

**IT'S
STILL
FREE**

BONAIRE

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The REPORTER

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SINCE 1994



Glass Recycling Begins

Otto Bartles and Burney el Hage fill a recycling container

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Flotsam and Jetsam



Air Jamaica Express, controlled by Gordon "Butch" Stewart, has announced that it will "suspend" operations on October 14. This would mean a permanent shutdown of the domestic carrier. Although it is the only carrier licensed to fly within Jamaica, the Jamaican government, which has run Air Jamaica since last December when Stewart's management was ousted, does not plan to take over its operations. Industry experts are divided on the implication of the local airline's failure on Air Jamaica. The Civil Aviation Authority of Jamaica (CAA) said on Friday that no other airline has applied for license to operate scheduled services at this point. Air Jamaica flies in and out of Bonaire on Saturdays.



► Book 1 of the Netherlands Antilles Civil Code is now available in English from Intersentia. Email intersentia.be or the website at www.intersentia.be. It contains legal details about residency; the civil

registry including birth and death certificates and civil status and nationality; marriage including requirements, for-

malities, community property, separation, dissolution, parentage, adoption, custody and more; adoption; custody; guardianship; upbringing of a minor and more. The 302 page, soft-cover book has facing text in Dutch.

► The Central Government Council of Ministers in Curaçao approved a **draft of an ordinance that will effectively reinstitute market protection**. Last week it approved a draft of the rules that are applicable to all Antillean islands disguised as a Protection-Measures bill.

If passed by parliament it means that the import tax rate on imported articles can be raised for a maximum of four years if the same products are produced locally.

This will again permit sometimes inferior local products to be priced lower than imported ones. The ordinance appears to be in violation of international fair trade practices. Economic Affairs-minister Alex Rosaria from Curaçao said he hopes that this will convince the Amstel brewery management not to cease operations as it's threatened to do.

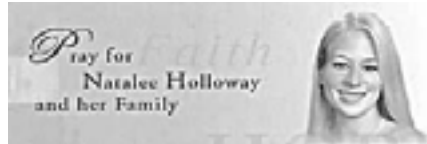
Lower beverage prices (resulting from competition from foreign producers, have been cited by the Central Bureau of Statistics as a reason for minimal cost of living increases in the past months.

► On September 27, the Dutch High Court in The Hague will **finally rule on the appeal of Curaçao FOL party leader Anthony Godett** appealing his



conviction and prison sentence for accepting bribes, money laundering and forgery.

In a highly controversial decision he was sentenced to 12 months in prison by the Court of First Instance which was extended to 15 months by the Court of Appeals. He has



been free pending the High Court ruling.

► **An Aruban court freed suspects** Joran van der Sloot and brothers Satish and Deepak Kalpoe of all charges in the Natalee Holloway disappearance last week. They no longer have to submit to DNA testing or be subject to confinement. The Public Prosecutor, however, still considers them suspects and will continue with the investigation.

Natalee's mother appeared on a TV network talk show last week with two supporters who presented material indicating van der Sloot and the Kalproes were guilty of harming her daughter. The show's moderator, Dr. Phil, advocated an American boycott of Aruba as a tourist destination.

► **Sharon E. Feiser has been provisionally assigned as a Vice-Consul General at the American consulate in Willemstad, Curaçao.** She will be responsible for the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. She previously served in

State Department posts in Colombia and Angola.

► One Taiwanese fishing fleet is leaving the Caribbean. It brought in the last catch last week. "After this there will be no more fishing boats," Nicherei Fisheries President Hisashi Kodama told *The St. Maarten Daily Herald*. "We are very sorry we have to close. But we can't survive," said Kodama, explaining that it had become increasingly harder for the company, which was established in 1963, to make a profit. It's because the amount of fish has drastically dropped in the area where the Taiwanese catch fish, while at the same time fuel prices have increased.

At its peak, Nicherei had 30 boats that would remain at sea five to six months at a time. Only five boats remained in the fleet and they will move operations to the South Atlantic and African coast by December. (Contributed by Susan Kolega)

► The Sub-Saharan dust that travels from Africa to the Caribbean has been **reducing the number of storm systems** that would normally form in the Eastern Atlantic Ocean and pose a threat to the Caribbean.

The dust, according to a Meteorologist at the National Weather Service (NWS) in San Juan, Puerto Rico, dries out the atmosphere at mid-levels, which inhibits hurricane development. It has a big impact on the tropical waves that develop into tropical depressions and on to storms and hurricanes.

Last week Friday the haze of African

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2) dust was easily visible at sunset. The NWS also reported that the Caribbean



WEB

region has seen more dust this year than any year previous.

► **Unlike Bonaireans, Curaçaoans will not have to pay more for electricity and water** because of high world oil prices. Based an agreement between Gelmar Caldera, the Curaçao Island Commissioner in charge of government-owned companies (the equivalent of Bonaire's BMG), Curoil (which supplies both Bonaire and Curaçao with fuel oil), and Curaçao's water and electricity company, Aqualectra, the current energy prices in Curaçao will be maintained for a year and a half. The shortfall will be covered by an energy fund to be established with NAf100-150 million that will primarily come from the Curaçao holding company that leases the Isla oil refinery to Petroleos de Venezuela for NAf35 million a year.



► Bonaire Lions Club and JCI Bonaire announces that "our raffle, *Ban mueblá bo kas*, took place last Friday, September

16, 10 am in front of the Notary, Mr Maarten Maartense. **The winning numbers are: 1st Prize: 3752; 2nd 7698; 3rd 9047.**

► The annual **Klein Bonaire Cleanup**, as part of International Coastal Cleanup sponsored by Ocean Conservancy, with support from



STINAPA, STCB (Turtle Club), Jong Bonaire and SGB High School, will take

place on **Sunday, September 25th. Meet at the Harbour Village marina at 7 am.** All are invited to participate in this important activity. The cruise ship *M/V Freewinds* will provide food and drink to the participants.

The International Coastal Cleanup is the world's oldest and largest volunteer effort to clean up our marine environment. Each year, volunteers remove trash and debris from their local beaches, along shorelines and under the water. Since 1986, over five million volunteers in 123 countries have cleaned 130,000 miles of shoreline.

► **Attention all dog owners:** There will be a **Dog Wash Animal Shelter Fundraiser** on Saturday, October 1, from 9 am to 2 pm in the parking lot of Warehouse Bonaire. Have your dog freshly washed for only NAf7,50, with all proceeds going to the Shelter. The event is in preparation for Animal Day on October 4. You don't have to own a dog yourself – bring a friend's or a neighbor's. Tickets available at Warehouse Bonaire or through Veterinarian Jan Laarakker (717-3338), Lydia (717-8721), Hans (717-3207) or Paul (717-0466).

► Congratulations on the **one year anniversary of Bistro de Paris, home of fabulous French cooking by Patrice and Fred.** You have brought "the real thing" to Bonaire and we love you for it!

► **Cinnamon Gallery is proud to present a new art exhibition from Sipke Stapert and Dianir Rivas Torres.** Fans of the artistic couple will be enchanted with their new designs in ceramic, driftwood, jewelry. The exhibit's opening night is this Saturday, September 24, at the Gallery from 7 to 9 pm. It's free and refreshments will be served. The exhibit continues until October 24. The Cinnamon Art Gallery is at Kaya A.P.L. Brion #1 in downtown Kralendijk, just off Kaya Grandi. More information call 717-7103.

► Thursday, September 22, SEBIKI will be offering a **course for expectant mothers** that will run for 16 weeks. It's at the SEBIKI office at Kaya Pedro P. Sillie #4. Tel. 717-2436.

► People who live in Bonaire have again been hit by **fraudulent faxes pretending to be from the American Internal Revenue Service (IRS)**, request-

FKPD Visits the Animal Shelter



Shelter Manager Jurrie Mellema receives a thank you from FKPD members for inviting them to visit the Bonaire Animal Shelter. (l to r) Elaine, Teacher Lisette, Jurrie. In front, Benita.

Thirteen members of the FKPD (handicapped center) in Rincon visited the Bonaire Animal Shelter last week along with three of their teachers, Lisette, Linda and Arally.

"Animals" has been the theme at the FKPD the last few weeks in anticipation of Animal Day on October 4. It was a beautiful sight to see the interaction and affection between the members and the resident cats and dogs. Thanks to Jurrie Mellema for opening the Shelter to them. *L.D.*

ing personal financial information. One Bonaire resident responded unwittingly and had his account compromised. But as a result of seeing the warning in *The Bonaire Reporter* (August 5, 2005 issue) the victim was able to take steps to protect his account. Do **not** respond to any faxes from the IRS before checking the IRS website at: <http://www.irs.gov/>

[newsroom/article/0,,id=127914,00.html](http://www.bonairereporter.com/newsroom/article/0,,id=127914,00.html) .

