

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE September 10-24, 2018, Year 25, Issue 19
The REPORTER

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Best Bonaire Day Yet!



To meet objectives, it is good when all team members are on the same page. It's even better when all are on the same book. That's what happened when STINAPA completed their 10-day workshop on 'Open Standards' For Nature Conservation together with partners and stakeholders on Bonaire.

Supported by WWF, STINAPA worked diligently for two weeks to identify the key issues, opportunities and threats that we encounter in our protected areas. Through the Open Standards method we learn how to find a balance between what is needed to protect nature and how sustainable use can be supported.

All STINAPA employees were involved in the workshop, as well as STINAPA board members; and many partners and stakeholders were invited: the government, nature NGOs, fishermen, companies, tour operators, hotel-and tourism associations, Coral Restoration Foundation, Harbor Master and many others.

STINAPA wants clear plans and realistic solutions that are supported by a broad alliance of different people and organizations that have specific knowledge and expertise about the habitats, culture and customs of Bonaire, and all have a share in the national parks of Bonaire.



►Thanks to years-long efforts by the National Ombudsman the **Bonaire Island Government is compelled to resume payments within two weeks to the Bonaire Donkey Sanctuary** to honor a contract made in 2013 to assist in humanely managing Bonaire's overpopulation of donkeys. The Sanctuary captures the roaming donkeys, putting the females in the Sanctuary but castrating the males and setting them free. Bonaire's many roaming donkeys pose a hazard to traffic, nature

and public health. The Bonaire Donkey Sanctuary is a non-profit organization that also takes care of sick, wounded and orphaned donkeys.

►The first of the many boats offering trips around Bonaire and Klein Bonaire received **safety certificates**. Lieutenant Governor **Edison Rijna**, Harbormaster **Günther Flanegin** and the representative of the Inspection of Living Environment and Transport (ILT) **Floortje van Asperen Vervenne**, handed safety certificate for boats to **Henk and Gea**, owners of the *boat Sea Cow*. On January 1, 2018, the Bonairean island government began to conduct safety inspections on all boats carrying passengers and commercial vessels.



►The Dutch startup website, **Sprout.nl**, featured a scheme for ferry service among the ABC Islands named **Project Flying Fish**. Bonaire resident **Jay Collado's** watercraft is based on concepts challenging physical laws, diving guidelines, and naiveté of local sea conditions. His specially designed air cushion boat would smoothly travel at 180 km./hour (112 mph) and be eco-friendly. He needs an investment of \$11 million to build the boat and begin service by 2021.

►**Sunwing Air Charters** is returning to Bonaire for a second season, the company said this week. The travel giant is the only Canadian tour operator that will be operating direct flights to Bonaire, with service running weekly on Sundays from Toronto to Bonaire. That service will begin December 16 and run through April 14, 2019.

►**InselAir has more employees than seats on its airplanes**. Even so it was recently granted bankruptcy protection for another 18 months. Also last week it dismayed and inconvenienced its passengers when its only plane couldn't fly for almost two days because of an electrical problem. InselAir still owes creditors \$160 million and must cut its staff from 150 to 50. The Curacao Island Government is the virtual owner of InselAir and it itself is having financial difficulties. It has two week to find more money or the Dutch will take over financial supervision. Its economy has shrunk over the last two years, affected by Venezuela's failing economy,

drop in tax collections and expected additional costs for its new hospital.

►Another company will soon join **Aruba Airlines, InselAir, Divi Divi Air and WinAir in flying among the ABC Islands. It's EZ Air.**



►Three pilots from EZ Air (photo above) are in the US studying to earn type-rating for the airline's new Beechcraft 1900. **Franklin Antoin**, recently named EZ Air Chief Pilot, **Järl Henriquez** and **Lorenzo Silié** are accompanied during by inspector **Sereya Mostert-Schotborg** of the Curaçao Civil Aviation Authority (CCAA). The theoretical and a practical program and takes about two weeks. Four more pilots will be trained in the future.

According to EZ Air director **René Winkel**, his company has two, 18-seat Beechcraft 1900D aircraft and two nine-seat Britten-Norman aircraft will start with up to 50 staff. EZ Air will begin flying only between the ABC islands, but may also fly to neighboring countries.

The start date has not been announced. "The planes will soon be arriving in Curaçao from Florida and we still have to do a few more actions to certify the new aircraft," says Winkel.

