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BONAIRE Aug.27-Sept. 10, 2018, Year 25, Issue 18
The REPORTER

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Laura DeSalvo photo

At the Bonaire Animal Shelter 35th Anniversary Birthday Celebration: A few of the very important giving people who, through the years, have made the Bonaire Animal Shelter what it is today: Current Manager Luvi Rodriguez; Past Manager Elly Albers; Past Chairman of the Board (for nearly 1,000 years!), Paul Wichers; past Chairman of the Board and past Shelter Manager, Barbara van Orphen; present Chairman of the Board, Jane Madden-Disko.

Bonaire's petroleum supply is more assured now that US petroleum producer ConocoPhillips on August 20 said Venezuela's PDVSA agreed to pay \$2 billion to settle an arbitration award, suspending an embargo that blocked the state-run oil firm from importing or exporting products from its key Caribbean facilities, including Bonaire. Few vessels were tying up at the BOPEC facilities. There was concern that, despite an exemption, Bonaire's energy supplies would be strangled. Following the announcement of the settlement Curacao's Isla Refinery, Bonaire's main provider, announced it would ramp up its defining capacity which had been cut back for maintenance and lack of crude oil once the agreement is finalized.

Concern remains that Venezuela can meet the payments in light of the country's financial crisis. The agreement came ahead of court hearings scheduled for next month in Bonaire and Aruba that could have enabled Conoco to begin selling PDVSA assets on the islands where it had obtained court attachments.



►The annual Swim To Klein Bonaire is more than a fundraiser. It is also a social event for Bonaire to gather all races and classes on the island to mix and enjoy our beautiful nature, while doing a good workout under safe conditions. Last year 500 tickets were sold and most buyers swam to Klein Bonaire and back. Now you have six weeks to train if you want to better your last year's

time. Or six weeks to gather friends to join you and participate, to support the good work Jong Bonaire does for the kids.



►Bonaire's time-honored practice of drinking and driving got a setback when, as promised, police stopped 177 drivers one night last week. According to the police breath analyzer, 24, about one driver out of eight, had a level of alcohol that impaired their driving ability. Four were so drunk they were taken to the jail.

Bonaire's ordinance, which dates back to 1957, is vague about what constitutes alcohol impaired driving and depends on a subjective opinion of policemen. A replacement traffic ordinance, which includes a more precise definition of drunk driving, has been awaiting action by the Island Council for some time. At least one traffic check a month is promised.

►The Bonaire local government was unable to meet the legal deadlines for providing financial information and agreements. So says the Financial Supervision Board. **The Executive Council also did not submit the annual accounts of the government-owned companies and foundations in time.** They were due before July 1.

The problem lies mostly with the lack of **current** financial statements from several of the island-owned companies and foundations.

Perhaps unreasonably, since the criteria is not applied to the European Netherlands' local governments, significant Dutch Government financial aid to the island is



►School started on Bonaire this past week. Please drive more carefully as morning and mid-day traffic will increase. Financial assistance is available for classroom materials needed by students. If a child is in secondary education or starts next school year, the central government provides help. To be eligible the child must be currently registered and have been and is registered for at least 5 years in the basic administration of the Public Entity Bonaire- OLB (Island Government), and the joint income of parent(s)/caretaker(s) is no more than \$1250 net per month. Primary school students receive similar help from the OLB.

Shown: First day Group 5 at Pelikaan School)

blocked until the accounts are brought up to date.

►The cruise ship schedule for the 2018-2019 cruise ship season is out. The Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) plans to expand the popular cruise ship market to Rincon. The Rincon Market will focus on Bonairean culture. TCB came up with the idea to spread the thousands of daily visitors over the island and to give especially the people of Rincon a piece of the action. The market will be held on the Plaza Commerce in front of the Rincon gas station every cruise ship day from 8 am to 4 pm. There will be a tourist information booth, different stands offering local handmade products local food, beverages and entertainment.

On Saturday August, 25, during the **Marshe Rincon Krioyo** the TCB held an information session and invited everyone interested in participating in the Rincon Cruise Market.

Every edition of *The Bonaire Reporter* provides the

forecast of cruise ship arrivals for upcoming weeks.

►The present jail downtown container cells will continue as holding cells for now for the Police; even when the new prison (JICN) opens, which is expected very soon.

►Wondering why your dollar doesn't go as far these days? Statistics Netherlands (CBS) reported the in the second quarter of 2018, **consumer prices on Bonaire were 3% higher than in the year earlier period. In the previous quarter, goods and services showed a price increase of 3.8%.**

►Site preparation is finally underway for the construction of the new **Chogogo Resort, TUI Hotel.** When complete the hotel will offer over 200 rooms on the site of the original Bonaire Beach (later Sunset Beach) hotel. Almost two decades have passed since a fire gutted the hotel and it was subsequently torn down. Observers note that

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Available on-line at:

www.bonairereporter.com

Printed Every Fortnight,

On-line every day, 24/7

Next edition printing on

Monday, September 10, 2018

Deadline: **Friday, Sept. 7, 2018**



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many of the old trees that grace the site remain healthy.

►According to **Nina den Heyer** of the *Movementu di Pueblo Boneriano* (MPB-“Blue Party”) 30% to 40% of Bonaire’s elderly can be considered living in poverty, compared to 4% in the European Netherlands. Bonaire’s top retirement benefit is \$593/month and one out of four, about 600 people, have that as their only income. According to a report from the Central Bureau of Statistics, 20% of elderly people still work at a paid job.

►Sunbelt Realty is brokering the sale of a choice property in Kralendijk in an unconventional, at least for Bonaire, way. The old web office on Kaya Carlos



►The **Bat Conservation Program** for the ABC islands (PPRABC), a member of the Caribbean Speleological Society, received a pickup truck donated by the foundation Dieren Lot. The truck will be used for work related to the conservation of bats and their habitats. This donation came in perfect timing for the Caves and Karst Nature Reserve project that the society is currently conducting. A huge thanks to Dieren Lot and all the people that made this possible! The Caves and Karsts Nature Reserve project is commissioned by the public entity of Bonaire and is part of the nature projects funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV). For more info on these projects see on Facebook *Nos ta biba di naturalesa* or [@Bonaire](https://bibadinaturalesa.com/parke-di-kueba-i-karst-#karstandcaves)

In the photo: **Fernando Simal** and **Elsmarie Beukenboom** accepting the pickup,

Nicolaas is offered for public sale via registration procedure through Notaris Schouten. Refer to the advertisement on the back page or go to:

<https://www.sunbeltbonaire.com/en/properties/buy-real-estate/kaya-carlos-nicolaas-3-web/>. □ G./L.D.



