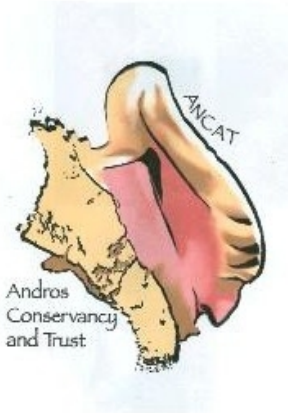


ANCAT newsletter

Eco-Tourism Training Center for Andros



The old Administration Building in Fresh Creek has stood abandoned for quite some years, but new life is going to be breathed into those 16 inch thick hurricane proof walls. There are plans afoot to recondition this historic building and when completed it will be restored to its former glory.

This project is being funded by a European Union Grant, and entails building a state of the art eco tourism training and visitor center on Andros. This center will provide the facilities to train people in small business development. It will also serve as the welcome center for the Andros National Parks, there will be a craft center for local artisans, also a 60-80 seat theatre for educational programs and administrative offices.

In the not so distant future

this eco tourism training center will be a place where Bahamian entrepreneurs will learn how to create and operate businesses which suit our environment and climate and service our nature tourist destination development.

Here our local artisans will be able to display their beautiful crafts to the visitors. The theatre will give us a space to present our ideas and culture to the world, an area where we will be able to listen to visiting speakers and learn about all the subjects under the sun.

Here there will be a National Park Welcome Center to enrich the visitor's experience of the Andros National Parks by providing educational materials and general information, also by encouraging visitation to the five parks already established on

Andros.

The building is to be renovated following the strict guidelines set by the Historical Building Preservation Society of Savannah. Experts have studied the building and found the original design in the Nassau Archives and it is this design which they plan to use. This building was made to last, the thick walls and the Andros pine beams are still as strong today as they were almost a century ago.

This center will provide dozens of jobs in the area, through building entrepreneur training and the building of infrastructure in the National Parks of Andros.

It is an exciting prospect for Central Andros and will help to announce to the world that this is THE eco destination in The Bahamas and a place for every traveler to visit to enjoy the beauty of nature.

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Hub Cap Blue Hole trail cleared

As you drive north of Love Hill keep your eyes open for a trail that heads off to the left. The opening to the trail has been marked with stones piled one on top of another.

Follow this short trail through untouched coppice until you reach the Hub Cap

Blue Hole. This 242 feet across fresh water Blue Hole has lain unnoticed since time began, now with the work of The Bahamas National Trust's Rivean Riley and Ancat, with the help of Rock Hurst University, The University of Maryland and The college of

The Bahamas students this natural beauty has been exposed for the enjoyment of all. It is a natural beauty spot where you can take a dip in the fresh water or catch up with the local flora and fauna.

This is a not to be missed island experience.

Exploring the WEST SIDE OF ANDROS ISLAND

“The west side of Andros is teeming with large numbers of rare species from bull sharks to small organisms”

Dr. Phil Kramer TNC

Recently a group of scientists from the Nature Conservancy along with The Bahamas National Trust, local stakeholders and guides carried out an ecological assessment of the west side of Andros. This area is one of the least populated areas in The Bahamas and is best known only by bonefish guides and Androsian fishermen.

The team of scientists found that the area is an important feeding area for young green and loggerhead sea turtles also a nursery for bull sharks.

This is also an important nursery habitat for commercially valuable fish. These nursery habitats are believed to contribute to fish stocks throughout the Caribbean and the East Coast of the United States.

The findings of the scientific team is helping to determine the best way we can work to protect the west side of Andros.

Come by the ANCAT office to get a full colour version of the study and some of their findings.



Mangroves protect our shores and creeks from erosion and hurricanes also they are nurseries for marine life.



Our tourists look for a clean environment where they can feel safe and see nature the way God intended it to be.

Proposed Creek Rehabilitation

The Andros Conservancy and Trust is planning to rehabilitate three major creeks in the Central Andros district.. These rehabilitations are planned to remove debris from along the shore line and the harbour bottoms.

