the Jamaica Environment Trust (JET) and I've been thinking about these 20 years and what they have meant. These musings took me to our big newsletter folder – which has all JET's newsletters from inception...

We've worked on a wide variety of issues – recycling (mentioned in our very first newsletter – improved, but very far from where it needs to be), the state of the Riverton City dump (still very poor, still burning several times a year), the Harbour View Sewage Treatment Plant (now being fixed, following a lawsuit filed by JET), deforestation (but we're still facing illegal logging in national parks) and a number of campaigns to protect Jamaica's important natural places, plants and animals – Save Cockpit Country, Save Pellew Island, Save Blue Lagoon, Save Canoe Valley, Save Font Hill, Falmouth, Palisadoes, Keep Dolphins Free in the Caribbean Sea and Free Winnifred Beach.

Almost from inception, JET was committed to environmental education. Our very first educational project was Nuff Respect for Nature, a musical stage play developed by Ashe Performing Arts Ensemble in collaboration with JET and funded by Canada's Green Fund. This led to our Earth Schools Project in 1995, which

in turn grew into the Schools Environment Programme (SEP) which, at its peak in 2003 was implemented in almost one-third of Jamaican schools, with significant funding from the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica. SEP is now much smaller than it was – currently being delivered in only 30 schools. We held youth conferences on the environment with our partners in the Student Environment Network (SEN) in 1997, 1998 and 1999. SEN students once made a presentation to Parliament on Kingston Harbour and took the media and the environment minister on a tour, to see the non-functioning sewage plants. We've been operating annual beach clean ups since 1993 – which have grown from a handful of people to over 2000 volunteers at 43 sites in 2010. With the help of Esther Figueroa of Vagabond Media, we've made four films – *Cockpit Country: Voices from Jamaica's Heart*, *Jamaica for Sale*, *Save Font Hill – Jamaica's Gift to the World*, *From Small Beginnings* and two more are underway. We've created a wide range of educational materials – handouts, booklets, audio visual presentations and we have taken many young Jamaicans on field trips.

In 2002, we began our law and advocacy project, in partnership with the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW). We filed our first legal case in 2006 concerning the public process surrounding the construction of the Gran Bahia Principe Hotel near Runaway Bay, together with the Northern Jamaica

Conservation Association and four local individuals – and we won! We have made extensive use of the Access to Information legislation, making over 200 ATI requests; we’ve reviewed more than 30 Environmental Impact Assessments, filed administrative appeals on behalf of community members, and held workshops to inform Jamaicans about their environmental rights. At the time of writing, we await judgment from the court on our most recent lawsuit – challenging the public process and types of permits issued for the Palisadoes roadworks.

We’ve received so much support over the years – from volunteers, interns, donors, members, staff. We have built an Endowment Fund to help cover our core costs. We now have a modern website and post regularly to our Facebook page and Twitter. There are a few people and institutions I want to specially mention, because we certainly could not have done it without them – our incubator General Accident, NEM Insurance, Butch Stewart, Chris Blackwell, Sharon Donaldson, Jamaica Energy Partners, EFJ – by far, our largest donor our international partner ELAW, Dennis Morrison – who argued that first court case pro bono, and all the people who have served on our Board, worked and volunteered at JET.

So I ask myself: what I am proud of, after 20 years? I am proud that JET stood for a principle; we spoke for Jamaica’s beautiful places, for the things that have no voice. We have spoken for people too - fishermen denied access to beaches, people affected by non-functioning sewage plants, air pollution, fish kills. Because of JET, hundreds of teachers have seen their first coral reef, tested water quality in rivers, visited solid waste dumps, learned about endangered species, birds, turtles, marine mammals, toured wetlands, learned about specific ecosystems – like Cockpit Country – gone on bird watching field trips, put in place environmental stewardship programmes for schools and integrated environmental issues into the school curriculum. Young people from inner city areas in Kingston have had their first experiences in nature. The environment makes news. We have had the courage and stamina to challenge the Government of Jamaica in court.

We’ve kept the doors open for twenty years. And there have been a number of committed young people who have worked at JET, changing faces over the years, but all of them taught me something, and hopefully learned something too. There is still work to do – we need more members, an office where we have tenure, much greater public awareness about the environment – especially in Gordon House – and a much more effective environmental regulatory regime. So on to the next 20 then!



