

Friends of the Environment

Abaco, Bahamas

WINTER 2013

PROVIDING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES SINCE 1988

VOL. 20, ISSUE I

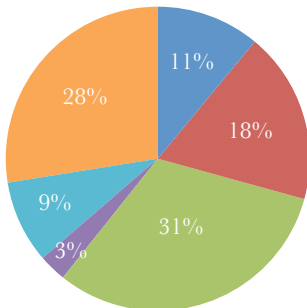
FRIENDS Celebrates 25 Years of Conservation and Education in Abaco

Turn page to learn more!



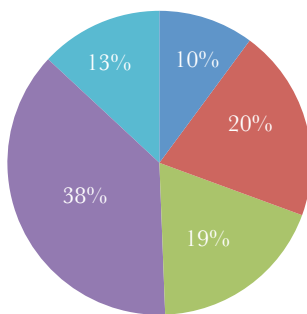
FRIENDS Non-Profit Profile:

INCOME



- Membership
- Donations
- Events
- Merchandise
- Rentals
- Foundations

EXPENSES



- General & Administrative
- Conservation Programs
- Education Center
- Environmental Education
- Organizational Development

Plant Native to Preserve Abaco's Biodiversity!

As part of our strategic plan, FRIENDS aims to work with the community to help remove invasive plants and plant native in order to help preserve the native floral biodiversity in Abaco. Environments that host a variety of native plants are more stable than those with only one or two types of plants (as happens in the case of invasive Hawaiian Seagrape and Casuarina). Having a diversity of plants means the environment in question is less susceptible to disease or pests, and having native plants means that the land is more sustainable, requiring less to no added water and fertilizer. Native plants also support a variety of local fauna including birds, lizards, butterflies and other insects.

FRIENDS would like to invite Abaco businesses and homeowners to participate in the program by removing Hawaiian seagrape from your yards and replacing them with native plants. FRIENDS will give you some plants to get started and a sign to indicate your participation! To learn more about the program, please attend one of our meetings or contact us!

Field trip opportunities will be available for Abaco schools in the Spring Term. Students will have the opportunity to visit a nature trail and a green house to learn all about native plants!

Upcoming Events:

January 29th - Presentation on Coastal Dune Systems by Neil Sealey, Abaco Inn, Elbow Cay

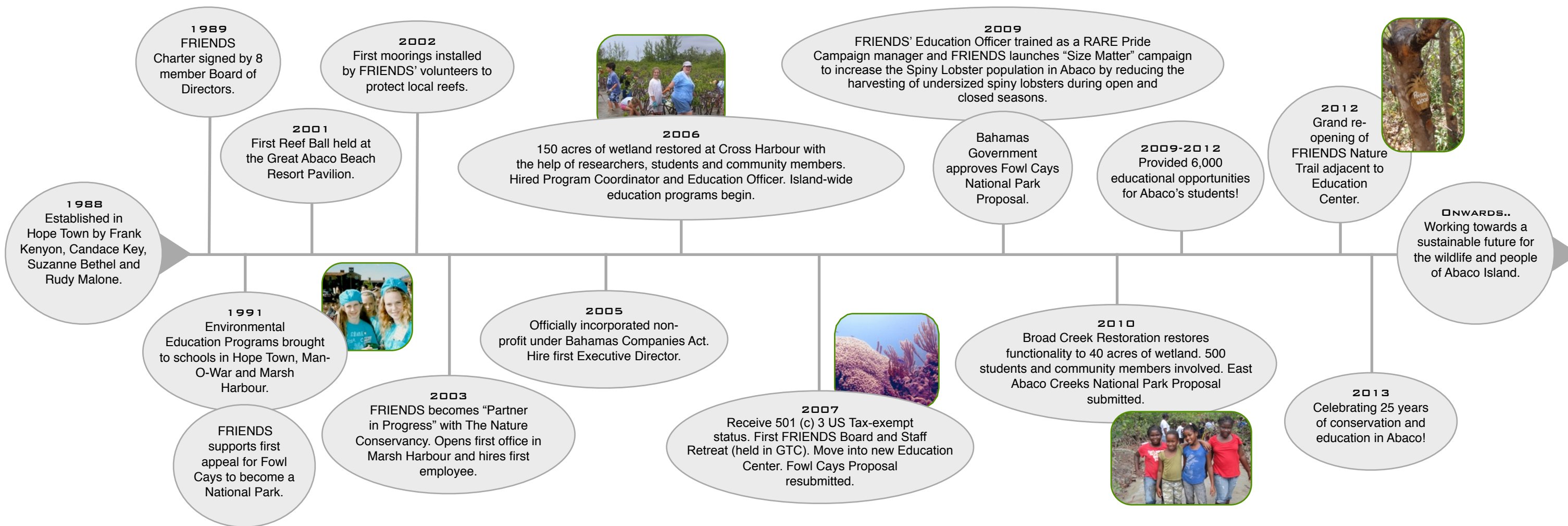
To support this project, FRIENDS has received a grant from the United Nations Development Program Global Environmental Fund - Small Grants Program.



We're an approved
1% for the Planet partner!
onepercentfortheplanet.org

FRIENDS is a 1% for the Planet Partner! 1% was built to support an alliance of businesses financially committed to creating a healthy planet. By joining, your business can contribute to FRIENDS and benefit from international exposure through their efforts! Contact FRIENDS for more information about the program or to find out how to join.

A Look Back at FRIENDS over the Years



President's Letter



As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of Friends of the Environment, I reflect on FRIENDS' journey over these years. I am sure you will join me in thanking Candace Key, Rudy Malone, Suzanne Bethel and, my father, Frank Kenyon, who had the insight to start an organization that continues to spread awareness about the fragility of our environment. Some of you have been members since the beginning. Thank you for believing in our work and for your continued support. Thank you to all who are supporting FRIENDS now. Because of you, we have been able to take great strides in conservation and environmental education in Abaco and we are excited to continue this important work.

