



NEWSLETTER

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Pool 1, Caura River

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CELEBRATING OUR RIVERS

For the first time since the global pandemic the AARP was able to host an event at a local river in commemoration of World Rivers Day which was celebrated internationally on Sunday 25th September. The popular Caura River Recreation Site (Pool 1) was the location selected for a public outreach targeting visitors to the site. Joining us at the event were partners and supporters from both private organisations and government agencies. These included the Forestry Division, Caribbean Bottlers TT (Coca Cola), the Every Bottle Back TT initiative, the Environmental Management Authority (EMA), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM), the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) and the El Socorro Centre for Wildlife Conservation.

Exhibitors provided information, demonstrations and educational material to enlighten the audience on a variety of topics including water resources, environmental stewardship, floods and other disasters, recycling and wildlife protection. Visitors to the booths showed a high level of interest and expressed their pleasure at having an opportunity to learn so much from the various organisations present. They were able to pet wildlife, play games and participate in quizzes - walking away with lots of prizes and tokens.



Adopt A River staff with partners from Caribbean Bottlers Ltd and the Every Bottle Back Initiative



UNDP and ODPM



El Socorro Center for Wildlife Conservation



Environmental Management Authority



Wildlife Department, Forestry Division

WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT ART COMPETITION



Under 15 & People's Choice Winner
Aidan Rampersad



16 to 25 Winner
Rebecca Denoon



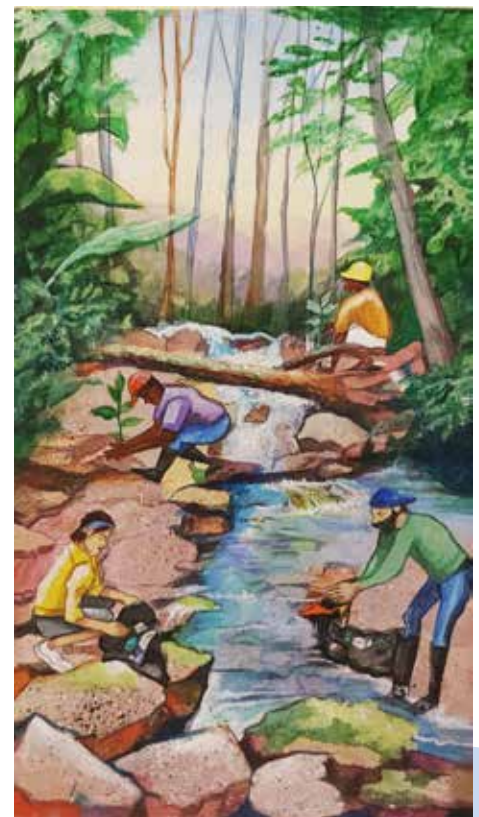
26 & Over Winner
Candice Henry



Under 15 & People's Choice Winning Entry
Untitled
Coloured pencils on paper



16 to 25 Winning Entry
"Hope"
Coloured pencils on stag blanc



26 & Over Winning Entry
"Giving back to save our rivers and the environment"
Watercolour on paper

Season 3 of the increasingly popular Water and the Environment Art Competition took place over the months of August and September on our virtual platforms, under the theme "Human Action to Save our Rivers and Environment". The competition and this year's theme, aimed to provoke participants to focus on issues facing our rivers as a result of human behaviours, and possible changes in those behaviours to positively impact on our rivers and by extension, our environment. Once again great talent and creativity

emerged through the art pieces received. Participants were able to capture our theme and show the various ways individuals can take action, to save our rivers and our environment. All entries per category were posted on our social media pages, giving our online audience an opportunity to view the art pieces

and also to participate in choosing a People's Choice Winner through online votes.

BRASSO SECO GETS A BOOST



Rainwater Harvester installed at the Brasso Seco Community Centre

Brasso Seco, a remote village located in the Northern Range west of Matelot and east of Blanchisseuse, is known for its lush landscape dotted with rivers and waterfalls and is home to many bird and wildlife species. Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for many villagers and there is a budding cocoa and chocolate making cottage-industry. Although the village receives a pipe-borne water supply from the Brasso Seco intake, from time to time the community experiences challenges receiving potable water when the intake is damaged or filled with silt due to heavy rains.

