



The Rainbow Times

Rainbow Bay Property Owners Association, Eleuthera, Bahamas
Founded 1979 • Whole Number 10 • Spring 2011



The Rainbow Times

Newsletter of the Rainbow Bay Property Owners Association

PMB 8068, 411 Walnut Street,
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043
PO Box EL-25145, Governor's Harbour,
Eleuthera, Bahamas
www.rainbowbay.org • info@rainbowbay.org

Whole No. 10 • Spring 2011

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Email & local telephone; area code 242)

John Kavali, President

(jak@batelnet.bs, 335-0431)

John Watts, Vice-President

(jfw@batelnet.bs, 335-0058)

Matt Hoopes, Secretary

(islesman@batelnet.bs, 335-0535)

Anne Harvey, Webmaster

(info@rainbowbay.org, 335-0510)

Alan Fischl

(fischl1@verizon.net, 335-0403)

Charlie Moore

(charlesmooreiv@hughes.net, 470-8014)

Pat Morrison

(dsmpa@mts.net, 335-0528)

EDITORS

Richard Langworth, Editor

(malakand@langworth.name 335-0615)

Contributing Editors

Matt Hoopes (islesman@batelnet.bs)

Stew Morrison (dsmpa@mts.net)

COVER

"Monarch of The Bahamas"

Photograph by Ian Langworth

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Dear Members and Friends:

I trust all of you had a wonderful holiday season and are looking forward to better times in the New Year. We are working diligently to get this newsletter out in plenty of time to notify you that the Annual General Meeting will be held March 12th 2011, at 10.00 am at the Association Building, followed by our annual picnic. I am looking forward to seeing you there.

Let me give you an update on what has been happening in Rainbow Bay. The most interesting thing is that we had another "rage" (Bahamian for heavy storm with waves and wind)—Mother Nature's way of reminding us humans that she is still the boss. The Hidden Beach curve was destroyed once again. I believe it started on November 19th and lasted for three days. Property owners Bob Kjerulf, John Watts and I took the Kubota and did as much as we could to allow passage of a vehicle through there. Bob drove the tractor to fill in the enormous holes, while John and I moved smaller rocks by hand to fill in the remaining gaps. I must say that if you travel through there, use extreme caution. We will have warning signs up in the near future—the storm destroyed the old ones.

We will be looking into replacing some of the tennis court fence supports. It seems that the salt air and spray has deteriorated a number of them. The rusty ones could unexpectedly fall and hurt someone, so as a precautionary measure it is wise to fix them. Never a dull moment here in our maritime climate! (More on page 4.)

We have noticed an increasing number of properties for sale. We wrote to all realtors asking them to follow our procedures in placing the signs, so as to allow access of our tractor when mowing the street verges. The signs need to be off of the verges and on the respective property, parallel to the road. We are not responsible for any signs that are damaged because they were installed improperly.

We are also looking into increasing the length of the breakwater at Rainbow Beach. I have asked for a bid to have some of the large coral boulders, recently thrown up on Hidden Beach, moved to extend the Rainbow Beach breakwater. I believe that this would help protect the beach from periodic erosion, sparing us the necessity of periodically purchasing replacement sand.

Finally, we will be taking a good hard look at the "quarry" (unpaved) roads, hopefully to effect their repair. The cost of doing business on the Island has risen considerably. Two factors come into play here: finding a reputable firm that will do the work for a price we can afford; and doing all that we can to keep the costs down. I hate spending money and not getting good value for it. A good job should last at least three or four years. If, during repairs, the quarry roads are crowned and rolled properly, rainwater should run off the sides rather than puddle. This will alleviate the terrible ruts that presently run down the center of some of these roads.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting in March. Until then keep well, stay safe and be happy.

—John Kavali

Interim Financial Report

As of 1 December 2010

Since we have not reached the year's end at this writing, accountant Sherry Knowles approves the following figures prepared by the undersigned for the December Board meeting.