► **Top Internet/cyber deal on the island?** Only \$5/day at the Great Escape Resort in Belnem.

► The Jong Bonaire model in the **Benetton ad this week is Jermainy Diaz**, photographed in the Royal Palm Galler-

Interview

with
Ned and Anna DeLoach

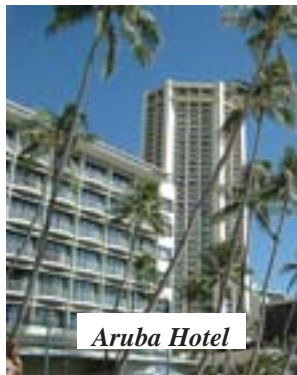


If the sport of diving has superstars, two of the brightest landed on Bonaire this month, providing slide shows, guided dives and snorkeling at the Buddy Dive Resort. "We've been coming to Bonaire for years," says Ned DeLoach, "to teach people how to better look at the ocean." Ned is co-author of the bibles of those whose passion is to understand what goes on underwater, *Reef Fish Behavior and Reef Fish Identification*. His wife, Anna, is a total part of their continuing research and education program. "The sea is the last frontier of natural history on earth," said Anna, "and reefs are a top location for study."

(Continued on page 9)

LETTERS

KEEP "IT" IN ARUBA



Aruba Hotel

I think I understand the "It" letter that appeared in *The Reporter* last week, and if I do, if those coming to Bonaire to invest all their money

want to make Bonaire an Aruba why not go to Aruba and make Aruba an Aruba? There are a lot of people who do not want Bonaire to be Aruba and are happy that Aruba is Aruba and Bonaire is Bonaire.

As one Bonairean, who has seen a lot, very recently said, "There are a lot of new people walking around Bonaire with too much money and doing whatever they want, building whatever they want, wherever they want."

Can't Bonaire just remain a somewhat quiet place and let Aruba be whatever it wants to be? Can't Bonaire be a place where people can get away from Aruba and enjoy nature in a natural way? Does it have to be torn up, broken down and built up so someone who really has not spent a lifetime here can make some quick money today, not thinking about tomorrow? Does every single piece of open land have to be looked at as a place that must be built on or else it is a waste?

Bruce Bowker

EnviroWatch

Glass Recycling Begins

By emptying the first container with recyclable glass bottles Commissioner Burney el Hage and Recycling Bonaire Foundation (SRB) Project Manager Otto Bartels (cover) signaled the start of glass recycling on Bonaire-at last. The glass will be crushed at one of the local facilities that grinds rocks into sand and used as a sand-substitute for concrete and road construction. When full operation is achieved it's estimated that 8% of Bonaire's sand requirement will be satisfied by recycled bottles and jars.

The symbolic start at City Café last Friday initiated the program *Separa Bo Glass* for restaurants and resorts but will be extended to island households by the end of this year. Containers for the glass will be provided in cooperation with SELIBON, Bonaire's waste management company, and emptied weekly at no cost to the establishment or household.

As part of Bonaire's 2003 - 2007 policy plan, waste such as cans, scrap metal, paper, cardboard, garden detritus and pallets can qualify for reuse. The SRB will consult with others to see how this can best be done.

Currently the Bonaire landfill grows annually by 13 millions kilos of waste. Approximately 1,650 to 2,000 barrels come from glass. Half of the glass comes from the hospitality sector; the other half from households. The SRB, which started its research in 2003 with an all volunteer staff, hopes to cut down on the ever-growing mountain of waste. Partners in the effort are SELIBON, FESBO (Sentro di Bario

COVER STORY



Contents of typical household waste container

Foundation), STINAPA, DROB (Public Works), *Tene Boneiru Limpi* (Keep Bonaire Clean Foundation) and Flamingo Communications. Funding is committed to come from NGOs, AMFO, Foundation DOEN and the European Union. G.D.



Glass chippings used in road building

In 2001 the Monaghan County Council and the National Roads Authority used crushed glass bottles in road construction for the first time in Ireland in a pavement trial using over 1 million bottles. A 1 km. section was overlaid with the recycled glass base course, with a 300m. control section used to allow comparison of performance. 10% of the base course chips were substituted with the glass chippings. Performance to date has been successful. G.D.

Giving Back to the Community:

A NEIGHBORHOOD WITH A VISION North Saliña



A Candidate for Funding from
AMFO and the NGO Platform

I am 14 years old. I live in the place where I was born. As I walk to school each day I pass the homes of my friends and many of my relatives. We all know each other and share news about our neighborhood and our island. It is a good feeling to belong in this group. After school I go to the community center, meet the other kids in the teen program, have a snack, do my homework and then I take my place in the training activity for the rest of the afternoon before I go home to my house at sunset time. I will tell you about my favorite activity later...

The Village of North Saliña

This is only one view of the community of North Saliña, originally called *Kunuku Biew*, old farm. The people here are happy, friendly and very active in their neighborhood and at their community center, the Sentro di Bario Nort di Saliña on Kaya Cacique. It's not just a "sports cen-

ter" or an "education center," or a "club house;" it is the central place for social activities and is the focal point where neighbors can share cultural, historical, and spiritual information. Every June, North Saliña celebrates the San Juan and San Pedro holidays and has a bonfire of thanksgiving. At Christmastime, "Papa Pascu" and his helpers bring presents to some in the neighborhood. *Maskarada* enlivens the neighborhood on the first day of the year.

Plans and Programs to Meet Modern-day Needs

"It would be wonderful if we could offer other historical programs here ... the kinds of programs that would describe how life was in North Saliña before there were buildings, lights and water. It could help people understand how hardships are overcome, in the past as well as today," says Xiomara Alberto, president of the Sentro di Bario. "There are many hard-



ships today, especially for some of our single mothers. I wish we had training programs for them like Mick (Smit) has for the teens. We need to provide these kinds of activities at our community center because they develop self-respect as well as responsibility and trustworthiness. Specialized workshops are also needed in the evenings to train these working moms in computer skills, socialization, and handiwork so they can find better jobs. I'd love to see a mother and child learning on a computer together and talking about it! Or learning to cook healthy snacks! To me, their communication with each other is just as important as the skill they are learning."

For any community program to be successful, the people must understand it and want it. The most popular programs in North Saliña were first described on flyers or posters and then explained in person. "Soon we'd like to have a Family Day of food and fun. It would also be an opportunity to introduce our neighbors to the activities we are now doing and to meet the people who provide them. We want to know if we are meeting the needs of our neighbors. At the Family Day everyone can participate and tell us what they see as the best use of our facility. Our last survey was six years ago. In the past, the center was regularly open past 6 pm, often until

11pm, and we had ping pong, billiards, and scouting programs. Are these activities still important? We need to find out."

Back to our small, important voice

... Today is the best day for me at my training class. Our group is organized in the big meeting room at the community center. We each have our own separate floor space, about 3 meters square. The instructor is in the front of the room and we start with the traditional greeting and a bow of the head. When I started this training I could not stand on one foot. Now, I have good balance and much more strength to do all the exercises. The Taekwondo lessons also helped me learn how to concentrate and control my muscles. It has given me the confidence to try other things that I was always afraid to do...

Other Favorite Neighborhood Activities

North Saliña loves football (that's "soccer" in American English). Their men are on one of the top Bonairean teams, the blue and yellow "Estrellas" (the "Stars") who just participated in the Antillean challenge against Curaçao. Interest in football starts young. North Saliña has three levels of football for children: a Baby team, a Super Baby team and a Junior Estrellas team. At the soccer field named in honor of Rudy Boezem, who was a very talented player and always dreamed of having a place to play at night in his North Saliña neighborhood, we met many very enthusiastic players and fans. One small boy told us, "I don't usually like to get out of bed in the morning when Mom wakes me for

(Continued on page 7)



On San Juan and San Pedro holidays a bonfire of thanksgiving is lit.



Meals are served at the Sentro di Bario on many occasions

school, but on Saturday morning, when it is time to go to my Super Baby practice, I'm up plenty early. We love that! My friend dreams of becoming a football star."

Next month, the whole neighborhood will be involved in the *Kompetensha di Garoshi*, the Wheel Competition. Al-



Papa Pasku visits the neighborhoods every holiday season

though this event doesn't take place until October, families are already preparing. How? By building structures with a wooden pushing/steering stick and two wheels which will be imaginary "cars" to parade through the neighborhood. "It's like in the 'old' times when there was no money for toys, and children used their imaginations to build their own," explains Xiomara. The two-wheeled push 'cars' will be painted and decorated, many with 'pretend' headlights, horns and other car accoutrements.

