

IT'S
STILL
FREE

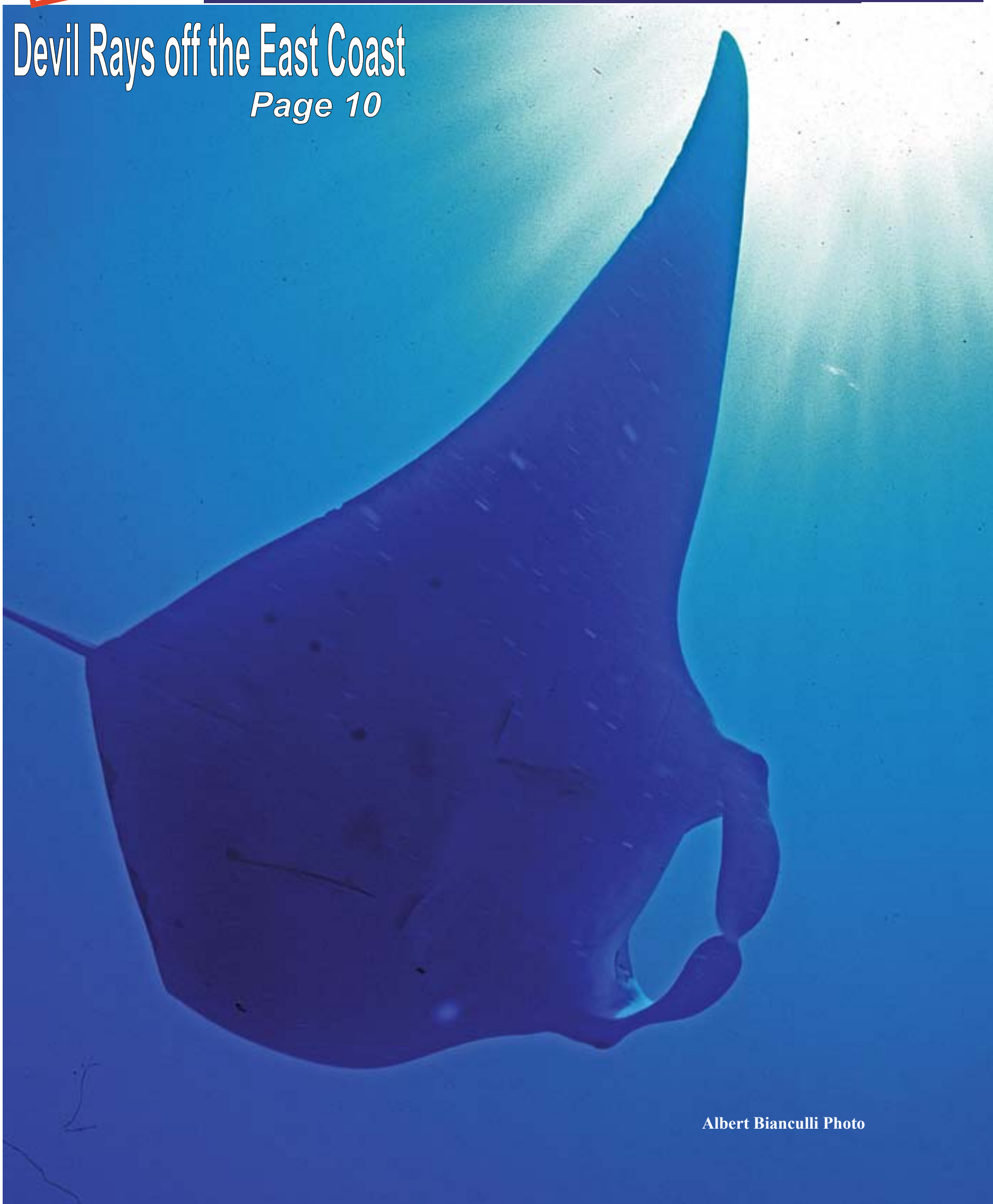
July 15 to July 22, 2005 Volume 12, Issue 27

The **BONAIRE!** REPORTER

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SINCE 1994

Devil Rays off the East Coast
Page 10



Albert Bianculli Photo

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM



Opportunities to get to Bonaire next winter are growing. Last week Continental Airlines, which had just contracted to fly to Bonaire from Houston, signed an agreement in Curaçao to fly there non-stop from Newark airport. Flight 1862 will use a Boeing 737-700 and depart at 8:50 am, arriving in Curaçao at 2:35 pm, beginning December 17, 2005. The fare is \$506.65. This flight, combined with a (\$100 r/t) Divi Divi or BonairExpress connection to Bonaire, will be an alternative to the present Air Jamaica flight which operates two daily flights from the NY area to Montego Bay to connect with its Saturday morning flight to Bonaire. The return to Newark is at 3:20 pm, arriving at 7:20 pm.

Continental reportedly is very satisfied with the number of early bookings on the recently announced Houston-Bonaire flight.



► An Atlantic Airlines delegation visited Curaçao last week to meet with the Ministry of Transport and Communications. Airline officials are exploring regional flights using Curaçao as the hub. Hotelier Jacob Gelt Dekker (Kura Hulanda) will initially be the company's majority local shareholder.

It would like to fly to the Dominican Republic, Haiti, St. Maarten, Venezuela (but not Caracas), Trinidad and possibly to Guadeloupe and/or Martinique, as

well as destinations in Central America and Brazil.

It could start flying as early as next month with a charter permit until all the paperwork is complete for scheduled flights. "Our plans in Curaçao are long term," stated Bill Lara, Atlantic's Vice-President Planning, Marketing and Sales, in a letter to Dekker. The company holds operating certificates for Central and South America. The plan is to base two Boeing 737-200s in Curaçao that are currently used in Honduras and Peru.



► The search activities of the three F-16s of the Dutch Royal Air force that arrived two weeks ago were initially delayed by bad weather related to Hurricane Dennis. They did not find evidence of Natalee Holloway's disappearance during the 11 missions they flew around Aruba.

The F-16s flew the 7,000+ kms. from the Netherlands via the Azores to Curaçao. They were refueled in the air by a KDC-10 that also transported supplies and a detachment of 40 air force personnel to Hato Airport.

For searches, the F-16s used a "MARS-pod (Medium Altitude Reconnaissance System)" with daylight cameras, or a targeting pod to take infrared images. It contains a laser-driven target-indicator and a TV- and infrared camera plus two Recon Optical KS-87B daylight cameras fitted with 12-inch lenses (306 mm) to take very detailed shots. Each camera has a film cassette with 75 me-

ters of film that can make about 600 shots.

Last week the KDC-10 tanker was stuck in Curaçao with technical problems (see photo at top of story). It had been scheduled to fly to Afghanistan.



► The board of St. Elisabeth Hospital (Sehos) in Curaçao is resigning following an exposé that showed the hospital was unsanitary, ill-equipped, poorly run and that these conditions were responsible for patient deaths. Medical specialists threatened a lawsuit, and a cardiologist documented the deaths of several people because of inadequate care. Bonaire patients are referred to Sehos when the level of expertise available in St. Francisco Hospital is not adequate for their condition.

Public Health Minister Joan Theodora-Brewster met with the board to request a plan of action to deal with the most serious problems discovered in recent inspections by Dutch and Antillean authorities.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Willemstad, which owns the hospital, must give its approval for the resignations.

The news comes a day after cardiologist Liqui Lung's claim that people have died at Sehos due to "deficient care." He reported three cases to the inspectors. The inspectors had warned as far back as three years ago that hospital management sometimes interfered with medical matters. For example, without consulting the concerned specialist, they ordered a cheaper pacemaker for a patient, which was totally untested. A most frightening

example is that management decided not to provide the capability to perform a "NAT-blood test for HIV," creating the risk that receivers of blood transfusions could be infected with HIV," Liqui Lung added.

The medical specialists confirmed that the recent revelations are only the tip of the iceberg. More things are wrong, especially in the microbiology lab. A spokesman said in addition to the problems of staffing, motivation and equipment that: "The walls are still standing, but are drenched with bacteria."



► Tropical Storm Emily's formation on July 11 made it the earliest date in recorded tropical storm history that five named storms formed in the Atlantic basin, the Miami hurricane center said. Tropical storms Arlene and Bret preceded Dennis and Cindy, but neither reached hurricane strength. As we go to press Tropical Storm Emily is bearing down on the Windward Islands but should pass well north of Bonaire. Calms and sea swells can be expected here.

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(Flotsam and Jetsam. Continued from page 2)

► **FOL, PLKP and MAN signed an agreement on Tuesday to form the new Island Government of Curaçao.**

The new government's majority party (FOL) is not represented in the Country's Council of Ministers, a situation that has meant problems in the past.

Curaçao had been without an island government for over a month. The PAR and PNP parties are out, having refused to form a coalition with the FOL party of Anthony Godett. The commissioners of the PLKP and MAN parties will keep the jobs they had in the defunct PAR/PLKP/PNP/MAN Executive Council, while FOL will take over those of PAR and PNP.



► **In August the tuition fees at the University of the Netherlands Antilles will increase** from NAf1.000 (\$570) to NAf 1.500 (\$857) per semester. Education Minister Maritza Silberie is expected to finalize this decision soon.

Chairman of the Student Council, Clark Abraham, understands the need for an increase. "One thousand guilders is indeed not enough for qualitative good university education," he admits. "In the Netherlands the tuition fees are much higher. Our problem is that when the students enroll next month, they have to know how they are going to pay the tuition, in installments or at once. It makes a difference when you have to pay 50

guilders extra from your grant."

► **A poverty alleviation summit** organized by Antillean Co-financing Office (AMFO) and the NGO Platform Bonaire was held in Bonaire's Amboina Centro di Bario last Saturday with the theme "Poverty Relief- Action Now!" A complete report on this important session that addressed the fundamental issues related to misery and crime in the islands attracted the top people in Antillean and Island Government. The story begins on page 6.



► **A search of the jail** by the Zero-Tolerance squad following Gibbs' escape turned up various items of contraband including marihuana, a couple of cell phones with chargers, a box cutter, pills and other items. An investigation is underway to discover how the prisoners got the items.

