

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a sunset. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with large, fluffy white and orange-tinted clouds. A bright rainbow is visible, arching from the left side of the frame towards the center. The bottom of the image shows a dark, silhouetted treeline against the bright sky.

THE *Rainbow Times*

Number 32 • Fall/Winter 2022
Rainbow Bay Property Owners Association
Eleuthera, Bahamas • Founded 1979

Newsletter of the Rainbow Bay Property Owners Association

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Number 32 • Fall 2022

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Cover:

North Side Rainbow

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Good morning to you all. It's another beautiful day here on Rainbow Beach. Nicky and I still marvel each time we draw back the shades to reveal the greatest of views, a timely reminder of how lucky we all are to be part of this!

At the time of writing the new Board is seven months into its tenure and it's been pretty much full on as the secret is out! Rainbow Bay has become a destination! Enquiries are at an all-time high and housing stock is at an all-time low. Investors, both foreign and Bahamian, are realizing the hidden potential with rental properties now reaching 100 plus and 16 new-build permits issued this year. Visitors from both ends of the island choose to spend the day at Rainbow Beach which only adds to the burden.

The strain on our finances is now becoming apparent and the recent Court case has depleted our reserves. The anticipated Appeal has been lodged so again we have to wait for an outcome. The costs of doing business on Eleuthera have risen considerably. Our current Association income is barely enough to maintain the basic level of service let alone improve matters. Here is a brief outline of the Board's current tasks and plans going forward.

1) Association Due Diligence We found the insurance to be inadequate in cover. We now have the correct cover for the Association, its Board members, volunteers, and part time staff as well as cover for the maintenance building, tennis court and the Association's equipment.

2) Court Case Most of you are aware that the Supreme Court has found in favour of the Association, and we were awarded costs. However, the anticipated Appeal has now been lodged and we are awaiting a date for the hearing. As to when we will see the awarded cost is another matter!

3) Maintenance Team Max the gardener is no longer with us. We now have, after a couple of false starts, Gustave as our new gardener who is on a rolling 3-month contract. Tommy Pinder still heads up the Maintenance Team, however we are in desperate need of new equipment as the existing equipment is starting to show its age and is constantly breaking down.

4) Maintenance Building George Chiulli and Mark Poole are currently giving the Maintenance Building Office a makeover in readiness for a fully operational headquarters for the Association. It has become apparent that we need to centralise our operations, digitalise all our records and files and appoint a part time General Manager to handle enquiries, billing, building permits and oversee the maintenance schedules. Currently, the building is in poor condition with the roof and gutters leaking and the washrooms needing a complete refurbishment.

5) Website, Newsletter and Notices We are currently creating a complete new modern website that will be easier to navigate. We hope to be up and running later this year with the work being done by Nicky Daciw.

(continued next page)

FROM STAN *continued*

- The Newsletter will be going to a digital only format, Laura Crosby has kindly taken over the role of Editor.
- The Board has commissioned two additional notices to be placed alongside the "Welcome to Rainbow Bay" signs on the Queens Highway highlighting that we are a Restricted Deeded Sub-Division.

6) Fire Trailer All components for our new fire trailer are on the island and ready for Mark Updegraff and his team to assemble and commission. It became obvious after our fire at The Cliffs earlier this year that we need a co-ordinated response between the settlements. Chris Estes has devised a messaging system that alerts neighbouring communities and the Police simultaneously to the incident. We are involved with the Hatchet Bay Town Council in developing and helping them to obtain a fire trailer and devise a combined strategy for James Cistern, Rainbow Bay, Hatchet Bay and Gregory Town.

7) Road Fund and Trash Collection Again, it has become clear that we need to set up a totally separate Fund and strategy for the roads. The biggest difficulty we face is a finding cost effective solution for the minor roads. Phase 1 of the road repair report by the previous board (namely 3 drainage culverts on Ocean Drive and patch repairs on Wandering Shore) have been executed. Phase 2 is postponed until a full budget forecast is compiled on year 2023. Due to the growth of our community and the extra waste dumped at our facility by passing traffic, the Island Administrator has informed the Board that the cost of collection has risen from \$1200 to \$6000 a year! We are currently in negotiations trying to find a solution that is palatable to both parties.

8) Rental Homes The Government is actively seeking all homeowners, that are renting either directly or via platforms such as AirBnB, to register their properties with the Ministry of Tourism. The Deputy Prime Minister gave an interesting interview with *The Tribune* earlier this year. I urge you all to read it as it does affect you! The Ministry of Tourism has a document for "Owner Occupied Rental Homes." It states that "if a house, condo, apartment, flat or room is regularly or systematically rented for a continuous

period not exceeding 45 days, this activity is considered a "business/commercial activity". This leaves the Association with a dilemma as the covenants attached to your deeds forbid any commercial activity from a residential property unless specifically specified, i.e., doctor, dentist, and professional people within the confines of their residences. Long-term rentals are allowed! The Board is now considering adopting a vacation rental permit system to navigate the problem.

9) Building Permits The current square footage stands at a 1000 sqft. The Board is considering a variation to allow a minimum of 750sqft if it complies to a complete off-grid solution. The current fee of a \$150 will be raised and the permit will be amended to reflect the need for inclusion of impact fee and management plans. It is hoped that this can be digitalized to fall in line with our current way of thinking.

10) Future Projects The Board would like to start a separate fund for a Resident Only Community Building that will be situated next to Nentwig Park. It is envisaged that this building would be off grid with washrooms, function room, changing facilities, kayak and tender park and a BBQ and beverage area with shelter from the sun. Hopefully we can expand and lay some moorings in the Bay for small boats. As I say, this is just an idea that is floating around.

So, to end, we are basically victims of our own success. Previous Boards have done a great job in managing the Association, but the extra burden put upon our infrastructure and our legal costs need addressing now before the rot sets in. Therefore, it is our intention to apply a special assessment in the next 2023 billing cycle to shore up our funds. Meanwhile, the Board continues to carry out budget assessments in all our areas of activity and will in due course present a breakdown for the 2024 dues. No massive increases in charges are expected but we do need to address the fact that we are woefully underfunded.

Stan Daciw, President

Wagons Soon to be Assembled



Photo by James Ryder

The RBPOA fire trailer and tank, will soon be available for the abatement of fires in Rainbow Bay. Upon arrival to Eleuthera this Fall, Mark Updegraff, Rainbow Bay's Fire Officer, will assemble the trailer, pump, hose and tanks. The image on the left is of other similar fire tanks assembled in Gregory Town. The Association's fire wagon is actually a bit larger and somewhat differently configured. Stay tuned to the Facebook Homeowners' page for upcoming information.

2022 Annual General Meeting

The last Rainbow Bay Property Owner's Association (RBPOA) annual general meeting was held on March 26, 2022, at 11 am. The meeting was held outside at the Poehlman Maintenance Building. Minutes from this meeting can be found on the RBPOA website - <https://www.rainbowbay.org>

Hurricane Ian Further Complicates Maintenance Matters While Positive Improvements Ongoing



Hurricane Ian which devastated much of Florida left his mark on Eleuthera as well. The maintenance building suffered roof damage on September 29 during high winds.

