

March 24, 2011

Dear Friends,

Winter is nearly over, and the promise of spring is around the corner for us all!



Lameshur Bay

Promise, in all of its definitions, means so much to Friends of V.I. National Park. The promise we have made to preserve and protect the unique treasure that is V.I. National Park, and the promise that the children in our midst have of becoming the next generation of its stewards. And of course, there is the promise that you make to us, through your continued dedication and support of all that we endeavor. **Thank you!**

Your dedication to Friends makes a difference every day. Last month we hosted a group of 77 public school children from Addelita Cancryn Middle School in St. Thomas for a ranger guided field trip in the park. This is a school we have never had a chance to work with before, and most of the children had never even been to St. John, let alone the park. Without the help of donors like you, this hands-on learning experience never would have happened.

It is programs like this, and many others that benefit from your support. As Friends strives to continue our preservation, protection and education work with Virgin Islands National Park, you remain a vital part of our efforts. A donation to Friends this spring would enable us to:

- ✿ Promote awareness and support the efforts of the park in their pursuit to minimize the impact of invasive lion fish on our delicate reef ecosystems. This species has decimated reef systems in the Bahamas, and their threat to our area is ever increasing.
- ✿ Offer V.I. school children the opportunity to attend one of the Eco-Camps at VIERS this summer. The public school system in the Virgin Islands lacks in their natural science curriculum, and Friends strives to fill this void through our educational camps during the summer months. Our goal this year is to send 124 children to Eco-Camps, Science Camp and Ranger-in-Training Camp. These camps are fundamental in nurturing the next generation of conservation citizens.
- ✿ Conserve the cultural artifacts being uncovered at the Creque Marine Slipway on Hassel Island, and develop and install interpretive signage for the site as we move towards opening Hassel Island to visitation.

Please continue to help us keep our promise to Virgin Islands National Park. The park counts on the Friends to assist in providing quality special projects and programming. Our National Parks are priceless and irreplaceable, and we rely on our many generous donors and members like you to help us protect and preserve this national treasure that is in our care. Your gift is tax deductible and aid in our efforts to support the park. I look forward to continuing to count on you as a Friend. To donate online, click [here](#).

Together, we can accomplish great things for V.I. National Park! Please make your gift today!

Best regards,



Joe Kessler, President