

## **President's Report for AGM – 4 June 2025**

### **Events**

June 27	BUEI Talk – “Return of the Cahows” Jeremy Madeiros
June 29	Focus Group – “What’s in a Name.”
Sept 7	Spittal Pond Field Trip
Sept 19	BZS Talk – “Species Down Under” Dr. Miguel Mejias
Oct 11-13	Paget Island Bird Camp
Oct 12	October Big Day
Oct 19	BBB - Community Volunteer Day – Eve’s Pond
Oct 24	Filming of Ripple Effect – Student Interviews for CITV to be aired throughout January
Nov 2	Guided Bird Walk and Bird Banding Demo – Ferry Point Park
Nov 7	Deloitte Impact Day – Seymour’s Pond
Nov 9	Committee of Management Retreat
Nov 15	PWC Volunteer Day at Eve’s Pond
Nov 21	Youth Climate Summit Environmental Showcase
Nov 27	Cahow Watching and Nonsuch Tour with BZS Scheduled cruises on Nov 9, 16, 23 & 30 cancelled due to weather
Dec 14	Birdwatching Walk at Arboretum – cancelled due to weather
Jan 5	Christmas Bird Count
Jan 15	BUEI Ripple Effect Campaign - Student Radio Talk Show on HOTT 107.5
Feb 2	Guided Birdwatching Walk at Spittal Pond
Feb 8	Community Volunteer Day at Alfred Blackburn Smith Nature Reserve
Feb 11	Birds and Brews – cancelled due to lack of sign ups
Feb 14	Great Backyard Bird Count
Mar 15	Community Volunteer Day – High Point Nature Reserve
Mar 20	BUEI Talk – “The Wonderful World of Bermuda’s Bluebirds” Janice Hetzel
Apr 1	BNT Children’s Walk at Spittal Pond
April 5	Guided Birding Walk and Bird Banding Demonstration at Ferry Reach
April 22	Official Opening of High Point Nature Reserve
May 4/25	Pelagic Seabird Watching Cruise with BZS
May 10	Global Big Day
May 11	Annual Members Trip to Nonsuch
May 17	Community Volunteer Day at Paget Marsh with BNT
May 28	Caribbean Canada Leaders Dialogue presentation at Government House grounds
May 30	PWC Volunteer Day at Eve’s Pond

### **Buy Back Bermuda**

Buy Back Bermuda is grateful for the continued support of our members, whose generosity enables the Bermuda Audubon Society and the Bermuda National Trust to protect Bermuda’s vanishing open spaces. Our mission is to preserve these areas as a lasting gift for future generations.

We were proud to officially open **High Point Nature Reserve** on Earth Day, 22 April 20225. Preparing the site for public access was no easy task. First a Conservation Management Plan had to be prepared and approved by the Department of Planning. With this approval in hand (25 Nov 2024) work could begin. The initial efforts included creation of the parking lot and access trail, construction of the three main trails, extensive clearing of the Casuarina’s along the coast, planting of a Hackberry glade, assessment of the Beek farmhouse ruin and clearance of overgrowth to make it visible and safe, design and installation of signage and installation of benches. This is only the beginning. The vision of High Point includes additional interpretive signage, continued replacement of invasive plants with native and endemic species, creation of a fruit orchard, a pollinator garden and establishment of cedar lined path along the eastern border. There are too many people to thank but special recognition should be given to Jennifer Gray, Myles Darrell, Ronald Burchall, Phil Simpson and IEL.

Commented [JG1]: More for bees

Commented [JG2]: If your focusing on special thanks this is fine. There were other gifts in kind, discounts and lots of volunteers but it would make the sentence too long

**Eve's Pond** has transformed into a thriving green space. Efforts continue to enhance native plantings, remove invasives and create special features such as the pollinator garden. A sink hole has developed over a cave opening and the area has been fenced off and will need to be monitored closely. We are grateful to work on site carried out by PwC who have adopted this space.

**Somerset Long Bay East** benefited from work funded by the Centennial Foundation, Continuing the transitioning to native and endemic plants, remediation of the SW boundary fence, installation of a picnic bench and table and clearing of some giant reed from the nesting island.

**Vesey Reserve** has seen repairs to the wooden steps on the southern boundary, reinstall of the main sign, clearing and planting of a woodland section on the crest of the hill and other maintenance repairs.

We're focused on **Campaign Three**, which aims to complete work at High Point and support the ongoing care of all four Buy Back Bermuda reserves. Please consider donating or getting involved — contact us at [buybackbermuda@gmail.com](mailto:buybackbermuda@gmail.com).

#### Audubon Nature Reserves

##### Somerset Long Bay West

Trees are growing very well. Parts of fencing were replaced and additional repairs will be needed in the coming year. A patch of Cow Cane developed along the northern edge of the pond and was removed by Brown & Co. Part of the pond is now covered in water hyacinth and other invasive water plants that need to be removed. Red-eared sliders are also in the pond. A Bermudian PhD student at Cornell University is currently conducting a study (18 May -16 June) at several ponds to collect audio recordings of endemic killifish.

##### Seymour's Pond

Deloitte volunteers cleared invasives and planted native and endemics around the pond edge and bird hide. Mexican pepper on nesting island needs further removal.

##### Pearl Island

Conditions remain good. Wind gauge has been non-functional and Bermuda Weather Service hopes to replace it later in the year after Terns have left. If they are unable, there is a private member of the public that wishes to do the installation as there is great demand for this information by local sailors.

##### Lambda

Conditions remain good.

##### Cat & Partridge

Plan to develop conservation management plan for the islands and begin restoration.

##### Alfred Blackburn Smith Reserve

Productive volunteer day where many Casuarinas large and small were removed. Boundaries were surveyed and meeting held with neighbour about encroachment into the reserve.

##### Paget Marsh

Boardwalk was completed and successful Community Volunteer Day. Still awaiting approval of Conservation Management Plan.

##### Devonshire Marsh Reserves

Watlington Reserve

Winifred Gibbons

Freer Cox

#### Firefly

Member of public reported a crayfish in the road by Winifred Gibbons reserve. This was investigated by Dr. Mark Outerbridge at DENR and was found to be the Florida, or Everglades, crayfish *Procambarus alleni* – a species which features in the local pet trade industry. Samples found the crayfish in the ditches of the eastern areas of the Marsh. Control measures are being evaluated.

#### Sears Cave

Needs some clearing of trees overhanging cave

#### Cockroach Islands

Plan is to remove invasive Casuarinas on islands in conjunction with efforts by BAMZ/BZS to remove Casuarinas on the adjacent hillside.

#### Stokes Point East & West

Nothing new to report