

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE Aug.29 - Sept. 26, 2016 Year 23, Issue 17
The REPORTER
BES Island News Too

P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean, Phone 786-6518, 786-6125, www.bonairereporter.com email: reporter@bonairenews.com Since 1994

Cruise Ships Bring Business

Page 12



Search For Policeman's Killer Continues



Page 9

The Department of Public Health reports that it has received only a few reports of persons who have contracted Zika on Bonaire. Nineteen cases of Zika are known to have had it. Seven people have been infected in Bonaire, eight persons abroad and four persons undetermined. About 80% of infected people have no symptoms, so it can be assumed that there are more people who have had Zika. Anyone who has been through the infection, with or without symptoms, is then protected for life. Also Dengue Fever and Chikungunya are around this year but not so much on Bonaire, with so far 10 reported cases of Chikungunya and 13 of Dengue.

The Department of Public Health has intensified its work since the appearance of the Zika virus on the island and retaken additional preventive measures. Additional inspections have been done in addition to the general mosquito control in neighborhoods, public places and in high-risk locations.

The mosquito index, the number of breeding places of mosquitoes on Bonaire, is low at this time. This is partly because it has hardly rained but also because of the checks carried out effectively under mosquito control.

However, the rainy season is coming and more breeding sites are created which also increases the risk of these diseases. It is therefore important for everyone to cooperate to prevent this.

► **“The conclusion of the study for a fast ferry service between the ABC Islands (Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao) is that it cannot meet essential requirements and the project could possibly be a failure is incorrect,”** said Caribbean researcher Ton Jansen. According to him, the ferry can indeed do a turnaround within half an hour, because Customs and Immigration authorities signed off.



It was anticipated that to attract customers the fare should be set at \$10 one way per person and \$25 for a car. However, Jansen said a ticket for adults from Aruba to Curaçao would cost about \$110 and

for children and seniors \$65. The start-up capital required is about \$6 million and would be paid by the operator.

► **To quickly fill the shortage of pilots that InselAir experienced it was suggested that pilots do not have to pass all their exams again.**



Pilots with experience on the Fokker 50, Fokker 70 and McDonnell Douglas (MD) planes now only have to pass the Air Law exam.

In this way InselAir will be able to supplement its group of pilots this month. Minister of Transport, Suzanne Camelia-Römer said the measure is not in violation of international flight safety norms.

► **Curoil, Bonaire’s primary fuel supplier, promised to install a fill station for cooking gas cylinders by early 2017.**



The local government has long pressed Curoil to come up with a permanent solution to the chronic shortage of gas on the island. Curoil will build the station on a long-term lease of land on Kaya Leiden. When the cylinders can be filled on Bonaire, hopefully the long lines of people who now have to wait, sometimes weeks, to buy refill for a small tank should be a thing the past.

► **In early August the local court handed down one of its toughest verdict in years for goat theft.** According to a police press release: “A man with the initials E.A.W. was accused shortly before Dia di Rincon of theft of some goats. He was also suspected of possessing a shotgun. On April 27, the police on a tip went to a place in Plantation Bolivia, where they found eight slaughtered goats. The robbers fled, but the defendant was later found.

The prosecutor testified that goat theft is a serious crime with stern consequences for the victims. Goat thefts contribute to a deep sense of anxiety among the kunukeros (farmers). The prosecutor

asked the court to impose a suspended prison sentence of 12 months. The judge also commented on the seriousness of these offenses and imposed the sentence.



► **The government’s public safety “Triumvirate,” consisting of the Governor, the Chief Public Prosecutor and the Chief of Police, are cracking down on “fever,” Bonaire’s term for illegal motor vehicle street racing.** In the past the impression was that the government tolerated occasional races and fast/loud vehicles at certain locations such as Kaminda Sorobon / Kaya van Eps.

But the risks and inconvenience are increasing and there are reports of incidents and increasing activity around race locations. In recognition of the interest in motor vehicle racing, the Island Government is working with the private sector to establish an official race site in the future.

The **Triumvirate** emphasized that tolerance is no longer the policy. This means that anyone who participates in road races or “fever,” which is dangerous driving, not only runs the risk of a fine but that that the **involved car, motorcycle or scooter will be confiscated and that the court will not give back the vehicle.**

While these measures may not be implemented immediately, warning has been given.

► **The TCB has partnered with Delta Airlines and launched a “Bonaire Bucket List” social media contest.** TCB Director Maurice Adriaens says, “The objective of this contest is to build awareness of Bonaire’s dive/snorkel and

(Continued on page 3)

This Week's Stories	
20 Years Ago (Parker Project)	6
Team Bonaire Sunfish Sailing	7
Letters to the Editor (Hope For the Future, Is Bonaire Serious About Lionfish?, Is It Worth It?)	7
Evening With Johnny Craane	8
New Citizens	8
Lac Cleanup	8
Policeman Ferry Bakx Killed	9
Reflections (Maneuvering the Mangroves)	10
Super Museum Opens	11
The ELF Gets Help	12
Cruise Ships Bring Business	12
Swine Smart—Animal Farm	15

Departments	
Flotsam & Jetsam	2
On the Island Since... Ann Phelan	4
Picture Yourself— Iceland	5
Wonders of Nature —Open Air Lounge	6
A Garden-Just Do It -More	
On Soil	13
Classifieds, Masthead	14
Tide Table, Sunrise & Sunset	
Times, Moon Phase	14
Did You Know — Sunscreen Bad	15
What's Happening + Cruise Ship	16
Shopping & Dining Guide	17
Pet of the Week (Pluto)	18
Animal Shelter News— Kenneth in Special Olympics, pet shop, “pet spa,” sterilization project.	18
Bonaire Sky Park— Two Triangles	19
The Stars Have It (Astrology)	19

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2) culinary product that we have to offer our visitors, while simultaneously supporting Delta's airlift too. We're encouraging people to share a photo of what is on their Bonaire bucket list, that they need to experience at least once in their lifetime. In return, we'll have the opportunity to make one of our lucky contestants Bonaire bucket list come true."

To enter, you've got from now through September 25, 2016, to upload a photo of a dive/snorkel site or a restaurant that is on your Bonaire bucket list to Facebook, Instagram or Twitter with the @bonairetourism tag as well as the hashtags #BonaireBucketList and #Delta.

Photos of the dive sites and restaurants can be used from your past Bonaire trips, taken from @BonaireTourism's social media channels or from www.tourismbonaire.com.

You must have your social media account settings set to "public," and send your email address to @bonairetourism via direct message. Contestants must be at least 18 years old at the time of entry and a legal resident of the US.

The winner gets two round-trip, coach-class airline tickets on Delta via non-stop Saturday or Sunday service from the winner's nearest US gateway city, plus seven nights' "All Inclusive" stay for two at the Plaza Beach Resort. The complete contest rules and regulations are at tourismbonaire.com/bucketlist/.

► *The New York Post* reported that Fabien Cousteau, the grandson of

French deep-sea explorer Jacques Cousteau, and one of the world's most eligible bachelors, proposed marriage to his girlfriend, real estate dynamo and part-time Spinning instructor Lisa Singer, at the end of an elaborate treasure hunt during their holiday on Bonaire. Cousteau has a base for his nonprofit Ocean Learning Center on the island.

"He proposed to both me and my daughter Dylan," Singer told *The Post*. "Fabien arranged for a boat and took Dylan and I to a protected island (Klein Bonaire? Ed.). We found a bottle washed onshore with a treasure map in it, and we had to find a big X in the sand with a treasure box hidden nearby.

He then got down on his knee and proposed. "Singer was accompanied by her young daughter Dylan when Cousteau proposed to her. "We then had a picnic with champagne and when we got to shore they had a torch-lit beach dinner set up for us." Harbour Village's La Balandra restaurant is famous for its torch-lit dinners.

► **Did you know that more than half of Dutch university courses are taught entirely in English?** The newspaper *Volkskrant* looked at 1,632 different degree courses at the country's 13 universities and found 60% are now in English. When it comes to master's degrees, just 30% are taught in Dutch and three universities only offer master's degrees in English.



► **The Second Bonaire Deepsea Challenge consisting of world record attempts and international free diving competition will be held at several locations on Bonaire from September 2-10.** Static events and the logistics for transporting people and athletes to the competition area will be at the Plaza Beach Resort. Record deep dive attempts will take place downtown on the waterfront boulevard close to It Rain Fishes and Karel's Beach Bar, affording a great view from land. The opening and closing ceremony will be at El Mundo Restaurant, on the 3rd and 10th of September respectively.

This is the second edition of this event, and around 15 athletes from all over the world- UK, US, France, Puerto

Rico, Netherlands, Spain, Venezuela, Russia, Brazil, and Bonaire-are expected. In addition Carlos Coste, 11 times World Record Holder, and Marina Kazankova, Freediving World Champion, will attempt to set a world record: "Longest horizontal distance in the ocean with one breath." Carlos and Marina will dedicate the records to inspire people to preserve and protect the ocean. As well as the world record attempts, the international free diving competition will run the Bonaire Deepsea Challenge, which consists of two major parts:

- A Competition week with four disciplines ranked by the International Association of Free Diving (AIDA).
- Two official World Record attempts by **Carlos Coste and Marina Kazankova**.

► **Caribbean Wind and Sun Vacations is offering a new program: Bonaire Wellness Vacations.** Bonaire's pristine setting is conducive to wellness experiences and a vacation to de-stress and unwind. Combine those with usual Bonaire activities like diving or windsurfing, and a vacation can rise to a new level in personal well-being.

Experienced Bonaire travel professional Ann Phelan will create packages that can add Reiki, Acupuncture, Reflexology, Spa Services, Pilates, Body Balance, Tai Chi and Yoga. Mindfulness meditations are also offered.

Ann is planning Wellness Weeks throughout the year. The first is set for

(Continued on page 5)

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On the Island Since... 2003 – Ann Phelan



Ann Phelan

“I was raised in a small town in Massachusetts. My parents had my sister and me late in life. My mom was a schoolteacher for 35 years, the daughter of an Armenian genocide survivor, and our upbringing was heavily influenced by the Armenian culture and food. My dad was an Irishman from humble roots, who worked very hard to provide for us. Thanks to him I have my Irish passport!

I became a school counselor in a small seaside community in Cape Cod where I was working with children with behavioral challenges and special needs. I taught abduction and sexual abuse prevention. My work was recognized on ‘48-hours with Connie Chung.’ I have a Masters and a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in counseling. But... my real passion was windsurfing. In the cold winter months on Cape Cod I would watch windsurfing videos by a guy in Aruba which featured the kids from Bonaire. I used to think, ‘Oh my God, these kids are really good; I need to see this place!’

