



# MAINSHEET

MAY-JUNE 2012

## THE VILLAGE VOICE

by GLEN KELLY

TOWN MANAGER

& HARBOUR MASTER

It hasn't been long since my last dispatch, but there is still plenty to report by way of progress at Schooner Bay. One of the most exciting developments in the last couple months has been the increasing number of visitors to the village. We've been welcoming a steady stream of property-owners, guests and other interested parties, and suddenly Schooner Bay is buzzing with activity! A handful of boats have made Schooner Bay their port-of-call, energizing the harbour basin, while golf carts and bicycles have become a common sight rambling

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## THE WAY IT WAS: A CONVERSATION WITH CHESTER THOMPSON

by THE EDITOR

Every now and then, a book appears that so perfectly captures the essence of a particular time and place that it comes to define its chosen setting. We know Victorian London through Dickens, post-revolutionary Paris through Balzac, colonial Africa through Conrad and the reconstructionist south through Faulkner. The works of Bahamian writer, Chester Thompson – most notably, *The Fledgling: A Bahamian Boyhood* - do the same service for the Out Islands of The Bahamas in the first half of the 20th Century. Thompson's coming-of-age tales unfold in

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## SCHOONER BAY HOSTS 2ND ANNUAL SPRINGFEST!

by JAMES MALCOLM

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING, SALES & PUBLIC RELATIONS

May 19th dawned with overcast skies and rain in the forecast, but that didn't stop nearly 700 people from attending the action-packed 2nd edition of the Schooner Bay Springfest. Following on the success of last year's inaugural event, the Schooner Bay Team worked tirelessly to ensure that this year's festival would exceed even the highest expectations of last year's attendees. The result was a well-attended, high-energy festival with diverse and varied attractions suitable for the whole family.

Springfest kicked off around 10am in the village center at Schooner Bay, shortly after the Bo Hengy ferry arrived from Nassau with over 100 participants eager to join in on

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## COMMUNITY

# LEGENDARY ABACO WATERMAN TITO “FROGGY” BALDWIN JOINS SCHOONER BAY

by GLEN KELLY

TOWN MANAGER & HARBOUR MASTER

It's not every day you get paddleboard lessons from a military sharpshooter who spent much of his adult life jumping out of helicopters. But, that's just one of the many exciting outdoor experiences awaiting visitors now that Tito “Froggy” Baldwin has signed on as Schooner Bay's Director of Land and Sea Activities. As a former U.S. Coast Guard Helicopter Rescue Swimmer and Aviation Survival Technician, Froggy is one of an elite breed of civic-minded adrenaline-junkies who thrives on helping others out of sticky situations in the wild. Part Boy Scout, part Rambo, part Jacques Cousteau, Froggy is a Bahamian original whose diverse knowledge and experience are major assets to Schooner Bay as the community continues to grow and evolve.

Following his stint in the U.S. Coast Guard (he holds American and Bahamian passports), Baldwin returned to his native village of Hopetown, Abaco and opened Froggie's Out Island Adventures, a successful scuba outfit that remains in operation today. He has worked as First Mate and Dive



Instructor on megayachts, and most recently, as the Outdoor Pursuits Manager and Head of Security for Baker's Bay on Great Guana Cay, Abaco. In between these stints, he has pursued his passion for the sea, traveling the world filming whales and other endangered sea creatures for a marine documentary due to be released later this year.

When I asked Froggy what drew him to Schooner Bay, he said the attraction was two-fold. “When I first arrived at Schooner Bay and drove over the ridge, I was speechless. I saw adventure in every direction. It's such a beautiful place and the opportunity to develop all these adventures in this untouched environment was one I couldn't pass up. Then, as I learned more about the community and saw what

everyone was doing here, my interest only grew. The feel of this place reminds me a lot of the Hopetown I knew when I was a kid. I wanted to be a part of building a new community like this.”

Froggy is full of ideas and energy and seems to be having a blast creating Schooner Bay's eco-adventure menu. When I asked him about some of the activities currently under development, he assured me there were many. “We'll do paddleboard excursions, surf safaris, sea-kayaking, spear-fishing, scuba diving. And we'll also do a lot of instructional stuff for people wanting to learn. We'll have options for all levels. Oh, and we'll probably do some free-diving, which is one of my passions. That means diving as deep as possible without any supplemental oxygen. You can free-dive a couple hundred feet down in some of the blue holes around here.”

“Maybe *you* can,” I reply. “I think I'll stick to sea-kayaking.” But, that's just the beauty of Froggie's adventures: there's something for everyone!

## THE VILLAGE VOICE

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down the village paths and roads. Ricky Johnson of Abaco Nature Tours has been busy leading sightseeing tours during the day, while our hospitality team has been turning out sensational dinner parties for our guests at night. We even hosted an Easter service this year, with local pastor and Assistant Harbour Master, Albert Russell, delivering a brief sermon to a small group congregated along the iron shore at sunrise.

In light of Schooner Bay's growing popularity as a destination, we feel very fortunate to have signed on Abaco-native, Tito “Froggy” Baldwin, to be our Director of Land & Sea Activities. More on Froggy in my introductory profile on the left, but suffice it to say we've found perhaps the most qualified and competent waterman in all of The Bahamas and turned him loose in the pristine coastal wilderness of South Abaco. The outdoor activities and adventure packages he is putting together for guests of all ages and levels will be phenomenal. To further promote recreational opportunities in Schooner Bay, we're in the process of putting down a temporary sports area, including a sand volleyball court and sand

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## THE VILLAGE VOICE

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soccer pitch, next the harbour master's office in the village center. We're also making transportation around the village easier with our newly-arrived fleet of brand new 48V electric golf carts. We are currently exploring various options for solar-energy charging stations for golf carts in Schooner Bay.

We're pleased to report a few new property sales in recent weeks, and residential construction continues apace on the island and around the harbour. Construction at Black Fly Bonefish Club, Schooner Bay's first commercial building, is also well underway, with the foundation laid and sidewalls already up on the first floor. Putting on my Harbour Master's hat, I can confirm excellent progress on dock and pier construction in the harbour. In addition to the town docks already installed near the future site of the Harbour Master's Office (slated for completion by early 2013), two new finger-docks have been installed in front of Black Fly, and our marine engineers are finishing construction on all residential docks on harbour-front and island properties. All stages of dredging activity are now complete and the harbour has a depth of eight feet at mean low water. Encouragingly, several species of fish have been seen throughout the harbour, in addition to crawfish and juvenile sea turtles.

The village is getting noticeably greener as well. Our landscaping crews have been actively sprigging the village greens with zoysia

seeds, and we expect the common areas to be fully greened by the middle of summer. Tree and plant propagation continues to yield superb results in our nursery, and the large-scale planting of indigenous species throughout the village is ongoing. The results of our landscaping efforts will be profound, and visitors can expect to see Schooner Bay literally blossoming over the next 12-18 months. The animals will appreciate it as well, and we've already seen an encouraging increase in bird nesting activity around the village this year. On the beach, we continue our thrice-weekly checks for turtle nesting, and several large turtle sightings have been reported along the northern reaches of Guinea Schooner Bay.

