

# Bahía de Jobos



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## ***Jobos Bay Hosts Annual NERRS Conference***

During the month of October 2001, the Jobos Bay Reserve hosted the Annual Conference of the National Estuarine Research Reserves System (NERRS). It was the first time this event was celebrated in Puerto Rico since the creation of the Program in 1976. Representatives from 27 states gathered from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> of October at the Hotel Embassy Suites in San Juan, to evaluate, discuss and continue developing programs in order to reach their goals of conservation and protection of estuaries through the use of scientific information to improve the decision making processes.

Topics such as the expansion of the System Wide Monitoring Program (SWMP) and the creation of Coastal Training Programs (CTP) were the main points of the agenda. As part of the exchange of information the group had the opportunity to visit the facilities and trails of the Jobos Bay Reserve in Aguirre.

We wish to thank the University of Puerto Rico Sea Grant College Program, the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) and especially Damaris Delgado, Director of the Coasts, Reserves and Refuges Division of the DNER for their collaboration and support. We also like to thank IPR Pharmaceuticals, Baxter Laboratories, Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, the Tourism Company for their support and all our personnel for their hard work and commitment.

## ***Coastal Training Program in Puerto Rico: Market Analysis***

The National Estuarine Research Reserves System and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States (NOAA) have developed a Coastal Training Program. This program has been created to develop a comprehensive education and capacity building program for professionals in resources management, personnel who make decisions in coastal affairs, and community organizations, among others.

The main goal of the program in the United States is to improve the decision making process regarding coastal resources management at the local and regional levels. In Puerto Rico this program has begun a marketing study sponsored by the JBNERR, along with the Coastal Zone Management Program of the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources and the UPR Sea Grant College Program.

This market analysis is part of the preliminary phase of the program, which will allow the development of a strategic plan and implementation plan for Puerto Rico. As part of this marketing study an inventory of supply and demand in the field of capacity building is being developed, along with focus groups and an Internet site. The site will provide access to more detailed information about the project, such as the preliminary results of the marketing study, references and available

courses, activities that have been held and those to come, and links to other Internet sites which provide information about capacity building and the management of coastal affairs. For more information or if you wish to collaborate and provide information for the study, please write to:

Coastal Training Program Market Analysis  
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### ***First Kayak Regatta in Jobos Bay***

As part of the Second Phase Federation Cup 2002, the Puerto Rico Kayak Racing Team held the 1<sup>st</sup> Witch Kayak Regatta in Jobos Bay. The regatta included the participation of 67 competitors in different categories. The main events were the 7.6 and 5.6 mile regattas in a route that left from the Guayama Yacht Club towards the Caribe Cay. The winner of the first regatta was Francisco L. Jiménez from the town of Lares. The second event was won by Luis M. Meléndez and Pablo Torres from Guayama, in a double kayak.

The activity also included two regattas for children in the categories of Pro and Amateur. The winners of the Pro category were José Bonilla and Grace Rivera. Alexander Meléndez and Marangeli Serrano won in the Amateur category. JBNERR co-sponsored this exciting event for which we like to congratulate Luis Meléndez, from the Puerto Rico Kayak Racing Team, and Dr. Helios A. Zeno Calero, commodore of the Guayama Yacht Club. The activity served to educate the public about the importance of estuarine resources conservation and the opportunities to know and enjoy those through recreational activities compatible with the ecosystems.

### ***Photo-Exploration Contest at Jobos Bay***

One of the primary objectives of our Program of Education and Interpretation for the public is to create and foster activities which allow our children direct contact with the nature that surrounds them. This year the Reserve coordinated the First Photo-Exploration Contest at the Jagüeyes trail. Iraida García, environmental educator of the Reserve, was in charge of this event which included the participation of 47 seventh grade students representing ten middle schools in the municipalities of Salinas and Guayama.

The activity consisted of four steps: orientation and familiarization of the participants with the equipment to be used and with the natural resources of the trail; one morning of exploration through the lens of the camera; the development and evaluation of the photos by the jury (composed of Chakira R. Santiago, professional photographer and Nestor Millán, painter and plastic artist, associate professor of the Department of Fine Arts of the UPR in Rio Piedras) and the award ceremony.

The criteria used for evaluation were light, composition and creativity. Twelve photos were recognized in the categories of Flora and Fauna. The winners in the category of Flora were Wilmar Colón, Leslie Caballero, José R. Anaya and Wilmarie O. Soto. In the category of Fauna awards were given to the students Erick D. Rivera and Maribel Vazquez. The students Melissa Sánchez, Héctor D. de Jesus and Roxanna Pagán received awards in both categories. The winning photos will be included in the 2002-2003 Jobos Bay Reserve calendar. The winners received a framed copy of their picture and camera equipment to motivate them to continue exploring nature.

