

Long Bay Hills Newsletter

January 2010

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Comments? Email Tanis at

news@longbayhills.com

Road Paving Update

The road paving works commenced Monday, January 11th as most of the materials had arrived on island. Cove construction started preparing the road beds after first marking the center line on the LBH Highway. They will work a few hundred feet in advance of Colasco, who will follow with the cold rolled asphalt.

Once the roads are paved to the 20' width, including the 1/10 mile up the Seasage Hill road and the 3/10 mile on Long Bay Beach road, the intersection aprons and curbing works will commence. Speed bumps and lining will follow. Funds are still required for these works so please, if you haven't yet contributed to the road paving plan, please contact Kathi with your donation on katmike@tcivay.tc

After all paving works are complete Blue Hills Limited through Cove Construction will fill, compact and grade all the secondary roads, where required, which we anticipate will last quite some time with the newly paved Highway taking the pressure off these roads.

Where the steel pegs have been placed marking the outside edge please drive carefully and note the pegs have orange flags and spray paint on them.

The works will take from 4-6 weeks, weather permitting, and please drive slowly and carefully past ongoing works to protect those providing us with a smooth new road!

AGM

It is almost that time again! Our AGM will be held on March 16, 2010, at 7pm at the Graceway Sports Center. Please let us have any nominations for Directors for the Board. All positions will be voted on at the AGM and new participants are always welcome.

All annual dues for 2010/2011 are payable end February 2010 so please send in your dues (\$200) to Treasurer Kathi Barrington as soon as you can. Remember you must be a paid member to vote.

As you know we have depleted our fund with the road paving works so need to build up again as suggestions have been put forth for a security gate, CCTV, additional road signage, beach access pathways, boundary fences, as well as keeping funds on hand for future road maintenance for the secondary roads.

Please let us have any suggestions for items you wish to see raised at the AGM in advance.

Thank you.

AGM



Bay Lavender

Green Spot by Marsha Pardee, marine ecologist

Dune Plants and Uses:

Bay or Sea Lavender

In the November issue, I wrote about the invasive *Casuarina* trees (aka Australian Pines) sprouting along our shores. In the next few columns, I will cover some of the more native dune plants that are meant to be there and will include some of their extraordinary values and uses.

I'll start with my personal favorite, the Bay or Sea Lavender (*Argusia gnaphalodes*), that has really flourished since the hurricanes denuded our dunes. This low shrub (avg. 1m height) has a silvery gray color with fuzzy looking leaves. When in bloom, it has a row of white flowers in the center of the leaf rosettes. You'll find it from the top of the dune right down to water's edge.

Aside from being a good sand binder as it grows in spreading clumps, this plant has been found to have a number of medicinal and other uses. Prepared as a tea, it has been used to treat fevers, gonorrhea, syphilis, bladder stones, kidney problems, rheumatism, fish poisoning, and even to induce abortions. A branch of smoldering leaves are said to drive fleas and other vermin from your house. It is also a good ornamental plant for local gardeners as it is salt and drought tolerant and needs very little care. Local nurseries are now carrying this plant for local native landscaping purposes.

Sources:

Local author and LBH property owner, Kathleen McNary Wood, Flowers of the Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands

David. W. Nellis, Seashore Plants of South Florida and the Caribbean