All of these exciting developments were on full display at our 2nd Annual Schooner Bay Springfest on May 19th. Keep an eye out for more interesting Schooner Bay events in the months to come. Artist-in-Residence, Antonius Roberts, is working with Bahamian musical icons, Peanuts Taylor, Charles Carter and Chippy Chipman to launch the *Legends of Goombay Music Festival and Art Expo* (see page 18) next fall, and we're also developing an Eco-Cultural Symposium in collaboration with George Mason University and an eclectic group of international thought leaders. And of course, plans are already in the works for Springfest 2013. Whether it's for one of these exciting events or just a relaxing getaway in our newly-appointed guest quarters, we hope you'll pay us a visit and see for yourself all of the exciting developments underway at Schooner Bay!



# SMALL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES AT SCHOONER BAY

At Schooner Bay, we are committed to providing comprehensive support for local entrepreneurs wishing to start and grow a business in the community. We have assembled a few different business proposals based on the needs of our growing village, and are encouraging interested parties to contact us about potential ownership and management opportunities. We are prepared to make construction financing available for qualified parties, and have even gone so far as to create preliminary architectural drawings for each of the establishments, in addition to basic cost and operating analyses. These small businesses will help meet basic needs, create economic opportunities and enhance diversity within the community. For those interested in learning more, please contact James Malcolm at 242-366-2044. The businesses that we believe would be appropriate at this stage of development include:

- **Bed & Breakfast** – We imagine a versatile facility in the harbour village that includes guest rooms, rental cottages, a small restaurant or café and an owner's residence. As evidenced in the attached drawings, scale and design are consistent with the architectural concepts found elsewhere in the village, allowing of course for flexibility within this general framework. This would be Schooner Bay's first truly commercial lodging enterprise, and the property would be ideally located

on a desirable lot within the village center, just steps from the beach, harbour and coppice. Considering the success of similar models in Bahamian harbour villages like Hopetown and Dunmore Town, we believe this opportunity for a bed and breakfast on prime Schooner Bay real estate has immense potential.

- **Apartment Complex** – We envision a small (4-8 unit) apartment rental building in the village center. This facility would permit transient and affordable housing, allowing for greater residential flexibility and diversity in the village core.
- **Harbour Snack Stand** – Small retail stands are common in Bahamian harbour villages, and vendors sell everything from prepared foods and local produce to artwork, jewelry and souvenirs. As activity in the community continues to increase, we believe a small, centrally-located retail stand could fill the need for casual fare, basic goods and local objects.

*Artist rendering of proposed Bed & Breakfast*



## THE INNKEEPER'S DIARY

When the time comes to write this column, we often find ourselves so excited to share our experiences and ideas that we get lost in the thrill. Throughout our short time of being here, we have loved every minute of it. As with any new thing we have had some challenges; weather, for instance, has thrown us some curve balls. Thankfully, the Cabana shades a space of comfort for those whirlwind days. This charming beach-front bungalow is our primary venue for meals and gatherings; the candles flickering against the shutters with the hum of the trees as music, sets an atmosphere indescribable. In addition to these special evenings, we have come to enjoy the cozy days with guests getting to know one another and playing the simple board games that are so easily forgotten in today's world.

The feedback has been very encouraging thus far. We received this lovely note from recent guests:

*"We would like to thank you both for all the hospitality and thoughtfulness you showed during our recent visit to Schooner Bay. The meals in the Cabana and on the patio were delightful, and your BBQ dinner was great. We enjoyed both the food and your company. What really impressed us was how you went out of your way to see that we always had everything we might need, including offerings of fruit and dips at the house. We very much look forward to seeing more of you both in the future. Keep up the good work, and you will*

## THE INNKEEPER'S DIARY

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*help to make Schooner Bay a great place!"*

Having clients from around the world brings a flare of diversity to our small Bahamian village. Our elegant French wines and smooth rums set a realm of commonality. The refreshingly cold glass makes everyone feel comfortable in the hot Bahamian sun, and the laughter it creates can be heard from across the harbour. Everyone says that food also brings people together, and that is certainly true in our small community. With our farm on site, and frequent visits by local fisherman, we never cease to provide fresh banquet for feasting. One of our own provided us with an Abaco hog just a week ago. That wild beast made for an excellent burger, which everyone - guests and staff - found to be a special treat.

We hosted our first of many birthdays this past weekend, which made for a joyous event! The guest of honor said his favorite cake was a traditional Bahamian rum. He said that it brought back memories from the old Bahamas, and he was so thankful to create a new memory with his grandkids at Schooner Bay, using the same food. We hope you can start

your own Bahamian traditions in your own house. To get you started, we have attached the rum cake recipe. Bake it and see how your family comes together!

## FEATURED RECIPE

### *True-True Bahamian Rum Cake*

2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 ½ cup sugar  
1 tablespoon baking powder  
½ cup non-fat dry milk  
*\*can sub all this for yellow cake mix box*  
4 eggs  
1 pkg. instant vanilla pudding mix  
½ cup cold water  
½ cup oil  
1 cup chopped nuts  
½ cup rum

Combine all ingredients. Sprinkle nuts in greased pan pour mixture evenly, bake at 375 degrees until brown.

### *Topping*

¼ lb butter  
¼ cup water  
1 cup sugar  
½ cup rum (optional)

Heat all ingredients except rum (optional can heat all together to cook alcohol out) in pan until sugar melts, remove from heat, (add rum). Poke holes in top of cake and pour sauce over the entire top. Serve with whip cream or ice cream.



## SCHOONER QUEEN ARRIVES IN SCHOONER BAY HARBOUR

by TITO BALDWIN

DIRECTOR OF LAND & SEA ACTIVITIES

Schooner Bay's flagship vessel, SCHOONER QUEEN, recently arrived in her home port following an extensive restoration in Nassau. SCHOONER QUEEN is a vintage Stuart Angler fishing vessel built in The Carolinas. These highly sought-after boats, with their classic lines and stable sea-going characteristics, can be difficult to find, and Schooner Bay Town Founder, Orjan Lindroth, knew he had a diamond in the rough when he spotted one for sale in Nassau Harbour in 2010. A major restoration followed at Brown's Boat Basin in Nassau, and the boat emerged in Bristol condition last year, a testament to both her fine pedigree and the skill of the Bahamian craftsmen who restored her.

The boat is 32' LOA, with a strong fiberglass-over-wood hull construction, a generous 11' beam for stability, and a 3' draft perfect for exploration of the shallow waters of The Bahamas. Starting at the bow with a varnished anchor pulpit, her lines carry aft with pronounced sheer that gives the QUEEN an iconic profile instantly associable with working vessels of the past. Her single diesel engine is extremely efficient and economical, permitting a range of 300 nautical miles at speeds of up to 14 knots. With marine radar, GPS and an enclosed pilot house, the boat is suitable for cruising in a range of conditions. A full awning over the aft deck creates a shady setting for picnicking and lounging on even the warmest of days, and a small cabin down below is suitable for overnight excursions.

I had the pleasure of captaining the boat from Nassau to Schooner Bay, and arriving at her port-of-call for the first time was a special experience. SCHOONER QUEEN will be used for a variety of activities including fishing, snorkeling, diving, touring, exploring, picnicking and cruising. She's a worthy flagship for our growing community, and will no doubt grace the waters of Schooner Bay for many years to come!



Happy guests at the Schooner Bay Beach Cabana.