Top to bottom: JET's 1st beach cleanup, Hellshire, St. Catherine, 1993; Prince Phillip, the Duke of Edinburgh opens Earth House, JET's Waterloo Road office, 2002; the Ashé ensemble perform 'Nuff respect for nature', 1993

JET Volunteer, Sharni Bullock helped us construct the 'beach'.



We tried making the 'sand' using dyed fabric and salt (It didn't work). We ended up using wheat flour instead of salt.



To create the contours of the beach, Sharni recycled plastic bottles and office paper, gluing them onto old cardboard boxes as a base

GREEN EXPO WAS HELD AT THE JAMAICA PEGASUS, JUNE 10 – 12 JET'S BOOTH AIMED TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT MARINE POLLUTION

At intervals JET volunteers dressed in T-shirts with the names of Kingston gullies dumped trash on the beach



Our volunteer Chloe, wearing her 'gully' t-shirt, explains to a Green Expo guest about the way gullies transport much of Kingston's waste into the sea.



We borrowed 'beach' plants from the Port Royal Marine Lab, and used fabric and other props to create our beach scene



We had over 30 'beach cleanups' during Green Expo



Funded by:



Environmental Foundation of Jamaica

With assistance from:

Dr Fred Hanley
Ms. Elizabeth Emmanuel
Professional Paraphernalia



GREEN EXPO 2011

MY SEP JOURNEY



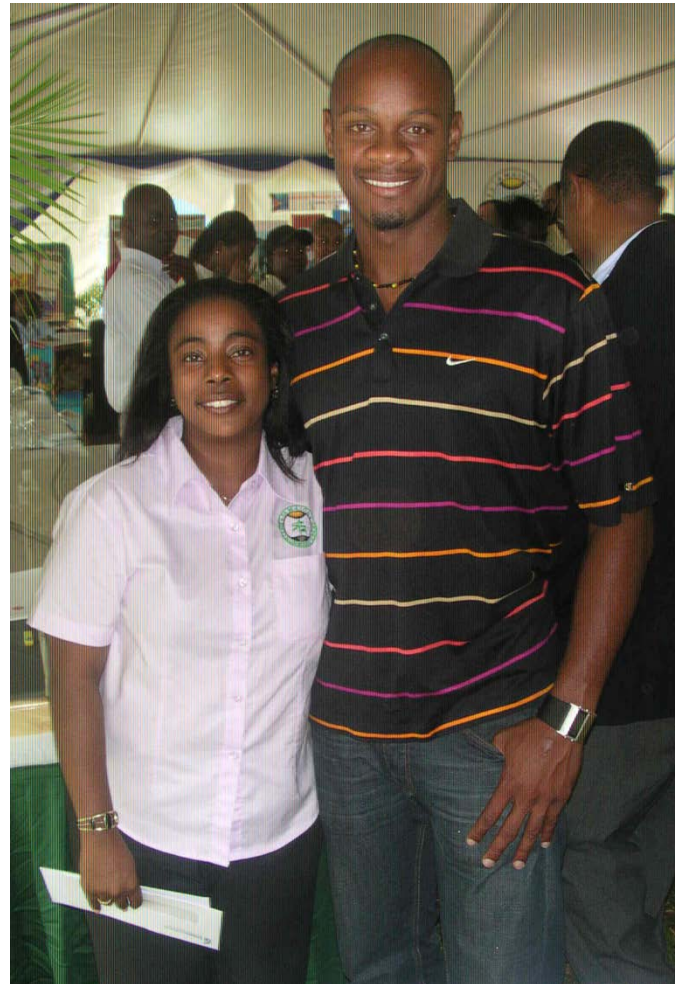
Carlette Falloon

September 1997...I can't believe it was 14 years ago that the Schools' Environment Programme, or SEP was started in 125 schools across the island. Before that, JET was implementing its own Earth Schools' Awards project in 27 schools, and the Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust (JCDT) had a similar project in over 60 schools. Both NGOs decided to join forces, share resources and select the best elements of both projects to develop SEP. After months of planning, meeting with donors, corporate sponsors and interested NGO partners, the first school visits started about two weeks after the 1997/1998 school year started. I was ready to roll! Not only did I have my list of schools to supervise, but along with my counterpart from JCDT, I had to monitor the NGOs to ensure that they were fulfilling the requirements of the Programme. That first year was really special for me as one of the schools that I supervised, Happy Grove High, won the first Most Environmentally Aware School Award! ☺

SEP grew every year, as more schools wanted to participate after hearing about its benefits. At its peak, there were over 350 schools, and 13 NGO partners working together in all fourteen parishes. As the programme grew, we realized that not all participating schools were able to implement the four categories of the programme. At the same time, there were a small but growing number of schools that were way ahead of the others and dominated the competition aspect of SEP. We had to split the schools into three categories: Affiliated – schools that participated but weren't required to do a research topic; Enrolled – had to implement all aspects of the Programme to qualify for the competition; and Advanced – graduated from the competition and were being groomed to become model schools for others. The Advanced schools soon felt left out, so we had to establish the Advanced Schools competition to keep them motivated!