More Dreams For The Future

Xiomara's enthusiasm grows as she continues to describe her dreams for her neighbors. "If we had sets of instruments like keyboards, drums and guitars, we could provide music lessons. Maybe the successful learners could play some welcoming music at the resorts or play at a neighbor's house on his birthday. Singing and playing guitar at friends' birthday parties was a specialty of my father, Martins Alberto. He loved the gatherings in the bario when they played Mexican 'ranchera' music. We know there is musi-

cal talent in North Saliña! Our youngsters have written the words and composed some of the music for a CD that we hope to produce."

As I talked to more people around the neighborhood I asked them, "What do you wish you had in North Salina?" Here is what I heard...

"More football!" – Arthur "Turbo" Cecilia.

"More shoes and balls for football!" – Iby Pikeri.

"I hope funding for the Teen Training Center can be found so we can continue our work here in North Saliña" – Louis Winklaar.

"Movies and classes in English"- Zusy de Windt

"Additional rooms at the community center for small group activities, a van for transportation, more 'eyes' in the neighborhood for security, and an apartment as emergency shelter." - Xiomara Alberto

"That everyone has a fun time at our *Kompetensha di Garoshi*!" – Ibi Evertsz

Watch for the upcoming date and time of the *Kompetensha di Garoshi*, and then come enjoy the parade and prizes in the energetic neighborhood of North Saliña!

Story and photo provided by Barbara Mason Bianculli

To Request Funding

It's often best to work through an existing Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), set up an NGO, to get the support of a legitimate help organization. Decide which one of the NGO categories your group would best fit (see Board Members below) .

Contact the NGO Platform Bonaire, and they will take you through all the steps and put you in contact with the leader of the category into which your group fits. The address is Plaza Terras, Kaya Grandi 23, telephone 717-2367.

Typically an NGO with a project or program to be subsidized presents a petition to the NGO Platform Bonaire. The Platform considers if the project or program and if the petition itself meet the established requirements. If that is the case, the Platform passes the petition to AMFO which will evaluate it. If AMFO honors the petition, the financing will take place the project or program will be monitored.

Some members of the NGO Platform are: Julieta Winklaar (Culture), Tanneke Bartels (Environment), Gilbert van Arneman (Youth and Family), Godfried "Boi" Clarendia (Care and Welfare), Anthony Cecilia (Social and Economic Development) Ruthmila St. Jago (Education and Training), Eithel Bernabella (Sports and Leisure), Jona Chirino (Community Development).

Pancho Cecilia is the Platform Staff Director. Platform Director is Julita Winklaar. The Platform Office Manager is Irene Winklaar.



AMFO: Kaya Gob. N. Debrot #31, Bonaire. Tel. 717-7776, Fax 717-7779, website: www.samfo.org, email: info-bon@samfo.org



NGO Platforma Bonaire: New address as of August 1: Plaza Terras, Kaya Grandi 23, Rooms E,F,G. Tel. 717-2366, Fax 717-2367, website: www.ngobonaire.org,

They're Not BROCCOLI!



Cassiopeia xamachana, in its normal upside down feeding position on the bottom.

The natural world contains millions of untold mysteries. The sea and its inhabitants are a very large part of this wonderful storehouse of knowledge. Covering over 75% of the surface of our planet, the sea provides the key ingredient for life as we humans know it. We call our Earth the "Water Planet" for that reason.

The site and plan of our dive

Scuba diving gives all of us who are interested a chance to experience and observe life beneath the sea with relative ease and comfort. There are discoveries to be found every time you enter the water. Today, with my partner Barbara, I am diving off the south coast of our island home, Bonaire. The water is calm and clear, and we plan to survey the shallow zone between the shoreline and the first reef dropoff. We have visited this area many times and will remain under the warm surface layer of water for approximately 90 minutes and never exceed a depth of 25 feet (8 m.). The primary task is to locate and observe a population of Yellow Head Jawfish that has constructed their unique habitats here. There are 25 to 30 individuals nearby and we will take a census and note any unusual behaviors.

The primarily flat underwater terrain gently slopes toward the dropoff 250 yards (235 m.) from shore. The immediate rock hard inshore surface yields to a soft sandy layer that is about 15 inches (38 cm.) thick. Below the sand covering is an intertwined pile of broken fingerlike pieces of Staghorn and Elkhorn hard coral. These buried remnants are evidence of the huge structures that once lived close to the surface near the shore. The pounding waves ground the skeletons of those formations into the very sand that is now covering them. At first glance this flat zone seems uninteresting, monotonous and devoid of life. Over the years we have learned to be alert and ready for the unexpected encounter in places where we least expect it. I sense that today may bring us a surprise.

The moment of discovery

We enter the water, signal our readiness to go down, exhale and purge the air from our BCDs and descend into the clear blue

sunlit sea. In this area, the sand, washed by the surge from the wind driven waves, has a slight undulated surface that is coated with beige and green algae. As we slowly transit this large expanse to the site of the Jawfish colony, we swim very close to the bottom and scan horizontally to locate any unusual bumps or movement on the surface of the sand. The first thing I notice to my right is a small algae covered Milk Conch shell, moving across the bottom. Getting closer, we see a trail of imprints, and immediately realize there is something else propelling this shell. It is a Stareye Hermit crab with lavender and pink body markings, lots of bristle-like hairs, and, at the tips of the eyestalks, brilliant turquoise blue eyes in a star-like design. It is unaffected by my our presence and does not retreat into the inner shell chambers. We use our magnifiers to examine the exquisite colors and movements of this beautiful specimen.

Rising off the bottom, I notice something at the edge of my visual range swaying in the surge. Barbara joins me and as we move forward and are momentarily stunned by the sight of two animals we have never before seen in this environment. They are round, dome shaped, grey-green masses, with arms tipped in flower-like fronds. Sitting on the sand bottom, pulsating with the rhythm of a beating heart, they resemble live heads of broccoli! Our memory circuits go into overdrive and instantly supply an image of these same creatures in their more common habitat of the mangroves surrounding Lac Bay on the east side of Bonaire. They are the Mangrove Upside-down Sea Jellies. It is exciting and a great delight for us to see these animals in the bright, clear water of the south coast. You can observe them in substantial numbers while snorkeling at Lac Bay, but the nutrient rich water of the mangroves clouds much of the details and hides the structure and true color patterns that are visible here.

Questions and answers

After this initial encounter we have continued to observe these visitors for more than six weeks. They have become the focus of a new investigation. As divers and snorkelers, we have always been careful to avoid the dangerous floating Sea

Jellies that are common to all the oceans, warm and cold. This recent experience has inspired us to research and unravel the lives of these often misunderstood animals. Adult Sea Jellies are 95-99% water and have an incomplete digestive system that consumes food and expels waste from the same orifice. Nutrients from their food are simply absorbed through a specialized lining in the stomach. They have no respiratory system since their skin is thin enough to diffuse oxygen in and out of their bodies. They do not have a brain, heart, central nervous system, skeletal system or blood. Most Jellies are continuously moving in the open water and capture food with trailing tentacles containing stinging cells with nematocysts that "hook" into prey and retract to the mouth on contact like springs. These Upside-down Jellies are different. Let's find out why.



Close-up of the concave "bell" from below.

"Sitting on the sand bottom, pulsating with the rhythm of a beating heart, they resemble live heads of broccoli... They are Mangrove Upside-down Jellies!"

Why are our subjects called Upside-down Jellies? Why are they here? What are they doing? Do they sting? Unlike stereotypical jellies, these creatures, *Cassiopeia xamachana*, spend most of their time inverted (upside down) on the sea floor with their oral cavities exposed to the water above. Their round "bells" have a concave shape rather than a ball as in the other floating jellies. Once in contact with any relatively flat surface, the pulsating action creates suction to hold its body and exposed fronds upright. This motion also disturbs nutrients in the form of small particles that rise up and fall over their upward facing mouths, providing a portion of the food necessary to sustain life in the normally oxygen poor waters of their habitat. The stinging cells and nematocysts are relatively weak compared to other jellies and any effect or contact usually disappears by merely stepping out of the water.

