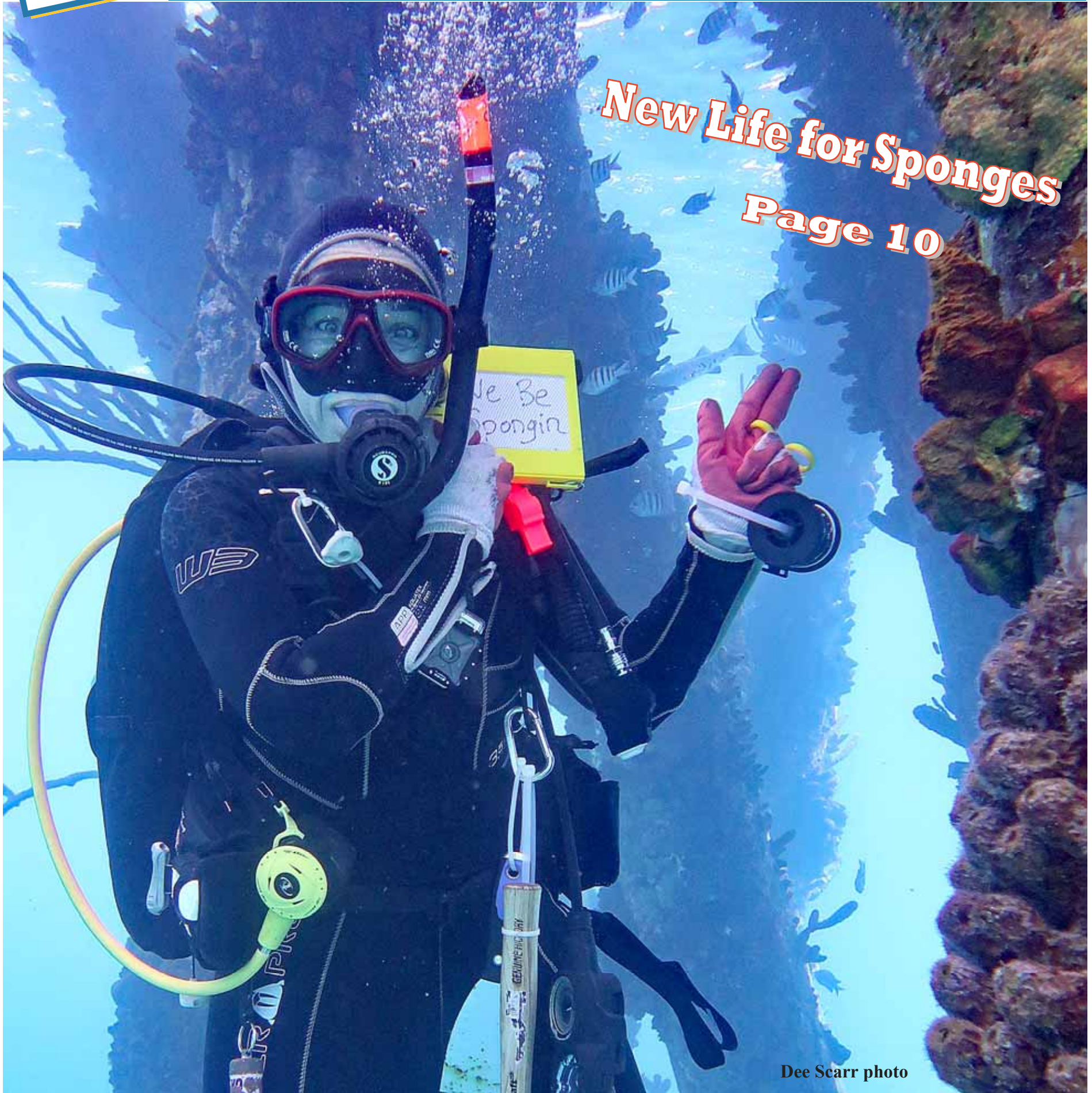


**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE July 30-Aug. 13, 2018, Year 25, Issue 16
The REPORTER

P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean, Phone 786-6518, 796-6125, www.bonairereporter.com email: reporter@bonairenews.com



New Life for Sponges
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Dee Scarr photo



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Illegal blocks waiting removal

STINAPA is enforcing the conservation laws that help to preserve Bonaire's ecosystems and they appreciate any help you can provide. Last week a homeowner in Crown Keys reported to STINAPA that the nearby beachfront was being damaged by dumping (dead) coral in the sea and the placement of a large concrete block at the shoreline. After some delay and determining that no permission for this work had been given, the information, with photos, got to the correct STINAPA email address (marinepark@stinapa.org) In a short time the work was stopped. Subsequently, the dumped coral was returned to shore and the concrete slab carried to the beach to await removal.

If this environmentally degenerate practice had been allowed to remain, it would have established a dangerous precedent encouraging other shoreline property holders to spoil the shore adjacent to their homes.

► **InselAir and the Government of Curacao have selected One Laser Group LLC, a firm based in Miami, FL, on an exclusive basis to become "a strategic partner."** One Laser Group LLC will invest and support the airline in its re-expansion and re-fleeting process.

The aviation sector is new to the One Laser Group, which is formed by several companies in Florida engaged in activities in

various industries. The agreement must be finalized by the end of August which is the deadline for InselAir to come out of bankruptcy protection. (source <https://www.luchtvaartnieuws.nl/>).

Over the past few years, Insel Air has been forced to dismiss a significant proportion of its staff and aircraft, including Fokker 50s, Fokker 70s and McDonnell Douglas MD-80s, which were sold, demolished or stored at Curaçao Airport.



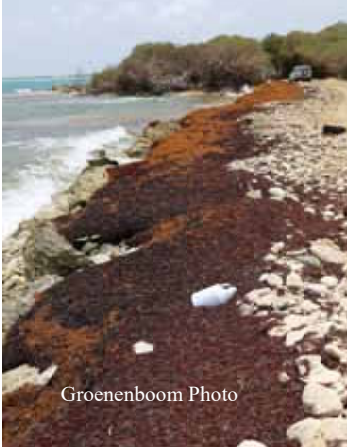
KIWA survey team

► **The Kiwa Compliance Company from the Netherlands has started a large-scale survey to find potentially dangerous asbestos construction roof material on Bonaire.** It will be comprehensive and cover all neighborhoods, taking place over the next few weeks. The inspectors promised not to be intrusive. **Joris Gribnau**, technical director of the company oversees the project. He said, "For example, there are large parts of neighborhoods where you can see "zinc" on roofs, or where you see roof tiles, or brand-new corrugated sheets. We do not have to do anything there, because that is not asbestos." In case there is a suspicion of asbestos, a piece of suspect material is taken away. This sample goes to the Kiwa Inspection & Testing laboratory and is further examined and analyzed there.

When asked if asbestos poses a major threat to Bonaire, Grib-

nau replied: "It is not so bad; the asbestos fibers are in the roofs and are held there by being in a mix with cement. As long as you do not damage the roofs, the fibers simply remain in the material and do not pose a risk." As soon as the research is complete it will be shared with the Bonaire Island Government which is concerned about the costs of correcting the problem.

Sargassum shoreline



Groenenboom Photo

► **The Sargassum invasion that started two weeks ago spread to most of the windward side shoreline.** Volunteers, Park personnel and government workers struggled to remove the weed from critical areas. Many residents and visitors detected the smell of rotting weed in areas far from the beaches. Sargassum, when it starts to decompose and rot, leads to serious risks to the natural environment.

STINAPA staff is working hard and asks for more volunteers. If you want to volunteer, please bring your own equipment (gloves, rakes, pitchforks, shovels etc), food and beverage and wear protective clothing (no wetsuits). Call STINAPA first to see where they need help + 599 717 8444.

► **Bonaire lags the other BES Islands in purchasing power**, says Statistics Nether-

lands (CBS). Saba enjoyed the largest increase with 4.8%. Ever since the first measurement in 2012, purchasing power on the three islands has increased year by year. When purchasing power increases, income growth exceeds the average price level and more goods and services can be purchased. On Bonaire purchasing power peaked in 2015 with a 4.6% rise.

► Is Bonaire prospering?