►Ten Bonaire beaches plus Klein Bonaire are off-limits to dogs. Turtle nesting and sanitation are the reasons. The map shows these areas outlined in red. All other Bonaire beaches are OK

On the following beaches (coastal areas) it is forbidden to go with dogs:

- Playa Lechi (Sunset Beach);
- Playa Lechi Suit (Boulevard);
- Playa Chachacha;
- Playa Pal'imangel (Donkey's Beach);
- Forn'ikalki (Bachelor's Beach);
- From Saliña (Salt Pier) to Lacre Punt (Willemstoren);
- Sorobon and Cai;
- Piedrahaltu (Thousand Steps);
- Tolo;
- Nukove;
- Klein Bonaire.

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DRIVING DRUNK



Dear Editor,

It is, of course, a sound plan to curtail the drunk driving here on Bonaire. Since most drunks are at night, will there be more police at night? Up until now, if one calls the police station at night, either the

person answering the phone can't help because they have to be there to answer the phone or the extremely limited amount of patrol cars are already busy.

This brings up another question. Will drunk drivers have priority over the ever increasing crime which seems to increase with little or no concern by the government? We were told the Dutch police coming here would make a huge difference. If by huge that means an increase in burglaries and thefts then that is true. We were told the Public Prosecutor would be cracking down on crime. Again there is nothing but an increase.

Perhaps the article was a bit misleading and it is drunk driving criminals that are being targeted.

-A sober victim

HANDICAPPED MOVERS?

Dear Editor:

I noticed this moving van parked in the very same spot in Kooymans parking lot as the truck in the photo of last week's *Bonaire Reporter*.

But perhaps I should applaud this company for employing handicapped moving men rather than complaining that they took the parking place reserved for disabled people?

-Confused in Kralendijk



Picture Yourself With The Reporter at Kensico Dam, Valhalla, NY, USA



Proudly sporting his new biking wardrobe with the Bonaire flag and a pink flamingo that he bought at the *deFreewieler*, on a recent trip to the island, **Alan Zale** holds a copy of *The Bonaire Reporter* at the Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla, NY.

Alan was participating in Bicycle Sunday, a Westchester County Parks program that closes the Bronx River Parkway that runs through Westchester County and allows cyclist, joggers and walkers to enjoy a 21 km loop of the parkway without cars. A typical Bicycle Sunday ride for Alan is 32 km.

Behind Alan is the Kensico Dam, which holds 114 billion liters of drinking water for New York City. The dam is 562 meters long and stands 94 meters tall. It was completed in 1917 and replaced the original dam built in 1885 south of Kensico, NY.

Alan and his wife Joan, are frequent visitors to Bonaire with more than 40 trips. They live in Hartsdale, NY, and own a condo at Sand Dollar. Alan is a photojournalist back home and is a contributing photographer and writer for *The Bonaire Reporter*, when on island. The paper he is holding features his cover photo of the Grand Carnaval Parade 2018. *Photo by Michael Berg*

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:

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On the Island Since... 2013 – Jennifer Hart



Onnie Emerencia photo

Jennifer at the Saturday Marshe di Playa



Greta Kooistra photo

Jennifer's mom, Rachel, and Jennifer in their Bonita Garden Care T-shirts

"I am a mix of all three ABC islands. I was born in 1987 in the Netherlands, but my dad is from Curacao. His mom is from Aruba from the **Boekhoudt/Croes** family, and my mom, **Rachel**, is from Amsterdam but her dad, **Berwin 'Johnny' Domacassé**, is from Bonaire.

From the time when I was very little we used to travel to the Antilles and so, Bonaire is home.

After elementary school I studied building technique at VMBO (preparatory secondary vocational education). Then I studied cabinetery for three more years at MBO intermediate vocational education. I always felt attracted to the training and I love to work with my hands. I did my internships at a yacht yard where exclusive yachts were built for international clientele and at a furniture workshop where furniture was made per piece on demand.

In 2007 I came to Bonaire to help my parents run their company, **Christal Rent-a-Car**. My parents stayed in Holland but they'd fly back and forth while I ran the business on Bonaire. I did that for two years; I didn't miss Holland at all. Then I started working at **BAS (Bonaire Air Services)** as a ground stewardess, handling KLM, Continental and Arke Fly, but I was also a ramp and cabin coordinator. I lived in a 20-foot container on my dad's land. As well as my airport job I worked for Express Cargo as the two jobs were easy to combine.

In 2008 I met my husband, **Jerry**, through mutual friends. At the time he was the house DJ at City Café. I wasn't interested in a romantic or steady relationship, but he continued to visit me. We started talking, sitting outside and it became a real friendship. Then it developed into a relationship; I was 21 and he was 22. So he moved in with me. First there was

one T-shirt, then a whole rack of clothes. Then he sort of had to stay, but he wanted it himself! I decided to stop working for BAS because of the night shifts and when **Oliverio**, who was an employee of City Café at the time, opened his own restaurant, **El Mundo**, I joined him and his crew right from the start and worked for him for a year.

overwhelming! In 2012 Jerry and I got engaged and planned to make the move back and have the wedding on Bonaire. At the end of October 2013 we arrived; a container full of baby stuff followed; then we got married on the December 11, 2013. It was great to be back and have the family so close!

I went to work at El Mundo Restaurant again but only for breakfast and lunch while the kids went to daycare for the very first time which they liked because there were many children to play with. When Oliverio and his family went on vacation and El Mundo

book, and more and more people came to the house. Then, **Rose-Marie**, invited me to come to the Marshe di Playa (the Saturday Market), so together with my mom, my children and two cars stuffed with plants we went every Saturday to the market to sell plants. That was the beginning of my business! I drove all over the island to find plants to buy; I collected cuttings and I bought plants from the Venezuelans. Then family, friends and people I didn't even know started donating pots and plants they didn't want anymore. Everybody became very

due maintenance and, if necessary, a big cleanup. Then I ask the client if they want me to come monthly or weekly to maintain the garden. But people can also ask me for a one-time job or any job that needs to be done like planting, pruning or weeding. My first client I got through Facebook's 'Durftevragen' ('Dare To Ask') where someone asked for a reliable gardener. I answered if a garden woman was okay too! It's not only about doing a good job, but it's also important to come on time and comply with agreements. My second client saw me working in my first client's garden, and that started the ball rolling! Now I'm busy; in the morning I do gardens and in the afternoon from 2 till 6:30 I'm at the shop of **Bonita Garden Care** which was officially opened last Sunday. You can find us at Kaya Kitaron #7, a side street of Kaya Kitara in Nikiboko. Saturdays I am closed and Sundays I open on request.

