

SEA Currents



The Newsletter of the Caribbean Student Environmental Alliance
(Caribbean SEA)

Volume 5

November, 2009

Happy 5th Anniversary, Caribbean SEA!



thanks to the support of business owners in Marigot Bay, who provided food and drink for the party! As a tribute to our partners, friends and students in



there will be 8 students from 4 villages around the island. In our work to protect the water supply and the coral reefs in these communities, our

THANK YOU!!! It has taken lots of people around the US and throughout the Caribbean to create Caribbean SEA over 5 years ago and make it a success. We appreciate your vote of confidence and your assistance!! This summer we celebrated our 5th birthday in Marigot, St. Lucia at the Great House, owned by Oasis Marigot and

St Lucia, we are establishing a local college scholarship fund for students who pass their exit exams and have been working with us in leadership roles. This year we would have 4 students who are eligible to apply for the scholarship and next year



student leaders have been the force behind the work. College in St. Lucia costs about \$1000 US per year, so I think we could raise at least partial funding! These students have worked diligently to take care of the environment on their island. What better way to reward their work than to encourage them to continue their education?

Biogas? Why Biogas?

In southeast Asia, the rural people have long considered animal waste to be a renewable source of fuel, therefore animal waste never enters their water supply. Fast forward to



St. Lucia where in the Fond D'Or watershed, there are at least 33 pig farms sending the pig poop right into the river. Of course, that is the same river where people bathe, wash clothes, and yes, is the source of their drinking water. Thanks to

IWCAM (Integrating Watersheds and Coastal Area Management), UN GEF (United Nations Global Environment Facility), and NFWF (National Fish and Wildlife Foundation), we are working with our partners to provide model biogas digesters at several pig farms in

the valley. These digesters will produce methane gas which will then be piped to the houses to be used as cooking fuel. These families will no longer have to purchase propane every couple of weeks!

IWCAM project manager, Cornelius Isaac, is promoting the idea of providing economic incentives for environmental improvements which not only makes the improvements more sustainable, this one also could help lessen the threat of disease outbreak in this watershed.

Marigot Bay Business Association partners with Caribbean SEA kids

Two years ago, Yasmine Francis and Keiwa Simpson made a presentation to the Marigot Bay Business Association (MBBA) talking about what the young people wanted to do about the pollution in the bay. They were not well received, but stood their ground and told the business group that everyone who uses the bay should work together to keep it clean. That suggestion is now becoming reality! The same two young ladies are now in college and are the leaders of the Marigot Bay Watershed Group of young people from the village. They have been asked to help test the water quality standards for the Government of St Lucia and the MBBA to discern if the Bay exceeds any of the standards

that have been drafted and to see if the standards are appropriate for St. Lucian waters. The students have completed a first round of tests which indicate some pollution is occurring and will now work with the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI) to validate their findings. The students have not only learned how to test the water, they are also marking GPS coordinates which Randy Hale, from North River Geographics, has mapped out for us. Bob Hathaway, Manger for the Marina at Marigot Bay has great confidence in the kids but also cautioned them that they must do a verifiable scientific study so the results will be valid. This study will also teach them valuable scientific methodology as



well as connect them with experts from the St. Lucia Government and CEHI. The next step after the study is to help find ways to stop any pollutants from entering the bay and the MBBA is committed to this as well.



Cornelius Isaac and Christine Bock looking over Dennery Bay..

Clean Water Camp goes from the Rainforest to the Sea!

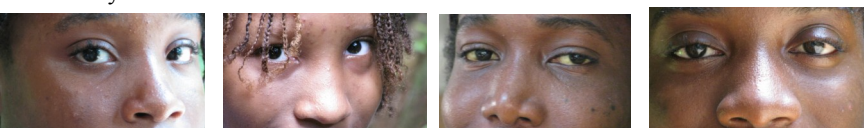
For our 3rd annual Watershed Camp, sponsored by St Lucia Electricity Services, Ltd, kids from Dennery, Marigot, Forestiere, and Belvedere began camp high up in the rainforest above the banana fields of Mahaut and ended camp at the National Trust Camp at Belvedere by the sea. In the rainforests, the streams run clean even after a tropical downpour and the green and blue St. Lucian parrots fly overhead each morning. We were inspired by Dallase's enthusiasm



and the kids were split into groups who competed for first dibs at food! They learned about watersheds, streams, and erosion. We tested the water with our test kits and nets and then tested it by playing in the river, too! Justin and Adelaide and our camp cook, Mathurin, were awesome!! The kids then hiked down through the rainforest, observing wildlife such as a boa constrictor, and the lush plant life and emerged from the forest at Fond St. Jacques above Soufriere.



From there we explored what happens to the water after it flows through pig farms and villages to the sea. The students loved learning about snorkeling and sea life. Even though she was scared, Kiki agreed to snorkel...but no deeper than 4 feet! She saw thousands of fish in Anse Chastanet's protected snorkel area. Most of the kids do not know how to swim, so life jackets were in big demand! The kids ended camp with a talent show and a presentation of their plans for the year for cleaning up the water where they live. These kids will make a difference in their



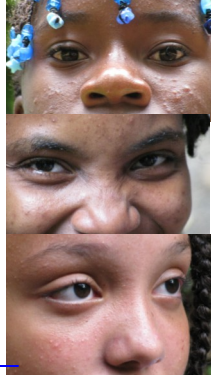
Welcome Back, Dallase!

Dallase Scott moved back to the US from her adopted home in Dennery, St. Lucia last summer and started her Master's Degree in Environmental Studies at Tufts University in Boston soon after. We were so fortunate to entice her to come

back this summer to run our Clean Water Camp! The folks in Dennery were hoping she was back to stay. Dallase is an amazing force and the kids love her without bounds. We were so excited that Dallase could come back to help guide our camp this year. Three cheers to Dallase!