Consider that last year Bonaireans imported 28% more products, food and animals than in 2016. Imports to St Eustatius and Saba also grew in 2017 compared to 2016. More details about imports and exports, via air transport and sea transport, in different categories of goods (SITC) are found on:

<http://statline.cbs.nl/Statweb/publication/>

► **Fundashon Kuido pa Bista i Oido (FKBO), the Sight and Hearing Care Foundation, now provides more services as a result of a contract recently signed with the ZVK Health Insurance Office.** It is now possible for people with disabilities, chronic diseases or who are over 60 on Bonaire, to use the services Bonaire Social Support (BMO) offers for

- Transportation
- Home guidance and support
- Meal supply
- Residential adjustments

To determine eligibility for the services or for more information, contact FKBO, BMO department, E-mail: info@fkbo.org or yuraima.bodak@fkbo.org. Phone: 717-5765 or -701-5766 Address: Kaya Irlanda 6

► **The Bon Bida Bonaire Health Center and the Mental Health Caribbean Founda-**

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 2)
tion (formerly SVP-CN) signed a cooperation agreement to optimize the care for patients who require psychological counseling for physical problems. Debilitating and crippling physical injuries can be accompanied by psychological problems in adjustment to a more restrictive life. Until now there has been no coordinated medical approach to deal with this issue.

Bon Bida Bonaire offers physiotherapy (BonFysio), a dietitian, speech therapist, social worker, lifestyle coach, mental coach, company doctor and recently a psychologist.

Mental Health Caribbean provides mental health care in the Caribbean Netherlands. On Bonaire it provides social recovery guidance (*Sentro Nos Perseveransia*) and other services to help resolve a client's temporary or permanent limitations.

The collaboration of Bon Bida and MHC is a major island asset in the treatment of rehabilitation which requires a combination of psychological and physical techniques.

► **Supporting Bonaire agriculture would not contribute to lowering the cost of living** since the cost of growing local agricultural products on Bonaire is more expensive than importing food, the Dutch experts concluded last week. You'll remember that last month the same government announced that it wanted to use local production as a weapon against poverty. However, the contents of two well-documented reports published on

behalf of the Ministry of Economic Affairs last year covered the advantages and disadvantages of local production versus imports. Its conclusion: "It may cost more than it yields." The researchers did see other social benefits such as extra local employment and the smaller dependency on external supply. The report's advice to both the Ministry of Economic Affairs and the island governments is to continue to invest in projects to produce fruit, vegetables and meat locally, but to monitor this closely on cost effectiveness. The current projects have been unable to support themselves despite subsidies from The Hague.

► In collaboration with **Fundashon Tienda pa Konsumidó Boneiru**, the **Unión di Konsumidó Boneiru** (Unkobon) is launching a campaign in August to raise consumers' awareness of price differences in the supermarkets. Every month the prices of 60 products in 15 supermarkets will be compared and published in a clear manner. The campaign is financed by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate.

Unkobon named **Orphaline Saleh** as project manager until the end of 2019.

► **Do you want to participate in the 2018 Bonaire Regatta?** You can now register online on the website of the Bonaire Regatta (<https://www.regattabonaire.com/sign-up>). The Bonaire Regatta is a big island event held every October. It consists of a sailing competition in the daytime and a

(Continued on page 6)

Sea Turtle Update

Net captures at Lac Bay

In June and July, STCB staff and volunteers captured, weighed, measured and tagged **69 sea turtles** at Lac Bay: 67 green turtles, one hawksbill and one juvenile loggerhead - the second juvenile loggerhead in 16 years.

Nine tagged turtles were recaptured, one of them for the second time over the past 4 years.

In March 2014, this same green turtle was first captured at Atlantis. It weighed only 3kg and its carapace measured 30.2cm. A year later, it was recaptured at Margate Bay, and it had gained 2kg and its carapace had grown 4cm. In July, it was captured again, at Lac Bay... and it now weighed 15.2kg and its carapace was 48cm.

STCB gives a big thanks to the volunteers and supporters who make this research possible! The next net capture sessions will take place in August.

2018 Nest Count to Date

The 2018 nesting season is in full swing. This year's nesting season started on May 7th when STCB Beach keepers found the first loggerhead nest on Klein Bonaire. So far, **23 sea turtle nests** have been laid on Klein Bonaire. On Bonaire itself, **16 nests in the south and one nest at Playa Chikitu**.

This season's first nest has also hatched: 132 loggerhead hatchlings safely reached the sea. □ Source Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire www.bonaireturtles.org/



Tagging (top). Marked turtle nest at beach (bottom)

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PLASTIC AND REAL RECYCLING

Dear Editor:

I have a proposal to make. It will involve the Bonaire Government and the Dutch Government. What if they start a cleanup of Bonaire, Statia and Saba? I mean a complete cleaning up the *mondi*, the streets...and so on. There will be a lot of people who would like to help. But I mean, start with SELIBON. Let them hire people and pay them well because the end result is cheaper than the existing situation. Stop the plastic bags, the straws, the Styrofoam containers and replace them with recycled material. All of that exists and it's all available. Here is what I think has to happen soon.

The Government should start and give out the first batch to all supermarkets and snacks for free. If I calculated right it would cost between Euro 10,000 to 15,000 to have 100,000 bags, straws and food containers government-subsidized. What a small price to pay for a cleaner future! Put a company, like Firgos, or a new Government company in charge to have these items for the future in stock to supply all restaurants, snacks and supermarkets for a reasonable price. This part of the company should be a nonprofit NV, so the risk of sudden price changes will be minimized and smaller companies can plan a year ahead for their purchases. Then have a law that everybody has to do so. It's the same with the Marine Park. You come to Bonaire, you pay, no questions asked. And nobody is asking, so why couldn't this work for the food and shopping industry? This would still take years until everybody is doing so, but this would be the perfect first step to a cleaner future.

Bonaire has one of the oldest Marine Parks, the oldest Regatta in the Caribbean, and now again Bonaire would be the island where everybody would look again when it comes to a cleaner life. *Tene Bonaire Limpî*. Is this not the motto of Bonaire?

It could be a teaching program in schools, Supermarkets could have tax deductions if they only use "your" product. Do not forget: Nature was given to us for free. What we make of it is in our hands. The options are endless. The result is PRICELESS.

Peter Werdath

A VISITOR'S "PLASTIC" EXPERIENCE

Dear Editor:

After reading the letter written by Peter Werdath (*Reporter* issue 15) about his concerns regarding plastic waste polluting Bonaire, I felt that I should give him my full support on this topic.

I have visited Bonaire for more than 30 years and I notice an increasing amount of plastic pollution throughout the island and the sea. Last week I spent several hours cleaning a small beach near our holiday home. The pollution mostly consisted of small particles and pieces of Styrofoam, the leftovers of a lunchbox discarded on the beach. The next day several sea gulls were fighting over a piece of plastic rope left on the same beach. During day three we could fill a large bucket during snorkeling with plastic waste.

Driving over the island confirmed our observations: alongside the roads an increasing amount of plastic bags can be found hanging in trees or bushes. The only solution is banning plastic bags and other single-use plastics from Bonaire. This requires some commitment and courage from local authorities. On the other hand: it will strengthen the name of Bonaire as a nature friendly holiday destination, it will make Bonaire more beautiful, it will take out plastic from the diets of our birds and other animals and it will be a hopeful example for our children. I fully agree with Peter: let's take this necessary step now!

Ewout J. van den Bos

Picture Yourself With The Reporter at an Undisclosed Location on Bonaire

Ace reporter for *The Bonaire Reporter*, Greta Kooistra (r.), joined Francey Allee (c.) and Hettie Holian (l.) in the hunt for the elusive *Decapoda desalvoda* shrimp.



At an exotic, undisclosed location these ladies managed to find the shrimp and take a photo of it with *The Bonaire Reporter* included. The location cannot be disclosed as the shrimp is on the endangered species list and all are dissuaded from seeking it. A truly magnificent accomplishment. Congratulations, ladies.

WIN GREAT PRIZES! Take a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* with you on your next trip or when you return to your home. Then take a photo of yourself with the newspaper in hand. THE BEST PHOTOS OF THE YEAR WILL WIN THE PRIZES. Mail photos to *Bonaire Reporter*, Box 407, Bonaire, Caribbean Netherlands (CN). E-mail to: picture@bonairereporter.com. All 2018 photos are eligible for the next contest.

BYOB —BRING YOUR OWN BAG

To The Editor:

This is in support of a letter published in your last edition regarding the use of plastic bags in convenience markets. The way to eradicate the plastic bag problem is very simple – do what you do in the regular grocery stores by bringing your own bag. I recently mentioned doing this to several people checking out at a convenience store and their responses were all the same, i.e., "What a good idea, I never think about bringing my own bag into the convenience store." Well start THINKING people and spread the word. It would also be nice if the convenience stores would put a sign on their doors saying, PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BAG. To re-enforce this, stop offering plastic bags at the check out counter – offer customers an empty box or, if it's just a few items, ask them to carry their purchases in their hands and next time bring a bag. In no time at all the problem would be solved.