My family and Bonita Garden Care: that's me, my passion, my life! I came back because Bonaire is home ever since I was little. I love the tranquility, the people, the culture and living on Bonaire. I love the sea, the beach and the temperature. I don't like cold weather at all! I love the kunuku I have and the freedom on Bonaire. I love that there's no rush, and to me it's very important that my children are growing up here in the outdoors, in a social community surrounded by their family. And of course I see a future for us here. I'm sure my company will grow; I have enough plans and possibilities and I think Bonaire is ready for it!"

■ Greta Kooistra

More info Facebook: Bonita Garden Care or phone/WhatsApp 770-5212



"I love the kunuku I have and the freedom on Bonaire. To me it's very important that my children are growing up here in the outdoors, in a social community surrounded by their family."

Before we met my boyfriend had just graduated on Aruba as an electrician. So when he wanted to continue his studies we moved to Holland in 2010. Jerry worked four days a week and in the evenings he would go to night school. I started working at a furniture store chain, running the storage and handling the orders, the sales and complaints. I was gaining a lot of experience. We lived in my parents' house while they had moved to Bonaire. It was different to be back because I wasn't alone anymore, I was with my boyfriend and we had a goal in mind: his studies. He completed several courses, like design, electrical inspector and CAD draftsman, but also music producer, automation technology and drive technology. Nowadays he's an Electrical Inspector and he has his own company, **Albertus Elektra** (795-1722).

I didn't want to study anymore. My plan was to go back to Bonaire. In October 2011 our daughter **Jenery** was born, and in November 2012 our son **Jefersén**. It was like having twins! Mama came over to help me because it was

closed, I went to **ZeeZicht Restaurant** to ask if they had a job for me for one month as I was planning to go back to El Mundo. However, after I worked for two weeks at the **Cappuccino Bar** at **Karels'** they offered me a contract which was better for me as a mom. Oliverio understood completely. He is a great guy. At the Cappuccino Bar at the pier I did breakfast and lunch five days a week.

Then my dad bought **Boat Rental Bonaire**, and I decided to help him, so I came back in the family business. I worked there for one year, then I took a sabbatical. It was time to enjoy life on Bonaire and I did it with my mom and my mother-in-law, **Rose-Marie**.

One day my mother-in-law gave me a plant cutting. After a week or so I saw that cutting growing roots. I planted it in the dirt and then, out of the blue, it grew a flower. I became so enthusiastic that I started planting cuttings myself, and I also began to sow. That's how I discovered my green thumb! We organized porch sales with plants and household items together with my mother-in-law and I got more and more plants that I sold on Face-

enthusiastic and I got a lot of tips and advice from everyone! It was so much fun!

However, at the time we lived in an apartment complex and we had too little space. The children were also getting bigger and as I gotten more and more plants, we moved to a family house at Kaya Kitaron #7. There I totally freaked out – plant wise, hahaha!

March 2018 I registered at the Chamber of Commerce with my own business, **Bonita Garden Care**. Then there was no way back. My mom helped me with all the paper work and the business plan. We decided to apply for financing at **Qredits** so I wrote them. If you have a positive attitude and constantly strive to give your best effort, eventually you will overcome your immediate problems and find you are ready for greater challenges! In June I was approved for the credit.

Not only do I sell plants, but also I take care of gardens and terrains. It gives me peace and joy to work with plants and trees. I do everything alone, but if I need help my mom is always there for me. When I have a new client, I first do over-

DID YOU KNOW?

Whip spiders, sometimes called “**tailless whip scorpions**,” are arachnids that belong to the order *Amblypygi*. You may have seen these creatures as CGI (computer generated imagery) reproductions in the movie, “Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire.” These funny-looking animals do not produce webs or have venom. In fact, they are not even spiders, but scorpions with no tail. Despite their intimidating large claws, which are used for defense and attacking, they rarely show aggressiveness towards humans, unless provoked. The whip spider you see in the photo was found by the STINAPA rangers while doing some “spring cleaning” in one of the storage containers.

This species is a cave dweller. Darkness, cool temperatures and humidity create the perfect habitat for this animal, hence why it was found inside the container. Here in Bonaire, you’ll likely find them if you explore the numerous caves scattered around the island. While “harmless” to us, whip spiders are amazing predators. Because they live in the dark, they are almost blind. However, their first set of legs evolved to look and function like antennae. These modified legs are thin, can stretch up to 10 inches long and rotate 360 degrees, which helps them detect prey and communicate. Prey such as crickets are then captured by the large pincers called pedipals, crushed and then eaten.

Like them or not, as funny as it may seem, I’m sure we would all find their courtship ritual quite amusing to see. In order to win the female over for mating, the male has to ‘prove’ he’s worthy of her by touching and stroking her with his antennae-like legs. After mating, the female has to carry the heavy weight of 6-60 eggs on her back and can’t eat for quite a few months until the young leave her after the second molt! Entomologists from Cornell University have discovered a secret affectionate side of the whip scorpions unknown to us until now. When members of the same family group were divided, within minutes they got back together and the mother would stroke her babies as a sign of nurturing.

I bet you didn’t see that coming! Neither did I. There are many animals in the world that care for their family, their siblings. While the most common examples that come to mind may be those of marine mammals, even invertebrates are now known to “feel” despite their strange morphology or nature.



Kerenza Rannou photo

Bonaire “whip” spider

And that is all from me, folks. Hope you’ve liked my articles. Keep Bonaire beautiful. □

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.

He is a graduate in Marine Biology from the University of Aberdeen.



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RESTAURANTS

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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.



