



Bermuda Botanical Society

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Bermuda

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SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2023

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Whilst seemingly a quiet time for the BBS, the Executive and some members have been busy with a variety of projects.

BBG Endemic/Native Area

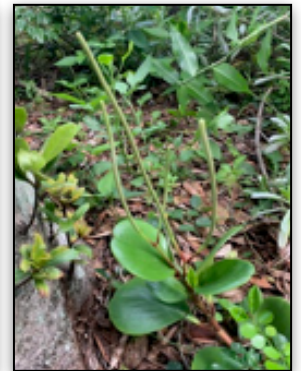
The team, Marlie Powell, Sue LeStrange, Debbie MacKenzie, Marijke Peterich, Lara Du Plessis, continued to work on this area. Some of the plants have really flourished, eg *Hypericum hypericoides*, St Andrew's Cross; *Passiflora suberosa*, Ink Berry; *Dodonaea viscosa*, Jamaica dogwood; *Stachytarpheta jamaicense*, Jamaica Vervain; *Oplismenus setrius* wood grass. Some not so well and sadly all the *Baccharis glomeruliflora*, Doc bushes which had appeared to be doing really well, developed a sooty mould and died. So if anyone has one they'd like to donate it would be appreciated.



St. Andrew's Cross



Snowberry in flower



Peperomia in flower

The Schools Botanical Science Award team were delighted to make 11 presentations towards the end of the school year to students who had participated in the programme. We hope this will generate an interest, appreciation for plants and the huge scope for employment in a vast array of fields relating to of botanical sciences. We look forward to expanding this programme. Your membership fees and donations are being put to good use!

"To encourage and support the study and promotion of the botanical sciences within Bermuda"

BBG Cycad Collection

The Cycad botanist, Dr Michael Calonje, at Montgomery Botanical Gardens has been assisting in identifying all the Cycads in the BBG collection. It is hoped this will result in the correct botanical labelling of each plant – as has been done with the Palm Collection.



Friends of the BBG

A few of us have also been assisting Danny Simmons with the recovery of the BBG Library which unfortunately had lain neglected for too long. Danny had thoroughly researched the appropriate and safe way to handle them and oversee the process. After contractors boxed the documents and moved them to an airconditioned facility, armed with gloves, masks and hand sanitizer supplied by Danny, volunteers spent several days carefully labelling each box and assessing the condition. A quick peek inside (though that was difficult as it was very tempting to find out just what books/documents had been rescued!!) ones that appeared mouldy were bagged and put aside for 'freezer' treatment. Labelling finished, mouldy boxes despatched, a 3 day wait for the freezing process, then boxes returned – about 75 of them – and replaced in their correct position on the shelves for several weeks for an intense dehumidification process. Many thanks to Danny for recognizing the value of this collection and ensuring their rescue also to those who helped Danny, his son and his friend, Jessica Carvalho, Anne Hyde of FBBG, Felicity Holmes, and Marlie Powell



Thanks for your support over the years, look forward to seeing you especially at the AGM on November 18th.
Jennifer Flood

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If anyone is interested in becoming an Executive Member or join one of the sub committees for the 2023-2024 season you would be very welcome.

Friends of the BBG – Library collection: Volunteers will be needed for the next stage of the process – identifying the contents of each box.

BBG Collections – volunteers needed to help at various times with the collections, the Rock Garden area will be one featured in November.

Endemic/Native area – always need help here

Contact bdabotanicalsociety@gmail.com

A *Stapelia* Adventure - text and photos Jennifer Flood

I was left 'baby-sitting' a few varied plants after the BBS plant sale, a *Stapelia* (starfish flower, carrion flower) happened to be one of them. I placed it with my small succulent collection, found out that they are native to South Africa and surprisingly a member of the Apocynaceae family. (milkweed is also a member) and didn't think much more about it until my 5 year old grandson noticed a flower bud appearing. This proved very interesting as from small beginnings the bud blew up rather like a balloon! developing an attractive pink tinge. The grandson followed its development with great interest and we were both thoroughly impressed when the now very large bud opened into a huge star shaped flower. Equally impressive – if not nearly so attractive – was the 'aroma' that developed later in the afternoon, the flies certainly appreciated the rotting flesh scent wafting across the verandah. We both watched as the flies moved into the centre of the flower and at first we thought they had become stuck among the masses of hairs covering the flower, but no, all escaped. A couple of days later noticed a lot of what I thought was yellowish pollen on the table top. Closer inspection showed it to be a mass of minute maggots – the flies must have laid eggs in the centre of this deceptive flower believing it to be decomposing flesh, thereby dooming their offspring. A truly remarkable evolutionary development that seemingly only benefits the plant.



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Trunk Island - Here We Come!

Gary Taylor

Two dozen BBS members will have the privilege of visiting Trunk Island on 4 November from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM (Date is weather dependent). This 7-acre island in Harrington Sound is the Bermuda Zoological Society's Living Classroom. Conservation efforts have been underway since 2006, removing invasive plants and planting native and endemic plants. It will be exciting to see their latest addition, a pond with red and black mangroves, added recently to the west side of the island. Only regular gardening gear and a refillable water bottle will be required. The trip includes a tour and getting your hands dirty with light activities to be determined. Further details to come soon. Sign up using the link below.

[Trunk Island Corporates: Bermuda Botanical Society at Trunk Island \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com)

Sears Cave: Bermuda's ferns - Sunday, January 7, 2024

Tour Leader: Marlie Powell, Presentation by: Alison Copeland

This is a rare opportunity to visit one of Bermuda's most secluded natural wonders. Sears Cave is a huge limestone sinkhole filled with lush fern growth including extremely rare specimens such as Governor Laffan's fern. The site is carefully managed by the Bermuda Audubon Society and stepping onto it feels like entering prehistoric times. Alison Copeland's in-the-field presentation is informative and will give you a new respect for what scientists like her do to preserve our natural heritage.