►Bids have been received for the **Bonaire Airport to undergo \$3.8 million renovation project.**

►On September 1 the price of gasoline and kerosene rose

(Continued on page 3)

This Week's Stories

TCB Head Adriaens Fired.	3
Letters-Discontent, Gotomeer Opening Comments	4
Click or Swipe to Dive (Dive tags)	5
Kareda di Garoshi (soap box derby)	5
Growing Our Own Hay	7
Let's Create Another Lac Bay 2	8
Comparing Bonaire Market Prices	10
Inter Island Water Polo Competition	11
The Spirit Of Bonaire	14
Duo Xtreme Mountain Bike Race	14

Departments

Flotsam & Jetsam (Open Standards, Airline competition, Ferry, Traffic, Hans Hass, more...)	2
Picture Yourself- Valhalla, NY, USA	4
On the Island Since-Helene Juana	6
Did You Know—Sunscreen Dangers	7
Making Bonaire "Accessible" —A Busy Two Weeks	10
A Garden—Just Do It (Cotton)	11
What's Happening, Close In Events, Cruise Ships Visits, Exhibitions	12
Classifieds, Masthead, Tide Table, Sunrise & Sunset Times, Moon Phase	13
Pet Of The Week (Neo Cat)	14
Shelter News Sanne Attevelt, new at Shelter	
Bonaire Sky Park (Finding The Milky Way From Downtown)	15
The Stars Have It (Horoscope)	15

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Aruba or Bonaire?

\$.02/liter Large gas bottles (100 lbs) rose \$ 6.14 and small gas bottles (20 lbs) by \$ 1.03. The price of diesel remained the same. The next adjustment of fuel prices will be in October 2018. Current prices:
 Gasoline \$1.22 per liter.
 Kerosene \$0.62 per liter.
 Diesel \$0.81 per liter.
 LPG, 100# \$39.92 per cylinder.
 LPG, 20# \$9.88 per cylinder.

► **With the windy season ending will Bonaire have more blackouts?** According to a press release from the WEB power company on Sunday September 2, at 14:48 hours, a power failure occurred in Playa Lechi, Playa Pabou, Playa Pariba, Nawati, Nort Saliña, Bona Bista, Finca Verde, Kaminda Gurubu, Mentor, Antriol Pariba, Antriol Pabou, Barrio Santa

Rosa, Barrio den Stashie, Mexico, Nikiboko, Amboina, Tera Cora, Kaya Industria and surrounding area. That lasted for about three hours. The release said the power outage was caused due to sudden failure of production means. That means that the combined wind turbine and oil-fired generators couldn't deliver the power the island's users were calling for.

► **The photo at left was taken at of Kaya Grandi at 7:45am last Tuesday.** Typically vehicles are backed up from central Kralendijk to the ZKV office. Traffic in the ABC Islands is increasing. About 100,000 vehicles are driving Curaçao roads, more than 55,000 on Aruba. And the total number of cars and trucks on Bonaire exceeds 15,000. Aruba and Curacao residents complain about traffic jams and now Bonaireans have their own traffic problems too.

► **The move of prisoners from the downtown lockup to the new multi-million dollar prison (JICN) went without a hitch in the early morning hours on Sunday, August 26.** Security was tight. A helicopter was in the air, motorcycle outriders escorted the army trucks that were transported to Bonaire especially for the move, soldiers lined the route and police were at key chokepoints. No problems were reported.

► **In yet another improvement to health care, the BEST Care Zorgwinkel, which provides rehabilita-**

(Continued on page 5)



TCB's head man Maurice Adriaens

► **Following his September 1, 2018, dismissal by the Supervisory Board of Directors of Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB), Maurice Adriaens, the General Manager of the TCB, took his story to the press.**

In interviews on radio, with newspapers and blogs, Adriaens said he may have done something unconventional, which he said was relatively normal in his native Curacao.

He admitted he wrote a \$2,500 "pay to the bearer" check, an unusual, but not illegal, procedure to expeditiously pay for expenses and tickets on Sky High Airlines (Dominican Republic) for a TCB mission to that country to engage the popular **Chicas del Can** group for a future appearance in Bonaire to boost Spanish-speaking tourism. The airline asked for cash payment for the ticket.

Unless he prevails in the court case he said he will bring, Maurice Adriaens, is out of the job. He appears to have been an effective

leader of the TCB. His more than year and a half tenure was marked by exemplary work by the TCB staff, an expansion of airlift both from Europe and North America, an explosion in the number of cruise ship visitors, a boom in resort construction, and an increase in TCB sponsored events that island residents could also enjoy.

Unmentioned, but perhaps at the heart of the conflict are Adriaens' views that tourism and economic development is hampered by Bonaire's insistence on strong environmental protection, endorsement of the fatally flawed "Blue Destination" Strategic Tourism Plan, and the differences of opinion on a number of issues that have been lingering for most of a year. The TCB Supervisory Board, in other interviews with the press, said that it had lost confidence in Adriaens due to what they called 'incidents' over past months. It did not elaborate.

Because the Bonaire local government (OLB) never agreed to make Adriaens the TCB's Statutory Director, the Supervisory Board named him General Manager last year, giving him a three-year contract. The bearing of the definition of the position on Adriaens' dismissal is unclear as Supervisory Board Member Michelle Knuf was quoted as saying, "The resignation of Adriaens is purely due to his actions and intolerable behaviors. We would have fired him even if he were the Statutory Director."

