

## LOCAL NEWS

# San Diego zoo specialist to conduct first ever study of Turks Island Rainbow Boa on Ambergris Cay

**T**URKS AND CAICOS SPORTING Club at Conservation and Research for Endangered Species (CRES) is returning to Ambergris Cay to conduct the first ever study of Turks Island Rainbow Boas. Dr. Glenn Gerber of the San Diego Zoo in California will be joined by a team of endangered species research experts including research assistant, R. Graham Reynolds with the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, at the University of Tennessee; as well as Joe Burgess, George Waters and Matt Wilson.

The team will travel to Ambergris Cay March 16 – 23, and work closely with Turks and Caicos Sporting Club to study the native and rare Turks Island Rainbow Boa (*Epicrates chrysogaster*). The preservation of these native Caribbean snakes is one element within the larger scope of the conservation-based planning approach at the core of DPS Sporting Club Development.

Ambergris Cay, the private island residence of Turks and Caicos Sporting Club, is home to a significant population of the endangered Rainbow Boa, sub-species of the Southern Bahamas Boa. In partnership with Ambergris Cay Naturalists, Dr. Gerber and his team will document the presence of the reptile species on island and produce rough

density estimates, as well as initiate a study and conservation plan for the Boas.

The Boas will be captured and the team will work to gather all relevant physical data including size, weight, sex, reproductive condition and overall health. DNA will either be extracted from blood samples drawn from the snakes or through clipping off scales to determine the genetic diversity of the population. The Boas will then be tagged with an internal microchip and released exactly where they were captured on island.

"We must all work to protect these incredible creatures so that future generations of visitors and residents of the TCI may enjoy the beauty that is unique to the islands," says R. Graham, adding: "We thank Ambergris Cay for their hospitality and continuous efforts to preserve and conserve the populations of these unique animals."

Ambergris Cay has already set forth initiatives to curb the degeneration of these endangered species. Through membership guidelines preventing pets on island, as well as the sole use of motorized golf carts for transportation, the island is doing everything in its power to keep these unique species of animals preserved.

Just last March, Dr. Gerber and his team of

endangered species research experts visited Ambergris Cay collectively working with Sporting Club Naturalists to capture populations of the native Turks Island Rock Iguana (*Cyclura carinata*). Home to the largest remaining colony of the iguana, Dr. Gerber, his team, and the Naturalists worked to translocate a portion of the iguana population to Bush Cay, a small island just south of Ambergris Cay.

After their time spent studying the Rainbow Boas, the team will spend a week at sea monitoring small islands with populations of the rock iguana. Islands intended for monitoring include Bush Cay, Six Hills and French Cays, all of which were chosen Turks & Caicos cays for recent, successful past iguana translocation projects.

The San Diego Zoo will monitor the population of Rainbow Boas for a period of three to four years, working at the same time to initiate an educational partnership with the Turks & Caicos National Trust, as well as Ambergris Cay staff and members.

Turks and Caicos Sporting Club is honored to welcome back Dr. Gerber, and excited to continue their collaborative work with the CRES in mutually beneficial efforts to conserve these unique and historically significant animals and reptiles.

-GIS

## Tourist Board hosts 17th Annual Kite Flying Competition

**T**HE TURKS AND Caicos Islands Tourist Board is pleased to announce that 17th annual Kite Flying Competition, will be held in Providenciales and North Caicos on (Easter Monday) Monday, April 13, 2009.

This much anticipated public event organized by the Tourist Board and supported by local sponsors displays the traditional art of kite making and kite flying—a pastime for many local children.

"The annual Kite Flying

Competition has become a staple on our tourism calendar," said Ralph Higgs, Director Of Tourism Marketing, "We encourage the communities of both Providenciales and North Caicos to come out and enjoy a good day of family fun. We would also like to thank all our sponsors for their continued support of this event."

Now in its 17th year, this event is expected to be most exciting, as the Providenciales competition will take place at its new home, the newly re-

constructed Children's Park in the Lower Bight and again at Horse Stable Beach, North Caicos. Activities include a day of fun for the entire family, with an Easter Egg Hunt, clowns, face painting, DJ music as well as, lots of food and drinks on sale by local non-profit organizations.

Children and adults are welcome to fly non-competition kites throughout the day and beyond the competition period. While participants are encouraged to bring their own kites.

Kites entering the competition must be handmade, registered with the judges prior to taking flight and kites in all classes, must fly for at least 5 minutes. Prizes

and trophies will be given for The Smallest Kite, The Largest Kite, Most Artistic, Best Overall and Best Traditional Kite.

-GIS



### Island Trading Co. Ltd.

#### Requires one Counter Sales Staff

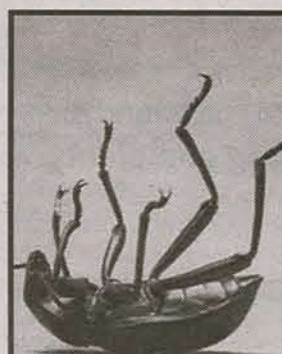
- Should have experience in POS system,
- MS Accounting Software,
- Inventory Control,
- Experience in selling Apparel & Fashion Jewelry.

Salary \$6 Per Hour

Should be willing to work on Weekends and Holidays  
Willing to relocate at short notice within the Caribbean

Contact Mr. Jack Williams  
Between: 8:00 AM and 12 Noon  
Tel: 2434141

PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO BELONGERS



### TRULY NOLEN is looking for a Labourer.

Anyone wishing to work in the pest control line of work can apply to Truly Nolen unit #9 South Wind Plaza Providenciales.

Contact numbers are as follows: 946-4272 (Office)  
Cell 231-0195 and by fax 941-3450.