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Children and Sea Turtles

Ben and Jacob's learning responsibility is to participate in a giving program to put aside money they earned from doing chores and donate that money to a worthy charitable cause. They pooled the money they saved and on their own chose Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire as the cause they wanted to support. During their trip to Bonaire in August they presented STCB with a donation of a whopping \$145 and explained why it is so important to them that the turtles be supported.

Ben and Jacob (ages six and eight) live in Falls Church, Virginia, and were introduced to Bonaire's wonderful world of undersea conservation and restoration four years ago. In August they came to Bonaire for the third time - and stayed for two weeks! Thanks to their grandparents, **Murray and Nadine Rubin**, 20-year part-time Bonaire residents, these two kids are hooked on what they see above and below the water.

Most residents of Bonaire know that the future of our planet and of the turtles as well as all other creatures, including humans, is dependent upon teaching future generations about conservation, extinction and survival. Children living in many of the big cities around the world may have never seen a sea turtle outside an aquarium. However, when kids witness turtles in the wild in Bonaire they easily become interested and involved in the future of the turtles and our planet. This is the story of two young boys who are on that path.

Jacob's favorite turtle is a Hawksbill. He was privileged to see a huge adult while snorkeling on the north side of Klein Bonaire at the age of five. Ben's favorite turtle



Ben and Jacob

is a Loggerhead. He can tell you all about the different turtles on Bonaire and around the world and why they must be protected.

This summer Jacob became a PADI Certified Jr. Seal and has three dives in his Bubble Maker logbook.

Ben's Bonaire activity is windsurfing. This is the second summer he has had a week of lessons.

Both parents and grandparents are proud of these young boys who are really making a difference for the future of our planet. □

Nadine Rubin

Mapping Marine Litter

The World Wide Fund for Nature in the Netherlands (WWF-NL), in collaboration with Boneiru Duradero, is looking for volunteers for the Clean Coast Bonaire program. Volunteers in this program will be asked to help monitor Bonaire's beaches for marine litter. The research will be conducted following a professional monitoring protocol which is used by authorities in Europe in order to identify the amount, constitution and sources of marine litter. The ultimate aim: a (plastic) waste-free coast on Bonaire. Clean Coast Bonaire is a citizen science program, aiming to involve inhabitants of Bonaire who are willing to collect marine litter and record scientific data at the same time.

The monitoring program will be based on the OSPAR Beach Litter Monitoring guidelines, which has been used in Europe for over a decade to establish a good knowledge base about marine litter. The beach litter data has contributed to the new Plastics Strategy of the European Union (EU), banning 10 single use plastic items, such as plastic cutlery and straws. More importantly the EU demands plastic producers to take responsibility and pay for waste management and cleanup efforts.

Experienced marine litter surveyor **Merijn Hougee** from WWF-NL is visiting Bonaire to provide training about conducting beach litter surveys and to tailor the OSPAR beach litter monitoring protocol for local circumstances. The general method requires demarcating a stretch of beach and then collecting, counting and



cataloging marine litter found in that particular area. This process of taking inventory of washed up waste is repeated four times a year per location. After analyzing data, the amounts, different types and sources of marine litter as well as trends can be established. Based on this high-quality data, a program of measures for a plastic waste-free Bonaire can be developed in collaboration with the people of Bonaire, entrepreneurs, NGOs and authorities.

The marine litter workshop will take place at: Captain Don's Habitat Resort – Aquarius Conference Room. Participants can choose one theory and one practice session from schedule below:

Tuesday August 28: Theory 19.00 – 20.30; Practice Friday August 31 8.00 – 10.00

Thursday August 30: Theory 19.00 – 20.30;

Practice Saturday September 18.00 – 10.00

There is a maximum of 25 participants per session. Send an email to sharon@bolholding.com if you would like to attend. Members of the press are welcome. See Boneiru Duradero Portal for more information. □



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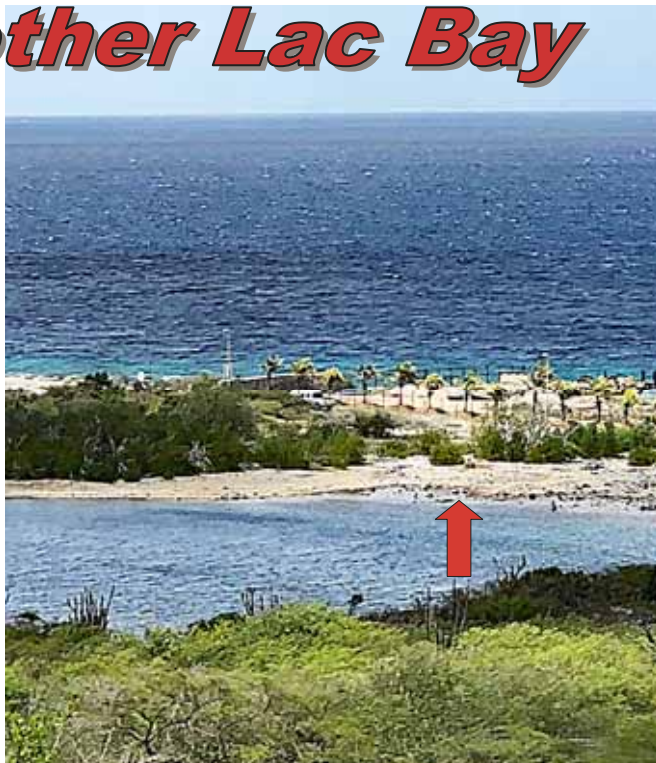
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Let's Create Another Lac Bay



Gotomeer, is in Bonaire's NW corner, arrow shows road cut



View of the inlet and cut



The barren shores of Gotomeer

It's well a documented fact that the quantity and quality of fish, turtles, lobster, conch and other fishery resources in our waters has been declining steadily, mostly due to overfishing, environmental stress and other issues. It's high time to take positive action to make things better and improve conditions on our reefs. Creating protected fish nurseries, like Lac Bay, is one answer. Given the current situation, the creation of mangrove bordered bays is a necessary step for Bonaire.

We could have many more Lac Bay type nurseries on our island by opening the now blocked access to the sea in several areas of the island, starting with Gotomeer in the northwestern corner, adjacent to BOPEC.

Bays, surrounded by man-

groves and open to the sea, such as Lac are hugely important nurseries for everything that lives in our seas and are responsible for much of the fish population of our reefs. The reefs, in turn, depend on a robust population of sea life for their own health as well. Both a healthy fish population and a healthy reef are conditions for the health of our diving tourism.

