

The EAG produces two new publications on Antigua & Barbuda Ferns

The Environmental Awareness Group (EAG) announces the publication of two new exciting and critical reports on the ferns of Antigua & Barbuda. The first, *The Regional Red List of Pteridophytes of Antigua, Barbuda and Redonda* is the first Regional Red List for ferns and their allies in the Lesser Antilles.

The Regional Red List was developed using the world renowned methodology established by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). With this report, the EAG hopes that it will be a basis for input to new environmental protection legislation in Antigua & Barbuda, as well as one of the focal points for native plant and habitat protection in Antigua and Barbuda. The Regional

Red list is a comprehensive review of the taxonomy, conservation status, distribution and ecological information on species of ferns and their allies at the local Antigua, Barbuda and Redonda level.

The IUCN is the world's oldest conservation organisation. It was founded in 1948. It works to conserve the world's flora, fauna, habitats and landscapes by seeking to highlight the plights of species and to safeguard their future. The IUCN is a membership organisation, and is headquartered in Gland, Switzerland.

This report was produced with support from The Rufford Small Grants for Nature Conservation, UK.

The second report, *Protecting Native Pteridophytes*

in Antigua, Barbuda and Redonda: A Conservation Perspective focuses on the country's pteridophyte flora in order to encourage national support for the protection of native species and habitats, and to help increase awareness about the importance and value of the islands' native fern flora. It highlights many of the issues affecting native plants, and the factors that may hinder or encourage their conservation, and it is hoped that it will generate widespread discussions and debates about the conservation of native plant biodiversity. This report was funded by The Rufford Small Grants for Nature Conservation, UK and by The Mohammed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, United Arab Emirates. Both reports were

researched and authored by Antiguan biologist Kevel C Lindsay.

These publications are just two component pieces in the EAG's project *Conserving the Native Ferns of Antigua and Barbuda*, which is an ongoing effort to safeguard and protect the native plants of the country, and to encourage greater research and study of these remarkable species and their habitats.

These publications are available as free PDF downloads via the EAG web portal and are available at <http://www.eagantigua.org/page525.html>.

For further queries, questions and to support the EAG's efforts, contact our office at email: eagantigua@gmail.com, or via our telephone at (268) 462-6236.

Lucky winners



Marlon Carr (middle) is the first grand prize winner of Digicel's "Win a Trip for Two" promotion. Anestine Graham & RoseAnn Stevens are runners-up. They both won BlackBerry Curve 9320 smartphones, autographed Usain Bolt biographies, Digicel branded duffel bags and branded headsets. The winners are flanked by Marketing Manager Troy Byrne, left, and Marketing Executive Cherisse Adams.