► Bonaire police had some successes last week. **They recaptured dangerous**

fugitive Murray Gibbs who had escaped almost a week before from the Bonaire lockup with another prisoner. The other prisoner turned himself in a few hours later, but Gibbs remained at large. He was located at a house at Mexico #102 with three companions and recaptured by an arrest team. His companions were charged with aiding a fugitive. During the operation one of the officers was accidentally shot in the foot. Prosecutor Wesselius was on the scene as well. Gibbs was transported to a more secure prison in Curaçao the next day. According to the police, a tip from a citizen aided in the recapture.

► It's time again for the Four Days of Nijmegen (*4 Daagse di Nijmegen*) walk in Holland, July 19 through 22, and **Bonaire will be sending another contingent: Nazario Alberto, Roy Martines and Bòl Antoin.** These stalwart souls will be walking approximately 50 km per day for four days. The Nijmegen walk is the largest walking event in the world. Sister islands Aruba and Curacao will be sending walkers too this year. Star walker Nazario will be leaving this Thursday on the KLM. We wish them all the best – and no sore feet.

► The Bonaire Animal Shelter Foundation is organizing its **Third Art Auction with Indonesian Dinner this November.** All the profits will go to the Animal Shelter. For the two previous art auctions, the Shelter received a huge amount of cooperation from the local art community, and they hope that they can count on the same cooperation again this year.

If you are able to donate pieces for the auction, please contact one of the following: 717-8721 (Lydia); 717-3207 (Hans); 787-0466 (Paul); or 717-4989 Animal Shelter

► **This Saturday the mighty Amboina Dolphins soccer team (kids aged 6 to 11) battle two soccer teams coming from Curaçao.** It promises to be a highlight in the team's career so come on out and cheer them on. The event will open at 9 am with a brass band and dignitaries. It's at the big soccer field in Amboina near the Centro di Bario (off Kaya Niki-boko North). Coached by Ricardo Alberto, the team has been very active, even going on the stage to raise funds. For more information call Ricardo at 785-3449.



► **The Cargill Salt Company has banned fishing on its property.** The measures, which include multi-language signs, may have been motivated by the recent death from a heart attack of an American tourist who was fishing in the area. Bonaireans fish in the waters that directly border the salt pans. Recently, they have been joined by tourists.

The salt production area is an official flamingo reservation. Fishermen have been reported disturbing the birds. It's

(Continued on page 5)

OPINIONS and LETTERS: THE Op-Ed PAGE

AN IDEA TO BENEFIT EVERYONE

Dear Editor:

As noticed and mentioned, is our tourism going forward but slowly? Well, if you have been to other islands in the Caribbean you could easily say that they have a lot of things we don't: long beaches with palms, mountains with rain forests, things that a non-diver normally connects with the Caribbean. But they cannot come close to our waters, which are the cleanest I have ever seen. But that is not enough to meet a typical tourist's expectations. You cannot create clean waters, but you can create beaches and plant palms.

So my opinion is that the Sunset Beach Hotel property should be used in a multi-purpose way for our future tourism and for Bonaire. Here is how:

Make the beach a first class public Caribbean beach. Renovate the bush area into a rich palm garden with grass, together with the typical wooden Caribbean snack bars for local snacks.

Now there would there still be enough property to divide it up into spaces for three, four or even five *erftpakt* (leased land) lots for small guesthouses or hotels.

This way it could be possible for a local entrepreneur to invest in a small hotel in a first class location. Be fair and first ask the local hard working guesthouse owners. That way the ones who are already working hard for tour-

ism would get a chance to operate in a prime location.

Giving out one lot every two years would give Bonaire the time needed to hire available construction companies and contractors, as well as absorbing the additional beds. In this way you would gain spread ownerships, hotels with different ambiances, colors and structures. So you create choices.

This concept would give locals their beach back and tourism in general a first class Caribbean beach and palm shade, a real hangout place. I think it would benefit everyone in the tourism business.

There would be no tax holidays needed, and everything can be built locally.

Lennart Davidsson

OPINION

WEB RATES

Just about everyone on Bonaire has gotten their bill for electricity that includes the latest fuel surcharge (*Brandstofclausule*). And just about everyone is shocked that the increase is far higher than anticipated. The effect of the increase has already begun to negatively affect the local economy. It will be interesting to see what the Bureau of



Statistics (*Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek van de Nederlandse Antillen - CBS*) reports. In Curaçao they said that the "Home" sector index rose 2.4% based on an increase in the cost of energy and water respectively of 7.7% and 7.1%. And that 7% is a small fraction of the increase in Bonaire.

In Bonaire a household pays **NA f0,3191** per kilowatt-hour (using 1,000 watts for one hour) as its basic rate (hotels pay less). On top of that the fuel surcharge is **NA f0, 24738** per kilowatt-hour, for a grand total of **NA f0,5665 (\$0.32)** per kilowatt-hour.

For a comparison consider electric rates in the US. New York City has the highest rates in the country; its customers pay \$0.1638 per kilowatt-hour, about half of a Bonairean's. The lowest rate is in Tacoma, Washington, where users pay \$0.0446 per kilowatt-hour, one-eighth of the local rate.

What can you do to lower your WEB bill? The first is to use less electricity. The second is to have Bonaire's elected officials do something about the price the Island Government pays for fuel. They might do this by buying from another supplier, renegotiating the contract with Curoil or subsidizing the increase by using tax money. Perhaps there are other ways... like renewable energy.. now is the time to take action before Bonaire's economic engine stalls. □ *G.D.*

(*Flotsam and Jetsam Continued from page 4*) also speculated that some of these fishermen may have tampered with the installations of the salt company to make it easier for them to catch fish and shrimps. Cargill has placed extra signs in these areas.



STCB photo

► **Bonaire National Marine Park rangers caught several people taking conch from Lac Bay** last weekend. The poachers and boat were taken into custody by Bonaire police who responded to the call from the rangers.

Lac was an important source of conch a generation or more ago. But over fishing led to the present situation where there are very few mature conch in the bay. The poachers had boxes filled with immature conch. While it is an offense of local and international environmental laws to take conch, the conch poaching was made worse because the small young conch taken had not had a chance to breed.

► **The model in the Benetton ad** this week (on page 8) is Jong Bonaire member Genesis St. Jago. □ *G./L.D*

Poverty Conference



Gross/Townsend photo

Poverty Summit Organized by AMFO-NGO Platform

Bonaire hosted the third Summit Conference to track social programs to improve life for Antilleans. It was held July 9th in the Sentro di Bario of Amboina. This comprehensive report, exclusive to The Bonaire Reporter gives us a glimpse into this top priority item.

Although the summit was titled *Poverty Alleviation: Action now*, all the attendees agreed that the word *alleviation* should be, as soon as possible, *eradication*.

This marked the tone of the third summit on July 9th in the Sentro di Bario

Amboina. Enough talking, enough definitions, discussions and reports: let's take action now!

The well-attended meeting drew the highest elected and appointed officials of the central and national governments: His Excellency Governor Frits Goedgedrag, Prime Minister Etienne Ys, Minister of Public Health & Social Development J. Theodora-Brewster, Lt. Governor Hubert Domacassé, government deputies James, Kroon and Geraldine Dammers. All the NGO Platforms from the five islands were well represented with at least two or more delegates. AMFO, REDA Social, The Nucleus Group Campaigning against Poverty on Bonaire, FESBO, different governmental funding departments and

"We are already writing history today by the high attendance. Let's put all the personal, political and patriotic interests aside to fight for the ones who can't fight for themselves."

James Finies, President NGO Platform Bonaire

representatives of the private sector formed the rest of the impressive number of participants at this summit.

After the inspiring opening speeches of NGO Platform Bonaire President James Finies, Lt. Governor Domacassé, members of the AMFO supervisory board, Mr. Dennis Martinus, the con-

clusions and recommendations of the last summit were presented. Vice president of the NGO Platform Bonaire, Gilbert van Arneman, gave an overview of the second summit *Empowering People-Expanding Opportunities* held on March 5th in St. Maarten.

Several factors that reappeared during Saturdays' summit were:

- Poverty is multi-dimensional.
- Eradicating poverty is a shared responsibility that should involve the participation of all sectors: government, non-government, private sector and the community (grassroots).
- The bottom-up approach is most important.

(Continued on page 7)



Gross/Townsend photo

Top government leaders Prime Minister Etienne Ys, Antilles Governor Frits Goedderdrag and Bonaire Governor Hubert Domacassé backed the summit conference.

(Poverty Conference. Continued from page 6)

- However, participatory poverty assessments should be paramount (let's hear from the target groups).
- There's a need for integrated neighborhood development.
- Social empowerment, community involvement, safety and security, social economic developments are all the aspects that the platforms will be concentrating on in achieving their goals of eradicating poverty.
- The involvement of community organizations in gathering statistics can be very beneficial in reaching target groups for the successful execution of projects.
- While there is a relationship between housing, homeownership and people living in poverty, information should be gathered to assess the true relationship.
- Policies will be developed to ensure the viability of short, medium and long-term objectives in getting all involved in eradicating poverty.
- The research has been done; the problems identified; and now is the time for action and less talking!

"We all grew up 'poor', but we did not call it 'poor' back then... People should have high self-esteem, should grow... people are the tools for a good economy. Without educated people we can't have a blooming economy."

Mrs. J. Theodora-Brewster, Minister of Public Health & Social Development

Minister of Public Health and Social Development, Joan Theodora-Brewster, pointed out that poverty should be studied from three different approaches: alleviation, reduction and eradication. Every approach should have its own program, project etc. But the ultimate goal should be of course complete eradication.

Theodora-Brewster solemnly declared that she would personally take care of coordinating all the results of this summit into concrete realizations and follow ups.

Reflecting once again the 'action

now' part of this summit, different delegations of the NGO Platforms of the five islands displayed their concrete results and progress since the last summit. Exchange of experiences and ideas were also part of the discussions during their presentations.

NGO Platform Curaçao board member Jeanette Juliet-Pablo and President Ronald Doran explained why they on Curaçao choose the *family* as the focus for combating poverty. The family is the first place where primary socialization takes place, and the family is and will remain the point of reference and safety net. They gave a view of the current situation which includes: a lack of an integral family policy, dysfunctional families because of the economical malaise, decline in the spiritual, social and cultural norm, and finally, little recognition and application of the Caribbean methods of family approach.

