

BEST (Bermuda Environmental Sustainability Taskforce)

Registered Charity # 858

BULLETIN – Issue 16 – June 2015

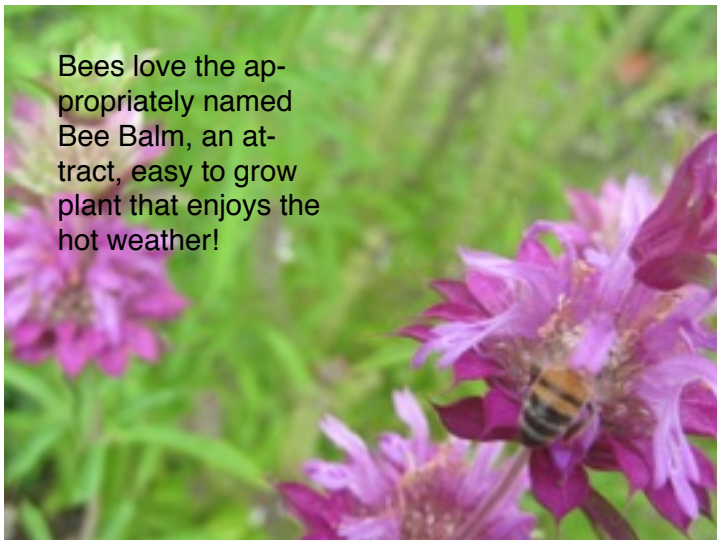
“To preserve and enhance the quality of life in Bermuda for present and future generations by engaging with the community to advocate for sustainable management and development of the physical, social and economic environments.”

A busy month as BEST monitors and engages on various fronts affecting the environmental (economic, social and physical) impacts on Bermuda, as aligned with our Mission Statement above. Your input – alerts, comments, critiques, financial support – are invaluable and appreciated.

Congratulations to Stuart Jackson Hayward, our President and Chief Advocacy Officer, honoured this year with a Queen’s Certificate and Badge of Honour for his work protecting Bermuda’s environment. Stuart’s keen insight and deep knowledge on a vast range of environmental topics along with thorough familiarity with planning regulations, and his willingness to take on challenges – the Botanical Gardens, Southlands, and Tucker’s Point are a few examples, have made him the “go to” person on issues regarding Bermuda’s environment. His leadership has been inspirational and second-to-none.

The BUZZ: Pesticides and related problems are making regular appearances in the local and international media. Bee populations throughout the world continue to suffer badly. http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/14/us/honeybees-mysterious-die-off-appears-to-worsen.html?_r=0

Pesticides remain a key factor in their demise. However, humans are not immune and children are particularly susceptible to many of these chemicals. <http://news.national-geographic.com/news/2015/03/150305-chemicals-endocrine-disruptors-diabetes-toxic-environment-ngfood/>



Bees love the appropriately named Bee Balm, an attract, easy to grow plant that enjoys the hot weather!

The BUZZ is continuing to look into the pesticides used in Bermuda and are urging the adoption of the ‘precautionary principle’ when the authorities make decisions on the use and/or importation of chemicals.

Pink Beach: It was disappointing that, despite recommendations from Planning, the Development Applications Board and an Independent Inspector, the Minister opted to allow development on the agricultural land on the Pink Beach site. Building on the agricultural land would be unnecessary if the owner had not

carved off 5.5 acres of the total Pink Beach holding for his own personal use. The land they plan to “give back” has no agricultural value and it is the food-producing potential that will be lost... forever.



Beat the Bead Bermuda! campaign: The 5 Gyres group visited Bermuda over the past weekend and met with a number of environmental groups, including KBB and the Bermuda Marine Debris Taskforce. Many thanks to Anne Hyde of KBB for organizing events and liaising with the 5 Gyres. A presentation they gave at

The 5 Gyres beautiful sail ship, The Mystic, preparing to leave St George after their visit to Bermuda
photo: Roseli Johnson

BIOS pointed to 3 areas of focus that we need to consider when trying to positively impact the disaster that is 'plastics pollution': Behaviour, Waste Management

and Design.

Visit the KBB sponsored TRASH ART exhibition at City Hall, it's truly amazing. The variety and quality of work on display by children and adults is impressive. All efforts raise awareness of the trash problems, especially the plastic waste in the oceans. Let's work together, practice the 4 R's for Sustainability (Reduce/Reuse/Recycle/Rethink). See also <http://www.wastemanagement.gov.bm/> or Facebook page Recycle Bermuda.

I was pleased to represent BEST at the ECO Schools Awards presentation on June 17th, held at BUEI. The work of the young people, spearheaded by Greenrock and supported by corporate interests and Not-for-Profit groups was impressive. Schools involved ranged from preschool through to Bermuda College. Well done. Find out more at <http://www.-greenrock.org/projects/schools/eco-schools>

BEST continues to operate frugally, maintaining its stand as a free and independent NGO. Your support is important to us. Donations to BEST can be made online through the BEST website www.best.org.bm or by direct deposit to our Bank of Butterfield account, number 20-006-060-625713-100.

BEST regards
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