



APRIL 2017 Newsletter



Park Managers
**JAMAICA
CONSERVATION AND
DEVELOPMENT TRUST**



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Blue and John Crow Mountains
inscribed on the World Heritage
List in 2015



Jamaica's Blue and John Crow Mountains is one of the richest biodiversity sites in the world. The national park is home to over 1,300 species of flowering plants; a quarter of which are only found on the reserve. It is also the last of two known habitats of the largest butterfly in the western hemisphere; the endemic six-inch Giant Swallowtail. The Blue and John Crow Mountains hosts over 200 bird species each year and is one of the largest migratory bird habitats in the region. Recognized for both its natural and cultural heritage, the national park is the only mixed UNESCO World Heritage Site in the Caribbean.



CELEBRATING 24 YEARS - Members of the diplomatic corps, policymakers, maroons and environmentalists joined the Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust in marking the 24th anniversary of the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park on February 24, 2017. The area was designated as a national park on February 26, 1993 under the Natural Resources Conservation Authority Act. The anniversary event saw the re-launch of the Friends of the Blue Mountains Sponsorship programme.



Photograph by Ricardo Miller

NORTHERN WINTER MIGRATION 2017 – The Cape May Warbler is one of 120 species of birds that choose Jamaica for their winter escape each year. Warblers, falcons, merlins and kingfishers are among the sun-seekers that make the annual trip from as far north as the Arctic Circle to enjoy our tropical forest. The migration of northern birds, begins in October and ends in April of the following year. As the northern birds return home, the forest prepares to welcome southern migratory birds on their winter break from March to September.



TEACHER TRAINING – Education is a chief pillar of the conservation programme for the national park. Equipping communities in the buffer zone around the park with information about its importance and how to safeguard its resources is a key strategy to maintaining the integrity of the forest. In March 2017, the JCDT conducted a teacher training workshop with educators from St. Mary, Portland and St. Thomas. Under the theme **Blue and John Crow Mountains – World Heritage Site**, the workshop shared ways in which the park's natural heritage and conservation best practices can be incorporated in the primary school curriculum at Grades 5 and 6. Thirty teachers completed the programme.



IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY AT PORTLAND GAP - The JCDT maintains three recreational areas within the national park: Holywell, Portland Gap and the Blue Mountain Peak. Income from recreational areas helps to finance the park's conservation programme. Construction is now nearing completion on the expansion of cabin facilities at Portland Gap; the final rest stop en-route to the Blue Mountain Peak. With financial support from the Jamaica Social Investment Fund and the Tourism Enhancement Fund capacity at Portland Gap will increase from 40 persons to 100 persons. The site improvement includes new and expanded cabins, bathroom facilities and a kitchen.

GET INVOLVED



The Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park is managed by the Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust (JCDT). The JCDT is a registered charity which receives part-funding from the Government of Jamaica. The remaining 70% of the park management budget is financed by grants and donations.

The **Friends of the Blue Mountains** programme is an opportunity for individuals and companies to support conservation efforts in the national park. All contributions are tax deductible. **Friends of the Blue Mountains** support the management of the national park through annual contributions in the following tiers:

INDIVIDUAL	- J\$ 3,000
CORPORATE AGATE	- J\$ 25,000
CORPORATE MALACHITE	- J\$ 50,000
CORPORATE JADE	- J\$ 75,000
CORPORATE EMERALD	- J\$ 100,000



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