Directors believe that the vast majority of members mainly want to know there is cash in the bank, how much was received in dues and fees, and that the all-important Road Fund remains healthy. Ms. Knowles hopes to provide a full Balance Sheet, and our first-ever Profit and Loss statement, by the March meeting.

When available, these will be posted on the member section of the website and will be printed for handouts at the meeting. However, the work cannot begin until the 2010 figures are in and Ms. Knowles can meet with Directors to discuss assets to be listed in the Balance Sheet.

Bank balances (30 November 2010):

Royal Bank checking: \$11,248.76
Sun Trust checking: \$7,162.87
Sun Trust interest bearing: \$100,000
PayPal: \$0.00
Petty Cash: \$782.56
Total Cash on hand: \$109,194.19

Income received:

2010 dues: \$40,954.00
Past due fees: \$13,904.00
Total through 1 December: \$54,858.00

Road Fund Account:

Balance as of end 2009: \$43,793.97*

At least 25% of above income was received by July 1st 2010. Defined policy is to transfer 25% of all income received at June 1st to the Road Fund account. (This year the date was changed to July 1st because the dues invoices were sent out rather late.) Our accountants will determine the amount that reflects 25% and transfer it to the Road Fund account. *Note: transfer is not a cash entry, merely a shift of funds from one General Ledger account to another.

Respectfully submitted,

—JOHN WATTS ❖

Government Work

ABOUT THOSE TAX BILLS

As Association secretary, I've received numerous phone calls and emails questioning the large increases on "unimproved" (empty) lots and whether there is anything I can do about them. All I can do, sadly, is to try to explain what happened, and point you in directions where you might possibly—though doubtfully—receive a reduction.

Over the last year and a half, lots in Rainbow Bay, and indeed throughout the Islands of the Bahamas, have been reappraised by the Bahamian government. The assessed valuation of "unimproved" lots in the Bahamas remained static for many years, and in all fairness, they were well below their realistic value. Annual taxes were as low as \$100 per lot.

While engaged in nationwide reappraisals, the government also increased the tax rate on "unimproved" lots from 1% to 1.5% of assessed valuation. So, in a sense, there were *two* simultaneous increases. Coupled together, these were bound to get everyone's attention.

In the case of Rainbow Bay, the Nassau assessors decided that all waterfront lots on the "south" (Caribbean or more correctly Exuma Sound) side would be valued at \$95,000 each, while waterfront lots on the "north" (Atlantic) side were valued at \$50,000. Lots in the middle, depending on location, view, size, etc., ranged from \$30,000 to \$40,000 each.

The present tax formula is as follows: for the first \$7000 of assessed value, an "unimproved" lot is taxed at a flat rate of \$100; the remainder is taxed at 1.5% of assessed value. Thus, an "unimproved" lot on the Caribbean side would be taxed at \$1420.

The closing date for appeals has come and gone, although depending on when the bills were sent and received, there might be some leeway given. If you are on the island, telephone ahead (242-335-1484) and

make an appointment with Tax Assessor Derek Elden. His office is on the Queen's Highway in Lower Bogue, just before the right turn to North Eleuthera Airport (small white building with arches). Otherwise, call the Valuation Section Office in Nassau: (242) 332-5200.

And aldebest of luck, mon!

—MATT HOOPEES

THE RUMOR MILL

Rumor: "Bahamas Immigration is giving returning homeowners only 30 days' admittance, and demanding they buy a "homeowners card" [reported as up to \$500 per year] to extend their stay—and/or refusing to consider extensions until they are almost at their limits."

Fact: Although allowances vary between 30 and 180 days, you can presently extend your stay easily. Visit Bahamas Immigration in Governor's Harbour (call ahead to be sure they're in: 332-2576), and bring passports and landing cards. They will provide you with a sheet to sign, stating your home address, length of extension required, and how you intend to support yourself while in The Bahamas ("outside income" suffices). They may need two days to process this on your return will stamp your documents accordingly.