### ***Aguirre: Pilot for Urban Architecture Program***

With its historical architecture and picturesque natural ambiance the community of Aguirre captivates all those who visit it. However, the

cease in operations of the Aguirre sugar cane plant towards the end of the 1980's, left multiple structures in search of new uses that can generate economic activity for everyone's benefit. Aguirre is the site of the Offices and Visitor's Center of the Jobos Bay Reserve and the Reserve has incorporated within its Work Plan ways to promote and support initiatives which will help the Community in the process of developing a new economic life. The Reserve has offered training workshops in the areas of ecotourism, has developed a plan for the construction of public access for passive recreation and collaborated with groups and/or agencies in the evaluation and identification of opportunities.

In his courses at the School of Architecture at the UPR, Río Piedras, Dr. Enrique Vivoni has been promoting the concepts of appreciation and historical-natural conservation. As part of this initiative a group of 30 fourth year students in the design course, directed by the professors Nataniel Fuster, Javier Bonnin and Oscar Marty selected Aguirre as their workplace this semester. The students' objective was to study the structures and empty spaces and develop concepts and plans that allow for the integration of the present needs, conserving the historical characteristics and emphasizing the natural surroundings.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of April the evaluating team from the National Architectural Accreditation Board (NAAB) accompanied by members of the faculty of Architecture at the UPR visited the facilities of the Reserve to evaluate the progress of this course and to observe the first models that were developed by the students. The finished projects were evaluated by a jury last May 22<sup>nd</sup>. These will be presented in a Workshop for Decision Making to representatives of the municipality, government agencies, planners and builders with interest in the development of Aguirre. The preliminary models are very interesting and place Aguirre as an example of integrated and state-of-the-art planning. We trust that we will be able to stimulate the interest and commitment to make those models a reality.

## ***Workshops in Jobos Bay***

### **Workshop: An Encounter with Marine Ecosystems**

The Collaborative for Excellence in Teacher Preparation (CETP), at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus, the Resource Center for Science and Engineering of the Mayagüez Campus and the Jobos Bay Reserve joined their talents to conceive a Workshop for Secondary School teachers. The workshop was given on Saturday, January 12, 2002 at the facilities of the Reserve. Dr. Juan G. González-Lagoa, with the help of Dr. Pedro Robles, Iraida García and Carmen González taught 32 teachers from around the island, about the marine ecosystems: mangroves, keys, seagrass prairies and coral reefs. Teachers received curricular materials for their classrooms and practiced field activities that could enrich their courses, through visits to the various ecosystems.

### **Cultural Resources Training**

This past April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2002 personnel from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) sponsored a Workshop in Training about Cultural Resources in the facilities of Jobos Bay. During this workshop personnel from the Reserve and from NRCS had the opportunity to learn about the context and implementation process of Section 106 which establishes the guides for historical and archeological sites. The lecturers were Felix Latorre and Dr. Jeff Walker.

### **GIS Training**

During the month of April, Luis Encarnación, Jobos Bay Reserve biologist, offered an interesting three day workshop to personnel of the Division of Terrestrial Resources of the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, about the use and integration of data of the Geographic Information Systems (GIS). With this technology it is easier to integrate scientific data and analyze it in terms of its

spatial and temporal distribution. Likewise, it offers a mechanism with potent visual functions to support processes of Decision Making and Education. The participants were trained so that they could transmit the acquired knowledge to their co-workers.

### ***Master's Thesis about the Jobos Bay Basin***

Last May 13<sup>th</sup> student Abnery I. Picón of the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus successfully defended her Graduate Thesis in Civil Engineering with a concentration in Environmental Engineering. Picon's graduate work consisted in the development of a protocol and data base required to run the BASSINS (Better Assessment Science Integrating Point and Non-point Source) Model for the Jobos Bay Basin. This computerized program was developed by the EPA to carry out water quality studies in the basin.

Picon's work was done in collaboration with the Coastal Zone Program and the Institute of Water Resources of the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus as a pilot for other basins in Puerto Rico. The work of Abnery I. Picón also included the documentation of the entire development process so that other users can benefit from this effort.

Next June 6<sup>th</sup> Picón and Dr. Jorge Rivera Santos will offer a workshop for representatives of governmental and non-governmental agencies in the use and application of the model. Our congratulations and best wishes to Abnery in her new job in Texas.

### **Future Activities**

June 6, 2002 – Training BASSINS Model  
Workshop

July 13, 2002 – Applying Anthropology to the  
Study of Coastal Processes  
Workshop

October 5, 2002 – National Estuarine Day  
Open House

### ***Join the Jobos Bay Volunteer Program***

Are you interested in helping preserve our unique National Estuarine Research Reserve for future generations? Then what are you waiting for. We need volunteers to help us with the many tasks required in an environmental project of this magnitude. We'll instruct you so that you can help us in the tasks of water quality monitoring, coral reef monitoring, creating and maintaining interpretative trails, maintaining and developing the Information Center, as Reserve guide and of course in community activities in which we share the value of this beautiful natural resource. If you like working with the public we need you. If you have scientific interest in the environment, we need you. If you have knowledge in navigation, boats, construction, protection of flora and fauna, education, research, computers, or gardening, we want you to be part of our Volunteer Program. Call us at 787-853-4617.

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