Adriaens says he wants to get back his TCB job. "My position is that the employment contract has not been legally terminated. I just want to continue working within the TCB. This is not a good thing for the employees and the team." His existing contract has more than two years to run. □

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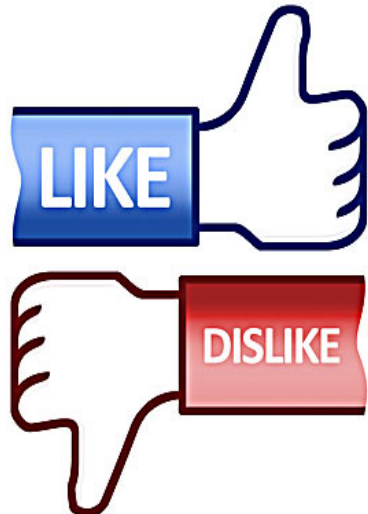


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ISLAND FEEKING?



Have something to say?
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Dear Editor,

There is a real feeling that there are more and more disgruntled people now on Bonaire especially those who were born and raised here.

What exactly is better? Yes medical is better but could that have been done without all the negative things that Holland brought to us?

—Disgruntled

COMMENTS OF LAST EDITION'S STORY
PROPOSING OPENING GOTOMEER TO THE SEA—SEE PAGE 8

Dear Editor:

I think that would be an amazing thing to do for our small island. If it is environmental sound and does not destroy any of the infrastructure of our small island.

The 'nursery at Lac Bay' has been a God send to the nesting and egg laying creatures of our island.

I, also, have noticed a decrease in fish life on our island.

Mangroves help hold the soil and give shelter so 'nursery' fish.

I only see a plus plus for this idea.

Looking forward to reading the cons in the next Reporter.

—Lee Scruggs, part-timer for over 20 years.

Dear Editor:

Rarely do I react to articles, but for the article about the Gotomeer, but I like an exception. I think it's a great idea that must be realized at limited costs.

—Bob Smits (on Bonaire since 1977)

Dear Editor:

Regarding the article, "Let's Create Another Lac Bay" by Rene Hakkenberg, the author fails to mention the impact such a project would have on Bonaire's Flamingo population.

Addressing Bonaire's fish and reef health issues can be accomplished without sacrificing one habitat for another.

—DW Davis

See "Let's Create Another Lac Bai—Part 2" on page 8

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



Bonaire residents Denise Crestian Coffie, Jaedan Crestian and Albert Crestian hold a copy of The Bonaire Reporter at the Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla, NY during their first visit to New York.

You may ask, of all the places to see in New York how did they end up at the Kensico Dam Plaza? The answer is really simple, The Bonaire Reporter of course!

We all know The Bonaire Reporter is a great source of news and local information, but we often forget how the paper brings people together and builds new friendships.

While photographing the annual open house at Washington Slagbaai National Park, Reporter photographer Alan Zale, and his wife Joan, met Albert, the park manager, and his son, Jaedan.

Knowing that visiting New York City, without visiting the suburbs, is like visiting Kralendijk without visiting Rincon.

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Flotsam and Jetsam (Continued from page 3)

tion equipment and more, and the **Bon Bida Health Center**, which offers rehab services, signed a cooperation agreement so they can work closely together to optimize patient care. Patients can use the expertise and manpower of both companies, resulting in more effective, sustainable and low-threshold attention. Part of the care provided by BESt Care Zorgwinkel is now also offered at Bon Bida health Center.



Health Center Bon Bida Bonaire owner dhr. Robert Smaal nd BESt Care Zorgwinkel manager dhr. Juni Piarand

Examples of this collaboration with Bon Bida Bonaire are a joint consultation hour for chronic pain patients, consultation hours for podiatric patients, a lending point for part of the orthopedic devices and the efforts of the occupational therapist and nurse.

► In 2019 Austrian dive pioneer **Hans Hass** (photo) would have been 100 years old.

In 1939 he was the first person to dive and photograph Bonaire and Klein Bonaire underwater.



In conjunction with the Hans Hass

Archive and the German language Sport Taucher magazine, The Bonaire Reporter will begin a series of articles of his life and times.

► Congratulations to Bonaire's **Anita Smits**.

She is competing in Slovenia in European Masters Championships. In early results she placed 6th in both the 100 meters fly and 800 meters freestyle. That's pretty fantastic considering that



Bonaire doesn't even have an Olympic pool for training;

Anita is a coach and swimmer for the Bonaire Barracudas Club. The Masters, for 25 year and older, competition took place in Kranj and Bled, Slovenia, from September 2nd to September 9th. Anita Smits is this year's only participant from Bonaire.

As we go to press, Saturday, the 8th of September, she will swim the 3 km. open water race in the beautiful Bled Lake.