Dabney Lassiter





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The Bike Professionals

On the Island Since... June 2014 - Marian Luinstra-Passchier



Marian Luinstra-Passchier

“When I graduated as a doctor I already knew I didn’t want to work in a hospital and neither did I want to be a GP. What attracted me from the beginning was people’s health in relation to their environment- family, living environment and social environment- because many of people’s ailments and problems can’t be solved with a recipe. Often people need completely different things like moving to another place, a change of jobs and especially they need to be heard. I’ve always been very interested in this aspect considering people’s health.

When I was studying medicine at the VU University in Amsterdam, I met Jaap who was studying theology. After our Bachelor’s we got married, and after our final graduation we worked in Holland for four years, I as a doctor in youth health care and Jaap as a minister.

In 1981 we left for Sumba, an island in the southeast of Indonesia. It was an assignment from a church authority that had asked Jaap to strengthen and build a local church and to educate people and form a church framework. After we arrived I found out there was a local hospital with 35 beds and one doctor. There were no referral possibilities. Only the rich could travel and look for help elsewhere. So I ended up working at a hospital after all.

One of the things I experienced was people living in abominable circumstances, without any knowledge of hygiene or nutrition, which brought me back to my original idea about people’s health in relation to their environment. Another thing was that the hospital didn’t provide food for the patients. It was the family who was responsible for it and often they had to come from far away or they couldn’t come regularly and if they came it was with only a plate of rice with a

little bit of sambal. Partly because of this, the health of the patients in the hospital deteriorated further. Almost immediately we – the other doctor, the nurse and I – went to look for sponsors to build a kitchen in the hospital so the patients could get healthy food. We also started community projects in a number of villages and trained local volunteers to build toilets and plant vegetable gardens. We also started a goat project – everything to improve the lousy living conditions. My whole life I’ve said, ‘Do not just do your work in the consulting room, but look at what’s happening in the environment of the patient and see what it is that could be improved there.’

We lived on Sumba for seven years, then we went to Kupang, West Timor, where my husband was a teacher at a Christian University while I worked in health care for a foundation of rural development. They wanted to start up health projects where I could be of help by training local health care volunteers. As well we set up a number of projects about hygiene, nutrition, living conditions and mosquito control. Mind you, it was 30 years ago. The government has become way more active nowadays and the circumstances have improved considerably.

At the time foreigners were not allowed to stay in Indonesia longer than 10 years and so, when our time was up we went back to Holland and that took some getting used to! Hahaha! During those 10 years we’d only visited Holland twice and suddenly we found ourselves in a suburb of Amsterdam! There was only one solution: get back to work as soon as possible!

We moved to Groningen, to the north of Holland, because we needed space, and life in general was much more relaxed there. I went to work at the Public Health Organization (GGD) while Jaap

became a minister again. During the 16 years I worked there I had many different functions, specializing as a public health doctor working in various regions, which was an interesting experience. Later on I worked in the city of Groningen, where I supported the alderman in making local health policies.

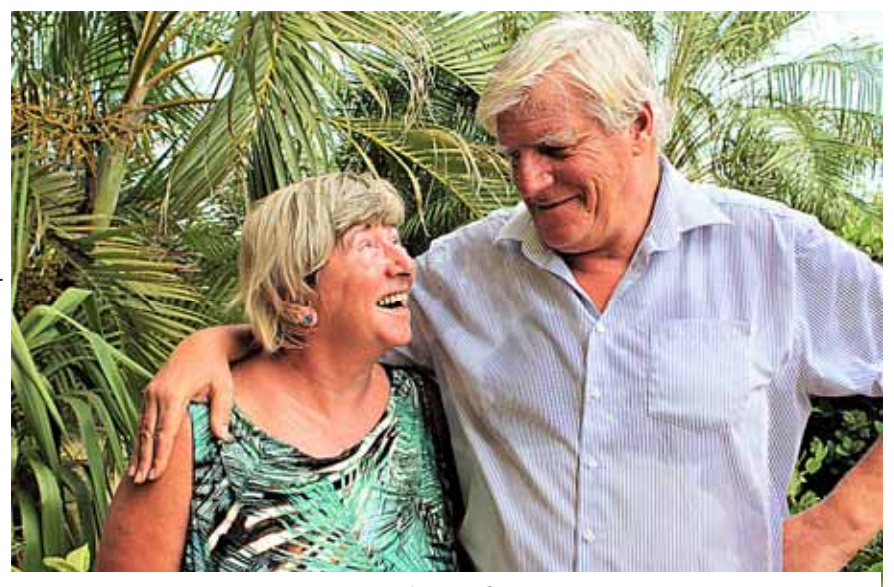
Then it was time for something new. I started working in Amsterdam at a training institution of my specialization, Netherlands School of Public and Occupational Health, where public health doctors, insurance doctors and company doctors were trained. A new training had to be established there, targeting youth from birth to 19 years. Together with a lot of other people I set it up and it’s still running.

Three or four years later I met a public health doctor from The Hague who worked at Public Mental Health Care (OGGZ) for the homeless, drug addicts and people who don’t look for help themselves. He had to retire and I

“What I find very worrisome is that many people and their children still live in bad social circumstances ... because there’s a lack of money.”

became his successor. I started working for the organization, together with GPs, dentists and pharmacies that would hold special visiting hours free of charge. We worked with another organization that was checking on and offering help in worrisome living conditions of hoarders, addicts, and lonely and/or confused people. It was a very instructive period where I met people who lived on the edge of society but who often had a very interesting life story.

While I was working in The Hague a request came from the Ministry of Public Health, Welfare and Sport, to help map the public health situation on the three BES islands and what it would take to strengthen it. I was sent to do the exploration. I’d never been in this region and I thought it was marvelous! I stayed for four months with Bonaire as the base, but I also went to Statia and Saba. Jaap came to visit me and he was smitten by Bonaire. After the assignment I



Marian and Jaap

went back to The Hague, but I stayed in touch with Bonaire. A year later the possibility came up to work here. Jaap was about to retire; there was nothing that could keep us from coming. We came and we’re just happy.

I worked at OLB’s (local government) Public Health Organization from July 2014 till July 2018. Everything on Bonaire is small and so is the Public Health Organization. To be able to accomplish something, cooperation is of the utmost importance. You work together with schools, with

jobs.

I think the key for a healthier and better future lies there because the vaccination program runs well, the hospital offers many different kinds of specialist care, free of charge, just as people can visit their GP for free and get free medicines as well. But at the basis a lot has to happen and the difficulty of providing information is that the information must not only be presented and understood in a good way, but must also be accepted. It must fit into the culture because if it does not fit with what people believe, it will not be heard or accepted. You have to stand next to the people and take them seriously. Only then can you see if together you can change something.

Well, besides my work I play the organ in the Protestant Church where Jaap helps occasionally. I am also the director of the choir there and nowadays I am on the board of the Classical Music Board as well. I play the piano and I sing. Making music together with others is so much fun! All my life music has been my second life. When I finished high school I thought, ‘Am I going to make music or am I going to do something useful?’ I went to do something useful but next to that there has always been my music.

This year May we celebrated our 45th wedding anniversary. We don’t have children and our parents passed away, but we do have brothers and sisters and many friends who come to visit. Living on Bonaire is just wonderful. It’s a lovely island and the people are so kind. We will travel, but we won’t move any-

more, because this is home now.” ■
Story & photos by Greta Kooistra.



Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 3)
 festival at night. Sailors from all over the Caribbean in all classes and ages come to the island to compete for four days. The event will start on October 10 and will end on October 13.

The sailing competition will be held in Kralendijk (Playa) from Regatta House. The sailing courses will run between the island of Bonaire and Klein Bonaire. This year the Regatta Festival will also be held in Playa rather than Coco Beach. Additional sports events and a Walkathon will also be held.

This is the 51st Regatta. This Regatta will also honor the people who have contributed to making Regattas possible during the last half-century. Regatta has something for everyone with exciting sailing races and activities in the daytime and a kids' corner, three stages with live entertainment every day and night, more than 25 food stands, an arts and crafts area and much more. This year's Regatta promises to be one of the biggest in the recent years.

