



MAINSHEET

MARCH-APRIL 2012



FAMILY FUN AT SCHOONER BAY

by GLEN KELLY
TOWN MANAGER
& HARBOUR MASTER

Several visitors have taken advantage of the newly opened guest houses at Schooner Bay to spend longer periods in the village and discover the pristine charms of South Abaco. Some of the most memorable of these early visits have involved families, as the natural beauty and walkable scale of Schooner Bay is proving a safe and adventurous setting for children of all ages.

Opportunities for children to explore the unique environment of The Bahamas while stretching their legs and satisfying their curiosities

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FOUNDER'S LETTER

by ORJAN LINDROTH

Dear Friends,

It is mid-March and conditions in Abaco are approaching perfection! Northeasterly trade winds cool the balmy days, while crisp, clear nights unfold under a spectacular canopy of stars. It's a great time to be in The Bahamas, and an especially fine time to be in Schooner Bay, where construction is progressing steadily and the harbour village is rising before our eyes.

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THE DUNES AT SCHOONER BAY VILLAGE

by TANYA N. FERGUSON

As a Botanist and Environmental Consultant, I have travelled the islands of The Bahamas extensively and have seen my fair share of the beauty and wonderful majesty of these islands. As I stood on the ridge overlooking Guinea Schooner Bay Beach and cast my eyes upon over two miles of intact, invasive-free dune I was speechless.

The dunes at Schooner Bay Village are a noteworthy example of sustainable development in practice. Sustainable development aims to meet the needs of humans in a manner that preserves resources for future

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COMMUNITY

SCHOONER BAY
VOICES

by GLEN KELLY

TOWN MANAGER & HARBOUR MASTER

I recently had the distinct pleasure of chatting with Schooner Bay's longest-standing employee, Albert Russell. Mr. Russell, an ordained minister from the nearby fishing village of Crossing Rocks, has served Schooner Bay in various capacities. What follows is a transcript of our brief conversation:

Glen Kelly: *How long have you been with Schooner Bay?*

Albert Russell: Since September 2007.

GK: *How did you first get involved?*

AR: I used to work for the man who previously owned this land. He had it up for sale, and when Orjan Lindroth arrived with an interest in acquiring the land, I was the first person to show him the property. We walked along the beach from Serenity Point and he arrived at Schooner Bay for the first time.

GK: *What is your current role at Schooner Bay?*

AR: I help out wherever I'm needed. I've recently been appointed Assistant Harbour



Master, which is an exciting opportunity. I also help with the transportation, driving guests to and from the airport.

GK: *Describe the impact of Schooner Bay on your hometown of Crossing Rocks.*

AR: Schooner Bay has brought a lot of economic opportunity to this part of Abaco. Schooner employs many folks from Crossing Rocks, probably about twenty percent of the male population, I'd say. Schooner also supports a lot of the local vendors.

GK: *How will the village of Schooner Bay as a marketplace for local seafood impact the fishermen from your village?*

AR: It will be great! Crossing Rocks is a fishing village and many of the residents make their living from the sea. We're right next to Schooner Bay, so the harbour will save money and create good turnaround for fishermen as they can pull into Schooner and sell their catch directly!

GK: *What do you anticipate being the most popular catch?*

AR: Grouper and hogfish are always popular. And of course crawfish and conch are delicious Bahamian staples.

GK: *What has been your most memorable moment at Schooner Bay?*

AR: I'll tell you what I'm most grateful for. When I first started working at Schooner Bay, there was no road here. The only access was through Serenity Point, so I had to tote all the beach garbage by hand from Little Bridge and Schooner Bay back through Serenity. That road has made my life a lot easier!

GK: *Thanks, Albert.*

AR: My pleasure.

FAMILY FUN AT
SCHOONER BAY

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abound in Schooner Bay, as one recent group discovered. 6-year old Daisy and 9-year old Emily were accompanied by their parents for a week-long sojourn at Schooner Bay's Post House, and the girls left with memories that will last a lifetime.

Among the highlights of their stay was a "wild" bird-watching tour with naturalist Ricky Johnson of Abaco Nature Tours. Emily explains, "it was amazing to see so many different birds in South Abaco and Schooner Bay. Mr. Johnson showed us painted buntings as well as West Indian and Yellow-Bellied Sapsuckers, which are woodpeckers. And we got to see the Abaco Parrot, which was a highlight of the tour. What most amazed us was that each species Mr. Johnson discussed seemed to fly up right on cue! It was an incredible experience!"

Other local kids joined in on the fun, participating in activities like bike-riding

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around the village and kayaking in Little Bridge Bay. The children also fished from the island bridge in the harbour using poles made from casuarina limbs. They even managed to catch (and release) a nice-sized grey snapper!

At nights, the bonfire was a popular spot. As one of the local children, 10-year old Joshua, relates, “my favorite part of the evening was playing in the hammock with my friends and then helping to light the bonfire and watching the flames!” The bonfire on the beach illuminated a spirited game of tag, and the stars in the clear night sky gave the girls a show unlike any they’ve seen back home in the city. Even more “star-power” was provided by homemade Abaco seaweed fireworks that the children created ... and deployed under close parental supervision! As the fire burned low, marshmallows and s’mores proved the perfect nightcap before the girls went reluctantly off to sleep, well past their normal bed-time!

For their parents it was a restful and relaxing break marked by interesting tours and activities and delicious local cuisine. For the girls it was a memorable adventure and an opportunity to make new friends and have new experiences in a unique environment. Given the abundance of healthy outdoor activities in a safe and stimulating atmosphere – as well as the creature comforts afforded by our ample guest quarters and full-service hospitality staff - we believe Schooner Bay will become an increasingly popular destination for families in the months and years to come.



THE INNKEEPER'S DIARY

Hospitality Notes by

DAVID & MANDY KNOWLES

This column allows us to keep you abreast of the growing hospitality operations at Schooner Bay. The last few months have been incredibly busy for the two of us as guest traffic has increased considerably since the opening of the lodges for overnight visits. We do everything from provisioning, cooking and serving to cleaning, troubleshooting and repairing, and the list goes on and on. It's hard work, but very rewarding. We love it, and one of the best parts is getting to meet the wonderful guests and residents who pass through. Below we reprinted a recent email from one such visitor, along with some recipes and photographs to help whet your appetite. We hope to see you soon at Schooner Bay!

