



November — December, 2010 REPORT

To promote conservation of environmental resources, provide education, and advocate for environmentally responsible actions.

carbo₂n nation

a climate change solutions movie

[that doesn't even care if you even believe in climate change]

St. Croix Environmental Association (SEA) is honored to have been asked by Artemis Joukowsky III to organize the Caribbean premiere and public release of **carbo₂n nation**, an award-winning documentary that celebrates SOLUTIONS, inspiration and action addressing global climate change.

Carbo₂n nation is an entertaining and pragmatic primer about why it is incredibly smart to be a part of the new, low-carbon economy: it is good business, it strengthens national and energy security, it enhances public health and it conserves the natural environment. Even those who doubt the predicted severity of impacts, disagree with its genesis or just don't buy it at all will find that **carbo₂n nation** illustrates how solutions to climate change address social, economic and national security as well as environmental issues. For information about the documentary film go to the **carbo₂n nation** website (www.carbonation.tv)

The film premiere will take place Wednesday, December 29, 2010 evening at The Buccaneer. In addition to the premiere, SEA will offer a public release of **carbo₂n nation** Earth Day weekend, April 2011. The public release will be advertised on TV, radio and on posters and handouts to over 1,000 elementary school children attending the 2011 EcoFair at St. George Village Botanical Garden.

We invite members and friends of SEA to join us at the Caribbean premiere of **carbo₂n nation**. Tickets are priced at \$100 per person or \$150 per couple.

Beyond attending the film premiere, we invite you to consider joining Artemis Joukowsky III, **carbo₂n nation** producer, as a sponsor of the Caribbean premiere and public release. In appreciation, SEA offers **carbo₂n nation** Caribbean premiere sponsors complementary tickets, recognition on SEA's website and recognition at SEA's 2011 Masquerade Ball and Auction; recognition on April 2011 **carbo₂n nation** public release promotion materials; plus national

Join the Fun at the Biodiversity Blitz!

On November 13th SEA staff and a host of volunteers will spread out across the Southgate Coastal Reserve to catalogue as many plants and animals as possible in one day. Scientists from many disciplines will survey upland, wetland and beach habitats making lists of plants, insects, birds, fishes, reptiles, amphibians and so on.

The public is invited to participate in guided tours and activities throughout the day, beginning with a wetland bird watch from 6:30 to 8:00 a.m. and concluding with a bat survey from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. There will also be educational exhibits and environmental games for children from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. under the big tent and some wonderful information to take home with you. Bring the whole family for a day of outdoor exploration! Youth groups are welcome—please let us know when your group will arrive and how many children will be attending.

The information generated by this effort will build upon the studies done at the Reserve in 2004 by Coast and Harbor Institute. Comprehensive surveys of bird and sea turtle activities have been carried out at Southgate for the past several years, and our understanding of habitat use by these animals is now quite good. However we have far less understanding of other animal, insect and plant populations. Information collected at the BioBlitz will enable SEA to better enhance and improve the various habitats at the Reserve.

BioBlitz Activity Schedule

6:30 to 8:00 Wetland Bird Survey led by Carol Cramer-Burke. Please wear shoes that can get muddy; bring binoculars if you have them.

8:30 to 9:30 Plants Galore walk with Brian Daley. Learn about the different plant communities found in upland, wetland and beach berm habitats.

10:00 to 11:30 Pond Critters: a great activity for children! William Coles and John Farchette will show and tell about the fishes, crustaceans and other animals to be found in Southgate Pond.

carbon nation, from pg. 1

recognition of lead sponsors on the **carbo₂n nation** website (www.carbonation.tv).

To reserve tickets or sponsor the Caribbean premiere and public release of **carbo₂n nation**, please contact Paul Chakroff at 340/773-1989 or PChakff@stxenvironmental.org.

Education Wrap Up

SEA at QuEST

On October 18, teachers filled the student desks at St. Croix's Educational Complex High School for the 31st annual Mini-QuEST, Quality Education Standards in Teaching. The professional development day is for K-12 public school teachers to learn about various topics. Lynnea Roberts, SEA's education coordinator, led a session to help teachers prepare students for the science fair. Roberts discussed the difference between science demonstrations and original investigations that use the scientific method. By encouraging students to ask their own questions after following a cookbook-type experiment in class, students will be better prepared to pick an original question to investigate for their science fair project. Roberts offered numerous teaching strategies and Internet resources for students.

Teachers Learn by Doing

Teachers experienced Inquiry-Based learning first-hand when Lynnea Roberts, SEA's education coordinator, led teachers from St. Mary's Catholic School through four activities that required problem-solving skills and teamwork, which led to participant-generated questions – the basis of Inquiry-Based Learning. Roberts showed the teachers how to restate the directions and questions on typical science lab worksheets to increase student thinking and participation.

A Big Splash!

Twenty-eight enthusiastic snorkelers joined SEA at Fort Frederik Beach for our last public snorkel clinic of 2010. The purpose of SEA's free snorkel clinics is to increase appreciation for the marine habitat through education and recreation. The snorkel clinics include on-land activities that educate youths and adults about endangered species, habitat conservation and preservation, and safety (for the reef and its visitors). SEA thanks CRABBS Dive Club for sponsoring this last clinic, which was a big splash of success!

BioBlitz, from pg. 1

12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Presentations from experts under the big tent. Jennifer Valiulis, Dr. Arthur Gaines and others will share their insights into biodiversity and conservation.