► **On International Press Day MCB Bonaire hosted the Bonaire Press Corps at the La Terrasa**

restaurant. During the evening bank head Leonard Domacasse (photo) thanked the press for the service it provides to the community and listed some of the organizations it supports financially. They included:

Karnaval, Tumba, Local Bands, Rincon Day, Fudecu, School Group Marches, The Harvest Festival Of Chana and Doeï, Kanto Krioyo, Sports Star Display at the Airport, Kopa Lieto and Youth Teams, Kontest Di Fli, Prokids, Sorobon Masters, Billards, Tennis, Baseball, Track, Athletics, Bowling, and support of International Team Travel, Special Olympics, Sanikolas, Regatta, Bon Doet, Senior Citizen Events, 60+, BYOFM SGB, Liseo and the Educational Foundations for Writing and Reading, Student Travel, Cleaning Up Klein Bonaire and Tanki Maraka, Renovation of the Hato Traffic Circle and more!!!

Recently the bank modified its businesses practices and was criticized by its customers.

► The reception area of Tourism Corporation Bonaire has the art of **Maideline Hooi Martijn** better known by her artistic name **Mai-Dy** on display. She was born in Curacao in 1975 and started exploring art at the age of 19. Later, during recovery from surgery Mai-Dy discovered her love for painting. This passion continued to grow and in the June 2017, she started taking acrylic painting lessons from local artist **Adi Figaroa**.

The art of Mai-Dy is primarily focused on the treasures of Bonaire that you can see in the traditional Bonairean houses, flora and fauna. TCB invites everyone to come visit the art gallery located at Kaya Grandi #2.

► **Are you training for the Swim To Klein Bonaire on October 7? □ G./L.D.**



Click or Swipe to Dive

In the early 1990s when sex was safer and diving more dangerous Bonaire was the first to charge SCUBA divers a (\$10) fee to dive in its waters. Resisted at first by hoteliers fearing divers would balk at the expense, the total acceptance by the divers was a pleasant surprise. It continues to this day, renamed as a Nature Fee now at \$25 for a calendar year, or \$10 for a day pass. But administering and enforcing the fee payment was burdensome and inefficient... until now.



A collection of Bonaire Dive Tags

Welcome to the Internet Age.

Bloomberg financed a survey querying tourists on Bonaire, Curacao, and Sint Maarten about how they use Internet to plan their vacations and their possible level of acceptance to pay the marine park fee through Internet. The results show that as much as 91% of them use internet to buy their ticket, pay or reserve their accommodation, their rental car or their dive package.



Ramon de Leon

It inspired **Ramón de León**, Bonaire's National Marine Park Manager from 2004 to early 2015, to come up with an innovative system to allow Park users to pay their Nature Fee on line and at the same time streamline the tasks of Park personnel and administrators. De León's Reef Support Internet Based Payment System (RSIBPS), based on four years of intense research, development, and tests, is now available. The system is in use already in St. Maarten and in Dominican Republic (DR). It will become live in October in a Park in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, others in Sosúa in Punta Cana and Bayahibe, all in the DR. It's only a matter of time for it to be used in Bonaire. More on how the RSIBPS will work for park users, park rangers and administrators in upcoming *Reporter* editions. □ G.D.

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On the Island Since... December 2017 - Helene Juana



Helene in her shop

“I was born on Curacao. My mom, Manuela Adoptie, was from Bonaire and my dad, Rudy Juana, is from Curacao but from Colombian parents. I am an only child and I was raised very protected. My mother was very strict and my dad was – and still is – a darling. I was a happy child despite the fact that I wasn’t allowed to bring friends over or play at their houses. After school I had to come home immediately, but it didn’t bother me. I had my own room and my toys. I was a quiet child and after doing my homework I could watch TV and I played with the dogs, but I was always inside the house. However, when my dad came home from work, it was time to play and we went frolicking and he made me laugh so much!

My dream was to become a journalist and I wanted to do the schooling in Costa Rica. I was 17 when my mom told me ‘You’re not going anywhere!’ and my bubble burst. That day I went to school at Marnix College, where, when I was in the middle of my exams, I handed the empty papers over to my examiner and I left. I didn’t feel like studying anymore.

I started working for my dad who had a refrigeration company, installing air-conditioners and freezers in supermarkets and also doing the maintenance. However, I became restless so I applied for a job with Budget Car Rental on Bonaire.

The first 14 years of my life, when my grandmother was still alive, my mom and I would often go to visit her on Bonaire. It was always fun to be with my cousins. We used to dance together to children’s songs and stories were told. I have wonderful memories of that time. Well, I got the job with Budget immediately and

moved in with an aunt on Bonaire. That was in October. In January my dad came to fetch me. He told me ‘I miss you!’ He was so sweet, I couldn’t resist him! But I said ‘I’ll come back under one condition: I want a car!’ He said ‘okay!’ and that was it! Yes, I was a bit spoiled!