GUEST TESTIMONIAL

"Thanks very much for a great evening last night. It is truly magical being here at Schooner and seeing another perspective of life here.

It is easy to fall in love with the atmosphere, the ambiance and the general feel of the place. There is such a genuine excitement and enthusiasm of the people here at Schooner; those that both work and live here.

From the drinks and appetizers to the beach side dinner, the bonfire under the stars and the company we shared, it was a truly beautiful evening.

Kudos to David and Mandy for a great meal, as always.

We are excited about Schooner and the success we all know and believe it will be. It is great to see the project come alive in this way. We look forward to great days ahead for Schooner.

Thanks for the hospitality."

–Tina

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THE INNKEEPER'S DIARY

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FEATURED RECIPE

CONCH CHOWDER

Bahamians can prepare conch just about any way under the sun. Reminds us of the scene in *Forest Gump* when Bubba is recounting the various ways to cook shrimp. In The Bahamas, we have crack conch, stew conch, boil conch, scorch conch, conch fritters, conch salad, conch burger, conch souse, and so on. Among the most beloved of our conch dishes is conch chowder. This savoury, slightly spicy chowder is often served as a first course along with a slice of Johnny Cake, a traditional Bahamian sweet bread. There are slight variations on the recipe, but this is how my grandmother made it and how I prepare it at Schooner Bay. Adding a

spoonful of sherry to each serving can help bring out the flavor ... and is a very Bahamian thing to do!

Conch Chowder

Grind in Food processor:

6 Large Conch
1 Carrot
1 Onion
1 Green Pepper

Sautee processed food with butter. Add, Thyme, Salt and Worcestershire Sauce to taste.

In large Pot combine:

3 Tablespoons of Tomato Paste
1 can Diced Tomatoes
2 Cups Water
1-2 Cup Saltine Crackers
Add Sautéed mixture.
Simmer for 1 Hour

Coconut Milkshake

A popular beverage offering instant refreshment on even the hottest of days!

Coconut Milk
Coconut Jelly
Shredded Coconut Pulp
Vanilla Ice Cream
Mint
Ice

Blend it all together and enjoy.



AROUND ABACO

A CALENDAR OF SELECT ABACO EVENTS
IN THE COMING MONTHS

MARCH TBA

Hopetown Annual Heritage Day

MARCH 10

Annual Reef Ball,
Marsh Harbour Marina and Job Room

MARCH 31

6th Annual Cancer Society Art Show
and Auction, Green Turtle Cay

APRIL TBA

22nd Annual Homer Lowe Sailing Regatta

APRIL 5

Island Roots Heritage Festival,
Green Turtle Cay

APRIL 8-11

25th Annual Greet Turtle Club and Marina
Fishing Tournament, GTC

APRIL 19-28

Abaco Anglers Fishing Tournament,
Elbow Cay

APRIL 24

3rd Annual Goombay Summer Festival,
Sea Spray Resort, Hopetown

APRIL 24-28

Bahamas Billfish Championship,
Guana Cay

APRIL 28

Antonius Roberts Art Exhibition,
Schooner Bay

MAY TBA

Central Abaco Lionfish Derby,
Marsh Harbour

MAY 1-5

Bertram Hatteras Shootout, ABR,
Marsh Harbour

MAY 19

Schooner Bay Spring Festival,
Schooner Bay

JUNE TBA

Little Abaco Homecoming, Fox Town

JUNE TBA

Sandy Point Homecoming

JUNE 5-9, 19-23RD

Bahamas Billfish Championship,
Boat Harbour Marina

JUNE 7 & 21

3rd Annual Goombay Summer Festival,
Sea Spray Resort, Hopetown

JUNE 9-10

Rotary Bahamas Tuna Classic Tournament,
Schooner Bay (weigh-in station)

JUNE 10-15TH

Bahamas Billfish Championship,
Treasure Cay

JUNE 15 & 16

4th Annual Lionfish Derby,
Green Turtle Cay

JUNE 22ND & 29TH

Junkanoo Summer Festival,
Marsh Harbour

JUNE 29-JULY 7

37th Annual Regatta Time in Abaco

JULY 5 & 19

3rd Annual Goombay Summer Festival,
Sea Spray Resort, Hopetown.

JULY 9 & 10

Bahamian Independence Celebrations

JULY 19-23RD

Bahamas Billfish Championship,
Treasure Cay

JULY 20-22ND

6th Annual North Abaco Summer Festival
and Power Boat Races, Treasure Cay



FOUNDER'S LETTER

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We hope you will continue to follow the progress through our bi-monthly newspaper, *The Schooner Bay Mainsheet*. As you'll notice, the publication continues to evolve away from simply a developer's communique and towards our goal of a true community newspaper. In addition to our regular online format, we will also be publishing limited print-runs of *The Mainsheet* on 100% post-consumer stock through a local Abaco publisher. The print copies will be available at strategic locations in Nassau and Abaco. Should you wish to receive print copies via post, please email james@lindroth.cc and we'll make sure they get to you. We hope you'll continue to enjoy and support the paper, and will find the articles, interviews and editorials interesting and informative.

In addition to the stories and updates contained herein, allow me a moment to reflect separately on Schooner Bay's progress. After nearly six years of planning and preparing, we have arrived at the major milestone of a completed harbour and emerging community with a unique position in South Abaco. The harbour itself is fantastic, exceeding even our most optimistic expectations from both an engineering and aesthetic standpoint. It will be a safe and strategic port for recreational boaters and a small fishing fleet, and a hub of activity that unifies and energizes the village. Indeed, the first piers have been completed at both private residences and the docks, and various vessels have already hailed the new port.