Hurricane Ian left his mark on the Bob Poehlman Maintenance Building. On Thursday, Sept. 29, high winds lifted the edge of the metal roof. The roof system is in overall bad shape. New shingles, fascia, drip edge and gutters are sorely needed. Erosion consumed sand on Rainbow Beach, necessitating the reburying of tables and picnic benches.

Despite these recent issues, maintenance volunteers have worked diligently to make improvements within the neighborhood.

First, an office has been created in the maintenance building. Mark Poole and George Chiulli imported and provided various pieces of office equipment. Stan chipped away damaged concrete and made repairs to the concrete wall in preparation for painting.



Severe beach erosion occurred on Rainbow Beach washing away tons of sand. Notice exposed beach rocks and cement anchors around picnic tables. Photos by George Chiulli and Nicky Daciw.

George rolled the walls and is now in the process of painting the floor. He installed new hinges on the bathroom door which was rehung to provide easier access to the light switch, and also hung three much needed ceiling fans. Mark brought over new bathroom light fixtures, a window air conditioner, and new entry door knobs. Filing cabinets are in place for the organized storage of files and an office desk was procured. Linda Kjerulf donated a printer for the office and George Chiulli and Laura Crosby donated office supplies. For the first time in the history of Rainbow, records, minutes, documents, etc. can be kept in a centralized location.

Regarding public safety, George has procured stop signs to post in the neighborhood.

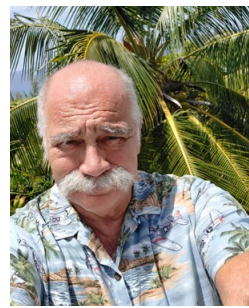
Mark Poole donated and imported lumber for the creation of signs which will be placed under the existing Rainbow Bay signs on the Queen's Highway. The signs state "A Deed Restricted Community. For more information, see rainbowbay.org." Tony Bethel's son Jamaal, who painted the "Welcome to Rainbow Bay" signs, is also credited with designing and painting the new signs. The new signs immediately direct potential purchasers to the RB-POA website where they can access

information explaining the regulations of buying, building and living in Rainbow Bay.

Shrubbery has been trimmed at the corners of major intersections, and hedging is ongoing on Ocean Drive. George trimmed hedges in the area around the tennis courts and boat ramp.

A suggestion has been made that a plan be formulated for the storage, maintenance, and care of lawn equipment including the Kubota which just received two new front tires.

With the winter season coming, more maintenance projects will be on the agenda. Volunteers play a tremendous role in the maintenance and operation of the subdivision. Plaudits to all who are willing to help.



George and Mark - the dynamic duo. Thanks for creating a better workspace for Rainbow volunteers.

-Article contributions from George Chiulli



PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE DO NOT BURN GARBAGE OR REFUSE IN RAINBOW BAY!
Also, picking up and properly discarding clear glass bottles will greatly reduce brush fires.

Alex Dumps Sargassum on Rainbow Beach

Alex, an early post-tropical summer storm pushed copious amounts of sand and seaweed onto Rainbow Bay Beach. Volunteers worked tirelessly to rake and bag seaweed and dig sand away from picnic tables and benches. Sargassum was recycled and offered to gardeners wishing to fertilize palm trees. Nicky and Stan Daciw coordinated the effort.

—Photos by Nicky Daciw



MANY THANKS
to everyone who helped clean
up the Beach!

Rummage Sale Attracts Residents from all Settlements

—Article contributions from Rosie Graham

The annual rummage sale, held in conjunction with the Rainbow Bay Property Owners Association Annual General Meeting, is one of the most anticipated events on the island.

Last spring's sale was a huge success! Held at the Pohlman Maintenance Building (which Tommy Pinder graciously allowed Rosie to confiscate) buyers raced up and down the Queen's Highway EARLY, anxious to peruse the great offerings - and to BUY! Local law enforcement officials shopped; local ambulance drivers shopped. People from all settlements who'd seen the signs and banners were there! "Relay for Life" was being held the same day which helped generate a tremendous clientele. Furniture, clothing, toys, baby equipment, home decor items, and miscellaneous bits of this, that, and the other comprised the inventory. Weeks prior to the sale were spent by devoted volunteers who unpacked, organized, and tagged in preparation for the big day. A BIG THANK YOU to Rosie and all the other volunteer residents who helped!

The goal to raise \$2500 was met! The funds were used for a great cause - to help purchase the fire trailer for the Rainbow Bay community.

Before you chuck your junk at the landfill, please donate for next year's sale. Remember, one man's trash is another man's treasure!

Information regarding the Spring 2023 rummage sale is forthcoming. Check the homeowners' Facebook page for future announcements.



Photos by Sylvie Menard

Prohibited Refuse Always a Problem

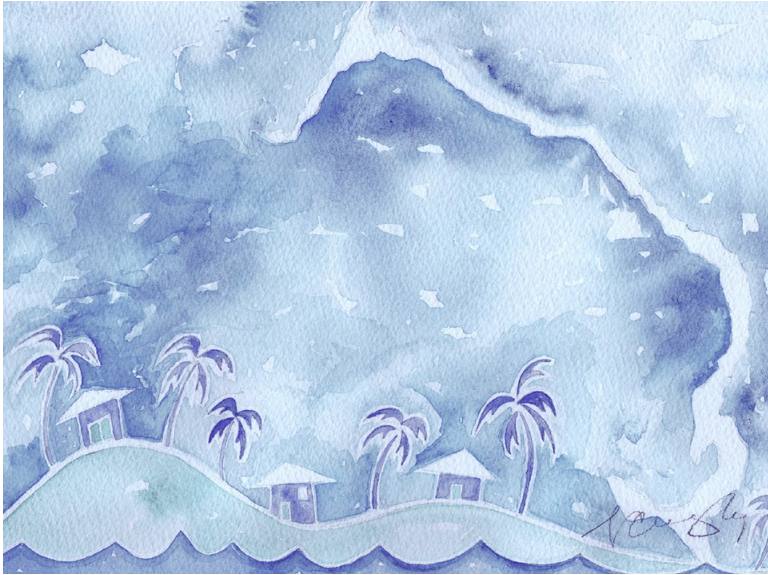


George Chiulli

One of Rainbow Bay's most serious problems is the increased cost of trash disposal. It doesn't help when refuse is dumped beside the container. The trash container is ONLY for bagged household garbage. Other discarded items should be taken to the dump off the Queen's Highway. Please be considerate of the workers who remove the trash from the dumpster by hand! There is no equipment to

simply lift the container and pour its contents into a larger container! All bags are removed by workers from inside the dumpster. Glass, construction debris, and sharp items placed in garbage bags to unsuspecting trash collectors can result in serious injury. Please do not throw construction or any other kind of debris into the dumpster or leave items on the platform to be collected.

