



Breaking News from Florida's International Volunteer Agency



**The FAVACA staff wish you all a Happy Holiday
and a joyous New Year.**

**El personal de FAVACA les desea muy Felices Fiestas
y un Próspero Año Nuevo.**

**Manm FAVACA swete ou gen yon Bon Nwèl
epi yon bon Nouvèl Anè.**

December 2009

**IN MEMORANDUM- FRANCIS EDWARD O'CONNOR "FRANK"
NATIONAL HERITAGE PARK ESTABLISHED IN THE BAHAMAS
BEEKEEPING EXPANDED IN HAITI
NUTRITIONAL STANDARDS IMPROVED IN HAITI
UPCOMING LEADERSHIP SEMINAR IN WASPAM, NICARAGUA**

IN MEMORANDUM- FRANCIS EDWARD O'CONNOR "FRANK"

It is with great sadness and fond remembrance that FAVACA honors the passing of Frank O'Connor. For many years Mr. O'Connor has been a volunteer, board member, advocate and most of all a friend of FAVACA. He will be sorely missed. FAVACA's website highlights a few of [Frank's impressive projects](#) in the Caribbean Basin and some of the many lives he touched. O'Connor volunteered nine times with FAVACA providing trainings in business management, human resources, board management and institutional strengthening in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, and St. Kitts & Nevis.



Our deepest sympathy goes out to all who knew and loved him.

In Memoriam
Frank O'Connor

NATIONAL HERITAGE PARK ESTABLISHED IN THE BAHAMAS

Dr. Keith Tinker of the [Bahamas Antiquities, Monuments and Museums Corporation \(AMMC\)](#) is the principal heritage conservation agency in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. It is committed to the



preservation, interpretation and promotion of nation monuments, historical sites, museums, artifacts and eco-facts, which acquire national importance, and inspire public interest by reason of their historical, archaeological, anthropological and/or paleontological significance. The National Museum of the Bahamas is opening a new exhibit on the discovery of the Americas and sought training from FAVACA experts in park and exhibit planning. November 10-14, 2009, Lee and Marvin Cook from [Wilderness Graphics](#)

trained the AMMC staff on the renovation of the [Collins House](#) for use as the central museum for the Bahamas. Further consultations were provided to local constituents on Grand Bahamas and New Providence for developing heritage programs and venue developments as adjunct exhibition sites for the National Museum while also training AMMC maintenance staff in care and repair of exhibits at [Fort Fincastle](#) and [Fort Charlotte](#). Additionally, Lee and Marvin Cook and longtime FAVACA volunteer and heritage planner Jim Miller travel to San Salvador, Bahamas to assist AMMC staff in the creation of a conceptual plan for the Columbus Landfall National Heritage Park. Upon creation in 2011 a monument will be erected commemorating Columbus's arrival to the Bahamas. Once completed, the park hopes to become a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#).

BEEKEEPING EXPANDED IN HAITI

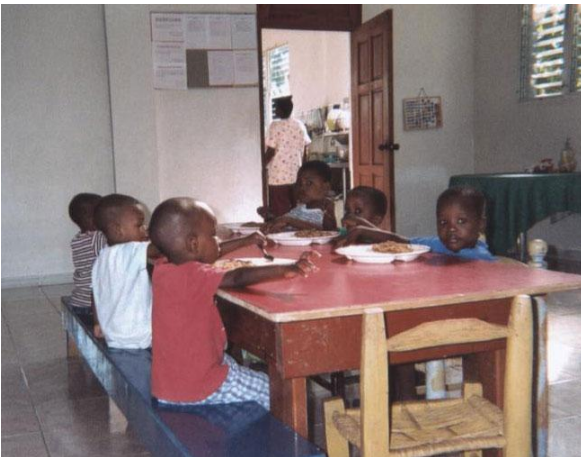
In April 2007, FAVACA supported three beekeepers to travel to [Plaisance de Sud, Haiti](#) to train beekeepers in suitable beekeeping methods. Beekeepers were well served by implementing significant advances in hive maintenance technology currently used in Florida. Veteran volunteer Bo Sterk, St. Augustine, returned to Haiti November 14-22, 2009 to provide a variety of trainings to the Regroupements des Jeunes Progressistes de Mathurin (REJEPMA) located in Plaisance de Sud in the Nippes Department. Forty participants learned the integral aspects of bee colony and hive maintenance. Sterk provided training to create [Kenya Top Bar Hives](#) which allow beekeepers to