In the village, Schooner Bay's unique residential character has begun to emerge. Construction of the eight-bedroom Black Fly Bonefish Club is well underway in the village center, while on the island eleven homes are nearly complete, joining the four homes already finished around the harbour. Walking around the village and through the houses is a testament to the talents of Schooner Bay's architects and the vision of our homeowners. The homes are modestly-sized by modern standards, but through careful consideration achieve the "feel" of much larger houses. Architectural ingenuity abounds, from towering tray ceilings to space-saving cut-outs and multi-purpose rooms that create a sense of openness and functionality. Homes are intimately clustered, but positioned to provide complete privacy from the outside looking in and unobstructed views from the inside looking out. The scale of everything seems just right, and the charm of the village is becoming evident even in spite of ongoing construction.

Also encouraging are new home starts, the quickening pace of home sales and the growing recognition from the international press. Interest in Schooner Bay is at an all-time high! The avid reception is more than a matter of shared tastes; it is an affirmation of the principles of true sustainability. With the help of many talented individuals across a range of disciplines, we have developed - and are constantly refining - a biologically-driven approach to sustainability that we believe will set a standard in the Caribbean region and beyond. We have completely restored the essential dune systems with native plants to protect the beach and the community for years to come; we will be the first town in The Bahamas to have a communal geothermal cooling system, providing cost savings in perpetuity; our million-gallon rainwater collection cistern is hidden beneath a coconut grove overlooking the sea; and our agricultural and horticultural initiatives are flourishing. These are some of the major benchmarks in sustainability that, taken together, represent a holistic approach to development that should ensure the longevity of Schooner Bay into the distant future.

Perhaps most exciting is our ability to now offer overnight experiences at Schooner Bay. Two of the finished homes are being offered as guest houses, and we have a talented young husband-and-wife team managing the hospitality operations. We can offer not only comfortable accommodations and amenities, but also gourmet Bahamian cuisine utilizing local ingredients from our farm and the surrounding fishery. The food is phenomenal and feedback has been resoundingly positive. Provisional utilities ensure visitors a comfortable stay while we await the completion of Phase One, which will see all utility work completed and homes permanently energized by July 1. There has never been a better time to visit Schooner Bay, and our new 9-passenger Britten-Norman Islander twin-engine aircraft makes the trip from Nassau easier than ever. 2012 is a pivotal year for Schooner Bay, and we have much to look forward to. We hope you will pay us a visit, share in the excitement and introduce other great families to our special place.

Warm Regards,

Orjan Lindroth

NATURE

The DUNES

at Schooner Bay Village

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development. In this case, however, efforts to preserve the dunes have far exceeded this definition as it not only avoids destructive activities but has resulted in an improvement of the system.

Sand dunes are hills of sand formed by wind. Sand particles are blown by the wind and accumulate in areas where there is existing vegetation. The vegetation in these areas is comprised of salt tolerant, low lying plants adapted to withstand high speed winds. They are able to grow up through the sand which allows for further build up. Their extensive root systems make it easy for plants to replenish if sections are damaged. Typical native dune species in The Bahamas include: Sea Oats (*Uniola paniculata*), Railroad Vine (*Ipomoea pes-caprae*), Bay Marigold (*Borrchia arborescens*), Bay Lavender

(*Mallontonia gnaphalodes*), Bay Cedar (*Suriana maritima*), Sea Rocket (*Cakile lanceolata*) and Black InkBerry (*Scaevola plumieri*).

The presence of dunes indicates a balanced Beach ecosystem. Dunes function in creating a barrier between the sea and the land behind them. This barrier is nature's first line of defense during storms as they slow the force of winds and waves on the land and prevent salt water inundation. As a result more complex and diverse vegetation communities are able to develop. They also protect against erosion. The roots of the vegetation stabilize the loose sand grains and the accumulated sands act as sand banks, replenishing beaches at times of erosion.

In 2008, when construction began at Schooner Bay Village, the dunes were typical

of many beaches in The Bahamas. Invasive species such as White Inkberry (*Scaevola taccada*) and Australian Pine (*Casuarina equisetifolia*) were common species in the dune zone. Restoration of the dune began in 2009 and involved removal of invasive species. Invasive removal involved mechanical and manual techniques. For the most part invasive species were removed by hand, but in one instance due to the amount of present and lack of native species and sand accumulation, the area was completely bulldozed. Due to the aggressive nature of invasive species, removal efforts continue as a part of the maintenance program.

The restoration process continued with planting of appropriate native species. Over twenty thousand (20,000) Sea Oats were planted during the three

(3) years initiative. Free of invasive species, other naturally occurring species emerged on their own.

Restoration of these dunes ensures the protection of these beaches for human recreation and enjoyment for years to come. More importantly, they help to preserve habitat vital for the survival of sea turtles. Four (4) turtle species - Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), Green (*Chelonia mydas*) and Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) - have been observed utilizing the Guinea Schooner Bay Beach. The Loggerhead and Green are threatened species and the Hawksbill and Leatherback are endangered.

The continued use of the beach by turtles, in addition to the intact dune system and

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Guinea Schooner Bay Beach ridge – aerial view

