

2015 Issue 12

BEST (Bermuda Environmental Sustainability Taskforce)
Registered Charity # 858

BULLETIN – Issue 12 (February 2015)

America's Cup 35:

A Steering Committee including representatives from many local environmental groups has met and begun formulating plans and actions. It is encouraging to note that Mike Winfield, Chief Executive, America's Cup, Bermuda, has expressed interest and concern regarding environmental matters and has agreed to meet with the steering committee.

The BUZZ:

A visit in March by Ross Conrad, of Dancing Bee Gardens, is now confirmed. Check out his website at <http://www.dancingbeegardens.com>. Many thanks to those who have offered to help with this exciting event. Additional support would be much appreciated and so, if you can help, please contact us at office@best.org.bm. Mr Conrad will have a full schedule with visits to beekeepers, assessment of the local environment, meetings with representatives of the Department of Environmental Protection and workshops at Horticultural Hall in the Botanical Gardens on Saturday March 28th. The topics and times of the workshops will be posted and will be of interest to both well-established and novice beekeepers as well as those simply interested in the health and welfare of Bermuda's bees. Join us and BEE Curious!

Planning Applications:

Pink Beach: the Development Applications Board rejected their development plan for the part of the land zoned Agricultural Reserve. Bermuda's acreage of agricultural land has declined considerably from 1540 acres in 1959 to less than 400. It is vitally important to preserve, and use effectively these remaining acres. It was noted by Conservation Services that "much of the Island's agriculture reserves are not used for cultivation due to land owners passively or actively discouraging farmers from using the plots." <http://www.royalgazette.com/article/20150212/NEWS/150219893>

Perhaps it is time for a Government incentive scheme for landowners who allow farmers to make use of their land for growing food?

2015 Year of Soils:

Tying in with preserving our agricultural land a quote from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO): "Our soils are in danger because of expanding cities, deforestation, unsustainable land use and management practices, pollution, overgrazing and climate change. The current rate of soil degradation threatens the capacity to meet the needs of future generations. The promotion of sustainable soil and land management is central to ensuring a productive food system, improved rural livelihoods and a healthy environment." Find more on the vital role of soils at <http://www.fao.org/soils-2015/soil-facts/en/#c32016> and be sure to add to the health of your garden through composting

Bermuda Botanical Gardens:

BEST was born out of the actions taken to 'Save the Gardens' when it was proposed to build a hospital in the grounds. A petition is circulating at the moment regarding the rebuilding of the Maintenance Yard in the centre of the gardens. For more information see <https://www.facebook.com/takebackourpark>

The Green Cooperative:

No, not a shop but the name for a number of environmental groups who came together thanks to Chewstick's 2014 Beachfest to deal with waste management issues arising out of large public events. The first collaborative event will be the Catlin End to End Walk in May 2015.

The members of The Green Cooperative are (in alpha order):

BEST

Catlin End-to-End

Chewstick

Government's Waste Management

Government's Parks Department

Greenrock

KBB

The above is a small sampling of the work BEST is engaged in. Your support, financially and/or through volunteering, allows us to continue to work and is very much welcomed and appreciated. We wish you a happy Valentine's Day and urge you to "share your love" with our Island home.

BEST regards

Jennifer Flood

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<http://www.best.org.bm/>

<https://www.facebook.com/BEST.Bda>

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Comments and questions welcome... please contact Jennifer@best.org.bm