Travelling around the island, although challenging, was also very rewarding. I discovered areas that only a few Kingstonians ever heard about, Wire Fence District in Trelawny, Dig and Plant Road and 41 District in St. Mary, to name a few. Dealing with the various personalities of the principals, teachers, NGO partners and donors was also a challenge. Some of our NGO partners for example, were heads of their respective organizations and were not

accustomed to being supervised! But we slowly became a solid team. What was even more rewarding was observing the changes in the teachers during and after attending the teacher training workshops. They became more comfortable and confident in teaching the environmental topics, as they left the workshops equipped with additional resources that helped to enrich the formal classroom curricula. They were also taking their students on environmental field trips, coordinating open days and making presentations using the information they learnt at the workshops. This was also evident in how the schools transformed after the teachers confidence grew. Gardens were established, compost heaps were started, trees were planted and labelled with scientific and common names, environmental conservation signs were positioned around the school grounds and environmental clubs formed.
(continued on page 13)



Carlette poses with Jamaican sprint champion Asafa Powell at an SEP sponsorship event in February 2007



JET COMPLETES FIRST PHASE OF PROJECT WITH RISE LIFE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Building Appreciation for Nature in Children at Risk project (BANCAR) continued into January 2011 with the communities of Fletchers Land and Allman Town in Downtown Kingston. The collaborative effort between the Jamaica Environment Trust (JET) and RISE Life Management Services (RISE), funded by the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ), has been exposing children living in Kingston to experiences in nature since October 2010. The RISE Kidz Clubbers got the opportunity to participate in the workshops on Our Urban Environment, Wetlands, and Birds and Forests as well as field trips surrounding those themes. The RISE Youth Development Officers (YDOs), who work closely with the Kidz Club, also received additional training on a number of environmental topics including Climate Change, wetlands, forests and solid waste management. The YDOs entertained the JET staff during workshops with skits based on different environmental issues.

Phase I of the project came to a close in May with the staging of an open day on the lawns of Earth House. The kids' artwork was put on display and kids from all three communities who had participated in the project participated in a variety of interactive environmental games and activities.

The project has received positive feedback from the kids and the staff of RISE. "The partnership with JET is one of the best things we have done. One of the main things I liked about JET was that they would give them the theoretical aspect and right after they give them the practical so they actually feel what they learn" said Negita Brown, Coordinator at RISE.

JET thanks RISE Life Management Services for partnering with us, and the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica for funding the project, which gave us the chance to work with youth in several communities. Overall the project was a success and we look forward to Phase II in which will extend the programme to three additional inner city communities.



Right: Scenes from the open day with RISE, environmental education activities at the event included bird detective games, planting seeds and making bird masks



JET LOOKS FORWARD TO COURT'S RULING IN PALISADOES CASE

The trial to decide whether the process followed by the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA) in the permitting of the Palisadoes Shoreline Rehabilitation project was flawed, was heard in the Supreme Court on June 6th and 7th, 2011 before Mrs Justice Straw.

The case was filed singlehandedly by Danielle Andrade, JET's Legal Director, including all the administrative tasks associated with such an exercise, like copying and couriering. This was an impressive feat for one person, as cases such as this typically have sizeable legal teams.

JET applied to the Court for judicial review following the grant of permission for the removal of mangroves, and the construction of a highway and two sea walls along the Palisadoes strip in September 2010.

JET is seeking declarations from the Court that the public consultation process was flawed and that all relevant permits for the development had been granted. NEPA and the NRCA were represented by the Director for State Proceedings in the Attorney General's Chambers. "Our hope is that the declarations will provide practical guidance to the regulatory authorities as to the proper procedure for permitting similar developments," says Danielle Andrade.

