

Homerus Conservation in Jamaica's Cockpit Country

Susan Koenig, DFES
Windsor Research Centre (WRC)
windsor@cwjamaica.com

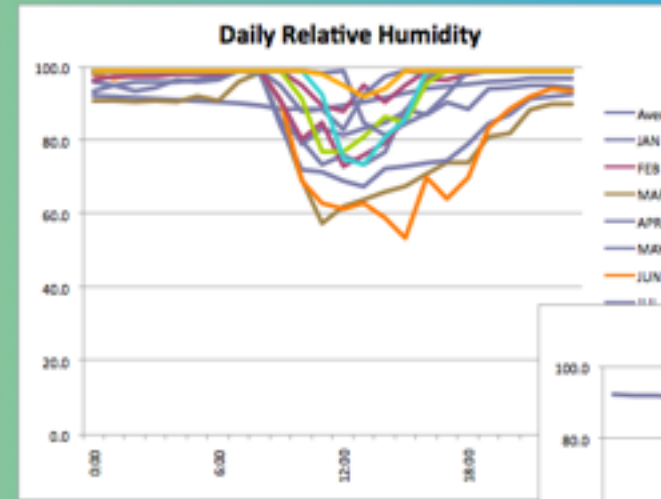
“A desert rat transplanted to the tropics”