I worked for my dad for a number of years until I saw a vacancy for Citco Bank. I applied and was hired as a receptionist. I’ve held

different positions at the bank and became all-round; I really liked the work.

During those years I also got married. I already had a daughter from a previous relationship, and together with my husband we got a son. I never stopped working though and after Citco Bank, I went to ING Bank. My husband had a busy job with ALM – the Antillean Airline – but we had my mom who loved to take care of the children so it was never a problem.

The job at ING Bank was great, but one week before I was going to get my permanent contract, they started laying off people and unfortunately I was one of them. I felt miserable because I loved working for ING Bank and I’d done all my training there too. However, the Head of Personnel Affairs called MCB Bank and told them he was very sorry to have to let me go, but that I was highly recommended. MCB told him to send me over for an interview.

But I went home first and cried, and my papa said, ‘Come work

for me; I need you!’ But a lot had changed. He had about 10 men working for him and they had difficulty accepting me. It spoiled the atmosphere and I quit.

Afterwards I worked briefly for Banco di Caribe. When I was about 37 and divorced, I left for Saint Maarten where they were looking for an assistant to the manager of a TV station. The children stayed with my mom until I knew what it was going to be like. I did interviews and the make-up of the news anchors and we went to the French side to help Cable St. Martin. It was so much fun! But they never paid me, not one cent. I never saw a salary! And, as I was running out of my savings, I decided to go back to Curacao. But once I was back, I didn’t want to stay anymore and I thought, ‘I’m going to Holland!’

Before that time I’d never thought about Holland, not even for a vacation. But I had the passport and I wanted to work and I wanted to study. First I went alone because the children were still in school. I moved to

Zeeland, a province in the southwest of Holland, on the border with Belgium. Two months later I found a job with ING Bank Terneuzen through a recommendation of the bank in Curacao. After that I worked for RABO Bank and for Cargill Netherlands. My son came to Holland, but my daughter stayed on Curacao. She wanted to stay with my mom.

Then, one night I read in a newspaper about the European Academy starting in Belgium. I registered for the Nutrition, Health and Lifestyle Consultant course. The school was a 40-minute commute from my house, so we stayed in Holland. I kept on working but three times a week I was back at school and I loved it! But because I couldn’t understand the Belgian dialect that some professors used I only did the vocational training for which I got certified, but I didn’t do much with that education. Then I went from Cargill to UWV, a benefit agency, where I worked as a customer advisor. When my mom fell ill I went



On the seaside

back to Curacao to take care of her, being her only child. Three months later she passed away and I stayed for a while on Curacao because my daughter was pregnant. After she gave birth to my first grandson, I went back to Holland. By then it was impossible to find a job so I started doing production work in factories in Belgium, and believe me, that’s tough for someone who’s used to only holding a pen.

I worked at a chocolate factory, at a flower nursery and at the Volvo factory where I tore two tendons lifting car parts and then they sacked me.

water and milk kefir, and I’m exploring products from Peru. This week I’m getting black and redMaca powder in, but also collagen capsules and quinoa. Depending on the transport and prices I would like to extend the product range because they sell very interesting products and it’s a clean and biologic company.

I’ve got so many plans and I want to share all the knowledge I have with others and work together with people who are conscious about their food and want to promote it. Look, you don’t always have to eat healthy, but try to avoid eating food that’s genetically manipulated and full of herbicides. It’s about discipline, quantities and being conscious about what you eat.

My first week here I went to Mangazina di Rei and looking at the photos from the old days I realized that nobody was fat. In those days the people ate what the earth produced and it wasn’t much but it was good food and the people were strong and healthy.

Well, if people have questions or want to discuss or buy something, I’m open Tuesday through Friday nonstop from 9am to 6pm and on Saturdays from 10am to 2pm. You can also find me on Facebook: BioConscious Gezondheidswinkel or phone 717-1177.

I am very happy; I’ve got my peace and tranquility. My son is in Holland with his family and my daughter on Curacao with hers. I am alone, but not lonely. I feel fine. Bonaire is full of possibilities and opportunities and the people are spontaneous and warm. It’s wonderful to be here.”

■ Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



“...looking at the photos from the old days I realized that nobody was fat. In those days the people ate what the earth produced and it wasn’t much but it was good food...”

So, then I thought, ‘If I can’t find a job, I have to create one myself.’ I went back to school and picked up my previous education. This time, after having worked in the Belgian factories, I could understand the professors so I completed the four-year education and graduated as a Nutrition, Health and Lifestyle Consultant. I also completed a study as a Detox Consultant.