increase production from the current 1 gallon to 5 per harvest. Local beekeepers were placing hives in hallowed out logs not conducive for large scale production of honey as beekeepers were forced to destroy the hives at each harvest. Top Bar hives not only allow for more honey production but also to combat Varo mite which has wreaked havoc on colonies both in Haiti and throughout the Western Hemisphere. For over a year, Sterk dedicated his time and effort raising donations totaling \$1,600 USD to buy the necessary equipment and materials to build hives. FAVACA would like to thank the [Northeast Florida Honey Bee Association](#) and the [St. Augustine Sunrise Rotary Club](#) for their generous donations which helped pay for the needed wood and materials to enable this project to take place. Likewise, FAVACA would like to thank Bert Otto who generously donated beekeeping supplies to be distributed to Haitian beekeepers.

NUTRITIONAL STANDARDS IMPROVED IN HAITI

Since 1979, [Village of Vision for Haiti Foundation \(VVHF\)](#), a non-profit organization, has served the growing need for education and care of preschool and school-age children of working families at Lamardelle, a small Haitian city located near the Dominican Republic border. In collaboration with the Fondation Enfant Jesus (FEJ), they have served more than 450 disadvantaged children in this rural



community through several orphanages, a community day care, a primary school, a youth development program, a water distribution project and a women's micro-business program. To facilitate the development of children and to strengthen and support families, VVHF requested the assistance of FAVACA to help develop a nutritional education program. Sondra Cornett, a nutritional specialist with the [Florida Department of Health](#), traveled to Haiti November 17-28, 2009 to assess the nutritional status of children living in the two orphanages and children attending the two

elementary schools in the villages of Lamaradelle and Timache. Cornett was able to make recommendations in each facility based on the local food supply. The training provided included a comprehensive approach for improving the nutritional status of children directed toward infection prevention and reduction, environmental sanitation, immunization programs, early treatment of infections and the feeding of sick children, as well as maintaining good nutritional practices throughout the lives for both the children and the staffs of these facilities. Over fifty people were trained as a result of Cornett's nutritional assessment and training program which will in turn help the over 450 children that VVHF provides services to in two communities.

UPCOMING LEADERSHIP SEMINAR IN WASPAM, NICARAGUA

Sponsored by the [State Department's Bureau for Educational and Cultural Affairs](#), FAVACA will be hosting a leadership seminar on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast in the town of [Waspam](#) from January 7-11, 2010. Rodrigo Huete, President of the [American-Nicaraguan Chamber of Commerce](#), and other top leaders will guide discussions with approximately 40 seminar participants on developing leadership skills,

overcoming obstacles faced by the indigenous community, advocating changes at the municipal and national levels, and improving economic and social well-being of the community.

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**Promoting social and economic development in the Caribbean
and the Americas through volunteer service.**

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The Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas (FAVACA) is a non-profit organization established in 1982. FAVACA was founded in the belief that Florida's future is interwoven with that of our Caribbean neighbors. The organization's mission is the improvement of social and economic conditions in the Caribbean and Central America through volunteer service. FAVACA provides technical assistance and training through a diverse combination of federal, private and State of Florida funding sources. To date, more than 1,200 volunteer missions to 29 nations and territories of the region have been completed. A wide variety of training is offered in health and social issues, agriculture, education, environment, disaster mitigation, women's leadership, capacity building and more.

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