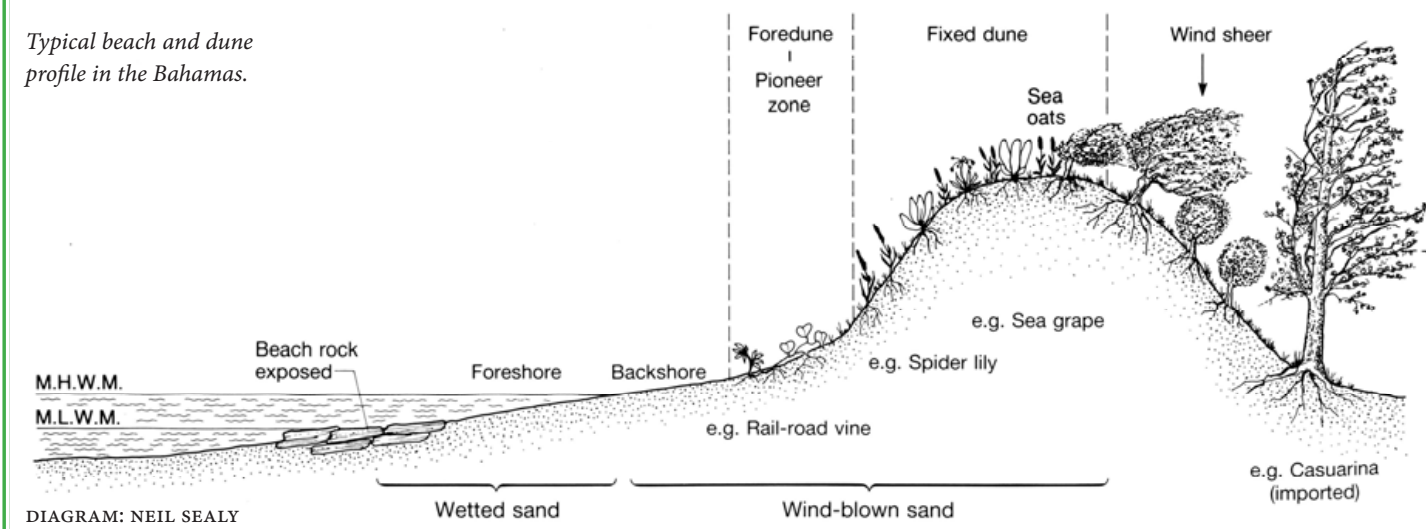


Guinea Schooner Bay Beach ridge – top view



Guinea Schooner Bay Beach – coastline view

Typical beach and dune profile in the Bahamas.



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aesthetically appropriate beach cabana structure at Guinea Schooner Bay Beach, represents a classical example of the co-existence of development and the environment. That both the man-made cabana and the natural dune system survived the brunt of Hurricane Irene intact is a testament to the idea that *if we build it properly, it will stand.*

Guest Contributor Tanya Ferguson is a botanist with a degree from College of The Bahamas. A former agriculturalist in the Bahamas Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources, she is the current curator of the Nassau Botanical Gardens and principal of Design Elements, a Bahamian Landscaping Company.



Coastline view of the dune at Guinea Schooner Bay Beach with native dune species represented.



Guinea Schooner Bay Beach – coastal view



Guinea Schooner Bay Beach – harbour view



Patch of invasive *Scaevola taccada* surrounded by native dune species.

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES & EVERYDAY SUSTAINABILITY

Thoughts from the Schooner Bay Institute



In the great debate about humanity's role within the natural ecosystems of our planet, a comment from Jonas Salk, the American medical researcher who developed the polio vaccine, is worth considering. Salk observed: "if all the insects were to disappear from the earth, within fifty years all life on earth would end; if all the human beings were to disappear from the earth, within fifty years all life on earth would flourish."

As a species, we tend to think of ourselves as agents of prosperity, promoters of progress, advocates of order who strive to advance the common good of society. Yet, Salk's contention that human beings are a major impediment to ecological prosperity flies in the face of such readily accepted notions. Why is this? Must the

progress of humanity always come at the expense of the well-being of everything else? Is it self-evident, a curse on our species? Or are we free to choose to live in a way which, instead of preventing life on earth from flourishing, actually helps life on earth to flourish?

The answer to this question lies at the very core of Schooner Bay's approach to sustainability; yet before we address it we must first put into context the nature of our relationship with, well ... nature. One way to consider our interaction with the natural world is to think of the outputs of all species as "emissions". Human emissions – garbage, sewage, smog – almost exclusively fall under the category of "waste" and are detrimental to the health of the natural ecosystem, while

the emissions of virtually everything else on the planet serve some productive capacity. In fact, we depend entirely on the emissions of other things for survival; plants produce oxygen that fills our lungs, rivers deliver water that quenches our thirst, seeds are borne aloft by the wind and fertilized by animal byproduct, and on and on.

Collectively, the benefits derived from the natural environment are known as Ecosystem Services. Without a doubt, these services have immense value. Assigning a market price to such things is tricky, but an anecdote can at least create a point of reference. More recently than one might imagine, the quality of New York City's drinking water was among America's finest. Over time, sewage and agricultural runoff was allowed to

contaminate the water supply. When the quality of New York City tap water fell below acceptable standards in the mid-1990s, the city investigated the cost of an artificial filtration plant. The estimated cost of the project was \$6-8 billion in addition to an annual operating expense of roughly \$300 million. That's a lot to pay for an Ecosystem Service formerly provided free of charge by the biological processes of the Catskill Mountain watershed.

Recognizing the true value of these Ecosystem Services to the well-being of our civilization could very well lead one to conclude they must be preserved at all costs. Yet, in The West at least, we've become accustomed to a certain way of life. This is not inherently bad. Individuals

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with the resources to permit a high standard of living should of course be free to enjoy their success and good fortune. But, is it possible to do so responsibly? Do “creature comforts” by definition conflict with the mores of true sustainability? We think not. There must be a way to live comfortably, dare we say even prosperously, without contributing to the deterioration of our Ecosystem Services. Canadian politician, Alan Gregg, framed the problem like this: “the human race has had long experience and a fine tradition surviving adversity. But, we now face a task for which we have little experience: surviving prosperity.”

The post-war period in The West gave us our first real shot at surviving prosperity. By and large we failed, but this need not deter us. In all of human history, progress has only ever been made by learning from our mistakes. Consider briefly the plight of the average suburbanite. He awakes in a 3,000 square foot house. He and his family will inhabit perhaps only half of that space in any given day, though all 3,000 square feet must be climate controlled, furnished and serviced with utilities. He will drive himself to work in a car with four empty seats, gridlocked alongside many other cars with four empty seats. His office building, with its shimmering glass façade, is a poorly insulated solar oven that will require massive energy inputs to climate control. At lunch-time, he'll order a meal whose constituent parts originated thousands of miles away, passing literally hundreds of closer farms as

the ingredients are trucked or flown into his city.

We'll spare the reader the rest of our hapless friend's day, but hopefully the point is clear. Our way of living has become almost absurdly wasteful and inefficient. Let us be clear - we do not wish to patronize our readers nor excoriate anyone whose lifestyle may resemble that of our hypothetical suburbanite. By and large, the fault is not their own. These are good people living in a bad system. We have arrived at this conundrum not through intelligent planning and foresight, but courtesy of a short-term decision-making process driven largely by opportunism. Perhaps better than any other species, our survival instincts have permitted the habitation of diverse ecosystems across a range of extremes. Thus, as a species, we have succeeded not by our strength or our wit alone, but by our adaptability. It's time to admit that we're not necessarily living in the smartest nor the most secure fashion, but rather the most convenient in light of the largely arbitrary opportunity set we've been presented. We have not prevailed, we have simply adapted.