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► **The next Taste of Bonaire will be on Saturday August 4th, at Wilhelmina Park from 6 pm to 10 pm.** The theme for this event will be "Recycle and Talent." As always the program will be filled with music, dance and the different food and arts and crafts stands that will sell recycled products at a good price. Music group **Terse Vesa** will be entertaining. There will be a show of beautiful clothing made out of recycled material, a presentation of Miss Tourism Bonaire, Miss Bonaire and the winners of the Kolegio Kristu Bon Wardador talent show. For more information contact Angelo Domacasse 717-8322 or email angelodomacasse@tourismbonaire.com.

► **Fuel prices in August are little changed except for LPG**

Gasoline -unchanged	120.00	cts/l
Kerosene +\$.01	60.00	cts/l
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50 Years Of Visits

Lois Santy, a condo owner at Sand Dollar, was presented with a **Platinum Bonaire Ambassador Award (50 years of continuous Bonaire visits)** by TCB. A few weeks ago friends from Sand Dollar and the International Bible Church surprised her with the celebration. □



Helen Thode (TCB) and Debby Rauwers, Sand Dollar Manager with Lois Santy

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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.

RETAIL

Dushi Shoes, Dushi Style, Reef & 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 things we want: clothes, hardware, food, auto and bike supplies. If you don't see it... ask for it. They probably have it. See page 2.

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.



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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?**



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PADI Woman's Day



PADI Woman's Day divers from left to right, Amy Weir --> Dive Friends Bonaire (DFB), Caitlin Hale --> DFB + Coordination, Fenna Wit --> DFB, Sarah Wilner --> Yoga instructor + Coordinator

On July 21st, about 25 women and one man gathered at Te Amo Beach to celebrate PADI Women's Dive Day. This half-day event included a reef safe sun-screen demo using Stream2Sea (a woman-owned company); a yoga session on the beach (led by Sarah Wilner of wellness company, Mindful Diver); a raffle with numerous prizes from wellness-focused businesses on the island; healthy food; diving; and the opportunity to connect and celebrate the belief that the health of our planet starts from within. □ *Caption & Photo by Wilna Gronenboom*

Jong Bonaire Summer Camp

Jong Bonaire's Summer Camp for high-schoolers is underway through August 10. Included are activities like windsurfing, paintball, brass band, Creole cooking, media, tube/blob ride boating, soccer, scuba diving and boxing. The boxing camp is a new activity where campers 12 and older could be introduced to and learn this sport in three days. Boxing is a new activity focusing an older age group (16+) that trains twice a week in the evenings at Jong Bonaire. Boxing is beneficial for cardio and muscle development. It can lower stress and contribute to the development of better self-confidence, discipline and social skills.



Boxing

In the week of July 30th until August 3rd there will be a Survival Camp. Apply in person at Jong Bonaire until July 30th. The costs for non-members are \$15.

New this year are activities for students in grades 7 and 8. The first week's activities are around Jong Bonaire. The second week they will have activities in and on the water, paddle boats and the blob. Places are still available. Apply in person at Jong Bonaire on Monday-Friday between 8am -4pm. For more information please call 7174-303. Participation is free. □



Paintball

Story & Photos by Wilna Groenenboom



Bobbejan's







"Great food, great value!!!"
Neptune, New Jersey USA - Sept. 2013

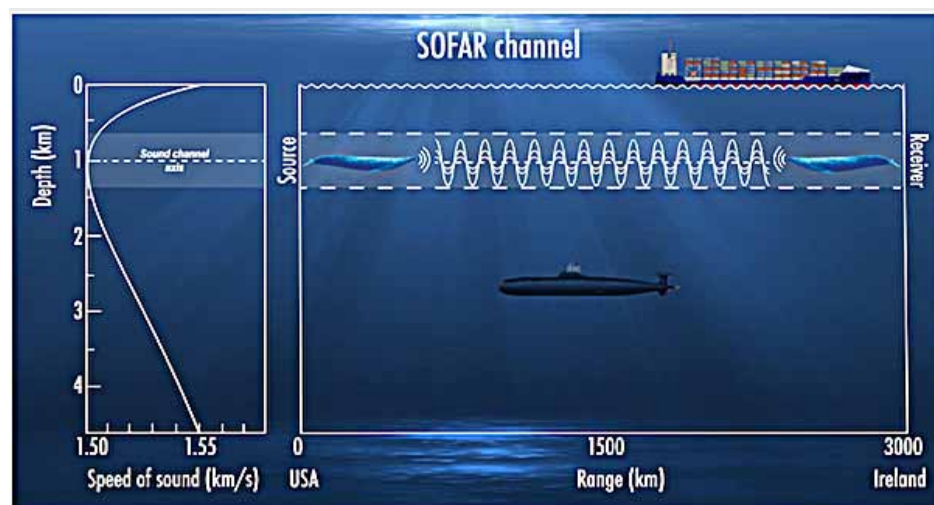
"Hopi dushi mes."
Kralendijk, Bonaire - Nov. 2012

"Heel erg lekker"
Amsterdam, The Netherlands - July 2013

WEEKENDS ONLY...

Friday	6-10 PM
Saturday	6-10 PM
Sunday	12-2 & 6-10 PM

DID YOU KNOW?



That during migration whales rely on the **SOFAR channel** to communicate to each other from long distances?

During World War II scientists had a theory that at a specific depth, low-frequency sounds could travel great distances without losing significant intensity. In Massachusetts, they tested this idea with a hydrophone (an underwater microphone) suspended from one ship and a 4-pound explosive deployed from another ship. Their discovery was astonishing. Between the depths of 600 and 1200 meters, the sound waves from the explosion were heard by the other ship 1400 kilometers away! This particular depth zone is called the SOFAR Channel (SOund Fixing And Ranging transmission).

But what makes this channel so special? The speed of sound is influenced by temperature and pressure. As depth increases, temperature decreases, especially within the 200-1000m depth layer, also called the **thermocline**. Pressure, on the other hand, increases as depth increases (1 atmosphere every 10m). Last but not least is salinity (salt content). As a major contributor to creating ocean layers, salinity levels drop rapidly until 750m and then increase. Therefore, warmer and less salty water is found above colder and saltier water, hence creating **zonation** in the water column.

Now you'll see why I wrote the previous paragraph: Sound travels slower in cold water than in warm water AND

(Continued on page 14)

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Bonaire Goes Batty

Bonaire is an island of eco-parks: The Marine Park, The Sky Park, Washington National Land Park and soon an Underground Park.

As a pilot project, a 30-hectare (75 acre) cave park with a rich variety of plants and animals is being created to protect Bonaire's bat population and related species.

The project will involve cave management, bat scientific research and education.

The two-year project, which began in the summer of 2017, is a partnership between Wild Conscience, the OLB (Bonaire local government) and The Caribbean Speleological Society (CARIBSS) with the goal of providing optimum protection and management for the natural, cultural, recreational and scientific values contained in the Bonaire Cave System.

The core of the island of Bonaire is composed of volcanic rocks, but the coastline and north of the island are made up of limestone formations and limestone cliffs. Centuries of water erosion on these cliffs has resulted in extensive fresh water and marine karst (limestone) complexes with extensive cave systems. The majority of the island's estimated 200 caves are either hard to access or submerged, **but several caves are currently open to the public with little supervision or management. As a result, the many important ecological, cultural and historical values of the caves are threatened by unregulated visits and illegal activities such as vandalism and waste dumping.**

Thanks to funding from the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV) through the Nature Fund, Bonaire is setting up its nature reserve dedicated to protecting this asset. The "Bonaire Caves and Karst Nature Reserve" (BCKN) is a pilot project underway in Barkadera, an area known for its high density of caves and sinkholes.

Background

Bonaire's karst and caves are extremely valuable natural resources with a rich variety of plants and animals. They typically host unique ecosystems that provide a habitat for unique species. Several endemic species of shrimp, and fish with special adaptations are unique to Bonaire's caves. The caves are an especially important habitat for five of the island's species of bats, which in turn play a key role in maintaining the island's biodiversity. Two of Bonaire's nectar-eating bat species (*Leptonycteris curasoae* and *Glossophaga longirostris*) are highly inter-dependent with columnar cacti and agaves.

They rely upon the cacti and agaves for food resources, and these plant species in turn rely upon the bats for pollination services and for some seed dispersal. The three insect-eating cave-dwelling species of bat (*Mormoops megalophylla*, *Myotis nesopolus* and *Natalus tumidirostris*) help control the island's insect population, notably mosquitoes.