At the time I was running professional windsurfing events at Cape Cod – next to my regular job – and in the winter of 2001 I heard the Bonairean windsurfing team was going to be in Florida. So I flew there and when I met them, they had so much enthusiasm, high energy and comradery that it was infectious. I spoke to Byron Trump and he said he would do everything he could to get the team to our event. And when they came, led by Elvis Martinus, they totally dominated all categories, dazzling the crowd with their talent.

After they left I wanted to see the island. I contacted Bonhata because I had – and still have – a Caribbean specialty travel business called ‘Caribbean Wind & Sun Vacations’ and I wanted to see if perhaps I could start marketing it as a destination. So I came and found my way around the island immediately – going to Lac Bay where windsurf magic happens!

At another time in my life I’d lived in the Eastern Caribbean on the island of Antigua. There I met Devon Wynter, a Rastafarian, and we established a life. Later on we got married and had our daughter, Marguerite Wynter. We parted ways when Maggie was two, but I appreciated his presence in my life. Now I have a gift in our daughter. So, she laughs ‘when I first came here, I was used to lush tropical islands with Reggae music and driving on the left, but... this place was crazy with donkeys, flamingos and cactus everywhere. I surfed for one week with

the guys and I was sunburned, got blisters on my hands and was all cut up from falling on the reef, but I never had so much fun in my life. So I came back for Regatta with my daughter and my mom and I was amazed by how well it was organized. My then partner wanted to do an international surfing event and after seeing Regatta I knew Bonaire was the spot. I pulled Elvis aside and said ‘Hey, can we do like a really, really big windsurfing event here?’ And he said ‘Totally!’ That day we had a press conference with Byron Trump and we announced the news to have a professional windsurfing event on Bonaire the following year.

“My vision is that I want to expose the island as a wellness destination...”

I took a leave of absence from my job and moved to Bonaire for a couple of months. With a dedicated group of volunteers we pulled together an amazing event. There were so many prominent people involved that I’m afraid to forget to mention their names, but one couple that stood by us all the times were Alan Gross and Jane Townsend. The event was sanctioned by the professional windsurfing association PWA and we had a \$250,000 purse. The whole community came together. It put Bonaire on the map as a premier windsurfing destination. It was organized in 2002, 2003 and in 2004 and called ‘King of the Caribbean’ after my own event at home which was called ‘King of the Cape.’

Along the way I found out that I loved Bonaire and that I had to immerse myself into it. In 2003 I decided to make it happen. I picked up my daughter who was 10-11 years old and we moved to this little cottage in Playa Pabou on the waterfront. We had no internet, TV or air conditioning and we cooked on one burner. My daughter went to Papa Cornes elementary school where she met lots of challenges, not knowing Dutch or Papiamentu. The first day when I dropped her off and she walked towards school, she looked back at me and said, ‘How could you do this to me?’ I felt I was making a big mistake uprooting her from her wonderful American life and friends, but... I never did things the traditional way.

I was freelance writing for windsurf



Ann and daughter Maggie Wynter

magazines and expanding my travel business, promoting windsurf vacations to Bonaire and bringing a couple of hundred windsurfers to the island every year. Then I was notified by a lawyer that a relative of mine had died and had left me a considerable sum of money. It was my uncle

learning disabilities. My dream would be to train professionals on the island in the areas of intervention, abuse prevention and special needs.

Meanwhile I felt it was time for something new. In the States I was trained in mindfulness meditation, and I want to bring mindfulness to the community here. It has so many amazing benefits that enhance well-being and it’s free; you just close your eyes and breathe. So I met with Maurice Adriaens and Melinda Hassell of TCB and we agreed that it would be wonderful to promote wellness vacations on Bonaire. People can choose from a wide range of activities like Tai Chi, Yoga, Pilates, Reiki, spa services and restorative services, so that’s my new project. I formed a committee with a dedicated group of volunteers who are putting together a wellness initiative that will impact not just tourism but also the local community. Part one of the initiative is to put together a new Taste of Bonaire on November 19th. We’re going to have all different kinds of health food plus a lot of interesting people demonstrating and offering massage, Tai Chi, Yoga and Reiki. Also, we’re partnering with MAS Eventz, who will put on a 5K walk/run before the Taste of Bonaire in the afternoon. Everybody is going to love it. The second phase of our initiative is a wellness festival in 2017. My vision is that I want to expose the island as a wellness destination, but also and more importantly, we want to expose local people to all the wide range of services and skilled people who can enhance their lives.

Well, at the end of the month Maggie is moving to New York City to attend graduate school at NYU and so I will strike a balance between her, my mom, who is 93 now, my Cape Cod life and my Bonaire life. Here my life is simple and I love it. I want to bring more tourists to the island so they can feel the breeze that brought me here.” ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



Picture Yourself With The Reporter in Iceland



Angliet Badjoe, our gardening writer (Just Do It), recently traveled to Iceland. Here she is in front of an awesome waterfall and a glacial pond with our favorite newspaper ■

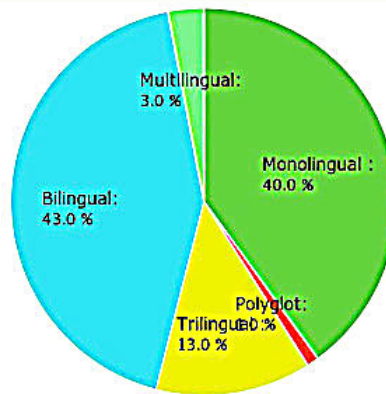
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We need more photos for "Picture Yourself."



Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 3)
May 6-13, 2017. Reserve early. For details email ann@bonairecaribbean.com web site: www.bonairebliss.com

► A reliable source has reported that Inselair now treats passengers very differently if they are victims of flight cancellation depending on where they are stranded. If they must stay overnight in Curacao because of the delay they are provided dinner chits, a nice hotel, transportation and boarding passes by friendly staff. However, if in Aruba in the same circumstances, they are not offered chits, the hotel is shabby and in an unsafe neighborhood and the service personnel unhelpful



► Bonaire is one of the 3% places (six countries out of 196) in the world where more than 50% of the population is multilingual -see chart. Many of the people here speak Papiamentu, Dutch, Spanish and English.

► WEB has a doorknob hanger in four languages to remind Bonaire residents to run their faucets for at least a minute after returning from vacation or a 7-day period of not using tap water. The measure is to prevent Legionella, a potentially serious respiratory disease. Experts agree that water droplets or mist be breathed or aspirated into the lungs to contract the disease. So be especially sure to run your shower water before spraying yourself.



► By popular demand the Bondigro Supermarket will be open on Sundays from 8am to 1pm beginning September 4 .

► The Reporter staff will be on vacation for most of September. Look for the next edition on September 29. ■

G./L.D.

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Wonders of Nature

Every day I see new trash and that makes me wonder. I will share my wondering about this waste and nature with you and hope that this might contribute to putting waste where it belongs: in the landfill.

OPEN AIR LOUNGE

So far I haven't found any evidence along the side of the road that indicates that something has gone wrong with the main characters (Sven and Anita) from my previous stories. No news is good news, I presume. Sven probably is simply relaxing on his new inflatable mattress. I can imagine that he not only does so at night, but is also snoring away on his mattress in the sea and on the beach during his holiday. All is well that ends well.

I will have to find new objects that reveal other stories and people. It appears that they are not so hard to find, because immediately my attention is drawn by a scene that looks very interesting. I see a cozy seating area in the open air, under a tree with a piece of canvas. The residents are not home, maybe they are gone doing some errands. So, I will have to use my intuition to find an explanation for the origin of this phenomenon.

Somehow it reminds me of my story about the office in the *mondi*. Probably the residents of this open-air living room, we will call them Eva and Harold with their two children, Naomi and Elvis, read this story and got inspired. "If people can work in the open air, we can also live in the open air," Harold says to Eva. "Our house is pretty crowded now that Aunt Shahaira and Uncle Nelson with their four children moved in. Ten people in a four-room home is no fun anymore. It seems that they have no plans to leave. What do you think about moving our living room out to the *mondi*, so we only have bedrooms in the house?" Eva says she thinks it's a good idea. "Then at least we have space again to be among each other as family. Also, in this way we let Shahaira and Nelson feel that we need our own space, maybe it works and they will go look for some other accommodation. No sooner said than done. Not far from their home, they set up a living room and the living room in their own home becomes a bedroom. Now they have two bedrooms per family. It suits them well to live in the open air. Nelson and Shahaira also



like it very much this way. During the day they use the bedroom of Harold and Eva as their living room and they have the house to themselves. "It is annoying to me that they come back every time when it gets dark," says Nelson. "Shall we buy them a piece of canvas and some camping beds and torches? Then we have a chance that they stay out overnight." No sooner said than done. Harold and Eva are not as happy with the presents as expected, because they realize that their hint to take off was not picked up by Nelson and his wife. And then it suddenly starts raining like it has not rained in years. Harold and Eva run with Naomi and Elvis to their house to hide. There the Shahaira-Nelson clan members have installed themselves in each chamber without any intention of leaving their rooms. "You have your own living room, don't you? What are you doing here? You have received a tarpaulin from us, so why hide here?" And then the bomb explodes. "GET OUT!" Harold yells. "This house is mine, you go to the outdoor living room and stay there." Well, this is how it happened that six people look for shelter in the dripping rain under a piece of canvas and wait until it gets dry. On Bonaire it is always quickly dry and warm again, so the suffering is over soon. Now there are six people forced to live in the open. Harold, Eva, Naomi and Elvis live happily ever after in their own home. Occasionally they throw some empty beer crates out at the spot where their relatives bivouac. They serve well as a table or stool or part of a bed.

The moral of this story: He who does not want to feel the boundaries of another, will need to hear them.

■ Story & photo by Justine Verschoor



20 Years Ago In These Pages

BONAIRE IN 1996 – 20 YEARS AGO

Looking back at some of the stories from the pages of *Port Call*, *The Bonaire Reporter's* earlier name:

The Parker Project, "The Point," marked the end of government guarantees for hotel development in the Netherlands Antilles.

From May, 7, 1996—A special team of investigators are on the island trying to get to the bottom of the Parker Project-Point Hotel scandal. Five years ago the Government of the Antilles, with the backing of Holland, guaranteed a loan to Robert Parker, a hotelier from the US, to build a 5-star resort hotel near the airport in the area locally called Flamingo Paradise. The project was built by Stephany Construction, an Italian firm. An international staff was hired and brought to the island. Training of local people was begun. But completion dragged on. Then, just before the hotel was to open, Parker pulled out, saying he'd run out of money and had sold to new owners. The new owners turned out to be his cronies who proceeded to shut the project down.