# SCHOONER BAY HOSTS 2ND ANNUAL SPRINGFEST!

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the festivities. Turnout was strong for the day's first event, a 5- & 10-k Fun Run & Walk that meandered through the village and finished in the town centre. A number of different non-profit organizations operated booths around the harbour, including Bahamas National Trust, Friends of the Environment and Every Child Counts. Ricky Johnson of Abaco

Nature Tours was on-site with Florida-based parrot expert, Caroline Stahala, to give tours and answer questions about Abaco's unique natural environment.

Several local artists and artisans also participated, showcasing a Bahamian art collection of superlative quality. Encouragingly, sales were very strong, a

testament to the caliber of works on offer and the enthusiasm of Springfest participants. Schooner Bay Artist-in-Residence, Antonius Roberts, brought four students from his National Bench Programme (see page 18 for more information) to showcase their reclaimed casuarina wood benches, and the group managed to sell all

six of the benches earmarked for this event!

Participants enjoyed a barbeque lunch in the village and relaxed to live performances by local bands, New Entry and Impact. KB headlined the event delivering a rousing performance that certainly ranked among the

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## 2ND ANNUAL SPRINGFEST

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crowd favorites. Schooner Bay's new Director of Land & Sea Activities, Tito "Froggy" Baldwin (see page 2) hosted a variety of activities for the whole family, including sack races, kite-flying, paddle-boarding, kayaking, swimming and a remote-control sailing regatta. One highlight for the youngsters was a greasy pole contest, and nearly a dozen children managed to climb the pole

and ring the cow bell to receive their hard-earned cash prizes! Springfest also featured a Fun-fish Rodeo, won by Greg and Blaine from Little Harbour, who pulled a 40-lb Tuna and 54-lb Kingfish from the waters off Schooner Bay.

Given the amount of new construction in the village over the past year, Springfest was the first opportunity for many visitors to experience the built environment at Schooner Bay, and interest in real estate was high.

Captain's Cottage, the three-bedroom harbour-front cottage adjacent the beach cabana, was used as a show-home for the event, and the feedback we received about Schooner Bay's architecture and residential character was very positive. ZNS (the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas) was on-site for the whole event, and we plan to use some of their comprehensive footage to produce a short film about this year's Springfest.

Springfest concluded with a Junkanoo "Rush Out" led by the Murphy Town All-Stars, a local Junkanoo group sponsored by Schooner Bay. As we watched the various generations of diverse Bahamians and visitors mix and mingle at the 2nd Annual Schooner Bay Springfest, thoroughly enjoying themselves despite the less-than-ideal weather conditions, we were left to reflect on the beauty of the Bahamian spirit, and the promise this spirit holds for the future of our country and community.

## NATURE

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES:  
*An Anchor to Windward**Thoughts from the Schooner Bay Institute**Goods or Services?*

In our last discussion of Schooner Bay Sustainability, we introduced the concept of ecosystem services. Contrast this with the more commonly held notion of nature as a supplier of goods. The distinction between goods and services in classical economics is not absolute, but moves along a continuum between commodities and intangibles. We recently saw a version of this continuum that listed “teaching” as the representative pure service and “salt” as the representative pure good. Certain goods are essential, no doubt, but they should not be held in the same esteem as services. Teaching versus salt; an odd analogy, yet one that, in our opinion, reflects the orders of value attendant to the different parts of the continuum.

As we begin to see nature as a supplier of services instead of mere goods, we think of the world more dynamically. We see systems, not materials; rivers become more than water taps or power generators, oceans more than fish farms, and mountains more than coalmines. Understanding the true biological role of, for instance, a tree, forces us to see the world in a



fundamentally altered way. What does a tree provide? Timber for building, paper for writing. But also oxygen (you know, for breathing). We know instinctively where these things fall on the continuum of goods and services. Not to diminish the importance of 2x4s and notepads, but there is no alternative to oxygen as an aerobic life source. Writing is increasingly digitized and timber is losing market share as a construction material. We do not, however, expect to see oxygen losing share to, say, boron, in the cellular respiratory market.

So what *does* a tree provide? Consider, for a moment, how architect and industrial designer, William McKibben, sees a tree. “Take something as elegant as a tree,” he urged the audience at the

2010 TED Conference in California. “Now, imagine this design assignment: design something that makes oxygen, sequesters carbon, fixes nitrogen, distills water, accrues solar energy as fuel, makes complex sugars and food, creates micro-climates, changes colors with the seasons and self-replicates. Now, why don’t we knock that down and write on it!?”

The more we understand and acknowledge the services our natural assets provide in a complex ecosystem, the better we as a species can determine how to approach the stewardship of those assets.

*All Those Beautiful Trees...*

“A fool sees not the same tree that a wise man sees,” observed the great Romantic poet, William Blake. What

does it say about us if we see a tree first and foremost as something to “knock down and write on?” Can’t we assign it some higher value than this menial task? Or, as Winston Churchill reflected incredulously, “Fancy cutting down all those beautiful trees ... to make pulp for those bloody newspapers, and calling it civilization.”

This raises an interesting point. What do the orders of value we assign to the natural world say about our degree of advancement as a civilized culture? Such a question would be anachronistic in the pre-industrial age, when technological limitations virtually assured the sustainable consumption of natural resources. For much of history, the exploitation of nature for its goods did not constitute a threat to nature as a supplier of services, at least not on a cumulative global scale. Now that we possess the technology to destroy nature’s ecosystem services, and, as a point of fact, are actively engaged in doing so, we must examine this question more closely.

Are societies that highly value conservation and sustainability more advanced than those that do not? To

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*Sea Oats on the dune at Schooner Bay.*



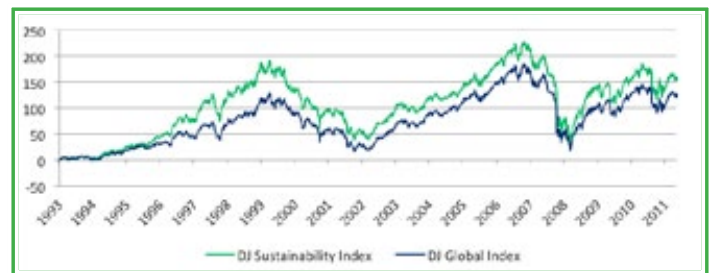
*Gumbo Limbo Tree*

## ECOSYSTEM SERVICES: AN ANCHOR TO WINDWARD

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maintain objectivity, we'll address the question using the findings of the Environmental Performance Index (EPI). Produced by researchers at Yale and Columbia in collaboration with the World Economic Forum and the European Commission, the EPI is the most comprehensive and analytically rigorous global environmental stewardship ranking available. At the top of this year's list is Switzerland, a peaceful, prosperous country with a diverse modern economy, low unemployment, highly skilled labour force and a per capita GDP among the highest in the world. At the bottom is Iraq, a war-torn and ethnically fractious country reliant on a state-controlled oil sector for over 90% of government revenues and plagued by rampant corruption, outdated infrastructure and insufficient basic services. (These descriptions are not ours, by the way, but come courtesy of the CIA World Factbook). We do not wish to patronize a place that has suffered deep tragedy or infantilize the causes of ancient conflict. Let us simply conclude that sound environmental policy and sustainability *are indeed* hallmarks of advanced societies.

It's not just heads of state who are beginning to realize that healthy ecosystem services are critical to a vibrant society. Heads of industry are taking note as well. When accounting firm, Price Waterhouse Cooper, recently polled senior executives in the private equity industry, 72% indicated that sustainability strategy was an important factor when analyzing a potential acquisition target. Before uncorking the Dom Perignon to celebrate the sudden altruism of the buyout business, consider the chart above. Since data first became available in 1993, the share prices of companies that incorporate sustainability practices into their businesses have outperformed those that do not by roughly 25%.