Some of the caves have great cultural and historical value due to the ancient inscriptions preserved in them. Rock paintings and petroglyphs have survived at the caves at Spelonk, Onima, Ceru

Pungi, and Ceru Grita-Cabai. Many also have impressive speleological formations that are of great interest to both geologists and visitors.

Protection needed

While several positive measures have recently been taken to protect and manage the island's in 2010, as part of a new Nature Ordinance, there is currently no formalized management of cave tourism due to a lack of capacity and funds.

The many values of the caves are threatened by invasive species of fauna and flora as well as unsupervised visits and explorations that do not respect the caves' fragile ecosystem and ability to withstand human visits.

One of the main goals of the "Bonaire Caves and Karst Nature Reserve" project is to significantly improve cave tourism on Bonaire, reducing the impact of visitors as much as possible, especially in the bat maternity caves, while providing an upgraded and educational experience.

The project aims to make cave visits and tours "controlled, safe, educative, non-damaging and non-disturbing." The park aims to have approximately 10 caves open to visitors to avoid overcrowding and make sure cave tourism is sustainable. "One of the most important things that we will be doing," explains **Fernando Simal**, project leader of the BCKN Reserve project and co-managing director of Wild Conscience, "is to classify the caves of the park accordingly to their fragility and values. In this way we can designate them into categories that will indicate if they can be accessed freely, only under the supervision and leadership of a certified cave guide and during which periods of the year this will be possible."

In order to ensure that visits are well guided and controlled, CARIBSS will offer a "Bonaire dry cave guide certification course." During the course guides will be trained on such things as adequate emergency response protocols, proper



Fernando Simal of WILDCONSCIENCE

caving techniques and safety procedures.

Education

A key focus of the Bonaire Caves and Karst Nature Reserve is the education of visitors, from safety to the many different values of the caves and surrounding habitat. Approximately four kilometers of walking trails are currently being built, with the trails connecting some caves and sinkholes. The trails will have nature in-



Having sipped the flower's nectar, the bat departs. Herman van Leewen photo

terpretation signs that feature the geology, flora and fauna of the surrounding limestone terraces. Signage will also highlight and explain the different values of the caves, and easy-to-read cave maps will showcase the different levels of difficulty, access restrictions and safety indications. Guides, having completed the certification course, will be equipped with the knowledge to provide visitors with information about the ecological and historical importance of caves.

Approximately 2.8 kms. of fencing will surround the park to keep invasive herbivores away (feral donkeys, goats, sheep and pigs) and give native vegetation a chance to recover from decades of overgrazing. Existing waste is also being cleaned up.

On five other cave sites outside the park, motor vehicles will not be permitted within 100 meters of the caves to reduce illegal waste dumping.

Another chief goal of the BCKN Reserve is to ensure the protection of five keystone bat species for the island and their ecological interactions. Bats rely heavily on caves as diurnal and maternity roosts. The caves that serve as maternity roosts are especially vital to the survival


of the island's bat population and must therefore receive special protection. The BCKN Reserve at Barkadera will include two of the island's five most important maternity chambers, where at least three of Bonaire's cave-dwelling bat species are known to complete their life cycle, including pregnancy and lactation.

These maternity chambers will be fully protected with physical barriers and information signs. Research is also being conducted to understand the temporal patterns of use at a new maternity cave located at the southeast of the island by the insectivore species *Myotis nesopolus* and *Natalus tumidirostris*.


The Nature Funded Bonaire Caves and Karst Nature Reserve is the first part of what is hoped will become one of the Caribbean's best managed and protected cave parks. □ G.D./ Source, DCNA Bionews 18.



The Yoga Terrace



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Mon. 5:30pm



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Partnership Keeps Property Value Up

There are a large number of houses, villas and apartments for sale on Bonaire as well as offers to manage them. **Bonaire Realty** would like to become your partner in real estate transactions, property management and renting vacation villas. For almost 15 years they have specialized in doing exactly that for luxury (vacation) properties like villas, houses and apartments on the island.



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And if you are looking to sell your property, now is the time to list it with Bonaire Realty. They have proven success in Bonaire's dynamic real estate market so are looking for new listings. Let them help you to successfully and quickly sell your property. **■ Mariëlle Tichelaar for Bonaire Realty**



South Pier Reconstruction Continues



Supplies arrive

Concerns of island construction companies were somewhat relieved when a boatload of cement and other materials necessary for concrete were delivered last week. At least one more delivery was set for last weekend and others are planned for August and September. There is some unease that that will not be enough.

The Chamber of Commerce and others had written to the government, alarmed that the pier would be unusable for three months while reconstruction was underway. According to a statement from the contractor doing the work, "the repair of the south jetty (is being done) using special repair techniques which will extend the lifetime of the jetty for the next 40 years."

If the paving and supports

were allowed to deteriorate to the point where the pier could collapse Bonaire's economy would be crippled.

The north pier currently used for cruise ships and other maritime traffic cannot support heavy truck loads.

Business interests have recommended that on weekends additional work shifts be added to hasten the completion of the reconstruction. **■ G.D.**



Work in progress

Oceanfront Apartment #66



FOR SALE Oceanfront apartment # 66

This apartment is situated in the close to the town center of Kralendijk and situated in the gated community Ocean Breeze. On site there is communal swimming pool. This apartment has 1 bedroom with en suite bathroom. The modern kitchen is fully equipped. The spacious living room leads to a private situated terrace with a view over the blue lagoon where you can enjoy the most amazing sunset.

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STINAPA Sponge Project



Divers who care about the ocean utter the words “fishing line” in the same tones they use for “dirty diaper.”

Entanglement in fishing line can drown sea turtles, something Bonaire divers are especially sensitive to. We’ve disentangled other animals from fishing line also, including sponge crabs, a triton trumpet snail, and various corals and sponges. Removing underwater fishing line has become automatic for many divers. In most cases this is very helpful.

But PLEASE NOTE: it turns out that fishing line is the best material to help humans help marine animals in at least one instance: relocating sponge formations on pier pilings. Right now, STINAPA volunteers are working on just such a project: to remove and relocate sponge colonies from the tops of Salt Pier pilings, which need to be cleared of all growth for upcoming reinforcements. The sponge colonies are relocated farther down the pilings where there is little growth.

So, if you’re diving the Salt Pier and you notice fishing line wrapped around pilings, please don’t cut it down!

Why use fishing line?

It has some stretch; divers can tie one circle around a piling, stick the sponge formations under the circle, then continue wrapping the fishing line in a few more spirals before tying it off. This makes for very secure positioning, which helps the sponges to grow onto the piling.

It does not damage healthy sponges. Even if it cuts into the sponge colony, the colony heals easily because the fishing line is so thin.

In 1989-90 during the Sponge Reattachment Project at the North Pier, fishing line was used to reattach more than 600 sponges. The sponges reattached well; 25 years later, most of them are still attached and doing fine. The fishing line quickly blended into the habitat and became encrusted with sponges itself. Being so close to the pilings, it was not a danger to any animals. This time around, STINAPA will organize fishing line clean-up dives well after the sponges have attached in order to remove any exposed fishing line.

STINAPA is often asked: **Can’t you use something else?**

In 1989 we tried 100% cotton medical gauze, figuring it was sterile and would decompose quickly. It decomposed so quickly that the sponges had no chance to reattach, and fell off the pilings. (We went straight to fishing line after that.)

Currently: we have tested cable ties/tie wraps/zip ties. They have no stretch at all, so we had to make an oversized circle, hold the wrap in place while also trying to stick the sponges under, then tighten them. Too difficult, expensive, plastic, unsightly: tie wraps were rejected.

Currently: we tested hemp twine. It has the advantages of biodegradability and it’s very easy to knot, so it holds the sponges securely, but its lack of stretchiness is a problem. And like gauze, it also biodegrades so fast that the sponges fall down before they have attached. Using fishing line, we’ve seen that many sponges attach within two months.

STINAPA and Cargill have posted signs explaining the Sponge Project at the Salt Pier shore entry. Tags are also being attached underwater to the relocated sponges to alert divers to the Sponge Project. There’s another question people frequently ask about the Sponge Project: why the emphasis on sponges? What about the corals, sea squirts, worms, and other critters attached to the pilings?

One creature that can’t reattach itself and that is always relocated first, and by experts, is any reef-building coral, such as brain coral or star coral. After the first piling survey, BNMP staff members carefully remove all such corals and glue them onto appropriate spots on the reef.

