

My Week at Friends of the Environment
By Shavantae Pedican, S.C. Bootle High School

The day I started working at Friends of the Environment I was so scared; that I wouldn't know what to do and how to do it. I was quiet the whole time I was there. Although I didn't want to be shy, my shyness still was showing.

Basically I was organizing shelves, folding brochures, putting posters together for schools and gathering information for the first two days. I gathered information on reverse metering, turtles and invasive species etc and learned some new things. I actually thought that there would be a benefit to having lion fishes in Bahamian waters not knowing that they were eating the crawfishes, groupers and other small fishes out. No benefits there I guess. I also learned that they mate every 7 days and lay up to 30,000 eggs! I also had to put posters together about life cycle on different marine animals for the primary and high schools in Abaco. After doing that I had to call the schools and let them know that the posters were there and if they could come and pick them up. I think I did pretty well with that task.

The third day I went with two young marine biologists to study the reactions of lionfish towards prey and predator. I didn't get to see the lionfish and the other marine animals react because the weather was bad and we couldn't go in the water for them. Instead, I helped them build a cage to put the lionfish in, which I had sewn with fishing thread. Although I didn't get to finish it, it was coming along well. Hope Michael and Linda didn't have a task finishing it up because it was kind of frustrating.

The last two days I was doing a survey based on crawfish and protesting against the new power plant. For the surveys I had to call different restaurants and ask them about twenty questions based on crawfish. It was about ten surveys I had to get answers for and only got four survey papers filled out. The restaurants I called they were either ringing busy or just ringing so I saved the surveys for the next day. The next morning I called the restaurants and the answers were just filling out on the paper. After finishing the survey everyone was moving about getting ready for the protest. BEC decided to build a new power plant using bunker C fuel which wouldn't have been good for the health of the people and also for the environment and those who were against it got together and protest. I tagged along but didn't really protest, I guess I didn't because everyone else was doing a great job. I supported them by wearing the t-shirt that was made, signed the petition and in getting others to see how the fuel isn't good for us.

I really did enjoy working there, helping out and everything. I see why Mrs. Davis loves being a part of the organization. I thank God I was placed there with a wonderful group of people. Wouldn't want it any other way!