Why are they multi-colored and not clear like other jellies? How can they survive in such numbers in a relatively small area? Living within the body cavities of the Upside-down Jellies are specialized microscopic algae that need sunlight, carbon dioxide and protection from ultraviolet rays to live. The symbiotic relationship between these jellies and the algae provide the balance of nutrients necessary for each to thrive in a delicate environment,

the shallow "photic zone" of the sea. It is these tiny organisms that give the jellies their color. The combination of nutrient-rich water and oxygen from the algae gives the jellies food while the algae is supplied with abundant waste carbon dioxide from the jellies, protection from the U.V. rays and sun for photosynthesis.

Recent scientific theories that may aid the survival of planet Earth

As scientists study the symbiotic relationship between the jellies and the algae and how and when this relationship started, they are uncovering ways these creatures can provide answers to some other threatening problems. Both organisms are very sensitive to light levels, temperature and the salinity of the surrounding water. Any slight disruption of these factors caused by some environmental change such as global warming will cause the jellies or algae or both to disappear. In other research that focuses on the early life cycle of the jellies and algae, it has been discovered that certain genes which determine bodily segmentation during embryonic development evolve much earlier than previously known, and that further study of the jellies and algae may hold the key to understanding the processes that cause humans to develop in the forms that we do.

It is almost incredible that this seemingly chance encounter on a single, shallow underwater adventure can lead to so much valuable information. I invite you to join us on our next excursion into the mysterious secrets of the natural world under the sea via the pages of *The Bonaire Reporter*.

© 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.

Interview (Continued from page 5)

Ned added, "After 40 years we still see something new on every dive. We love seeing people and talking. Conservation of the ocean's resources is most important and it's recreational divers who keep the focus on the issues. The Bonaire National Marine Park was created for recreational divers and is serving as a model for marine protected areas worldwide. This year we visited Sulawesi, Indonesia, and found their park modeled after Bonaire's, even down to the dive tags.

If some small sections of Bonaire's coastline were restricted to fishing, then we would see even more and bigger fish and local fishermen would also benefit in the long run because these areas would serve as a protected nursery. Groupers, especially Nassau groupers, are no longer a commercially viable catch because of over fishing, especially during spawning aggregations. Bermuda is a leader in protecting groupers."

"What about the \$25 annual cost for Bonaire National Marine Park dive tag," we asked. "Do you think it discourages people from coming to Bonaire?" "On the contrary," they emphasized, "people consider it a privilege to dive in a protected area that is managed for conservation. On this trip we met a new diver who was amazed at the superb condition of the reef considering the tens of thousands of divers and Bonaire's concept of diving freedom."

"What has been the highlight of your dives in so far this year?" I queried.

Anna answered, "Two tiny blennys fiercely fighting for more than a minute over a small piece of territory. It ended when they peacefully returned to their burrows." Ned said his top sighting was "an extended session of courting and spawning among smooth trunkfish, a first for him. There were 10 males vying for the attention of a single female with simulated fighting and changing of colors. After about an hour, around 7:10 in the evening, two of the males went off with the female to spawn." G.D.

Bonaire East Coast Diving and Its Myths

Diving on Bonaire has always ranked with the best in the world, but seldom have people ventured to the east coast to explore some of the most pristine coral reefs anywhere. Divers have been daunted by the east coast because they heard that there were 'strong currents,' 'difficult entries,' and that it was 'dangerous.' This doesn't apply when diving with a qualified local guide, especially by boat. Larry's Wildside Diving offers both expert guidance and a fantastic boat.

The most common myth circulating about the east coast is the strong currents. The strongest current people experience is at the entrance to Lac Bay because a large volume of water must pass through a constricted passageway. The best way to avoid this is to bypass it with a boat which takes you directly to the reef. Once on the reef visibility can be in excess of 100 feet and currents are negligible. Larry's Wildside Diving has you swim with the current on your drift dive. It's unlike Cozumel, however, where it's nearly impossible to stop and take a picture. Here you can take your time to thoroughly enjoy all the sea life or take that perfect picture.

Another concern about the east coast is the water entry. The "iron shore" on the east coast can make shore diving hazardous, but diving from a boat eliminates any difficulties. There is not an area on the east coast of Bonaire that they are unable to reach, including wrecks sites that date from the 1500s up to an Italian motor yacht that went down circa 1968.

What makes the east coast so special though? Bonaire is certainly a hot spot for "macro photo" life, but there are large sea creatures in abundance on the east coast. Commonly seen on any east coast dive are spotted eagle rays-up to

12 at a time, southern sting rays, green morays and green and hawksbill turtles. Turtles are found everywhere on the windward coast, with a high of 27 seen in two dives. There were four nurse shark sightings within a two-week period, ranging in size from approximately 5 feet to 14 feet (2.4m to 4.2m). Like many marine organisms they are quite docile unless provoked. When approaching the nurse sharks, we often see one or two shark suckers attached to their dorsal side. Sharks are a rare find on Bonaire, but the east side does offer the best chance for shark sightings. Currently, as well as the nurse sharks we've seen reef sharks and a black tip shark there.

Reef fish are abundant on the east side too. Large schools of Bermuda and yellow chub, Creole wrasse, grunts, and many others are seen feeding above the reefs. Healthy populations of groupers are found, including Nassau, black, yellow fin, tigers and more. There also are very large mature hogfish, which are a delight to take in, along with mammoth versions of parrotfish.

The corals off Bonaire's eastern coast are also exemplary. You will find large colonies of sea rods and sea whips, huge varieties of leaf corals, brain corals, flowering and cup corals, and once in the shallows there are sea fans as far as the eye can see (or the turtle can swim). The impacts on the reefs by hurricanes have been minimal.

So while you are enjoying your vacation on Bonaire, enhance it with a trip to



Dive Briefing on the Wildside -author at right.

the beautiful east coast with its big fish and totally pristine reefs.

You can find more information on Larry's Wildside Diving and custom-built dive boat at www.larryswildsidediving.com. Not only will you be enthralled with everything you see, you'll want to come back for more! Martin Heinrich

KRALENDIJK TIDES (Heights in feet, FT)

Remember: Winds and weather can further influence the local tides

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT	COEF
9-23	2:41	0.8FT.	69
9-24	3:29	0.7FT.	56
9-25	4:06	0.7FT.	45
9-26	4:38	0.8FT.	37
9-27	5:11	0.8FT.	34
9-28	5:37	0.9FT.	38
9-29	5:55	0.9FT.	45
9-30	6:05	1.0FT.	53

VESSELS MAKING A PORT CALL:

Alina	Freestyle	Marisol	Slow Dancin
Alter Ego	Gallivanter	Mimo	Sylvia K
Angie	Good Hope	Moana	Tish
Angelique	Guaicamar I, Ven.	Moonglow	Theis
Algese	Helde	Orion	Ulu Ulu, USA
Augustine	Jan Gerardus	Paws	Unicorn, Norway
Bedouin	Josina	Samantha Nova	Valenza
Bright Sea	Key Lara	Samba	Valkerie
Camissa, Chan Is.	Luna C. USA	Santa Maria	Varedhuni, Ger.
Cape Kathryn	La Baronne	Sandpiper, USA	Ventoso
Chalice	La Serena	Seascape	Vijia
Deneb	Lazzorone	Sea Witch	Wingin
Delphinus	Live Your Dream	Sho Fun Time	Ya-T, BVI
Elenoa	Makai	Side By Side	Yanti Paratzi
Endangered Species	Maggi	Sintella	Yus Do It
Flying Cloud, USA	Mandolin	Sirius	Zee Vonk

New Art at Cinnamon



Three of Bonaire's resident artists have just announced new products based on their original artwork. Linda Richter and Jake Richter will be releasing the Bonaire Creations 2006 Calendar in mid-September. The 2006 Bonaire Calendar is a large, high quality wall calendar featuring images of Linda Richter's oil paintings and Jake Richter's digital paintings on art quality paper. Each month's image is protected by a gloss varnish, while the monthly calendar on each page lists Bonairean, Antillean, Dutch, American, and Canadian holidays. The back page of the calendar provides a translation between Papiamentu, Dutch, English, and French for the months of the year and days of the week as well.

The 2006 Bonaire Creations Calendar will be selling for US\$25 and will be available starting September 24th from several local Bonaire merchants including Chat 'n' Browse and Photo Tours as well as at the Cinnamon Art Gallery from the artists themselves. The calendar will also be available at that time via the new on-line Caribbean Art shopping site, www.CaribbeanArt.com, for those in North America and Holland.

The Richters have also released a set of 20 postcards – 10 different images each by Linda and Jake, featuring a range of subjects from above and under water around Bonaire. The postcards are available now from local Bonaire merchants as well as on-line. And, a Bonaire Creations coffee mug has been created and also can be seen on-line at www.CaribbeanArt.com.