IABES, TITAG & IECC Conference
Tucson, AZ 2016

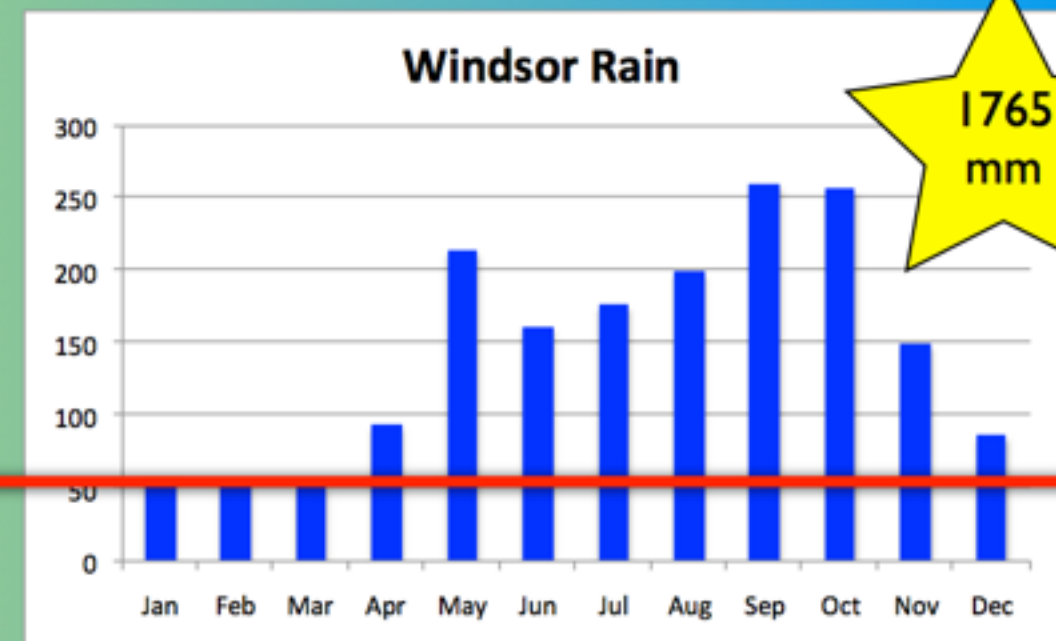
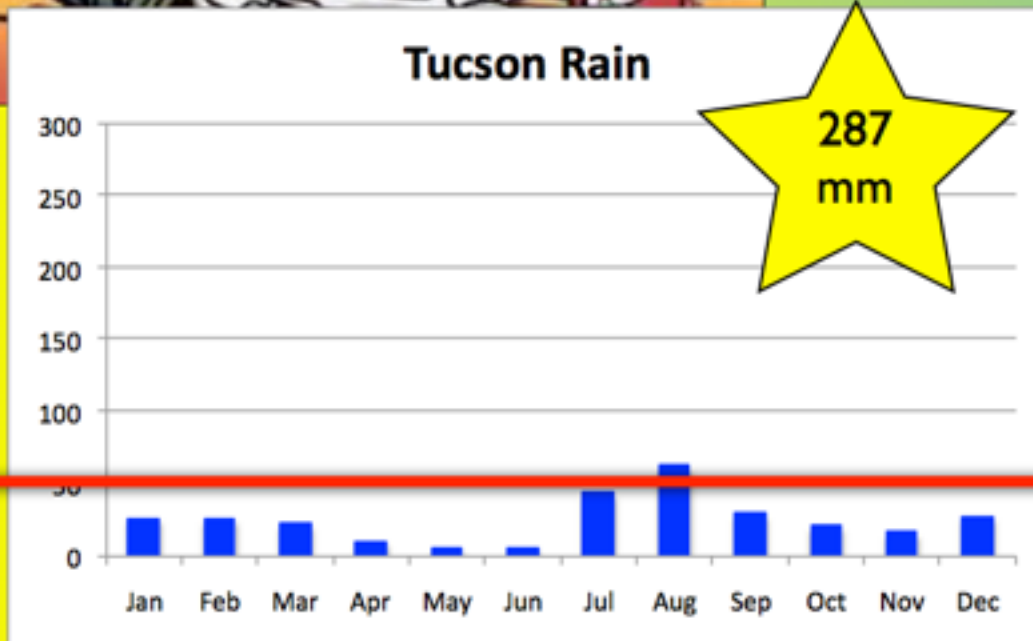
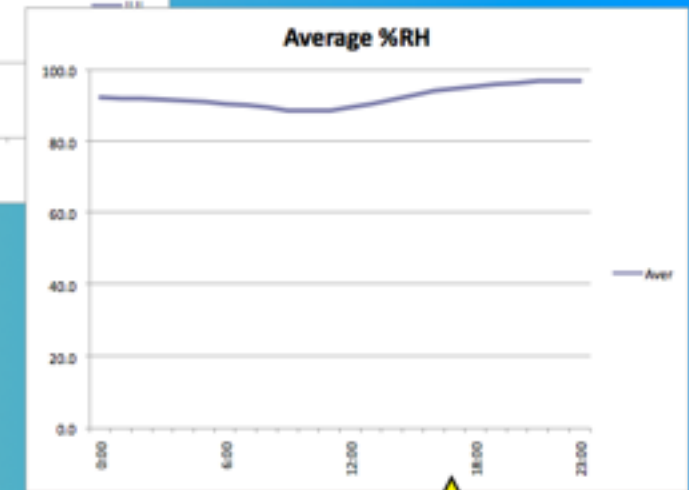
Supported by:



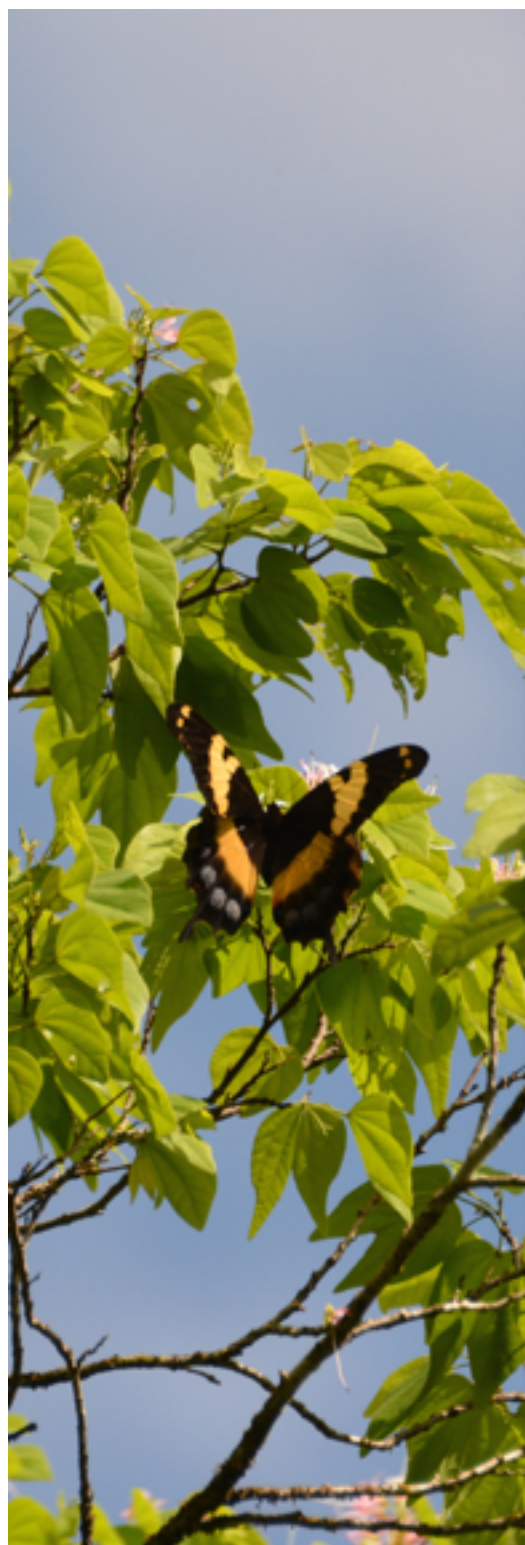
Tucson native



Windsor naturalized



About the speaker: Susan Koenig is a native of Tucson, Arizona. She earned her doctorate from Yale University conducting conservation research on Jamaica's two endemic *Amazona* parrots in Cockpit Country. After receiving her degree in 1999, she returned to Jamaica and, together with partner Michael Schwartz, founded Windsor Research Centre. While she will always prefer the dry heat of the Sonoran Desert, her life is dedicated to the afternoon thunderstorms, 100% relative humidity, and "mold on everything" environment of Cockpit Country. The existence of the Homerus Swallowtail absolutely depends on the high rainfall and high humidity of this landscape, so protecting landscape-level climatic processes is a key element. And, OK, she agrees her skin is better living in a Windsor sauna compared to desiccating in an Arizona oven.



OVERVIEW

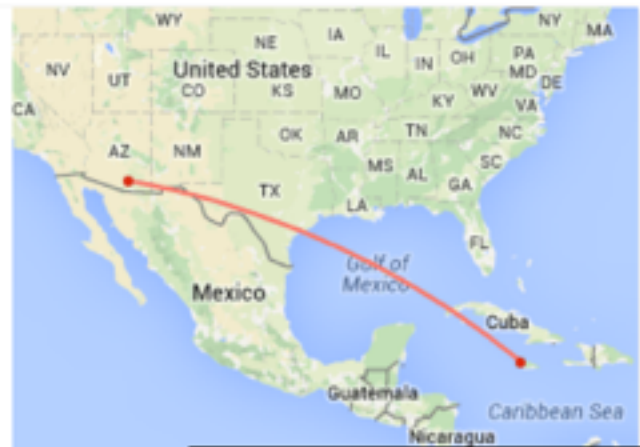
1. Windsor Research Centre (WRC)
- A Brief History
2. Cockpit Country Conservation Planning
3. Homerus Conservation
- An Epic of Landscape Proportions
- 4 Hot-Off-The-Press News
- 2016 and Onwards ...

Part 1: A Brief History of WRC

Windsor : located in north-central Cockpit Country

2,257 mi

Distance from Tucson, AZ to
Montego Bay

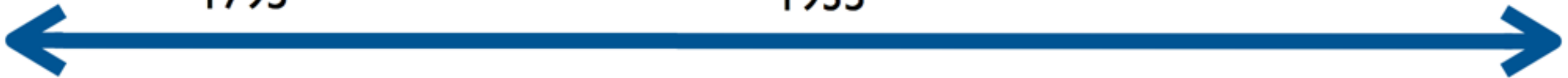


Windsor 450 years of history



1795

1935



Windsor Research Centre is based at Windsor Great House, which was built around 1795 when the 5,500 acre property was a cattle pen associated with the larger estate of Good Hope.