Dark or Light? Preserving the Nighttime -by Laura Crosby



The topic “outdoor lighting” has been mentioned several times on the Rainbow Bay Property Owners’ Facebook Page. The detriment of excessive lighting impeding starlight as well as the need for lighting to reduce crime was discussed. Damage to the ecosystem was also noted, as well as the benefits of becoming a “Dark Sky” Community. Overwhelmingly, the residents of the neighborhood who are registered on the Facebook page (approximately 125 are registered as homeowners) are in favor of reduced nighttime lighting. Rainbow Bay is unique in that it is a maritime community with approximately 260 houses, and set in a pristine environment. Anxiety was expressed on Facebook that Rainbow Bay could become another illuminated Key West without thoughtful goals for future development. Should development pressures ethically deprive Rainbow residents of the enjoyment of darkness? The International Dark Sky Movement was formed to address night sky preservation and light pollution world-wide. IDA is a resource for communities interested in research, education, and solutions and is an excellent resource for the Association. IDA advocates lighting that: 1) is only on when it is needed 2) is only present in areas that need it 3) is no brighter than necessary 4) minimizes blue light emissions and 5) is fully shielded (pointing downward). Low pressure sodium lighting is a better choice in environmentally sensitive areas. Blue light, has been shown to harm human health and endanger wildlife. The IDA recommends using lighting that has a color temperature of no more than 3000 Kelvins. Humans and wildlife depend on the rhythm of day and night to govern life-sustaining behaviors such as reproduction, nourishment, sleep and protection from predators. The introduction of artificial light probably represents the most drastic change human beings have made to their environment. (Christopher Kyba –International Dark Sky Movement Website). More information about the negative impacts of outdoor lighting is available on the IDA website. As far as using light to deter intruders, a 2015 study published in the *Journal of*

Epidemiology and Community Health found that street-lights had no effect on accidents or crime. A 1997 National Institute of Justice study concluded, “We can have very little confidence that improved lighting prevents crime.” While some residents in Rainbow Bay feel that lights, left on during all nighttime hours deter crime, lights, in fact, show intruders the locations of doors, possibly unsecured windows, etc. It is conceivable that many of the break-ins that have occurred in the Rainbow Bay subdivision in recent years actually occurred during daytime hours. Solar motion sensor lighting is an environmentally friendly option, also. Over the years, such lights have been improved to minimize natural disturbances (such as wind) from activating the lamps. These lights are affordable and available online and at home-centers. While they contain LED bulbs which have been proven to adversely affect wildlife behavior, the bulbs are designed to shine only briefly. The Island School and the Leon Levy Plant Preserve - both local institutions - are excellent resources for more information about the impact of nighttime lighting in marine ecosystems. -Watercolor by Laura Crosby

A Bit About Stars

Thank the Egyptians for creating the five pointed star - one of the most difficult figures to draw freehand but one perfected by Egyptian scribes.

The Egyptians had extended knowledge of night sky and stars above. Most of the brighter stars were named by the Egyptians. The Egyptian hieroglyph was a five-pointed line drawing resembling sea stars or starfish. Because ancient Egyptians believed stars were also present in the afterlife, many tombs were decorated with deep blue ceilings dotted with bright yellow stars.

Ancient philosophers believed the world was made from the four elements - air, fire, water, and earth. They believed that when these elements were in harmony, a fifth element appeared. The geometric five-point star symbolizes this “Quintessence” or fifth element.

Thirty five countries have stars in their flags and stars represent “excellence” in many different ways. Not only are stars ancient religious symbols, in the present day (and here on earth) they humbly and brightly honor a ‘100’ on the spelling chart.

Eleuthera has “five-star” celestial stars. Bright, unobstructed, sparkly and bright, they are an awe inspiring sight for humanity. That includes all the gazers in Rainbow Bay.

(Source: <https://egretjewellery.co.uk>)

Fifteenth Century Technology Combats Erosion



Of all people, credit goes to Leonardo Da Vinci for helping reinforce what remains of Ocean Drive south of Hidden Cove Beach.

Anyone who's walked from Hidden Cove Beach up the road and through the "washout area" has surely spotted rock-filled cages lining the road. The structures have a name: gabions.

Gabion, from the old Italian word "gabbione" means "big cage." The rock cages are actually gabions, filled, in this case, with limestone rocks. Gabions hold rocks, concrete and sand and are used in a number of applications, including a means to prevent erosion. Leonardo employed the same basic concept by filling large woven

baskets to support the foundation of "Castello Sforzesco" when it was under construction in Milan in the fifteenth century. He must have had faith in his invention because he named it "Corbeille Leonard."

Gabions have been used for centuries in military fortifications, civil engineering, and landscape architecture. It is presumed that the gabions along Ocean Drive were created decades ago. "By whom" is a mystery.

Check out *Architectural Digest*, December 20, 2017, to see unique uses of gabions in innovative and modern structures.

Thank you, Mr. Da Vinci!

Hatchet Bay Landmarks

The Silos: Historic Reminders of an Ambitious Enterprise



were built just east of Hatchet Bay and sixty thousand hens installed. Seventy tons of imported feed were required each week, making the project unsustainable. Competition from poultry operations on New Providence resulted in further losses. Levy died in 1951. His family had little interest in maintaining the farms. In 1975, the Bahamian government bought out the Levy Estate. The farm closed completely in 1984. Only relics remain of Mr. Levy's great enterprise.

"The Amazing Life and Times of Austin T. Levy," a documentary written and produced by Kenneth Proudfoot profiles the little-known stories of Mr. Levy's enormous impacts during his lifetime. His talents extended from his home state of Delaware to the Caribbean, where Levy developed The Harrisville Company, his agricultural business in Eleuthera. The Hatchet Bay milk stand - the earliest form of modern convenience stores - was testament to Levy's progressive and futuristic business ideals.

The silos that stand as sentinels to American textile millionaire Austin T. Levy's dreams are now abandoned relics protruding from the bush in the Hatchet Bay area. They are almost a century old.

Mr. Leon Levy, born in New York City December 16, 1880 and later residing in Rhode Island, formed the "Hatchet Bay Plantations" in 1937. With ambitious goals to aid in the economic development of the island, he cleared 2400 acres of land which he enriched with topsoil imported from Savannah, Georgia. The land was scarified and pulverized to create arable soil. Select grasses were planted. One thousand cows (Holsteins from his own stock farm in Massachusetts and Guernsey

dairy cows from SC) grazed on grasses planted just to nourish the heard. Milk was exported to Nassau and four boats transferred products on a regular basis. Chocolate drink and ice cream were also produced. The operation continued until the 1980's. Due to high costs of imports and a never-ending water shortage, the enterprise never made a profit. The silos were constructed to store green silage from the pastures but grain had to be continually imported to support the farm. The venture created a small town with a school, stores, and cottages for the workers. At its peak, about 200 employees worked the farm. A poultry farm was later added by the Levy Estate. Twelve large sheds

**Sources: Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes <http://www.rijha.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/6-2-Nov-72-262-308.pdf>*

**The Rhode Island Foundation*

**Agriculture in the Bahamas: Its Historical Development 1492-1992 by WJ Godfrey Eneas, 1998)*

Rogue Waves: Unique and Unpredictable



You hear them in the night. The quiet repose is interrupted by the unmistakable sound of a much larger wave crashing on the shore. Where did **that** wave come from?