What if we could look beyond this primitive short-term survival instinct and towards a more enlightened long-term one? At Schooner Bay, it is our contention that the pursuit of the long-term best interests of our species is positively correlated with the long-term best interests of the rest of life on earth. It is not only possible to live prosperously without contributing to the degradation of the wider ecosystem; true prosperity is by definition the advancement of the

wider ecosystem. Let us quote freely (though with some trepidation) from film-maker, Michael Moore, who said, “I want us all to ... stop behaving like our goal in life is to merely survive. ‘Surviving’ is for wimps and game show contestants stranded in the jungle or on a desert island. You are not stranded. You own the store ... you deserve better!”

Indeed, we do “own the store” of natural resources, in the sense that it is in our hands for the time being. But, to paraphrase William Faulkner in 1949 as he begrudgingly accepted the Nobel Prize for Literature: “this is only ours in trust.” Our claims on the resources of the world are claims on the birthrights of future generations. Take a moment to think of your great-grandparents. They most likely exist as stories and photographs passed down through the years, perhaps a very early memory of a benevolent relative. Thanks to the advent of electronic data storage technology, your great-grandchildren will know you far more intimately than you ever knew your precursors. The relationship is much more tangible, our actions (or inactions) all the more vivid.

All of which returns us to the point of genuine sustainability. After all, if we'll stand judgment in perpetuity, what choices can we make in the here and now to ensure the legacy we leave is a positive one? The 19th Century German scientist, George Lichtenberg, offered a telling truism when he observed: “it is the human tendency to regard little things as important that has created so many great things.” At Schooner Bay, we follow the same creed when it comes to

sustainability. Indeed, it is the intensity and persistence of our focus on seemingly minor details that ultimately permits the evolution of holistic sustainability. Or as Mahatma Gandhi once reflected, “all big things are made on trifles; my entire life has been made on trifles.”

And so, in our roundabout fashion, we strike at the root of this issue's exploration of Schooner Bay Sustainability. Much ink has been spent on the broader applications of Schooner Bay Sustainability and our biological approach to sustainable living. We are very proud of the million gallon water cistern we've buried under the palm grove. We are excited to have the first communal geothermal cooling system in The Bahamas. We are certain that the quality of our construction and purposefulness of our architectural design are of the highest order. At Schooner Bay, we have spent the last five years creating the most favorable foundation on which to sustainably grow into the indefinite future.

Now it is time to recognize some of the smaller, everyday contributions to Schooner Bay Sustainability. Harkening back to an earlier point, much of what we do on a day-to-day basis to promote sustainability at Schooner Bay involves the control of human emissions. This begins simply by repurposing our waste, an objective that unites Schooner Bay's smallest and most routine sustainability initiatives with its largest and most ambitious. In 2007, a multinational integrated oil company put out an ad that read: “Don't throw anything away. There is no away.”

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ECOSYSTEM SERVICES & EVERYDAY SUSTAINABILITY

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Brilliant! Leave it to the reader to gauge the sincerity of the advert, but the message is spot on!

In this spirit, consider just a few examples of the small things happening every day in Schooner Bay to promote true sustainability and enhance the health of our Ecosystem Services for the benefit of future generations. Recycling and reuse of found or surplus material is a major theme. For example, wood scraps from construction have been mulched and laid over landscaping to absorb moisture, promote plant growth, and minimize waste trucked off site. Meanwhile, food scraps from meals consumed on site are placed in biodegradable bags and composted. So too are fish carcasses, helping to enrich the soil with nutrients. All excavated materials from the site are repurposed as fill to limit the volume of imported aggregate.

Man-made waste is also handled deliberately. Aluminum canned beverages consumed on-site are rinsed, crushed and donated to the local chapter of Cans for Kids. Paper flow in administration has been aggressively reduced as we work towards the goal of a completely paperless office environment. Elsewhere, we strive to make the most of our natural advantages. The beach is cleared of plastic every day, leaving only organic material and allowing the shoreline sea cycle to maintain and build the beach as nature intended. The coppice is lightly used by Schooner Bay residents, but permits true biodiversity as a habitat for various other species. All seafood-based meals and most vegetable-based meals are provisioned with locally-caught or locally-grown ingredients. Screens are installed on all windows to take advantage of the reliable sea breeze and minimize dependence on mechanical cooling systems. Select trees, shrubs and bushes from the local coppice are tagged and relocated for use in the community landscaping plan. Simple steps help contribute to a fuller quality of life. Bicycles are used as a primary mode of on-site transportation. Found and marginalized materials are put to productive use in artistic and artisanal projects around the village.

The list could go on and expand easily into our approaches to the larger subjects of urban planning, architecture, and infrastructure. But the focus here is on the little - often unnoticed - efforts that play a critical but quiet role in the establishment of true sustainability. We don't contend that our system is perfect. We're constantly improving and refining our approach to sustainability in pursuit of that perfect harmony, a true positive one-to-one correlation between the well-being of ourselves and our ecosystem - genuine symbiosis, deep integration. Along the way, one consistent source of new ideas has been you - our readers, friends, homeowners, and stakeholders. So if there's something you want to share, please send us a note at mainsheeteditor@lindroth.cc. Or better yet, come visit us in Abaco, and experience Schooner Bay Sustainability first hand!



FISH TALES

by **CAPTAIN CLINT KEMP**

PROPRIETOR, BLACK FLY BONEFISH LODGE



We are experiencing one of the mildest winters on record and the fish seem to be loving it! The water temperature is unseasonably warm, and the fish have remained on the flats feeding like it's the middle of spring. Dave Byler landed a beautiful 10lb bonefish wading the flats a few days ago. The catch was made even sweeter as it happened in the company of other anglers who witnessed with fishing envy as the trophy fish was skillfully wrestled in.