The government is encouraging households to buy homeowners cards at \$250, allowing stays up to a year. You need to provide a copy of a deed or other proof that you have a home elsewhere. However, we are reliably informed that this is very much an "evolutionary" development and Immigration is not insisting on immediate owners card application at this time. Our impression is that the policy may be changed or moderated by next year; for the moment, don't worry.

The Bahamas is trying to sort visitors by type and get a grip on illegals (it is hardly alone in this respect), and mainly wishes to assure that no visitor becomes a burden on the nation.

—RICHARD LANGWORTH ❖



Left and right: Ocean Drive before and after. Below: The repair team of John Watts, tractor driver Bob Kjerulf and John Kavali, in a tremendous effort, made a passage of sorts. Just another day...



PHOTOS BY JOHN KAVALI & THE AUTHOR

Nature's Rages

Matt Hoopes (islesman@batelnet.bs)



To Bahamians, a “rage” is a sub-hurricane tropical storm with high winds and terrific waves, which usually leaves ample evidence of its passing. We had one in November (see also President’s Letter, page 2), and it effectively tore up Ocean Drive at Hidden Beach curve. John Kavali and John Watts were joined by homeowner Bob Kjerulf to clean up the mess. Bob, who owned a farm, is an excellent tractor driver and kindly offered his services, which were truly appreciated. The photos above show the damage, the repair and the work crew. The “wall” is the height of the hole where the road was washed away and was about six or seven feet deep. There was a lot of rubble, the worst I’ve ever seen it in my sixteen years on the island. Many congratulations to Bob and the two Johns for turning out to minimize the damage and keep Ocean Drive “open”—more or less.

- If a cliff fell into the ocean and no one was there, would there be a splash? Sadly, Rainbow Bay’s shadiest, most secluded and smallest beach is no longer. Actually, Little Twin Beach is still there—but unless you’re very agile and a skilled climber, you won’t be able to access it.

Sometime between mid-October and early November, the long, overhanging cliff, which created grottoes for bathers to hide from the world, broke away and crashed down to the beach below.

How many times have you laid on your beach towel in some coral cave like Little Twin Beach, reading

in the shade, and looked up to wonder to yourself, “What if...?” Well—it finally happened. Good-bye, Little Twin Beach. ❖



Left: Matt Hoopes, Barbara Vesey and the new welcome sign on Queen’s Highway opposite the tennis court. Matt made the sign and Barbara painted it.

Right: Rainbow Bay residents present at the end of October enjoyed a Halloween party at Haynes Library included John and Stella Randall.

Opening Up: "Every Year Sumpen Different, Mon"



We look forward with varying degrees of dread to the annual rite of opening our house after eight months' inactivity. Personally I hate surprises, which should disqualify me from owning a home here—but our island is too beautiful to resist.

Readers: Please contribute your own "opening up" experience—provided you tell us what you did to prevent ever being surprised again.

2007: Year of the Door

Cruising up from the airport, we turned into our drive with pleasure. Everything looked shipshape and trim. I pressed the remote for our garage door opener (my only luxury, I like to say), and the door started up. There was a loud crash. I saw the door go lopsided, then lurch to a stop half-way up with the left side higher than the right. Welcome home!

Living here is like living on a boat. The salt air attacks everything, and that includes items you never worry about up north, like garage door cables. One of our cables, just four years old, had corroded and snapped.

Solution: Of course there were no cables to be had. Though I've heard rumors that they now exist, I've since brought down enough to restrung my garage—naturally there's been no break since. At the time I had only one of those long dog leash cables, brought to secure our small sailboat—same gauge wire, with vinyl coating. After strengthening the wooden brackets, and four-letter encouragement of my ancient tin snips, the dog cable was in place and working! I'm warned that the salt air will attack the plastic coating, too—so I keep it well lubed with Armor-all, and spray the pulleys, chains and cables with lithium grease and silicon.

Incidentally, if you *do* want a garage door opener, spend the money for a chain-drive (consider LiftMaster). Avoid the cheaper worm-drive rigs with printed circuits. You know what island air does to printed circuits?