Contrary to popular belief, rogue waves are not the tallest waves in the ocean; in fact, some are not impressive at all. Rather, they are waves whose height is more than twice the significant wave height which is itself defined at the mean of the largest third of waves in a wave record. Got that? In other words, they are unusually large waves for a given sea state. Rogue waves do not seem to have a single distinct cause, but occur where factors such as high winds and strong currents cause waves to merge to create a single exceptionally large wave that is nearly impossible to document. You have to be in the right place at the right

time. Furthermore, rogue waves crest in different directions from others around it. It has been postulated that rogue waves never occur unless conditions are disturbed. While rogue waves are nothing new to mariners, they once were considered mythical; the stuff of legends. Rogue waves are considered rare, but potentially dangerous since the formation of massive waves can overwhelm ocean-going vessels not designed for such encounters. Prior to the invention of double-hulled ships in the 20th century, few people who encountered 100-foot rogue waves lived to tell the story. NOAA documented more than fifty historical incidents which probably were associated with rogue waves. The first known scientific article on "freak waves" was written by Professor Laurence Draper in 1964. The first rogue wave to be detected by a measuring instrument was the "Draupner Wave" that formed in 1995 in the North Sea and was recorded at the "Draupner Platform" (a gas pipeline support complex) at 39 feet. The Draupner wave was more than twice as tall and steep as other waves with characteristics outside any known wave model. Rogue waves always appear from nowhere and quickly disappear. According to the U.S. Coast

Guard two rogue waves smashed an ocean vessel in the Gulf Stream in 2009 leaving only debris on the ocean surface and three fishermen in a life raft. Recent research suggests there are also "super-rogue waves" which are up to five times the average sea state.

The National Transportation Safety Board completed a full investigation into the 70-foot rogue wave that struck "Norwegian Dawn", a 965-foot passenger ship head-on as the ship sailed from the Bahamas to New York in April, 2005. Sixty-three cabins were damaged with minor injuries to four passengers. The weather and ocean was "characteristic" for springtime conditions.

Buzzy Trent (1929-2006) the pioneer of big wave surfing, and all too familiar with towering waves commented, "Waves are not measured in feet or inches; they are measured in increments of fear." Not a comforting thought when you are awakened by the indisputable sound of a giant wave on the shore.

(Bahamas Maritime Authority; U.S. National Transportation Safety Board www.nts.gov/publictn/2005/MAB0503.htm)

—Watercolor by Laura Crosby

Hidden Cove at Hidden Cove Beach

The sea was polished, was blue, was pellucid, was sparkling like a precious stone, extending on all sides, all round to the horizon - as if the whole terrestrial globe had been one jewel, one colossal sapphire, a single gem fashioned into a planet. - Joseph Conrad

When the Air is Eating You Alive

Written by Dave Hunt who is a retired research scientist who worked as an entomologist for 30 years. Dave and Lorna have owned a house on Ocean Drive since 2009.

If you are new to Eleuthera, feel like something is biting your ankles, but can't see anything, you have just been introduced to Eleuthera's most annoying resident, the sand fly. In various parts of the world different insects are referred to as sand flies. Some of them can transmit serious diseases such as leishmaniasis, and pappataci fever, both of which are referred to as sandfly fever, but thankfully the sand flies in the Bahamas do not vector any diseases. Sand flies on Eleuthera are biting midges that are closely related to no-see-ums. Their bites usually result in a small, intensely itchy bumps or welts, the strength of which intensifies over a period of 5-7 days before dissipating. Adult sand flies are gray and less than 1/8-inch long. Sand fly eggs are laid on moist soil, mud or sand and cannot withstand drying out. The larvae are present in and around salt marsh and mangrove swamps, and at the edges of ponds.

Sand flies are more active at dusk and dawn, and in hot, humid, cloudy and calm conditions. They are very weak fliers, so most bites are on the lower legs. If you need to be out of doors when sand flies are biting you can tuck long pants into socks or wear a little repellent on your lower legs. If you ask 10 people on Eleuthera what the best repellent is for sand flies, you will probably get 10 different answers and will be lucky if you don't start an argument. Everyone has their favorites repellent, from picaridin, oil of lemon, Eucalyptus, citronella, neem oil, vitamin B1, or just a thick slathering of baby oil. Whenever controlled studies are done on repellents for sand flies and other biting flies it is DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide) repellents that come out on top. DEET has a terrible reputation, it smells awful, can dissolve plastic, and there have been scattered reports linking DEET to various health concerns, but recent studies indicate that it is safe, even for young children. It's still a good idea to use lower concentrations of DEET, as higher concentrations don't offer more repellency they just last longer. Even coverage of the skin is important with sand fly repellents, so we like to use DEET lotions, which also have less odor.

Insecticides, such as the synthetic pyrethroids found in hardware stores on Eleuthera, do kill sand flies, and resorts often spray for sand fly control. While this type of spraying around your house may kill sand flies active on a

given night, they are continually dispersing from the larval habitat and entering areas of human activity. It would require insecticide applications on a daily basis in some areas, and this is not efficient or environmentally sound. We have found that the only effective use of insecticides for sand flies on Eleuthera is applying them to window screens to help keep them out of your house.

There are various things that can be done to control sand flies in your house. Homeowners can install good screening for windows and patios to prevent sand flies from entering. Sand flies can pass through 16-mesh insect wire screen and netting, so a smaller mesh size is required. The small mesh size does also limit air flow through the screens. Sand flies are very weak fliers, so ceiling, window and free-standing fans can be used at high speeds to keep them out of small areas. Turning down the temperature of air conditioners and increasing their fan speed also helps.

Visitors who come from areas where there are no biting midges have the worst reaction to bites, while visitors from areas like Florida have been exposed often enough that they are unlikely to have a strong reaction. Benadryl and topical hydrocortisone products off the shelf are commonly used to treat bites, Anthisan is a popular product in local stores, and some natural products such as aloe vera give some relief. If you are one of those unfortunate people who has a very strong reaction to the bites, and I have one in my family, then you may need to consult your doctor about other medications for the bites. Stronger corticosteroids, such as betamethasone valerate cream, are available by prescription. If you are still not getting relief your doctor may prescribe a product such as Montelukast (Singulair), which is an immune system modulator used to treat asthma and allergies. My family member who had serious reactions to sand flies would start using this product 10 days before visits, and over the course of 3 years reached the point where her reaction to bites is now minor. As a last resort a doctor could prescribe steroid injections, which is a very significant step. Honestly we probably would have put our house on the market before resorting to this.

The more often you are bitten by sand flies the less you react to the bites, so the best solution to itchy bites is longer and more frequent visits to Eleuthera.