Over the years FRIENDS has continued to encourage the conservation of important Bahamian ecosystems and habitats. Before the creation of FRIENDS my father wrote to the Prime Minister about the importance of protecting the East Abaco Creeks. Since then so many more have realized how important this, and other areas are to the biodiversity of the local environment. In celebration of FRIENDS' Silver Anniversary we will encourage the three areas that we have initiated proposals for, East Abaco Creeks, Cross Harbour and The Blue Holes to be designated as protected areas.

FRIENDS has exciting projects on the horizon. As always, we need your support to help us recognize this years big initiative of an Education, Research and Conservation Center. The plan is to provide environmental and conservation education to Bahamian students and allow them to work with visiting scientists to learn the importance of their environment, and why it is so important for them to be a part of the country's future. The program will be expanded to invite visitors to discover more about this amazing area that is a second home to many, and a favorite vacation destination for others.

Look for some exciting events in 2013, and please come out and give your continued support, have fun and contribute to the important work of Friends of the Environment.

FRIENDS' Mission: To preserve and protect Abaco's terrestrial and marine environments in order to achieve sustainable living for the wildlife and people of Abaco, Bahamas.

FRIENDS' Contact Information

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Directors: Justin Higgs, Diane Claridge, Reg Patterson, Jody Albury, Wynsome Ferguson, Joy Chaplin, Glender Knowles, Mike Lightbourn, Alana Carroll

Staff:

Executive Director, Kristin Williams
Education Officer, Pride Campaign Manager, d'Shan Maycock
Program Coordinator, Olivia Patterson
Development Officer, Lindsey McCoy
Office Manager, Ruth Albury

Dedicated Volunteers:

Membership Development, Nan Kenyon
Website, Robert Bethel
Development, Sasha Fair



Discovery Club



This term, the Discovery Club at FRIENDS completed the Flora badge where clubbers learned a lot about native plants and plant biology. They were able to see a variety of native plants first hand on a visit to FRIENDS' nature trail (next door to the office) and a special field trip to Broad Creek near Camp Abaco. In the Spring we will be teaching "Shells" and "Caves and Blue Holes". Please contact FRIENDS for info on registration!

Thank You, d'Shan



We are very sad to say "good-bye" to d'Shan Maycock, our Education officer (2007-2012), who is moving to another island to be with her family. We would like to say a heartfelt THANK YOU for all of your efforts in educating the Abaco community and your dedication to reducing the illegal harvest of juvenile Spiny Lobsters through the Size Matters Pride Campaign. We can see the impact of your efforts and know that we will still be seeing results for years to come! We hope you come back to visit often!

*Sincerely,
The Board and Staff of FRIENDS*



Help Protect Abaco's Habitats!

Visit our website to learn more about current campaigns to create protected areas in Abaco. You can help by spreading the word and writing a letter of support! Have questions? Email olivia@friendsoftheenvironment.org www.friendsoftheenvironment.org

Protect the SPAGs!



(c) Tim Higgs

Fishing is closed for Nassau Groupers from December 1st through February 28th. This is the time when groupers are gathering together in spawning aggregations (SPAGs). No reproduction is known to occur outside these SPAGs so it is very important that we protect them! Please support the season by purchasing and eating an alternative fish or protein while the season is closed.

Visit The Abaco Scientist Blog - <http://absci.fiu.edu>

SAVE THE DATE

- Jan. 15th** - FRIENDS Env. Film Fest, Hope Town Lodge
- Jan. 22nd** - Film Fest, Green Turtle Club
- Jan. 30th** - Film Fest, Treasure Cay Community Center
- February 9th** - Reef Ball - Hope Town
- February 29th** - Community Presentation, Abaco Inn
- March 2nd** - Reef Ball - Marsh Harbour

FRIENDS is a registered 501 (c) 3 organization; that means gifts to FRIENDS are tax deductible in The United States.

FRIENDS Thanks Friends

International Coastal Cleanup, St. Francis de Sales, Abaco Central High, Long Bay School, Horizon's Academy, Man-O-War Primary, Mary E. Albury School, Royal Bahamas Defense Force
Kayak Challenge, Abaco Family Medicine, Abaco Groceries, Abaco Petroleum, Marsh Harbour Exporters and Importers, Master Marine, Treasure Cay Ltd., Pete's Pub and Gallery, Adam Lawrence, Chris Higgs
Turtle Trot, Hope Town Lodge, Wildside Online, Inc., Sunny and Don Meinhold
Science Fair, The Nature Conservancy, Waitt Foundation, Disney's Animals Science and Environment, United States Embassy, The Bahamas National Trust, New Vision Ministries, Albury's Ferry Service, Airgate Aviation, Ministry of Education, Joy Chaplin, Chris Roberts - Rotary Club of Abaco, Nancy Albury - AMMC, Canishka Alexander, Daphne DeGregory
Size Matters, The Global Environment Facility Small Grants Program (GEF-SGP), World Wildlife Fund - US, Bahamas Marine Exporters Association, The Nature Conservancy, Bahamas National Trust, Department of Marine Resources, Roosevelt Curry, Grand Cay All Age School, New Hope Baptist Church
Advertising and Awareness, Coastal Angler Magazine, The Abaconian, Abaco Cruiser's Net, Conch Salad TV, Steve Dodge and Cruising Guide to Abaco, Native Stew, Bahamas Weekly.
Native Plant Biodiversity Project, AJ McIntosh, Ossie Hall, Danny McIntosh, Mike Lightbourn