And, after several years of work, Avy Benhamron has arranged with the Antillean postal service to create a set of three limited edition stamps featuring his African-themed art work. Each of the three series contains six stamps which are certified, registered, and numbered by Bonaire's own post office, Nieuwe Post N.A., and each attached print comes from Avy's personal art collection. A Certificate of Authenticity is available for each limited edition sheet. Avy's unique stamps are on display at the Cinnamon Art Gallery, which is located at Kaya A.P.L. Brion 1, in downtown Kralendijk, right off Kaya Grandi.

The Cinnamon Art Gallery can be reached at 717-7103 or via e-mail at info@cinnamonartgallery.org. *Susan Davis*

THE BONAIRE GARDNER

DEALING WITH THE DROUGHT

My last story was about our native trees in construction areas. I'll continue on this topic, but first I want to update you about an environmental situation at this moment on Bonaire.

Thank God we had some really nice rain last week, but that doesn't cover every problem that we have seen these last few weeks. These last weeks have been the hardest for plants in a very long time. It hasn't been raining during these last months, temperatures are climbing, and, unlike other Septembers, there has been a lot of wind, which is very good for people, but not so good for plants when they are thirsty!

I've written about this topic before, but this is just a warning. You should be very concerned that your plants and especially **Palm trees** get enough water. Our last rainy season was very good so the plants got spoiled. Now they are back to "normal" again, and when it takes too long to get some natural water, Palms can get "stressed" and dry out and also easily die.

Unfortunately, when you look around on the island, you can see this problem. A lot of **Coconut palms** get black stripes on the backs of their leaves and break off, and if you don't help them, the whole tree can die.

Here are the things to do: Make sure the plants get regular water, not a lot but regularly. Because of the long drought it is very wise to maintain a ditch around the trees, so you are sure the plants get water there where they need it and the water can sit and seep slowly into the ground. Because the soil might be very hard this can take some time.

To make sure the water drains through faster and better, you may add any kind of organic material. Rake this into the topsoil around the plant. A very good material for this purpose is the rough coco-fiber. It holds the moisture very well and offers some nutrition.

Then, if you have a crisis with your Palm trees, it is good to add a very fast working fertilizer like Miracle Grow or, the best, Peters. All fertilizers with high nitrogen

(Continued on page 18)



Hurricane Information Night Because Nort di Saliña (North Saliña) doesn't want to be a statistic in the Hurricane Alphabet...

The devastating images of the aftermath of *Hurricane Katrina* in New Orleans and Mississippi went around the world and impressed even traditional adversaries of the US. The ABC Island communities, even with their restricted resources, organized events to collect money for the victims. During the weekend of September 17 and 18 Bonaire's churches collected money during mass for them.

But how well prepared are we on Bonaire for a hurricane of the same ferocity as *Katrina*? Have we already forgotten what the next letter in the alphabet (*Louise*) did to our sister Windward Islands St Martin, Saba and Statia? And the heavy rainfalls, floods, and destruction of the northern part of Bonaire during the 'tail section' of *Joanne* and *Lenny* years ago? *Ivan "the Terrible"* gave us all big scare last year, and Aruba is still recovering from all the flooding from what is often regarded as the least dangerous part - 'the tail of the hurricane.'

Alex Semeleer thought about all of that and decided to take action in his neighborhood.

Last year FESBO (the foundation that helps the community centers), with the financial support of AMFO and others, helped organize various work groups in different neighborhoods, including *Nort di Saliña*. Some of the work groups are focused on the spiritual, the cultural and



The critical track of Hurricane Katrina. The last storm named Katrina was in 1999. The name Katrina will now be retired.

As we all still think from previous studies that chances are still very small that it will hit us once in our lifetime.

He organized an information evening on September 14th to make us aware of different aspects of a hurricane as well as how to be as prepared as possible.

Opening with an adventurous tale of his childhood on how he experienced, what is commonly regarded as the worst hurricane to affect the Leeward Antilles, Hurricane *Hazel* in the 1950s. He reminisced how the road to *Playa* from *Mentor Bar* and the *Saliña* just 'fused' and turned into one wide river after the heavy rains. A lady in the audience didn't have the same romantic and adventurous memories of *Hazel*. She, her little sister and mother stayed clasped to each other without moving, even to eat, for three days, scared of the deluge and the

social aspects of the community. As head of the education work-group, Semeleer felt it was time to 'break this taboo of talking about hurricane preparation.' Yes, a taboo.

chilling, spooky sound of the wind. After the third day they fled just before the roof fell in. Saved by neighbors they managed to escape but couldn't return to their home for weeks. She still remembers the sound of the wind as her most fearful experience.

And *Hazel*, just like most of the other hurricanes, 'just passed by' near the islands. It did not even go **through or hit** our island.

Both stories illustrated one of the many light bulb moments of this very informative evening: that we usually only think of the material aspect. Emotional and psychological effects of a hurricane are huge and are carried for years.

Semeleer elaborated on some several scientific facts regarding hurricanes in the ABC islands: Every 60 years a hurricane will brush the islands. Hurricanes in most cases pass to the north. What is referred to as the 'tail of a hurricane' is actually the outward bands of the hurricane. And September is historically the month with the most hurricanes.

But taking into account new factors such as the rising sea level and rapid

climate changes, this might change.

Hurricane *Lenny*, for instance, back in 1999, reversed direction against all predictions. The huge waves built up by the storm 800 km away reached Bonaire and destroyed much of northwest facing areas.

Through illustrations Semeleer pointed out which parts of Bonaire were vulnerable to a hurricane. Kralendijk Bay is protected by Klein Bonaire from the worst waves. He pointed out that the *saliñas* and *Sorobon/Lac* regions don't have any rocks or natural dams of coral to protect them as they used to. The rocks were removed to grind into sand and gravel for island construction projects.

Due this lack of protection, we are very vulnerable on both those sides of Bonaire. Consider that the airport is located in an unprotected area. Consequently, air travel may not be possible.

It's not without reason that Bonaire's first airport was built 40 m above sea level near *Subi Blanku*. *Natalie. A.C. Wanga*

Next week: Preparing for a hurricane

Jong Bonaire Swim to Klein Bonaire Fund Raiser

Have you ever looked longingly over at Klein Bonaire and had a desire to swim to it, but you knew it was too dangerous with boats traversing the area? Now you can make the swim and do it safely. Get ready for Jong Bonaire's Fifth Annual Swim to Klein Bonaire. Volunteer boats will escort the swimmers and pick up anyone who needs a ride. Everyone who can swim is invited - all ages, all levels of expertise. Every year the event gets bigger and bigger and more fun. Tickets are NAF15 and all proceeds go to Jong Bonaire. The price includes lunch, a drink - even a tee shirt! Get your tickets at Jong Bonaire, BonFysio or DeFreewieler.

It's Sunday, October 9, at Bongo's Beach. Be there at 8 am. Even if you don't swim, come along anyway and cheer them on. *L.D.*

Entry Fee: NAF 15,-
Includes lunch and drink & T-shirt

5th swim to Klein Bonaire
Sunday 09 October from Bongo's Beach
Be there at 8 AM

Tickets at Jong Bonaire,
Bonfysiotherapie & De Freewieler

A Jong Bonaire fundraiser
for anyone who can swim!

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Cream and Sand Dollar Grocery.
Photography by Shelly Craig
www.bonaireimages.com

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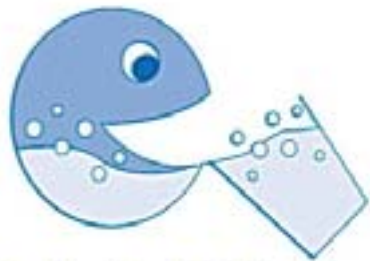
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Ask the Dietitian

Beverages are important! Choose the right ones.....



Drink Water

Beverages are important because they are mostly water (liquid), which is a nutrient that's essential to your life. In fact, a lot of your body is water - 55 to 75% of your total body weight. In one way or another, every body function depends on water. You can live only a few days without it.

How much do we need?

On an average day, you need two litres (quarts) of water. That's how much you lose through sweat, urine and your breath. **When you sweat a lot you need even more.** Sweating is your body's natural way to cool down- especially on a hot day or when your body gets a real physical workout. When you sweat, you need to replace those lost fluids. This helps keep you from dehydration and the tiredness that goes with it. Thirst is one sign that you need fluids. **But don't wait to feel thirsty before you drink something!**

What's a smart beverage choice?

