



Bahía de Jobos



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Jobos Bay welcomes its Volunteer Program

Jobos Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is pleased to announce the official establishment of its Volunteer Program. The Volunteer Program goals are to promote the understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of estuaries and coastal habitats, through community participation in favor of the protection and conservation of Jobos Bay's natural resources.

The Program encourages personal enhancement and growth opportunities among its participants by fomenting the development of positive attitudes towards the environment and getting the support of the residents in programs that improve the quality of its natural resources. It also seeks to create greater conscience of the importance of estuarine habitats for education, research, recreation, and sustainable development while nurturing stewardship and individual responsibility towards the resources.

This pioneer group, was formally constituted in December of 1998 and its members are persons with great interest and commitment in working for the protection and conservation of the Jobos Bay estuarine resources. Although the majority of its members are from the local community, there are also volunteers from other parts of the island. There are no education requirements to become part of this volunteer group which assists the Reserve in its different programs.

Jobos Bay Volunteer Program is composed by: Mr. Raymond A. Roche, who works as a quality control technician and is a resident of Aguirre; Mr. Edgardo Pacheco, a visual arts teacher from Guánica; Ms. Evelyn Centeno, a dental assistant from Comerío; Mr. Adalberto Vélez, a quality control technician from Guayama; Engineer Edgardo Ortíz from Salinas; Mrs. Nancy Peña, a housewife resident of Aguirre and Ms. Vonjamis Martínez, an honor student of Guamaní Private School in Guayama and also resident of Aguirre.

This volunteer group will support activities towards the

development and maintenance of the Information Center, water quality and coral reef monitoring, as well as community outreach activities. A one day basic training workshop, including a field trip through the Reserve's habitats to acquaint themselves with our resources and share the goals and objectives of the Reserve and its programs. We applaud all our new volunteers for their example and commitment and the Jobos Bay Staff for their support.

Through the Volunteer Program (VP), you have the opportunity to offer volunteer services in favor of the environment and the community. Join our Volunteer Program! Participate as an individual or as a group by joining our Organization Net in support of the JBNERR. Learn more about the VP and how you can make a difference, by calling Ms. Iraida García at 853-3569 or drop by our Visitors Center in Aguirre.

Coastal Zone Managers visit Jobos Bay

Coastal States Organization held their annual meeting during the week of December 6 through 8 in Puerto Rico. Managers visited the facilities of the Jobos Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and enjoyed a boat ride through Jobos Bay appreciating some of our tropical ecosystems while discussing coastal issues affecting the estuarine resources. We would like to thank the staff from Puerto Rico's Coastal Zone Program for their support, particularly its Director, Mrs. Damaris Delgado and Mr. Francisco J. Quintana for coordinating the visit. We also want to acknowledge members of the Ranger Corps from Guayama and Ponce for their valuable collaboration.

GPS and GIS training in JBNERR

We congratulate the Laboratory Division of the DNER for their initiative and leadership in offering a training on the utilization of Global Positioning System (GPS) as a tool for

developing our Geographic Information System (GIS). Mr. Luis Encarnación coordinated this two-day training for staff from the Water Resources Division and Jobos Bay NERR. Equipment and materials were provided by the Laboratory

and the Reserve. GPS equipment provides these offices with the opportunity to document their work, so it can be added to the GIS data base that is being compiled by the Department. Among its applications are identifying water extraction permits and wells on our watersheds, delineating sensitive areas, locating stations and monitoring data, visualizing possible cumulative impacts, documenting management programs, research and restoration projects, delineating natural protected areas, monitoring natural interpretative trails, and performing change analysis, etc. We hope that this training can be offered to other divisions of the department.

Jobs Bay Curricular Guide distributed to teachers from Salinas, Guayama, Juana Díaz and Patillas

Teachers from local schools participated of the workshop "JBNERR : a resource for education and research". This workshop is part of the Reserve's Education Program goals to provide local schools with a curricular guide and audiovisual materials of Jobs Bay's estuarine resources. Education opportunities at the Reserve for teachers and students from these communities were also discussed. Follow up activities were coordinated to assist the teachers in the implementation of the materials and evaluate how they have integrated these in their school curricula and classrooms.

Dr. Alida Ortiz and Mrs. Lesbia Montero from the Center for Marine Education of the UPR Sea Grant Program and Mrs. Myriam Rivera, a teacher from Morovis and part of our Advisory Committee, served as resources in collaboration with the Reserve Staff. Our gratitude to the school superintendents for their valuable collaboration and to the municipality of Salinas for the transportation.

Reforestation Activities

Jobs Bay staff has developed a plan to restore and monitor reserve areas that have been impacted through the years by poor management practices. A six acre site located on our northern boundary was selected to initiate this project. Over six hundred trees, all native with the exception of one, were planted during the month of December. We expect to continue and complete the reforestation of this first site by March. Volunteers are welcome to help with the maintenance and monitoring of this restoration project. For more information contact Mrs. Carmen González or Dr. Pedro Robles at the Reserve.

WELCOME to Jobs Bay

Miss Iraidá García joined the Jobs Bay staff last June as education assistant. She has a bachelor's degree in Natural

Sciences and expects to complete her master's in Environmental Health. During this brief period of time, her work has been very significant in communicating our services to the general public. She will be coordinating outreach programs directed to schools, community and volunteers. With her help we hope to encourage greater participation among our users, while learning more regarding the conservation and protection of our resources.

Opportunities and services at JBNERR

- Visitors Center weekend schedule: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays
- Our Information Center has publications and documents to support research and education projects. The Jobs Bay Management Plan is also available for your use. You can visit our facilities or contact Mrs. Nilda Peña, our information specialist at the Reserve.
- **HELP NEEDED.** Restoration activities at the Reserve require your help. If you are a member of a group or organization interested in making the difference for the benefit of our estuarine resources, please call to coordinate your participation.
- Join the Reserve's Volunteer Group to participate in activities in support of our research, education and environmental interpretation programs. Your collaboration is very valuable.
- To coordinate a conference for a group about the Reserve's natural resources, call or visit our facilities in Aguirre, Salinas. Contact person: Miss. Iraidá García.
- Do you have a diving license? Do you have free time? Would you like to collaborate in the Reserve's Coral Reef Monitoring Program? For more information, call Dr. Pedro O. Robles, research coordinator at the JBNERR.

Estuarianos Update

As part of our Education Program, the Guardians of the Estuary, participated in a bird watching activity in the Reserve. On a beautiful Saturday morning they explored the diversity of the mangrove forest, salt flats and secondary forest habitats, learning about the different birds seen in the area and identifying their flight. Mr. Ramón Roche from our Volunteer Program served as a resource for this activity. These activities enrich the understanding and appreciation of these students about the importance of preserving endangered species and other birds of our estuary.