Windsor 450 years of history

Ist Maroon War



Thomas Hickman-Windsor,
1st Earl of Plymouth

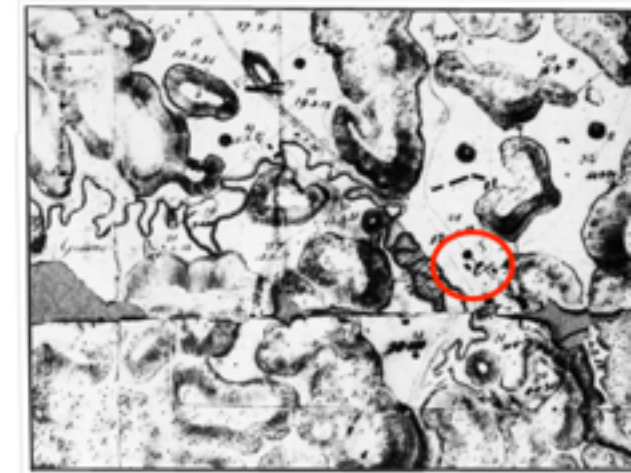
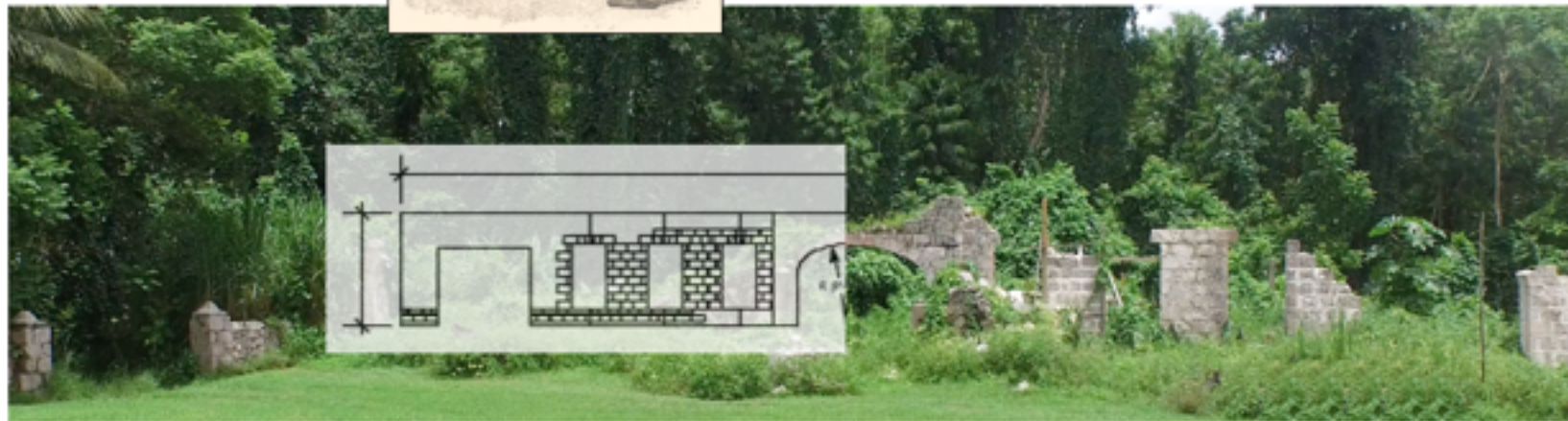
“...being veerie sick and uneesie...”

1662

(10 wks)