The target group in their project reflected eight types of families (matriarchal families, single parent families, extended families, etc.).

The family intermediating approach project targets identifying the socially weak families in 15 neighborhoods on Curaçao (around 250 families), intake and registration of the families, offering help (in the broadest sense), establishing a network of reference and social work and finally monitoring and evaluation of the families.

Using methods like the participation model (where the family itself participates in the process), bottom-up approach, learning by experience, social advocacy and the interactive model, the project developers try to reach the target mentioned. The in-depth working methods include e.g. interview and intake, reflection, intermediation and training and education. The volunteers put these working methods into practice by house and school visits, case discussions, exchanging experiences etc.



Gross/Townsend photo

Bonaire delegates, Commissioner Geraldine Dammers and Boy Clarendia

Some figures to illustrate the primary need: 40% of the problems are housing related while 20% are related to electricity and water bill debts. Other problems are the structural unemployment, drugs and alcohol addictions, the fear of asking for help and assistance, and structural debt problem issues.

Despite these gloomy figures and facts, NGO Platform Curaçao financed and alleviated some bottlenecks with projects like breakfast and meal deliveries, Pro Alfa (alphabetization) programs, study of the disabled, learning projects (hotel and catering services, different trades), financing school fees, music courses in the neighborhood and training for the volunteers.

Richelda Emmanuel of the **St. Maarten** government and Leona Nestor-Hubert of SunFed (St. Maarten United NGO Federation) combined forces to present the achievements and ongoing activities. The four areas included the district community involvement, housing, health and employment and empowering.

For the district community involvement, community councils, clean up campaigns and (school) feeding programs were established.

In the area of health, different cam-

(Continued on page 8)

(Poverty Conference. Continued from page 7)

paings were developed: the breast and prostate cancer and AIDS awareness campaigns and the immunizations programs.

Through the home repair program, approximately 70 homes were renovated while the involvement of small contractors and unemployed youth in these projects had positive side effects.



The Saba delegation - Carl Buncamper, Tamara Noli - with Werner Wiels of AMFO

"I already feel the eagerness in this room to act now! This message has reached and will be brought out of this room... The central government has a crucial role in the fight against poverty, but we can't do it alone."

Mr. Etienne Ys, Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles

Organizational action prerequisites included formation of steering groups, organizational strengthening of the Sun Fed secretariat and finally the evaluation of the Multi-annual Integral Social Development Plan (MISOP).

□ *Natalie A. C. Wanga*

Next week this article will conclude with the reports from the remaining islands and a wrap-up of the Summit.

In the area of employment and empowerment, youth entrepreneurship and sewing and budgeting courses programs were developed. The ATI program included public and private financing, multi-sector involvement and more focused help with drug addicts.

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Traveling Turtle Update

The 2nd report of the 2005-6 season on Bonaire's breeding sea turtles

While "Happy," our female loggerhead, swam over 50 km yesterday, she managed to travel only 35 km or so further to the north. She is now some 625 km from Klein Bonaire and 605 km north of Bonaire.

She is approaching the Isla Saona, a "protected" area in the Dominican Republic that is part of their "Parque del Este" natural park (although it includes villages, etc).

This is probably not her type of habitat, so most likely she will move on. We will see..... □ *Andy Uhr*



Wrap-up 19th Annual Aruba Hi-Winds 2005

Windsurfing & Kite boarding Competition – June 29th to July 5th



The prize-winning Bonaire Team in Aruba

After a week of competition and fun at the 19th Annual Aruba Hi-Winds, our young Bonairean sailors are back home again! They showed an amazing amount of talent at this very ambitious windsurfing competition on our neighbor island of Aruba.

Aruba Hi-Winds is the oldest windsurf event in the Caribbean. Throughout the years, it has become one of the top windsurfing competitions in the world, with big names as Bjorn Dunkerbeck and Robby Naish attending the Aruban event frequently. In 1997, financial support from the government was curtailed, so the Hi-Winds were turned from a professional event into an amateur competition. Nevertheless, it remains an extremely popular annual windsurfing and kite boarding festival, with the excellent wind conditions and the flat waters of Palm Beach Bay guaranteeing high-level competition.

And high-level competition is what could be seen, as our 23 young Bonairean windsurfers showed their stuff on the waters of Fisherman's Huts. The group began with very young sailors, such as Charles "Carlito" Martijn (NB-95) and Jurgen Saragoza (NB-117), up to internationally experienced competitors like Choco Frans (NB-6) and fi-

nally to Seniors like Patoen Saragoza (NB-8).

On the first racing day the strong Aruban northeastern trade winds filled the atmosphere with excitement, as our windsurfing team got ready for the first race. The day's event was Downwind Slalom Racing, meaning that sailors had to race down a track marked by several buoys, where an optimally im-

Continued on page 9

(Aruba Hi-Winds . Continued from page 8)
 peccable jibe was required. It was a great sunny, windy and above all successful first day, by the end of which Bonairean sailors were leading the rankings in almost all categories: **Ju-vannie Thielman**, NB-35, had beaten 12 international rivals in the Men's class, while **Evertson "Choco" Frans**, NB-6, was number one out of 9 Junior competitors, closely followed by Arturo "Payo" Soliano, NB-63.

The youngest sailors, meanwhile, had been divided into three kid's classes: the New Kids (youngest or first time participants), the Superkids and the Big Kids. In all three classes Bonairean youngsters claimed the top three places in all three age categories! **Charles Martijn (NB-95)** first, **Dylan Robles (19)** second, and **Marvin Mege (NB-18)** of the New Kids. **Amado Vrieswijk (NB-20)** first, **Clifton Piar (NB-110)** second and **Jurgen Saragoza (NB-117)** third of the Superkids, and **Bjorn Saragoza (NB-11)** first, **Archuendro Finies (NB-77)** second and **Hendrick Balentien (NB-52)** third of the Big Kids. They were not only the overall winners of all kids at the end of the event, but had also set the standard for the rest of the week from day one.

Meanwhile, the kite boarding party had kicked off what would be the most spectacular day of kitesurfing action of the whole week. The spot where the kite boarding freestyle competition was held was Boca Grandi on the island's opposite, southeastern shore. The six kite competitors from Aruba and Holland were met by a bunch of local non-participating kitesurfers who instantly left the waters to their competing kite-fellows. Cheering and applauding from the beach, they provided the right atmosphere for the kites to show in two freestyle heats of 15 minutes each the most impressive Triple Spins, Handle Passes, Railgrabs and jumps up to 20 feet high! The kite boarding contest finished only just before sunset, with **Mario Hofstede** from Holland as the first day's kite boarding winner.

While the next day did not bring any-

thing new, as the same Bonairean sailors were able to maintain pole position in the Slalom Races, the first weekend of July saw the blast-off of another event: The 2005 Freestyle "King, Queen, Prince and Kid of the Huts!"

It should come as no surprise that again, Bonairean windsurfing wizards showed the rest how to do it. After an awesome elimination during which the most dazzling freestyle tricks were pulled off, Bonaire eventually claimed the crown in three categories: **Choco Frans (NB-6)** was crowned King of the Huts, **Payo Soliano (NB-63)** received Prince honors, and the Kid's crown expectedly went to **Bjorn Saragoza (NB-11)**, who despite his 13 years is already an "oldie" at Aruba Hi-Winds, this being his fifth competition at Fisherman's Huts. With windsurfing talent in his genes – his father, **Patoen Saragoza (NB-8)**, represented Bonaire in several Olympic competitions – he is destined to become one of the brightest stars at the freestyle firmament. On Aruba, he wowed the crowd with his stunning skills even in low-wind conditions, of which some of the Men's competitors must have been quite jealous.

With Hurricane Dennis disrupting the usual trade wind pattern, the last two days of the event were marked by the total lack of wind, thus leaving the Bonaire group some free time to visit Oranjestad and the surroundings. Shopping is quite different from what Bonaire has to offer. The Hi-Winds event ended in a splendid beach barbecue with a last night Awards Ceremony.

One highlight is definitely worth mentioning. At the end of the prize giving, Bonaire's windsurfing Saragoza family stepped up to the stage to display some exemplary community spirit: They had brought a brand new windsurf board all the way from Bonaire to Aruba in order to give it away to one promising local windsurfer!

As members of the Starboard ProKids Team, the two Bonairean windsurfing wonders, Jurgen and Bjorn, had decided to offer one of their sponsor's boards to fellow windsurfing youngster Astor Kuiperi (ARU-99) from Aruba. When Astor went up to the stage to receive this unexpected present, he was beaming with joy. Gestures like this will certainly contribute to forging friendship bonds between windsurfing kids of all origins, thus forming a tight and family-like community.

It was a fun event, as our young sailors all agreed. Who won in the end was not even the most important part. "We came here to have fun and to do what we always do: windsurf," summarized **Ethienne Soliano (NB-56)** on the last day at Fisherman's Huts. And windsurf they did.



The Saragoza family present their gift to Astor Kuiperi (center)

Story & photos by Quita Sareyka

For the detailed results, check www.aruba-hiwinds.org



The members of the King of the Caribbean Planning wish to thank the entire Bonaire Community for their support of the 3rd Bonaire PWA King of the Caribbean.



