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## BMT hosts monthly limes to educate general public

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IN an effort to get more persons involved in protecting this island s marine resources, the Barbados Marine Trust is hosting monthly limes to educate the general public on this vital environment.

Speaking to the Barbados Advocate at the first of these at Underwater Barbados on Friday evening, Director David Gill said that during each event there would be a presentation on topics related to this type of ecosystem, including items such as sea eggs and coral reefs as well as historical backgrounds on various marine locations across the island.

He stated that the activities presented persons with the opportunity to learn more about the Trust and its mandate to assist the people of Barbados in protecting the marine resources. As we build up a membership we get more information out, we create more environmental awareness in the general public and also members can get a chance to contribute to the work of the Marine Trust and what they are doing around the island to help protect the resources, he continued. Gill pointed out that the Trust worked alongside the government, the private sector, NGOs and with ordinary people to do various projects on land and in water aimed at protecting the marine environment.

Outlining some of the projects that the Trust would be involved in this year, he noted that several of these are community based. We are starting one in Oistins right now. We have an artificial reef project and a reef ball project where there are 30 reef balls on the South Coast and these are doing very well in creating a habitat for fish and a sub-strait for corals and other marine life to start growing on, he said. Gill noted that the Trust was starting an activity where average persons could build the reef balls that would be placed in Oistins.

Furthermore, he pointed out that such a venture could have a positive impact on that community of fisherfolk. This will give fishermen a chance to get involved in the tourism sector and take tourists out to snorkelling on the reef balls or out fishing, he outlined.

We are getting all of the stakeholders actively involved so that they can reap some sustainable benefits from the ocean, he added.

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