Consultations held with the President

of the Brasso Seco Community Council, Mr. Jeremy Salina, and the local government representative for the area, Councillor Roger Moore to discuss the challenges faced by the village, identified the need for a supplemental source of water to support activities in the village. In an effort to mitigate against the water shortfalls and to improve the resilience of the community to natural disasters, the Adopt A River Programme decided to construct a 2000 gallon Rainwater Harvester (RWH) at the Brasso Seco/Paria Community Centre.

Project coordination and all materials were provided through the AARP; labour and engineering expertise

to build the RWH was provided by the Tunapuna/Piarco Regional Corporation (TPRC); whilst members of the community council rendered their cooperation. The completed RWH which includes two (2) x 1000 gallon tanks and a water pump, was connected to the Community Centre where classes, meetings and events are held. The Centre is the venue of the popular Brasso Seco food festival which draws visitors from across the country.

The RWH has contributed positively to the village and has provided the community with an additional source of water which can be accessed should a natural disaster disrupt their regular pipe-borne service.

BRINGING CHEER TO CENTRAL!

AARP joined other groups in educating and raising the awareness of the public on environmental and social issues and their solutions at Cheer Fair 2022.

Cheer Fair is an initiative of the Inter-American Development Bank and was first hosted in Trinidad and Tobago in 2018. Its objective is to expand engagement and

direct interaction with citizens in a casual, approachable and family friendly setting.

The event was held on Saturday, August 27th at Saith Park, Chaguanas where patrons were also treated to a youth concert showcasing percussion instruments inclusive of Steel Pan, Tassa and African Drums.

HIGHLIGHTS



MONITORING OUR RIVERS

The AARP continues to conduct seasonal water quality monitoring of several rivers throughout Trinidad and Tobago as part of our ongoing attempts to monitor and document the condition of our watersheds. Water samples are collected and tested during the dry and wet seasons allowing us to monitor the ambient water quality over time. The data collected

serves as an early indicator of any changes in the water quality which would be investigated further through laboratory testing and field visits.

We are assisted in water quality monitoring by groups such as Nature Seekers, Caroni River Warriors, the Sangre Grande Conservation Group and ASJA

Boys' Bio-Sci Club. Members of these groups were previously trained by the AARP, and now conduct testing on a periodic basis with guidance from AARP staff.

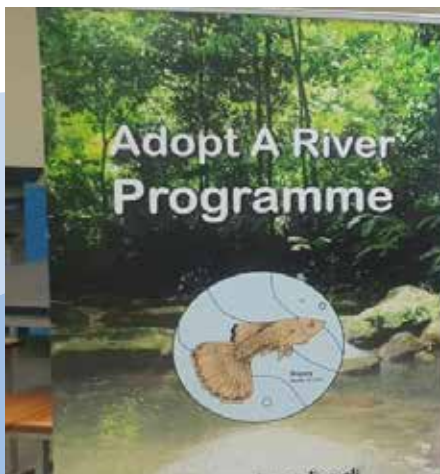
We encourage other groups and communities to get involved by visiting our website adoptarivertt.com for more information on how you can partner with us in creating and maintaining healthier rivers.



Collecting samples at Big Apple, Debe



Bio-Sci Club testing water samples



ASJA Boys' Charlieville, Bio-Sci Club and AARP Staff Members

PUTTING DOWN ROOTS



Saplings being planted on the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC) campus.

Trees and shrubs are an essential part of creating and maintaining healthy rivers and watersheds. Among their many benefits, trees help the soil to absorb and retain water, recharge ground water, reduce erosion and overland flow and can help to reduce the risk of flooding. They also release water vapours into the atmosphere

and back into the water cycle for rain, regulate environmental temperatures, and filter and purify water improving water quality.

The AARP facilitates tree planting exercises in collaboration with various adopters, partners and community groups with the aim to help restore and maintain balanced and healthy

ecosystems. This year, several tree planting exercises were conducted beginning with the commemoration of World Environment Day on June 5th and continuing into the month of September. Some of these areas include Caura Valley, Maracas St Joseph, Charlieville, Diego Martin and Aripo.