Choose what you drink carefully. . Wa-



ter is the best thirst quencher and calorie-free choice. Make sure you always drink more water than other beverages. Next choice are drinks that have a lot of Vitamin C (found in 100% fruit juices) and those that contain calcium (found in low fat or non fat milk and the soy milk group). Keep to a minimum those drinks that supply mostly just food energy (calories). Inform yourself by reading the information on the labels.

What can you do to make smart drink choices?

Drink more water than beverages containing sugar.

Drink more 100% fruit juices rather than juices containing just 10%-50% fruit juice.

Drink fewer instant drinks.

Try herbal or fruit teas without sugar.

Drink them with ice for a refreshing

Angélique Salsbach, a dietitian with Bonaire's Department of Health and Hygiene, has a radio program every other Tuesday 9 to 9:30 on Bon FM. Write her at dietitan@bonairenews.com

beverage.

At a vending machine choose juice instead of soda.

Mix two different juices for an easy snack drink.

Drink less soda

Drink sodas as a snack, not as a beverage with a meal.

Rather than drinking from a large bottle of soda, pour out one glass.

If you like to sip while you read, watch TV, or work on the computer, make it water.

Order the regular size drink at a fast-food place instead of the large, jumbo, or super size cup

Cut down to 1 glass of soda a day **and don't drink one every day.**

What if you drink a lot of soda?

Sodas are mostly water, sugar or sugar substitute, and a little flavouring. You may get some food energy but not much else. Soft drink consumers have a higher daily energy intake than non-consumers at all ages. Sweetened drinks (fruitades, fruit drinks, soft drinks, etc.) are the primary source of added sugar in the daily diet of children. Drinking sodas with meals and snacks often crowds out beverages with more nutrients. Without milk or juice, the nutrients they supply— calcium and vitamin C— typically come up short.

So let's choose smart. Make healthful drink choices! Start with water! A.S.



Picture Yourself with the Reporter



In Vlissingen, The Netherlands

Here's Bonaire resident, **Franc van der Vliet**, reading *The Bonaire Reporter* aboard his ship, the *Stanislav Yudin*, on the North Sea. They had just docked at the port of Vlissingen, The Netherlands, after the installation of oil platforms and removal of gas production platforms in the North Sea.

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 2005 photos are eligible.)

Pet of the Week

Here is red haired, tiger striped “Julio” the cat with Shelter volunteer Amber. Both seem to be checking each other out. Amber, 11 years old, volunteers every Saturday at the Shelter and is welcomed heartily by all the pets. This young lady seems to know many of them by name and their personalities.

Julio, for instance, is quiet, well-mannered, and very nice. He gets along with all the other cats, which isn’t always the case in the cat cage! Julio is six months old and a darling. He’s been checked out by the vet for the deadly feline leukemia, given his shots, been de-wormed and castrated. And he’s a beauty.

Drop by the Bonaire Animal Shelter on the Lagoen Road, open Monday through Friday 10 am to 2 pm, Saturdays until 1. Telephone 717-4989.



Amber and “Julio”

Welcome to Marlis, Assistant to the Shelter Director! We’re all so happy to have you. *L.D.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING

WEEKLY MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Late Show
Call to make sure (Usually 9 pm)

Supercross (Steve Howey)

Early Show (Usually 7 pm)

Dukes of Hazzard

Kaya Prinses Marie
Behind Exito Bakery
Tel. 717-2400

Tickets - NAf14 (incl. Tax)
Children under 12 - NAf12

NEW FILMS BEGIN FRIDAY
CLOSED MONDAY TUESDAY
AND WEDNESDAY

SATURDAY 4 PM
Charlie and the
Chocolate Factory

This Week

Thursday, September 22 - SEBIKI will be offering a course for expectant mothers that will run for 16 weeks. It's at the SEBIKI office at Kaya Pedro P. Sillie #4. Tel. 717-2436.

September 21-27, October 20-26 - Coral Spawning on reefs of Bonaire
Thursday, September 22—Autumnal Equinox

Saturday, September 24—Opening Art Exhibit by Sipke Stapert and Dianir Rivas Torres at Cinnamon Art Gallery. 7 to 9 pm. Free (see page 10). Exhibit continues until October 24.

Saturday, September 24 (and every Saturday)—Wine Tasting at AWC's warehouse. 6 to 8 pm, Kaya Industria #23. Wine NAf2,50 a glass.

Sunday, September 25th- Klein Bonaire Cleanup. Meet at the Harbour Village marina at 7 am. Residents, tourists and yachties all invited

COMING

Saturday, October 1-Rincon Big Market—Lots of local color, music, food, gifts, fruits, vegetables, plants from 6 am to 2 pm—Don't miss visiting the cultural heart of Bonaire.

Wednesday, October 5 - C-Run with prizes, 2/4/5 km. 5:30 pm, sponsored by COMCABON. Call 717-8629, 780-7225, Richard Pietersz

October 9 - 15- International Bonaire Sailing Regatta

Sunday, October 9—Jong Bonaire 5th Annual Swim to Klein Bonaire, 8 am, Bongo's Beach (see page 11)

Friday, October 21 - Antillean Day, Market & Cultural Activities all day, Nikiboko Cento di Bario

November 24-26— Bonaire Investment Conference

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

Saturday -Wine Tasting at AWC's warehouse. 6 to 8 pm, Kaya Industria #23. Wine NAf2,50 a glass.

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

MICRO MOVIE REVIEW

Seen in
Movieland Cinema:



DUKES OF HAZZARD by Jay Chandrasekhar, starring Johnny Knoxville and Seann William Scott. Adapted from the hugely popular tv show by the same name from the 70s-80s. I went into the theater not expecting much, and that's what I got. The movie drags on and on for an hour and a half with crude jokes and lots of cleavage. The rest of the jokes are of the 1 digit IQ variety, that, if you can't see them coming a mile away, you'll wish you couldn't see them at all. I expect this movie to be a front runner for 2005 Golden Razzie award. *Dodo*

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.

Every Tuesday Night @ 6:30pm - Bonaire-Talker Dinner/Gathering at Gibi's, known for great local food. Call Gibi at 567-0655 for details, or visit www.BonaireTalk.com, and search for "Gibi."

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

Friday - Open House with Happy Hour at JanArt Gallery Kaya Gloria #7, 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 Slides 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

Wednesday -Buddy Dive Cocktail Video Show by Martin Cecilia pool bar Buddy Dive, 7 pm 717-5080

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Bonaire Arts & Crafts (Fundashon Arte Industrial Bonaireano) 717-5246 or 7117

The Bonaire Swim Club- Contact Valarie Stimpson at 785-3451 or Valrie@telbonet.an

Cinnamon Art Gallery - Volunteers to help staff gallery during the day. 717-7103.

Bonaire National Marine Park - 717-8444.

Bonaire Animal Shelter -717-4989.

Donkey Sanctuary - 560-7607.

Jong Bonaire (Youth Center) - 717-4303.

Sister Maria Hoppner Home (Child Care) Tel. 717-4181 fax 717-2844.

Special Olympics - Contact Roosje 717-4685, 566-4685

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 - 6:30 pm - call 567-0655 for directions.

Bridge Club - Wednesdays, 7:30 pm at the Union Building on Kaya Korona, across from the RBTT Bank. 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 Jay-

ees) meets at the ABVO building, Kaminda Jato Baco 36 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. 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 - Now meeting at Casa Blanca Restaurant. 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.

CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

Send events to *The Bonaire Reporter*
Email reporter@bonairenews.com
Tel/Fax. 717-8988, Cel. 786-6518

Dog Wash 2005



Saturday, October 1st from 9.00 am to 2.00 pm at the Warehouse Supermarket parking lot. Cost-NAf7,50 all to benefit the Bonaire Animal Shelter.



Tickets for sale at:

Warehouse Bonaire
Veterinarian Jan Laarakker or call:
Lydia -tel. 717-8721
Hans -tel. 717-3207
Paul -tel. 787-0466

DINING GUIDE

See advertisements in this issue

RESTAURANT	PRICE RANGE / WHEN OPEN	FEATURES
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 11 am-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.
Croccantino Italian Restaurant Downtown at Kaya Grandi 48 717-5025	Moderate-Expensive Dinner Closed Monday	Bonaire's Most Romantic Restaurant where dining is a delight! Tuscan chef prepares exquisite dishes with authentic ingredients. Be served in a garden setting under floating umbrellas or in air-conditioned comfort. Take out too.
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 cuisine. Champagne brunch on Sundays 10 am to noon. Happy hours 5 to 7 every day.
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 until 6 pm 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.