*Source: Dow Jones*

Corporate bigwigs have cottoned on. In a phenomenon not dissimilar to economist Adam Smith's "invisible hand," corporate self-interest is now motivating environmental stewardship. To do better by their shareholders, companies are now doing better by the planet. A study last year by high-flying New York consultancy, McKinsey, found that the number of executives citing operational efficiency and cost reductions as their company's top reasons for addressing sustainability had overtaken corporate reputation. Sure, there's plenty of insincere "greenwashing" still underway at the corporate level, and corporations remain some of the worst environmental offenders. Nonetheless, the growing body of evidence suggesting that sustainable environmental policies enhance social stability in the public realm, and profitability in the private realm, signifies a rising awareness about the importance of ecosystem services.

### *Wait, Why Are We Talking About Sea Oats?*

The late U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Clinton Anderson, once described wilderness as "an anchor to windward." "Knowing it is there," he explained, "we can also know that we are still a rich nation, tending our resources as we should – not a people in despair searching every last nook and cranny of our land for a board of lumber, a barrel of oil, a blade of grass, or a tank of water." At Schooner Bay, we believe this is the correct way to gauge the true wealth of nations: not by the production or consumption of natural goods, but by the conservation of natural services.

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*Paradise Tree*



*Cabbage Palm*



*"Air Plants"*

## ECOSYSTEM SERVICES: AN ANCHOR TO WINDWARD

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That healthy ecosystem services equate to healthy, wealthy and happy societies should come as no surprise. As the naturalist John Muir observed, "when one tugs on a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the universe." A healthy natural ecosystem, beginning at the smallest biological level, leads eventually to a healthy human ecosystem, or society. Eager to demonstrate the linkage between the elemental order of nature and the complex order of community in Schooner Bay, we thought immediately of the biodiversity of the coppice, and called upon Abaco Nature Tour's Ricardo Johnson to get a better understanding of this unique environment.

But, Ricardo wanted to talk about sea oats.

"Um, that's a dune plant, Ricky"

"Yes, but without the sea oats there's no coppice," he answered patiently.

"How do you figure?"

"Sea oats are an integral part of the sand-strand ecosystem."

"The what?"

"Surf is driven into the beach by wave energy, which originates with the wind, and tidal energy, which comes from the gravitational pull of the moon. The waves pile up sand on the beach to form a dune. Sea oats grow in this dune environment, and their roots create a skeletal structure offering tremendous stabilization. This stabilized dune prevents beach erosion and permits the growth of other plants, creating the dune ecosystem. Trace worms and crabs live here and turtles nest here. Moving into the lee of the dune, soil mixes with sand and we transition from an intertidal zone to a scrub woodland zone. This is the

coppice, and it's here because of the protection and the biological linkage of the dune. And, as I said, the dune only exists because of the sea oats."

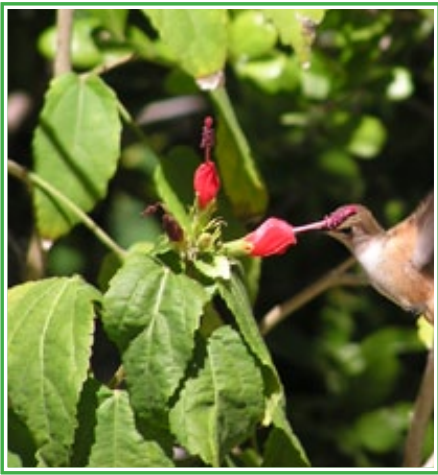
"Ah, there you have it. And what about the coppice itself?"

"Well, first recognize that the coppice is not simply here because of the dune. A lot depends on the elevation of the land and the curvature of the coastline. The right ingredients must come together for something like this to happen. And here you're seeing mostly broadleaf plants, as opposed to the pine species seen elsewhere on the island. The broadleaf species are here because they survive well in a high energy impact zone like this coastal area. And broadleaf forests have high biodiversity because the leaves of these plants are rich in nitrogen, and their decomposition yields a nutrient rich soil conducive to growth. Walk into the coppice on a hot summer day and the temperature drops ten degrees, you hear birdsong, light streams through canopy ... you're transported to a whole different world."

"So what lives in there, and what ecosystem services do they provide?"

"Where to start? There's so much. Gumbo limbo, or gum elemi, trees grow there, and produce a fruit that is a prime food source for the parrot. The canopy of the gumbo limbo is wide. In addition to providing fruit for the parrots, it's also a perfect hiding spot from raptors, or birds of prey. Parrots can fly low over the coppice and dive in for sustenance or cover. And something else about the gumbo limbo tree: it's the natural antidote to poisonwood. Poisonwood trees produce berries that are the primary food source for the white crown pigeon, but on their bark is an irritant that can cause a rash and discomfort for humans. The bark of the gumbo limbo contains the natural antidote for that poison, and you'll generally find the two species growing side by side. It's one of nature's little riddles. Oh, and the gumbo limbo is also known to repel snakes."

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*Turk's Cap*



*Coppice*

## ECOSYSTEM SERVICES: AN ANCHOR TO WINDWARD

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“Fascinating. What else?”

“Well, there’s the Mahogany tree, which we call Madeira. That has known medicinal qualities, and is used to treat high blood pressure. There’s the Paradise Tree; that’s an extremely beautiful, broad, colorful, fruit-producing tree. There are great ferns and native palms in the coppice. The Cabbage Palm is one of Abaco’s three indigenous palm species. It’s also the state tree of Florida. And it produces a well-known vegetable often used in salads called heart-of-palm. There’s wild cane, which is edible .... Oh, and the Mastic tree. This is important. *National Geographic* sent a team of divers to Abaco to explore our blue holes. They ran a major story on it. The divers found ancient turtle shells in the depths of these blue holes and confirmed through analysis of the shells that Mastic berries have long been the primary food source of sea turtles in this region. And then there are the flowering plants. A native hibiscus species known as Turk’s Cap thrives here. It’s very small and extremely beautiful. And of course we have epiphytic plants. They attach themselves to trees, and are known as ‘air plants’. They get water from the rain and the mist. Orchids can be epiphytic. We have orchid blooms cascading off the trunks of trees ten feet high in the air. It’s amazing.”

### *Nature’s Genius*

What services does the ecosystem that Ricky describes provide for Schooner Bay? Well, to start, a healthy coppice increases biodiversity, which by definition assures natural abundance. It also enhances the aesthetics of the village, supports property values and maintains a place for recreation, exploration and education. Furthermore, it has provided seedlings for the nearly 200,000 trees we are propagating on-site and planting around the village. And not to mention the edible delights and medicinal balms available in the forest for those who know where to look. Beginning with the winds and the tide that formed the dune

system which permitted the coppice to grow, and continuing through its myriad species of flora and fauna, up to the advanced order of human civilization, the preservation of ecosystem services at the most elemental level promotes the vitality of a society at its most complex.