JET HOSTS LEGAL INTERNS

This year JET hosted six volunteer lawyers and law students from the United States, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica, who worked on JET's Law and Advocacy Programme. The interns assisted JET by conducting legal research to support JET's cases and advocacy campaigns. The quality and commitment of these interns made an invaluable contribution to JET's work.



L-R: Nicole Mohammed, Trinidadian Attorney-at-Law and Danielle Andrade, JET's Legal Director. Nicole was particularly instrumental in the filing of the legal review of the Palisadoes roadworks



L-R: Danielle Andrade, and Fordham Law School students, Stephanie DiFazio, Yoonme Cho and John Gurrieri, with Diana, Suzanne, Tamoy and Danielle Kiston. The Fordham law students helped on a project to devise litigation strategies in order to protect Jamaica's beaches



L-R: Norman Manley Law student Stephanie Forte and University of Florida Law student Antoinette Vanterpool have also been conducting legal research helping to protect Jamaica's beaches

JET ANNOUNCES ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION AWARDS 2011



L-R: Gordon Craig, Managing Director of Total Jamaica, Diana McCaulay, CEO of JET, students of the Port Morant Primary & Junior High, Nigel Holness, Managing Director of CIBC-First Caribbean and Kirshna Desai, Associate Attorney-at-Law, Myers, Fletcher & Gordon and JEAA Judge admire the Most Environmentally Aware School plaque and trophy awarded to Port Morant Primary & Junior High at Wednesday's JEA ceremony and SEP Expo.

The Blue Mountain Suite of the Knutsford Court Hotel bustled with excitement on Wednesday, June 22nd, for Jamaica Environment Trust's (JET's) announcement of the Jamaica Environmental Action Awards (JEAAs) 2011. The event also incorporated the Schools' Environment Programme (SEP) Expo, which displayed the work of a selection of the top performing schools participating in SEP, and the premiere of a new short film celebrating JET's 20th anniversary.

The event kicked off with the SEP Expo. Exhibitors included schools from both corporate and rural areas, showcasing the work of their environmental clubs from the past year. As invited guests, fellow SEP participants and JEAA nominees perused the displays, others mingled

with sponsors, and interviewed with the media over refreshments.

Formal proceedings got underway following the Expo, with the awards ceremony programme. Ms McCaulay welcomed the audience, which was followed by the premiere of a short film celebrating JET's 20th anniversary. Guest Speaker at the ceremony, Professor Dale Webber, Chairman of the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica and James Moss-Solomon Senior Professor of Environmental Management & Director, Centre for Marine Sciences at the University of the West Indies Mona campus, commented on the event in his address: "it is commendable what JET is doing here today to recognise those taking the initiative and dedicating their life's work to improving the Jamaican

environment.” He then applauded the students present for stepping up to the challenge of being champions for Jamaica’s environment.

The awards were then announced, following a poem entitled “Mi nah sell out wi trees dem” by Westwood High, and a report from the judges.

The winners of Jamaica’s Environmental Action Awards for 2011 were:

- The Total Trees for the Future Award: **Mar Jam Preparatory**
- Energy Conservation (Sponsored by Jamaica Energy Partners): **Westwood High**
- Water Conservation (Sponsored by Nestle Jamaica): **Pisgah All Age**
- Sustainable Agriculture (2 awardees) (Sponsored by Jamaica Producers): **Elizabeth Beck-Solms; Temple Foods Limited.**
- Wildlife Conservation (Sponsored by NCB Foundation): **The Jamaica Iguana Recovery Programme**
- Marine Conservation (Sponsored by Industrial Gases Limited): **Mr Nakhlé Hado, Food for the Poor**
- Waste Management (Sponsored by Wata): **Ecowells Limited**
- Youth Environmental Leadership (Under 25) (Sponsored by Digicel Foundation): **Ava-Gail Lindsay, St Mary High**



- The Environmental Foundation of Jamaica Champion Environment Teacher (2 awardees): **Yvonne Hill, Sandy Bay Primary & Junior High; Desmond Campbell, Moneague College**
- The Scotiabank Jamaica Best Environmental Community: **Free Winnifred Beach Benevolent Society**
- The First Caribbean Most Environmentally Aware School: **Port Morant Primary & Junior High**

Awards were also handed out for the best of the SEP Expo:

- Best Spokesperson: **St Jago Cathedral Prep, St Catherine**
- Best Theme: **Holland High, Trelawny**
- Best Display (Western Jamaica): **Westwood High, Trelawny**
- Best Display (Eastern Jamaica): **St Jago Cathedral Prep, St Catherine**

Diana McCaulay, commented on the morning’s proceedings, “I was impressed by the displays from our SEP schools, the work being done by the JEAA nominees, and the support from our donors and the private sector,” said the JET CEO. “This was a great way to celebrate our 20th anniversary.”