Twin Agaves on Twin Beach Road



The Trench



Double Rainbow

Becky and Mark Maurer: Creating Artworks at Hidden Gem

Locksmithing is a hands-on job that requires dexterity and finesse. Mark Maurer never dreamed that thirty-eight years of locksmithing for his own company, “Suburban Safe & Lock, Inc.” was prepping him for the solitary joy of spinning wire around chunky gems of sea glass in Eleuthera, Bahamas.

Becky and Mark Maurer, of Fairfax, VA, discovered Eleuthera quite by accident when their son-in-law, Darren, selected a peaceful destination for a family vacation. The couple wanted an experience minus the glitz and stress of cruise travel. In 2007, the Maurers rented “Bahamas Breeze” on Rainbow Beach and, of course, fell in love with the island. In 2011, Becky and Mark purchased ‘Hidden Gem’ (what a perfect name for a sea glass jewelry studio) located close to Hidden Cove Beach. The sea glass hunt was on! At some point, Becky and Mark decided that instead of simply sifting through the various colors (and substantial quantities of sea glass they’d accumulated), they’d like to actually do something with the “gems”. Mark began experimenting with different gauges and colors of wire, and began spinning up creative designs for pendants, earrings, bracelets, and rings. Becky started crafting (after all, when you’re on the island nearly full-time, you need to find a hobby to enjoy instead of simply working on your house!) Becky’s sea glass Christmas trees, complete with minuscule lights, adorn the couple’s foyer table. Becky makes sea glass pictures, frames, note cards; you name it! Mark extended his wire crafting

by creating miniature bonsai-type trees (palms and other varieties) and anchoring the mini sculptures into rocks, coral, and other materials. His Dremel and diamond-tipped drill bits are continually at work! For the May, 2022 “Teacher Appreciation Week” celebration at P.A. Gibson Elementary School in Alice Town, Mark and Becky donated hand made sea glass rings to all of the teachers. Mark also enjoys painting landscapes, and one of his full-size island murals adorns the couple’s dining room wall.

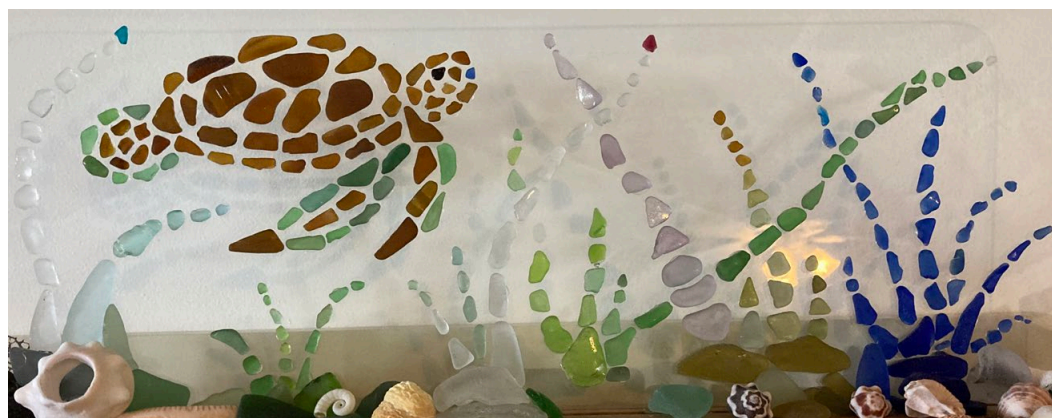
Mark’s previous training at Akron Art Institute and his precision work fitting keys into locks (and cracking a few safes filled with contraband for the US Government) enabled him to develop and hone his skills for his new passion. Mark shares his treasures with people who admire them and isn’t interested at all in exchanging his hobby for a money making venture. Mark generously demonstrates his skills - even gives you lessons if you ask. If, however, you ask him where he and Becky find all the sea glass gems you’re likely to get the typical elusive answer: on the beach.



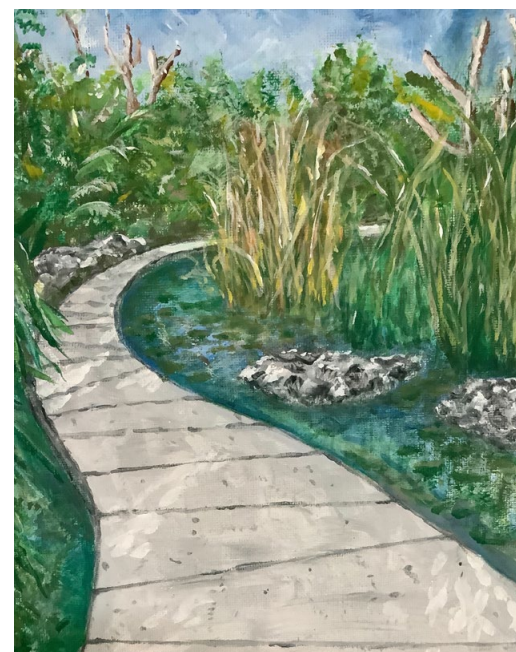
Sea glass rings made for local teachers



Bonsai palm trees crafted with wire



Undersea world capture in sea glass



Mark’s recent painting of the Leon Levy Plant Preserve

A Passion for Island Gardening *by Barbara Fischl*

I'm not a professional gardener by any stretch of the imagination, but it is a pastime that I love fervently. You probably noticed a few of my plantings (other than at my home in Rainbow) such as at the dumpster and in the big planter at Rainbow Beach. My husband thought I was crazy to plant at the Trash Majal but I told him that every place one goes should have some characteristic which pleases the senses.

I do love to grow stuff—almost anywhere! I am constantly cutting and rooting either in soil or water and then, after the roots have taken, I find a permanent abode for the cuttings. Always keep a couple of bottles around

for rooting; wine and liquor bottles are perfect for the task.

Many of us are here for a relatively short period of time, so spending a lot of money on plants doesn't make much sense. There is an abundance of plants in public land from which cuttings can be taken and rooted at home. Some of them like the pleomeles and the Song of India can be rooted directly in soil. Others such as crotons, gardenias and rosemary require an aqueous environment in which to root. Once their roots are visible they should go into pots with soil. I particularly like the crotons which come in a large variety of colors and will brighten up any garden.

I think you will find that the vast majority of homeowners are happy to share their plants so that if, on your travels about the island, you see a planting at someone's home that you would like, knock on the door and ask; hopefully you will be surprised at the positive response you receive. (If it doesn't work, don't tell them I sent you!)

Building a garden is lots of work, but it's also lots of fun and once you get started on it you'll probably be seriously hooked. When you're on the island come by our home and get some cuttings.

Selecting the Right Plants

Ram's Horn:

Great for landscaping

Eleuthera is a plant lover's paradise with varieties of all forms and colors. Some are downright strange in morphology and appearance!

