

# The Water Island Scoop

Published Every Now and Then

Barbara Archibald  
44 Water Island  
St Thomas, VI 00802-7802  
(340) 774-3889  
[babararch@thomasarchibald.com](mailto:babararch@thomasarchibald.com)

Mercy Blosser  
14 Water Island  
St Thomas, VI 00802-7800  
(340) 774-5591  
[mercyrocks2000@yahoo.com](mailto:mercyrocks2000@yahoo.com)



## Issue Two

Summer 2005

May is supposed to be the second wettest month of the year with about six inches of rain and, as far as we were concerned, it couldn't come soon enough. By April, Water Island's vegetation was holding on for dear life, dried stalks buffeted by every breeze. But it looked like help was on the way. Slowly the air started filling with water, sticking to our skin like a clammy raincoat. Any day now the clouds would overload and drop their contents. All they needed was a trigger to make them sneeze. Rain clouds passed on all sides of us, stuck to the mountaintops of St. Thomas or far out to sea near Culebra; Water Island remained the donut hole of sunshine. Finally during the last week of April, the rains began, first with droplets, then pellets of water. The plants soaked it up and put it to immediate use, giving forth a display all the more astounding because so little water -- less than two inches -- was needed to create so much beauty.

This issue contains some of the natural glories of Water Island, a few of which may be new to you. Plus, we post a photo showing that new life on the island is not limited to the plant kingdom.

Marion Wilkinson's many friends all across the country wish her an easy recuperation and speedy recovery. We look forward to seeing her back on Water Island soon.

We hear that Elsie Kehler is about to celebrate a milestone birthday. Happy Birthday Elsie, from your friends on Water Island. We'll toast to your health in person upon your return to Water Island this November.



The roving reporters on Island are happy to report that the dump is still looking good. Water Islanders are respecting the restriction to garbage and white goods at the dump, disposing of both kinds of trash appropriately. Let's keep up the good work and keep stuff off the ground. (Batteries, cars and tires go to die in a separate location; the old car graveyard.)



There are piles of brush alongside all the major roads - better make that "major" roads - on the island,

and we can now see vistas through the remaining shrubs that we've never seen before. A team of men sent over by the VI government arrives every morning on the early ferry. They pile into the big yellow truck, they keep on Water Island and get to work chopping down anything that grows within four feet of the road. Mercy is now worried that if someone should happen to drive off the road, for whatever reason, there would be no brush to catch them before they fall off the cliff. For this reason we are instituting a new rule requiring air bags in golf carts.





**Rangoon Creeper**

**Firecracker  
and  
Yucca Plant**



**Ixora  
and  
Purple Star**



**After three very dry months where every tree dropped their leaves, we had a rainy month of May. Everything bloomed at the same time. The beauty of this display of color was only exceeded by the rich fragrance given off by all of these flowers.**



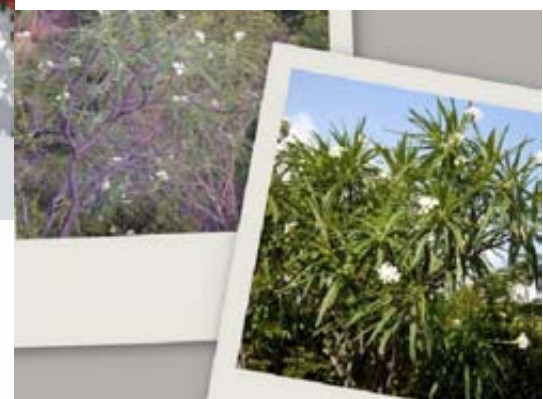
**Shower of Gold  
(Cassia Fistula)**

Their height ranges from 6 to 50 feet. Their dark green, shiny leaves are pinnate and they bear terminal clusters of golden-yellow flowers in the summer.



**Flamboyant Tree**

This tender, flowering tree is commonly known as Flamboyant, Flame Tree, Peacock Flower and Royal Poinciana. The delicate, fern-like leaves grow 2 feet long and unfurl at about the same time the flowers open in early summer; they fall late in the year. When in flower, the Flame Tree looks as its name describes. It is topped with huge clusters of yellow tinted, scarlet flowers that last for 4 to 6 weeks; each flower is 3 or 4 inches across.