Large debts were left unpaid to local businesses, employees were owed salaries and there seemed no way to collect. The hotel, filled with furniture and looking complete to a quick glance, remained closed for years until it was purchased last year (1995) at a fraction of its construction costs by the Dutch van der Valk hotel chain and opened as the Plaza Resort. When Parker pulled out the government was left having to pay the loan to the lending Swiss bankers – which cost the taxpayer approximately NAf 18.000 (\$10,000) a day until paid off. Allegations of bribes to officials, disappearing millions and other irregularities were made but never proven.

Follow-up from the May 28, 2004 Bonaire Reporter— The story of the Parker Project, "The Point," the resort in Bonaire which lay unoccupied for years until reopening as the Plaza Resort, has finally reached an end. The original developer, **Robert Parker**, conned the Central Government into providing a loan guarantee, attracted a respected hotel manager, **Thor Loweberg**, and dozens of young, enthusiastic staff to settle in Bonaire. Then on the eve of opening the nearly completed hotel Parker fled the island never to return. The resort wasn't able to open and the Central Government was stuck with an estimated \$30 million debt. Parker was never prosecuted by



The Point Resort, almost completely furnished and landscaped, remained shuttered for several years.

Antillean authorities, but years later he was arrested for a similar scam involving a New York parking garage. Thor Loweberg, the manager, an innocent victim paid his staff from his own pocket, stayed on Bonaire long after the scandal was made public, but some say, as a broken man. He became seriously ill and died in Norway not long after leaving Bonaire. Other careers were wrecked and some Bonaireans never got paid for their services.

Some say the huge debt accumulated by the Parker Project was a key factor in introducing a sales tax to the Antilles. Last month the debts were finally resolved by a final payment to the Italian finance and credit insurance company, SACE/Infrafin. The settlement cost Antillean taxpayers tens of millions of guilders.

When the unfinished resort was finally sold after being empty for three years it brought only \$8.5 million. Reportedly, the buyer, **Steff Raspoort**, then sold it to the **Dutch Van der Valk** hotel chain a few weeks later for \$13 million. The government eventually negotiated a 40% discount on the original debt amount, but after interest and other expenses the principle debt amount was still \$43.8 million. In the final deal, \$26.3 million was paid right away and then \$8.7 million a year for five years, at an interest rate of 2.5% instead of the original 8%.

The original name "The Point" lived on in promotional material for The Plaza Resort Bonaire and its Caribbean Point restaurant. ■ G./L.D.

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Letters to the Editor

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Dear Editor:

I sincerely hope a lot of people read the article on page two of the August 8 – 29 Reporter: "Preserving Bonaire as a Tourism Destination . . . and For Its People." The article makes me believe that Hugo de Jong of "Green Destinations" did an excellent job of identifying the key issues that need to be addressed on Bonaire for a positive future for the island and its people. Let's hope Mr. de Jong's full, official report develops in detail his first impressions. Then the right people and officials on Bonaire and in the Netherlands need to read the report carefully and make the policies and take the actions necessary to preserve Bonaire for future generations.

Bill Mulvey, Sabadeco



IS BONAIRE SERIOUS ABOUT LIONFISH?

Dear Editor:

I just now came across your publication and find it wonderful. I fell in love with Bonaire in January 2010. I've been on island twice and am returning for another two weeks. I've dove numerous places including some that claim to be "the diving capital of the world" (Coco View Resort, Roatan and Grand Cayman) and found them disappointing in the extreme after diving Bonaire. Nowhere in the Caribbean compares to Bonaire

I have a comment and a question.

First the comment. Here in the USA we have a monumental feral hog problem that we will never be able to get on top of. I didn't realize that Bonaire had feral pigs, even if only a few. I would urge the government to import hunters or trappers and eliminate the entire population. One thing your article didn't mention is how early and frequently they produce huge litters. If you don't wipe them out now and the breeding population reaches a threshold there will be no stopping them and the island will be overrun. They are a serious danger to people in many parts of the USA and it's not limited to just rural areas. I would hate to see that happen on Bonaire.

Now my question. There seems to be a lot of concern over the lionfish invasion across the Caribbean. I say seems because no island makes it possible for visiting divers to help with the problem. On Bonaire, if I want to kill lionfish I need to take a certification course for \$150 and I'm fine with that. However, if I want to hunt lionfish after certification I can only do it on a guided dive costing \$55. It

seems to me Bonaire is using the lionfish as a revenue source for dive shops and is not serious about wanting to get rid of as many lionfish as possible. Why is it that there is no effort to recruit skilled visiting divers to help with the problem rather than just going for the tourist dollar?

I understand that not every visiting diver has the necessary diving skills. I've seen way too many divers swimming right through multiple soft corals and bryozoans, holding on to coral to get a picture, etc. However, some of us have near perfect buoyancy and trim. We have a very serious respect for the reef life. And we would like to help without it costing us a large amount of money after certification. It really looks like the islands (Bonaire included) don't really want to be serious about curbing the lionfish population.

No other diving certification requires you to pay for a guided dive when you use that certification. Also, when inquiring about the lionfish course and subsequent hunting I received an email saying if I tried to bring any hunting equipment onto the island it would be confiscated at the airport along with all my diving gear and I would be subject to a huge fine. All I had asked was if the cost of the course included the cost of the spear. Not at all encouraging.

If the islands aren't going to be serious about curbing the lionfish population I wish they would stop blowing smoke and whining about the problem.

Fred Bates

IS IT WORTH IT?

Dear Editor:

In case you all hadn't noticed so many of the folks that have been residing on the island for many years have gone back to the Netherlands, America, or Aruba and perhaps for good reason. The island is not the same as when you arrived back in the last century. Some things have changed for the better, others not.

Not everyone finds their 'paradise' here. I don't know anyone that came here, struck it rich and retired early. Perhaps many of these former letters to the editor writers are those that have left.

Perhaps writing opinions or trying to change or convince others of a different point of view is like peeing into the wind, so they give up.

Perhaps no matter what anyone thinks, there are always those opposed to enjoying our wild wonderful donkeys, those opposed to cruise ship tourism, those frustrated with the police failure to thwart crime, sinking real estate prices thanks to Bonaire's policy of handing out new building permits to anyone that can sign their name, so no matter how many letters to the editor are written, nothing will change, so why bother?

They just go to the beach instead.

El Capitan, sent from iPhone on Te Amo Beach.



The Bonaire National Sunfish Team is getting ready for the Sunfish World Championships to be held in November in Cartagena, Colombia. On a recent Sunday they held some short demonstration races sailing close to Coco Beach. The Sunfish sailing team consists of youth sailor **Andres Joven, Peter Winter Throwing, Sipke Stapert, "Yellowman" and "Grandpa."** Andres and Peter will join the "Sunfish Worlds" for the first time. Yellowman has competed eight times, Sipke already 10 times and reached 10th place last year- a great result. "Grandpa Ton" will defend his world title in the "Grand Master Class" (say the AOV-ers).

At the time of writing we have **Digicel, Buena Vista Optics, Akkermans Auto Supplies, E-zone, Jibe City & Hang Out Bar, Rocargo and Don Andres** pledged sponsorship. Other sponsors are very welcome.

Want to learn to sail yourself or want to sponsor? Please contact the Bonaire Sailing School Association: 717-4052. ■ *Press Release*

Fundraising

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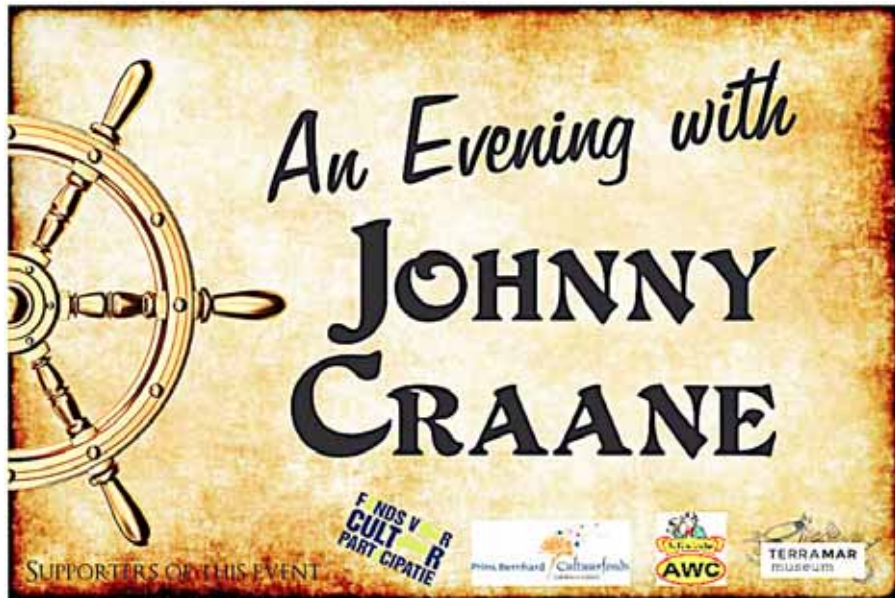
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On Friday night, August 20th, over 100 people met at the new Terramar Museum for "An Evening with Johnny Craane." This event featured 15 stunning historic maritime photographs contributed by **FuHiKuBo (Fundashon Históricu Kultural Boneriano)** and tours led by local boat builder **Johnny Craane** in three languages. The highlight of the evening was when Johnny and **Luzday Zambrano** (pictured above) co-hosted the Papiamentu tour. Luzday spoke about her family, the Marchenas, prominent boat builders of Bonaire during the last century. Last year, Zambrano completed Project Stormvogel's Junior Shipwright program, an educational outreach effort to teach youth through hands-on experiences about Bonaire's nautical past.

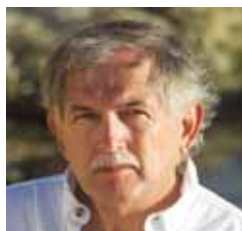


Historian./Journalist Boi Antoin and Captain John talk

The Bonaire Maritime Heritage Foundation (*Fundashon Patrimonio Marítimo Boneiru*) organized the event in cooperation with **Ruud Stelten**, director of the Terramar Museum. The foundation raised \$1,535 and all proceeds will go to the historic restoration of *Stormvogel*, the last of the sailing cargo ships of the ABC Islands. Part of that money came from **Jacinto Frans** who donated \$25 for a "glass-full of nails." The boat will need thousands of bronze nails during the restoration to fasten new planking and decking. Each nail costs 22 cents. While silicon bronze nails are expensive, they combine superior strength and corrosion resistance-both very important characteristics for wooden boats. There were 113 nails in the glass displayed at the Terramar terrace. That equals a \$25 contribution, which Jacinto Frans gladly paid. When the planking of *Stormvogel* begins, Jacinto will have the unique opportunity to pound some of the nails he bought into the old boat.