Okay, so why the emphasis on sponges over sea squirts, worms, etc.? The answer lies in the ability of sponge colonies to reattach to any surface they securely contact. Of all the animals who grow on the pilings, this ability to reattach is unique to sponges.

The piling tops, with their constantly refreshed sea water, are crowded with all kinds of growth. The good news for the critters who cannot reattach is that many of them are integrated into the sponge colonies, and are thus moved with the sponge colonies, and the sponge colonies reattach. The bad news is that the more



Photos show the effectiveness of fishing line to reattach sponges

worm tubes, coral skeleton, or anything else between the sponges and the pilings, the more difficult it is for the sponge to attach to the piling.

The Project on the North Pier tied sponges onto pilings which had already been scraped clear of growth. The sponges had survived being on the bottom for a year or so; most other encrusting critters did not survive so they were not involved. The Project at the Salt Pier is different in that, first, volunteers themselves must remove the growth from the piling tops, and, second, that so many other creatures in addition to the sponges live near or attached to the sponges and/or the tops of the pilings. Some formations have so little sponge that the best relocation is onto a dead coral rock on

the bottom.

If you’d like to be a part of the STINAPA Sponge Project, expected to last through October 2018, it’s not too late to volunteer! STINAPA biologist Caren Eckrich has created an efficient training presentation that you may study before the dive and then you will receive some training in how to wrap and tie the fishing line immediately before the dive.

If you would like to contribute to this project, contact Caren at: nature@stinapa.org. □

Story & photos by
Dee Scarr of TOUCH
THE SEA



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The Fashion Revolution

OPEN

Tues & Weds: 10:00 to 5:00 pm

&

Saturday: 10:00 to 3:00 pm

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Kaya Grandi #23-G, Up the stairs—Across from Gio’s Ice Cream,

Shopping Hours: Tues: 10am to 5:30; Weds & Thurs: 10:30 to 5:30
Friday: 10am to 5:30 Saturday: 11am to 3:00pm Closed – Sun. and Mon.

A Garden? Just Do It

BROMELIAD PLANTS

A perfect match: new moon, full moon and rain. Nature's elements at their best for plants, a great time for gardening. It's hard to find me on my bike now; I'm in my garden most of the time.

In the past months I collected all kinds of dirt in old paint buckets: red dirt (*terakora*), *diabaas*, top soil from under the trees where goats hang out for a nap (ha ha), goat and rabbit manure, charcoal, buckets of dry leaves and of course bags of *potgrond* (black soil). I make different soil mixes depending on the plant. Some plants need more black dirt. Others, like cactus, can stand more clay dirt, so for them I add more *diabaas* and red dirt and not so much black soil. I experiment with my plants to see in which soil mix they grow best. So in my back yard there are different containers with all kinds of soil and other organic material. It's a mess there! But who cares? I love to be in that mess, dirty as it is.

Because I now have a lot of young plants which cannot stand too much sun, I create shade. I put the frames of old chairs under my trees, adding shelves for the young plants to protect them from the strong hot sun. Some trees, like the almond tree, I trimmed at the top so it grew broader and not so high. I did the same with the mango tree. The thing is that the lower stems grow wider which gives a lot of shade and I can pick the fruit a lot more easily from the low branches. Another thing is that the birds can't easily damage the fruit that hangs so low because they are afraid of people and the dogs. And I can protect the lower hanging fruit better by tying brown paper bags around them.

It's so cool to see all the plants coming up again: vital, fresh, green. Some of them even surprised me with their rare beautiful flowers. This time I want to put my bromeliad plants in the picture. I have a huge one. A giant. I have never seen a bromeliad as big as this one in my yard. It keeps on growing and I wonder when it will take over my whole yard. It has a story.

Once, on my way to the airport in Surinam, I stood under a big mango tree covered with million of bromeliad plants. Then one of the "pups" just came down, right on my head. I found it funny and put that little tiny bromeliad pup in my handbag. I forgot that the plant was there, but weeks later I found it, groggy but alive, and planted it in a small pot. From that time, years later, I have had to plant it in a bigger and bigger container. When I had nothing bigger anymore and it kept on growing I put it in the ground. It has flowered many times with beautiful pink huge flowers.

Later I got another bromeliad plant from friends, a Bonairean one. That one surprised me too. Two weeks ago suddenly I saw a huge stem coming out of it with awesome little purple flowers. It's still flowering.

Like orchids, bromeliads are "epiphytic," which means they grow on trees, rocks, or other plants and they get their water and nutrients from air and rainwater. They like to be in a spot where it gets medium to bright light. They don't get their water or nutrients from the soil; their roots are only to hold onto trees, plants or other growing supports in the wild. Bromeliads don't like their roots in water as they can rot. Some



My giant Amazone Bromeliad from Surinam

bromeliads grow well as "air plants" which are glued or nested onto logs, moss or other non-soil organic items.

Besides bromeliads which grow in trees there are home potted bromeliads too. The best potting mix to plant them would be a fast draining soilless mix made with moss, bark, perlite and other coarse organic materials. Propagating is different with bromeliads. These plants die after they are done flowering, but before they die, as they are coming to the end of their life they will grow tiny baby pups around the base of the main plant. You can remove these pups from the mother plant or just allow them to grow after the main plant has died and been removed.

Small, hair like blossoms growing out of the flower bract are actually the flower. Many types of bromeliad flowers are tiny and insignificant. Once the flower bract starts to turn brown or the color fades, it's a sign that the plant is done blooming and is



A Blooming Bromeliad

starting to die, which is a normal part of the bromeliad life circle. One of the things that can kill the bromeliad die is when it gets wet at its roots. So water a bromeliad once a month (great plant for us on Bonaire with our expensive water costs) and misting it on a regular basis. Rain water is the best to use. They are very sensitive to chemicals in regular tap water. Water the bromeliad in the center cup, not in the soil, which should remain dry.

The bromeliad is a typical plant of the Americas. And we have them here on Bonaire too. When you see them in your trees, just leave them there in peace. Or put some in your trees. One day you might be surprised by beautiful flowers in your trees. So just do it.

Oh, by the way, do you know that pineapple is a kind of bromeliad? ☐

Story & photos by Angliet, Nature Lover



Making Bonaire "Accessible"



Wheelchairs and strollers can't easily pass on the sidewalk

OUR WHEELCHAIR CHALLENGES ON BONAIRE, #16

IT'S SUMMERTIME AND THE LIVING IS EASY...?

Fewer tourists, more families on the streets, so you would think that it would be an excellent time to go and evaluate things.... make plans for renewal and renovations.

But...NO, *aux contaire*, dear friends, in the middle of our little town there are more huge planters arising on the sidewalks. To us it looks as if you get a part of the sidewalk when you renovate or build something new. At the "Islander" there is no more ample space to pass by in a wheelchair or with a stroller, even when you just want to take a walk down by the boulevard.

To the AVIRAMP then...It was packed to go, but we still don't see any movements in the departures at the airport. **Is it a reality or a hoax?** Let us hope that our wish comes true and that very soon now one gets to drive in the wheelchair onto the airplanes.

On the other hand we hear that very soon "*maatschappelijke ondersteuning*" (social support, see **Fundashon Kuido pa Bista i Oido (FKBO)** on pg. 2) has been implemented. That means that help with transportation is offered and we can go shopping, to the library, or anywhere else. As long as it is to stimulate socially and take part in society. Also "meals on wheels" becomes available for those over 65. And if you need to get your bathroom and/or the path from front door to the street fixed in order to be able to get around in your wheelchair, walker or cane, that's also included.

Now that is an enormous improvement and I am sure a lot of people will be eternally grateful with that kind of help. We cannot wait to see that plan in action.

And there is more great news. The so much needed hospice is open for clients. It is very beautiful and inviting and a large group of volunteers is trained and ready to help.

As an extra service they offer "*respijthulp*" (respite assistance). When you take care of a loved one at home for 24 hours a day, you need to be able to get away sometimes to take a breather, to get some rest in order to come back a bit stronger and well rested and go on with the work. The hospice offers the care givers this chance. Your loved one (spouse or other family member) can come and stay in the hospice for a week or maybe more. They will be well taken care of and the care giver at home can relax and get rest.

I know for sure that we will apply for at least one week. We will go and take a look, get a tour and fall in love with the place. And if our petition gets granted, we will tell you all about it.