Members of the Adopt A River Implementation Unit participating in the Hike And Plant initiative.



**Moruga Councillor Joseph Lorant
distributing trees for planting**



Caura Valley Foundation members planting trees on their premises.



ASJA Boys' Charlieville, Bio-Sci Club planting on school grounds

ARIMA MUNICIPAL POLICE PROTECTS THE ENVIRONMENT



Arima Presbyterian Primary School

The Environmental Unit of the Arima Municipal Police (Arima Borough Corporation) has enlisted the support of the AARP in educating stakeholders in the borough on issues affecting our water resources and to help raise awareness in the Arima district about the effects of improper disposal of solid waste on the environment. In October, the AARP provided approximately

20 officers with Water Warriors training which included hands-on training on water quality testing. Our collaboration with the Arima Municipal Police is ongoing and several joint activities such as outreaches and clean-ups are being planned with the group in the upcoming months.

An outreach to the Arima Presbyterian Primary School on

November 9th was the first event of the partnership. At this outreach we engaged with the entire school population of approximately 265 students, 20 teachers and auxiliary staff members. Other groups supporting the Arima Municipal Police Environmental Unit at this event were the Flying Tree Environmental Management group and the ICare Project.



Flying Tree Environmental Management

REACHING OUT TO OUR COMMUNITIES

In continuation of our drive to educate and raise awareness among citizens of all ages on their role in water stewardship the AARP continues to host public outreaches across the country. Outreaches were held at locations such as Tru Valu Supermarkets El Socorro, Long Circular Mall and Diego Martin; West Bees Supermarket Tacarigua; and JTA Supermarkets Cross Crossing and Marabella.

The resumption of vacation camps during July and August as well as the reopening of all schools for in person-classes provided the opportunity to reach our younger audiences. Schools and camps visited included L.H. Movers La Horquetta Vacation Camp, Mt. Hope Community Library Vacation Camp; Happy Learning Kids Camp, Princes Town; Angel Arts and Pottery Fun House Summer Camp,

Phillipine San Fernando; Scout Association of Trinidad and Tobago Camp, Bridge to Success Academy Summer Camp, Penal; Mt. Lambert R.C. Primary School; and the Arima Presbyterian Primary School.

Topics covered included water pollution, water conservation, recycling and watershed protection. We thank our many partners and stakeholders for collaborating with us to serve their communities.



Tru Valu, Long Circular Mall



Massy SuperCentre, Trincity



Scout National Vacation Camp, Santa Cruz



Bridge to Success Learning Academy, Penal



WestBees, Tacarigua



Massy Express, Maraval



JTA Supermarket, Cross Crossing



Massy Stores, Gulf View



Massy Stores, Marabella

CASH FOR TRASH

What if you could make money every time you recycled your plastic bottles? Sounds too good to be true right? Ever heard of EVERY BOTTLE BACK TT?

Every Bottle Back TT is an initiative which focuses on recovering and reusing plastic bottles by educating citizens on the benefits of recycling, and supplying information on how this can be done. The initiative's primary goal is to support a vision of cleaner and brighter cities, streets, and beaches and decrease flooding through this effort. Consumers and independent collectors can carry accumulated plastic bottles to the collection center at 40 Charlotte Street in Port of Spain, and receive a payment of 5 cents for each accepted bottle.

Persons dropping off bottles at Charlotte Street must do the following:

- Collect at least 100 plastic beverage bottles, in multiples of 20 (20 bottles = \$1). Empty and rinse them, store in a clear plastic bag.
- Do not have any other material in the bag.
- Carry your bags to the Charlotte Street Collection Center for on-site registration of your bottles.
- Provide your contact information.
- Receive payment for all accepted bottles

Join them and become a friend of the planet!



Recycling Centre at Charlotte Street



Patron recycling a bottle



Check out our redesigned website: www.AdoptARiverTT.com

Facebook: Adopt A River Trinidad & Tobago

Instagram: @adoptarivertt

Youtube: Adopt A River TT