"An Evening with Johnny Craane" was made possible by many. Helping with the event was a super volunteer crew of **Bob Craane, François van der Hoeven, Hettie Holian, Jane Disko and Ilsa Bancroft.** The Antillean Wine Company and **Best Brands Bonaire** made donations to the festivities. Sound services were provided by **Michiel van Bokhorst** and videotaping by **Hendrik Wuyts** of Bonaire Vision Films. The **Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds** for the Caribbean region supplied funding for the digital reproduction and museum-quality framing of the 15 historic photos. ■ *Story & photos by Patrick Holian*

Next up for the foundation is the Bonaire Maritime Film Festival slated for January. Details for this new event will be forthcoming in the following months.



New Citizens



On Thursday, August 25, 2016, a naturalization ceremony took place in the hall of The Island Council building (Pasangrahan). Six people pronounced the oath of citizenship to Governor Edison Rijna. Then they formally received the Dutch nationality, including all rights and obligations as active and

passive voting rights and a Dutch passport.

The Governor said in his speech that this group of naturalized citizens have been living for some time in Bonaire. They have made a positive contribution to the development of Bonaire. ■ *Press release*

Lac Cleanup



The area around Lac is again neat and clean. The old toilet stall on Cai has been removed as well as the concrete residue on the southern tip of Cai. Furthermore, around Lac between the mangroves, a lot of plastic waste was removed. Several illegal structures made from old pallets were demolished. **There were 18 truckloads of waste weighing 122,000 kilos trucked to the landfill for disposal.**

The photos show photos before and after

cleaning. Such a major cleaning should be done annually. Lots of plastic waste from the sea washes up on the beaches and among the mangroves.

The clean-up is part of a much larger project called "Ecological Restoration Lac Area and Southern Bonaire". The project aims to increase the accessibility and biodiversity of these areas. **The work is funded with environmental improvement funds made available by the Dutch government.** ■ *Press release*

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The Bike Professionals

Policeman Killed In Line Of Duty



Officer Ferry Bakx (RIP)

The almost unthinkable happened on Bonaire. A police officer was killed in a shootout while responding to a home invasion at 10 pm on August 17. **Police officer Ferry Bakx (45) was hit in a shootout with the robbers** and died en-route to the hospital. According to a first-hand report published in a Dutch newspaper, five people were at home in a residence in Sabedeco, an upscale Bonaire neighborhood, at the time of the attack.

The intruders, who entered through a kitchen window were armed with firearms. They demanded money and valuables and threatened to shoot the woman and her 12 year-old son when only \$400 could be found. Three of them held the family in the bedroom while the others ransacked the house taking car keys, money, valuables and jewelry from the victims.

The housekeeper, who was in her apartment on an upper floor speaking to her friend on the phone, realized a robbery was underway and asked her friend to call the police.

Two officers responded and arrived while the intruders were still in the house. One entered through the front while the other to the back to prevent escape. In the ensuing shootout Officer Bakx received severe gunshot wounds. Neither officer was wearing body armor. All the intruders escaped into the rough bush area behind the house.

Additional details are scanty at this time. A major in-



Dutch Marines searching the trail



Watch and hat found near the shooting scene



A hero's salute at the airport. On Bonaire it is traditional for water to be poured in the wake of the deceased. The fire brigade used one of their pumps to spray the salute

vestigation which, in the manner of major criminal investigations has been given a name, DRUM, is still underway.

The nearby area was cordoned off and trackers from the Dutch Marines arrived to trace the path of the escaping men. Several items were found in the bush including a hat and watch thought to belong to an intruder. A search warrant was executed and an arrest was made in connection with a possible escape vehicle but at press time no one has been charged with the crime. The person arrested was released after questioning. A \$10,000 reward has been offered for information leading to the apprehension of the killer and his cohorts. Police are asking for help from the public and the anonymous tip line opened. +599-717-7251. Some useful tips have already been received.

More than a dozen investigators arrived from the Netherlands to assist in the investigation. Nearby Dutch islands have also provided men and expertise.

The Bonaire people have been pouring out their grief for the policeman in the past weeks. Thousands of people lined the streets as Bakx's body was driven to the airport for transport to the Netherlands. Fellow officers assembled for a hero's salute plane side. A 400-person silent candle-light march through downtown Kralendijk was held on the week anniversary of his death. His life partner, Anita Smits, head coach of the Bonaire Swim Team, showed exceptional strength during the ceremonies and was given special honors. Ferry's body was cremated in Tilburg, The Netherlands, last Saturday in with great dignity and honors from his colleagues.

Ferry Bakx arrived from The Netherlands in January 2013 and was living and working on the island since. According to some who knew him personally, he was an exceedingly nice person and was planning to soon retire from the force and live on Bonaire. ■ G.D./Photos from Internet sources

This story cannot even begin to express the sense of shock and grief that has spread through the Bonaire community



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Reflections on Dushi Bonaire

Reflections on Dushi Bonaire

MANEUVERING THE MANGROVES

"Nature doesn't need people. People need nature. Human beings are part of nature. Nature is not dependent on human beings to exist. Human beings, on the other hand, are totally dependent on nature to exist. The growing number of people on the planet and how we live here is going to determine the future of nature. And the future of us. Nature will go on, no matter what. It will evolve. The question is, will it be with or without us?" - Conservation International

When sister Heleen and her family came for a week's visit to our *dushi* Bonaire early last February, Bob and I offered up a variety of Bonaire outdoor adventures: spelunking (caving), climbing/rappelling, hiking, bird watching, team building or kayaking with us and Outdoor Bonaire. Since both hubster and I had enjoyed previous Outdoor Bonaire adventures with Hans, it seemed only natural to choose his company again for our dauntless deeds. To Heleen's husband, the idea of climbing/rappelling or spelunking seemed especially invigorating; to the rest of us, not so much. My husband proposed bird watching as another option, which was met with loud protests from the little laddies. "Borrriing!" With both hubbies silenced and snubbed, Heleen and I questioned the boys about their wants. "Duhhh" -- kayaking of course.

So off we went. It was a bright and blowy day. Perfect for some mangrove maneuvering. Just before clambering aboard in our sleekly cuspidated vessels, misfortune struck. As hub miss-stepped and saluted, unwillingly, the turtle grass from up close and personal, I searched frantically and in vain for our missing water bottles. My sister's kids, having no patience for all this nonsense, jumped their chosen kayak and took off so fast -- not waiting for Hans' instructions -- that they splashed themselves thoroughly, nearly capsizing their boat in the process. I could tell Hans was duly impressed with my fam-



Through the mangrove tunnel



Breakout into the open sunlight onto a still "lake."



Mangrove prop roots are the key to the tree's success

ily's goofy antics -- and the voyage had not even begun.

Minutes later, our subdued little group, including three rather soggy-looking individuals, paddled off into the blue and green water wilderness. While the husky men worked out their arm muscles attempting to propel the kayaks forward, Heleen and I sat back admiring Bonaire's special beauty (and our hubbies' powerful strokes). Meanwhile,

Hans narrated passionately about our bountiful surroundings. Since I'm also a certified tour guide, I had managed to garner a bit of knowledge about our mangroves. However, compared to Hans, I'm a mere novice.

Mangrove shrubs and trees, which grow in brackish or saline water, are an important nursery for fish and birds. They also protect our coastline from storms and even hurri-

canes while filtering sediment washing or blowing out from land. Mangrove forests also store more carbon dioxide than most other types. These plants are tolerant to salt and adapt to their habitat, which includes, besides harsh saline conditions, waterlogged mud with low oxygen content. Birds, fish, turtles and crustaceans all benefit from the mangroves. There is an abundance of food for them and particularly good shelter for juveniles.

The **red mangroves**, typically found in the proximity of deeper water, grow aerial roots which arch into the water, prompting early-American Indians to call them "walking trees." These so-called prop roots are crucial for two reasons: first, they make sure the tree will remain upright and, second and even more importantly, the roots are exposed to air which brings oxygen to the red mangrove. What's more, the plants have themselves evolved a kind of reverse-osmosis process to desalinate their surrounding sea water in order to secure the fresh water that they need for growth and propagation.

The **black mangroves** are mostly located on slightly higher elevations. Unlike the red mangrove, this species does not grow on prop roots. These shrubs possess specialized aerial roots, which enable them to breathe air, even submerged in salty, waterlogged sediment. If these roots come up from soil, as is the case on Bonaire, they're named aerating roots, again extracting needed oxygen from the air.

The **white mangroves** grow in coastal areas, such as bays, lagoons and tidal creeks. White mangrove habitats are typically found more upland than the aforementioned mangrove species, and generally above the high tide mark. Prop roots may be present, depending on environmental conditions. (For a more complete discussion of these incredible plants and other local species, by all means see Bart A. De Boer, [Our Plants and Trees. Curaçao: Stichting Dierenbescherming, 1996.](#))

Hans explained how mangroves are creating their offspring. Fascinating! They have small flowers hanging upside down. These mangroves drop their pollen and rely on the wind for pollination. Once pollinated, the trees develop small fruits. The tiny fruits

stay put until their seeds germinate and become long torpedo-shaped beans. Because of their shape and size, the now full-grown seeds fall into the water and sink to the bottom or become stuck in an algae patch. The seeds can then grow slowly into a tree. Or another possibility is that the mature seeds float in the water, horizontally and later vertically, while traveling with the tides to another place to "anchor." After an even longer flotation period, they may become suspended under water until finally reaching a bottom from where they can grow further.

Even the boys listened up when Hans confronted us with the fact that mangroves are an endangered species. Maybe not on Bonaire but definitely in other parts of the world, like South-East Asia and South America (also Florida. Ed.) Because of coastal development and infrastructure (tourism), mangrove habitats are being disturbed or worse, destroyed. Another crucial reason mangroves are threatened is the development of shrimp farming. Why? Shrimps and mangroves happen to thrive in the same habitat, which includes warm water and lots of detritus. Such areas are flat and relatively easy to reach, while other places would be far more expensive to develop. Building shrimp farms causes the annihilation of forests that otherwise provide people with fish, birds, environmental oxygen and coastal protection. Moreover, the use of antibiotics, a necessary (and malevolent) ingredient of the shrimp industry, will kill the whole area in just a few years. Consequently, shrimp farmers continually need to rebuild their farms elsewhere. This process has been repeating itself for decades, all over the world.