Not all the stories from the flats are about catching fish, as I learned recently when I had the opportunity to introduce a few Schooner Bay guests to the art of fly-fishing. After a few hours of instruction, Susanne and Roseland

jumped in the skiff and we were off on their first bonefishing adventure. In moving from flat to flat we encountered a pod of four dolphins in shallow water. I stopped the skiff and the pod engaged us like playmates. For 20 minutes we drove in circles with the dolphins chasing and diving under and around the boat, tempting us to come in and play.

These are the unexpected moments that make fishing the flats a magical experience. We have some of the world's best fly fishing in South Abaco in one of the world's most pristine natural settings. I look forward to introducing many of you to the beauty of the flats and the grace of this passion we call Fly Fishing.



KAYAKING THE ABACOS

by MARY CHAMIE

Last Sunday, Ricky Johnson, of Abaco Nature Tours, took us out for a kayak ride just five miles from High Banks. It was a delightful tour.

He is very knowledgeable about the plants and birds and points them out as he goes along. We learned a great deal about our local natural habitat from him, as well as stories about how Bahamians use plants for nutritional and medicinal purposes. He also advised us on a great herbal drink to give to kids who say they are too ill to go to Sunday school. One look at the drink and they are well again! He is informative and friendly and really kept us interested in where we were and what we were seeing around us.

A half-day tour with Ricky gave me a perspective that I did not have before on the plants and birds that comprise the many micro-environments that surround us.

Ricky picked us up at 8am and drove us just a short distance from where we live. He headed up the road toward Marsh Harbour, made a hard left into the woods and we bumped along on a two-tracker until we reached the western side of the island, filled with shallow lakes and canals, and marls that lead to the ocean. The tide was on its way down, so when we touched our kayaks into the water and headed out, we had an extra push from the tide taking us out. I figured I had better rest up, because coming back was going to take some heavy paddling.



We headed across the lake toward the marls. Then Ricky signaled for us to go right into the marls with our kayaks, into tunnels of mangrove roots that made a really beautiful canal. We could see small fishes around us everywhere.

The water was rough and pushy on one side of the marls, and beautifully peaceful on the other.

Ricky grabbed a red mangrove root and we all joined him and sat there and chatted about where we were and what we were seeing. We rested up, knowing that we had to push to get back.

Then we turned around and headed back to the shore to head home, through the tunnels and out into the open, wind-pushed, tide-driven lake. He held our interest by pointing out the birds and plants of interest on the way back.

In all, we probably traveled ten miles, of which one or two of them were in the ocean water. Yet in this short half-day trip we discovered a great guide and a very interesting tour of our area, listening and learning and paddling. Great fun. I really recommend it.

Guest Contributor Mary Chamie is a resident of Bahama Palm Shores, Abaco. Ricky Johnson of Abaco Nature Tours runs his eco-tourism business from offices at Schooner Bay's entrance. The preceding was reprinted with Ms. Chamie's permission from her blog, "Simple Living for Complicated People."

CULTURE

NEW PUBLIC ART
INSTALLMENT
IN SCHOONER BAY

by ANTONIUS ROBERTS

SCHOONER BAY ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE



As part of my ongoing efforts to create public art installments in Schooner Bay using found and natural materials, I have recently completed a mermaid sculpture at the harbour entrance. Taking a two-ton block of limestone removed by Schooner Bay's engineers as part of the site excavation process - and destined originally for the channel groin at the harbour entrance - I repurposed the boulder as an artistic object.

The use of existing materials in artistic installments is consistent with Schooner Bay's sustainability philosophy, which encourages resourcefulness and implementation of locally-sourced materials. Just as locally-grown plants and food crops nourish the community's

landscape and its populace, the use of locally-sourced materials for artistic purposes provides creative sustenance.

The sculpture took about three weeks to finish, and I used both an air chisel and traditional hammer and hand chisel tools to carve the siren in the face of the rock. The completed sculpture sits on the north side of the harbour entrance; the mermaid lies on her back looking upwards toward the sky, with her tail rotated to the side and arms draped across her torso in restful repose. It is my wish that the same calm and peaceful spirit envelops all who enter the safety of Schooner Bay Harbour.

SCHOONER BAY
TESTIMONIAL

by AMANDA COULSON

I went to Schooner Bay intrigued to learn more about the artist's retreat and access to nature: we were not disappointed! Several large scale interventions dotting the grounds—made out of flotsam and jetsam cast up onto the otherwise pristine beaches—formed an interesting contrast to the surrounding nature. Fishing nets, bits of plastic, and old wood are all used to turn what was once an eyesore into interesting sculptural interventions in the landscape.

The location itself provides a sense of space and light that one cannot experience in many places on earth, and a long wander through the pine forests and coppices close by brought us into contact with unusual flora and fauna both indigenous to The Bahamas (the native parrot) and just passing through (the much sought-after painted bunting). The mysterious Blue Holes of Abaco—incredibly deep, water filled cave systems—were also intriguing.

With the residence, beach, forest and studio all within close proximity to one another, it was not far to walk from place of inspiration to contemplation or creation. A wonderful restorative and inspiring location!

Guest Contributor Amanda Coulson is the Director of the National Art Gallery of The Bahamas.

RESCUE OF THE O.A. KNUDSEN:

An Account of the 1942 Rescue of the Crew of a Torpedoed Norwegian Freighter in the Waters off Schooner Bay

by ERIC WIBERG

The inter-island schooner *Arena* under Captain Sherwin Archer left Marsh Harbor Abaco bound for Nassau on the afternoon of Friday the 6th of March, 1942. Though the motorized mail boats *Stede Bonnett* and *Prescilla* had been plying the trade to Nassau and Abaco even had air service in the form of a 21-seat Catalina amphibious plane, Captain Archer and his son Bobby, the relief captain, used their 50+-foot converted sponge fishing sailing schooner to supplement the service. His sloop was to ply its traditional trade for a decade from 1940 to 1950, when even though it upgraded to an engine the *Arena* was supplanted by the motor vessel *Tropical Trader*, ending the days of sailing

merchants between Abaco and the capital of the colony.

