



TROPIC NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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RECYCLING & ANTI-LITTER MONTH

Governor Alexander Farrelly has declared March "Recycling and Anti-Litter Month" in the Virgin Islands. In the proclamation, Farrelly pointed out that the recycling program is important to the health and safety of the environment.

Not only can recycling help the local environment, but it can also put money in the pockets of local residents. The V.I. Anti-Litter and Beautification Committee's redemption program provides a pay-off of 5 cents for every two cans. The St. Thomas/St. John district recently paid more than \$5,000 on better than 208,000 cans.

The Commission also has plans to introduce educational programs in local school, with the theme "Re-Think, Re-Use, Recycle."

According to Jim Donahue of St. Croix's Virgin Recycling, in a three-month period from October 1992 to January of this year, 4.5 million cans were turned in. More than one million cans were estimated to have been gathered from roadsides and beaches! Since opening in late 1989, the company has processed over 5 million pounds of metal, including aluminum cans, brass, copper, and stainless steel. A portion of the proceeds are donated to the Boys and Girls Club of St. Croix. Virgin Recycling's future plans include collection of paper, glass, and plastic.

WHERE TO RECYCLE

St. Croix

Virgin Recycling in Anna's Hope (Mon. - Sat. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.) or near airport (Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.)

St. John

The Creek parking lot (Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

St. Thomas

Bovoni Landfill entrance (Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

Fort Christian parking lot (Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

Four Winds Plaza parking lot (Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

For more information, call 777-3073

WAYS TO REDUCE OR RE-USE

- * Bring your own sacks to the grocery store.
- * Use rags and cloth diapers instead of paper towels and disposable diapers..
- * Buy products in bulk sizes whenever possible. Avoid over-packaged, single-serving portions.
- * Wash your laundry in cold water to save energy.

EARTH DAY ON ITS WAY

Earth Day 1993 will be celebrated with a range of activities on all three islands during the month of April.

Earth Day originated in the early 1970's as a means of bringing national attention to the issue of ecology and the need to preserve the earth's natural resources.

The event has now become internationally observed, with global issues such as the destruction of tropical rain forests, ozone depletion, and the pollution of our oceans being addressed.

On St. Thomas, an Earth Day Fair will be held at the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) golf course and clubhouse, Sunday, April 18. The fair will take place between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., and will feature displays of environmentally-sound products or services available in the Virgin Islands, along with food sales, music, and exhibits by school groups and government agencies including Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) and Public Works.

The event is sponsored by UVI, The Cooperative Extension Service (CES), the Eastern Caribbean Center, Virgin Islands Marine Advisory Service (VIMAS), and the Environmental Association of St. Thomas/St. John (EAST). For information, call CES at 774-2957.

St. Croix will hold a similar fair on April 22 in Fredericksted, and on April 23 two local art galleries; the Gilliam-King Gallery, and the Waterhouse Gallery, will host Earth Day Art Shows. For details, contact the St. Croix Environmental Association (SEA) at 773-1989.

Activities on St. John include an "Earth Day/Island Pride Day" April 17 at the NPS Ballfield Park in Cruz Bay. The event, sponsored by the St. John Community Foundation, will take place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For additional information, contact Wally Leopold at 776-7709, or Cheryl Miller at 776-6179.

ENVIRO-NOTE

Environmentally Safe Household Cleaner

Mix Together:

1/2 cup Ammonia

1/2 cup White Vinegar

1/4 cup Baking Soda

1/2 gallon Water

PROFILE - SUSAN PENN

Many of our employees spend their days in the field, conducting seabird surveys or collecting fish samples. This is the essence of the work performed by the Division.

But perhaps even a more vital task is handled by Susan Penn, fiscal officer for DFW. A fourteen year veteran of government service, she has worked for the Division for 13 years.

For Susan, a day's work does not mean trekking through a mosquito-filled mangrove swamp. Her task is even more challenging - she balances our checkbook!

Actually, Susan is responsible for development and administration of financial operations for the Division's federally funded research programs.

During her employment, funds for a new Division of Fish & Wildlife office were appropriated. She was able to wade through miles of federal red tape to see the construction of the building become a reality.

Susan's passion for her work goes beyond the job - she is also a member of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA). She also enjoys walking and swimming.

She and her husband Louis have three sons.

"CREATURE TEACHERS"

Children are curious about wildlife and the environment, and are eager to learn. Unfortunately, listening to a lecture by a wildlife biologist is often "too boring".

The Environmental Education Bureau is pleased to announce a new program designed for kids which uses puppets to capture their attention.

The "Creature Teachers", an assortment of furry, friendly hand puppets, were donated by the Coca-Cola Bottling Company and manager Jim Farlinger.

The puppets will present shows at local schools, and will be made available on a loan basis to groups wishing to stage their own productions.



KESTREL CONDOS

It's breeding season for the American Kestrels, and they need their privacy.

The birds, which resemble very small falcons and are locally known as the Killy-Killy or Sparrow hawk, normally nest in hollow

trees. Unfortunately, a number of environmental factors have affected their natural habitat, leaving them without suitable nesting areas.

Enter Dr. David Nellis and the biologists at the Division of Fish & Wildlife. Nesting boxes have been built that will allow the kestrels their safety and privacy. The boxes are constructed of heavy-duty cypress and stainless steel, and are roomy enough to accommodate a breeding pair and their offspring.

The boxes are being offered free of charge to anyone interested in helping these locally endangered birds. Ideally, the boxes should be mounted high above surrounding vegetation, near open ground where the birds may hunt. Nellis has offered to help with the installation of boxes on St. Thomas. For more information, please contact the DFW office at 775-6762.



QUOTE

"A vision without a task is but a dream, a task without a vision is drudgery, a vision with a task is the hope of the world."

- Church Inscription, Sussex, England, 1730



Trees were saved by printing on recycled paper.



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