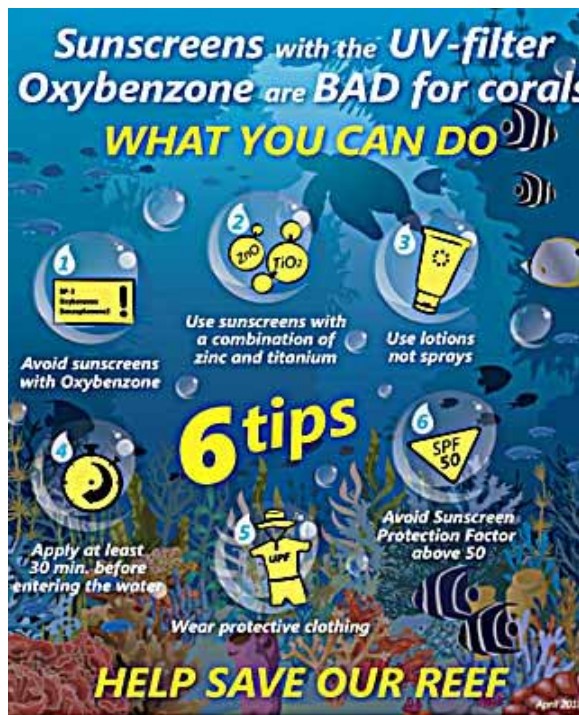
I felt I had to do something different and I thought about opening a health food store on Bonaire. I went looking for financing and was really surprised when the Caribbean branch of Qredits Microfinancing came from Bonaire to my house in Holland to discuss the subject. I was delighted when I was approved! I left for Bonaire and seven months ago I opened ‘BioConscious’ health food store at Kaya Grandi 67, unit 2, next to Hair Affair, diagonally across from Scooters Bonaire.

Every product in my store is of biological European origin which I choose very carefully. Also I’m selling homemade kombucha and

DID YOU KNOW?

Did You Know...that some sunscreens have chemicals in them that harm fish and corals? People are becoming more and more aware that the sun's rays can be harmful and cause skin damage and even skin cancer (one of the most common forms of cancer). Since Bonaire lies close to the equator and the skies are clear most of the time, our sunlight is quite powerful. Therefore, many people either cover up or apply sunscreen if they're going to be in the sun, especially if they work outside. Studies show that some chemicals (oxybenzone and octocrylene) in chemical-based sunscreens, are toxic to some sea creatures when they are present in the water above certain concentrations. **Because tourism is increasing in Bonaire, particularly the number of beachgoers, there is concern that users of the Bonaire National Marine Park might be unknowingly harming sea life just by entering the water with certain types of sunscreen on their bodies.**

Scientists from Wageningen University and the University of Utrecht, with the assistance of Sabine Engel, undertook a study to determine if those chemicals reached toxic concentrations at certain locations in Lac Bay. They chose Lac Bay because it has many users, is somewhat enclosed and, as it is extremely important to Bonaire because of all of the ecosystem services it provides (nursery for fish, lobsters, conch; protection from storms; filtration of sediments and nutrients coming from land; etc). They took water samples from the mouth of the bay, near the mangrove fringe on the northwestern side of the bay, and in front of Sorobon beach. They found that the sea grass nursery in front of Sorobon beach is at risk from exposure to oxybenzone and octocrylene due to the concentrations found there. The good news is that, in an effort to protect its marine life, Hawaii has passed a bill banning oxybenzone and octinoxate, (effective Jan. 1, 2121) as has Mexico, and there is a motion



to do the same in Bonaire, thanks to the hard efforts of Boneiru Duradero and their sunscreen awareness campaign. So what should people do to protect their skin? Besides wearing hats and rash-guards, etc. There are many sunscreens that do not contain these chemicals. Until now, **no negative effects (to marine life or people) have been found from mineral-based sunscreens (sunscreens that include zinc or titanium oxide).** Another plus is that mineral sunscreens are not absorbed into the skin and body as are chemical sunscreens and therefore don't have the potential negative human health effects that many people are concerned about with chemical sunscreens. However, many mineral sunscreens have been found to be less effective than they claim, so it's worthwhile to do some homework and look into products that have been independently vetted (tested by an independent source). As we learn more about sunscreen ingredients, and how some are toxic to marine life (and possibly people), the sunscreen industry is rapidly responding to consumer demands for safer products. **Caren Eckrich, STINAPA biologist. Connecting People With Nature. Photo copyright ©:Boneiru Duradero, Sunscreen Awareness Bonaire**

Growing Our Own Hay



Mulatto grass in the field, and the staff of Job Program Tuinbouw who performs the work, together with the job coach and the project manager.

POP Bonaire has conducted a three-year research into the production of cattle feed on Bonaire. Eight different types of grass have been tested on two hectares of land at LVV. The goal was to grow high-quality feed for the goats. Some grasses, such as elephant grass, grow very well on Bonaire, but no hay can be made, so it cannot be properly stored and transported.