Kite boarding action

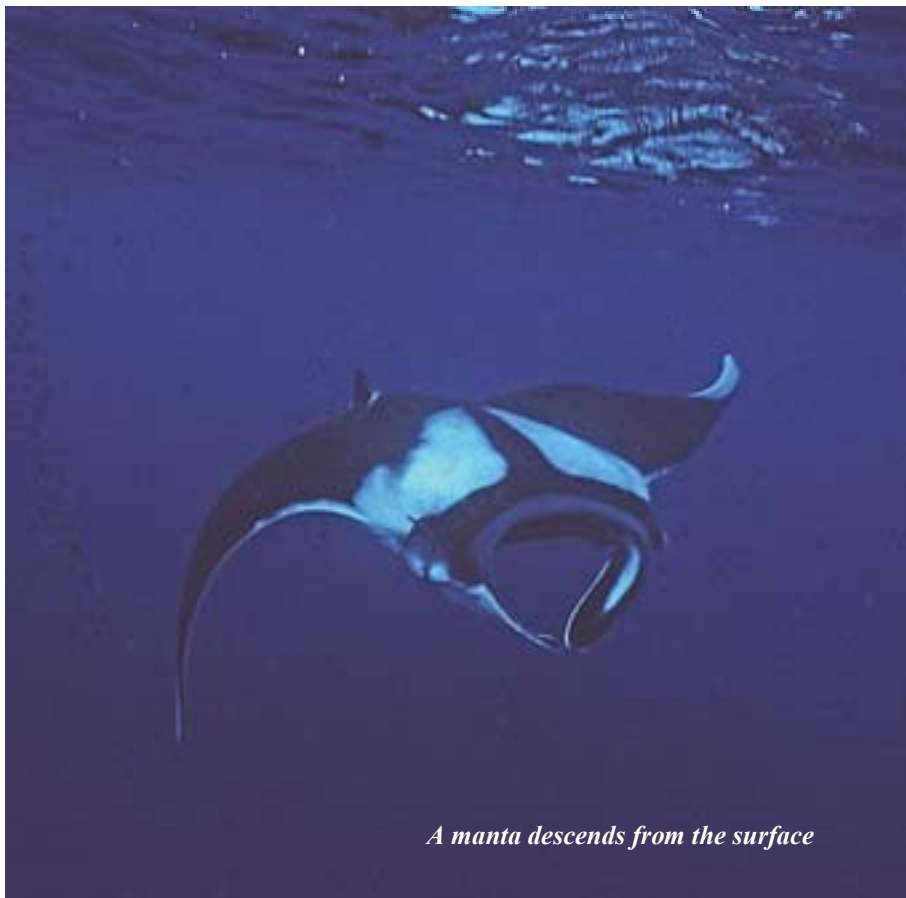
KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
7-15	6:45	1.0FT.	42
7-16	6:52	0.9FT.	45
7-17	7:27	0.8FT.	54
7-18	8:03	0.8FT.	66
7-19	8:36	0.7FT.	79
7-20	9:17	0.7FT.	90
7-21	0:34	2.2FT.	98
7-22	1:22	2.1FT.	103

VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Albiero	Endorphin	Orion	Ti Amo, USA
Angie	Flying Cloud, USA	Pyewacket	Tut Tut
Anything Goes	Four Winds	Samba	Ulu Ulu, USA
Augustine	Freestyle	Santa Maria	Unicorn, Norway
Bright Sea	Guaicamar I, Ven.	Sandpiper, USA	Varedhuni, Ger.
Camissa, Chan Is.	Jan Gerardus	Seascaape	Windancer
Cape Kathryn	Key Lara	Sea Witch	Ya-T, BVI
Chalice	Luna C. USA	Sintella	Yanti Paratzi
Cristina	La Barone	Sirius	Zahi, Malta
Delphinus	Maggi	Sola 2	Zeelander
Elena	Mainly	Sylvia K	
Endangered Species	Moonrise	Sylvester	



A manta descends from the surface

COVER
STORY

THE DEVIL FISH

Today is one of those days that I hesitate to enter the sea. For me, that is very rare. The reason for my uncertainty is not the weather. Here, on beautiful Bonaire, the climate is seldom the problem. Storms are rare and even the passing rain showers are warm and welcome. It's the disturbing color and lack of clarity in the water near the surface that has stopped us in our tracks. We have been accustomed to seeing a clear turquoise appearance at the shoreline and a deep cobalt blue at the drop-off zone. My partner has suggested we pack our gear and return on another day rather than dive into that "yellow and green slime." She also states that she would rather be eating "green pea soup" than diving in it!

I suggest that there is an opportunity here to explore the unknown. I remind her that whenever we have encountered a different natural phenomenon it has always been rewarding. Since the atmospheric conditions are unusually calm, with no measurable wind and a flat mirror-like surface to the sea, she reluctantly agrees that it is worthwhile to investigate the murky depths.

Food, with its nutrient content, is the

sustaining energy source for daily life. Humans have hunted, cultivated, plotted invasions, enslaved other humans and even fought wars to secure territory for natural resources and food production. In the sea, as on land, marine animals are in constant pursuit of food. Unlike humans, animals eat to live not live to eat.

Under the sea, the feeding behaviors of the larger predators of the reef are most obvious. Some carnivores like the barracuda, jacks, tarpon, snappers and others patrol the water for schools of fish and use a strategy of attack that forces the prey to congregate in large numbers like the great herds of mammals on the plains in defense of attack from the great cats - lions, tigers and leopards. Groupers, scorpion fish and frogfish rely on camouflage and specialized adaptations to lure and ambush their unsuspecting meal as it passes by. There are other carnivores that, in total, consume more of the vast quantities of biomass in the sea than any of their cousins. These are the planktivores.

We enter the water at our usual spot and quickly drop through the thick layer of very warm, green water and emerge from this "soup" into a cooler, clear sea at 18 feet (6 meters). With this "ceiling"

of plankton-rich water above us, the view of the bottom and reef below is darker than normal for this time of day. It is as if we are diving at twilight time just after the sunset.

"Plankton" is a name given to floating particles that are suspended in the water and often appear as white dots on underwater photos- microscopic vegetation, called phytoplankton, and tiny animal organisms, called zooplankton. Together, this floating mass of nutritious particles forms the foundation of the food chain in the sea. Fish life starts with those species, herbivores that feed on the plant and vegetable matter, fueled by the sun near the surface. These herbivores are tiny critters - crabs, shrimps, mollusks and fish larvae - that begin their lives adrift in the currents and make up the plankton population we call the zooplankton. The zooplankton, in turn, is eaten, day and night, by the fish carnivores that have specialized jaws and mouths adapted for consuming small invertebrate prey. During their dawn and dusk feeding times, these fish carnivores have developed defensive strategies of behavior like massive schooling or biological aids such as the spines on the black durgon fish for protection against the larger patrolling predators, called piscivores.

After a short swim, navigating through the current in the shallow channel, we reach the crest of the reef and descend to our customary niches at a depth of 50 feet (15 m). Here, in hiding, we await the arrival of our photo subjects, a group of spotted eagle rays we have been watching for the past several weeks. As we lie in wait, I can observe the interacting members of the food chain around and above me. The surrounding water column is filled with plankton and fish planktivores. Rising above the reef there are thousands of schooling brown chromis, creole wrasse and creole-fish who, as particulate feeders, are equipped with binocular vision allowing them to focus on oncoming specks of zooplankton that are plucked, one at a time, from the passing smorgasbord and ingested. The piscivores are also here to take advantage of the converging currents. Patrolling off the reef is a hunting squad of horse-eye jacks, herding the feeding schools into tighter and denser balls, preparing them for the inevitable attack. Hiding near us, in full camouflage within the coral formations, are a number of tiger groupers ready for the ambush capture of prey as the feeding schools disperse, and each individual fish momentarily descends to the relative shelter of the reef, after the lightning strikes of the jacks.

Out of the gloom we sight the leader of a squadron of spotted eagle rays effortlessly cruising against the current with outstretched wings. We reposition ourselves lower on the reef to intercept the approaching flight head on. An amazing sight fills my viewfinder as I focus on the squad leader. Gliding, in perfect formation, are more than 20 individual rays, aligned wingtip to wingtip, in a staggered pattern. I start clicking the shutter release and slowly move out of my hiding place to join the cruising squadron. As in the past, even with maximum effort on my part, kicking my flippers furiously, I cannot keep pace with them. Out-distanced, I turn to relocate my partner. She is rapidly disappearing up the reef slope toward some disturbance near the surface, beyond my field of view. This is not normal so I decide to follow.

As I rise and move forward, propelled by the current at my back, I am greeted by an awesome sight! The path of one of the largest planktivores in the sea, a roaming filter feeder, trailed by three spotted eagle rays, is intercepted by the diminutive form of my partner. She is literally face to face with a giant manta ray approximately 10-12 feet (3-4 m) across. The manta is cruising through the rich layer of soupy food with its huge, gaping, oval shaped mouth wide open, engulfing large volumes of prey contained in the water. Inside this cavernous chamber, gill rakers strain out food particles as the water exits through the gill covers. This process of "ram filtration" is further aided by the specialized pectoral fin extensions called "cephalic lobes" that funnel food toward their mouths. These features - oval mouth, extended pectoral fins, big black side mounted eyes and distinct black and white color patterns on the back - may have earned the giant manta the nickname "The Devil Fish." When the mantas are feeding in these concentrated currents and rivers of rich food they often execute graceful loops, turns and even leaps out of the water, like performing aircraft. The giant mantas are second in size to the largest fish in the sea, the whale shark, also a filter feeding planktivore.

With slow, graceful and rhythmic thrusts of the outstretched wings the giant manta changes course, moves off the reef, and heads directly toward me. I quickly prepare my camera for action knowing that the large proportions of the devil fish are distorting my sense of the speed of the advancing manta. There will be no time for fine tuning or adjustments after the first exposure is taken.

(Continued on page 11)



Manta and awed diver

Devil Fish (Continued from page 10)

Suddenly, through my camera lens, I am staring into a cave-like enclosure with a dark interior rimmed with white edges. Inside there are curved, oval shaped ribs with two rows of long slits on the bottom that I can see through and are wide open to the blue sea. I click the shutter and instantly the water around me gets very dark. There is no sound. My breathing has momentarily stopped. I am pushed backward by a pressure wave. I pull my eye away from the camera, look upward, and immediately realize that the manta has turned up toward the surface and blocked the sun!

The fish rolls over and now I am looking at the white underside of the giant form with two remora fish firmly attached to each wing. I glance toward the reef and see my dive partner 10 feet (3 m) away, directly across from me, wide eyed and poised with her camera ready for the next photo opportunity. You might say we had the manta surrounded, but that would be a laughable boast. The manta had complete control of itself and us. The giant fish was about to give us a lesson in acrobatic agility seldom performed and seen in such close quarters.

It doesn't take long for the action to start. The manta executes a barrel roll

and swoops down directly between us, showing me the uniquely, distinctive black and white markings on its back. It then casually turns over again, repeats the barrel roll beneath our flippers and rises between us for the second pass, facing in the opposite direction. My partner and I are motionless and stare in wonder at this fantastic maneuver. As the giant form ascends between us for the second time, we regain some composure, and continuously trigger our camera shutters to capture any image we can. Within seconds the play is over. The Devil Fish shows us its long black tail and, with a few strokes of the mighty wings, takes flight into the murky water above to continue feeding and disappears from view.