As developers, we can assess the environment for its goods – which in our industry means housing tracts – or its services. At Schooner Bay, we have favoured services; fewer building lots and more trees. Jim Robbins, in a recent op-ed for the New York Times, wrote: “We have underestimated the importance of trees... we take them for granted, but they are a near miracle... trees are nature’s water filters, capable of cleaning up the most toxic wastes... trees filter air pollution... trees release vast clouds of beneficial chemicals... trees are the planet’s heat shield. And according to researchers in Japan, a walk in the woods reduces the level of stress chemicals in the body and increases natural killer cells in the immune system, which fight tumors and viruses.”

The coppice at Schooner Bay is an invaluable asset, as are the dunes and the beaches. The ecosystem services these environments provide yield advantages that in sum and over a long-term horizon, outstrip any benefit to developing them. As Aldous Huxley once said, “the more stitches, the less riches.” When it comes to development, that holds true for all parties – buyer, seller and visitor - and in all ways - economic, environmental, social and cultural.

Emerson felt that “when nature has work to be done, she creates a genius to do it.”

Who are we to argue genius?



# DOWN ISLAND ADVENTURES

by TITO BALDWIN  
DIRECTOR OF  
LAND & SEA ACTIVITIES

Winds: Offshore. Waves: Chest-high. With surf boards, paddle boards and body boards strapped to the top of the jeep, Noah, Andrew and myself headed off on Schooner Bay's first official Surf Safari. Our destination was "Road 50", a remote access road in South Abaco that Captain Clint Kemp had shown me earlier. It's the sort of wild, scrubby, sun-drenched place where Robinson Crusoe might have landed... minus the cannibals and mutineers. Still, we did find a message in a bottle upon first scouting the location. And I have the pictures to prove it!



After an hour ride through the national park and a 10-minute hike through the bush, we hauled our quiver of boards over the dune to find perfect conditions for me and the grommets (surf term for little dudes). Noah, an avid surfer who was visiting us from Florida, was stoked to see off-shore breezes and chest-high waves breaking on a forgiving sandbar that would soften any potential wipeouts! The water temperature was perfect

as we paddled out to the outside reef over crystal-clear Bahamian waters.

Noah was the first to drop in on a perfect right, claiming Road 50 as his own. Even for us old dudes who enjoy standup paddle boards, the conditions couldn't have been better. Andrew owned the shore break on his body board, dropping in on a few very fast waves. I took the old dude route and had long, but sweet rides on my standup paddle board.



After a few hours and some very hungry bellies, the exhausted grommets and I packed up our gear and called it a day. On our way over the dune, we turned and gave respect and thanks to Road 50. Trekking through the bush back to the jeep, we encountered five Abaco Parrots nesting in the trees. We drove off to the sound of them squawking their native goodbyes. If you ask me, there was no better way to end our surf excursion and our first official "Road 50" adventure.

See you in the line up!



# FARMER'S NOTES

by GLEN KELLY  
TOWN MANAGER & HARBOUR  
MASTER

Mild spring and early summer temperatures have been a boon for farming at Schooner! Literally wheelbarrows full of produce have come out of the farm and on to the table at the Cabana and Guest House. Pumpkins, carrots, various lettuce varieties, onions, tomatoes, green peppers, sweet potatoes and cabbage are among the myriad crops proudly grown by Schooner Bay farmers.

With an aggressive planting guide, drip irrigation system and crop rotation program, the farm is a great example of what can be grown at Schooner and South Abaco. Some of the crops already in the ground that we can look forward to in the summer include sweet potatoes, watermelon, okra, pumpkin, peppers and cantaloupes! Be sure to include the farm as a stop on your next visit to Schooner Bay and treat your palette to an assortment of healthy and local flavors!

# SCHOONER BAY DEVELOPS SOLAR DESALINATION SYSTEM

by KEITH BISHOP

SCHOONER BAY ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER



Schooner Bay engineers have developed a solar desalination unit for household use capable of making up to four litres of fresh water daily. The simple system is comprised of an elevated basin full of seawater or brackish water, a plexiglass cover, and a rubber hose feeding a water jug. The system relies on solar energy to heat the seawater, releasing water vapors that condensate on the plexiglass and are gravity-fed down to the jug as pure, potable fresh-water. Construction is from EPS foam panels which are water sealed on the inside and lined with reflective to focus solar heat down to the water to be distilled. The foam construction reduces heat loss through the sides and allows for continued distillation for hours after the sun sets. Interior temperatures exceed 150 degrees Fahrenheit, sufficiently hot enough to sterilize most bacterial contaminants if any exist in the raw water. The byproduct of this process is high quality sea-salt.

Schooner Bay's solar water still is a simple, inexpensive, biologically-driven alternative to more complex, expensive and electricity-powered reverse osmosis systems. Our unobtrusive, 30-lb system is simple to build and operate, runs purely on solar energy, and uses natural processes to transform a readily available, free water-source into a potable and edible commodity. This is exactly the sort of elegant, biologically-driven solution that we at Schooner Bay believe represents the future of true sustainability. These systems are one important component of our overarching commitment to holistic sustainability, and we expect to see a number of them around the village as residential construction progresses at Schooner Bay.

# FISH TALES

by CAPTAIN CLINT KEMP

PROPRIETOR, BLACK FLY BONEFISH LODGE



The wind is blowing 20 knots, the rain is coming down in buckets, and it is beautiful. When you live on the Islands and make your living from the sea, the weather determines your every move. Awareness of the tides, wind speed and direction is a constant reminder that we are a part of a greater system and have so little control over the ultimate reality. As one of our guides always says, "you gotta fish it like you find it." Life seems to be richer somehow when you live close to the elements, and you come to realize there is as much enjoyment in the sunshine as in the rain. Today I will sit by the window overlooking the ocean and tie flies for our new blue water program. Capt. Scott Hamilton, a friend from Florida who has been a blue water fly fishing guide for 34 years, has come over to help me explore the deep water to our east. But, today we are telling stories of bad storms and big fish.

We are very excited about the new Blue Water Fly

Fishing experience that will soon be offered at the Blackfly. It took almost a year to find the right boat, but patience paid off and we now have a beautiful 31 foot Yellowfin that is about as perfect a boat as we could ask for. She is dry, and solidly built for the kind of seas we fish on the ocean side. With her huge front deck, fly fishermen will have ample space to cast at Tuna and Mahi Mahi. We will run teasers from the stern and bring up the Sails and Blues, and when things are slow we will hit the edge and chum up huge Yellowtails. The flies we are tying are 6-10 inches long, with hooks bigger than anything I have ever tied. The equipment needed to cast these flies is in another category from what we use on the west side.

All the anticipation of this new adventure and here we are watching the rain fall. So for now we wait, knowing that the storm will eventually clear, and when it does, we will be ready and it will be on!

## CULTURE

# THE WAY IT WAS

## *A Conversation with Chester Thompson*

Continued from PAGE 1

Hopetown, Abaco in the years before the diesel engine and telegraph machine sparked an irreversible wave of change in his idyllic island hamlet. The community that emerges through his tales is a place so genuinely and expertly wrought it has become a regional archetype in the literature of The Bahamas.

*The Fledgling* is a marvel of story-telling. Thompson's laconic, precise prose glides effortlessly through the whole range of human experience, equally adept at handling passages of humor and folly as those of morality, tragedy and despair. As in all good writing, these universal themes arise subtly, through original devices, and resonate long after the book is finished. The tales are full of wit and wisdom. There's the time Thompson decided to "tief from a 'tief to make God laugh," and in attempting to steal the watermelons from the field of a dishonest neighbor, succeeded instead in stealing the fruit of his best friend's father. Or the hard-scrabble lessons of the playground: "If I became the target of a big bully, I allied myself with a bigger bully."

