



Nature's jottings

Newsletter of the Natural History Society of Jamaica

Feb. 05

Forthcoming Events

FEBRUARY

Walk beside the Yallahs River from Wallenford coffee factory to Robertsfield and back.

Date: Saturday 26, 2005

Dept: SRC at 7.30am (car pooling)

Wallenford coffee factory is at Mt. Lebanon on the road between Content Gap and St. Peters.

Robertsfield is near Mavis Bank. An early start should ensure a return to Kingston before dark.

The walk takes about 2 hours each way. It's not particularly strenuous. There are 2 places where we must wade across the river. We shall pass the site of a historic garden. One of the bridges we cross still bears the owner's name. Of particular interest is the effect that hurricane Ivan and subsequent rains at the end of December had on the river's course, infrastructure and inhabitants particularly in the Robertsfield vicinity. The effects have been shown on the TV news more than once recently.

Bring: picnic lunch, water, sun protection, camera, binoculars, swim wear, towel.

MARCH

Annual General Meeting

The AGM is scheduled for Saturday March 5, 2005 at 10:00 am at the Tropical Learning Centre, Hope Zoo.

ACTIVITIES REPORT

New Year Get-together

The Get-together for 2005 was held on Sunday January 23 at River's Edge, on the Pencar River, inland from Annotto Bay, St. Mary. 42 NHSJ members and friends attended and sampled the lunch prepared by Mrs. Chuck, the proprietor and her friendly and helpful assistants.

River's Edge is a rustic, haven with all the ingredients to relax the visitor even though the river almost thunders below. Only 2 people were brave enough to try the temperature of the water. More members set off on the walk, which followed the river into the hills. Quattie the local guide who accompanied us told us the trail led to 2 distant peaks high above us, known as Monkey Point. It is possible that there was a link to Cum See as there was once a track linking places such as Holywell, Hermitage Dam, Mt. Airy, Mt Telegraph to the coast at Annotto Bay. Some of the walkers found interesting plants, some looked for birds and others enjoyed the many streams, which tumbled down the bank onto the path and on down into the river below. Eventually, we were persuaded to turn back despite the desire to see what was around each bend. By that time we had reached a point where there was a good view down the valley to the sea. By then, too we were all hungry and afraid we might miss our lunch.

Your Jottings

Moth & Butterfly Notes

A new record for us

by Matthew & Abigail Bourne

On October 24, 2004 we were walking towards the Homework Centre on the UWI campus when Abigail saw some yellow caterpillars with blue and white stripes on a tree. We stopped to look at them more closely and saw them eating the yellow flowers. The flowers were way above our heads. We asked a gentleman to collect a few for us and placed them in a cup. He also gave us some of the flowers. We took them home to rear them. The caterpillars formed into green pupae. After the adults emerged we got them identified by Dr. Bailey who works in the Department of Life Sciences at UWI. They were *Phoebis sennae* sennae. She also identified the tree as Golden Shower Tree. It was the first time that we were seeing caterpillars on that tree.

Prepared by Jill Byles 26/2/05