Witnessing this amazing, purposeful display of effortless motion and control, with no physical contact or feeling of threat from this giant creature, is awe-inspiring. I believe it was a playful interlude for the manta in an otherwise dull afternoon. After a few moments, my breathing returns to normal, and checking my gauges I signal to my smiling partner that we also must return to our normal world and start for shore. Now, during our swim and ascent, unable to speak about the encounter, I relive the entire episode in my mind. Was it a dream? Did it really happen here on tranquil Bonaire? Later, after I have my slides processed, we will view indisputable proof of what we have experienced.

At first, when we emerge from the water we are speechless. This short lived few moments are followed by some casual comments such as "That was a nice dive" and "Did you see anything interesting in the soup?" We erupt in uncontrolled laughter and cannot contain our euphoric reverie. The unexpected encounter with the Giant Devil Fish is the subject of every conversation with anyone who will listen for the next week.

I have also enjoyed sharing and reliving it with you today, and hope you feel the same sense of power, awe and wonder. Join me on our next adventure into the wonderful world beneath the sea. □

© Albert Bianculli 2005



Albert Bianculli has been visiting Bonaire since 1970 and now lives on Bonaire full time. See his show every Sunday night at Captain Don's Habitat Aquarius Conference Room beginning at 8:30 pm.

All images are original, un-retouched slides, shot on location and composed within the viewfinder.

Picture Yourself with the Reporter Miami, Florida, U.S.A.



Here's Bonaire's Culinary Team at the "Taste of the Caribbean" culinary Olympics in Miami at the Hyatt Regency taking time out to keep up on Bonaire news in *The Reporter*. They came up with a magnificent three-course menu which they will serve to the public in Bonaire at the end of August. We'll let you know. Left to right: Floris van Loo (Rum Runners), Vernon "Nonchi" Martijn (SGB hotel school), Tico Marsera (Den Laman), Team Manager Sara Matera and Isidoor van Riemsdijk (Rum Runners). □

WIN GREAT PRIZES! Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return to your home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. THE BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN THE PRIZES. Mail photos to Bonaire Reporter, Kaya Gob. Debrot 200-6, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (AN). E-mail to: picture@bonairereporter.com. (All 2004 photos are eligible.) □

Got something to buy or sell?

REACH MORE READERS than any other WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
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Call or fax 717-8988 or email ads@bonairereporter.com

JANART GALLERY

Kaya Gloria 7, Bonaire Local Art, Art Supplies, Framing, and Art Classes. Open Tu-We-Th & Sat 10 am- 5 pm Friday 1- 7 pm; or phone 717-5246 for appt.

BONAIRENET

The leading consumer and business information source on Bonaire. Telephone (599) 717-7160. For on-line yellow pages directory information go to <http://www.yellowpagesbonaire.com>

CAPT. DON'S ISLAND GROWER

Trees and plants, Bonaire grown. 8000m² nursery. Specializing in garden/septic pumps and irrigation. Kaminda Lagoen 103, Island Growers NV (Capt. Don and Janet). Phone: 786-0956 or 787-0956

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Elegant greeting cards and beautiful boxed note cards are now available at Chat-N-Browse next to Lovers Ice Cream and Sand Dollar. Photography by Shelly Craig www.bonaireimages.com

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Call Donna at 785-9332.

LUNCH TO GO

Starting from NAf5 per meal. Call CHINA NOBO 717-8981

SALT TREASURES BONAIRE

100% natural body salts "Scrub Me" 100% natural Bath Salts available at Chat-n-Browse, KonTiki and Jewel of Bonaire or call 786-6416 for more information.

LOST & FOUND

LOST CAT Sabadeco. Brown Siamese, black points. Leather collar, tag says "Thunder 1-714-408-7873". Please call 717-5394.

This very large male dog was found on Kaya Amsterdam in Hato, where he had apparently been wandering the streets for several days before being taken to the Animal Shelter by some very kind people. If you are his owner, or if you can offer this friendly fellow a good home, please contact the Bonaire Animal Shelter, open 10 am to 2 pm, Monday through Friday, or Saturday until 1. Tel. 717-4989.



JELLASTONE PETPARK

Pet boarding / Dierenpension Day and night care. phone: 786-4651 www.bonairenet.com/jellastone/

For Sale

Laptop computer: Toshiba Satellite A75-S229, 80GB Hard Drive, 512MB Ram, CD/DVD R/RW combo, 802.11g Wireless, great condition. **\$1700 or FL. 2975.** **Computer/Study Table** for Sale, White, good condition, **FL. 75** or best offer. **UPS power back up**, ½ hour of power, **FL. 100** or best offer **Call: 786-5119**

LADA NIVA (jeep) for sale 1991-4X4 drive 1.6 Cyl. 95.000km NAf5.400 **717-2844 or 786-2844**

Volkswagen VW VAN 1988 2 Liter engine- automatic NAf6.900 **717-2844 or 786-2844**

MOTORBIKE for sale. **Suzuki Shogun**, 110cc 4 stroke. 4 gears. Flat rear tire, front brake needs brake fluid, cover on steer needs some minor repair. Engine/technical parts in very good condition. Built 1998. Price NAf650! Call: **786-9389 or 717-2990 ext: 2991**-ask for Robert.

Property, Sales & Rentals

For Rent: Comfortable 2-bedroom beach villa-weekly or monthly-choice location-privacy & security. Phone (Bon) (599) 717 3293; (US) (570) 586 0098. **May 20 until Jan. 8th.** info@pelicanreefbonaire.com or www.pelicanreefbonaire.com -

Put your ads here.
Non-business Ads free

Wanted

Volunteers to index back issues of *The Bonaire Reporter* (English) and *Extra* (Papiamentu). Call 717-8988 or 786-6125.

Hot New Young Chef on the Island - Italian David Ardita at Croccantino



Chef David discusses the menus with the kitchen staff

He's only been here a few months but young Chef David Ardita has been making a name for himself on the island as head chef at Croccantino. A Tuscan—although his mother is from Sicily—Chef David has embraced the products available on Bonaire to create what he calls “a fusion with Italian cuisine” - for example his Bonairean Smoked Marlin with a delicate Hummus Sauce. This was an exciting dish for him to create because as he says, “We don't have any-

thing like smoked marlin in Tuscany!”

One of his most requested dishes is the “Gnocchi della Nonna,” (Gnocchi in the style of grandmother, with Parma ham, asparagus and saffron). Or there is the pork loin in bite sized pieces stuffed with capers, raisins and pine nuts. Another favorite is the Tuscan Calamari Shrimp Soup.

As have other very talented and gifted chefs, this young man whose passion is cuisine, started early because that's what

he wanted to do in his life. As a 14-year-old David was apprenticed to Montecatini Terme, an upscale health spa and restaurant at Abetone, a ski resort near Florence, Italy. Other training came on the island of Sicily.

Just before being spirited away to Bonaire he was working with the well known chef, Benedetta Vitali of the famous Zibibbo Restaurant in the hills of Florence. Benedetta has a beautiful book out in English, *Soffritto – Tradition and Innovation in Tuscan Cooking*, appeared with Martha Stewart on her TV program, and gives cooking classes to a few lucky students. David was her right hand man.

Enter Elisabeth Wigny, searching for just the right chef for her Tuscan Italian restaurant in Bonaire. A good friend of Elisabeth's, a chef himself, highly recommended David Ardita. It was a perfect match. David was looking for a new experience in cooking outside of Italy. “It is a great opportunity,” David says. “I could have gone to Spain but I chose Bonaire instead. I love the nature, the sea, the fishing, the people, the *mondi*.” Since he's been here he's learned Spanish, Papiamentu and some English, but no matter what language he expresses himself very well.

Every week Chef David comes up with a three course menu for \$25 (NAf 43,75) which includes an appetizer, pasta and a main dish. This week, for example, he's offering a choice of Carpaccio of Smoked Marlin, Gnocchi Della Nonna, and a choice of Pesce Alla Livornese (fish with a delicate tomato sauce of capers, onions, olives, basil, oregano) or an Arista Di Maiale con puré di Mele (a roasted pork loin with an apple puree).



Chef David presents Smoked Marlin Carpaccio with Hummus Sauce

But he doesn't forget many of the locals who love the seafood, the pastas, the fish with sauces. Those are on the menu too.

Often when David is not in the Croccantino kitchen or working with his kitchen staff, who love him, he'll be out on the sea, helping the STCB (Sea turtle Conservation Bonaire). “I'm in the water snorkeling, looking for the turtles, helping with the tagging and searching for the nests on the beach,” David says enthusiastically.

Chef David is not only a devoted and fine chef, but he's a young man who is a genuinely nice and sincere human being. □ L.D.

Pet of the Week

Isn't "Pedro" just about the cutest - he with the soft fawn colored fur with black and white accents. Although he pretends to be a shy pup he doesn't mind posing for the camera. He's most cooperative. Pedro is about two months old. He and his three brothers were brought into the Shelter after his mother gave birth in someone's yard. Pedro should keep his smallish size even after he grows up. After being examined by the vet he had his tests, worming and shots and he's clean, healthy and ready to go. You may see Pedro and the other healthy and social pets up for adoption at the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Tel. 717-4989.