The simple richness of Thompson's prose draws in the reader, permitting



us to experience his story first-hand. We feel palpably his enchantment upon first laying eyes on his boyhood sweetheart: "The girl came closer, clutching a straw basket. Her arms and legs were bare and tanned, her blonde hair tangled and uncombed. She stood still and silent, returning my gaze. I wanted her to stay..."

Our ability to relate to these human experiences is one of the book's great achievements, though perhaps what we take most from *The Fledgling* is a longing for the sort of place it describes. Not Hopetown in and of itself, and not even The Bahamas, but rather that quintessential environment that most people over a certain age associate with childhood. These were salubrious places where a strong community fabric and necessary engagement with nature created boundless

opportunity for adventure and self-discovery. Yet, for all that, Thompson does not sugarcoat. His tales insist on reality above nostalgia, and what emerges is no less than the way of the world. As Thompson's uncle explains after the boy's pet pig was slaughtered and its parts sold to the villagers: "You must learn that bad things happen now and then. Sometimes bad things happen to good people; that's the way life is. What counts in life is how you cope with the bad things."

These were hardy folks - of strong stock - and the one essential quality that flows through the pages of *The Fledgling* is perseverance. And so, at the book's end, when the diesel engine and the float plane arrive to forever change the rhythm of old Hopetown, and Thompson leaves his boyhood home to further his

education in the busy capital of Nassau, we are left not with despair, but with hope. Drawing on the instincts of his pioneering forbearers, and evoking the best of the human spirit, Thompson concludes: "To my surprise the sadness of yesterday was now transformed into a strange exhilaration. It was like reading the opening pages of a new book, an exciting tale with mysteries to be revealed and challenges to be met and overcome."

Chester Thompson was born in a hurricane under a sea grape tree in the island village of Hopetown in the year 1920. He is a direct descendant on his mother's side of Wyannie Malone, the widow who settled Hopetown in 1785, and counts among his paternal ancestors one of the Eleutheran Adventurers, the band of religious dissidents who settled The Bahamas in 1648. ("My mother's family is rather new to the area," he jokes.) The course of his life has borne out the promise of its unusual beginning, seeing Thompson through voluntary service in the Second World War, a distinguished career in real estate development, and notable success as a writer. His childhood memoir,

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## THE WAY IT WAS

Continued from **PAGE 14**

*The Fledgling: A Bahamian Boyhood*, is required reading in Bahamian primary schools, and its sequel, *The Long Day Wanes*, valuably records the little-known sacrifices and heroism of Bahamian servicemen through his personal war narrative. He took up writing as a hobby and a way to record his experiences for his great-grandchildren, and is today revered as The Bahamas' greatest living man of letters.

I arrived at Seeker's End, Chester Thompson's aptly named Nassau home, on a Wednesday evening in April. It is a two-story Mission-style cottage set on ample Eastern Road acreage with views of the sea and a shady garden at the side of the property. Thompson will later relate the history of the place, a scandalous tale involving a wealthy Bay Street merchant, a European aristocrat, and a disputed inheritance. "But, for goodness sake, don't publish that!" he enjoins with a chuckle.

Rightfully so, for while Thompson may have a sense of humour, he is no gadfly. In my brief visit, the man spoke thoughtfully of serious matters, displaying perfect lucidity. Maybe it's his inquisitive mind that nurtures the spark, or maybe it's the legacy of a well-lived life under the Bahamian sun, but this nonagenarian exudes a youthful energy belying his attestations of ill health. At over six feet tall and lean-framed with shocking blue eyes and wispy hair like a cresting wave, Thompson's physical presence is formidable, if benign.

"Forgive the dust," he says with a solemnity that makes me want to pardon the tiny, guiltless particles intruding on his front porch. "We're doing some painting." He opens the door and we step into the foyer. The house is tidy, the décor comfortable, tasteful. He leads me through the dining room, past a sideboard with family photographs and into the living room, where a stack of papers has been laid on a coffee table in anticipation of our meeting. Thompson offers "wine, or a glass of beer." I accept the latter under the provision that I won't be drinking alone. He agrees to share in "a token amount," adding that he's "not really into that." A single bottle of Kalik appears, absent is his token libation. I wonder if that's the secret of Mr. Thompson's longevity.

He takes a seat on the couch opposite me, at the other side of the coffee table. Looking around and surveying the room with an air of resignation, he declares almost apologetically, "My heart is still in Hopetown." While Thompson has substantial interests in Abaco and is widely considered the patriarch of Hopetown, his increasingly limited mobility has bound him to Nassau in recent months. I think how difficult it must be for someone so intimately connected to a place to be kept away in his twilight by the privations of age. "I've had this house since the early fifties," he says of Seeker's End, "but I used to be in Hopetown every week. It's one of the last great places." He offers this statement matter-of-factly, as one might relate some immutable certainty like the speed of light or the atomic weight of hydrogen.

Thompson wants to talk about Abaco. Whether it's my introduction as the editor of *The Schooner Bay Mainsheet* or just a natural inclination, I can only surmise, but I imagine it's a bit of both. He turns deliberately to his files, steadying a hand to leaf through the stack of papers and retrieve a faded property map. "In 1965," he begins, with the gravity of one accustomed to telling stories, "I received a Crown Grant of 130 acres on Guinea Schooner Beach. I had something known as a 'conditional lease purchase' whereby I could homestead the land, and if I kept improving upon it, be granted the right to purchase the allotment for a favorable sum. This is the way much of The Bahamas was settled."

I was unaware of Thompson's landholdings around Schooner Bay, and had sought him out solely as a cultural figure and Abaco authority. He, in turn, seemed to believe my primary interest lay in real estate, and understandably so given my auspices. Despite this slight miscue, Thompson's tales bridged the gap seamlessly, and as he went on to describe his early experiences in Schooner Bay, he might have been reading aloud a passage from *The Fledgling*. "I used to go over to Cherokee Sound as a boy," he began. "I knew the postmaster there, Mr. Bethel. He would pay me a shilling to sail with him down to Schooner Bay Beach and we'd anchor in the lee. We'd take the mail pouch and wade into shore, then we walked the beach from the north end all the way down and up the road to Crossing Rocks to deliver the mail. After that, we walked back and sailed home.

That's how I came to know Schooner Bay."

As it turns out, Thompson's land flanks Schooner Bay on both sides, with the Crown Grant property extending along the upper reaches of Schooner Bay Beach to the north and separate tracts adjacent to the village of Crossing Rocks in the south. I ask him what he thinks of our efforts in Schooner Bay. "It's wonderful," he assures me, "especially what you've done with the harbour. There was potential in that property that others hadn't realized. And the houses remind me of Hopetown or Green Turtle Cay. That was The Bahamas I knew."

Spurred apparently by the subject of architecture, he begins to relate a story of a realtor friend who once helped develop a stretch of beach along the Florida panhandle that became known as Seaside. He mentions that the architectural concept seems similar at Schooner Bay, and I assure him it's an astute observation considering that Seaside was designed by DPZ, the Miami-based architectural firm that also collaborated at Schooner Bay. Thompson is noticeably excited: "Is that so?" he asks rhetorically. "I'm very glad you told me that. Very glad."