Our posse remained silent after Hans' revelations regarding the shrimp industry. It's truly a horror story for us nature aficionados; however, we do love our shrimp. We promised Hans not to devour anymore shrimp. But when we returned home, guess what was on the menu? ■ *Story by Karen B. Gilmour. Photos by Heleen Bastiaensen.*

With many thanks to Hans Voerman for providing me with info and fun facts. See pg. 14 for his ad or call 785-6272



Super Museum Opens



Della welcomed visitors



"Captain Don and the people of Bonaire fell in love with this wooden figurehead in the early 1960s, when the 'Gouden Verrader' proudly rode the ship's bow that served as the bar at the Flamingo Beach Club," said Janet Thibault, donor of the figurehead.



Director of the Terramar Museum Ruud Stelten led a tour for officials and public

As reported in our last edition a gala opening of the new Terramar Historical and Archeological Museum at the outdoor Museum Square was held on Friday, August 5, to the delight of a standing room only crowd. This is the first time such a modern, comprehensive and user friendly museum has been set up on Bonaire.

Ruud Stelten, director of the Terramar Museum explained how it came to be: "When I first presented my idea about a museum on Bonaire to Huub, Roland, and Bert, nearly two and a half years ago, I could never have imagined that it would turn out like this. The idea I had was simple: to set up a high-quality interactive museum that would, for the first time on the Dutch islands, show the history and

archaeology of the entire region. Well let me tell you, that was easier said than done!

A question I've been asked many times already, is why a museum about the entire Caribbean? There is a simple reason for this. For thousands of years, the islands in the Caribbean have been connected in many different ways. People, goods, and ideas have been exchanged throughout the entire archipelago, starting with Amerindian people who first colonized the islands from South and Central America 7,000 years ago. But the story does not end there. The history of the Caribbean is also one characterized by cultural encoun-

ters: Amerindian groups meeting European explorers, enslaved Africans shipped to the region by the millions, and even laborers from India who were hired as cheap labor after slavery had ended. These cultural encounters took place on all islands in the region. Therefore, the history of one island can't be viewed independently from the histories of surrounding areas. This is exactly what we've tried to show in the museum: the shared history of the islands that make up the Caribbean. But, as we are on Bonaire, our own island features prominently in the exhibitions.

This museum is the result of years of hard work by many people including Janet Thibault, who has provided us with one of the most beautiful pieces we have on display, a 150-year-old wooden figurehead known on Bonaire as the 'Gouden Verrader.'

Undoubtedly many tourists will visit our museum, but I also hope that many Bo-

nairean people will pay us a visit. It is our goal to open the visitor's eye to the many facets of the islands' history, and I hope that after your visit to the museum, you will view history from a different perspective."

"You will also find the first temporary exhibition we have in the entrance room. This photo exhibition, showing sailing ships from the ABC islands in the early 20th century, was provided by Patrick Holian from the Stormvogel project. This is a perfect example of the shared history between the islands that I just mentioned." ■

L.D./press release

The Terramar Museum is open Monday-Saturday, 9am-6pm. Entrance \$10, Bonairean residents, \$5, children under 12, free. 717-0423 or 780-4327. www.terrarmuseumbonaire

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The ELF Gets Help

Bonaire divers keep the lionfish population down by using the specially designed spear gun, called the ELF. There soon will be other ways to **E**liminate **L**ion **F**ish.

A US non-profit company has designed an innovative method of controlling the spread of lionfish. Robots In Service of the Environment (RISE) joined deep ocean research charity, Nekton, off Bermuda to test a prototype to operate remotely in deep water to locate and deliver a fatal electric shock to the invasive species. The Lionfish Terminator — not the robot's official name — is cousin to a vacuum cleaner.

Two designs are leading the way. One model carries a spear gun, matching how human divers typically harvest lionfish. The second model will electrocute the lionfish by using a robot arm equipped with two metal electrode paddles. Lionfish interacting with the second RISE prototype swim between culling pad paddles connected to an underwater robot operated via video link. The carcasses will be collected for disposal or sold at market.

The lionfish, whose Latin name is *Pterois*, is native to the Indo-Pacific. Artificially introduced by humans to the Atlantic basin about 30 years ago, it is estimated that there are more than one million in the Atlantic waters and throughout the Caribbean where they face no natural predators. Lionfish devastate the local fish populations because they are not recognized as a threat by native juvenile fish and crustaceans. This makes it easy for them to indiscriminately gorge, eating as much as half their body weight per day. Sexually mature at just 12 months, females spawn approximately 30,000 eggs every four to five days. Genetic analysis argues every single lionfish in the Atlantic descended from fewer than 10 lionfish females.

Bonaire is a leader in lionfish culling. Bonaire allows spear fishermen with special permits that catch lionfish on diveable reefs, but lionfish survive at depths beyond the reach of recreational divers. Currently there isn't an effective way to conduct mass culling or kill deep dwelling lionfish.

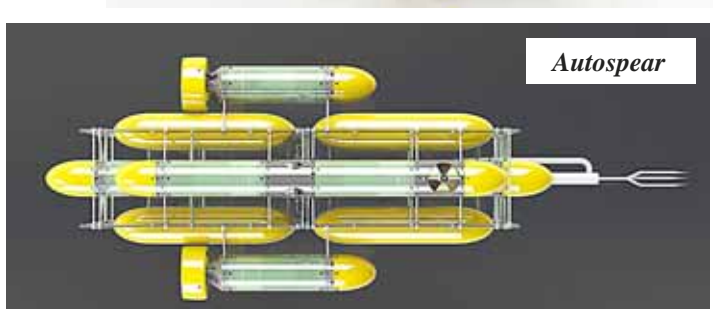
RISE's executive director John Rizzi said the Bermuda test was a success. "Lionfish are not naturally afraid of anything so they swam in and around it. Once we have completed a number of similar trials over the next nine months, we intend to build our first commercially viable devices." ■ G.D./ Press release



Lionfish



Lionfish "Terminator" Zapper



Autospear

Cruise Ships Bring Business

Despite rumors to the contrary cruise ships contribute to the Bonaire economy. The recently released Caribbean cruise analysis conducted by US-based research firm BREA (Business Research & Economic Advisors), reveals **\$9.4 million in total cruise tourism expenditures in Bonaire during the 2014/2015 cruise year**, specifically in the categories of shore excursions, watches and jewelry, clothing, food, beverages and local crafts.

Local businessmen have invested money in equipment, staff training and promotion to achieve this result.

The study showed that cruise passengers were very satisfied with their "overall visit" to Bonaire, giving a mean rate of 7.6 and a 7.0 for "visit met expectations". The "guided tours" received the highest score of all visit attributes with a mean score of 8.4. This indicates passengers were very satisfied with their onshore excursions on the island.

Bonaire's Cruise Head Tax is set at \$2 per person; The TCB is aiming to increase the amount beginning January 2018 to \$3.50. In Curacao cruise lines are currently being charged \$3.50 per head. This will go up to \$4, then \$5.50 and finally \$8 after 10 years

Based on data collected from the Tourism Corporation of Bonaire, **181,830 cruise passengers arrived aboard cruise ships during the 2014/2015-cruise year.**



Of these, an estimated 81% disembarked and visited Bonaire. Using additional data provided by the Tourism Corporation and visiting cruise lines, 47,275 crew were aboard the cruise ships and 37% disembarked and visited.

According to the BREA study findings, onshore visits of cruise passengers and crew contributed a total of \$9.4 million in direct cruise tourism expenditures into Bonaire's economy; \$8 million of which was spent by the estimated 146,737 cruise passengers that visited and \$523,323 by the estimated 17,511 crew for the entire 2014/2015 cruise year. Cruise visitors to Bonaire registered an average per passenger expenditure of \$54.22.

Summary:

The \$9.4 million in total cruise tourism expenditures provided direct employment of 116 Bonaire residents and \$1.9 million in wages over the year. ■ G.D./Press release

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A Garden? Just Do It

MORE ABOUT SOIL

In the last issue of *The Reporter* I wrote about the five types of soil which we can find on Bonaire. But soil alone is not enough to have a green healthy garden where plants grow nice and fast and look good. For a green garden one needs to have some knowledge about healthy soil with the best conditions for growing plants. And this healthy soil is what you have to make and mix with all kind of natural stuff, considering what you want to plant. Read this carefully and start to experiment. If it does not work out the first time, don't give up. Change and mix the different soil and stuff again and you will see how great your efforts will pay off. Put the first and second article about soil together so you can view the whole subject.

Soil life: A healthy organism population is essential to healthy soil. These little critters make nutrients available to plants and bind soil particles into aggregates that makes the soil loose and fluffy. Soil organisms include earthworms, nematodes, springtails, bacteria, fungi, protozoa, mites, ants and many others.

Organic matter: Adding compost will improve almost any soil. The texture of silty and clay soils not to mention their nutrient levels, are radically improved from initially having the compost mixed in. All soils get better with annual applications on top. Compost and other materials hold soil particles together in aggregates and help to retain moisture. They also absorb and store nutrients that are then available to plants, and compost is a food source for beneficial micro organisms. Making your own compost can be easy as piling brown layers (straw, leaves) and green layers (grass, clippings, livestock manure, food waste) on top of one another. Keep the pile moist and turn it often.

Mulch: Organic (straw, hay, grass, clippings, shredded bark) cover the soil and insulate it from extreme heat and cold. Mulches reduce water loss through evaporation and deter the growth of weeds. They break down slowly, enriching the soil with organic matter. If you want to improve your soil structure, use a clean, seed-free, high quality garden mulch.

Fertilizer: There are dry fertilizers and liquid fertilizers. The difference is that dry fertilizers work more slowly than liquid fertilizers but last longer.

Fertilizer blends contain different amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Additional synthetic fertilizers are bad for the environment and can make the soil worse in the long run as beneficial micro organisms are killed off.

Cover crops: Cover crops are temporary plantings that help protect the soil from wind and erosion and add valuable organic material. They also estab-

lish a dense root structure that can have a positive effect on soil texture. Cover crops also suppress weeds, deter insects and disease and help fix nitrogen.

pH: Whether the soil is acidic or alkaline, adding lots of organic material every year will help balance it out. Wood ash can also raise pH of soil, but applying too much wood ash may result in high pH readings and take nutrients from your soil. Spread only light amounts on top of your soil and turn the soil later.

Soil texture: To make sandy soil less sandy mix 3-4 inch organic matter into the soil. With silty soil mix 1 inch every year. Clay soil will be improved with the additional of 2-3 inches.

Adding organic matter in the form of compost and aged manure, or using mulch or growing cover crops, is the best way to prepare soil for planting. Adding chemicals like fertilizers will replenish only certain nutrients and do nothing for maintaining good, friable soil. Organic matters will help supply everything your plants need.

