

UKOTCF

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Here is the September edition of the WCWG eBulletin, which we hope you will find interesting. Please let us know what is going on in your part of the world.

Green Iguana Menace

Invasive green iguanas are a huge threat to biodiversity throughout the Caribbean. Cross-breeding between green iguanas and rock iguanas has never been considered possible because the genetic difference between the two was thought to be too profound. Therefore the discovery on Little Cayman of several hatchling iguanas which could be hybrids of the invasive species and the native rock iguanas found in the Sister Islands is of great concern. Genetic confirmation that the hatchlings are the offspring of a green iguana and a rock iguana is awaited. The hatchlings will be transferred to the San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research to rear and test for fertility over the next several years.

More information can be found here:

<https://caymannewsservice.com/2016/09/hybrid-green-rock-iguana-hatchlings-found-on-lc/>

The Department of Environment is continuing the mammoth task of dealing with the invasive green iguanas, which are estimated to number half a million. There is more information on this at

<https://cnslocallife.com/2016/09/new-plan-get-rid-green-iguana/>



Green iguana hatchling (top) and one of the possible hybrid hatchlings (below) (Photo DoE)

Cayman Department of Environment Bulletin

Issue 27 of "Flicker", the bimonthly bulletin of the Cayman Islands Department of Environment's Terrestrial Resources Unit has just been produced for September-October. This issue includes: An update on Little Cayman's Endemic Snail and Bioluminescent Click Beetles in Cayman – one species or two?

Issues of Flicker are usually available for download from the Cayman Department of Environment website www.doe.ky but the links were broken at the time of writing. Please contact me apienkowski@ukotcf.org if you would like me to forward a copy to you.



New Director of Bermuda National Trust

The Bermuda National Trust has appointed Bill Zuill as its new Executive Director. Mr Zuill succeeds Jennifer Gray, who stepped down in July after nine years in the post to pursue other interests.

BNT President Lt Col William White said Mr Zuill had been appointed after

an extensive search which attracted a number of very strong applicants. Lt Col White said: “We are delighted that Bill has agreed to join the Trust. We are very grateful to Jennifer for her dedicated service to the Trust and believe Bill will build on her great work. You can read more about Mr. Zuill’s appointment via

<http://bernews.com/2016/08/bnt-appoints-bill-zuill-new-executive-director/>

Bermuda Turtle Project 2016

Two representatives from Anguilla were able to take part in this year’s Bermuda Turtle Project (BTP). Devon Carter (Anguilla National Trust ANT) and Randall Richardson (Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources DFMR) spent two weeks in Bermuda earlier this month, building their sea turtle conservation skills. Their participation was funded by the EU BEST initiative under a three-year joint project currently being conducted by DFMR, ANT, University of Roehampton, and Fauna & Flora International (and supported by the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Network). This link shows some of the highlights, and gives further information.

<https://vimeo.com/180097058>

Anguilla Leatherback Turtles Hatching

Lovely video of leatherback turtle hatchlings emerging from their nest on Shoal Bay East, including some great underwater footage.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MTnrqwLR0Q



TCI’s International Coastal Clean-up Day a Great Success

On Saturday, 17 September, over 200 people collected approximately 400 bags of trash country wide, in aid of International Coastal Clean-up Day. A total of 22 organisations took part, searching beach accesses, bushes, roads and of course the beach for a few hours, tidying up any litter and other debris they found. This event was organised by the TCI Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) Education and Outreach team.

For more information see the DECR Environmental Education and Outreach Facebook page www.facebook.com/groups/210894889283324/



Hikers on Montserrat find Ancient Stone Carvings

The petroglyphs, thought to be 1,000 to 1,500 years old, are the first to be found on Montserrat. They were carved into the side of a mossy boulder in the densely forested hills in the island’s north.

They appear to depict geometric designs as well as beings of some kind. Petroglyphs left behind by the Caribbean’s indigenous peoples have been found throughout the region but until now had never been seen on Montserrat or nearby Antigua

For further information see this article from the Guardian:

www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jun/03/montserrat-petroglyphs-ancient-stone-carvings-hikers?CMP=share_btn_fb

You can find more information and photos on the Montserrat National Trust Facebook page

www.facebook.com/MontserratNationalTrust/photos/



NPTVI Appeals for People Not to Remove Plants from National Parks

National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands has appealed to people not to remove plants and / or animals from any National Park, pointing out that this is illegal under the National Parks Trust Act 2006. A broadcast from the Acting Director of BVI National Parks Trust, Lynda Varlack, can be seen here:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=uT4TAhFHbxA



Science and Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction – Online Course

This online course - A Resilient Future: Science and Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction - starts 5 November 2016, and aims to introduce participants to existing and emerging technologies suitable for disaster risk reduction while promoting the overall aim of sustainable development.

The course focuses on three main natural hazards – floods, landslides and earthquakes. It also discusses the challenges and limits of adapting and adopting technologies depending on context (Global North and Global South) with examples from Switzerland, Nepal, Colombia, Philippines and other countries.

The course, starting on 5 November, lasts 7 weeks, and requires 2-4 hours per week. The online information (see link below) states that the course is free, and a verified certificate can be added for \$50.

www.edx.org/course/resilient-future-science-technology-epflx-tech4drr#!

Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation - Eds. Renaud, F.G., Sudmeier-Rieux, K., Estrella, M., Nehren, U.

This book may be of interest. The blurb says that it has 24 chapters of practical examples of how to put Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction and adaptation into practice, and is a compilation of recent developments in the field of ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation (Eco-DRR/CCA) globally. It provides further evidence that ecosystem-based approaches make economic sense. Unfortunately the free preview pages, including table of contents, were not available at the time of writing.

Here is the link for further information:

www.springer.com/fr/book/9783319436319#otherversion=9783319436333