

Long Bay Hills Newsletter

July 2010

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Comments? Email Tanis at

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*Curbs and plantings
Can stop erosion*

Road Works update

Donations: We are now \$3800 shy of the funds we need to complete our initial road contract amount and then we need further donations for curbs and speed bumps. Please contact katmike@tciway.tc with any size donation – it all helps! Thank you.

Curbs: As you will have seen from the recent heavy rains, curbs are definitely needed to not only direct the heavy water off the road in particular areas but also to prevent the wash of rocks onto the surface of the road. Yannick Bouldol of Colasco installed flush cement curbs off the Curlew Drive intersection to stop water damage which will erode the ground beneath the road edge.

An inexpensive way to stop the washing out of the edges and to stop the rocks and fill from gathering on the road is to plant vegetation so the roots hold the soil in place. You can see where Yannick is trialing some plantings down the hill past the Lignum Vitae intersection.

We would appreciate any help with this in the way of donations of those plants or others that will grow in fill rather than soil and also to help with planting them. Any and all help is welcome so please contact news@longbayhills.com if you can assist.

Secondary Road works: Cove Construction will continue working on the secondary roads and a meeting is being set up with Cove to obtain a schedule of works which will be made available to all residents.

Annual LBH's BBQ

A great time was had by all who attended our July 11th annual LBHPOA BBQ. Special thanks to Karen Biker who kindly allowed us to have the event at her home.

A selection of burgers and hot dogs along with all the trimmings and special side dishes were enjoyed along with good company, perfect weather and a lovely location.

We hope that those of you who couldn't make it this time will be able to enjoy next year's BBQ.

Green Spot by Marsha Pardee, marine ecologist

Lionfish Alert



Lion Fish

This month, the DECR hosted the conclusion of the Lionfish Tournament at the Caicos Marina and Shipyard here in Long Bay. The importance of this endeavor cannot be understated as Lionfish in our waters poses an extremely serious threat to the marine environment, not just here, but throughout the Caribbean.

A few basic facts on what is fast becoming the most rapid finfish invasion in history. Lionfish are native to the Indo-Pacific region, but current estimates suggest that their growing densities (at least so far in the Bahamas region) are 8 times that of their native populations in their home region. Their source is believed to be from home aquarist in Florida dumping their pets or prey in the ocean. From those few isolated events (first documented ocean sightings in 1992), we now see lionfish pretty much throughout the Caribbean region. First sightings in TCI were in 2007 and now you can hardly stick your head underwater without encountering one.

What makes them so capable of spreading so far so fast? In part, their ability to mate and spawn throughout the year, and the fact that they release floating fertilized egg masses that develop through their larval stages in an estimated 25-40 days. This means that lionfish eggs released in the Bahamas are capable of reaching New England via the Gulf Stream all before they need to take their real first bite of food. Even grown, they can withstand starvation for periods over 12 weeks, and that when feeding their stomachs can expand over 30 times in volume when consuming a large meal. Lionfish are the perfect predator to introduce when the chips are already down from over-fishing (lots of empty niches out there), marine habitat degradation and no known predator that wants to take a bite out of these spiny guys.

Why is all this so bad? For one, they are voracious predators that feed primarily on foraging finfish, in particular targeting the babies and eating quite a few. Studies have now shown up to a 79% reduction in the fish populations on a single patch reef with a lionfish present. Extrapolate that by the millions and we have not only lost our foraging fish (some of which we deem commercially important), but other top level predators in competition with the lionfish. Without those guys, the reefs also go down the tubes, followed by a cascading demise of all the marine ecosystems. Hmm...and I wonder what that will do for our tourism?

Solutions? So far, the only viable option seems to be declaring an all out war on lionfish. Slay the lion fish and put their heads (or at least their flesh) on a platter and eat them. Better yet, make them a delicacy and charge big bucks for this culinary delight so fishermen will be even more encouraged to soldier up to the task.

And please do your part, kill and/or chow down on a lionfish today, so that maybe there will be grouper and snapper tomorrow.