The sponsors of the JEAA’s and SEP Expo were: Total Jamaica, First Caribbean International Bank, Scotiabank Jamaica, the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica, Jamaica Energy Partners, NCB Foundation, Nestle, Wata, Appleton Estate, Jamaica Producers, Industrial Gases Limited, and the Digicel Foundation.



Above: Students from Ferncourt High speak with Prof. Dale Webber, Chairman of the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica and guest speaker during the SEP Expo.

Left: Students of St Jago Cathedral Prep make a presentation in front of their display during the SEP Expo

My SEP Journey

(continued from page 8)

How did I benefit from SEP? My own knowledge, awareness and passion of the natural environment greatly improved. I was a member of a dynamic JET team that produced numerous resource materials that I am sure are still being used in schools all over Jamaica. Some of the students that I guided as members of the environmental clubs continued to champion SEP and environmental education after leaving high school. I was given the opportunity to introduce SEP to audiences all over the world and always felt proud when they commented on how unique the programme was and how they wanted to replicate it in their organizations. My money management and budgeting skills also improved.

Sadly however, despite SEP's many successes, it didn't help me to get over my fear of lizards...sigh.

Although SEP is not as strong as it was years ago, mainly due to a lack of commitment on the part of the Jamaican Government, it remains a vital part of the school community. SEP needs a benefactor that understands its worth and wants as many schools as possible to benefit. Dreaming in colour, I hope that SEP gets a rebirth and is adopted by other Caribbean islands.

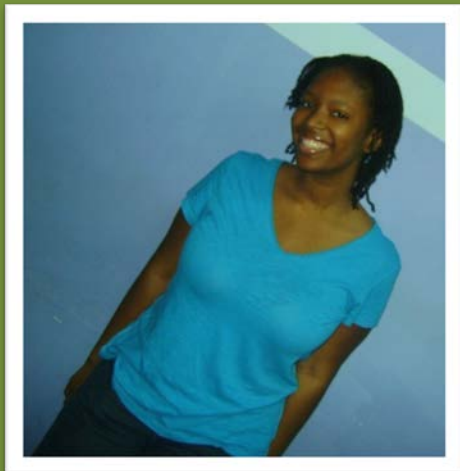
Carlette Falloon held the position of JET's Programme Director between 1996 and 2010, and is a Jetter for life! The Schools' Environment Programme is currently funded by the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica in 30 schools across the island



(L-R) Scenes from SEP: Carlette (centre) accepts a Jamaica Environmental Action Award on behalf of an SEP teacher at the 2010 ceremony; Carlette (third from right) with the SEP team in 2007; Carlette (third from left) with SEP team in 2004.

BEING A JET VOLUNTEER

MaRay McKoy



I have been volunteering with the Jamaica Environment Trust for a little over six months and have a number of reasons why I enjoyed it so much. The first reason being that they treat their volunteers with respect. I know this may be expected, but having volunteered at other organisations, JET was a pleasant surprise. I appreciated the fact that if I was having trouble understanding a task, one of the JET staff was willing to help clarify the issue, patiently and without making me feel silly.

JET's work environment was another aspect that I enjoyed. The JET staff maintains a high level of professionalism without having to resort to stiff formalities, so it is almost immediately evident how much regard they have for each other. It is also very evident how passionate they are about their work. They do the best they can, and in doing so they encourage you to do the same, no matter the task.

Finally, the work is interesting. Volunteering with JET gave me another perspective to the theory that I had learned in school along with seeing the application of that knowledge. It was also nice to realise how fulfilling the work was, no matter how seemingly small a part I was playing.

Volunteering at JET continues to be an enjoyable experience and I recommend that anyone with even a remote interest in the environment should try it.

MaRay McKoy is a JET volunteer and a student at the University of the West Indies in the Life Sciences Department.

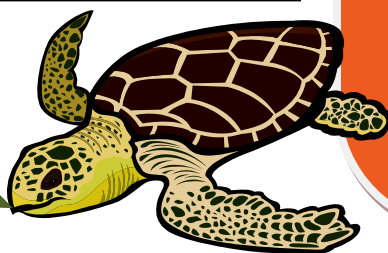
For more information on how to volunteer with JET call 960-3693

SEA TURTLES: DID YOU KNOW?