Pithecellobium keyense, also called ram's horn or Florida Keys blackbeard is a flowering plant in the legume family. It grows as a shrub to a small tree and is native to the West Indies. Ram's horn is present throughout the Lucayan Archipelago as well as south Florida, Cuba, and Mexico. The common name derives from the pods which coil

as they mature; hence ram's horn. The fruit bears a strange resemblance to the flesh of ripe red watermelons, even containing shiny black seeds. Ram's horn is an excellent choice for landscaping because of its beautiful powder puff flowers and distinctive coiled fruits. If you look carefully while driving through Rainbow, the shrubs grow in limestone substrate and are prolific throughout the neighborhood. Young branches may occasionally have prickles so take care if you take cuttings!



The Ubiquitous Lutra Gold



Unless you're a south Floridian, from the West Indies or Bermuda, or hail from plant hardiness Zone

10 or greater, sea grape plants growing along the Queen's Highway en route from the airport to Rainbow Bay are the most obvious indicator that you're in a different world. Known for their big rounded leaves (8 to 10 inches in diameter), prominent red or green veins, and clusters of fruit, sea grapes are large attractive shrubs for the landscape. Sea grapes help stabilize sand dunes and provide habitat for wildlife. Their salt and drought tolerant aspects enable them to live and thrive in inhospitable environments. In Florida, the plant has "protected" status. In case you've ever wondered why

the small new leaves begin their lives as gold nuggets, Ethan Fried from the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve provides this explanation: *The young leaves of many plants have a waxy protective coating that protects them from water loss as they grow. As the leaves grow and reach maturity, that coating thickens and becomes more dull. Since the young leaves still have not fully developed all of their green chloroplasts, the other pigments (anthocyanins) show through which gives leaves a gold or red color. The reverse occurs when leaves fall from deciduous trees during autumn.*

Sea grapes are either male or female, so if purchasing plants for the landscape, make certain to purchase several plants to increase your chances of getting grapes. The female sea grape needs a nearby male to cross-pollinate and bear fruit. Flowers are

whitish and tiny that grow in racemes four to twelve inches long. Sea grapes are a popular subject for artists and potters and sturdy dried leaves can be substituted for paper. Cut into strips, punch a hole in one end, attach a string, and you have a unique gift tag. *Coccoloba* comes from "coccolobis" a type of Spanish grape and *uvifera* means "bearing grapes". The correct name is attributed to Linnaeus who ascribed the name in 1759. Sea grapes are native to coastal areas such as Florida and the West Indies and occur on all islands in the Bahamas.

Sea grapes have always attracted interest. A century and a half before cameras were invented, and while traveling in the Bahamas - perhaps Eleuthera - the famous naturalist Mark Catesby captured the sea grape plant in his image, "The Mangrove Grape-Tree."

Guava Duff

Guava duff, the most Bahamian of all desserts, is a heavenly concoction of boiled or steamed dough (the duff) filled with guava, and covered with a sweet buttery rum sauce. Guavas, also called Spanish limes, are native to the Caribbean region but have spread throughout the world as a food crop in subtropical areas. Guavas are immensely fragrant and contain lots of seeds. The fruit, a berry, turns pink to yellowish with maturity and provides more vitamin C than an orange. Guava duff is sold at festivals and various take-aways in Eleuthera and during harvest, are sold in ziplock bags in grocery stores.

Ingredients:

Fresh or canned guavas (3 cans)
 3/4 cup shortening
 4 cups flour
 3 tsp baking powder
 1/2 cup granulated sugar
 1/2 box confectioners sugar (for sauce)
 1 tsp cinnamon
 1 tsp allspice
 1 tsp salt
 3/4 cup milk
 1 egg (beaten)
 1/2 cup butter (for sauce)
 1 tsp boiling water (for sauce)
 4 tbsp rum (for sauce)

Instructions:

Peel, seed, and dice fresh guavas. Strain, reserving the juice. Place the chopped fresh guavas in a saucepan with enough water to cover completely. Add 1/2 cup sugar, cinnamon, and allspice. Bring to medium heat, then simmer until the guava is soft. (If you are using canned guavas, chop, add sugar to taste, season with cinnamon and allspice and strain off syrup which should be reserved for the sauce).

Dough:

In a large bowl combine the flour, baking powder and salt and stir well. Mix in the shortening with a fork or pastry blender. Add the milk and egg and mix well to form a soft dough. Knead until smooth. Let dough 'rest' before rolling out.

Roll out the dough on a floured board or between two layers of parchment paper as though you would for a jelly roll.

Spoon on the cooled and cooked guava and spread evenly. Roll up the dough carefully into a log. Seal the edges to prevent the filling from coming out during cooking.

Wrap the dough in several layers of baking or parchment paper. Add at least two layers of foil and tie tightly with kitchen twine. Place in a large pot of boiling water. Boil gently for about 1 hour. Make sure the dish is large enough for the wrapped duff to fit comfortably, as it will swell during cooking. Dough is done when an inserted knife comes out clean.

After it is cooked, allow it to cool down to warm before cutting it into about 1" thick slices. Top with butter rum sauce and serve warm.



Butter Rum Sauce:

Cream butter until soft.
 Add confectioners sugar.
 Add reserved guava juice.
 Add boiling water and rum
 Beat until smooth and fluffy.

If you can't find fresh guava, don't despair. Substitute 3 cans of guavas, available at most grocery stores, Eleuthera included.

A tip: Let the guava mix cool down before you add it to the pastry base. This makes rolling it up so much easier.

Note: There are instructions online for making guava duff with photographs of each step.

(Source: cooklist.com)

Guava Bread Pudding

Recipe contributed by Linda Knowles

Ingredients:

1 day old white bread loaf
 1/2 cup guavas (canned or fresh) don't use paste.
 1/4 cup butter
 4 eggs
 Whole milk
 1 cup white sugar
 1 tsp vanilla
 1 cup heavy cream

Rum Sauce

2 cups powdered sugar
 3 tbsp butter (melted)
 3 tbsp Rum
 add 1/4 cup diced guava

Instructions:

Soak bread in milk. Squeeze out milk that has not been absorbed. Place soaked bread in mixing bowl. Cream together sugar, butter eggs and vanilla. Pour this mixture over the bread. Add diced guava and heavy cream. Mix all to a cake batter consistency. Pour batter into well greased baking pan.

Bake in preheated oven at 350 until firm, about 50 minutes until knife comes out clean.

When ready to serve, mix and heat ingredients for rum sauce on low heat. Pour over bread pudding and ENJOY!

DEPARTED FRIENDS



An amazing brave woman who was full of life and love, Sylvie Menard, died on August 30, 2022, after a long battle with cancer. Sylvie loved Eleuthera fiercely. Her home in Rainbow Bay, was a special place for Sylvie and her husband. Sylvie will be dearly missed by friends and those who loved her in Rainbow. She is survived by her husband, her daughter Sarah, and her son Trevor.

Sylvie Menard-by Nicky Daciw



Vinai Sawetawen-by Carlotta Willis



This last year we lost a long term Rainbow winter resident, Dr. Vinai Sawetawen. For many years, a lot of Rainbow residents knew him and his late wife, Dr. Nid Sawetawan. They built their home in 1993 and were my close neighbors. I really only got to know Vinai in his later years, during the last eight years he was on the island.