**Frangipani Tree**

The Frangipani or Wild Plumeria tree is covered with lance-shaped, dark green leaves, 6-12 inches long. The fragrant, tubular flowers have five petals that curve up a bit at the edges and may be pink, red, white or yellow. They are produced in clusters and are 2-3 inches across.

# It's Carnival Baby!

## Carnival is Alive in 2005

Saturday, April 30, 2005



**The annual St Thomas Carnival adults parade was a day filled with sound, color and excitement. Water Island was well represented with viewing participates.**



# Fifties Girl



Saturday, May 14, 2005



Greg Stolmat gave Diane a big 50th birthday bash with over one hundred guests. The party was

held at their Sprat Bay house, with music provided by the band 10K. Along with the music was dancing, good food and drink. The large house was an ideal setting, with plenty of room to dance, sit and eat or move around and socialize with the other guests.



# WICA Update

Thanks to the Scoop team for their work giving a living view of Water Island. Nice job. The next Water Island Civic Association, Executive Committee (WICA, EC) meeting will be on Saturday, June 25, 2005, at Honeymoon Beach. Send any topics you would like discussed to me (chuckgidley@hotmail.com), or to the Scoop team. Last month the Department of the Interior transferred the remaining land on Water Island to the VI Government. This was done without fanfare, and the transfer Quitclaim Deed was essentially the same as the 1996 Deed. We will have to see what happens now. The Department of Public Works (DPW) has visited the island often, and has helped in several ways. The dump has been cleaned up and we are working to keep it clean. No debris may be placed on the ground with the exception of white goods. DPW has also cleaned up around the Fire Station and is cutting back the roadsides. The piles of roadside cuttings will be moved off island. We are told that the next step will be the patching of potholes. When we met with the Commissioner of DPW, he told us we were not to spend our money to fix the potholes; DPW would do that and we should spend our money on beautification type projects. We are told that the ferry dock should go out again for bids very soon. Will give you an update at the next EC meeting. We will continue to track the dock and the road repairs closely as they are the two hot button issues. The EC is working now to finalize plans to replace the swim buoys at Honeymoon Beach, and will let you know soon the schedule. Thanks to all who volunteer to help coordinate with DPW, and continue to contribute their time to keep the island in the best shape possible. With the recent rains the island is looking good.

Chuck

## The News from Washington, D.C.

By: Roger and Janet Michael

Hi Mercy and Barbara,

Thanks for starting the "Scoop" ....a great idea! Our bit of news is that we spent a wonderful week in Southern France with Jackie and John



Coleman, sponsored by Washington and Lee College. Of course we hated the fine wine and great food, but we forced ourselves to indulge. We had to restrain John and Jackie at the outdoor markets. John even found one with fresh oysters that opened them on the spot for him.

We can also report that Lucy Gidley is partaking of the art scene in Washington, DC. She and her sister, Judy Miller, an accomplished artist, attended the Portrait Society Meeting of America annual meeting. We talked to them about their plans for returning to Florida, and then going to New England for several weeks...Lucy looks "sparkling" as usual.

## Vera Maria Colon



**We are pleased to introduce the newest Water Islander - Vera Maria Colon. The daughter of Ensor AND ANNA COLON (FORMALLY**

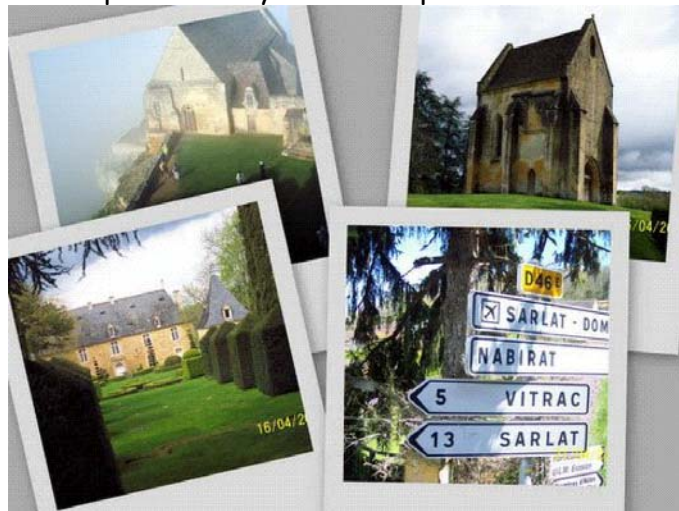
**ANNA NIGAMATOVA), Vera arrived at a weight of 6 lbs 4ozs, and a length of 20 1/2" on May 10, 2005.**