His mind wanders further afield. Despite (or perhaps because of) his rustic upbringing, there's a certain worldliness about the man. Indeed, Thompson has journeyed extensively abroad, including a stint at the University of Toronto, where he obtained a

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# SCHOONER BAY STYLE

by AMANDA LINDROTH

SCHOONER BAY DESIGNER OF RECORD

## *Timeless Spaces*

The most important thing we attempt to achieve when asked to do interiors at Schooner is to create timeless spaces. We dream, we fret, we pace and we move things around and around; but, in the end, we are not happy until we create rooms that are cozy and fresh with an element of age, charm and history. To this end, we tend to use as much vintage furniture as we can possibly manage in each project. We hunt for old rattan and wicker, for good old upholstery, for aged mirrors and hat racks. We combine these things with vintage plates, linens, beautiful old books and objects, straw mats and lots of lamp light for reading.

## *Post House*

In Post House, Antonius Roberts' charming Loyalist-style cottage, an 1820's Colonial Federal burl walnut sofa was found on Ebay. The very tiny images of the sofa on the Ebay site gave a promising glimpse of a nearly perfect "island" patina. With its bumps and scratches, the sofa looked like it "could" have spent a long century or more in the islands. The scratches and imperfections also made the sofa affordable. When the tired "old dame" arrived at the upholsterer in Florida, after a long journey from California, her neglected, original horsehair stuffing was restored and the sofa was re-upholstered in crisp seersucker. She sparkled with gratitude. This was the first piece found for the cottage and from there the many layers that make for successful design began to come together.

Antonius's cottage is part art gallery, part retreat. Antonius regularly has friends around to share meals and visit. His walls are covered in a movable feast of his work, which hang on old museum brass rails and chains. These rails are seen in fancy museums and stately British homes - think Downton Abbey meets Bahamian cottage. Antonius's living



room is rounded out with beautiful sculpted wood tables he created as well as vintage lighting and "tortoise" rattan side tables. The look is meant to seem entirely accumulated - not "decorated" - and will continue to evolve as objects are created and found and treasured.

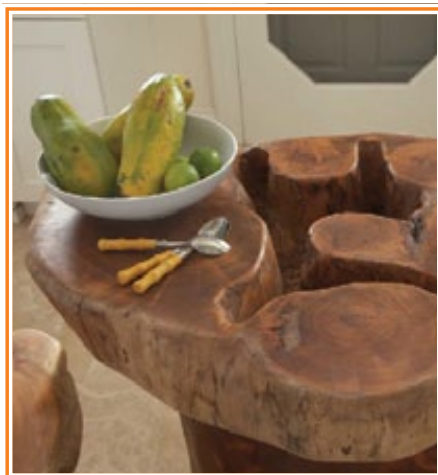
Antonius's little bedrooms have antique desks, vintage poster beds and lots of old books and quirky objects. All this combined with his smashing paintings make for a cozy magical hideaway. Staying at Antonius' Post House is an awesome invitation, if you can get it!

## *Cabana, Guest House, Captain's Cottage*

In the Schooner Cabana a pair of vintage 1940's pencil-reed rattan tables and pairs of 1960's rattan chairs are complimented by antique Bahamian nautical charts framed in vintage rattan round frames. Sofas in the Cabana are from Pottery Barn and the vintage pieces add age, charm and character.

Schooner's Guest House and Captain's Cottage are also loaded with vintage finds and treasures.

*Continued on PAGE 17*



## SCHOONER BAY STYLE

Continued from PAGE 16

A personal peccadillo lately for me has been an over-zealous love of the vintage rattan “peacock” chair. The result being their relentless inclusion in oh-so-many projects, leading to some wise interventions and editing on the part of friends, colleagues and even clients! But, the chairs add such a crazy element of whimsy and a funny 60’s moment. Was it the 60’s? I think so, but they just look right to me now!

### *Be Green, Go Vintage*

So why do some dated things look “right” and some dated things just look dated. I cannot be sure, but hunting for these things is such fun it becomes a true diversion from real life. For addicts of various things (including furniture) - and especially addicts domiciled on an island - one must give thanks to the great creators of the internet, especially firstdibs.com and Ebay. How did we ever live without these sites, which keep us up all night searching for some obscure object, wreaking havoc on our sleep patterns? For

vintage and antique furniture, the internet has become an indispensable tool. In wonderful antique meccas like Hudson NY, I am told that dealers count on the majority of their sales now from their internet sites. Amazing for island shoppers like us.

Another great delight is a day of “junking” as it is known in our design office. Whenever we can, we plan a “hit-the-ground-running” day of shopping. It starts on the early Jetblue flight to Ft Lauderdale. We have an accommodating driver, Sergio, who knows the route. We head north hitting every junk shop on the way. The day is never long enough, and we head back to the airport with our finds stuffed in the back. What we cannot carry gets picked up later. Oh my, is it fun! Such unsupervised abandon has left us with literally mountains of wonderful pieces waiting to build rooms of age and charm. Not long ago we did a house from scratch just from things we had loved and accumulated in our warehouse. What an amazing sense of satisfaction it was to see the warehouse empty and the house beaming. Overnight the house was perfect. All from things previously owned and which had character.

For a designer what could possibly be more pleasing, and for a greener planet, what could possibly be more healthy? Why consume natural resources buying something new that will take ages to look “right,” when you can spend less money and acquire more history and charm repurposing something old? In our line of work, going vintage is the ultimate Green gesture!

## THE WAY IT WAS

Continued from PAGE 15

bachelor’s degree in English. “You’ll have to permit me a story,” he implores, before describing a visit to Mustique, the Caribbean island once owned by Lord Glenconner and frequented by Princess Margaret. He met a stage designer there in the sixties who introduced the concept of the “golden rectangle,” a harmonious shape first popularized by Renaissance mathematician, Luca Pacioli, in the 16th Century, and later utilized by famed American architect, Frank Lloyd Wright. Thompson toured a house whose design adhered to this shape, and left impressed by its symmetry and proportion. While admiring the local architecture, he also noticed that houses on the steeply-graded island were for the most part not constructed on hill tops, but further down the slope so as to blend in naturally with the land.

Thompson brought these lessons back to Hopetown, where he built his self-described “dream house” on a hill overlooking the Sea of Abaco. The construction ratios were consistent with the golden rectangle, and the house was nestled into the hillside, not perched atop it. He christened the place ‘Big Hill’, and from this vantage point has overseen much of the development of Hopetown in the last forty years.

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I ask if he’s pleased with the way Hopetown has been developed, and what he thinks of development in Abaco in general. He sits up straight, breathes deeply. “Yes, that. Okay,” he says in a preparatory way that suggests

his forthcoming response has arisen from extensive consideration. “You have to ask, ‘at what price progress?’ I was born at the end of an era, a time when change was right around the corner. Today, change is coming faster than ever, and we must be very careful about that. There are things which, once lost, aren’t easily gotten back.”

“I’m apprehensive about the sort of world my great-grandchildren will inherit,” he confesses, pausing with a sigh. A moment of reflection, then my impression of Thompson as an optimist is quickly re-affirmed. “But, one of the traits of humanity is our ability to adapt. I believe we’ll find a way to manage change and to overcome some of the problems it presents. And don’t forget there’s good change, too. We can always change for the better.”