2008: Year of the Rat

Bob Qualls, who built "Viewpoint" on Lazy Shore Road, advised me to forestall mold with a whole-house extractor fan, controlled by a humidistat. (Not a thermostat—your enemy is humidity, not heat.) Set it for around 80%. Add ventilated soffits, leave one ceiling fan permanently on, and you'll stop mold—but you need an air intake. I used to create a flow by cracking a screened window an inch or so behind its screen and shutter. Big mistake.

First thing we noticed was the toilet paper. It snaked from the guest bathroom into the hall, into the spare bedroom, around the beds and into a closet. Rats, who had chewed through the screen, were using it as a dispenser. We evicted three, who had peed all over the desk they used as an apartment and made fluff-nests in the closet.

Solution: For air intake, crack no window wider than a hair—not enough to let anything in. I now use an awning window, which barely has to be opened to get a good draw. Even then, I surround the crack with chicken wire. With or without an extractor fan, leaving one ceiling fan permanently on "low" will help to combat mold.



"Inside view of rat culture": Barney is at upper right next to window frame.

2009: Year of "Barney"

Next time around the rats failed to gain access, but settled for cozy nests between the shutters and glass, peeing everywhere, requiring cleanup and repainting. I think I encouraged their visits by planting large sections of sea lettuce, providing plenty of cover too close to the house. In our bathroom

window, we could actually see the occupant, whom we named Barney, looking at us with his beady black eyes while relaxing in his nest of twigs and leaves—an inside view of rat culture we really didn't need. Barbara watched as I began folding back the accordion hurricane shutter. As it unfolded, Barney inched deeper into his corner. As the last panel folded, he took a flying leap off the top of the shutter and a swan dive into the sea lettuce, ignoring my plea, "Barney, come back—all is forgiven!" (I had this big club...)

Solution: Jovanka Jovanovic's famous "Rat Hotel." For outside use, cut the top off a plastic gallon jug. Lay it on its side and insert a tray of Decon and a bowl of water. The jug keeps the rain off—Decon is ineffective if soggy. The water bowl works when the rat, after stuffing himself with Decon, immediately wants a drink. Decon: curse of the drinking rat.

I did not need Jovanka's gallon jugs since I had my own hotels: the space between the windows and storm shutters. I left fresh trays of Decon and bowls of water, instructing my helper to keep the bowls full. Result this year: not a rat nor a nest in sight—but the trays were empty. Adios, Barney.

2010: Year of the Termite

Subterranean termites, no bigger than a pinhead, can reduce your kitchen cabinets to rubble inside of a week. A friend had a chest of drawers: looked fine until she opened a drawer, whereupon the whole thing collapsed.

We take precautions against termites by having an exterminator (ask anyone for recommendations) spray the perimeter once every three years. They also spray into a small PVC pipe built into the foundation, accessing the rubble under the house. Our last spraying was January 2009. It was still potent.

Last April I made the mistake of leaving a cocoa mat outside the front door. When we returned in December, the mat was powder. Cocoa mats must be like hot fudge sundaes to hungry

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Final Approved Minutes, 2010 Annual General Meeting

The meeting was held Saturday March 13, 2010 at the Association Building, Rainbow Bay, attended by Board members John Kavali, John Watts, Perry Pinder, Dick Longchamps, Pat Morrison, and Matt Hoopes, plus 81 members and friends (list available).

DIRECTORS REPORT: John Kavali read a report explaining a resolution adopted by six of seven directors prior to their March 11th board meeting to disqualify a candidate for Board office for using official communications to solicit votes. Discussion followed and a letter was read. A motion to rescind the Board's action was not seconded. On a point of order, it was stated that there is no provision in the by-laws permitting members to reverse a decision of the Board affecting elections which were within the Board's direction.