Dr. Vinai, as he was called, was a familiar figure walking on Ocean Drive with his walking stick, often wearing a wrap reminiscent of the clothing worn in his native Thailand; early mornings

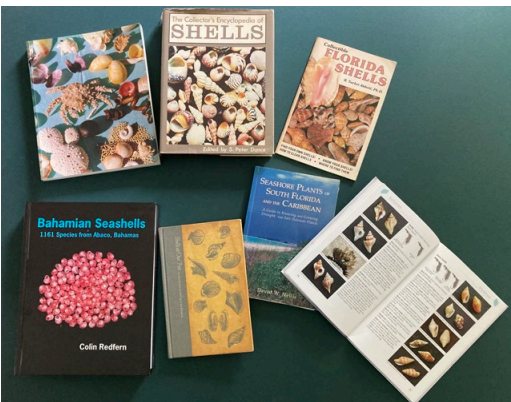
a favorite. He loved nature and was familiar with many of the local plants and herbs on Eleuthera. He made his own tamarind sauce and coconut milk. He had many Bahamian friends and knew the best places to find native plants and fishing spots.

He became more reclusive as he got older, but told stories of world cruises, ballroom dancing in a tuxedo, and social gatherings in Rainbow when his wife was living. He also told many stories of his life as an OB/GYN and made some interesting comparisons between the uterus and a coconut at different stages of ripening. Maybe not in the best of taste, but quite colorful. A number of people would stop by every few days or so to chat about fishing, plants, Buddhism, music, or world travel. He was very interested in people and was quite the raconteur. A Buddhist by birth and tradition, in later life he spent hours reading ancient texts in tiny curled Thai script. Often people interested in Buddhism would seek him out, since he was quite well versed in the philosophy and religion. As he got older, he spent countless hours alone. One winter, Mariano DiGiovanni and I decided that Vinai was getting a bit too reclusive, so we started the Sunday Supper Club. We took turns going over to each other's houses and cooking our traditional favorites, Vinai made Thai food, Mariano, Italian, and I prepared Tex-Mex. My favorite remembrance from those dinners was a conversation one night at Vinai's house regarding a door. Looking at the very broken front door (Vinai had not been repairing many things of late), Mariano said,

"I could fix that door for you". Vinai then launched into a long discussion of "Impermanence, and Non-Attachment", two tenets of Buddhism. When he was finished, Mariano smiled and said, "That may be, but I could still fix it".

Another favorite memory is taking him to Navy Beach. He didn't drive in the end, so sometimes I and others, Bill Albury for one, would take him places. Navy Beach was a favorite and he was like a child again there, diving in and out of the waves. Well into his 80's he would smash a coconut with a machete while holding it in his other hand. "A surgeon's hands", he would say. He also loved listening to classical music and would spend hours resting and enjoying a symphony. He also loved flowers, especially those like plumeria which reminded him of Thailand.

Vinai and I became very close during the pandemic lock downs on Eleuthera, as we felt quite alone in our neighborhood. We also talked to each other when back in the States. He got difficult to contact towards the end as he never answered his phone, so if I missed the call, I could never call him back. I had hoped to visit him in Illinois when I came to do some family business, but he passed away before we could connect. His loving granddaughter, Sarah, has ownership of the home now and we look forward to having her as a scion of his love for Eleuthera. Many of us will miss seeing him cruising up and down Ocean Drive in flop flops and a skirt/wrap.



Guidebooks to Shelling and Planting

Seashell and plant guides are not all-inclusive. When I research shells, I find that internet searches often produce overwhelming information and disappointing results. I oftentimes find researching illustrated shell guides to be much more efficient.

The books featured in the image have been helpful to me in trying to identify shells from Eleuthera's beaches. The gardening book, a gift from a friend, has proven to be an excellent resource for Eleuthera's diverse plants. *Bahamian Seashells* is difficult to find but may reappear on Amazon. I have provided ISBN numbers.

– Laura Crosby

Guidebooks to Shelling and Planting Top to bottom; left to right

A Book of Shells

A Shell Game

Cecile E. Mctaggart

ISBN 0-9699-121-2-9

The Collectors' Encyclopedia of Shells

Edited by S. Peter Dance

McGraw-Hill Book Company

Copyright 1974

ISBN 0-07-015290-X

Collectible Florida Seashells

R. Tucker Abbott, Ph.D.

1984 by American Malacologists, Inc.

ISBN 0-915826-11-9

Bahamian Seashells

1161 Species from Abaco, Bahamas

Colin Redfern

Copyright 2013 by Bahamianseashells.com

ISBN 978-0-9711066-1-1

Shells at Our Feet

An Introduction to Shelling in the Bahamas

Mary Baker Moulding

Copyright 1967

Sea Scapers Publisher

Chicago, Illinois

Seashore Plants of South Florida and the Caribbean

A Guide to Knowing and Growing Drought and Salt-Tolerant Plants

David W. Nerlis

Pineapple Press

ISBN 1-56164-056-5

www.pineapplepress.com

Florida's Seashells

A Beach Comber's Guide Volumes 1 and 2

Blair & Dawn Witherington

Pineapple Press

Sarasota, FL

www.pineapplepress.com

ISBN 978-1-56164-387-5

Puppy Love



A tourist rescued this little potcake as the pup snoozed in the middle of the Queen's Highway. His new owner, Alton Lewis, is obviously quite fond of his lively companion.

Love Your Salty Skin

Contrary to what may be consensus, Eleuthera's climate is not tropical; it is sub-tropical. "High" humidity is not the weather forecast all that often. High humidity does not always accompany **hot**! Human skin reacts to dry weather conditions. Add a misty salty coating, the result of a few minutes outdoors, and it's double-trouble.

To protect your skin from the harsh elements, try this:

Mix 1/2 cup vegetable glycerine and 1/2 cup distilled water.

Mix and pour into a spray bottle.

When your skin feels briny and dry, shake the mixture well and give yourself a spray. Don't forget your toes! The results are almost miraculous!

For fragrance, substitute rose water (also very good for skin) for distilled water.

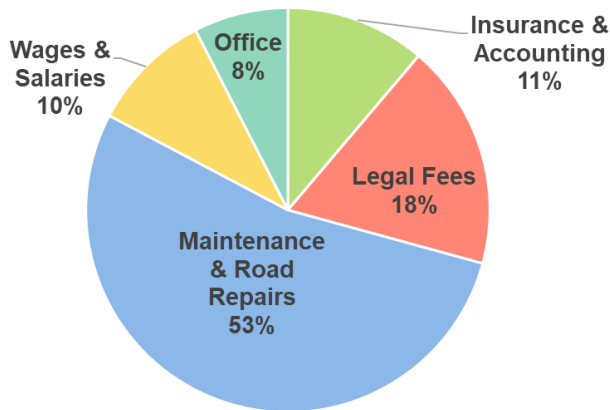
If you don't have distilled water on hand, simply boil two or so cups of water for one minute and cool before pouring in the spray bottle.

Glycerine, also known as glycerol, is derived from plant-based oils and is available in drug stores and from Amazon.