Hawksbill turtle (top), turtle tracks (middle) and a female laying her eggs (bottom)

**WE CONFIRMED 18
TURTLE NESTS
BETWEEN MAY AND
JULY ON 9 BEACHES
WE MONITOR!**



In a project funded by the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica and Sally Thomas, The Jamaica Environment Trust, in collaboration with the Portland Environment Protection Association, the Bluefields Bay Fishermen's Friendly Society and the Treasure Beach Turtle Group, are working to develop sea turtle monitoring and protection in coastal communities across Jamaica. By recording nesting activity across the island and identifying threats we can then determine the best way to protect these special animals.

1. There are 7 species of Sea Turtle found in the world, and 6 of them are found in the Caribbean. Of those 6, 4 are found in Jamaica: The Leatherback, The Hawksbill, The Green and The Loggerhead
2. The hawksbill is the most common turtle found in Jamaica.
3. The leatherback turtle eats jellyfish, which eat fish larvae. A reduction in leatherback numbers will result in a reduction of mature fish.
4. The green turtle keeps seagrass beds healthy, which are nursery habitats for many reef fish, conch, etc.
5. There are more than 100 turtle nesting beaches across Jamaica.
6. The turtles are large marine, air-breathing reptiles. They can stay underwater for long periods of time, surfacing only for brief moments to breathe.
7. A female turtle will return to the beach on which she was born to lay her eggs.
8. A turtle will take up to 30 years to reach sexual maturity.
9. In all of the species found in Jamaica, only the females ever return to land, to lay her eggs. The males never return to land once they head to the sea as hatchlings.
10. A turtle can lay up to 250 eggs at a time (depending on the species).
11. Only 1 out of every 1000 hatchlings will survive to sexual maturity.
12. Hatchling turtles (and the eggs) are threatened by the mongoose, crabs, ants, and sharks (once they get to the sea).
13. Humans are also a major predator of turtles, and their eggs.
14. In Jamaica, it is illegal to be in possession of a turtle, any part of a turtle, or their eggs, and is punishable by imprisonment and fines.



THE JETTERS

TAMOY SINGH

AN INTERVIEW

Tamoy Singh is the young vibrant Project Coordinator at JET. In the decade since she began working with JET she has transitioned from volunteer to cornerstone.

How did you end up working at JET?

I went to an expo at Chinese Benevolent Association in 2001. JET had a booth there, and members of the Student Environment Network (SEN) (the youth arm of JET) were encouraging persons to join the Network. Like most members of the SEN, I then began volunteering with JET, and the rest is history.

When did you begin working fulltime at JET?

I began working as the Administrator in April 2005 and I became the Project Coordinator last year.

How do you feel about the transition you have made over your time working with JET?

I feel good about it. I think it came at the right time. I have always wanted to transition from Administration to Projects. Looking back I can safely say that the phrase 'nothing happens before its time' is true in my situation.

What has it been like working for JET?

JET is hard work but at the same time it is a lot of fun. I have had so many experiences here, ranging from getting the opportunity to travel to different countries as well as throughout Jamaica. I have met so many people and shared a lot with them. We always say there is never a dull moment at JET!

What was it that sparked your interest in the environment?

I think my interest in the environment began at a very young age. My parents used to take me to the country a lot and I just loved the smell and look of a clean environment. Who wouldn't? I also loved Geography in high school. It was one of those subjects I did well in; I enjoyed the field trips and learning about the environment. I joined the environment club at my high school and soon after, SEN.

What sort of difference do you think you have made since being employed by JET?

I don't think it's measureable, but what I can say is that I hope I have made a difference to the young people that I have come in contact with over the years working here.

What is your message to other young Jamaicans when it comes to the environment?

It is up to us as young Jamaicans to make a change or do something different when it comes on to the environment. We can't save it alone, but we can contribute to a cleaner environment, cleaner air, water, by doing small things like not throwing garbage through your windows, recycling, not using harmful products, voicing our concerns about environmental issues, and passing on to the message to those younger and older than us.



*At right: (Top) Tamoy Singh (right) and Pansy Murphy, teacher at Port Morant Primary and Junior High, at this year's JEAs.
(Below) Tamoy and the youngest Jetter, her son Zaden*



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