On August 2, we will start our support-group for the home care givers. We need to get together, talk, exchange tips, emotions, because when you care like we do, you need other people to go on. If there are more people who take a interest, please give us a call: 700-1813. And we will tell you all about it. I do hope this group will start up fine and grow into one large group of people who support each other. ☐ Story & photo by Ria Evers-Dokter



Bon Bida Bonaire, Bul. Gob. N. Debroet 74, + 599 717 7224, www.bonbida.com, body@bonbida.com, [Bon Bida Body Gym](https://www.facebook.com/BonBidaBodyGym)

What's Happening

REGULAR EVENTS

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. Entry fee based on income level.

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 2018: stinapabonaire.org/events

Saturdays

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

• **Marshe di Kunukero (Farmers Market) at Kriabon-First Saturday of the Month**. Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8am-12noon

• **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 cast offs on Saturdays or at the Shelter on the Lagoon 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

Petanque- Jeu de Boules, 2:30-6 pm, Bolascentre GOLDFINCH (next to baseball centre on Kaminda Sorobon) Info: 786-0150

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.

Wednesdays

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

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

• **General 12-step meeting (AA, NA, CoDa etc.)** -Every Wednesday at Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona 47. Starts at 19.15, ends at 20.30, walk in from 19.00. For more information, email:

l2stepbonaire@gmail.com

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

• **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.

Fridays

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

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 Cruxita 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 9am 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-10am 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 10am. Wednesday- 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 Cochrane-Herrera at ellenherrera@cochrane@yahoo.ca or phone 717-8489 or +5999-540-9800 English//Papiamentu/Dutch/Spanish ■

Cruise Ship

Date	Ship	Time	#PAX
7-Aug	Monarch	0700-1800	2744
14-Aug	Monarch	0700-1800	2744
21-Aug	Monarch	0700-1800	2744
28-Aug	Monarch	0700-1800	2744

EXHIBITIONS

— “Salute to the Sailors”— old maritime photos from the Bonaire Maritime Heritage Foundation, Museo Bonaire, Kaya Kachi Craane #34, free.

— **Coral Restoration Exhibit- Terramar Museum**

BONAIRE'S MUSEUMS

• **Terramar Museum** at Terramar Shopping Mall, on the waterfront. Monday-Saturday 9am-6pm. Sunday, closed. Cruise ship days 9am-6pm, \$10, \$5 for residents, children free, 717-0423, 780-4327

• **Museo Bonaire** on the waterfront at the old Kas di Arte, Kaya Kachi Craane #34. 717-8868. Monday-Friday 9am-noon, 2-4pm. Free

• **Mangasina di Rei, Rincon**. See, Feel and Taste the Culture of Bonaire. Enjoy the view from “The King’s Storehouse.” Monday-Friday. 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

• **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.

• **Yana's Fine Art Museum at Lagoon Hill 19**- Call for appointment: 599 785-5002. Free entry.

• **Bonaire Museum of National History** Kaya Julio C. van der Ree #7, open Thursday through Saturday and cruise ship days, 10am-4pm. Free entrance ■

CLOSE IN EVENTS

Wednesdays, August 1, August 8 and August 15. — **Buki di Pret (Fun Books)** program at Terramar Museum \$2-. Papiamentu, Children 4-8 years, Dutch, children 9-12 years. Reservations email: marjan@terrarmuseum.com

Tuesday, August 2 — **Home care giver support organizational meeting**. See page 11, Call: 700-1813

Saturday, August 4— **Taste of Bonaire at Wilhelmina Park. “Recycle Edition.”** Food, culture, local handicrafts. Opportunity to taste signature dishes from well known restaurants at special prices. 6-10pm

August 12 & 13— **Perseid Meteor Shower**. See Bonaire Sky Park, page 15

Saturday, August 18— **Animal Shelter 35th Birthday Celebration**—Live music, raffles, prizes, adoption fair, book and craft market, more! 9am-noon. More on page 14

Saturday, August 25— **Nos Zjilea Cultural Event at Mangazina di Rei** 8am-2pm. Traditional music, crafts, local produce, creole kitchen, educational presentations. On the Rincon Road at eastern entrance to Rincon. Free entrance.

September 1-7— **Bonaire International Dance Festival**

Thursday, September 6— **Bonaire Flag Day**, legal holiday, at one of the barrios. Locals and visitors dance, eat, drink on the streets, bands, Motorcycle event with over 400 participants flying in from around the world. All day.

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Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

Winds and weather can further influence the local tide's height and time

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset	
	02:07	11:22						
Mon 30	0.73 ft	-0.10 ft				6:22	19:02	
	02:50	11:39	18:15	22:16				
Tue 31	0.66 ft	-0.08 ft	0.39 ft	0.34 ft		6:22	19:01	
	03:35	11:52	18:12	23:53				
Wed 01	0.59 ft	-0.06 ft	0.48 ft	0.30 ft		6:22	19:01	
	04:23	12:05	18:25					
Thu 02	0.51 ft	-0.05 ft	0.59 ft			6:22	19:01	
		01:07	05:12	12:21	18:47			
Fri 03		0.24 ft	0.43 ft	-0.05 ft	0.71 ft	6:22	19:00	
		L	02:10	06:03	12:41	19:17		
Sat 04		Quarter	0.16 ft	0.35 ft	-0.06 ft	0.84 ft	6:23	19:00
			03:07	06:55	13:08	19:52		
Sun 05		0.08 ft	0.28 ft	-0.07 ft	0.95 ft	6:23	19:00	
			04:01	07:48	13:40	20:33		
Mon 06		0.00 ft	0.22 ft	-0.09 ft	1.05 ft	6:23	18:59	
			04:54	08:45	14:18	21:18		
Tue 07		-0.06 ft	0.17 ft	-0.09 ft	1.11 ft	6:23	18:59	
			05:47	09:47	15:03	22:06		
Wed 08		-0.11 ft	0.14 ft	-0.08 ft	1.14 ft	6:23	18:58	
			06:41	10:55	15:55	22:58		
Thu 09		-0.14 ft	0.14 ft	-0.04 ft	1.12 ft	6:23	18:58	
			07:33	12:10	16:58	23:53		
Fri 10		-0.17 ft	0.17 ft	0.01 ft	1.07 ft	6:23	18:58	
			08:24	13:26	18:16			
Sat 11		New Moon	-0.18 ft	0.25 ft	0.08 ft	6:24	18:57	
			00:52	09:13	14:38	19:48		
Sun 12		0.99 ft	-0.19 ft	0.35 ft	0.14 ft	6:24	18:57	
			01:54	10:00	15:40	21:25		
Mon 13		0.89 ft	-0.18 ft	0.48 ft	0.16 ft	6:24	18:56	

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Animal Shelter Bonaire 35th Birthday Celebration

Featuring Special Events And "Chippie Chips"

On Saturday, August 18, Animal Shelter Bonaire will have a special open day to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the founding of the shelter. It all began in August 1983, when three animal lovers formed the foundation and it has grown exponentially over those 35 years.

Pass by the Shelter at Kaminda Lagun 26 on that Saturday, from 9am to noon. The special day will feature live music by Gibi Bomba, a \$1 per ticket raffle (with prizes ranging from a new Kindle Fire to pet accessories and handmade gifts), information on animal care and grooming, an Adoption Fair with special anniversary prices, cold soft drinks.....and of course birthday cupcakes! The celebration will also include a small book market, craft market, and a pet toys and accessories shop.

Thanks to the sponsorship of UTS the day will also

feature "CHIPPIE CHIPS." The Animal Shelter will be giving away 100 gift certificates valid for a free microchip for your dog or cat. With your certificate you can make an appointment with the veterinarian and have your animal chipped for free. When you register the "Chippie Chips" microchip number with the island veterinarians and the shelter, the microchip will help pet owners reunite with their animals if the animal is lost or found. The shelter, other animal care organizations and veterinarians are all equipped with scanners to "read" the chip number.

Special recognition will also be given to the initial founders, early managers and board members who kept the shelter alive during some tough times, as well as individuals and companies who have given unwavering support over all these years. The "official remarks" will take place at 11am.

The celebration will be a fun day for the entire family. Please mark your calendar and join Animal Shelter Bonaire in celebration of 35 years of caring for the island's unwanted dogs and cats, promoting free sterilization and community education. □

Jane Disko-Madden

Did You Know (Continued from page 7)

sound travels faster as pressure increases. Sound waves entering from above the SOFAR channel bend, losing speed as temperature decreases. They continue bending down until they meet higher pressure resulting in a bounce upward, causing them to gain speed. Eventually, waves bend again once they get close to the SOFAR channel's upper boundary. This "up and down" movement is what makes sound waves travel thousands of miles without losing much energy.