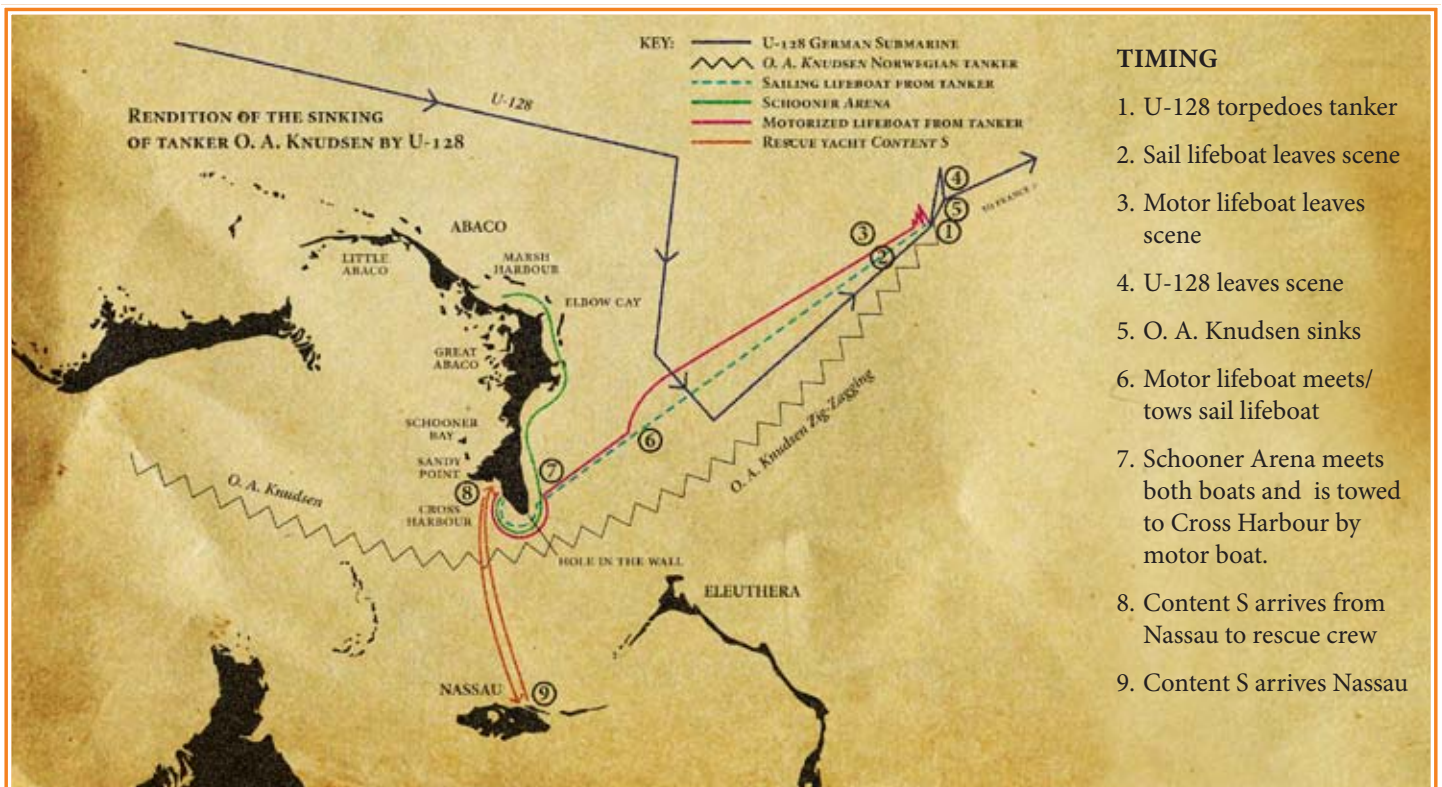
The night of 6th and 7th of March was fairly calm, with a light southeasterly wind but a persistent swell which crashed against the base of the cliffs at the Hole-in-the-Wall Light at the very southern tip of Great Abaco Island. Hole-in-the-Wall Light illuminates the deep water northern edge of the forty-mile wide Northeast Providence Channel. Built in 1836 and completed in 1838, it was the first lighthouse built in the Bahamas by the Imperial Lighthouse Service. The light stands at 168 feet height and its single white flash illuminates the sea for 23 miles, or since the *Arena* passed the mostly white

settlement of Cherokee Sound to starboard that evening.

Arena was navigating past Schooner Bay and towards the re-assuring beacon and approaching Conch Sound Point and Lanthorn Head after the midnight change of watch. Suddenly, at 2:00 am, the eerie arc of white light from the lighthouse illuminated something incongruous and startling – could it be? There was a raft of two small lifeboats bobbing in the water outside the breakers. The men were calling in heavily Germanic accents – and signaling with little lights. Could they be Germans attacking the Bahamas? Who were they?

Arena eased off the main sail and bore down on the boats – not too close to the reefs – to hear their story. The Captain, Knut Bringedahl, called over that they were shipwrecked Allied seaman from Norway. Their ship, the *O. A. Knudsen*, had been sunk two days before during a day-long battle some 75 miles to the east (by the German submarine under *Kapitänleutnant* Ulrich Heyse, aged 35). They had half a dozen injured men on board, one of them, Seaman Olaus Johansen critically. They didn't know the coast line and didn't want to attempt a landing without local guidance. Was there any way that Captain Archer could

Continued on PAGE 14



RESCUE OF THE O.A. KNUDSEN

Continued from PAGE 13

divert his course and take the men under tow?

Faced with an unexpected humanitarian mission, in a remote British colony which had not been touched by the war, Captain Archer and his passengers and crew responded in the finest traditions of the sea. They invited the injured and crowded men on board from the two lifeboats and accommodated them as best they could. But then they faced a quagmire – the *Arena* was just a sailing boat and there wasn't much wind to propel it. On top of that, with two heavy life boats in tow and 39 men on board it would go a lot slower.

Since the *O. A. Knudsen's* boat had a motor in it, and they had salvaged 25 gallons of gasoline from their sinking mother ship, it was decided that the rescued boat would take the rescuing schooner in tow. This they did, tying the *Arena* behind the motor boat, and the life boat behind the *Arena*. With a local on board the motorized lifeboat they motored at about two or three knots three miles around Southwest Point and into the lee of the wind where it was calmer.