"Pedro"

The Shelter is looking for a "special needs" volunteer for Saturday mornings. Many young people, between 11 and 13, would like to volunteer at the Shelter but because the regular staff has their own duties they don't have extra time to teach them. So they're looking for an adult volunteer to act as a guide or teacher to show the youngsters what to do and what's expected of them. If you have time, give Shelter Manager Jurrie Mellema a call at 717-4989. Kids of this age who want to do volunteer work can be a pleasure to know.
□L.D



WHAT'S HAPPENING

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show
Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

The Interpreter
(Nicole Kidman)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)

Sahara

Kaya Prinses Marie
Behind Exito Bakery
Tel. 717-2400

Tickets - Naf10,50 (incl. Tax)
High Schoolers - Naf7,75

NEW FILMS BEGIN FRIDAY
CLOSED MONDAY TUESDAY AND
WEDNESDAY

SATURDAY 4 PM
Erik of Het Klein Insectenboek

MICRO MOVIE REVIEW

Seen recently in
Movieland Cinema:

SAHARA by Breck Eisner, starring Matthew McConaughey and Penelope Cruz. This movie was nominated for the Teen Choice Award. This award is given by Seventeen magazine which is the largest monthly beauty/fashion magazine in America written for young women 12 to 24 years old. I can tell you I particularly don't fit in that group, and my award would be: 'The Another Poor Indiana Jones Clone Award.' Last week with Star Wars we had a fair share of horrible dialogue, but hey, Star Wars is a monument and Sahara clearly isn't. At every turn the audience is required to accept implausible events and amazing coincidences that border on the impossible. There are so many logical flaws as to make the movie barely watchable with anything approaching adult level IQ, but, since the target audience is teenagers, that is not a requirement. However, there is plenty of action in this action movie and Penelope Cruz is very, very cute. □



Dodo

THIS WEEK

Saturday, July 16—Communications Training (in English), Sentro di Bario Antriol, Kaya Gatu 2, 9 am to 1 pm. Naf60. 717-2483/ 717-2837 (see page 12)

Saturday, July 16 – Kids' Soccer tournament. Amboina Dolphins battle two soccer teams from Curaçao. 9 am, Amboina soccer field near Centro di Bario. More information call Ricardo 785-3449.

July 17-24 - Diva's Women Windsurf Week- Learn to windsurf clinic Contact Ann Phelan 786-3134 or email ann@bonairewindsurfing.com www.bonairecaribbean.com

COMING

The International Bonaire Sailing Regatta October 9 – 15, 2005

EVERY WEEK

Saturday Rincon Marshé opens at 6 am - 2 pm. Enjoy a Bonairean breakfast while you shop: fresh fruits and vegetables, gifts, local sweets and snacks, arts and handicrafts, candles, incense, drinks and music. www.infobonaire.com/rincon

Sunday -Live music 6 to 9 pm while enjoying a great dinner in colorful tropical ambiance at the **Chibi Chibi Restaurant & Bar.** Open daily 5 to 10 pm. Live **Fla-Bingo**-great prizes, 7 pm, Divi Flamingo **Monday -Soldachi Tour of Rincon, the heart of Bonaire,** 9 am-noon. \$20-Call Maria 717-6435

Tuesday -Harbour Village Tennis, Social Round Robin 7 to 10 pm. \$10 per person. Cash bar. All invited. Call Elisabeth Vos at 565-5225 /717-7500, ext. 14.

Wednesday -Meditation at Donkey Beach from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. Open to all. Call S. H.Y. 790-9450

Friday -Manager's Rum Punch Party, Buddy Dive Resort, 5:30-6:30 pm

Friday- Open House with Happy Hour at the **JanArt Gallery** at Kaya Gloria #7, from 5-7 pm.

Daily- The **Divi Flamingo Casino** is open daily for hot slot machines, roulette and black jack, Monday to Saturday 8 pm– 4 am; Sunday 7 pm– 3 am.

Every day by appointment -Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours Bonairean kunuku. \$12 (Naf12 for residents). Tel 717-8489, 540-9800.

FREE SLIDE/VIDEO SHOWS

Saturday- Discover Our Diversity Slide Show, pool bar Buddy Dive, 7 pm 717-5080

Sunday - Bonaire Holiday -Multi-media dual-projector production by Albert Bianculli, 8.30 pm, Capt. Don's Habitat.

Wednesday (2nd and 4th) Turtle Conservation Slide Show by Andy Uhr. Carib Inn seaside veranda, 7 pm

Thursday from June 16 to July 28, Basic Fish ID Yellow Submarine Dive Shop at 6:30 pm

Friday- Week in Review Video Presentation by the Toucan Dive Shop at Plaza's Tippy Seagull, 5 pm. 717-2500.

CLUBS and MEETINGS

AA meetings - every **Wednesday**; Phone 717-6105; 560-7267 or 717-3902.

Al-Anon meetings - every **Monday** evening at 7 pm. Call 790-7272

Weekly BonaireTalker Gathering and Dinner at Gibi's - Tuesday - 6:30pm - call 567-0655 for directions.

Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7:30 pm at the Union Building on Kaya Korona, across from the RBTT Bank and next to Kooyman's. All levels invited. Naf5 entry fee. Call Cathy 566-4056.

Darts Club plays every other **Sunday** at City Café. Registration at 4, games at 5. Tel. 717-2950, 560-7539.

JCI. First Wednesday of the Month- Junior Chamber International Bonaire (JCI Bonaire or formerly known as Bonaire Jaycees) meets at the ABVO building, Kaminda Jato Baco 36 from 7:30 to 9:30pm. Everyone is welcome. Contact: Renata Domacassé 516-4252.

Kiwanis Club meets at APNA Plaza, Kaya International, every other **Tuesday,** 7 pm. Tel. 717-5595, Jeannette Rodriguez.

Lions Club meets every **2nd and 4th Thursday** of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions are welcome.

Rotary lunch meetings Wednesday, 12 noon-2 pm - Rendez-Vous Restaurant, Kaya L.D. Gerharts #3. All Rotarians are welcome. Tel. 717-8454

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

Mangasina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse." Learn about Bonaire's culture. Visit typical homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060 / 790-2018

Visit the Bonaire Museum on Kaya J. v.d. Ree, behind the Catholic Church in town. Open weekdays from 8 am-noon, 1:30-5 pm. Tel. 717-8868

Washington-Slagbaai National Park, Museum and Visitors' Center. Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on some holidays. 717-8444/785-0017

Sunday at Cai- Live music and dancing starts about 12 noon at Lac Cai. Dance to the music of Bonaire's popular musicians.

Rincon Marshé- every Saturday - 6 am to 3 pm. Open market in historic town.

Soldachi Tours show you the Rincon area. Alta Mira Nature Walking Tour at 6:30 am. Town Walking tour at 9:30, Bus Tour at 10. Call Maria at 717-6435 to reserve.

CHURCH SERVICES

International Bible Church of Bonaire – Kaya Amsterdam 3 (near the traffic circle) **Sunday Services at 9 am; Sunday Prayer Meeting at 7:00 pm** in English. Tel. 717-8332 **Protestant Congregation of Bonaire.** Wilhelminaplein. Services in Papiamentu, Dutch and English on **Sundays at 10 am. Thursday Prayer Meeting and Bible Study at 8 pm.** Rev. Jonkman. 717-2006 **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter**

Day Saints, Kaya Sabana #26 Sundays 8:30 - 11:30 am. Services in Papiamentu, Spanish and English.

Catholic San Bernardus in Kralendijk – Services on **Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm** in Papiamentu 717-8304. **Saturday at 6 pm** at *Our Lady of Coromoto* in Antriol, in **English.** Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.

Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios), Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on **Sunday at 10 am. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm.** 717-2194

New Apostolic Church, Meets at Kaminda Santa Barbara #1, Sundays, 9:30 am. Services in Dutch. 717-7116.

Send events to **The Bonaire Reporter**
Email reporter@bonairenews.com
Tel/Fax. 717-8988, Cel. 791-7252

DINING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
Want your restaurant listed here?	It's easy and not expensive	Call <i>The Reporter</i> at 717-8988 or 791-7252 for info
Bella Vista Restaurant Sea Side Restaurant at Buddy Dive Resort 717-5080, ext. 525	Moderate. Breakfast and Lunch Dinner during Theme nights only. Open every day	Magnificent Theme Nights: Saturday: Beach Grill; Monday: Caribbean Night; Friday: Manager's Rum Punch Party and All-You-Can-Eat B.B.Q
Bistro de Paris Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 46 (half-way between hotel row and town) 717-7070	Moderate Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday	Real French Cooking in an informal setting Superb dishes prepared with care and love by a French chef Owner-operated Eat in or Take away
Brasserie Bonaire Royal Palm Galleries Kaya Grandi 26, Next to Re/Max, 717-4321	Low- Moderate Lunch and Dinner Open 11 am -2:30 pm 5:30-9 pm Closed Saturday and Sunday	Lots of parking in big mall lot Kitchen Open 11am-2:30 pm, Dinner 5:30-9 pm Breezy terrace with airco inside—Also serving big sandwiches at dinner
Calabas Restaurant & Chibi Chibi Restaurant and Bar At the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort. Waterfront 717-8285	Moderate-Expensive Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Open 7 days	Get a view of the beach and turquoise sea while enjoying a breakfast buffet or à la carte lunch and dinner at the 'Chibi Chibi' restaurant & bar. Inspiring vistas and the highest standard of cuisine.
Crocantino Italian Restaurant Downtown at Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025	Moderate-Expensive Dinner Closed Monday	Tuscan chef prepares exquisite dishes. Authentic ingredients and romantic setting make dining a delight. Be served in a garden setting under floating umbrellas or in air-conditioned comfort. Take out too.
Den Laman On the water, just off the traffic circle 717-4106	Moderate-Expensive Breakfast, Lunch Dinner Open 7 days	Creative cuisine on the seaside. Top chefs from Amsterdam cook in an open modern kitchen featuring induction cooking. Seafood a specialty.
The Great Escape EEG Blvd #97—across from Belmar 717-7488	Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Open 7 days	Bar-Restaurant poolside—under the thatched roof. Cuban Chef prepares Caribbean cuisine. Champagne brunch on Sundays 10 am to noon. Happy hours 5 to 7 every day.
Hilltop at Caribbean Club Bonaire On the Tourist Road, 2 mi. north of Town 717-7901	Moderate-Expensive Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Closed Sunday	Quiet country setting, lovely landscaping, friendly staff Happy Hour from 5-7 pm, BBQ on Tuesdays Gourmet chef creates unique daily specials
The Last Bite Bakery Home Delivery or Take Out 717-3293	Low-Moderate Orders taken 8 am-4 pm; Deliveries 6-7:30 pm, Closed Sunday	Enjoy a delicious dessert or savory baked meal in the comfort of your home or resort. This unique bakery offers gourmet class items -always from scratch- for take out or delivery only.
The Lost Penguin Across from MCB Bank in downtown Kralendijk Call 717-8003.	Low-Moderate Breakfast, Lunch, Early Dinner Closed Tuesdays & Wednesdays	Watch the bustle of downtown from this street side Caribbean-style bistro owned and run by a European educated Master Chef and his wife.
Pasa Bon Pizza On Kaya Gob. Debrot ½ mile north of town center. 790-1111	Low-Moderate Open from 5-11 pm Wednesday-Sunday	Bonaire's best. The Real Thing! Freshly prepared pizzas made with the finest ingredients. Salads, desserts. Eat in or take away. Nice bar too. Call ahead to eat-in or take out 790-1111



SHOPPING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue



APPLIANCES/ TV/ ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS

City Shop, the mega store, has the island's widest selection of large and small home appliances. Fast service and in-store financing too.