2:00 to 4:00 Fish Finders: Three activities to choose from. Kemit Amon-Lewis will lead a snorkel survey through Chenay Bay—for advance snorkelers only; William 'Toby' Tobias will seine for fishes in the near-shore waters; and Sharon Grimes will lead a beach walk to identify some of the many shells.

4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Peepers, cheepers and creepers! Claudia Lombard and Jen Valiulis will be your guides as we get up close and personal with reptiles and amphibians.

6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Bring on the bats! The first bat survey to be conducted at Southgate. Renata Platenberg, Jen Valiulis and Claudia Lombard will run mist nets and identify these fascinating mammals.

Volunteers are needed to man activity stations and provide support to science teams. Please call Carol or Lynnea at 773-1989 for more information.

Unusual Birds!



Some unusual birds were spotted on St. Croix following the passage of hurricane Otto, including this Greater Flamingo photographed by Lisa Yntema and Hudsonian Godwits (below) by Carol Cramer-Burke.



ST. CROIX ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Phone: (340) 773-1989 Fax: (340) 773-7545

www.stxenvironmental.org

Activities and Events Offered by St. Croix Environmental Association

SEA offers a variety of free or low-cost activities to explore and better understand our island's environment. Residents and visitors are welcome! SEA strives to provide knowledgeable guides for such activities as shore walks or hikes to better understand our native flora and fauna; visits to the bird rehabilitation program; organic farm visits; star-gazing; and snorkeling trips, to name just a few. If you would like to know more about SEA activities, volunteer as a guide or make suggestions, please call SEA at 773-1989.

Saturday November 13, 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Biodiversity Blitz at Southgate Coastal Reserve. Please join SEA and local experts to learn about the plants, animals, and insects that inhabit this 100-acre wildlife conservation area. Guided tours, games for children, and educational displays will take place throughout the day. Volunteers are needed to help with information tables. Please call 773-1989 to volunteer or for additional information. Youth groups welcome with reservations. *(Complete schedule of activities on pg. 1 & 2.)*

Thursday November 18, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. 24th SEA Annual Membership Meeting at The Mermaid, Buccaneer Hotel. Bring a friend and a potluck dish to share for this casual evening of fellowship. Meet SEA's new and current board members and staff, and enjoy the company of fellow SEA members. *(Details on pg. 4.)*

Thursday December 2, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The final film in the Biodiversity Film Fest: Journey to Planet Earth Future Conditional, narrated by Matt Damon. Future Conditional investigates the link between environmental change and the future health of our planet, a future conditional on how we cope with the spread of toxic pollution. Four locations are featured in this film: the Arctic, Mexico, Uzbekistan and the United States. The film will be shown at the UVI Cooperative Extension Service, Room #133. Free to all, no reservations required. *The Biodiversity Film Fest is in partnership with Marshall & Sterling Insurance and UVI Marine Advisory Service.*

Thursday December 16, 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. SEA Open House and Gallows Bay Holiday Festival. Please come visit the SEA office in Gallows Bay for a cookie and cup of holiday cheer. Then enjoy the holiday music, decorations, and special sales at many Gallows Bay businesses. Check out our gift shop for great prices on holiday cards and gift items.

Wednesday December 29, Carbo₂n nation Premier, Buccaneer Hotel, Brass Parrot Be among the first to view this inspiring documentary film that celebrates solutions to global climate change. Meet producer Artemis Joukowsky III who will be on hand to discuss the film and its' concepts. Proceeds will benefit SEA's advocacy and awareness program. Tickets are \$100 per person or \$150 per couple which includes abundant hors d'oeuvres and a complimentary CD copy of the film. Make your reservations now as seating is limited. For more information please contact Paul Chakroff at 340/773-1989 or PCChakff@stxenvironmental.org.

St. Croix Environmental Association
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Name _____
Spouse/Partner _____
Organization _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Membership
 New Renewal
Phone _____
Alt. Phone _____
Email _____

- Volunteer Opportunities**
- Environmental Advocacy
 - Environmental Education
 - Fundraising
 - Member Events and Programs
 - Office
 - Publications and Newsletters
 - Other _____

- Annual Membership Category**
- St. Croix Ground Lizard (youth) \$10
 - Least Tern (individual) \$35
 - Elkhorn Coral (family) \$50
 - Red Mangrove \$100
 - Blue Tang \$200
 - Osprey \$500
 - Leatherback Turtle \$1000

Payment Option amt. \$ _____
 Check # _____ or Cash _____
 Visa
 MC
 Amex
Name on card _____
Card # _____
Exp date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

YOU ARE INVITED!



SEA Annual Membership Meeting




Thursday, November 18, 2010

Potluck dinner: 6:00 p.m. Business meeting: 7:30 p.m.

Beachside at The Mermaid, Buccaneer Hotel

SEA will begin our year-long 25th Anniversary celebration at the Annual Membership Meeting. Please bring a friend and a potluck dish to share. The format for our meeting will be a bit more casual this year, with a more informal program focused on our mission accomplishments over the past year and a historical perspective of SEA's past accomplishments. Participation of members is more important than ever now as SEA works to overcome the challenges of an unstable economy. Everyone is welcome! SEA thanks the Buccaneer Hotel for providing this lovely venue and wait staff.



Check out our website! All newsletters and the recycling directory (see *Island Resources & Links* tab) are available. Current list of activities and events are also

THE ST. CROIX ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION

The SEA Report is a bimonthly publication of the St. Croix Environmental Association (SEA), a nonprofit membership organization.

SEA's hours are Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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We're on the Web
www.stxenvironmental.org

*To promote conservation of environmental resources, provide education,
and advocate for environmentally responsible actions.*