The president noted that treasurer Bill Hoffman has resigned after long and significant service, and praised the contributions of Bill and Donna Hoffman to the Association over many years.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Matt Hoopes reported that 105 proxies were sent in by members unable to attend the meeting (list available) and that the following candidates had been elected to the 2010-11 Board of Directors: Alan Fischl, Anne Harvey, Matt Hoopes, John Kavali, Charlie Moore, Pat Morrison, John Watts (vote tabulation available). The new board was seated immediately.

MINUTES ADOPTION: Alan Fischl, seconded by Anne Harvey, moved to accept the 2009 Minutes; adopted unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: John Kavali reported that the informal "meet and greet" held on the new deck two evenings earlier was fun for all and will be repeated several times a year. He spoke of current road projects and received with appreciation suggestions from members with experience in such work. Association gardener Max's clean up of Queen's Highway in the Rainbow area is an example of the work that goes on to maintain our community. Marina Esfakis suggested that we post "do not litter" signs on the highway through Rainbow. John also mentioned that future minutes

of meetings will be available on the members' section of the website.

TREASURER'S REPORT: In the absence of the Treasurer Perry Pinder summarized the financial statements printed in the last Newsletter. Copies of the same were made available. John Kavali said it will take some time to get the treasurer's work back to normal and asked all to be patient.

OLD BUSINESS: President Kavali explained that Mr. Deal of the Governors Harbour's Building Department had retired and had not yet been replaced; when he is, the Board will represent its request regarding Rainbow's abandoned houses.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Building Regulations:** John Kavali said it was impractical or prohibitively expensive to seek permission from each Association member to increase minimum square footage of new homes from 600 to 1000 square feet. This proposal has therefore been dropped, but the Board has adopted a resolution to increase the height restriction from 16 feet to 18 feet as requested by Governor's Harbour Building Department. Dick Longchamps reported that 17 applications were submitted in 2009, with six starts in the last six months, prior to the increase in application cost.

- **Hotel Tax for Renters:** John Kavali reported that taxes on unimproved lots have increased 50%, and the government requires those renting their houses to pay 6% tax on receipts. Matt Hoopes said the government may amend this act, but meanwhile, those renting need to speak with Mrs. Johnson at the Ministry of Tourism in Governor's Harbour.

- **Internet Booster Station:** John Kavali explained that BTC's Dwight Cambridge had offered equipment for a "booster station" allowing the DSL signal to reach all areas of Rainbow Bay. Matt Hoopes said this would also enhance phone reception, and offered a sign-up sheet to determine member interest in DSL and land lines. The station might cost \$3500 and funds would have to be budgeted, or raised in part by donations.

- **Sleepy Shore Triangle:** Vanessa Clement spoke of the need to clean up

the corner of Sleepy Shore Drive and enhance the area with a small park. President Kavali stated that while it was a good idea, we would have include the costs in a future budget.

- **Association Building:** John Kavali reported on the cost of the new deck and described the new storage room, where new combination locks will provide access to members for tables, chairs and other equipment.

- **Donation Fund:** The Board wishes to establish an annual \$1000 budget for donation requests by local or community groups, with a maximum donation of \$250 for each project. Stew Morrison asked that we not limit our donation to \$250 if the donation is for something to benefit to the whole community, such as a local-based ambulance or fire truck.

- **Re-Zoning Application:** The directors will introduce a Re-Zoning Application requiring owners wishing to change a lot from one zone to another to pay a fee of \$500.

- **Cable Bahamas:** Vice President John Watts said that Cable Bahamas has written that the density of homes in Rainbow Bay does not make cable service economically feasible at this time.

- **Mailboxes:** Matt Hoopes said that Governor's Harbour Post Office needs more mailboxes for those in that area and offered sign-up sheets for those interested in transferring their mailbox/delivery services to boxes in our new storage area. The fee would remain at \$30 and delivery would be made three times a week. Those with boxes in Governor's Harbour would have to change their address to Rainbow Bay.

