



## **The Kew Royal Botanic Gardens Visit Turks & Caicos Sporting Club at Ambergris Cay**

**January 31, 2008 –Ambergris Cay, Turks & Caicos, BWI** - Members of The Kew Royal Botanic Gardens in London visited Ambergris Cay January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008. Martin Hamilton of Kew and his horticulture team visited the island to conduct a population assessment of some of the less common endemic plants in The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands. Hamilton is a part of the UK Overseas Territory Division at Kew Gardens and works closely with Bryan Naqqi Manco of The Turks and Caicos National Trust, which works to safeguard the natural, historical and cultural heritage of the Turks & Caicos Islands for future generations to enjoy. Together, Hamilton and Manco study where rare ecologically important plants are found in the region and the density of their current populations.

This study was conducted to better help us understand and sustain the populations of critically important plants found only on the island of Ambergris Cay. With the help of the Ambergris Cay Naturalist Team, Hamilton and Manco collected seeds from a variety of plant species found on the island which were sent back to Kew Gardens in London and stored in *The Millennium Seed Bank (MSB)*. *The MSB* is a worldwide effort dedicated to safeguarding 24,000 endangered plant species from around the globe. The project has successfully secured the future of virtually all of the UK's native flowering plants, and has future hopes to secure seed collections from ten percent of the world's plants by the year 2010.

The seeds that the *MSB* has collected remain alive for decades, and in many cases, hundreds of years. Seeds collected in the *MSB* are beneficial to mankind, whether it be providing food and building materials needed for rural communities to creating disease-resistant crops for agriculture. The collections held in the *MSB* and the knowledge derived from them, offer infinite options for their conservation and use. The Ambergris Cay development and naturalist team look forward to continuing work with The Kew Royal Botanic Gardens and the Turks & Caicos National Trust in the future. Visit The Kew Royal Botanic Gardens at [www.kew.org](http://www.kew.org).

***Turks & Caicos Sporting Club at Ambergris Cay*** is an 1,100 acre private island residential community offering distinguished homesites ranging from \$600,000 to \$6 million USD and world-class amenities such as the longest private airstrip in the Caribbean, world-class fishing, deep water marina, environmental learning center, spa, and fine-dining. *TCSC* is created by *DPS Sporting Club Development Company, LLC*. *DPS* develops private, environmentally sensitive, single-family residential sporting communities on historic and unique properties, with a commitment to preserving the distinct character of each location. These clubs are managed by *DPS Management Company*, the exclusive service provider for the renowned *Greenbrier Resort & Club Management Company*, combining world class services, amenities and outdoor pursuits for all ages and skill levels. The award-winning *DPS Sporting Club Collection* includes *The Greenbrier Sporting Club, White Sulphur Springs, WV; Turks & Caicos Sporting Club at Ambergris Cay, British West Indies; Snake River Sporting Club, Jackson*

*Hole, WY; The Ford Plantation, Savannah, GA, and Deep Water Cay Club, The Bahamas.  
Life, Well Played!*

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