I have long been a proponent of the opening of Gotomeer to the sea. Letters with detailed proposals with the pros and cons of such action have been sent to the Island Council*, to other authorities and most recently to the Director of STINAPA. As yet, there has been no official response. While STINAPA does not have a final say or authority to approve and execute such ac-

tion, it's hoped that the huge potential benefit will be recognized and supported. STINAPA is key in evaluation of the plan's viability and for developing a plan of action for analysis of the idea and a strategy for implementation.

The proposal is straightforward: Connect landlocked Goto Lake (Gotomeer) with the sea, so that after a gradual transition the salt content in Goto will be almost equal to that of the surrounding sea, which will undoubtedly lead to an alive and vibrant inland body of water similar to Lac Bay, surrounded by mangroves and serving as a hatchery for everything that lives in our sea.

What is involved?

1. Open Gotomeer to the sea. A bridge or a few big pipes under the road to BOPEC would be

sufficient. If the process isn't successful, these pipes or channel can be easily closed off to return to the present conditions.

2. Gotomeer presently has a very high salt content because the tidal driven sea water cannot return to the ocean and evaporation concentrates the salt in the water. As a result a portion of the bottom is covered with a layer of calcium carbonate and some calcium sulfate (CaCO₂ and CaSO₄) which are natural products of a high saline environment. The actual salt content depends on a balance of evaporation, underground sea water entry and rain water. With the exception of some brine flies, occasionally some brine shrimps and snails along the banks, the whole area is lifeless because of the high salt content.

3. After connecting it to the sea the salinity in Gotomeer will slowly become equal to sea water due to tidal action; the layer of calcium salts will dissolve in sea water and a healthy environment for mangrove and sea grass growth will be created. Similar to Lac Bay, Gotomeer will become an enormous breeding ground and nursery for all kinds of fish. Also similar to Lac, these fish will leave Goto as they get bigger and populate the outside reefs.

4. Has this been done before? Yes. In 1969 the Pekelmeer was opened to the sea to allow for the Salt Company's 'sea intake.' As a consequence there was an explosive growth of mangroves and a surge in fish and lobster population. Local fishermen are aware

(Continued on page 9)



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Dense mangrove forest in Pekelmeer

Create A New Lac Bay (Continued from page 8) of this and have diminished this positive effect by constantly using huge nets and ignoring sustainable fishing practices... that is taking all sea life regardless of size.

Given my experience building the Salt Company sea water intake bridge at Willemstoren and laying pipes under the EEC road along the south coast to allow seawater into the salt pans, the construction of a bridge or pipes under the road to BOPEC will not be a major problem. If the results are indeed as positive as expected, it may be considered to connect other closed bays and salinas or bays such

as Slagbaai, Tam, Bartol, Wayaca and Funchi with the sea. At some of these a bridge or pipes would not be necessary. The potential benefit for our island is almost unimaginable.

And that's not all. To further enhance the nursery aspect, Gotomeer, after opening to the sea, could be made into a recreational no-fishing and no power-boating zone. Hopefully that would prevent over-fishing as has happened in the Pekelmeer.

□ Story & photos by Rene Hakkenburg



Seawater Inlet to Pekelmeer with bridge

Author Rene Hakkenburg was born in Curacao, obtained a masters degree in Structural Engineering, was in charge of construction of the Bonaire salt works (at that time owned by the International Salt Company of Pennsylvania), became its Managing Director and after a stint at the US headquarters, returned to Bonaire in 1992.



We encourage our readers to comment on this proposal. Send to reporter@bonairenews.com. The next Reporter will discuss potential problems, gaining support and follow-up action

*Gotomeer falls under the responsibility of the OLB, the Public Body of Bonaire Island. Because it is a Ramsar (protected) site, the end responsibility for good governance rests with the Dutch Department of LNV (Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality). This department, in principle, will not take any initiatives unless approached by OLB with a request for LNV's support to conduct an environmental impact study and further evaluation of the proposal. Realistically, only massive public support for this initiative will encourage the OLB to make the request.

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Making Bonaire "Accessible" if "Accessible"

THE BEACH FOR ALL (Wheelchair Challenges #18)



For many of us there is no greater pleasure than a day at the beach or at least a trip to the beach. You wake up early in the morning because you are anxious, you want to prepare for the day and the weather needs to be glorious. Do you only want to swim or also read and maybe have a picnic lunch? Your body wants to feel the hot sand, the spine-tingling cool water. Will you get there by bike or do you take the car?

For able-bodied people this is so normal and so easy to do. However, when your body does not function the way it should, nothing like this is normal. It is mostly impossible.

And yet... it should be possible. There should be ways to make all these dreams come true.

There should be tandem-bicycles for rent so you could ride to the beach with a buddy or partner. This would be especially good for persons whose eyesight is bad and persons who have difficulties hearing. Persons who are in wheelchairs could be taken to the beach by car.

Now, how to get onto that beach? There are two ways: in a special wheelchair or walking on a special rubber road.

So this could be a goal to set for MiVaBo, Bonaire's Handicap Association. And the department of sports could be very helpful in various ways. The material could be offered by them and maybe even special coaches who could assist could be made available, just like the coaches who work in the barios.

The Office for Tourism could also be helpful here because what is good for the tourists, is also good for us Bonaireans.

About two weeks ago I was so glad to see that there was hard work going on at the crossroad near the post office. I saw they were lowering the curb to make it accessible for wheelchairs, walkers and strollers. Now there are two more things to do: do the very same thing on the other side of the road and make the crossroad highly visible again.

Keep up the good work, *Gobierno di Bonaire*. Why not make it a goal to be ready on our National Flag Day (*Dia di Bandera*), September 6?

Now that we are at it: how is the AVIRAMP coming along? Is it there yet? And



Where is our AVIRAMP?

so, is it installed yet? And if so, when can we get on it to give it a try? We are so very, very anxious. **How cool would it be to have the AVIRAMP in place and working when all those VIPs are coming in to celebrate *Dia di Bandera*?**

Now here is one more question to close with: **November 10 is the official Day of the Care Givers (*Mantelzorgers*)**. On this day care givers are put in the spotlight. So shower them with appreciation and give them the attention they need. After all.... they do all their caring for free and save the government a lot of money.