Hay bales in storage

The research shows that the grass **Mulato II (*Brachiaria spp.*)** is the most suitable. This is a strong tropical grass from Colombia with a high nutritional value. It grows well with irrigation and is easy to dry. With a machine, bales of hay can be made rapidly. Last week the first 21 packages of 19 kilos of the test field of 1,000 m² were obtained. This research has shown that it is possible to produce high quality hay on Bonaire. **Press release**

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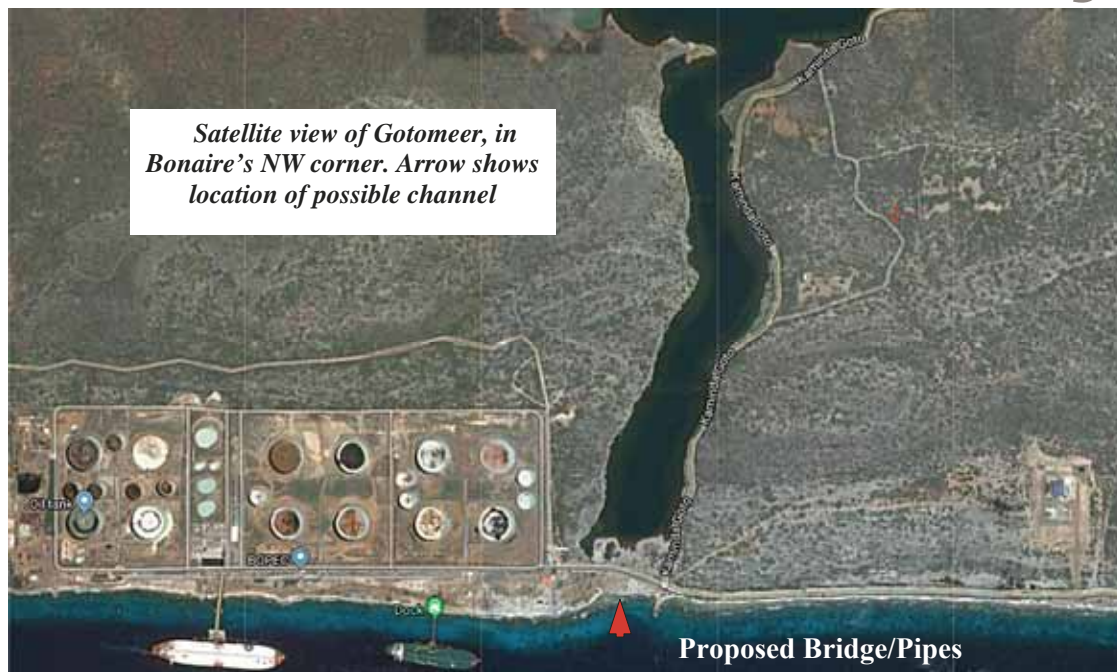
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Let's Create Another Lac Bay-Part 2.



Satellite view of Gotomeer, in Bonaire's NW corner. Arrow shows location of possible channel

Proposed Bridge/Pipes

In the last issue of *The Reporter* I discussed the steady decline of the fishery resources in our waters due to overfishing, environmental and related issues. In order to turn this trend around, to make things better for our reefs and taking into consideration the huge positive benefit of fish nurseries, I suggested creating additional protected fishery breeding grounds, similar to Lac Bay.

One such potential nursery that could be created quite easily and without major expense would be the opening of landlocked Gotomeer* to the sea. After a period of transition the presently high saline water inside would become about equal to that of the surrounding sea, allowing vigorous mangrove growth and it could become an enormous breeding ground for all kinds of sea life. Bonaire experienced this before when the Pekelmeer was opened to the sea in 1969.

However, there are some that have suggested negative consequences of such action, so let's take a close and objective look at them:

1. Opening of Gotomeer means interference with nature: It is highly questionable whether the existence of the coral dike separating the bay's entrance channel from the sea is "natural." The channel itself was formed by rain water finding an escape route from the inland hills to the sea. The fact that it is now closed off by a coral dike, formed by coral debris being thrown up into a dike during storms, does not mean that the closed state is the natural one. Removal of the separation dike brings the bay back to its original, natural state and any changes to its present state as a consequence of its opening can therefore not be considered inappropriate or unwanted interference with nature. The present construction of channels through the Lac Bay mangroves to allow

fresh sea water entrance is an example of positive interference with nature. Although Gotomeer is a protected Ramsar site, we believe that that does not preclude a modification from a mostly sterile highly saline environment to a highly biodiverse marine habitat.

