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# The sun shone on 'God's creatures in the Garden'

Wednesday, 15 October 2008 08:19



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Held on Sunday October 12th, 2008, having been postponed a week due to inclement weather, God's Creatures in the Garden was a spectacular success! The weather cooperated, and many people came out for a day of fun.

Meant to coincide with World Animal Day (Oct. 4) which is also the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, the event was conceived to provide a day for families to celebrate and enjoy their pets and each other in the tranquil natural wonder that is once more the Garden of the Groves

in Freeport.

In addition to seeing the beautiful, newly restored, Garden of the Groves, attendees were treated to lots of fun activities such as pony rides by Geronimo courtesy of Pinetree Stables and Annie Roberts, face painting by Olivia Dorsett, dog obedience/training demos by Beth Hatfield, kids' games like the immensely popular lollipop game, and hoopla.

There was also an entertaining scavenger hunt, a raffle with great prizes, good food and drink, and souvenir photos with custom frames. The live entertainment provided by Sheena Moree and her talented group of young musicians, dancers and singers was enjoyed by all.

A special highlight of the afternoon was the Blessing of the Animals at the statue of St. Francis of Assisi. Father Rudolph Cooper of St. Stephens Anglican Church of Eight Mile Rock gave a lovely blessing and prayer for all the animals in attendance, which can be seen at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9NAO6SU1Rsl>.



Father Cooper has been a great friend and supporter of the HSGB since January 2007, when he graciously agreed to host our first field spay/neuter clinic in St. Stephens parish hall. He and Mrs. Cooper are the proud owners of "Pope", a rat terrier mix, who we at the HSGB have come to know and love.

Four puppies from the HSGB attended, on their best

! NEW ! NEW ! NEW ! NEW !

# bahamas weather centre

! NEW ! NEW ! NEW ! NEW !

**Nassau Airport,**

**78 °F / 26 °C**

**Scattered Clouds**

at 5:00 AM



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**West Palm Beach,**

**77 °F / 25 °C**

**Mostly Cloudy**

at 4:53 AM



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Dilly Tree Talk



behavior, and got lots of attention from the crowd, and also received their blessing. Please remember they (and many more) need homes of their own!

Organizer of the event, and Treasurer of the HSGB Ivy Elden said, "We are very pleased with the big turn out today, and believe we provided both families and their pets with a unique and fun event they could all enjoy. We hope to make this an annual event, and are very grateful to our good friends at the Garden of the Groves and the Garden Café as well as our many volunteers for all their enthusiasm and assistance."

Some of the pictures of the event can be viewed here:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/tipburrows/GodsCreaturesInTheGarden>

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this event a success and a big thanks to all who attended and showed your support for the animals of Grand Bahama!

*From St. Francis of Assisi:*

*"If you have men who will exclude any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will deal likewise with their fellow man."*

*"Not to hurt our humble brethren is our first duty to them, but to stop there is not enough. We have a higher mission—to be of service to them wherever they require it."*



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