



ANGUILLA NATIONAL TRUST PRESS RELEASE

Preservation For Generations

ANGUILLIANS HELP RESTORE EAST END POND CONSERVATION AREA

Early on Saturday 7 May morning, approximately 100 people from communities across the island gathered at the East End Pond Conservation Area in East End Village to participate in the “Jollification of East End.” This event was organised by the Anguilla National Trust (ANT), the Council for the Conservation of East End Pond (CCEEP), and the Environmental Club (Albena Lake Hodge Comprehensive School) and centred on the restoration of the Pond.

The East End Pond Conservation Area covers approximately 12 hectares – 11 acres of which is a brackish-water pond. During the early 1980s, one acre of the wetland was in-filled with marl and refuse to create a playing field for the community. After recognising the ecological importance of the Pond – in terms of its diverse plant and animal life and its role as a nesting and resting ground for over 45 species of resident and migratory birds – the Government of Anguilla vested the site to the ANT and designated it a “protected area” in 2001. Since then, attempts have been made by the Trust and the community alike to restore the Pond to its natural former state. Saturday’s initiative represents the latest effort with the planting hundreds of native plants, generously donated by Flag Luxury Properties and by the Landscaping Department of CuisinArt Resort and Spa.

Organisers of this project were quick to recognise its significance, with Farah Mukhida, Protected Areas Manager of the Anguilla National Trust, echoing the sentiments of Ingrid Fullington, CCEEP member and one of the event organisers, that while the Conservation Area may fall under the direct jurisdiction of the ANT, the East End Pond is the community’s. By taking part in this ecological restoration initiative, community members are not only showing a sense of pride for their area, but perhaps more importantly, a changing attitude towards the role that they can and should play in the management of the natural environment. Mukhida noted that “buzz words are constantly being used to describe natural resource and area management – including such terms as participatory and co-management. But what do these words really mean to the individual? The ‘co’ in ‘co-management’ represents collaborative, cooperative, and community. It is an approach that is firmly embedded in the understanding that stakeholder participation is not just an option, but is essential to effective environmental management.”

Saturday’s activity clearly reflects this move towards increased community involvement. Several key organisers of the re-vegetation project, including Fullington, Audrey Rogers (CCEEP), and Joash Proctor (Environmental Club), all pointed out that the high level of participation signifies how committed Anguillians are to ensuring that their communities remain healthy and vibrant. In addition, the majority of the individuals taking part in the initiative were young people and their families – further demonstrating that Anguilla’s youth are responsible, hardworking, and lead by example.

Mukhida continued by saying that “Words can’t express how proud I am of the communities of the eastern end of the island and of all those individuals, organisations, and companies that have

About the Anguilla National Trust

The Anguilla National Trust was established in 1993 to act as custodian of Anguilla’s heritage, preserving and promoting the island’s natural environment and its archaeological, historical and cultural resources for present and future generations. It is in the business of ensuring the sustainability of Anguilla’s heritage. The ANT is a dynamic people-centred organisation working in collaboration with public and private sector entities to manage Anguilla’s natural social and cultural heritage.

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come out and shown their support. We tend to hear so much negative news about the state of the planet and at the local level, it is often overwhelming and difficult to determine what to do or even where to start. These individuals, however, are making a real difference. It is also important to note that this event happened because of them. It started with a suggestion at a community meeting and it blossomed into this; they came up with the idea, they helped to organise it, and they implemented it. Its inspiring.”

The re-vegetation of the Pond’s shoreline would not have been possible without the support of a multitude of sponsors. Flag Luxury Properties Ltd. and CuisinArt Resort and Spa donated the plants and trees while Calvin “Paper” Vanterpool provided water for the plants. Food and drink contributions were made by Ashley & Sons Ltd., Best Buy Supermarket, Bryan & Sons Grocery Store, CuisinArt Hotel and Spa Hydroponic Farm, Island Supermarket, JW Proctors, KoalKeel Restaurant, Mary’s Bakery, and Tropical Flower Ltd. Ann Marie Martin, Paper Vanterpool, XX XX, and XX XX prepared the food. The ANT, the CCEEP, and the Environmental Club extend their thanks to all sponsors and participants for making the day a great success.