



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The 2021 Recipients of the Governor's Conservation Awards

28 October 2021 - It was a night of celebration as the National Trust for the Cayman Islands recognized some of the individuals and companies who are doing outstanding work in the fields of historic preservation and environmental conservation across all three Cayman Islands.

The biennial Governor's Conservation Awards was hosted by His Excellency the Governor Mr. Martyn Roper on Tuesday October 26, as finalists and well wishers gathered to learn who would be the recipients of the various awards.

At the end of the night the following recipients were announced:

1. **HERITAGE PRESERVATION AWARD.** The finalists were Ms. Ally McRae (for her efforts to save the Clayton Nixon house which is now located by Mission House) and Mrs. Julia Hislop (for her restoration of Aston and Ruth Ruddy home in Cayman Brac).
 - a. **Recipient: Mrs. Julia Hislop**

2. **TOURISM INDUSTRY CONSERVATION AWARD.**
 - a. Recipient: **Cayman Kayaks** for their sustainable practices and preservation of Bio-Bay and the mangrove wetlands that they visit.

3. **Lois Blumenthal Youth Conservation Award.** The finalists were Dinara Perera (for her mangrove conservation work) and Ms. Estefania McDermot (for her work with Plastic Free Cayman, Sail for Change Caribbean and Central Caribbean Marine Institute).
 - a. **Recipient – Estefania McDermot**

4. **CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR –** The finalists were Mr. Bill La Monte (who has inspired, co-founded and participated in several youth conservation groups) and Ms. Tanja Laaser (for going above and beyond in her conservation work for the Sister Islands Rock Iguanas).
 - a. **Recipient: Tanja Laaser**

Recipient for the Heritage Preservation Award, Mrs. Mrs. Julia Hislop, shared how humbled she was to have received this recognition from the National Trust. She stated, "My parents took a keen interest in the upkeep of our family estate, and I felt this should be carried on for the future generations. Now my



parents' great grandchildren are enjoying their heritage. I thank those who recognized and appreciate the efforts put into the restoration.”

Conservationist of the Year Tanja Lasser said “I feel very honoured and happy to have received this award. All the work I was able to accomplish with the Sister Islands Rock Iguanas was only possible thanks to the support of the Little Cayman community”.

Chairman of the National Trust shared in his remarks how excited he was particularly in seeing the youth advocates who are motivated to make positive changes in their community, “they understand the value of speaking up and acting now”.

Corporate sponsorship of the event was provided by AVS Solutions and during the evening, guests watched a presentation featuring the finalists before the recipients were announced.

PHOTO CAPTION

In the photo: His Excellency the Governor Martyn Roper, Olson Anderson (Chairman of the National Trust) Jennifer Ahearn (Chief Officer at the Ministry of Sustainability and Climate Resiliency), Annick Jackman (Executive Director of the National Trust), Melanie Carmichael (Council member of the National Trust)

Award recipients: Mrs. Julia Hislop and Tanja Lasser

Certificate of recognition: Mr. Justin Howe for DART

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About the National Trust for the Cayman Islands

The National Trust for the Cayman Islands is a non-governmental organization whose mandate under the National Trust Law (2010 Revision) includes the preservation of the historic, natural and maritime heritage of the Cayman Islands for present and future generations.