By sunrise about 5:30 am they were passing the abandoned settlement of Alexandria and by 6:30 am had rounded Cross Harbour Point, seven miles up the coast. The nearest

settlement was a lumber camp named Cornwall, whether the third of fourth such migratory camp remains uncertain. In it were three white families and several black Bahamians, a small church, and even a nurse.

The motley group approached the community by their export pier, which was the terminus of a small temporary railroad. The *Arena's* men steered the rag-tag convoy for this shallow point. Then the schooner anchored and the two life-boats were tied up along the jetty. The men were shuttled ashore and the word passed quickly to the managers and workers at the mill – they had three dozen shipwreck survivors to tend to – work would have to be put on hold for the day. Soon the owner of the mill, and the local Member of Parliament for Abaco, Mr. J. W. Roberts, of the Abaco Lumber Company, was alerted.

From that point on, whatever was needed was put at the disposal of the survivors, including a radio to contact Nassau. From there the motor boat, *Content S* was dispatched, along with doctor, Dr. Lyon, sent by the Chief Medical Officer for the colony, Dr. Cruikshank. Transportation was summoned in the form of the yacht *Content S* – as well as the nurse, a motor truck to move the men from the rail head to the



The grave of Olaus Johansen.

community, and whatever else was required. The lumber mill was essentially cut off without reliable road access to Marsh Harbour, the main community on the island. They and their new charges would have to fend for themselves.

The following day the survivors from the *O. A. Knudsen* left Cross Harbor for Nassau, where they were met by the Duchess of Windsor, American Wallis Simpson, whose husband had resigned his role as King Edward VIII and been sent to govern the Bahamas during the war. Also members of the Red Cross, which the Duchess was President of, and the local press and populace thronged around Prince George Wharf in Nassau to see the new arrivals, the first survivors of a German submarine to be landed in the Bahamas ever.

Sadly the next day Seaman Olaus Johansen, aged 57 and the widowed father of five children who fled a

mining job in Svalbard the year before, died in remote Cornwall and was buried “on the spot”. His grave lay overgrown and undisturbed for 70 years until amateur archaeologists from Marsh Harbor discovered and photographed it in 2011.

There is no memorial to the incidents and men of *O. A. Knudsen* in the Bahamas – or to the timber harvesters who tended to and rescued them – only mile after mile of Abaco pine covering the spot where the drama played out two generations ago....

Guest Contributor Eric Wiberg, an acclaimed writer, sailor, historian and traveler, grew up in Nassau in a large Swedish-American family. He has published nine books on various maritime subjects including a memoir of his Pacific Ocean crossing in command of a 68-foot Burmese teak ketch at the age of 23.

SCHOONER BAY LIBRARY



QUOTES

"Those who consume far more resources than they require destroy the life chances of those whose survival depends upon consuming more."

– George Monbiot

"Development which has no regard for whom or what it harms is not development. It is the opposite of progress, damaging the Earth's capacity to support us and the rest of its living systems."

– George Monbiot

"Sustainable development is the peace policy of the future"

– Professor Dr Klaus Topfer,
UNEP Executive Director

"The first rule of sustainability is to align with natural forces, or at least not try to defy them."

– Paul Hawken

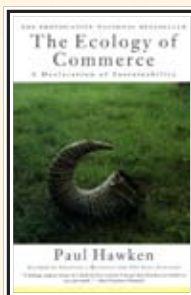
"If something is sustainable, it means we can go on doing it indefinitely. If it isn't, we can't"

– Jonathon Porritt

"To live content with small means; to seek elegance rather than luxury, and refinement rather than fashion; to be worthy, not respectable, and wealthy, not, rich; to listen to stars and birds, babes and sages, with open heart; to study hard; to think quietly, act frankly, talk gently, await occasions, hurry never; in a word, to let the spiritual, unbidden and unconscious, grow up through the common--this is my symphony."

– William Henry Channing

BOOKS

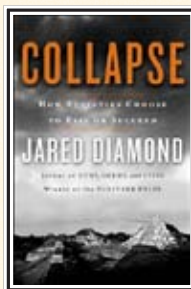


THE ECOLOGY OF COMMERCE

by Paul Hawken

Paul Hawken, the entrepreneur behind the Smith & Hawken brand, offers a radical new approach

to commerce that argues for the elevation of ecological sustainability and personal fulfillment to the same status as profit motive. Drawing as much on Baba Ram Dass and Vaclav Havel as he does on Peter Drucker and WalMart for his case studies, Hawken is on a one-man crusade to reform our economic system by demanding that First World businesses reduce their consumption of energy and resources by 80% in the next 50 years. Calling for a restorative economy, Hawken thoughtfully reviews ecological theories and disasters and insists that "ecology offers a way to examine all present economic and resource activities from a biological rather than a monetary point of view."



COLLAPSE: HOW SOCIETIES CHOOSE TO FAIL OR SUCCEED

By Jared Diamond

In his bestseller, *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, Jared Diamond brilliantly examined the

circumstances that allowed Western civilizations to dominate much of the world. Now he probes the other side of the equation: What caused some of the great civilizations of the past to fall into ruin, and what can we learn from

their fates? Using a vast historical and geographical perspective ranging from Easter Island and the Maya to Viking Greenland and modern Montana, Diamond traces a fundamental pattern of environmental catastrophe—one whose warning signs can be seen in our modern world and that we ignore at our peril.



WHY ARCHITECTURE MATTERS

By Paul Goldberger

"Architecture begins to matter," writes Paul Goldberger,

"when it brings delight and sadness and perplexity and awe along with a roof over our heads." Goldberger expounds on his theories of the emotional and cultural significance of architecture through examples ranging from a small Cape Cod cottage to the "vast, flowing" Prairie houses of Frank Lloyd Wright, from the Lincoln Memorial to the highly sculptural Guggenheim Bilbao and the Church of Sant'Ivo in Rome, where "simple geometries . . . create a work of architecture that embraces the deepest complexities of human imagination." Based on decades of looking at buildings and thinking about how we experience them, the distinguished critic raises our awareness of fundamental things like proportion, scale, space, texture, materials, shapes, light, and memory. Readers will take away with them a wonderfully rewarding new way of seeing and experiencing every aspect of the built world.

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