ART GALLERY

Cinnamon Art Gallery non-profit gallery for local artists has continuous shows. Each month a new artist is featured. Stop by. Free entry.

BANKS

Maduro and Curiel's Bank provides the greatest number of services, branches and ATMs of any Bonaire bank. They also offer investments and insurance.

BEAUTY PARLOR

Hair Affair. Expert hair cutting, styling, facials, waxing and professional nail care.

BICYCLE / SCOOTER/ QUADS

De Freewieler rents scooters and quads; professionally repairs almost anything on two wheels. Sells top brand bikes. Have your keys made here.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

APA Construction are professional General Contractors. They also specialize in creating patios and walkways with fabulous sprayed and stamped concrete pavement.

DIVING

Carib Inn is the popular 10-room inn with top-notch dive shop and well stocked retail store. Best book trade on Bonaire. Good prices on regulator repair, dive computer H.Q.

Photo Tours Divers-Yellow Submarine -low prices - on the seaside at Kralendijk, at Caribbean Club, Caribbean Court and the Hamlet Oasis. Join their cleanup dives and BBQ.

WannaDive - They make diving fun while maintaining the highest professional standards. In town at City Café and at Eden Beach.

FITNESS

Bonfysio offers comprehensive fitness programs to suit your needs whether they be weight loss, sports or just keeping in shape. Convenient schedule.

Fit 4 Life at the Plaza Resort Mall. Classes in Pilates, Aerobics, TaeBo and more. Professional trainers, fitness machines and classes for all levels.

GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

Green Label has everything you need to start or maintain your garden. They can design, install and maintain it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden chemicals.

GIFTS, SOUVENIRS AND LIQUOR

The Bonaire Gift Shop has a wide selection of gifts, souvenirs, liquor, dive watches, digital cameras, things for the home, T-shirts all at low prices.

HOTELS

Golden Reef Inn is the affordable alternative with fully equipped studio apartments in a quiet Bonaire neighborhood. Just a 3-minute walk to diving and the sea.

The Great Escape

Under new management. Quiet and tranquil setting with pool and luxuriant garden in Belnem. Cyber Café, DVD rentals, restaurant and bar.

METALWORK AND MACHINE SHOP

b c b- Botterop Construction Bonaire N.V., offers outstanding fabrication of all metal products, including stainless. Complete machine shop too.

PHOTO FINISHING

Paradise Photo in the Galleries Shopping Center offers fast, fine processing for prints, slides, items and services for your picture-taking pleasure.

REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

Harbourtown Real Estate is Bonaire's oldest real estate agent. They specialize in professional customer services and top notch properties.

Mike Boom & Associates - Broad assortment of homes and properties. View on their website www.bonaireale.com or office in town

Re/Max Paradise Homes: International/US connections. 5% of profits donated to local community.

Sunbelt Realty offers full real estate, rental, and insurance services. If you want a home or to invest in Bonaire, stop in and see them.

REPAIRS

Bon Handyman is here if you need something fixed or built. Ultra reliable, honest and experienced. Electrical, plumbing, woodworking, etc. 717-2345

RESORTS & ACTIVITIES

Buddy Dive Resort offers diving, Adventure Fun tours including kayaking, mountain biking, cave snorkeling and exploration.

RETAIL

Benetton, world famous designer clothes available now in Bonaire at prices less than those in US. For men, women and children.

SECURITY

Special Security Services will provide that extra measure of protection when you need it. Always reliable.

SHIPPING

Rocargo Freight Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. **FedEx agent.**

SUPERMARKETS

Visit **Warehouse Bonaire** to shop in a large, spotless supermarket. You'll find American and European brand products. THE market for provisioning.

VILLAS

Bonaire Oceanfront villa for up to nine people: five kitchens, five bathrooms. Ideal for divers.

WATER TAXI

Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry. Ride the *Kantika di Amor* or *Skiffy*. Hotel pickup.

WINES

Antillean Wine Company. You've tried the rest; now try the best: best prices, highest quality wines from around the world, kept in a cooled warehouse. Free delivery.

YOGA

Yoga For You. Join certified instructors Desirée and Don for a workout that will refresh mind and body. Private lessons too. Closed during June.

ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN/WOMEN:

Put your ad in *The Bonaire Reporter*.
Phone/Fax 717-8988, Cel 791-7252

ON THE ISLAND SINCE . . . November 19th 1993

Peter Werdath

“We were on the way to Cuba with a catamaran we built ourselves: my wife at the time, my uncle, my aunt and I. The boat, *Varedhuni* (Maldiv language for ‘Rainbow’) is still here, in front of Habitat. My uncle and aunt are still living on it.

I’d left Germany in 1988 and moved to Basel, Switzerland, with the idea of building a boat. That’s the only way to travel the world without having to fly. It’s like this in Germany: if you grow up at a certain level there’s no way out because all that counts are money and schooling. I was an electrician and in Switzerland I made more money working half days than in Germany full time. My wife was working full time and the four of us lived together so we could save for the trip and have time to build the boat. We’d planned to do it in 18 months, but that didn’t work out. It took three years. We learned how to build a boat while we were doing it. We put the boat in the Rhine in Basel and sailed to Rotterdam in 11 days. It was July 1991.

I’d never been sailing before. This was the first time. Crossing the Straits of Dover we encountered the worst storm ever. It was the first and the last time, but it was a horrendous experience. We visited all the British major harbors: New Haven, Portsmouth and Plymouth. Then we left on a second try for Cap Finisterre, on down the whole Spanish and Portuguese coast to Faro, five days to the Canary Islands and from there we crossed over in 25 days to Barbados.

For seven months we sailed around St. Lucia, Martinique and the smaller islands, then at the end of August we left for Venezuela. We did some land travel to the Andes where the people were extremely friendly and helpful, then sailed the Venezuelan islands. On the way to Cuba we made a stop in Bonaire and . . . we’re still here: my uncle, my aunt and myself.

What made me stay? The diving! Nowhere in the Caribbean is it as easy as it is here. I started working at the dive shop at Sunset Beach as a mechanic, fixing the boats. I worked there for two years; my wife and I split up; and I was offered a job at Harbour Village Marina to open up a workshop. Three people - Zara Tremlete, Nick Wyaat and I - opened the workshop and a small marine store. After about a year we had six people working. We really pushed it; it was a good time because before there was nothing going on and there were no real facilities. I was also in charge of the maintenance of the boats and the compressors at the dive shop, which

started with three people and grew to eight. During Hurricane Lenny, all day I didn’t notice much, just the water going up and down, but . . . the dive shop disappeared and all the equipment was in the middle of the hotel!

I worked at the marina until the beginning of 2000. We wanted to find another way to work with boats, marine equipment and engines. My wife Pamela and I contacted the owners of Budget Marine in St. Martin and asked them if they were interested in opening a Budget Marine on Bonaire. After several e-mails back and forth I flew to St. Martin in June 2000 to meet the owners and see the store. They liked the idea; we set up a company, ‘Budget Marine Bonaire,’ with three owners: Pam, me and Budget Marine St. Martin.

“On the way to Cuba we made a stop in Bonaire and . . . we’re still here: my uncle, my aunt and myself.”

In February 2001 we got the key from our neighbor, NAPA, and started building the store. It went well but not as well as we expected. First there was (Hurricane) Lenny, then September 11, 2001. It became slow and everybody stayed put. Since Pamela started working here a year ago everything is much better. She’s doing all the complicated work. That gives me the opportunity to do what I’m good at: finding things! You want to order? I’ll find it! We changed the focus of the store from yachties to local needs.

What I like best about my work is that you meet a lot of people from all around the world and that I can go home whenever I want to see my kids. When I met Pamela Teitel she was a PADI course director. She had her own company and she’d been here since 1984. I knew her, but I actually met her through her friend and roommate, Diane Malamute. I liked her very much, and we started living together in the middle of ’95. In August 1999 our first daughter Diane was born - a cute, smart kid - not because of me but because of Pam. Pam’s family is quite scary: they’re all geniuses!

You can give me any kind of machinery and if it’s fixable I can fix it, but that’s it! The secret is that most people



Peter Werdath, Diane, Pam, and Elena

are afraid to take things apart; they think they can’t put them back together. That’s how I learned to fix outboard engines: just take the manual and go step by step. There’s logic behind it. It’s not as complicated as it looks.”

Peter Werdath is a well balanced, easy going, friendly man and a passionate father. We’ve been talking at his office for quite some time and then the door opens and daughter Diane comes in, followed by Pam, who’s carrying newborn baby daughter Elena in her arms. The family settles down and I ask Diane what she likes best about her school, Reina Beatrice. “Recess!” the six year old answers and everybody laughs. The baby starts crying very loud for such a tiny little creature and Pamela starts feeding her.

“Why did you come to Bonaire?” I ask her.

“I did pre-med in college and decided I didn’t want to go to medical school, so I took a year off to think and . . . I’m still here, more than 20 years, but it doesn’t feel like that at all! Not at all! It’s quiet, it seems backwards. In a city there are loads of people but you don’t know who they are. Here you know everybody. And I think it’s also a very safe and good place for the kids to grow up - to learn languages and meet people - all different things.

I started out at Divi as dive instructor, then I went to Sand Dollar before it opened. I was the assistant manager, then manager. While I was there I became a PADI course director and I taught people from Bonaire, Curaçao and Aruba to become dive instructors. Then I was manager of Sand Dollar Hotel. Now I’m working here.

One of the things I love about Bonaire is that before Diane was three years old

she could speak fluent Papiamentu and English, but she also played with kids who spoke Dutch or Spanish and communicated well enough. And when she was two and a half she could already swim! When we were in Puerto Rico and she jumped in the pool at the hotel, everybody was ready to jump in after her! But we don’t travel so much; a week or two to Long Island, New York, where the family lives. That’s it. I’ve never had ‘island fever.’ Now with the dogs and the family we go camping at Slagbaai or at Lac, cave exploring, trekking through nowhere. That’s a holiday!