The theme this year is: "Surprise the Care Giver." I want to organize something special for them, but I need your help. Please mail me tips, ideas, etc. so I can plan and be ready in time.

kaarsenatelierrkandela@gmail.com.

In the meantime: take very good care of all your loved-ones. **Story & photo by Ria Evers-Dokter**



Celebrating "Ladies' Day"



Duvielle, Supervisor Ingrid, Marcial, Benny NAPA photo

What a surprise recently to go into the Napa garage and see all the mechanics and their supervisor, Ingrid, wearing pink shirts! It turns out they were celebrating "Ladies' Day" at Napa where ladies could come in that day for reduced priced oil changes and oil filters. They have been doing this for the last three years, according to Ingrid, who mentioned that at first the big strong mechanic guys were reluctant to wear pink! But now, she says, "they just smile." Don't you just love Napa! **Story and photo by L.D.**



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A Garden? Just Do It

PASSION FRUIT



Passion fruit growing on wire trellis

Passion fruit. We see them much of the time in the stores and fruit markets. Passion fruit grows in other countries and is imported to Bonaire. But did you know that they are tropical plants that can

(passion flower) or *flor de las cinco llagas* (flower of the five wounds) after its purple flower which they believed resembled the five wounds of Christ.



Passion fruit—Young vine starting

grow perfectly on Bonaire too? I have them all the time in my yard, growing in my trees. Right now I have three plants growing in the mango tree. The passion fruit is a vine that crawls and curls in the branches while enjoying the shade of the big tree. They are so easy to grow and the fruit is so healthy and nice in different recipes. But iguanas are crazy for the leaves so when the plant crawls in a big bushy tree the iguanas can't see the leaves that well. And that is my secret to growing passion fruit. It's so nice to see the many yellow or purple-reddish passion fruits hanging in the tree like Christmas decorations. You want to try it? Here have more interesting information.

It is said that the Passion Fruit was named by the 16th century Spanish Catholic missionaries in the Amazon region of Brazil. They called it *flor passionis*

Passiflora edulis is a vine species of passion flower that is in many tropical countries especially those in South America. It's called *parchita* in Venezuela, *maracuja* in Spanish; in French, *grenadille*; and in my native country Surinam, *markoesa*. The fruit is a "pepo," a type of berry with a hard, colorful rind and a juicy, seed-filled center filled with numerous yellow-grey seeds. There are several types in various sizes and colors. The most common are the yellow and purple varieties: *passiflora edulis* (small, round or oval with purple reddish skin) and *passiflora flavicarpa* (slightly larger than the purple variety, round or oval, with yellow skin). In Surinam we have the orange colored skin with totally grey seeds inside, sweet as sugar.

The fruit is used in a lot of dishes: in juices, as a syrup used over shaved ice, in ice creams, in alcoholic cocktails. Then there is passion fruit mousse as a dessert, the fruit pulp used to decorate the tops of cakes, tarts and puddings, also used to flavor cakes like cheese-cake, cookies, used in jams and jellies, used to marinate meat and vegetables, to flavor yogurts and corn-flakes, in cocktails instead of lime, in liqueurs and soft drinks. The fruit can also be eaten as is or mixed with other fruit juices.

Passion fruit is highly nutritious, containing fiber, Vitamin C, Vitamin A, Vitamin B, Iron and a lot of other minerals and carbohydrates. It may not seem like much, but this is what is contained in a single, small fruit that contains only 17 calories! It's also rich in beneficial plant compounds, including carotenoids and polyphenols and a rich source of antioxidants.

Passion fruit is perfectly safe for most people to eat, but allergies do occur in a small number of people. This is because some plant protein in the fruit might trigger an allergic reaction in some of these people.

The vine produces a beautiful single flower, and pollination is most effective when done by bees. The bright yellow variety is big and a little sour, while the dark reddish variety is smaller and has a richer aroma and flavor.

Passion fruit leaves and flowers are used in herbal medicine. The leaves calm the nerves. When I had to do my exams in school, my mom used to make me a few cups of passion fruit leaf tea which made

me feel more relaxed. And I was also sleeping more relaxed too.

How to Grow Passion Fruit.

Use fresh seeds. A few days before you intend to plant the seeds dry them in the sun. Spread them out on a piece of plastic or cardboard and rub them until the seed sacs burst open. Then spread the dried seeds in a container until ready to plant. To plant, put one or two seeds in a plastic cup, cover with dirt and water them. After a week or two you will see the seeds begin to sprout. When the plants are big enough, 10 or 20 centimeters tall, transplant them into bigger pots or straight into the soil under a tree or against a fence. Water regularly. When you notice they need support use branches and wire to help. The plants grow easily in just some black dirt or mix Bonairean soil with compost and some manure. They need sun and shade and can stand the dry weather without any problem. Just water enough.

Once I got so much passion fruit, I could not eat it all. I shared them with friends and I made many delicious dishes and drinks with them.

So give it a try. It's such an easy plant with less care and space but so great in health and taste.

And the recipes are endless.

So just do it. □

Story & photos by Angliet, Nature Lover



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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.

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 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

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.

•**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: 12stepbonaire@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

Dutch service Every Sunday evening at 7pm, Hanchi Amboina 37. Kralendijk. Pastor Oppeneer. Info call +599 787-0646

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

Dutch service Every Sunday evening at 7pm, Hanchi Amboina 37. Kralendijk. Pastor Oppeneer. Info call +599 787-0646

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 Ships

Date	Ship	Time	#PAX
27-Aug	Monarch	0700-1800	2744
31-Aug	Equinox	0700-1800	2744
4- Sept	Monarch	0700-1800	2744
11- Sep.	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**

—**Yana's Fine Art Exhibition at Bistro di Paris /Zazu Bar-** Info: 599 785-5002

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 Lagoen 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

Mapping Marine Litter Workshops—

Tuesday August 28; Theory 19.00 – 20.30; Practice Friday August 31 8.00 – 10.00 Thursday August 30: Theory 19.00 – 20.30; Practice Saturday September 18.00 – 10.00 See page 7 for more, Info:

sharon@bolholding.com

Aug. 31-Sept. 11—8th Bonaire International Dance Festival. Info: bonairedancefestival.nl

September 1—C'est La Vie to play at Woodstock, 9pm.