A long pause, and then he’s lost in thought, seemingly distracted. We’ve covered a number of subjects, and I rise to leave. As he escorts me through the door, I reiterate my admiration of *The Fledgling*, and lament that I haven’t yet read its sequel, *The Long Day Wanes*. “I looked for it online, but copies start at a couple hundred dollars,” I say regretfully. He stops mid-gait and ambles over to an end-table where one of his copies of the book rests. “Here, take this one,” he insists, pressing it onto the dining room table to inscribe the frontispiece. Handing me the book, he leads me out the door and bids me farewell. I start my car and drive away. There’s construction on Bay Street, and I’m briefly stuck in traffic. I seize the moment to read his inscription. One line, scrawled in chicken-scratch freehand: “The way it was...”



# SCHOONER BAY ARTIST ANTONIUS ROBERTS COLLABORATES WITH LOCAL YOUTH IN BENCH-MAKING VENTURE

by ANTONIUS ROBERTS  
SCHOONER BAY ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

I recently had the pleasure of collaborating with young Abaco artist, Blake Russell, to build a bench that was auctioned off at the 2012 Schooner Bay SpringFest. Blake and I were connected through Every Child Counts, an important non-profit organization assisting special-needs children in Abaco, and I feel truly privileged to have had the opportunity to work with such a talented young individual. Proceeds from the sale of Blake's bench went to an Art Scholarship Fund for Blake, who will be traveling to Italy this summer to attend art school. The Endowment for the Arts, of which I am a trustee, has already agreed to cover the cost of airfare for Blake's travel abroad.

The bench was built using reclaimed casuarina wood from the Bahamar project on Cable Beach in Nassau. It took three days to make and was assembled with stainless steel lag screws. Blake used acrylic paints to create a beautiful marine scene inspired by the reefs and blue holes of Abaco. This project was an offshoot of another initiative known as the National Bench Programme, where I was commissioned by Bahamar to build 20 benches for trails and paths throughout their resort property. I've expanded the scope of the program to include 12 young students who I mentor in the construction of the benches. The students are exposed to the concept of public art installments, and taught a skillset that could help them one day earn a living as artisans, carpenters or furniture makers.



One of my greatest pleasures is discovering and nurturing some of the young artistic talent in the country. Blake and the other students I have the privilege of working with are a testament to the tremendous potential of

young Bahamians, and offer inspiration and hope for the future of The Arts in our islands!

## SCHOONER BAY TO HOST LEGENDS OF GOOMBAY MUSIC FESTIVAL & ART EXPO

by JAMES MALCOLM  
DIRECTOR OF SALES, MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS



Plans are currently in the works to bring some of the top musical and artistic talent in The Bahamas to Schooner Bay for the first-ever "Legends of Goombay Music Festival & Art Expo". The two-day event – likely to debut next fall – will showcase artists and musicians whose work explores authentic Bahamian styles and culture. Schooner Bay Artist-in-Residence, Antonius Roberts, will invite a select group of leading figures in the Visual Arts to

*Blind Blake –  
Bahamian music legend*

display their works and lead workshops and conversations about art in The Bahamas. Music impresario and veteran broadcaster, Charles Carter, along with legendary Bahamian musicians Peanuts Taylor and Chippie Chipman, will spearhead the Performing Arts portion of the event. These luminaries of the Bahamian music scene will assemble a group of local musicians and experts to showcase the traditional Bahamian style of Calypso music, known as Goombay or Rake'n'Scrape.

At Schooner Bay, we are committed to preserving the cultural legacies of The Bahamas and promoting their evolution in the artistic endeavours of future generations. We believe the *Legends of Goombay Music Festival and Art Expo* can play an important part in drawing attention to some of The Bahamas most valuable cultural assets. We also think it will be a ton of fun! Please keep an eye out for more information about this exciting event in the next issue of The Mainsheet.

# SCHOONER BAY LIBRARY



## QUOTES

*"Nature indifferently copied is far superior to the best of idealities."*

– John Jay Audubon

*A single tree in the tropical forest in the south of Mexico has more different species than some European countries.*

– Carlos Salinas de Gortari

*Trees are poems that the earth writes upon the sky.*

– Khalil Gibran

*A tree growing out of the ground is as wonderful today as it ever was. It does not need to adopt new and startling methods.*

– Robert Henri

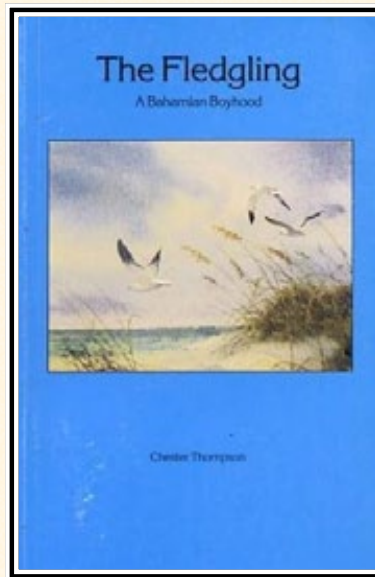
*The more civilized man becomes, the more he needs and craves a great background of forest wildness, to which he may return like a contrite prodigal from the husks of an artificial life.*

– Ellen Burns Sherman

*Look: the trees exist; the houses we dwell in stand there stalwartly. Only we pass by it all, like a rush of air. And everything conspires to keep quiet about us, half out of shame perhaps, half out of some secret hope.*

– Rainer Maria Rilke

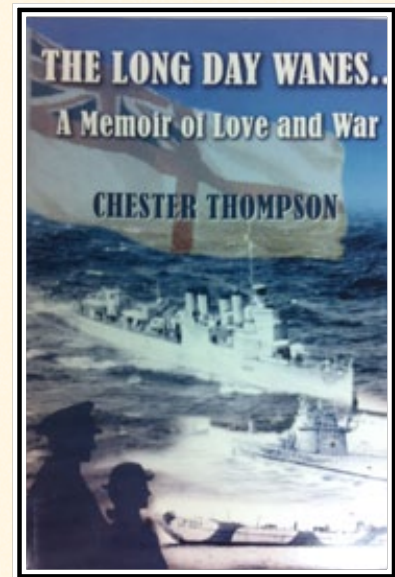
## BOOKS



### THE FLEDGLING: A BAHAMIAN BOYHOOD

by Chester Thompson

Thompson's classic account of his boyhood adventures in Hopetown, Abaco in the 1920s and '30s. Required reading for Bahamian primary school students and an essential volume for anyone interested in the culture and history of one The Bahamas most enduring settlements.



### THE LONG DAY WANES: A MEMOIR OF LOVE AND WAR

by Chester Thompson

Dedicated to Bahamian servicemen who died in World War II, *The Long Day Wanes* is a story of the battle for all that we cherish as our civilization. Thompson takes us back to another time and place: to war, to death, to friends, to a precious young love. The ghosts of the past take centre stage, and Thompson's account of friendship, love and humanity in the face of unimaginable destruction is one of the most poignant to emerge from history's greatest conflict.



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## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CONSULTING**

Islands By Design Ltd. (IBD) is local Bahamian consultancy that provides professional technical analysis, review and management for projects ranging from small residential developments to major industrial and commercial projects. Since 1994, IBD has applied its technical expertise to assist Client's project needs across the Bahamas archipelago.

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- ❖ Vegetation and Ecosystem Mapping
- ❖ Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring
- ❖ Benthic & Marine Habitat Assessments
- ❖ Wetland and Wildlife Surveys
- ❖ Project Management
- ❖ Energy & Waste Management

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