- **Defibrillator Purchase:** Director Pat Morrison suggested that the community purchase a defibrillator, placed where all members could get to it quickly. Cost would be about \$2500. While all thought it would be a good item to have, the cost for it too would have to be budgeted. Pat will continue to investigate and members thoughts as to its location are welcome.

QUESTIONS FROM FLOOR: A member asked if an accountant firm would be taking over the treasurer's job, and whether there would be annual >>

RAINBOW BAY PROPERTY OWNERS ASSN. PROXY: 2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

If you are unable to attend the Annual General Meeting scheduled for March 12, 2011, please complete this proxy and return it by first class mail no later than February 28 to RBPOA LTD. - PROXY, PMB 8068, 411 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043 ••or•• P.O. Box 25145, Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera, Bahamas. If, owing to delays, you are unsure if your proxy will be received in time, please email Matt Hoopes, Secretary (islesman@batelnet.bs) and tell him your proxy is in the mail. Note: The former practice of a scheduled AGM no one attends, followed by an "extraordinary" AGM, was abolished by members in 2009.

The undersigned member of the above named Company hereby appoints (check only one):

The Board of Directors **OR** Attending Member: _____

to attend and vote on my behalf on any and all matters before the Board and/or Membership at the abovenamed meeting.

NAME (please print) _____ Number of lots: _____

Signed: _____ Dated the _____ day of _____, 2011

LOT(s): _____ BLOCK: _____ SECTION: _____

NOTE: THIS FORM MUST BE ORIGINAL (WITH YOUR ADDRESS LABEL ON REVERSE SIDE) AND MUST BE POSTMARKED BEFORE THE DATE OF THE SAID MEETING, EVEN IF YOU ALSO USE EMAIL.



MINUTES, from page 6...

audits. John Kavali said that the treasurer's work would be split three ways and that probably it would be easy to have a yearly audit. George Chiulli suggested that the Board look into repairing or purchasing a new compressor. Another member suggested that we look into the use of asphalt for road repairs.

GRATEFUL THANKS: John

Kavali thanked Perry Pinder for his extended service as director and president, and in particular for his local knowledge and willingness to continue as our liaison in Nassau; and Dick Longchamps for his serving as a director and a member of the Building Committee, and his willingness to continue to serve as building officer. John also thanked Cindy and Sherry for their invaluable service as election scrutineers; Enid Morris for her tireless work in updating the member contact lists, and Gail Longchamps for her work as social events director. Finally he thanked fellow directors for putting up with him for the last two years. He thanked everyone for coming, advised that drinks were on ice and that Billy Stubbs would be bringing the food shortly.

Upon motion made, seconded and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

MATT HOOPES, SECRETARY ❖

ADVERTISEMENTS

Use www.rainbowbay.org to locate on map.

Section A, block 5, lots 34-35-36, Signal Light Rd. Nearly 30,000 sq. ft., elevations 110-130', Atlantic & Caribbean views, fees current. Buyer pays fees & costs. Asking US\$39,000 each. Phyllis LeFevre (phyllislefevre@yahoo.com). Tel: (281) 446-4844.

Section B, block 16, lot 4, between Buccaneer Rd. & Queens Highway. 9600 sq.ft., elevation 35-45'. Original owner. US\$52,500. Hubert W. Van Gessner, 5111 Sacred Feather Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80916. Tel: (719) 390-3029.

Section B, block 17, lot 4, Spyglass Road, oversize ocean view lot. Asking US\$36,000, buyer responsible for all costs associated with sale. Mary Mason (marymason429@msn.com). Tel: (732) 492-0582.

Section B, block 27, lot 1. Atlantic & Caribbean view, 14,180 sq. ft., approx. elevation 45-50', taxes & fees paid. US\$30,500 with split of legal and transfer fees. Pam Darrell, 1112 Kruper St., Hopewell VA 23860. Tel: (804) 712-1855.