Tuesday, September 4 — Seagrass research presentation at DCNA, Kaya Finlandia 10a, Kralendijk. Time: 7-8pm. Free

Thursday, September 6— Bonaire Flag Day, legal holiday at Parke Lalan Clarenda, Nikiboko. Locals and visitors dance, eat, drink on the streets. Bands, motorcycle event with over 400 participants flying in from around the world. All day.

September 8-15— Mindful Diver New Moon Retreat. For more information email sarah@mindfuldiver.com.

September 15—Bonaire Cleanup Day, sponsored by SELIBON

October 10-13 — Bonaire Regatta

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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
	01:01	09:53	15:59	19:30			
Mon 27	0.68 ft	0.06 ft	0.33 ft	0.31 ft		6:25	18:49
	01:53	10:15	16:10	21:30			
Tue 28	0.61 ft	0.09 ft	0.41 ft	0.30 ft		6:25	18:48
	02:49	10:32	16:28	23:00			
Wed 29	0.54 ft	0.11 ft	0.50 ft	0.25 ft		6:25	18:47
	03:48	10:48	16:51				
Thu 30	0.47 ft	0.12 ft	0.61 ft			6:25	18:47
		00:09	04:43	11:07	17:21		
Fri 31		0.18 ft	0.41 ft	0.11 ft	0.73 ft	6:25	18:46
		01:05	05:35	11:31	17:55		
Sat 01		0.10 ft	0.36 ft	0.09 ft	0.85 ft	6:25	18:45
		L	01:54	06:24	12:02	18:34	
Sun 02	Quarter	0.03 ft	0.32 ft	0.06 ft	0.95 ft	6:25	18:45
		02:41	07:10	12:40	19:16		
Mon 03		-0.03 ft	0.29 ft	0.03 ft	1.04 ft	6:25	18:44
		03:27	07:57	13:23	20:01		
Tue 04		-0.07 ft	0.28 ft	0.01 ft	1.09 ft	6:25	18:44
		04:14	08:46	14:13	20:49		
Wed 05		-0.10 ft	0.28 ft	0.01 ft	1.10 ft	6:25	18:43
		05:02	09:40	15:07	21:41		
Thu 06		-0.10 ft	0.30 ft	0.02 ft	1.07 ft	6:25	18:42
		05:50	10:38	16:10	22:35		
Fri 07		-0.09 ft	0.34 ft	0.05 ft	1.00 ft	6:25	18:42
		06:40	11:42	17:24	23:35		
Sat 08		-0.07 ft	0.40 ft	0.10 ft	0.90 ft	6:25	18:41
		07:29	12:48	18:50	New Moon		
Sun 09		-0.05 ft	0.48 ft	0.13 ft		6:25	18:40
	01:01	09:53	15:59	19:30			
Mon 10	0.68 ft	0.06 ft	0.33 ft	0.31 ft		6:25	18:49

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The Bonaire Reporter: George DeSalvo (G.D.), Publisher;
Laura DeSalvo (L.D.), Editor

Address: P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean. Available on-line on Facebook® and the Internet Web at: www.bonairereporter.com

Reporters: Angliet Nature Lover, James Albury, Sharon Bol, Alessandro Corubolo, Ria Evers-Dokter, Rene Hakkenburg, Greta Kooistra, Jane Madden-Disko, Dean Regas, Luvi Rodriguez, Nadine Rubin, Michael Thiessen,

Distribution: Marlene & Co. (Playa), Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Divi-Divi Airline, Ava Rose Wuyts (Assistant)

Housekeeping: JRA. **Printed by:** DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao

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Shelter Birthday Party Success



☞ Discount adoptions were offered
 ☞ Drinks were still free.... But donations were very welcome.



Delilah Agostien ready to decorate Sophia's face...



Gibi Bomba entertained

Animal Shelter Bonaire's 35th Birthday celebration was a marked significant anniversary. Visitors, invited guests, volunteers, staff...and even the dogs and cats...had a great morning! There was live music, free face painting, birthday cupcakes, raffle prizes, free CHIP-PIE "chips" and much more. UTS generously sponsored "CHIPPIE Chips," free gift certificates to have pets micro-chipped to help reunite them with owners if pets are lost

or found. The response was great and the Shelter and island veterinarians have already registered numerous chips in their databases. **Gibi Bomba** serenaded the crowd with great music, **Selimah Agostien** face painted children and adults with beautiful animal themes, **Joe Pilarz** baked over 100 fabulous birthday cupcakes, and 25 lucky visitors won great raffle prizes. Attendees also took advantage of a "mini" book market, a t-shirt and craft booth and a pet toy and accessories market staffed by our great Pakus di Pruga and Cruise Market crews.

The focal point of the day was to thank all those who have helped the Shelter accomplish so much over its 35 years of existence, particularly those who struggled through some hard times in the early years. The Shelter's appreciation for these original pioneering volunteers can best be expressed with the African proverb: "If we stand tall it is because we stand on the shoulders of many ancestors." ☐

Jane Madden
 Disko



Pet Of The Week

Meet Gwen! This little lady was brought in five months ago with a litter of six puppies. During the course of those five months all the pups left and Gwen stayed. Gwen loves to go for walks and is very good on a leash, listens well and loves to cuddle. She is also good with children.



Don't be fooled though because she can still be a "mom" to the younger dogs and corrects them when they are doing something wrong. She would be perfect if you are looking for a friend to take for walks, or just to chill with on the couch and watch tv. Gwen is healthy, spayed and ready to go. Are you interested in meeting Gwen or one of her other friends?

