



Nassau, Bahamas March 3 – 7, 2014  
Harry C. Moore, Auditorium

## *“Discovering Our Ephemeral Isles”*

Held in conjunction with The College of The Bahamas

### **CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

**Deadline: December 31, 2013**

The Bahamas National Trust, in collaboration with The College of The Bahamas, welcomes papers for presentation (oral and poster) at the Bahamas Natural History Conference under the theme, *Discovering Our Ephemeral Isles* on March 3 – 7, 2014 at The College of The Bahamas Nassau, Bahamas.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The first Bahamas Natural History Conference was held in March 2013 under the theme, *Highlighting the Importance of Research, Conservation, and Environmental Stewardship*, and attracted local and international researchers, educators, natural resource managers, students and naturalists. With over 100 abstracts received, the conference created a forum to encourage interdisciplinary research and conservation in The Bahamas. Many attendees attested that this conference marked the beginning of a more direct dialogue between the scientific community and national decision-makers.

#### **OVERALL CONFERENCE GOAL:**

The goal of the conference is to inspire new avenues of research and cooperation across disciplines while highlighting the benefits of research of the environment, economy and human society of The Bahamas.

The theme for BNHC 2014, *Discovering Our Ephemeral Isles* was inspired by David G. Campbell's book, *The Ephemeral Islands*, the first comprehensive natural history account of The Bahamas. As the human race increases, so does the demand on our natural resources. More and more, we are coming to realize the limitations on these natural resources and the recognition that these limits can adversely affect our future. To avoid these adverse changes, we must develop a better understanding and awareness of the natural world.

David G. Campbell, past Executive Director of the BNT has worked tirelessly to establish priorities for the protection of island – endemic species and initiated the process for The Bahamas to become signatory to CITES. Mr. Campbell has graciously accepted our invitation to be the honorary plenary speaker. One of the major focuses of the conference will be to hold a special IUCN workshop to develop a Bahamas Species and Ecosystem Red List.

**PARTICIPANTS:**

This conference will attract a diverse group of natural history scientists, students, policy makers and the Bahamian public across multiple disciplines including research, conservation, governance, economics, arts and music.

**CONFERENCE FORMAT:**

The conference will encompass a week of activities commencing with an IUCN led workshop on Red list Species and Ecosystems and a spectacular opening reception on March 3, with a special keynote speaker and presentation of the first BNHC Science Award. During March 4 – 6, activities will include feature plenary speakers by international and industry experts, oral and poster presentations, panel discussions, break-out sessions and a special COB student series. The week of activities will end with an opportunity to visit some of the amazing places on earth, our Bahamian National Parks.

**CONFERENCE THEMES:**

The conference will allow presenters to cover a broad base of relevant topics within the conference themes:

1. The Ephemeral Islands  
*Our geological past, present and future. Climate change and its impact on small island nations*
2. The Historical Era: a Paradise Lost  
*Extinct, threatened and endangered species: building a Red List of Threatened Species for The Bahamas*
3. The Invasion of the Exotics and its Management
4. Conservation, Outreach and Citizen Science  
*Cooperative conservation, Marine Governance and Livelihoods*
5. Ecosystem Services: the Value of Our Resources  
*Reflecting the value of ecosystems and biodiversity in Policy Making, Cultural Services and values*

**PRESENTATIONS (ORAL and POSTERS):**

With the exception of plenary speakers, all oral presentations will be given a 20-minute timeslot (15 minutes for presentation and 5 minutes for questions). We strongly encourage the use of PowerPoint presentations. BNHC will provide the data projector and screen(s), a computer to which your presentation will be uploaded (you will not be able to use your own laptop), lectern with microphone and laser pointer.

Posters will be located in the Harry C. Moore Library Foyer, The College of The Bahamas, March 4 – 6, 2014. The poster reception will take place March 4, 2014 from 5:00pm – 7:00pm. Presenters are obliged to be alongside their poster during the poster reception and during the conference at morning breaks, afternoon breaks and lunch breaks.

More detailed instructions will be sent to all presenters upon receipt and acceptance of your abstract.

**SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:**

Conference abstracts should adhere to the following:

1. Abstracts should be submitted using the recommended format:
  - a. Name(s) of Author(s)
  - b. Affiliation of Author(s)
  - c. Postal Address
  - d. Email Address
2. Abstracts for oral and poster presentations should:
  - a. Identify which conference theme it best addresses

- b. Identify statement of objectives
- c. Identify 4 – 5 keywords to summarize study/abstract
- d. Outline research methodology
- e. Summarize implications of the study
- f. Present findings of research conducted in The Bahamas or relevant to The Bahamas
- g. Maximum of 500 words

#### **SUBMISSIONS:**

All submissions should be uploaded electronically at the time of registration. The presenting author must register for the conference before **January 24, 2014**.

#### **SUBMISSION DEADLINES:**

	<b>Call Open</b>	<b>Submission Deadline</b>	<b>Notification of Acceptance</b>	<b>Notification of Session Scheduling</b>
Abstracts (Oral and Poster)	September 30, 2013	December 31, 2013	January 17, 2014	January 31, 2014
Workshops and Fieldtrips	November 30, 2013	January 20, 2014	January 24, 2014	January 31, 2014

#### **ABSTRACT EVALUATION:**

All abstracts submitted will be vetted by our science advisors in a blind review process. Papers and posters will be accepted based on their technical merit and contribution to our knowledge of species, ecosystems, ecological processes, conservation, management and policy implications. Papers and posters should present on past or ongoing research projects conducted in The Bahamas. Special considerations will be made to projects done outside of The Bahamas only if it has direct implications and serve as a case study for lessons to be learnt. The deadline to have all abstracts submitted for consideration is December 31, 2013. Time and space is a limiting factor and we may not be able to accept all papers/posters submitted therefore, we strongly encourage you to submit abstracts before or by the above deadline. Notification of acceptance of all abstracts will be made January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

#### **REGISTRATION:**

All presenters must register and pay the appropriate registration fee. Registration forms can be found at [www.bnt.bs](http://www.bnt.bs).

#### **BNHC REGISTRATION FEES (US\$ or B\$ equal value)**

- COB Faculty & Students Attendee (ID Required): FREE
- BNT Members Attendee: \$10
- ALL Presenters: \$85
- FULL Conference Attendee: \$60
- One day rate: \$35

*Advanced registration is strongly recommended. All who register for the conference **before December 30, 2013** will receive a 10% discount.*

Payments can be made via Visa or MasterCard online at [www.bnt.bs](http://www.bnt.bs) or via cheque payable to Bahamas National Trust referencing on cheque BNHC registration fee and name of registrant.

#### **QUESTIONS:**

Questions about the Bahamas Natural History Conference should be directed to **Mrs. Vanessa Haley-Benjamin** at [bnhc@bnt.bs](mailto:bnhc@bnt.bs) or 242-393-1317.

**FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE CONFERENCE AND SPONSORSHIP DETAILS,  
GO TO: [WWW.BNT.BS](http://WWW.BNT.BS) OR [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TheBNHC](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TheBNHC) OR EMAIL US AT [BNHC@BNT.BS](mailto:BNHC@BNT.BS)**