Air: Just like humans, plants need air, both above ground for photosynthesis and in the soil as well. Air in the soil holds atmospheric nitrogen that can convert into a usable form. Soil oxygen is also crucial to the survival of soil organisms that benefit plants.

Water: All forms of life, including plants and soil organisms, need water, but not too much or too little. Healthy soil should be about 25% water.

The best soils have both small and large pore space. Adding organic matter is the best way to improve the structure of your soil through the formation of aggregates. Additionally, organic matters holds water so that plants can use it when they need it.

In general, vegetable garden soil should be well draining and loose. It should not be too heavy (i.e. clay, soil) or too sandy. All vegetables need a healthy amount of organic material in the soil they grow in. Organic materials serve many purposes. Most importantly, it provides many of the nutrients that plants need to grow and thrive. Secondly, organic material "softens" soil and makes it so that the roots can more easily spread. Organic material also acts like small sponges in the soil, and allows the soil in your vegetable garden to retain water.

Organic material can come from either compost or well rotted manure or even a combination of both.

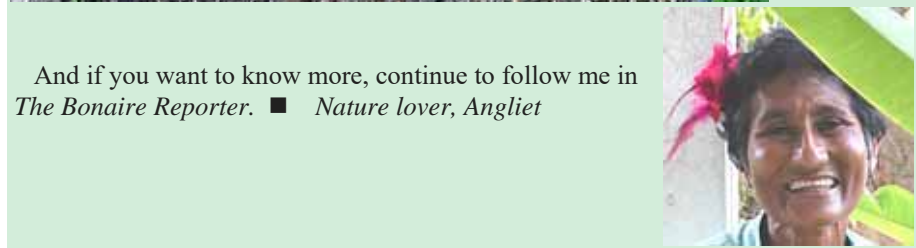
Trace nutrients:

Beside nitrogen, phosphorus like bone meal and potassium like wood ash or green sand, vegetables also need a wide variety of trace minerals and nutrients to grow well. These include: Boron, Copper, Iron, Chloride, Manganese, Calcium, Molybdenum and Zinc.

Well for now I think we have enough information to start with and make our gardens in beautiful green spots in our yard. Just Do It.



Black soil, compost and old rotten tree parts: chop in pieces and mix together for a healthy soil for your garden.



And if you want to know more, continue to follow me in *The Bonaire Reporter*. ■ Nature lover, Angliet

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Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 29		05:56 -0.10 ft	10:48 0.32 ft	16:10 0.08 ft	22:37 0.95 ft	6:25	18:47
Tue 30		06:50 -0.06 ft	11:51 0.33 ft	17:09 0.14 ft	23:31 0.85 ft	6:25	18:46
Wed 31		07:42 -0.02 ft	12:56 0.37 ft	18:18 0.19 ft		6:25	18:46
Sept	00:28	08:31	14:00	19:41	New Moon	6:25	18:45
Thu 01	07:5 ft	0.03 ft	0.42 ft	0.23 ft		6:25	18:45
	01:28	09:16	14:56	21:09			
Fri 02	0.65 ft	0.07 ft	0.48 ft	0.23 ft		6:25	18:45
	02:33	09:56	15:42	22:31			
Sat 03	0.57 ft	0.11 ft	0.54 ft	0.20 ft		6:25	18:44
	03:37	10:30	16:21	23:37			
Sun 04	0.50 ft	0.14 ft	0.61 ft	0.16 ft		6:25	18:43
	04:35	11:00	16:56				
Mon 05	0.45 ft	0.16 ft	0.67 ft			6:25	18:43
		00:31	05:27	11:26	17:29		
Tue 06		0.12 ft	0.42 ft	0.17 ft	0.72 ft	6:25	18:42
		01:17	06:12	11:52	18:01		
Wed 07		0.08 ft	0.39 ft	0.18 ft	0.77 ft	6:25	18:41
		01:57	06:51	12:18	18:33		
Thu 08		0.05 ft	0.37 ft	0.17 ft	0.82 ft	6:25	18:41
		First Quarter	02:36	07:27	12:46	19:07	
Fri 09		0.02 ft	0.35 ft	0.16 ft	0.86 ft	6:25	18:40
		03:14	08:02	13:17	19:42		
Sat 10		0.01 ft	0.33 ft	0.15 ft	0.88 ft	6:25	18:39
		03:52	08:37	13:51	20:19		
Sun 11		0.01 ft	0.32 ft	0.14 ft	0.89 ft	6:25	18:38
		04:30	09:13	14:32	20:59		
Mon 12		0.02 ft	0.33 ft	0.14 ft	0.88 ft	6:25	18:38
		05:07	09:55	15:21	21:43		
Tue 13		0.03 ft	0.35 ft	0.15 ft	0.84 ft	6:25	18:37
		05:45	10:42	16:22	22:32		
Wed 14		0.04 ft	0.39 ft	0.16 ft	0.79 ft	6:25	18:36
		06:23	11:35	17:37	23:28		
Thu 15		0.06 ft	0.46 ft	0.18 ft	0.71 ft	6:25	18:36
		07:02	12:32	19:05			
Fri 16		0.08 ft	0.54 ft	0.18 ft		6:24	18:35
		00:33	07:44	13:30	20:36		
Sat 17	0.62 ft	0.09 ft	0.65 ft	0.14 ft		6:24	18:34
	01:47	08:29	14:27	21:59			
Sun 18	0.55 ft	0.10 ft	0.77 ft	0.06 ft		6:24	18:34
	03:03	09:17	15:21	23:10			
Mon 19	0.49 ft	0.11 ft	0.88 ft	-0.02 ft		6:24	18:33
	04:15	10:07	16:14				
Tue 20	0.46 ft	0.11 ft	0.98 ft			6:24	18:32
		00:11	05:19	10:59	17:06		
Wed 21		-0.10 ft	0.45 ft	0.10 ft	1.05 ft	6:24	18:31
		01:07	06:17	11:52	17:58		
Thu 22		-0.16 ft	0.45 ft	0.10 ft	1.08 ft	6:24	18:31
		Full Moon	01:58	07:11	12:44	18:48	
Fri 23		-0.19 ft	0.46 ft	0.10 ft	1.09 ft	6:24	18:30
		02:48	08:02	13:38	19:39		
Sat 24		-0.18 ft	0.47 ft	0.11 ft	1.05 ft	6:24	18:29
		03:36	08:52	14:32	20:29		
Sun 25		-0.15 ft	0.48 ft	0.13 ft	0.98 ft	6:24	18:29
		04:23	09:43	15:30	21:21		
Mon 26		-0.10 ft	0.50 ft	0.16 ft	0.89 ft	6:24	18:28

The Bonaire Animal Shelter needs donations of pieces of wooden furniture such as tables, chests, and chairs in need of refurbished. Some of the clever artists and crafts persons on



the island will be asked to refinish and creatively decorate these pieces to transform them into genuine collector items.

If you have something to donate please call Dabney Lassiter at 717-3949 or email at dabney38@yahoo.com. to schedule a pickup of the item.

Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter

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How Swine Smart Are You?

This story is a part of an ongoing series contributed by Echo, an organization which has been mandated by the Island Government to conduct a pig control program on Bonaire. For information about this project, please email Julianka@echobonaire.org or call our Pig Hotline at 786-7447 (786-PIGS).

WHO CONTROLS THE FARM IN ANIMAL FARM?

If you remember George Orwell's famous book, *Animal Farm*, you may recall that once all of the farm animals took over, it was the pigs that quickly assumed control. They were the smartest, most clever and greediest, even.

It was probably with good reason that Orwell selected the pigs to be the ones who would take power. In reality, as we have learned, pigs are intelligent, adaptable, and can be highly destructive.

Feral pigs are no exception. And when it comes to agricultural crops, they can mean big trouble for the farmer. In a study conducted in Australia, feral pig diets were comprised of 99% plant matter, of which 60% was from agricultural crops! Now, that was an isolated site in Australia and not necessarily what we are facing here on Bonaire, but it gives you an idea of just how bad it *could* be if we let feral pigs decide where, what and how to eat.

We already learned from the previous article about the impacts feral pig behavior can cause on the land, and farms are similarly vulnerable. And it's not just the crops that will suffer; if a pig is determined to enter into an area, it can (and we've seen evidence of it here on Bonaire) destroy a fence in order to get in.

As you have all probably experienced in your own way, some things are not easy or cheap to come by here on Bonaire. Fencing materials is certainly one of them. Not to mention the investment of time, energy and money to get crops growing in the very dry, rocky soil where water is also expensive. For a few feral pigs to come in and help themselves as if they are at an "all-you-can-eat buffet,"



Wild pig at fence

can set a farmer back significantly. And, this is already happening around the world! In Australia, they are estimated to cause over \$100 million in damages to agriculture and pasture lands. In the US the damage caused by feral pigs to agriculture and the environment is estimated to be \$1.5 billion.

This is why we should "Manage the Damage: Stop Feral Swine" as the US Department of Agriculture (USDA): Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has suggested.

Remember: We Live from our Nature! (*Nos ta Biba di Naturalisa*). ■

Story & photo by Lauren Schmaltz

This story is a part of an ongoing series contributed by Echo, an organization who has been mandated by the Public Entity of Bonaire to conduct a pig control program on Bonaire. For information about this project, please email Julianka@echobonaire.org or call our Pig Hotline at 786-7447 (786-PIGS).

See letter on page 7 for more on pigs.

DID YOU KNOW?

THERE IS A DARK SIDE OF SUNSCREEN: OXYBENZONE.

The topic of coral health is one of high interest to teens. They hear the overwhelming survival odds that coral reefs face worldwide and are eager to do something about it. They have been taught the coral reefs are disappearing faster than rain forests. After all, corals face ocean acidification, climate change, pollution of all kinds, and now sunscreens. Yes, sunscreens. I have been testing sunscreens since 1998. *National Geographic* and other sources, like *The Environmental Working Group*, report that over 6000 metric tons of sunscreens a year enter our water resources. To the point, that's a lot of oxybenzone!

Oxybenzone is a man-made organic compound (made in a lab) that is now called a genotoxicant... meaning that it is toxic to DNA and genes. There is hard scientific evidence that oxybenzone is toxic to the genetics of all invertebrates and vertebrates like coral and you. Take a minute. Read the label on your sunscreens. Do you find oxybenzone or its dangerous cousin, **benzophenone (BP-3)**? Read further. While sunlight is necessary for life (photosynthesis, immunosystem defense, and producing vitamins), some wavelengths of sunlight, including UVA and UVB light, are so powerful that we need to protect ourselves. A lot of sunscreen ingredients come and go. For example, **PABA** (para amino benzoic acid), once the sunscreen superstar, is now banned by the EPA. When science makes mistakes it needs to correct them. Oxybenzone is next. The state of Hawaii has introduced legislation to ban all oxybenzone. The EU is on a similar path. Want to swim, dive, or snorkel in the Turks & Caicos islands or Mexico's marine parks? First, get your sunscreen approved because no oxybenzone is allowed. A new certification process called **MarineSafe** will help buyers beware.