Please stop by at the Animal Shelter, Kaminda Lagun 26, Mon.-Fri. 9a.m.-12 p.m. and 3-5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-3p.m. nonstop. 717-4989/701-4989. ☐



Long time residents Mimi, Cheri and Kitty at the book sale table

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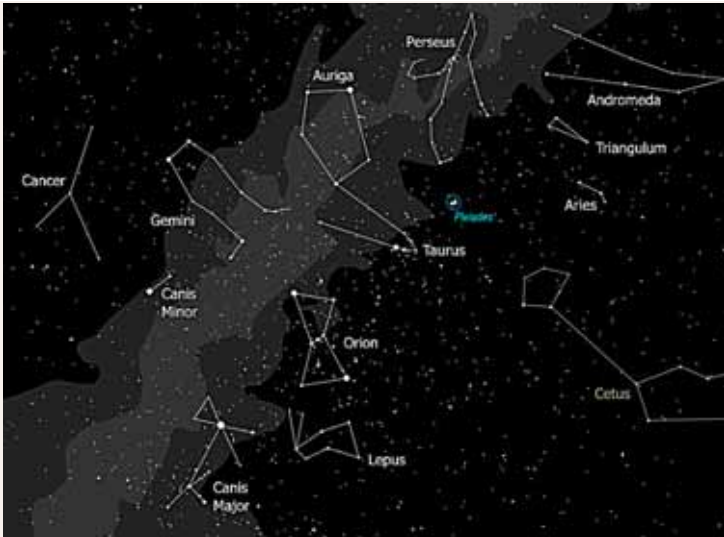


BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

GET THAT WINTER FEELING

Guess what? Winter is just around the corner! Huh? We're at the end of August. It's not even autumn yet. But even in the sultry skies of August, if you wake up early enough this week, you can get a preview of the brightest stars of winter and you can see the planets Mars and Venus.



Under ordinary circumstances, you could wait until December to see the stars of winter, but a good preview is fun too. On **Monday August 24th about 45 minutes before sunrise face east where you'll see several bright stars covering a huge area from east to southeast.**

Look south of east, just above the southeast horizon. You'll easily see winter's super bright star, **Sirius**. Sirius is the brightest star in the night sky, and it's also the brightest star of **Canis Major**, Orion's big hunting dog.

Up and to the left of Sirius is **Procyon**, which marks the eye of Orion's little dog. And above and to Procyon's right, completing a triangle of bright stars, is **Betelgeuse**, the bright red shoulder of Orion.

Down to the right of Betelgeuse are the unmistakable three stars, evenly spaced in a row, which mark **Orion's belt**. His four ankle stars, **Rigel**, and knee star **Saiph** are to the right and his two shoulder stars, **Betelgeuse** and **Bellatrix** are to the left.

Directly above Orion's shoulder stars, lies **Aldebaran**, the reddish star which marks the eye of **Taurus the bull**. And to Taurus' left is **Capella**, the brightest star of winter's **Auriga the charioteer constellation**. Directly below Auriga are **Castor** and **Pollux** the two brightest stars of the **Gemini Twins**.

If you get out just before sunrise in the Sky Park in August, you can see many of the brightest stars of winter climbing above the eastern horizon.

But this year something has been added. Near overhead, glowing reddish, there is Mars.

You'll be looking over 230 million miles across the solar system at the red planet Mars and if you more towards the west before 8 pm you'll easily spot Venus. Remember that whenever we look for Mars, we can realize that Mars is only half the size of our **Earth**. So you'll be looking at a very small planet that's very far away. Now if you watch both of these planets through the end of August and into September, you'll notice that Venus starts dropping above the horizon each day while Mars will get higher.

And if you have a really clear, flat, cloudless horizon on the morning of **Friday September 11th you may see one of the skinniest Moons you'll ever see**. It'll be right next to the bright star **Regulus** of **Leo the Lion**.

So there you have it, all of winter's bright stars, visible in the east at the end of August, just before sunrise. Procyon, Sirius and Betelgeuse mark the **Winter Triangle**. Betelgeuse, Rigel, Saiph and Bellatrix mark the giant hunter Orion. And above them lie Aldebaran and the V-shape of Taurus plus Castor, Pollux, Venus, Mars and eventually Jupiter and the Moon.

It's all there for you to see.

■ *Dean Regas & James Albury*



THE STARS HAVE IT

September 2018

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Help if you can, but more than likely it will be sufficient just to listen. You can mesmerize anyone you meet with your cultured attitude and outlook. Unexpected bills will leave you a little short. Emotional upset at work will set you back. Your lucky day this month will be Tuesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) Be careful while traveling. Don't overspend on friends or children. You will benefit by taking care of other people's concerns. Don't let your jealousy be the reason for a decaying relationship. Your lucky day this month will be Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Deep discussions may only lead to friction. You should look into a healthier diet. Put some energy into getting back into shape. Listen to reason. Don't agree to make any of those cosmetic alterations you've been considering. Your lucky day this month will be Wednesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Positive changes regarding your personal status are evident. Try to accommodate them without infringing on your own responsibilities. Pleasure trips will bring you into contact with new and interesting people. Consider a trial separation if you and your mate just can't come to terms. Your lucky day this month will be Thursday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Business and emotional partnerships will run smoothly. You may not be as well received in group endeavors if you try to force your will on others. Your communication skills will bring you popularity and increased self esteem. Be sure to get involved in self improvement programs that will bring you in contact with interesting people. Your lucky day this month will be Friday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Jealous attitudes may lead you astray. Go out with friends. A residential move may be necessary to get a better job. Put your thoughts into some trendy new ideas. Your lucky day this month will be Sunday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You should take good care of your health; get

lots of rest. Be careful not to misplace your wallet or belongings. If they're really interested, they'll wait. Do not get involved in joint financial ventures. Your lucky day this month will be Wednesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Do not let them blow situations out of proportion. Don't overreact to someone's advances. A romantic dinner, followed by a quiet evening with the one who is enticing you, should be most satisfying. Avoid any gossip and be careful that you aren't misinterpreted. Your lucky day this month will be Friday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Children might be on your mind. Don't hesitate to make special plans just for two. You will not be pleased with family members who try to put demands on you when you just don't have the time. Tempers will mount if you're too pushy at work or at home. Don't rely on others to do your work. Your lucky day this month will be Monday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You may have difficulties with family members if you get involved in petty arguments. Be sure to pay attention to your financial status. Before you proceed be sure to talk your plans over with those they will affect. Be careful not to come on too strongly. Your lucky day this month will be Wednesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Problems with relatives and friends could surface. You may be in love this month, but who knows what tomorrow may bring. You should check out prestigious clubs or groups that have a cause you believe in. Exhaustion combined with overindulgence could result in minor health problems. Your lucky day this month will be Monday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Make changes that will enhance your appearance. You can get ahead if you play your cards right. Stop telling others about your problems. You can ask for favors or run your ideas by those who will be able to support your objectives. Your lucky day this month will be Wednesday. □

Michael Thiessen



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Announcement

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