Photos supplied by Alison Copeland (centre)

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“She is pleased with her pinks, small carnations with their zigzag edges and gray green stems. They are perfect for her cottage garden, antique flowers be loved of the English since the 16th century. In fact, the color pink was named for the flower, not the other way round. The word pink originally meant to pierce or perforate, in the same way that pinking shears cut a decorative edge on fabric.”

From Beatrix Potter's Gardening Life, The Plants and places that inspired the classic children's tales. By Marta McDowell.



Alpsdake

Bugle weed - *Ajuga reptans*

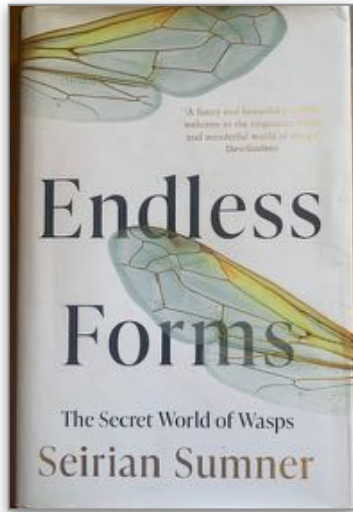
Does anyone have any bugle weed and is willing to share a few pieces?
Please email Lisa Greene at elgreenebda@icloud.com.



G. Edward Johnson

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Book Review



ENDLESS FORMS The Secret World of Wasps by Seirian Sumner

This book was given to me – and am so pleased it was, because I doubt I would have come across it otherwise. Whilst, as far as I know, only hornets, some fig wasps and potter wasps are in Bermuda, once you've read this book, you'll understand that their global importance, not only as pollinators and pest control agents, cannot be overemphasized. Their evolutionary history, their relationship with certain plants (especially figs!), their intelligence and the fact that they make better detectors of explosive materials than dogs is just mind boggling! Beautifully written, and very entertaining.

Oddities

Jennifer Flood - text and photo

Beaucarnea recurvata, commonly known as the ponytail palm or elephant's foot, is not a palm at all but a member of the Asparagaceae family. More usually seen as a small potted plant in or outdoors, this large specimen with its magnificent flower plume was spotted in Smith's parish. Native to Mexico, where there are some apparently 350+ years old. It is becoming critically endangered in the wild.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS due annually in August in any of the following ways

Use BDATIX at <https://bdatix.bm/memberships.html>

Direct payments can be made to BNTB 20 006 060 897188 100 please be sure to include your name and membership renewal. If contact details have changed please email BBS: bdabotanicalsociety@gmail.com

Cheque to P.O. BOX HM 2116 Hamilton HM JX be sure to include contact details.

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Children's Corner
from Felicity Holmes

Why buy raisins when you can make them yourself!

You'll need: seedless grapes, tray for baking, pan of boiling water.

1. Preheat oven to 160 degrees F
2. Wash the grapes and put them into the boiling water until their skins start cracking
3. Remove them and place them on an oven proof tray



4. Place the tray in the oven for 3-4 hours to dry them; turn them twice.
5. Remove and cool them. Your raisins will be deliciously sweet and juicy!

Success! (February 2023 BBS Newsletter activity).

We tried regenerating this onion scrap, and....

Here is our result!

From this tothis!



Vegan Banana Nut Mini Muffins

Vegan, Gluten-Free, Wheat-free ~ Choose local organic ingredients for best results
Makes 48 muffins, Prep Time = 15 minutes Bake Time = 20 minutes

Ingredients:

12 oz. gluten-free flour	18.5 oz ripe bananas
1 $\frac{3}{4}$ tsp. baking soda	$\frac{1}{2}$ cup vegan butter, melted
$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp cinnamon	$\frac{1}{2}$ cup granulated sugar
$\frac{1}{4}$ tsp salt	$\frac{1}{4}$ cup brown sugar
$\frac{1}{4}$ cup non-dairy milk	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup walnuts, chopped, keep separate
1 tsp vanilla	

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (multi-rack, convection if available)
2. Spray metal muffin pan with non-stick vegetable spray
3. In a large-size mixing bowl, combine flour, baking soda, cinnamon and salt
4. In a separate mixing bowl, mash bananas, add butter, sugars, milk and vanilla, mix
5. Add wet ingredients to dry and mix gently with spoon to combine
6. Sprinkle some chopped walnuts in the bottom of the mini muffin pans, spoon batter on top and sprinkle more nuts on top.
7. Bake 20 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean.

Variations: Can use other nuts like pecans. Delicious and substantial as regular-size muffins. Sprinkle muffin tops with a bit of brown sugar before baking for sweet crunchy tops.

These mini-muffins make a popular coffee break snack.

Contributed by Marlie & Jocelyn Powell, Vegan/Vegetarian chefs at Kingston House B&B
KingstonHouse@BBBermuda.com



Events - A varied and interesting selection of activities over the coming months include –

Trunk Island – November 4th

AGM November 18th

Plant Sale, BBG Jack King Building November 25th

Sears Cave - Sunday, January 7th 2024

Carter House & Gardens

Alton Hill

Alison Copeland update on conservation work

Private Garden visit

Return visit by Andrew Street, Palm Curator, Montgomery Botanical Gardens February 2024

Further details and sign-up requests will be sent closer to the dates.

Please email bdabotanicalsociety@gmail.com if interested in attending any of the above.