1738

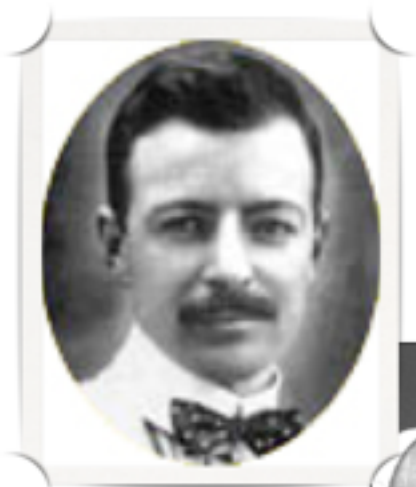
1795



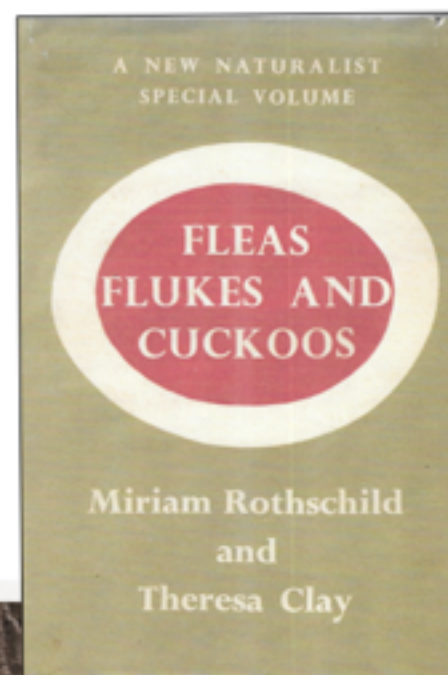
Prior to 1795, the property was a military base established by the British as part of their attempt to control the Maroons (ex-slaves). The Maroons defeated the British through their guerrilla warfare tactics, notably using the features of the landscape to successfully ambush the soldiers. The British named the landscape “Cockpit Country”.

The name Windsor originates from 1662 with the second civil governor of Jamaica. Although he held the post for 2 years, he only stayed in Jamaica for 10 weeks. During his short stay, he made sure his favoured friends got land grants . . . and he seems to have pocketed the swag! To show their appreciation, his friends named the estates “Windsor”: there are at least 7 Windsors in Jamaica.

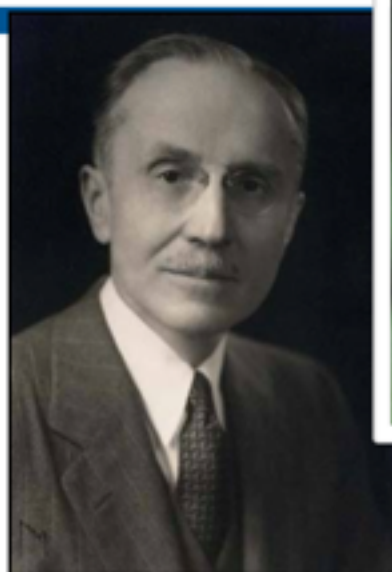
Windsor 450 years of history



Harold Anthony, AMNH
1919-20



1920



Nesiostrymon shoumatoffi
(c) Vaughan Turland
Bluefields, JM 2012

Avinoff & Shoumatoff
1926-40
"A dreamland of tropical splendour"

1935



1947-1958

1952

Located within Cockpit Country, Windsor has been attractive to a range of naturalists and researchers.

We are particularly pleased that Dame Miriam Rothschild owned Windsor estate for nearly 10 years - the indoor plumbing and flush-toilets are all thanks to her! Needless to say, she inspires us for many other reasons as well.

Windsor 450 years of history



1970's
Boy Scouts of Jamaica



1958



1986



Dame Miriam sold Windsor to Kaiser Bauxite Company in 1958; thereafter the house and property slowly languished. Kaiser donated the house to the Boy Scouts of Jamaica, who, being based in Kingston, rarely visited the property.

In 1986, Mike Schwartz purchased Windsor Great House and saved it from collapsing into piles of rock rubble. Ironically, Windsor's remoteness and very small human population meant that the biodiversity around the area was in great condition. Indeed, when Mike purchased the house, the then-caretaker was renting out a room to German researcher, Dr. Rudolf Diesel.

Windsor 450 years of history



1996



2002



Mike quickly discovered that researchers could be quite interesting: by sharing their results, he began to learn how fascinating and important was the biodiversity of Cockpit Country. And for this educational opportunity, all he had to do was ply them with rum...and the researchers would talk into the wee hours of the night.

By 1999, Dr. Susan had a “conservation success” convert: Mike retired his business as a building contractor (destroying coastal forest to make the plots “look nice” for prospective customers) and together in 2002 they formed Windsor Research Centre. In honor of Miriam Rothschild, our first logo was a flea!



Mission Statement

The mission of Windsor Research Centre is to:

- Promote research in the Natural Sciences with particular reference to the conservation of Cockpit Country;
- Act as a repository for this research;
- Disseminate information to ensure the best-possible protection and management of Cockpit Country.

<http://cockpitcountry.com>

windsor@cwjamaica.com