## France: Village Life in the Dordogne

By: John Coleman (April 2005)

Jackie and John Coleman joined 36 other Washington & Lee University travelers, including our Water Island friends and neighbors, Roger and Janet Michael, on this 8-day trip to the Southwest of France. The region, called Perigord Noir, was where prehistoric man (4,000 to 12,000 years ago) left behind beautiful cave paintings of bison, woolly mammoths, horses and other animals, but interestingly no birds or reptiles. Ancient towns and abbeys built into cliffs over rivers are now what draw so many visitors to this part of France. It is also home to extraordinary cuisine. Heidi, you should put this on your list of places to visit.



The history of the Dordogne is interesting. It was home to the Gauls, then to the Romans who under Caesar Augustus in 16 B.C. built miniature towns that looked like the city of Rome so that the legionnaires and their families would feel at home. In the second century Perigord was overrun by the Visigoths and Franks, and later by the Vikings. Destruction and misery prevailed for the next 700 years, the so-called Dark Ages in Europe. Later, the Church built large abbeys, and new castle owners, when they were not away on Crusades, built fortifications all of which attracted travelers and pilgrims to the area.

The Hundred Years War (1337 - 1453) was fought between English and the French monarchs with names like Eleanor of Aquitaine, Henry Plantagenet, their son Richard the Lion-Hearted, and Louis and Charles VII. Our guide Antoinette told us the war lasted more than 100 years because they didn't like to fight in the winter months.



Our group of fellow travelers almost took over the small Hotel de la Madeleine in the town of Sarlat. It is owned by the vice-mayor of Sarlat, who is the head chef of the hotel as well. The food was not disappointing.



One night we were entertained by a young couple--she was English, he was French-- who sang and played the violin and guitar. They were so much fun to listen to that our group bought almost all of their CDs after the performance. Another night after dinner a folk dance group (they spent more time on their costumes than they did in rehearsals) danced for us and then invited us to dance with them. The steps being French provincial, we had no idea what we were doing but it was a lot of fun.

# You like it, you really like it!

From the first mention of *The Water Island Scoop* we have been flooded with e-mail. Some are curious and want to know what could possibly be happening of interest on such a small island. Others were obviously seeking news of a questionable nature. Most were just excited, I'm guessing, about the possibility that maybe their name would appear in print. What ever the reason for all the e-mail activity it has been received with great appreciation that *The Water Island Scoop* has been so widely accepted.

## Curious?

### What's the scoop? *Chuck*

Dave Clouse here... I got the message and look forward to getting the first issue...

I love it!!! What a great idea. I can't wait for the first issue. It's wonderful to be connected to W.I. while sitting in my dark office. Thank you!  
*Halsey Blake-Scott*

Got your email but the only thing that shows up is the banner headline. *Marion*

Bil Barber here. Hope Fitzgerald forwarded the information about Da Scoop to me. Would you please include me and my brothers, Scott and Dave, on your email list to receive The Water Island Scoop?

Hi from Chicago! I can't open the e-mail, so I just thought you might want to know. Take Care, *Linda*

Would love to open up your latest, and hate to miss the scoop....but I am una idiota with el computer, and don't have adobe..., if I did I would build a small round house that would be cool in the summer! Lo siento por la problema..... besos, *Wendy*

Can't wait for pages 3 & 4 - also 5, 6, & 7.  
*Val*

Doris Pruitt tells me that you will put out a Water Island news letter. Janet and I would appreciate seeing it if possible. We formerly owned Villa Six before selling to Bill and Ruth Pence. Thanks in advance. *Harry Buffum*

Saw your note on the bulletin board at the "Library/Post Office". Would you please put my e-mail address on your list for Water Island news?  
Thanks. *Donna*

Hi! Mercy: Harry Buffum informed me you are publishing a Water Island newsletter. As a former villa owner, I would be interested in receiving a copy of the Water Island Scoop.