This summer the safe sunscreen controversy has really heated up. Hard scientific evidence was published this winter that calls into question the use of made-made organics because of the damage it does to larval corals and the very important symbiotic algae (*zooxanthellae*). This research was the result of four years of study by a team of 14 PhDs and was



led by ecotoxicologist and coral expert, Dr. Craig Downs, a NOAA scientist. Dr. Downs described what he calls the "zombie effect" – when oxybenzone causes baby corals to seal themselves up and die. These researchers found that oxybenzone is toxic to coral larvae at many levels, causes deformities, and damages coral DNA and chromosomes, especially when sunlight shines on them.

However, the research isn't just about coral reefs. It shows toxic activity in just about everything - humans, fish, dolphins, whales and so on. They found that 97% of humans tested had oxybenzone in their tissue and blood. Furthermore, other man-made organics like *octocrylene* are used to help stick the sunscreen to skin to make it more water resistant. Nice, huh? Are you a "label reader" now? But be careful, the brand name can be misleading as well. It may say "safe for reefs" or "eco-safe" or something similar and therein lies the darker side of sunscreen and science. Marketing about sunscreen, a billion dollar business, includes mathematically impossible SPF numbers, false safety claims, and being completely UV broad spectrum. The good news in the sunscreen world is the availability of a new generation of safe, effective mineral sunscreens. Their elements are found on the Periodic Table (not made in a lab). I've tested many of these. They are rated with *L's* on the 2016 EWG Sunscreen List (www.ewg.org). ■ Bud Gillan

STINAPA thanks Bud Gillan for this contribution. Bud is a biologist, teacher, and researcher from Boca Raton, Florida.





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What's Happening



REGULAR EVENTS

Tanki Maraka Heritage Park and Open Air Museum. Site of an American soldiers' camp during WWII. Self guided tour with excellent signage. After leaving Kralendijk on the Rincon Road watch for sign to the park on the right. Driveway to entrance just a short distance. Free entry.

Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours \$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.

Soldachi Tours—See the Real Bonaire and be transported back in time. Learn about the history, culture and nature by Bonaireans from Rincon. Call Maria Koeks for more information: 796-7870, 717-6435.

Parke di Libertat -Park-playground and canteen (formerly Dare to Care Park) Behind the hospital. Open Monday-Saturday 8am-7pm. Free entry.

Nature Organization, STINAPA, has frequent events— bird watching, sunset hikes, lectures, etc. Go to their website for more information of events for the rest of 2016: stinapabonaire.org/events

Saturdays

•**Marshe di Playa (Bonaire Duodero)**- Every Saturday, 8am-1pm, across from Warehouse Bonaire, locally made and grown products.

•**Marshe di Kunukeru (Farmers' Market) First Saturday of the month,** at Kriabon, Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8am to 1pm.

•**Tera Kora Ranch Market—2nd & last Saturdays**- local produce, clothes, food, games for kids, 2nd hand items

•**Monthly Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei—Usually the last Saturday of the month,** 8am-1pm. See the real Bonaire: traditional music, crafts, local produce, Creole kitchen, educational presentations. Mangazina di Rei is on the Rincon Road, at the eastern entrance to Rincon. Free entrance

•**Bonaire Animal Shelter's Garage Sale (Pakus di Pruga)—every Saturday,** 8am-5pm. At Kaminda Liberador Simon Bolivar, across from Brandaris Café. Tel. 717-4989. Drop off cast offs on Saturdays or at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road weekdays. 717-4989

•**Last Saturday of the month** – donate foods and household items to Food Bank (*Stichting voedselbank Bonaire*) from 9:30am-2pm at Van den Tweel Supermarket

• **Wine Tasting at Antillean Wine Company's warehouse** on Kaya Industria, **Second Saturday of the**

#	Date	Ship Name	Time in Port	PAX	Line
54	7-09-16	Carnival Conquest	1300-2300	2980	Carnival
55	20-09-16	Adventure of the Seas	0800-1700	3114	Royal Caribbean
56	21-09-16	Carnival Conquest	1300-2300	2980	Carnival

month, 7-9 pm. (*Always call to make sure it's on: Tel. +5999-560-7539.*) Snacks and tasting of six wines for \$10 per person.

•**Petanque- Jeu de Boules,** 2:30-6 pm, Landhuis De Tuin on the road to Lac Bai. Info: 786-0150

Sundays

•**Landhuis DeTuin- Real Jamaican BBQ on the terrace** of the land house in the quiet countryside. Jerk Chicken, BBQ Chicken, Seafood Curry, Veggie Dish, Child's plate, Bread Pudding. On the road to Lac Bai – Kaminda Lac #101. Follow the signs, 12 noon to 6 pm. Tel. +599-786-6816, +599-701-1982. A Forsa training school.

Mondays

•**Bonaire Goat Farm Tour—9 am.** Meet the goats, see milking, and more. **\$10 includes tea. Kids \$5. 786-6950-** Also on Wednesdays & Fridays.

•**Happy Hour at Captain Don's Habitat Bar.** The books of Bonaire's dive pioneer, Captain Don, will be available: Island Adrift, Shangri-la, Sea Trauma and the newest book, Reef Windows. 5:30-7pm. Tel. 717-8290.

Wednesdays

•**Bonaire Goat Farm Tour—9am.** See Monday for more information.

•**12-step meeting (AA/NA). Every Wednesday at Bonaire Basics,** Kaya Korona #47. Walk in from 18:45, starts at 19:15, ends at 20:30. Feel free to mail : 12stepsbonaire@gmail.com or 12stappenbonaire@gmail.com for more information.

•**Echo** offers free (donation-based) Public Conservation Tours at 4:30. No reservation needed. For optimal birding, you can also book a private tour by calling 701-1188 or email info@echobonaire.org. Please give at least one day's notice. Private tours are \$25/person with 2 person minimum.

•**Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB)** presents an informative slide show: *Sea Turtles of Bonaire*, at 8pm, every **2nd and 4th Wednesday**. STCB presentation will be taking place upstairs at Yellow Submarine Dive Shop, Kaya Playa Lechi 24 courtesy of Dive Friends.

•**Chess Club** meets at to play starting at 6 pm in Tera Cora Ranch.

Fridays

•**Bonaire Goat Farm Tour—9am.** See Monday for more information

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

Mangasina di Rei, Rincon. See, Feel and Taste the Culture of Bonaire. Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse." Visit homes from the 17th century. Daily. Cultural Market last Saturday of the month. Call 786-2101

Chichi i Tan Museum. Step into the past—a typical old Bonairean home,

furnishings and garden. Open Thursdays through Sundays. Call for reservations 717-3183 or 795-2021 Free but donations appreciated. **Kaya Melon #4, behind Rose Inn in Rincon.**

Washington-Slagbaai National Park Museum and Visitors' Center. Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on December 25th and January 1st. Call **788 - 9015 or 796 - 5681**

CLUBS and MEETINGS

Lions Club meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome. For more information call 510-0710.

Rotary lunch meetings Wednesdays, 12:15-2 pm - Divi Flamingo Beach Resort in Peter Hughes meeting room upstairs above the dive shop. All Rotarians welcome. Call Gregory Obersi 785-9446.

Toastmasters Club meets every two weeks. For more information call Crisita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

CHURCH SERVICES

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints --Kaya Sabana 26 Sunday Services - Papiamentu/ Espanol 9:00 am to 12 noon Add'l Info (599) 701- 9522 Dutch/English 1pm to 3pm Add'l Info (599) 701-2892

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire: (VPGB), Kralendijk, Plaza Wilhelmina; Sunday service-10 am in Dutch. Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian; Sunday service-8:30am in Papiamentu/ Dutch.

Children's club-every Saturday from 4:30-6 pm in Kralendijk, (annex of the church.)

Contact: Marytjin@gmail.com or Daisycoffie@hotmail.com

International Bible Church, Kaya Papago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/ Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob. N. Debrot. Sunday 9am-Worship service in English; 10:45am-Sunday school for all ages. 717-8332 for more info or ride bonaireibc@gmail.com.

Catholic: San Bernardus in Kralendijk – Services, Sunday at 8am and 7pm in Papiamentu.

Our Lady of Coromoto in Antriol- Saturday at 6pm in English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9am and 6pm. 717-4211.

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

Prayer Walk at Rooi Lamoenchi every first Sunday of the Month (or on request) for all followers of Christ. Hours: 4.30 pm till 7.30 pm. Contact Ellen Cochran-Herrera at

ellenherrera-cochrane@yahoo.ca or phone 717-8489 or 005999-540-9800 English//Papiamentu/Dutch/Spanish spoken. ■

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

Tuesday August 30th— Lecture on the mangroves and sea grasses of Lac Bay, from 7- 8pm at CIEE on Kaya Gob. Debrot. Lecturer is STINAPA's Caren Eckrich

Sept. 2-10 —The Second Bonaire Deepsea Challenge consisting of world record attempts and international free diving competition . See story on page 3

Saturday, Sept. 3—Kriabon Farmers Market, 8am-1pm

Tuesday, Sept. 6—Bonaire Day Legal Holiday. Schools and some businesses will also close on Sept. 5

Saturday, Sept. 10— -Bird Watching with Stinapa. Meet at LVV. 717-8444

-**Bonaire Barracudas Fund-raiser BBQ** at Tuli Domacasse Park on the waterfront. 11:30—13:30 Cost \$10. See poster on page 7.

Thursday, Sept. 15— The Dark Side of Sunblock, etc... 7-8 pm at CIEE by Bud Gillan. Free

Friday, Sept. 16—Full moon walk on the Langadishi Trail, Washington-Slagbaai Park, 717-8444

Saturday, Sept. 17- International Coastal Cleanup Day — At Morotin, 717-8444

Tuesday, Sept. 20 –CIEE public presentation- Ostracods . Free.

Saturday, Sept. 24—Lionfish Derby, Great Adventures, Harbour Village

Monday, 26 September— Next edition of *The Bonaire Reporter*

October 12-15 -Bonaire Regatta— More in next edition

SHOPPING, SERVICE and DINING GUIDE

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AIRLINES

Divi Divi Air- Bonaire's "on time airline" with 16 flights a day between Bonaire and Curaçao. Your first choice for inter-island travel. Reserve early to ensure a seat.