COMPUTERS

Bonaire Automation B.V. fills all your computer needs: hardware, software, supplies, service, repair and more.

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.

Dive Friends Bonaire (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. **Now-full digital services.**

REAL ESTATE / RENTAL AGENTS

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

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.

Outdoor Bonaire for individually guided kayaking, hiking, biking, caving, rapeling/abseilen and more reservations : 791-6272 or 717-4555 E-mail : hans@outdoorbonaire.com

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.

ATTENTION BUSINESSMEN/WOMEN:
Put your ad in *The Bonaire Reporter*.
Phone/Fax 717-8988, Cel 786-6518

Born on Bonaire....

Alex Semeleer

I was born in 1942 in 'North Salt-lake City,' Nort di Saliña, here on Bonaire. My dad, Pedro Semeleer, was a sailor and ship's cook; my mom, Maria Sara Semeleer-Thomas, a homemaker. She died when I was nine. I went to St. Dominicus elementary school, a friar school. After that they wanted to put me in technical school. At the time I was 14 years old and I didn't feel like it, so I decided to talk to the priest and he discussed it with the friars. As I had been an A student they decided to send me to Brakkeput, a boarding school for boys in Curaçao. Father had to sign a contract which said that after my studies I had to work for three years on Bonaire to pay back the money the Bonaire government paid to the brothers of Brakkeput for my studies. My dad signed the contract with the letter 'X' as he was illiterate. After three years Brakkeput closed its doors and I came to live with a landlady. The government paid NAf100, but we had to pay everything else ourselves.

My dad had always had work his entire life in spite of the fact that he was illiterate, so he didn't understand why I wanted to study. He thought it was useless – throwing away money - and he refused to pay a cent. However, my grandmother and her brother helped me out.

I went to the Monsignor Zwijsen College and studied MULO for one year. They thought I was too good a student for that school and advised me to go to HBS (Secondary Modern School). I couldn't afford it, but the brothers arranged a scholarship for me from Isla, which was Shell. It was 1958; I was supposed to get NAf50 a month, but nobody told me about it and so I didn't get anything.

On Sundays I took my clothes to my dad's little bark or somebody else's boat and they took them to Bonaire for washing. The next Sunday somebody would sail back to Curaçao, bringing my clothes. I'm telling all this because nowadays people think they're having a hard time, but they can make it as long as they persevere.

After a year I found out I had a scholarship! I was angry with the brothers, but they explained they'd used the money that was supposed to be mine to help other children, and they gave me NAf25 to buy some clothes." *He laughs.*

"It was a great school all together, difficult, but a great education. I was there with Miguel Pourier, who became the prime minister of the Antilles, with Franklin Crestian who later was on the ministry of development cooperation, with Eddy Crestian who became a cus-

toms official, with Martinus Pourier and Eric Molina and with Dolfi Davelaar, now police inspector and the leader of *Gruppo Watapana*. I feel that this school gave us the opportunity to do something for our society.

I became a schoolteacher. For five years I taught at the Radulphus College in Curaçao; after that for three years at the Stanislaus School in Rincon and at the Dominicus School in Playa. Then I left for Holland because I wanted to see the world, and I wanted a technical profession after all. Electronics and computers - that was what I was interested in.

For a year I worked as a teacher in

"My dad had always had work his entire life in spite of the fact that he was illiterate, so he didn't understand that I wanted to study. He thought it was useless – throwing away money."

Haarlem, then I got a job with SVB (social insurance) in Amsterdam, working as an electronic data processor specialist, an IT specialist as you would call it now. I got on-the-job training as a computer programmer analyst and worked myself up to chief programmer. Then I had to wait until... my superior would die. I didn't have the patience, so I left SVB after five years."

Alex Semeleer is a professional in every way, but he's also blessed with a good sense of humor, gentleness and great charisma. We're talking in his wife's shop, 'Astros,' and it's amazing to see the amount of people coming and going; it's an extremely lively place.

"The rest of my stay in the Netherlands, 20 years in total, I worked as a consultant in design, analysis and computer programming and I did training. That's my career. It's been very interesting and I've always enjoyed my work. When I was about 40, I started my own business. I worked for the government, banks and the sea search and rescue center in IJmuiden. But when I was 50 I found out that I was too old according to the Dutch standards. As age discrimination isn't allowed they tell you: 'Sorry, Sir, you have too much experience and therefore you're too expensive for us...'

In 1994, I was 52 years old. I came back to Bonaire. I'd gotten married when I was very young, at 24. I needed someone beside me. When we went to

Holland we were young and my wife grew into the Dutch mentality, so when I decided to go back to Bonaire, she didn't want to come with me. We separated without any fights.

So, there I was, back on Bonaire, all by myself. I

found out there wasn't any work for me. I went back to my previous profession, teaching. For three years I taught at an elementary school, but times had changed and the mentality of the children was different, and also I wasn't the same anymore either. Jopie Abraham asked me to work for his party and that's what I did for a year. Afterwards I went back to education, but this time into management as an advisor. It lasted until November 2004 when I became 60 and had to retire, as prescribed by the rules.

Now I am socially involved in many different foundations. I'm the secretary of the parent's association of SGB high school, secretary of the Bonairean consumer organization. I'm in an educational workgroup at the Sentro di Bario di Nort di Saliña. I'm the chairman of the Marshé Rincon and am giving naturalization courses for people who want to apply for a Dutch passport. I'm giving courses at CKB, the center for small businesses, to prepare small entrepreneurs to have a business of their own. I also teach these people English and Papiamentu, and for that I invite American citizens who have their residency here, to come and have discussions in English. It's successful and everyone is having a good time. I'm also introducing astronomy to the people together with Alan Gross and... right now I'm trying to prepare people for the dangers of a hurricane.

Besides all that I have a family: two darling daughters, Nelsi and Arunel, and a lovely wife, Faizul. I met her here on Bonaire when I was living by myself in a big house in Nort di Saliña and she came with five girlfriends asking if she could rent a room. Six beautiful women they were, but she was the most interesting, the leader of the group, with beaming eyes and an enterprising spirit. Faizul has the South American mentality. She really knows how to take good



Alex Semeleer

care of me!

Well, going back to the subject of the hurricanes: We've always said we're outside the hurricane belt, but... do the hurricanes know that? Usually they're born in the middle of Atlantic. They go west and once they are in the Caribbean Sea they go north. That was the rule. In 1999 Hurricane Lenny was born in the Gulf of Mexico and went east to the Windward Islands. Hurricane Katrina was born in the Bahamas and right now we have three tropical depressions which were born there. It's become the Wild, Wild West!

We say we have a hurricane once every 50 years, but who knows when that will be? It was a narrow escape with Ivan, but will we be so lucky next time? All I want to do is to make the government, the support organizations, the *sentro di barrios*, *Saso* and the people of Bonaire aware of the fact that we don't have a plan. During Ivan the hospital sent all the sick people home and begged the government not to send them anybody else! I've worked with sea search and rescue and know about preparations. In the weeks to come I'll be giving lectures in the *sentro di barrios* to make the people realize it could happen here too.

As for me, personally, I can only say Holland was fun, but I never meant to stay there forever. I am a religious and spiritual person and I am very happy with my life and I feel fabulously rich, not financially, but in life experience and in the love that surrounds me."

Photo and story by Greta Kooistra



Anthony's Extreme Cuisine Opens

This week an interesting new restaurant opened – Anthony's Extreme Cuisine. A restored old Bonairean house is the perfect setting to showcase the cuisine of distinguished Chef Anthony Anthony. He's unique. Through and through he's a Bonairean, but he's had classical, continental training.

"The emphasis is on contemporary Caribbean cuisine," says Anthony, "using products from the Caribbean in a beautiful, natural presentation with a *dushi* (delicious) taste." Some of the snacks we tasted were Meatballs in a Tamarind Sauce, Bonairean "4-legged Chicken" (iguana?) Quesadilla, Chicken Wings with "Extreme" BBQ sauce. A main dish might be a USDA Beef Tenderloin with a Mushroom-Tamarind Demiglace Sauce or Shrimp Flamed with Pernod, or a Chicken Breast with an Exotic Stuffing of Vegetables and Ricotta Cheese. A soup choice might be the Pumpkin and Plantain with Salted Beef. The fish is always fresh and served in different ways. There's the Caribbean Cup Salad with Mango, Avocado and Three Kinds of Lettuce tossed with a Roasted Garlic Dressing. The "Grand Dessert" is a trio of Key lime Pie, Cheesecake with Oreo and Cracker Crumb Crust, and "Extreme Ice Cream." Everything is made in his kitchen, even the desserts and the tortillas for the quesadillas.