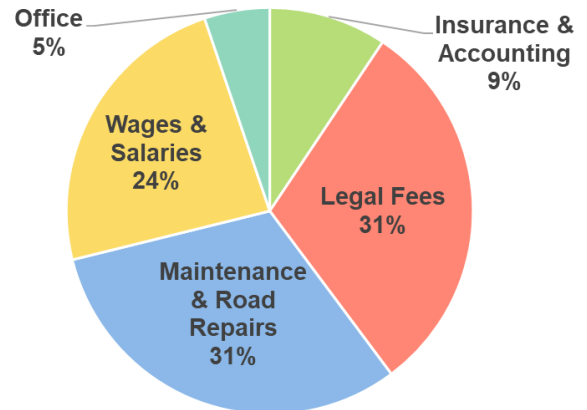
*Climate information source:

<https://www.adaptation-undp.org/explore/caribbean/bahamas>

Expenses to the End of August 2022



Our Forecasted Budget for 2022



VOLUNTEER NEEDED:

Knowledge of Road Construction Methods Desired

Inasmuch as the Association funds its own road repairs, the Board is seeking a volunteer who will head up a committee to assess road conditions, compile repair specifications, and develop and present documents to various audiences. The Board is seeking a volunteer who can meet with contractors, monitor performance, and liaise regularly with the Board of Directors. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact Stan.

A volunteer is urgently needed for this position.

Please send emails to: info@rainbowbay.org.

Fishing for Landlubbers by Ray Crosby

Fishing off the rocks on the northside along Ocean Drive can be precarious and frustrating, but can also be rewarding. Fish species that are commonly caught are yellow-tail snapper, grunt, hind, strawberry grouper, parrotfish and triggerfish. Hind seems to be the most common fish to catch on this side. One might even catch lane snapper, Nassau grouper, albacore, or barracuda. The reason it can be precarious sometimes is just getting to a good, safe place to fish. When the waves are big you can forget about fishing unless you find a ledge high above the sea. Walking on the jagged rock is tough. Even the smooth rock provides some challenges because of the unevenness. And then there is the sea. Even on a fairly calm day a surprise wave can come along and make you have to clear out quick.

The frustration comes from getting hung up on the bottom. This is inevitable. Fishing from a ledge fairly high above the sea can help, but it is still

going to happen. On calm days, like we have in the summer months, this is not so much of a problem.

A lot of Bahamians fish with a hand line with 80 lb. or heavier line. I fish with 30 to 50 pound braided line. I tie a leader off using braid or mono a few feet above the terminal where I tie my sinker. Usually I use a 1/0 or 2/0 Eagle hook or whatever is cheap at the "big box store". I find these hooks will straighten enough to dislodge, then I bend them back into shape. I use a 1 oz. sinker, either a bank sinker or and egg sinker. The bait is usually squid but I have caught fish using chicken or cut bait as well. Some folks prefer artificial lures but I don't like the idea of losing an expensive lure to the rocks or a curious barracuda.

If the sea allows it you can fish at the washout or several other places along that section of shore. There is a good path down to the sea at the north end of Ocean Drive as well. If you decide to give it a try, good luck and tight lines.

Change of Address

The *Rainbow Times* will no longer be available in print format. Please let Stan know if your email address has changed. Also, please notify Vickie Collins, Account Manager, should you relocate or change your RBPOA mailing address:
vickiecollins2013@yahoo.com

For Current COVID-19 Travel Information:

Please visit this website: <https://www.bahamas.com/travelupdates>

Emergency Numbers

Police

Governor's Harbour: 911
919 332-2111 or 332-2117

Hatchet Bay:
335-0086

Clinics

James Cistern: Mon-Wed, 9am-2pm
Hatchet Bay: Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm

335-0091
Resident Nurse
335-0620

Facebook Announcements:

Future announcements will be posted regarding the Annual Litter Pickup, springtime Annual General Meeting and rummage sale

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



When I accepted Stan's call to edit the newsletter, I honestly didn't know what I was getting into! The project has been more or less like starting from scratch. Requests for information turned up short, and it was necessary to find a graphic design company willing to do the work. With that being said, I had no access to previous publishers' templates, etc. that

gave former newsletters a cohesive look. I think Printing Associates (Summerville, SC) did a really nice job creating a refreshing design.

I am tremendously grateful to all of the people who contributed articles, photographs, recipes, anecdotes, etc. However, future newsletters can be so much more informative! Now that the publication is offered in electronic format only, no longer exist the burdensome constraints of page length and the pressures of mailing copies all over the world in time for residents to receive ballots. We do want to make sure everyone receives the newsletter, so if you know of any resident who missed this edition, please notify Stan. Because the newsletter is saved in .pdf format, anyone receiving it can print a hard copy.

If you are interested in being a contributor to the newsletter, please take note of the advertisement requesting (begging) for help. Particularly needed are people on the island either permanently as residents or frequently as property owners who are willing to serve as news reporters. If anyone would like to be featured, cast your reticence aside and send me an article. Perhaps you have a unique Eleuthera hobby, are a gardener, an artist, an historian, a scientist, or even know of someone whose 'story' would make an interesting piece. Is there a "health and beauty" expert? Any contributions are greatly appreciated!

Last, editorials are always welcome. Through those, readers can gain insight into the thoughts and opinions of others in the neighborhood.

I apologize for not having enthusiastically thanked all of the unsung heroes involved in the writing/editing/publishing/distribution of previous publications! Is it too late to say THANK YOU?

Last but not least, does anyone know who installed the gabions?

Comments and suggestions can be emailed to laura166@bellsouth.net



Happy Halloween 2022!
No bones about it!



Artwork by Seth Deitch • sethdeitch.com

Volunteers Needed for Newsletter Staff

Since the newsletter will be presented in electronic format only, the sky is the limit for subjects and articles related to Rainbow Bay. Printing and mailing costs are no longer the determining factor for page length. A staff of volunteers could certainly create a newsworthy and interesting newsletter!

If you would be interested in helping out with any of the following 'beats', please email Stan or Laura (info@rainbowbay.org; laura166@bellsouth.net).

News Reporter - Someone who either lives in Rainbow Bay or visits frequently and can report and photograph current news.

Book Reviewer - Someone willing to provide book reviews for current books that might be of interest to residents. (Minimum of two reviews per year)

Political Correspondent - Someone familiar with Bahamian politics who can write about governmental issues that pertain, particularly, to Rainbow Bay.

Food - The newsletter needs a "foodie" to provide recipes, especially recipes for which all ingredients can be obtained in Eleuthera. (Minimum of two articles per year)

Natural History - A reporter who is interested in the flora and fauna of the island who is willing to write two articles a year.

History - A reporter interested in ferreting out interesting nuggets of history as they relate to Eleuthera. (Minimum of two articles per year)

People - Under a 'human interest' theme, a reporter who can interview residents of the neighborhood (those who are willing to be featured) and submit one article and photos for each newsletter.

Suggestions for future feature articles and panoramic photographs of Eleuthera are greatly appreciated.