BANK

ORCO Bank offers one-on-one attention, personal banking. Each client is a person, not a number. The office is the historic building at Kaya Grandi 48.



BARS

Woodstock - the place to be to meet and have fun with Happy Hours, Dancing, Oldies on Vinyl, Live music and more. Downtown off the waterfront promenade, behind Terramar. Wonderful; atmosphere and warm hosts. Find them on Facebook.

BEAUTY

Hair Affair. Expert hair cutting, styling, facials and facial waxing. Great new shop on Kaya Grandi. Walk-in service too. Find them on Facebook.

BIKES

De Freewieler sells bikes and all kinds of bike accessories. They do professional repairs on almost anything on two wheels. **Have your keys made here too.**

DENTURE REPAIR

All Denture Lab—for the best denture care by an experienced professional. Repairs while you wait. Next to Botika Korona on Kaya J. G. Hernandez.

ON and IN the WATER

Budget Marine has what anyone with a boat needs, and if it's not in stock they can order it quickly. You can also find special hardware for general use and components for solar and wind electric systems. Ad on page 11.

Dive Friends has four dive schools and three retail shops so you always get the best deals and can be assured of top notch training. Remodeled shop, Dushi Style on Kaya Grandi and new dive retail shop at the roundabout in Hato.

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. Off Kaya Industria, behind Lucky Supermarket. See pg. 2

OPTICIAN

Buena Vista Optics is Bonaire's most up-to-date place to get eyeglasses or contact lenses. The combination of experienced personnel and advanced equipment and technology make it a top value.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Bonaire's most creative above or underwater video and still photographer for the wedding or other important events in your life. Drone photography too. ScubaVision, recently renamed Bonaire Vision Films & Photo, has a new website at www.bonairevisionfilms.com.

REAL ESTATE /RENTAL AGENTS

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Sunbelt Realty offers full real estate, rental, and insurance services. If you want a home or to invest in Bonaire, stop in and visit. Ad on back page



RESTAURANTS

Bobbejans— Bonaire's quintessential "rib joint" not only has some of the best ribs but tasty extras like Gado-Gado, pork chops and fries. Open Friday night and weekends only.

Pasa Bon Pizza—Bonaire's quality pizza-Best ingredients, best baking and best taste. Great salads and lasagna too. Eat in or take away.

RETAIL

Dushi Shoes & Dive Friends Shops – featuring Clarks, Guess, DC Shoes, Reefs – as well as Tee Shirts for men and women.

The Tung Fong Store is a great asset to everyone on Bonaire because it stocks so many thing we want: clothes, hardware, food, auto and bike supplies. If you don't see it... ask for it. They probably have it. See page 18.

Penny Lane is Bonaire's first upscale fashion consignment store. Buy fashionable, top brand clothing, high quality toys and more for a fraction of their original price.



SECURITY

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

STORAGE

The Storehouse (Mangazina in Papiamentu) offers Secure Storage for Vehicles, Household Items, Diving and Sporting Gear, Business Files or Inventory. Across from the northern hotel row.



SHIPPING

Rocargo Logistics Services B.V. Air and sea shipments in/out of Bonaire. Customs agents. Professional and efficient. **What would we do without their superb services?** See ad on page 5



WATER TAXI

Get to Klein Bonaire by Ferry. Ride the *Kantika di Amor*. Hotel or downtown pickup The only water taxi to Klein Bonaire with an easy on/off built-in ramp at Bonaire Nautico (It Rains Fishes Restaurant)

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Animal Shelter News **Pets Of The Week**

The Animal Shelter Bonaire is a refuge for dogs and cats that can no longer be cared for by their owners, have been abandoned, or were born in the wild and brought in by concerned citizens and tourists. The Shelter also offers a grooming and boarding place for cats and dogs. There is a gift shop on the premises to help raise money to sustain the Shelter.



PROUD!

Meet Special Olympics Silver medal winner Kenneth Piar.

He has been taking care of the Shelter animals every day for more than 22 years and his special dedication and ability to relate to animals is amazing! As well as his job at the Animal Shelter he is also a very talented athlete and a member of the Special Olympics team Bonaire. Special Olympics team Bonaire transforms lives through the joy of sport, every day, for people with intellectual disabilities. They discover new strengths and abilities, skills and success. The athletes find joy, confidence and fulfillment on the playing field and in life. They also inspire people in their communities and elsewhere to open their hearts to a wider world of human talents and potential. Kenneth, we are very proud and you are an inspiration to us all! ■ *Story & photo by Nathalie Peterson*

Have you visited the Animal Shelter Bonaire **Pet Shop** lately? It's loaded with cat and dog toys, leashes, collars, beds, pet snacks, all items that have been donated so all the proceeds go directly to the Shelter!

In addition the Shelter is now offering "pet spa treatments"- trimming, shampooing, pedicures, etc. Bring in a dirty dog, leave with a glistening, clean one! Again, all the proceeds go to the Shelter, thanks to the wonderful, caring volunteers. (No, they don't take humans...yet!)

The ongoing **Free Sterilization Program** is making a big difference on the island. But there's still more to do. Tell your friends and neighbors that they can have their cats and dogs sterilized free. Call the Shelter at 717-4989 for more information. ■ *L.D.*



PLUTO

Pluto is a very social, loving and handsome young boy. He loves to cuddle and listens very well to humans and knows how to sit and more on command. He also likes to play with all the other dogs and what he most loves is water!

If you are interested in meeting Pluto come and visit the Animal Shelter Bonaire at Kaminda Lagun 26A . For more information call #717-4989/ 701-4989 or e-mail us

and like us on Facebook [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com / www.facebook.com/AnimalShelterBonaire/](https://www.facebook.com/AnimalShelterBonaire/) All the adoptable animals at the Animal Shelter Bonaire are treated against ticks and fleas are de-wormed, vaccinated, micro chipped and spayed or neutered. ■

Story & photo by Nathalie Peterson



In Memory of Police Officer Ferry Bakx.



YOU ARE A HERO

We would like to express our sincere condolences to Anita, friends, family and colleagues of Ferry. Our heart goes out to you all at this difficult time.

- Animal Shelter Bonaire



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THE STARS HAVE IT

September 2016

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Pleasure trips should be on your agenda. Don't let situations get out of control. Plan to get together with someone special later in the day. Opportunities for love will develop while traveling or while attending religious functions. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You might find group functions tiring. Don't invest too much of your own money. Get together with those you find men tally stimulating. An older loved one may be having problems. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Abstain from getting involved with married individuals. You will gain a lot if you listen. You may find that purchases or entertainment could be expensive. You can make major accomplishments while on short trips. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You're likely to encounter new partners if you take short trips. Your emotions will be touched off concerning recent encounters with your lover. Build on friendship rather than starting out in an intimate encounter. You need to look into some private matters before you can proceed with your plans. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) It will be all around you. This may not be the day to get involved in risky joint financial ventures. You will learn valuable skills if you sign up for seminars this month. A lot can be accomplished if you organize your time. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Don't be too quick to judge others. Chances to express your ideas and beliefs can bring popularity as long as you're not arrogant. Your reputation may be at stake if you partake in gossip. Lowered vitality could affect your work. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Don't do something silly just to get back at your mate. Help elders with their concerns. Don't start a dispute unless you're pre-

pared to accept irreversible results. Love relationships will flourish. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Avoid confrontations with coworkers who aren't pulling their weight. You have to let go of your past if you wish to get out of any sentimental mood that might be hanging over your head. Do not lend money or belongings to friends. You will have no problem getting your point across to those in a position to help you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Do you really want to start something with someone you can't reason with? Concentrate on spending quality time with children. Talk to someone with experience about budgets or consolidating debts. You can write beautiful love letters this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Expect temper tantrums on the home front if you haven't been letting someone have their way. You may find travel to be most rewarding. Don't be shy; if you want to spend more time with a special person, make a commitment. Money can be made if your are willing to take a chance. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Put your efforts into job advancement. Don't be too open or put your faith in unreliable coworkers. Your colorful conversation may attract new mates. You may want to get involved in financial investments presented to you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You may find yourself in a heated dispute with a friend if you try to change your mind. You can expect the fur to fly on the home front. Make changes in your domestic scene. You may find that getting together with colleagues after hours will be worthwhile. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday. ■

Michael Thiessen



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

Two Triangles To Start September

Back in May we told you about some triangles you could see in the sky after midnight. Well, thanks to our positioning in the solar system and the arrangement of the planets, we get to see another triangle formed by the planets, and a lot earlier in the night. To see the other triangle you see every year, high over head around this time of year in the Sky Park, face west. The first thing you'll see is the Waxing Crescent Moon among the stars of Virgo the Maiden. The brightest star, Spica is very close to the horizon, and will get caught up in the Sun's glare soon and the triangle will be gone.

Then look toward the south and you'll see the familiar shape of Scorpius the Scorpion. Among these stars is our first triangle of the evening. The northernmost point in this triangle is the ringed planet Saturn. Saturn's rings are tipped toward us in such a way that if you have a small telescope, you'll get a picture-perfect view. Saturn is also getting a little further away from us and getting a little dimmer, so this is the brightest and biggest it will be until next year this time. Make sure you check it out.

The left-most star in the triangle is the red planet Mars. Mars is still fairly close to us, but like Saturn, its also getting farther away and a little dimmer each day. Mars was named after the Roman god of war, because the red color of this planet reminded many ancient people of blood and violence.

The final part of our triangle is formed by the star Antares. Antares means rival of Mars and if you look at it closely, it has the same reddish tint as Mars. However, this red celestial dazzler isn't red for the same reason that Mars is red. Antares is a red supergiant star that's nearing the end of its life. This star is just over 550 light years away from us and it's so large



that you could easily fit the orbits of Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars inside it.

Let's take a look at our second triangle for the month. Again look up an hour after sunset (21:00) and if you look directly overhead you will see the three brilliant stars of the Summer Triangle. Vega is the brightest star of Lyra the Harp. Deneb is the brightest star of Cygnus the Swan and Altair is the brightest star of Aquila, the eagle.

The brightest star in the triangle is Vega and it's only 25 light years from Earth, and is one of the most luminous stars in our neighborhood. The second brightest star in the summer triangle is Altair and it is only 17 light years from Earth. Of all the stars near us, Altair spins the fastest. At its Equator, Altair can make one complete rotation in only nine hours. Compare that to our Sun, which takes 26 days to complete one rotation. The last star of the summer triangle is the blue-white supergiant Deneb. Deneb just happens to be the north star on Mars and is almost 60,000 times as bright as our Sun, however, because it's over 3,000 light years away from us, it appears much fainter than Vega and Altair.

So there you have it, two bright triangles to light up your night sky. ■

the Dean Regas & James Albury

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