Can you please send me your latest issue and put me on your mailing list for future issues.  
Thank you. *Kay Mazurek*

Thanks for including me; I'm looking forward to receiving the first issue of the scoop. *Robert*

**Rex forwarded the first issue of the Scoop to me. It looks great and I'm looking forward to occasional updates on island activities. Thanks, Jane**

We are delighted about getting an e-mail newsletter about Water Island. Hope to see everyone next season. *Doris and Tom Pruitt*

## Trash Talk . . .

Hey great idea to keep everyone informed. Sooooo, what happened on April 9? We are counting down the days!!! See you not soon enough! *Genny*

Great job! What was the trashy subject? I couldn't find anything about it in the newsletter! Did somebody chicken out and censor the item?  
All the best, *The Blume's*

Thanks for the Scoop. However, there is only one page, is that right? I ask because in the first column it promises "trashy event" following on the next page... Regards, *Marge*

# Excited!

I love it!!! What a great idea. I can't wait for the first issue. It's wonderful to be connected to W.I. while sitting in my dark office. Thank you!

*Halsey Blake-Scott*

**Well hell yes we want to get the paper!!!!  
Better put our home e-mail on it too. Here  
are some great WI memory shots for you!!!!  
Best to you all, T-Rex**

Wow! What an address list! Got the PDF file and loved the banner. Eagerly await the articles and photos. Keep up the good work! *Rob*

**Please include us in you list for "The Water Island Scoop". Thanks. Franco**

Thanks for the email, Mercy--I look forward to receiving the newsletter. *Mary*

**I would be delighted to receive a copy of above mentioned publication as it comes off the press. Thanks, Dick**

Sure, we want it....and any other news you want to send our way. *Anne*

This is such a great thing you are doing! We have 2 other sets of family members that would like to be added onto the email distribution. Thanks a lot! *Kim*

We would love to receive the letter. *Ed*

**The newsletter looks fabulous!! Nice job. Thanks for doing it. Jim & Marion**

**Terrific! Thank you! Halsey**

Greetings....GREAT job on the SCOOP!!!!....Great reporting, the pictures and format excellent! Looking forward to the next one. We miss WI... God Bless You...and THANKS AGAIN  
*Neal & Carolyn*

Thanks for your fun filled SCOOP. It's a very nice reminder of the pleasures of the island for us off islander homeowners. *Steve and Ann Stranahan*

**Love the newsletter! Susan Bubb**

Thanks so much - makes me feel like I'm not so far away! *Hope Fitzgerald*

I love the Water Island Scoop newsletter! Though we're only new adoptees of Water Island (formerly Ben & Reba Viscuso's house), everyone has made us feel so welcome and it's wonderful to have news about our extended "family". Please keep me on your distribution list for the next installment "Published Every Now and Then". Thanks! *Ron and Jami Koenig*

**Thanks so much for the editions of the Scoop... And thanks to all of you who have worked so hard for all of us and helping us to keep in touch. Great idea, well designed, and well done! ... And greatly appreciated! Best wishes, Anne Page**

We all miss WI. Bliss and I counting the days again. Thanks for your efforts in keeping everyone updated.  
*Tom and Bliss Ryan*

**VOILA -- AND CONGRATULATIONS. Love the Scoop. Love, Jackie**

I like it! It's a great idea to do this, you guys. Regards, *Stephanie*

Well done!! This is really great! Just what we've needed!! Newsy---non-political---fun!

Keep up the good work & we will try to send anything newsy we hear, but to those who aren't here, direct news from the island is really a lifeline to most of their hearts.

My best to you both for this endeavor---- *Jackie*

Thanks for all the good work on the Scoop. It is very colorful and entertaining, not to mention informative. *Barbara*

Hi Mercy and Barbara, Thanks for starting the "Scoop"... a great idea!  
*Roger and Janet Michael*

Mercy - Thanks so much for pages one and two of the first issue of The Scoop. We truly enjoyed them and look forward to more. Please give our regards to all who might remember the Villains from Number Six.  
*Janet and Harry Buffum*

**Congratulations on your first edition, Barb and Mercy! What a nice job! So very professional! Jane and Barry**

We read your WI Scoop and found it to be very enjoyable. In friendship, *Penny Meyer*