The Eyes of Watershed Camp. The kids tried to take closeup pictures of everyone at camp. Here is a sampling of their artistry with eyes.



Train the Trainers...Curacao teachers become leaders!



The most awesome thing happened in Curacao in August, Maurits Mook made me stop talking (quit laughing now)! But seriously, the 8 teachers we had chosen to be the facilitators for Reef Fest this summer were READY TO TAKE OVER!! It was inspiring. They had all been to Reef Fest at least twice before and during our work preparing for Reef Fest together, they GOT IT! They realized that interactive education and the Project Learning Tree activities, in particular, didn't just have to be taught in Science class or with the Oceans unit. They realized how they can use them in EVERY class and EVERY unit and set

out to make sure the Reef Fest attendees realized that as well. They planned their activities, translated some things for better use by the teachers, and then led their sessions in PAPIAMENTO! That's so much more suitable than Al Stenstrup, Padgett Kelly and me trying to lead the activities in English. These teachers are now our local facilitators and will provide updates and more training within their schools. Don't worry about me, though. Maurits assured me they still need me...but only as a resource now. They can lead the workshop. WOOHOO!!!!



True Friends in St. Lucia

Last November, I was meeting with Cornelius Isaac in the IWCAM office in Mabouya Valley, St Lucia when my local cell phone rang. The call was from my home in Tennessee with the heart shattering news that my brother Danny had died the night before. Danny and I were 17 months apart in age and spent the first 20 years of our lives as partners in crime and fun. We discovered our passion for coral reefs together. The news of his death devastated me. However, it is at these lowest moments in your life that you discover true friends, those who boost you up to help you on with life as your heart attempts to heal. Cornelius Isaac is one of those beautiful people. He got me through the initial shock and helped me arrange on island business so I could leave as soon as I could get a flight. Another set of Lucian angels were Justin Williams and the kids from Forestiere who WORE ME OUT hiking up to Piton Flore later that day....making my heart focus on healing exercise and not continuing to break. They are a joy to me. Keiwa and Yasmine gave me hugs and cried with me. Ute and Verena took care of me. Crispin simply understood. As my friend, Ricki Harris would say, my Lucian friends are in my heart. St. Lucia has truly become my other home.

So, I apologize for my lack of energy and communication. It has been a hard year. At this point, my brother Danny is making me laugh and move on, watching over us as we work to protect the water and the coral reefs he also loved.

Thanks for your patience and understanding. It's time to do more good work!

Mary Beth Sutton
Executive Director



Focus on our sponsors

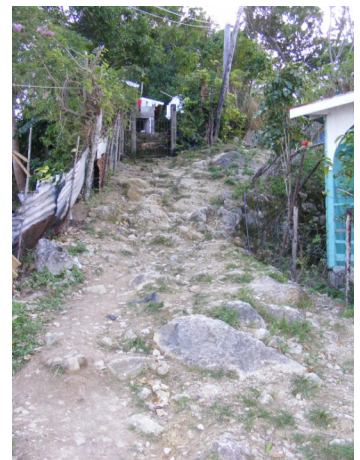
Leisure Time Dive, Ski, and Travel



We love Leisure Time!!! From the first moment Nancy Brice and I asked for his support, Gary McNabb at Leisure Time started figuring out how they could help us, actually partner with us. They have not only helped plan our events through the help of Bob Weaver, they also provide sponsorship funds and auction items. We could not have put on the Beach Party without them!! Leisure Time is a 5 Star PADI Dive Shop and also provides snowskiing apparel and rental as well as travel planning and lots of dive trips! Just ask Nancy and Charlie about their dive trips!! Kiki May is their travel guru and Bob Weaver manages the store and as my girl scout troop says, is an AWESOME Discover SCUBA instructor, along with his wife, Nikki. We appreciate Leisure Time so very much. Stop in and tell them THANKS for us next time you are in Brainerd!

Jamaican Government pledges financial help

Road building is not our mission, but through Sheila Carman's persistence, the Engineers with out Borders Chapter in Atlanta, GA is taking the lead in building a road for the inaccessible community of Naylor's Hill perched above Port Antonio, Jamaica. The settlement is as lovely as the people who live there! The problem comes with the kids not going to school when it rains and that no services can reach the community. They also have little indoor plumbing or sewage treatment. The villagers try to keep the path smoothed out by hand, but heavy storms and hurricanes undo long hours of work in an instant. Delta Airlines representative, Richard Pile, has been instrumental in gaining cooperation with local authorities. The local government has now pledged to pay half of the cost of road building. EWB is currently trying to raise funds to match the government pledge. Our mission is environment and education and Sheila is working with the community to plan for an infant school and clean water. Naylor's Hill community members work so hard to keep access to their village. They deserve a helping hand!



Caribbean SEA

Our mission is to empower students and their communities to protect and restore their local environment through collaborative watershed projects.

809 Kentucky Avenue
Signal Mountain, TN 37377

Phone: 423-413-0471
Fax: 423-267-4616
kids4cleanwater@gmail.com
caribbeancleanwater@gmail.com



www.caribbean-sea.org

Become our Friend on
Facebook and
Facebook Causes

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!!

Flavors of the CARIBBEAN at the Caribbean Beach Party



January 29, 2010

at Bessie Smith Hall

\$35 in advance

\$40 at the door

Help us raise the funds to support our

Kids 4 Clean Water programs in Tennessee and the Caribbean.



WISH LIST: Computer and Monitor (our youngest office computer is 6 years old).
Airline miles for staff travel. Weekend getaways or Timeshares for Beach Party Auction!

**Special thanks to the Coolidge Family at Chattanooga Printing
and Engraving for helping us print our newsletter!**