We know that this is a major undertaking and are calling for the involvement of all concerned Androsians from the

local residents to the Autec Base inhabitants, from the resort owners to the fishermen, we all will benefit from a cleaner, healthier creek system. Please come out and assist in seeking to make this dream a reality.

The first creek scheduled for this cleanup is Fresh Creek, this creek has been a major

waterway and Port of Entry for over 50 years. Fresh Creek may hold some interesting artifacts for the history buff.

The second creek to be tackled is projected to be Cargill Creek, hopefully in the Fall of 2009 and then the group plans to work in Stanyard Creek in the early part of 2010. ALL are urged to participate in this major clean up effort.

Coastal Awareness

is running a nationwide competition drawing on the ideas of our nation's children to bring about change.

We're asking: "What would you ask Bahamian citizens and residents to do to help protect our coastal environment?"

Go to <http://www.coastalawareness.org>

For details of prizes for this competition

Coastal Awareness Month APRIL

The major focus for this year's coastal awareness month is habitat destruction and the pollution of our coastal environment.

Many plants and animals depend on coastal habitats for their nutrition, shelter and breeding habitat. Their destruction can lead to declines in sea turtle and seabird populations as well as destroying nursery areas for conch, craw-

fish and grouper. Also the clarity of our seas and beaches are seriously affected by coastal pollution and habitat destruction.

Here on Andros we are planning to support the coastal awareness month by conducting beach clean ups with the removal of invasive plant species from beaches and replacing them with native trees and shrubs.

Please assist in your local beach clean up, all of us can take an empty grocery bag to the beach on any day of the week and fill it with any debris which has washed up on our shores.

Dates for the cleanups can be found at the ANCAT office or the Ministry of Tourism.

For more information on Coastal Awareness visit their informative website at:www.coastalawareness.org/

ANCAT Website

www.ancat.net

Volume 1, Issue 1

The Andros Conservancy and Trust has recently completed its new and improved website.

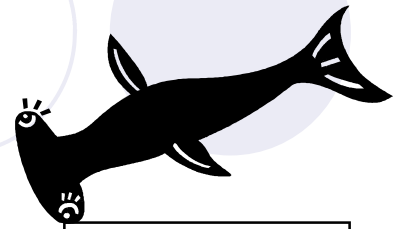
Www.ancat.net is an information filled internet visit to Andros, where the student or interested party can seek answers to questions about the magnificent island of Andros.

The website gives information about the history of Ancat and its plans for the future. Here you can learn how to assist Ancat either through a donation or as a volunteer also as paid positions become available you will learn what is happen-

ing at Ancat that month.

A page is devoted to The national Parks of Andros, these five parks total an area of 286,080 acres, making it the largest park system in The Bahamas. Another page tells us about the Westside of Andros, famous for its nursery of juvenile marine life. The Andros Rock Iguana, the land crab and the birds of Andros are all featured on the website. Also there is information on the Andros Barrier Reef which is the third largest reef system in the world and The Tongue of

the Ocean, a 6,000 feet deep Ocean Trench, which runs along the east coast of the island. Here you can also learn that conservation is not a new idea on Andros as you read about Conrad Gebelein and his work in the 1970's to educate people about the amazing facts about this remarkable island.



Membership DRIVE

The Andros Conservancy and Trust needs all hands on deck, it is important to support this local conservation group and become a member.

Ancat is a voice for the island of Andros.

It speaks out against environmental degradation and

Pollution on our shores.

Ancat speaks for all who are concerned with maintaining our Androsian way of life and living standards.

Ancat is a voice for us in the Capital city, helping to keep inappropriate development away from our shores.

Ancat is devoted to developing our National Park

System by increasing the size of the already existing Parks.

PLEASE become a member of ANCAT, it is only through the collaboration of all Andros lovers, be you Bahamians or visitors to our shore, that we can make our voices strong and our agenda heard.

Save MONEY..... Save ELECTRICITY

Tired of spending all that hard earned cash on the light bill?