One thing I love about retail is that on Saturday we can go home and close the store. When you’re working in the tourism industry they can call you any time. Now and then a fisherman comes to the house because he needs a part for something and it takes five minutes!” “You have your freedom here,” Peter says, “I like it here so much. I fish, I swim, and for 12 years I’ve been playing football (soccer) with Teach United. I also played for the Bonairean National Team. Football connects you to everything. We don’t go out often. Most of the time we go after work to *Kanti Awa* where we sit and Diane can swim. I look at the water, listen to the sea. It’s always different; it just makes your day. I do it every day: have a cold beer and the day is done.”

□ photo and story by Greta Kooistra



Breeding Lora in Captivity

In cooperation with the STINAPA and DROB Lora preservation campaign

Part I Fundamental Issues

Taking Lora and their chicks from the wild has been the most serious threat to their survival. There are simply not enough Lora breeding on Bonaire each year to produce enough chicks for both the wild population and the poachers. The number of wild parrots has suffered as a result. Lora experience a variety of natural pressures that limit their breeding success, and if poaching continues as well, it will almost certainly lead to the extinction of these wonderful birds from Bonaire.

Keeping a Lora as a pet can be a fun and rewarding experience and people will still want to share their lives with a pet Lora in the future.

It is no longer acceptable to take chicks from the wild so we need to look at the possibility of captive breeding. This would help the wild population survive, and in actual fact chicks that are reared in captivity make far better pets than those from wild nests. This is because they are used to people from the beginning of their lives.

If you are going to attempt to keep and breed Lora there are a number of their requirements that you will have to accommodate. The first is rather fundamental: it takes two to tango and you

will certainly need two parrots! Clearly you cannot just go and take a wild parrot so you will have to contact other Lora keepers and discuss with them the possibility of putting your two birds together. It is unlikely a friend is going to part with a charming talkative pet bird, but you may have more luck if you can offer a better life for a bird that has never warmed to his owners. Alternatively, if someone is leaving the island but has a Lora you may be able to arrange to take care of their bird.



To help you persuade a friend to let you pair your birds consider these arguments:

1. Parrots pair for life and allowing them to do this in captivity can greatly improve their quality of life.
2. The bird will have a bigger cage (assuming you follow later recommendations!)
3. By assisting with the captive breeding of Lora they will be helping to protect the wild birds.

There are several important considerations to think about before you actually take on another bird. All legal pet Lora have unique leg bands from the registration campaign, and you must inform DROB that you will be taking care of that specific parrot and that you are going to try and breed that parrot



Sam Williams photo

In Bonaire some of the wild lora live on rocky cliffs

with your own. If the owner is going to give you their bird then things are simple, but if you are going to “take care of the bird” you need to have a specific agreement.

In Britain when different parrot breeders have a male and a female of a particular species they may choose to arrange a parrot breeding loan. Basically they agree on certain conditions regarding caring for the other person’s bird. You must consider what you will do if the other person’s bird needs veterinary attention or even dies whilst in your care. How will the food and maintenance bills be paid? On a more positive note you should discuss who will keep which chicks if the birds are successful. You may agree that the first brood of chicks to be reared go to the owner of the female parrot and in the following year chicks go to the owner of the male parrot. Alternatively, the chicks from each brood can be shared and odd numbers are balanced over the years.

Discussing these issues before any bird is moved is obviously better than

trying to reason once the bird has taken up residence in its new home. Another important point is that if you are fortunate enough to breed Lora you will have to register the chicks. For this you will once again need to contact DROB and arrange to have the chicks banded. An un-banded bird in captivity would be illegal and could be confiscated. The point of breeding Lora in captivity is to help protect the wild birds. It is therefore very important that you communicate with DROB in regard to all captive Lora movements and breeding efforts.

In the next article I will discuss how best to accommodate a Lora pair and the conditions you need provide to encourage them to breed. We will also look at introducing one bird to another and parrot sex! □ *Sam Williams*

Sam Williams is a graduate biologist who has extensively studied Bonaire’s Lora. He will return next year to begin a Lora breeding project.



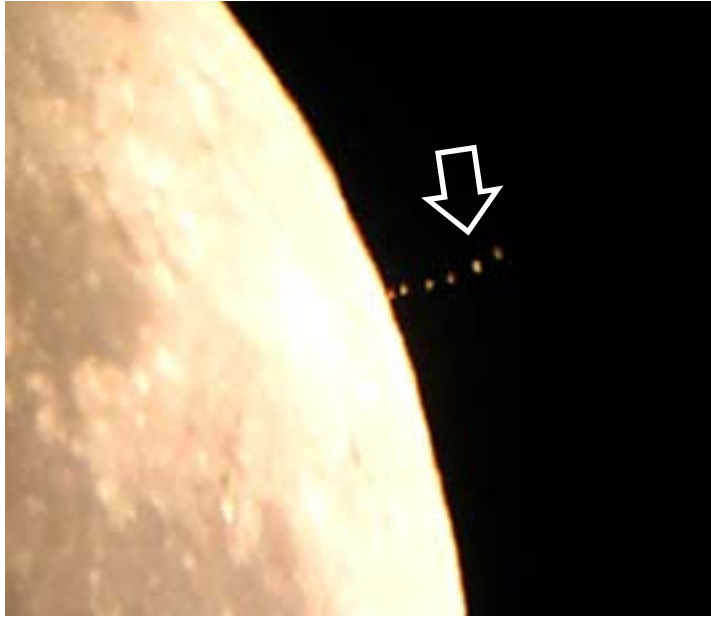


BONAIRE SKY PARK*

***to find it, just look up**

The Moon Hides a Giant Star and Venus Visits a Blue Star

Mark Sunday July 17th on your calendar as a night when many of you will be able to see an exquisite waxing Moon hide the giant red star that marks the heart of the **Scorpion**. Also mark Friday the 22nd as the night **Venus** huddles close to **Regulus**, the bright blue star which marks the heart of **Leo**.



The Moon occults Antares

This Saturday, the 16th, about 45 minutes after sunset, face south where you'll see an exquisite waxing just-past-first-quarter Moon and to its left, the giant fish-hook-shaped pattern of stars called **Scorpius** the Scorpion. And right where the scorpion's heart should be you'll see the red star **Antares**.

Then if you go out every couple of hours or so, you will see the Moon move closer and closer to Antares in anticipation of a spectacular event, which will occur just after midnight Sunday July 17th. It's an event astronomers call an "occultation," which simply means that the Moon on early Monday morning will briefly occult, that is, hide, Antares from view as the Moon passes in front of it

I think occultations are neat, especially an occultation of Antares because then you can mentally contrast the size and distance of this wonderful star and our Moon. In fact on Sunday night our 2,000-mile-wide Moon will be only 227,000 miles away from Earth, whereas Antares is 500 million miles wide and 600 light years away! This means it takes light from Antares 600 years to reach us, whereas it takes only 1 and 1/3 seconds for the Moon's light to reach us. Don't miss this occultation, please. And if you have a pair of binoculars or a small telescope this sight will blow you away!

Now while you're out Sunday night if you look west you'll see the brightest planet of them all - Venus - only 6 degrees away from the blue star Regulus which marks the heart of Leo. And if you watch night after night you will see them move closer and closer to each other. On Monday they'll be 4 and 1/2 degrees apart, Tuesday 3.6 degrees apart, Thursday only 1 1/2 degrees apart, and on Friday they'll be at their absolute closest, only 1 1/10 degrees apart, after which they will rapidly pull away from each other.

So there you have it: an exquisite occultation of the Scorpion's heart by the Moon, plus Venus pays a super close visit to the heart of the Lion. □

Jack Horkheimer



THE STARS HAVE IT

**For the week:
July 11 to July 17, 2005**

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Opportunities for new partnerships will develop through the organizations you encounter. Opportunities to get ahead are evident. Do your own thing and everything will settle down. Consider a trial separation if you and your mate just can't come to terms. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Friends may not understand your situation. You can make extra money. Rewards will be yours if you put in the overtime required. A lot can be accomplished if you organize your time. Don't overextend yourself in the process. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Dream a little this week. Don't let an incident at work play on your mind. You can enjoy doing things that include children. Secret activity is evident. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You may find yourself in an opportune position if you are willing to take a bit of a risk. Follow your gut feeling regarding your business ventures. Proceed with caution if operating equipment or vehicles. Stay calm and focus on things that will help you understand the situation better. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You will upset your partner if you have spent money on things that aren't necessary. You need to be sure that you aren't in your present relationship because it is convenient. You can't live your life for others. Travel will also entice you. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Your confidence is growing and advancement is apparent. Be on your best behavior. Your ability to talk circles around your colleagues will help you forge ahead in the workforce. You will have additional discipline that will aid you in your objectives. Your lucky day this week is Wednesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Don't upset elders in your family who don't understand your present situation. You will meet new friends and enjoy a multitude of new activities. If you are in the midst of a financial deal, this is your lucky time. You can expect insincere gestures of friendliness this week. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You need to look into some private matters before you can proceed with your plans. Leave things as they are for the moment and focus on reaching your highest potential at work. Valuable information can be yours if you listen to those with experience. Try to make arrangements with close friends or relatives to spend a few days away. Your lucky day this week is Friday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) If you are not already, think about going into business for yourself. Your willingness to help others can and will lead to fatigue if you don't learn to say no. Be ready to explain your actions. You should be traveling to that exotic destination you've been dreaming about. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You must make them stand on their own two feet regardless of how much you want to make things better for them. Social activities or travel should be in your plans. Be sure to take time for old friends or relatives you don't get to see that often. Consider a conservative investment that will stay solid when all else goes sour. Your lucky day this week is Tuesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You need to take some time out to decide what you want to do. Social gatherings will be conducive to meeting new potential mates. Your best efforts will come through making changes in your home. Your stubborn nature will backfire if you give your mate an ultimatum. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Matters pertaining to your home environment will be favorable if you are direct. You can get a great deal accomplished if you bring work home. You must lay down ground rules so that you can complete a job. Do not ruffle feathers if possible. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday. □