Every Saturday for lunch and dinner they serve Criollo food – *bachi-bachi*, *yorki*, *sop*, *kabrito stoba*, *piska*. You may

also have Criollo for lunch during the week.

Anthony loves doing buffets and his creative and beautiful table décor is always done with flowers and products from the island. He'd be happy to do your wedding or other celebration. There's plenty of space at the restaurant and the garden for up to 200.

Working as a chef for nearly 30 years Anthony was on the Bonaire Culinary Team for two years. He acts as a judge for culinary competitions in Bonaire and is a professional chef-judge for the Caribbean Culinary Foundation. For 10 years he was a chef at Plaza and has had his own catering business in Rincon for the last three years. Anthony's Extreme Cuisine is a family restaurant. "I have lots of support from my family and friends," Anthony declares. He's had help from CKB (creating a business plan) and from MCB Bonaire. Anthony is giving back to the community by hiring and training youngsters from Chez Nous (high school hotel school) and from North Saliña.



Get a Warm Welcome from Anthony, Zalma (his sister and restaurant manager) and Sous-Chef Terence Martis.

Prices are reasonable. Lunch is from NAf 6,50 to NAf12 . Dinner prices are from NAf18,50 to NAf35.

The restaurant is located on Kaya Princes Marie #8 – next to Boomerang Hardware, open Monday through Saturday serving lunch from 11 am to 3 pm, dinner 6 to 10 pm. For faster service you may make reservations at 786-4521, 717-4311 or 540-4683. There's take away service too. L.D.

Bonaire Gardner (Continued from page 10) numbers are good, as long as they work fast. And for Coconut Palms and other green Palms, a little help with Magnesium Sulfate is also very good, but this, again, has to be mixed with another fast absorbing fertilizer.

But don't get scared. If you just keep on maintaining your plants well, you won't get these problems. This is just a warning that you should be a little bit alert.

Now is **not** the right time to make changes in your garden, deciding whether you want to keep certain plants or not. This time of year some may not look so good, but that will change rapidly when we get some more rain. Next time I'll continue about our natural sources for your gardens! Ap van Eldik



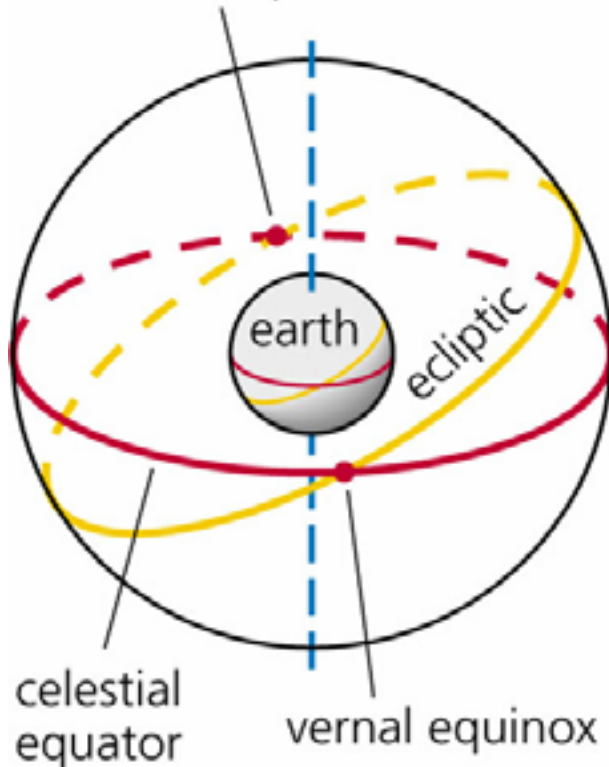
Ap van Eldik owns Green Label Landscaping which designs, constructs and maintains residential and commercial gardens. Two nurseries and a garden shop in Kralendijk carry terra cotta pots from Mexico and South America. Phone 717-3410. **NOW OPEN SATURDAYS, NON-STOP 9 TO 4.**



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it, just look up

autumnal equinox



The Sun During the First Week of Autumn, the Moon Visits Saturn, and a Mars Update

Since this is the first week of autumn you can have some fun with the Sun, plus I'm going to show you how to use the Moon to find Saturn, and we'll update you on Mars, which as of this week is brighter than any other star in the sky.

This Thursday morning, September 22nd, is the first day of autumn, which astronomically speaking is the day of the **Autumnal Equinox**. And at sunrise you will notice that the Sun will rise exactly due east. Then if you go out at the end of the day at sunset and look west you will see that the Sun will set exactly due west.

Now, believe it or not, the Sun rises exactly due east and sets exactly due west on only two days of the year - on the first day of autumn, the Autumnal Equinox, and the first day of spring, the **Vernal Equinox**. That's because on these two days the Sun lies exactly on the **Celestial Equator**, which is what marks the equinoxes in the first place. Check it out yourself because, practically speaking, the Sun will rise and set almost due east all week long. After which it will start to rise and set a little bit farther south each day.

And now to find the beautiful ringed planet. Any day this week or next look east about an hour before sunrise and you'll see the two bright stars of **Gemini** - **Castor** and **Pollux** - and directly below them wonderful **Saturn**, which still looks great through a small telescope. It's exactly the same brightness as **Procyon**, the bright star off to its right, which marks the eye of **Orion's** little dog. But if you're one of those who always has a hard time finding any planet you can use the Moon as a finder next week on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Tuesday the 27th an exquisite old crescent Moon will be parked just below Castor and Pollux and right above Saturn, all four almost in a straight line. On Wednesday the 28th an even slimmer crescent moon, complete with **Earthshine**, which looks like a dark full Moon nestled within the crescent, will be parked right next to Saturn, only 5 degrees away. It doesn't get any easier to find it than this.

And now let me update you on Mars which in six weeks will be at its brightest until the year 2018. Simply go outside around 10 pm this week and next, still facing east, and it will bedazzle you with its reddish rouge gold color. As of this week it is outshone in the night sky by only **Venus**, **Jupiter** and the Moon. Now is the time to start watching Mars because although it will reach its very brightest the first week of November it will still be super bright all through October. So please start your Mars watch now. *Jack Horkheimer*



THE STARS HAVE IT

For the week: September 23-29, 2005

By Astrologer Michael Thiessen

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Problems with ear, nose, or the throat are likely. A change of attitude has probably disrupted your home environment. You will be able to talk to your lover about future goals and perhaps make plans for the two of you to take a vacation. Set the ball in motion and be relentless until you complete the project. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You may not see your situation clearly. You will have a problem with your boss if you haven't done your job. You may be up for some changes in your home. Don't share your dilemma with those you work with. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Self improvement projects should be your key concern. Those you live with may be experiencing problems. Opportunities for new and exciting relationships will be yours if you join groups. Feeling under the weather may be a result of overindulgence. Your lucky day will be Friday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Expect temper tantrums on the home front if you haven't been letting someone have their way. You can look into new jobs but don't count on getting help from someone who may have promised you assistance. Be careful what you consume this week. Investments may not be as lucrative as you thought. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You may find that romance will unfold through business connections. You won't impress anyone by being overly generous. Children may cause limitations. You may not be happy if members of your family are not pulling their weight. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Money can be made if your are willing to take a chance. Plan to get out and do a bit of travel. You are best to keep your money tied up in a safe and secure place. You need to spend some time pampering yourself. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) It might be best to keep your ideas to yourself this week. You will gain knowledge through your adventure. You can easily impress others with your generous nature. Don't let your anger consume you and don't allow important matters go unattended to. Your lucky day will be Thursday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Take the time to sort out your personal papers and double-check your financial investments. You're eager to learn. Colleagues may try to undermine you when talking to superiors. Don't lament to a friend about any grievance regarding your mate, or it may be hard to rectify your relationship. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Make plans to attend group discussions or get together with friends who like to talk as much as you do. Do not hesitate to help elders with legal documents that are too confusing for them. Involvement with prestigious organizations will be to your advantage. Avoid getting involved with married individuals. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You can help sort out problems that friends are facing. You may find that your emotional partner will not be too eager to accommodate you. Romance can develop; however, it will most probably be short-lived. You will be able to close any deals successfully. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Do what you can to help them but don't neglect your own family. Try not to let relatives or friends cause any friction with your mate. Difficulties with older females in your family may turn out to be quit trivial after all. You will do well if you mingle with the brass this week. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You'll have a great deal of insight when dealing with others. You need to reevaluate your situation. Someone close to you may need help. Get out and experience the spice of life. Your lucky day this week is Tuesday.