Unsurprisingly, the earliest use of this newly-discovered knowledge was for military purposes.

During the Second World War, downed aircraft or shipwreck survivors would lower small explosive charges to be detonated in the SOFAR channel to share their location for rescuing. Throughout the 1950s, at the height of the Cold War, the US Navy launched a secret project with code name Jezebel to detect enemy (Soviet) nuclear submarines by using hydrophones.

However, this special depth layer has been known by whales long before mankind found it. During migration whales rely on the SOFAR channel to communicate to each other from long distances. Sound is a vital part for these large mammals. It affects their behavior, navigation and their ability to detect predators and prey. Loud, man-made sounds from shipping, explosives, oil-mining, etc. sometime result in injury or death of marine mammals. As scientists learn more about how man-made sounds affect marine life, more and more organizations are working together to develop innovative solutions to minimize the impact of noise-producing activities on marine life.

The ocean is a force of Nature. Man has relied on it since the beginning of civilization. Who knows what other mysteries are still waiting to be discovered? □

Story by Alessandro Corubolo, STINAPA intern. Connecting People With Nature



Alessandro Corubolo is an intern from Italy working in the STINAPA Nature Unit. He's currently involved in numerous marine conservation projects including daily Sargassum monitoring, coral bleaching analysis, sponge transplantation and bird monitoring. In addition, he will also help with outreach and education.



Cassy

Pet Of The Week

She's beautiful, affectionate and smart. What more could you want from a young cat? **Cassy** is about seven months old and arrived at the shelter in May...quite dramatically! She was found crying high up in a tree near the shelter parking lot and veterinarian **Fulco de Vries** bravely climbed the tree and rescued her.

Cassy turned out to be a loving, sweet

young cat always willing to take as much affection as you want to give her. She has beautiful swirled tabby markings on her sides and that lovely face just makes you smile. **Cassy** also gets along very well with others but would be content to be an "only" cat. She is healthy, vaccinated and will be sterilized and microchipped before adoption.

If you'd like to get to know **Cassy**, or any of her feline and canine friends, please pass by the Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26. Open hours Monday through Friday, 9am-noon and 3 to 5pm. Saturdays 9am to 3pm, nonstop. 717-4989/701-4989.

□ Story & photo by Jane Madden-Disko



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THE BEST METEOR SHOWER OF THE YEAR

We've got good news and some even better news. The good news is that the **Perseid Meteor Shower**, traditionally the best meteor shower of the year, will **peak on August 12th and last through the early morning of the 13th**. But the even better news is that the **Moon** will be out of the picture during the peak. Meaning we'll have extra-dark skies for watching the Perseids this year.

Get prepared because we're going to share tips and tricks to observing a meteor shower. The best time to look for the Perseid meteor shower is late at night on the 12th of August, and into the early morning of the 13th.

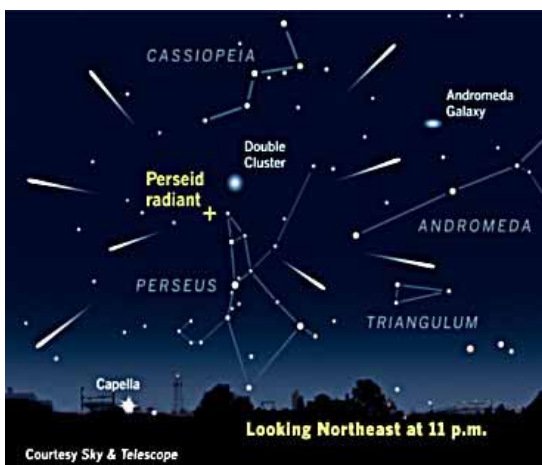
Here's rule # 1 : Hope it's clear. Rule # 2 : Get as far away from street lights as possible. Because even though you may see a handful of the brightest meteors from lit-up locations, the lights flood the sky with so much sky-glow that nowadays many of the meteors in a meteor shower are hidden from view.

Rule # 3 Observe while lying on the ground on a blanket or in a beach chair. In other words, keep looking up! No telescopes, no binoculars needed.

Rule # 4: Stay outside for at least a couple of hours, preferably after midnight and have plenty of patience. If you follow these rules, you can expect to see several meteors per hour and maybe many more. Simply lie back and constantly scan the sky and usually when you least expect it, a meteor or even two will zip across the sky.

Now although some astronomy websites will tell you that you may see 60 meteors per hour, which would boil down to about one a minute, meteors really don't operate on a time schedule. You may see 10 of them in two minutes and then have to wait for 20 minutes to see another one. But that's the fun of it, because each meteor is a total surprise.

At the usual peak time to view, August 13th after midnight about half way up from the horizon you will see the "w" shape of **Cassiopeia**. Look a little below Cassiopeia and that's where the meteors will appear to originate: the **constellation Perseus**. I know that is really early, but the meteor shower will be at its best before dawn on the that day.



Courtesy Sky & Telescope

Wonder why they're called the Perseids? Well **meteor showers are named for the constellation from where the meteors appear to originate**. But what exactly is a **meteor**? Meteors are the flashes of light we see when tiny specks of space debris slam into our **Earth's** atmosphere and light up. You see, every time a comet visits our **Sun** it sheds tons of debris. And eventually this stuff gets spread out along the comet's path. If our Earth plows into this path, these tiny pieces of comet litter will slam into our Earth's atmosphere traveling many miles per second. The particles themselves are far too small to be seen, but the friction of these particles hitting the air causes the air surrounding them to heat up and you see streaks of light. And we call these streaks of light meteors or incorrectly "**falling stars**."

The meteors we see during the Perseid meteor shower each August are debris from a comet named **Swift-Tuttle**. Our Earth plows through its debris field about the same time every August. The Perseid meteor shower is one of the oldest recorded meteor showers in history and has been seen every August for over 2000 years. Let me remind you of the single most important rule for observing a meteor shower, which is you must constantly scan the sky and have patience. You may see no meteors for 20 minutes or so and then all of a sudden 2 or 3 may flash by all at once. But each time you see a Perseid streak across the sky remind yourself that what you're actually seeing is a tiny comet piece igniting your night. □

Dean Regas & James Albury



THE STARS HAVE IT

Early August 2018

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Your family may be feeling neglected and unloved. Try to accommodate them without infringing on your own responsibilities. Try not to upset others with your plans. Your magnetic, outgoing personality will capture hearts. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Good day for romance. Lighten up your serious attitude Remain calm and you'll shine. Passion should be your goal. Think of changes to your home that will please and add to everyone's comfort. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) You will do best to entertain those you wish to close deals with. You can enjoy entertainment if you join in and follow the crowd for a change. Social activity should be on your agenda this month. You will learn a great deal from the foreigners you meet. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) It might be time to make a fresh start. Do something together and you'll be surprised how sweet a deal you can make. Group endeavors will provide you with entertainment. Your creative ideas must be put to good use. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Your emotions may get the better of you. Take care of your own responsibilities before you help others. Snap out of it. You may find that you're being used. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Your interest in helping others may take you back to school. Travel will be most enticing. Consider a cruise. You can help other people with their financial problems by setting up a budget for them. Relationships will be emotional this month. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Minor health problems could result through exhaustion. You may want to make

changes that will not be to their liking. Try to ease any disappointment by making amends. Put your thoughts into some trendy new ideas. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Problems with appliances or electrical gadgets will drive you crazy. Don't turn down an invitation or a challenge that could enhance your chances of meeting someone special. Don't blow situations out of proportion. Adventure will result in added knowledge. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Be precise in your communications to avoid any misunderstandings and arguments. This will not be the best day to try to push your ideas or concerns. You could lose a good friend because of it. Take the initiative and go after your goals. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Children will be of major concern if you haven't kept the lines of communication open. You can write beautiful love letters this month. Don't let others restrict you from saying how you feel about family issues. Your greatest enjoyment will come through social activities and pleasure trips. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You could easily lose your temper at work. Don't push your opinions or ideas on others. You may be upset if someone has borrowed something that belongs to you. You're best to avoid disputes. Work quietly behind the scenes. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) This month will be rather hectic on the domestic scene. Don't give them the use of your credit card. Those you work with may have little consideration for the underdog. You can come into money; however, perhaps not under the best circumstances. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday. □

Michael Thiessen

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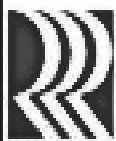
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