

## **2015 Issue 14**

BEST (Bermuda Environmental Sustainability Taskforce)

Registered Charity # 858

### **BULLETIN – Issue 14 - April 2015**

America's Cup 35 (AC) – There is lots happening on this front and the team is busy. This is of huge importance to Bermuda and must be done properly, not only providing for the event itself, but whatever is built must be sustainable and of benefit for Bermuda in the years ahead. This is challenging. Of interest to note, is that BEST and other environmental NGOs have been contacted with offers of assistance by overseas people who worked on ensuring previous AC events were green and sustainable. It's good to know our collective efforts are reaching the world stage!

Morgan's Point (MP) - an application for development from MP has been submitted to Planning. BEST is concerned that the time frame provided (only 10 working days) to examine such a large plan is insufficient. This lack of adequate time has been problematic on a number of occasions and is one of the areas BEST is addressing. Again, this development is important to Bermuda and hopefully elements will be ready for AC 35. However, it is vital that Bermuda's heritage is not given away in the interest of expediency. Some objections have been lodged.

Research into the above, and other projects, is time-consuming and can be costly. BEST works on a very small budget and remains free from any Government grants/awards etc. If you are interested, donations would be very much appreciated. See below for details on how to donate.

Southlands - hopes remain high that Southlands will very soon be designated a National Park. The Friends of Southlands group is meeting again and they are in talks with the Parks Department.

Ban the Beads Bermuda - an interest group, under the auspices of BEST, have been developing a campaign to heighten awareness locally on the problems with microbeads and micro-plastics. Oceanic pollution by plastic is of great concern - hopefully you were aware of the recent visits of research vessels Race4Water and Plastic Change, with 2 more to follow in April and in June (Plastic Tides and 5 Gyres). Bermuda is pretty much in the centre of the Atlantic gyre where plastics tend to accumulate. Let us not become famous for polluted waters but for the beautiful beaches, the amazing reefs and the hospitality of Bermudians! The launch of the campaign will happen today! Look in the press for more details. If you would like to be more involved, contact Kim at 292-3782 or at [office@best.org.bm](mailto:office@best.org.bm)

BEE Curious Workshop and visit by beekeeper Ross Conrad – Judy Motyer, chair of The BUZZ said, "The general consensus seems to be that the visit and workshops given by Vermont resident, Ross Conrad, were a great success. The attendance far exceeded our expectations. There were a number of young new beekeepers, interested persons, as well as a good turnout from the Bermuda Beekeepers Association. We believe that useful information was shared and lively dialogue took place that seemed to indicate that beekeepers were glad to learn and share." Ross's suggestions for keeping a clean, healthy hive and photos of the event will be available shortly at [www.bermudabees.weebly.com](http://www.bermudabees.weebly.com)

Next steps will be to investigate the variety of pesticides, herbicides and fungicides available and used in Bermuda, with a view to their reduction/elimination and their replacement with pollinator-friendly alternatives.

If you are interested in beekeeping, consider joining the Bermuda Beekeepers Association. Look for their Facebook page or see their website at <http://www.beesfordevelopment.org/phocadownload/BfDJ81%20ZoominBermuda008.pdf>

Bermuda Botanical Gardens - much interest is being shown in this controversial development at the Botanical Gardens. BEST continues to offer assistance as requested by the group Take Back our Park. You can find more about this at [www.facebook.com/takebackourpark](http://www.facebook.com/takebackourpark) or [www.takebackourpark.com](http://www.takebackourpark.com)

International Compost Awareness Week, May 3 - 9 - Composting makes the world go round! With 2015 being the International Year of Soils, there is no better time to be composting at home, transforming your organic waste into a valuable resource for your garden. Bermuda's soils need all the tender loving care that they can get. Learn more at [www.homecomposting.org.uk/international-compost-awareness-week-2015](http://www.homecomposting.org.uk/international-compost-awareness-week-2015) or [www.gov.bm/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=516&&PageID=1080&mode=2](http://www.gov.bm/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=516&&PageID=1080&mode=2)

Backyard composters are available for purchase for \$80 from Waste Management. Call 278-0563 or email [recycle@gov.bm](mailto:recycle@gov.bm) to purchase an EarthMachine brand compost bin.

We enjoy hearing from you - so please send in your comments, observations or concerns to [jennifer@best.org.bm](mailto:jennifer@best.org.bm)

Donations to BEST can be made online through the BEST website [www.best.org.bm](http://www.best.org.bm) or by direct deposit to our Bank of Butterfield account, number 20-006-060-625713-100.