Section C, block 35, lots 13-14-15, Whalespout Road. Lot 13, 10,800 sq. ft., elevation 70'. Lots 14 and 15 each 9600 sq. ft., elevation 65-70'. Lot 15 has some sea view to the south. Paved roads, electrical and phone lines are up. Beach 10 minutes away. Not available separately. US\$37,000 for all. Bianca Jimenez (bijimenez@comcast.net). Tel: (561) 308-5687.

Section D, block 43, lot 19, Fisherman's Drive. 13,510 sq.ft., 66' on ocean, 155' on road, 150' deep, within small cove with N and NE views. US\$69,000 OBO net (fees and costs to be paid by purchaser). John Wakelin, wakelinteam@gmail.com. Tel: (419) 704-3383 EST. ❖

OPENING UP, from page 5...

termites. From there they attacked the house, leaving several ugly trails up the walls toward the soffits.

The invasion, only a few weeks before we arrived, looked worse than it was. Our heads-up caretaker spotted the trails and phoned our exterminator, who came to check, finding only dead bodies. Although some did get into the house, they crossed the poison perimeter—and that did them in.

Subterranean termites must return to the ground; those that don't die inside take the poison back to the nest. I had the perimeter and vent hole resprayed: \$475, thanks very much, welcome to the island, mon!

Solution: Store or use no wood that is not pressure treated. Never use natural fiber mats—if you have one now, toss it, and replace it with a vinyl one. Finally, have your perimeter treated for termites no less frequently than every five years, less if you can afford it. Some contractors offer a five-year guarantee; ask around. In lieu of professional spray (which is environmentally friendly), old timers use a perimeter dousing of Diesel fuel. I'm not sure the Ministry of Environment would approve, however.

Tell us your own tale of "Opening Up," and what you did to prevent it ever happening again! ❖



Rainbow Bay Property Owners Assn.
PMB 8068, 411 Walnut Street
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043, USA

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PREFERRED PROPERTY OWNER:



ELEUTHERA GOES NATIVE: THE LEON LEVY NATIVE PLANTS PRESERVE • BY STEW MORRISON

Rainbow residents are excited over The Leon Levy Native Plants Preserve, on Banks Road near Governor's Harbour, which opens this spring. Inspired by longtime winter resident Shelby White under the auspices of the Bahamas National Trust (BNT), 25 acres of bush are being transformed into a unique nature preserve. Financed through the Leon Levy Foundation, the site is named for Mrs. White's late husband, who had a deep interest in native plants used for "bush medicine."

When Mrs. White approached The Trust with her vision, she wanted it here because of her association with Eleuthera. Among sites surveyed by the Trust's botany consultant, Dr. Ethan Fried, the Banks Road location contained the best combination of native trees and plants, as well as as proximity to the major community of Governor's Harbour. The land, purchased by the Leon Levy Foundation, will serve to showcase native plants and their traditional medicinal uses. It will serve as an educational facility as well as a tourist destination.

Detailed planning and budgeting took place over many months. Work began in 2009 to create an access road and inventory indigenous plants so that interpretative trails could be created. The many trails now developed and will feature discreet signage to identify the



plants and highlight their medicinal uses. Great effort has been spent to remove invasive species such as Casuarina and vine. Site preparation is under the capable direction of BNT staff member Camilla Adair and her staff.

The Levy Preserve will include an education center, a waterfall, pond and gift shop. A number of Bahamian plants not originally found on the site have been brought in and planted with many more to follow.

At an "open house" in February 2010, Mrs. White described her vision and expectations. The event was attended by The Bahamas Minister of the Environment The. Hon. Earl Deveaux; the then-President of the National Trust, Glen Banister; educators; local government officials and many BNT council members, including this writer. Local ladies prepared and served samples of bush medicine teas.

On its opening in the spring, this exciting addition to the Eleuthera landscape will provide a fresh and intriguing destination for residents, guests and students to learn about Bahamian flora and its traditional uses. Discussions are in progress with education authorities and Bahamas Fast Ferries to enable students from throughout The Bahamas to travel to the Preserve for this unique educational experience. ❖