

# Andros Conservancy and Trust

# Ancat Newsletter Spring 2015



## Bahama Caves Diver Kakuk visits Andros



All roads lead to the Lighthouse Yacht Club in Andros Town on Tuesday 31st March 2015. At 7 pm Brian Kakuk will be presenting the latest findings, pictures and information from The Bahamas Caves Research Foundation (BCRF), this organization is dedicated to scientific investigations, exploration and conservation of blue holes, underwater caves and dry caves found throughout the Bahamian archipelago. The BCRF is comprised of scientists, explorers and conservationists working with the common goals of educating Bahamians and others on the uniqueness of

the Bahamas underground and the treasures of both past and present eco-systems found beneath these warm, sun-drenched islands.

The picture was taken in an underground cave in Abaco using a GoPro pole-cam. The shots required a go-pro and video light mounted on an 8 foot expandable pole. The cave where these crystals are located is inaccessible by a diver, so they used the pole cam to send the GoPro in 8 feet between delicate formations under a ledge in the Glass Factory section of an area called Ralph's Cave. These are the largest dog-tooth spar crystals ever discovered in the Bahamas, reaching 6 inches in length. The "plumb-bob" formations hanging from soda straw stalactites are nothing short of stunning, says Brian.



Plumb bob formation

Brian is planning to share adventures and findings from his hundreds of hours spent diving under the Bahamas, with a stunning slide presentation, talk and question and answer session. Visit their website at: [Www.bahamascaves.com](http://Www.bahamascaves.com)

## Its time to plant your Pigeon peas

March is a good month to plant your pigeon peas seeds. Pigeon peas will grow just about anywhere. They can cope with poor soils and little water. Of course they will grow faster, bigger, better, and live longer if they have



plenty of water and nutrients. Pigeon peas are a staple food crop that provides good protein, the flowers attract bees, and the plant improves soil fertility by fixing atmospheric nitrogen.

And by golly they taste great too!

## 2014 Hottest year on record

2014 has taken the title of hottest year on record since 1880. The upward march of the world's average temperature since 1891 is a trademark of human-influenced global warming. The new global temperature record completely exposes the myth that global warming has stopped. All 10 of the hottest years on record have come after 1998.

"There is mounting evidence all around the world that the Earth is warming and the climate is changing in response to rising levels of greenhouse gases in

the atmosphere. "Climate change is happening, and as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, national scientific academies and scientific organizations across the world have all concluded [that] human activities, particularly burning of fossil fuels and deforestation, are primarily responsible."

During 2014, the average temperature across global land and ocean surfaces was 1.24°F (0.69°C) above the 20<sup>th</sup> century average. This was the highest among all 135 years in the 1880–2014 record

In 2014, the globally-averaged sea surface temperature was 1.03°F (0.57°C) above the 20<sup>th</sup> century average.

YOU CONTROL CLIMATE CHANGE

TURN DOWN  
SWITCH OFF  
RECYCLE  
WALK  
CHANGE !!!!!



In the Bahamas we can all make small changes in OUR daily routines to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

## Andros Conservancy and Trust

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**Ancat's mission is to protect, preserve, enhance and restore the natural resources of Andros Island and its marine environment through education, conservation and management for future generations.**

**We're on the web:**

**[Www.ancat.net](http://www.ancat.net)**

**facebook**  
**ANCAT ANDROS**

**Cans for kids:** Collect your soda cans for recycling, drop them at the Ancat office to be included in the next shipment. All funds are donated to local schools.

**Fresh Creek Marine Restoration** is an ongoing project which addresses the debris in the largest, most vibrant creek in the country. So far we have removed 28,850 intact glass bottles from the creek.

### Love Hill Mangrove Restoration

Mangroves are some of the most important ecosystems in The Bahamas, protecting shorelines during hurricanes and storm surges by breaking up the waves, providing habitats for marine and bird life, supporting fisheries and maintaining the health of the coral reef. All along the shores of Andros we have mangrove forests which are a contributing part of our lifestyle. However, in areas the productivity and life of the mangroves are in danger due to a lack of fresh flowing

ocean water, needed to irrigate the roots. In Love Hill, Andros the mangroves have been seriously impacted by the breaking and clogging of the culverts which



were built to maintain tidal flow. Many problems accompany the death of mangroves: firstly, the smell of methane gas, then the creatures which depend upon the healthy mangrove for life can no longer live there and during a storm a tidal surge could inundate our coastal community with salt water. Ancat has been short listed by the European Outdoors Conservation Association (EOCA) and we need your VOTE to help us get the funding we need to preserve the mangroves. Go to <http://www.outdoorconservation.eu/project-voting-category.cfm?catid=5> look for Love Hill Mangrove Restoration and cast your VOTE for this project.

[www.outdoorconservation.eu/project-voting-category.cfm?catid=5](http://www.outdoorconservation.eu/project-voting-category.cfm?catid=5) look for Love Hill Mangrove Restoration and cast your VOTE for this project.

## Andros Conservancy and Trust's PROJECTS for 2015

Ancat has developed projects which we'll highlight in 2015, please give a helping hand to make these projects successful this year.

Of course you could donate to keep our projects alive, funding makes things happen, or you could vote for our European Outdoor Conservation Project (EOCA) which is outlined below, or help with our youth projects, volunteer at the office, collect your soda cans for recycling or simply take a bucket or a bag with you when you go out walking and pick up a bag of trash. EVERYONE can do something to make Andros the best little island in the Caribbean, with the best fishing, birding, hiking, blue hole visiting, swimming, snorkeling and scuba diving available any where. It makes good sense to actively protect a place you love whether you live here or visit on vacation.

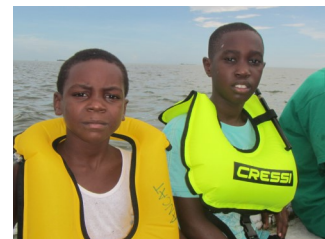
### Light our darkest night

Solar powered lights could do so much to help the people of Andros. A solar panel with a couple of lanterns would provide electricity for homes during storms or times when electricity was cut off. Solar power can be used to charge cell phones and will cut down on our reliance on the burning of fossil fuels to make power for lighting. Global warming affects the ocean and is causing environmental degradation on the coral reef leading to a decrease in fisheries and the death of coral. Ancat has applied to CARIBSAVE and Lyford Cay Foundation for funding to purchase solar lighting

Shown below a solar panel with three lights and cell phone charger.



### Summer Eco School 2015



Every summer Ancat arranges a free Summer Eco School for the youths of the district, during this time up to 25 youths get the opportunity to have some outdoors fun while they learn about the natural environment of the island. Our children will learn to swim and snorkel, they see first hand how the coral reef looks, then they will learn how important a healthy coral reef is to the future of the island. They participate in a community day, where they will work to restore an area of natural beauty and they will be instructed in some science, language and art. We feed the youths two meals a day and focus on instructing about the principles of reuse, reduce and recycle: helping to make our youths great 21 st Century citizens of Andros and training the future custodians of this island.