There are ways to cut your usage, reduce the bill and help the environment. We can get started by making smarter, greener choices in our everyday lives.

TURN OFF ELECTRICITY

When you leave a room or go out, turn off the lights, tv, fans, computers. Unplug cell phone chargers when not in use.

DRY LAUNDRY IN SUN

Install a washing line outside in a sunny spot, your washing will smell fresh and clean and you will save on electricity.

LAUNDRY IN COLD WATER

When you do laundry set the water temperature dial to cold this will save on electricity.

USE FLORESCENT BULBS

When a light bulb blows replace it with a florescent bulb, these last much longer and use less electricity.

PUT UP CURTAINS: Install curtains in the windows which feel the full force of the summer sun. They will block the heat and keep your house cooler.

TURN OFF WATER HEATER

Put the water heater on for

To find such a large population of so many rare and threatened species reinforces our belief that the west side of Andros is one of the most ecologically intact and pristine areas remaining in the western tropical Atlantic”

Dr Philip Kramer

The Nature Conservancy

Andros Conservancy and Trust

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**Working to protect,
enhance, restore and
conserve Andros**

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

EXAMPLE.MICROSOFT.CO

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ANCAT's Mission: To protect, preserve, enhance, and restore the natural resources of Andros Island and its marine environment through education, conservation and management for future generations.

The Andros Conservancy and Trust (ANCAT) is a non-governmental, non-profit organization, founded in 1999 to protect, preserve, enhance, and restore Andros Island's natural resources and marine environment for future generations. ANCAT was initially formed in 1997 by a group of concerned local government representatives, bonefishing guides, and resort owners who felt the need for greater local and national commitment to preserve Andros' vulnerable natural resources. We are governed by a ten member Board of Directors comprised of a cross-section of local community members.

Over the years our major accomplishments have included helping achieve protection status for grouper spawning aggregations, assisting in establishing the 283,000 acre Central Andros National Park System, and in obtaining and implementing conservation projects in the Central Andros National Parks. Our strength lies in working at both the grass-roots level to involve local communities in conservation efforts, and in partnering with a variety of national and international partners.

In upcoming years, our strategy is to grow on our experience base by working with our partners to further involve our communities in addressing priority environmental and natural resource management issues in Central Andros, through education, conservation and management initiatives. Our efforts reflect ANCAT's belief that long-term conservation can only be achieved through full-fledged local stewardship of our island's resources.



Andros has its own species of iguana
The Andros rock iguana does not exist anywhere but here!

US citizens can make a tax deductible contribution through EcoEd Foundation, Inc.
Send cheks to EcoEd foundation Inc.,
C/o June Jager Norman
3780 N. 169th St., Brookfield,
WI 53005
Federal Tax ID# for EcoEd Foundation: 40-0001542

ANCAT'S Strategic Plan 2009—2011

ANCAT has been busy making BIG plans for the upcoming three years.

Check out the main areas where we are planning to make a difference on Andros.

1. Ancat wants to establish and implement a co-management agreement for the Central Andros National Park System with the Bahamas National Trust and the local community.
2. Ancat plans to carry out creek rehabilitation programmes in these areas: Fresh Creek, Cargill Creek and Stanyard Creek.
3. Ancat is going to advocate for a compatible

coastal zone management plan for Central Andros.

4. Ancat is going to promote ad facilitate having Andros and the Great Bahama Bank declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

5. Ancat intends to actively involve Androsians in protecting and preserving their environment.

6. Ancat plans to develop a sustainable livelihoods=hoods program to include at least 90 community members in environmentally compatible occupations.

7. Ancat has decided to build its internal capacity to manage an ever increasing number of conservation actions in Central Andros.

How to help ancat

Become a member of ANCAT. Call in at our office in Andros Town for further information or reach us at 1 242 3682 882

Email: ANCAToffice@gmail.com

Check out our website at www.ancat.net

A donation can be made to our office here on Andros, or through the RBC.

Send a check to us at Ancat, PO Box FC 23338, Andros, The Bahamas.