2. Opening up the bays would kill off the outside coral reef by the deposition of silt.

There is considerable evidence that this statement is not correct. Anybody who has dived in the area outside Goto is aware that there is hardly any coral left in the shallows. Besides, there are many examples of open bays with plentiful corals surrounding their openings. Some examples: Lac Bay is open to the sea, and inside and outside reefs have plenty of corals. Before dredging and opening to the sea, the Harbour Village Marina was a mostly dry, silted up Salinja, and just outside this marina there is now a Coral Restoration Site and the harbor itself is a breeding ground for fish life (watch the spectacular fish hunting at night from the Balandra restaurant). Several years ago Wayaca (in Washington Park) was temporarily opened to the sea in an attempt to grow shrimp. Although as a dry, silted salinja it was therefore probably not a good candidate for opening to the sea, but six months later, just a very narrow band of corals right by the opening had died, but the number of fish inside and outside the bay was simply phenomenal. It is also believed that the corals would return after the initial silt thrown on the coral upon the opening of the bay, has disappeared. Because of their ability to "dust" themselves off, corals have a high survivorship to silt deposition if this is periodic and not chronic. Silt deposition can also be eliminated or reduced

by locating the pipes about a meter or so above the inside bottom. Also in Curacao there are many large bays that are open to the sea with healthy mangroves, marine life and a reef at the sea intake, a prime example being Spanish Water.

3. Opening up the bays would be detrimental to the flamingos. (Full disclosure: The author of this article constructed and for many years managed the flamingo sanctuary in the Salt Works).

Although it is true that the highly saline environment of the closed off bays, such as Gotomeer and Slagbaai, are conducive to several species of flamingo food, such as brine flies (brine shrimps are extremely rare in Goto), we notice that in the Salt Works the flamingos forage more in the Pekelmeer which is at sea salinity, than in the high salinity ponds. This is strong evidence that flamingos would continue to forage in these opened up areas of Gotomeer and eat larvae, small crabs, shells and other creatures that live in seawater. After all, such is also the case with flamingos that forage in the Pekelmeer and in the huge Venezuelan area south of Bonaire, in Chichirivichi, to where our Bonaire flamingos regularly commute. Note also that when Wayaca was opened to the sea, the number of flamingos in that area instantly went from zero to a significant number. Although heavy rainfall with runoff from the hills in the area could dilute the salinity in Gotomeer somewhat with possible deleterious effect on marine life, and although this would be a natural phenomenon, the construction of a small dike could easily prevent this runoff from entering Goto.

Usually, before oversight organizations can give an OK, scientific research and an environmental



Pipes, as in the south of Bonaire, can open the sea to Gotomeer

impact study may be required. An alternative for scientific experimentation to support our proposal would be to refer to case studies instead. A literature search to find related reports on the feasibility of opening up closed bays would readily answer this research question.

Historically, one major consequence evolved when many "closed" embayments in Florida were opened providing inlets to the ocean for boats, which resulted in the turning these areas into productive marine estuaries, with flourishing mangroves, lots of fish productivity, not to mention the economic growth for commercial and recreational fisheries. The estuaries of Florida; the Indian River Lagoon at St. Lucie Inlet, Ft. Pierce Inlet, and Jupiter Inlet, are all examples of closed, inland water bodies that were opened, becoming marine estuaries rich with mangrove and sea grass, and these have become some of the most biodiverse marine habitats in the United States. Detailed histories of these can be found on the Internet.

It seems obvious that the huge potential benefit of creating more fish nurseries on our island far outweighs some potential negatives. And, as mentioned in the first article, we would suggest to make Goto, after opening to the sea a no-fishing and no-power boating zone, to prevent overfishing as happened in the Pekelmeer. In any case, if the opening of Gotomeer to the sea would for some unknown reason prove to be problematic, it would be a matter of hours for a bulldozer to again close off the entrance and bring Goto back to its present state. However, if successful many more salinjas or bays could be opened up such as Slagbaai, Tam, Bartool and Funchi, which would prove to be an unimaginable benefit for fish stocks on our reefs, which in turn would benefit our fishing industry and dive tourism. Some of these areas would not require a bridge or piping as no road crosses the potential inlet.

We are well aware of opposition to the proposal from some environmentalists, a few who are advisors to the Island Council. And although we agree that we should tread carefully and not draw conclusions hastily, unchangeable mindsets do work counterproductively by opposing any development or change. This counters the well being we all strive for: a healthy, protected and well-balanced environment. The potential benefit to the marine life of our island would be almost unimaginable. □ *Story & photos by Rene Hakkenburg*

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.

*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.**

Kaya Carlos Nicolaas 21



FOR SALE Kaya Carlos Nicolaas 21, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean

Detached house suitable for 6 persons on 500 square meters freehold land, built in 2016 surrounded by a well-kept tropical garden with private driveway/parking lot, garage/storage and outside shower.

Located in a secured area, with a community swimming pool, the house is equipped with 110 and 220 volt sockets, has a spacious covered breezy terrace with seats, table and sofas.

Highlights

- Total living area: approximately 150 m² / 1620 sq.ft
- Bedrooms: 3
- Bathrooms: 3
- Garage

Unique Features

- High quality shutters and screens
- Walking distance from the boulevard of Kralendijk
- Excellent rental possibilities

Asking price:
US\$ 349.000 + Buyers Costs



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Oceanfront Apartment



FOR SALE Oceanfront Apartment, Elegancia Del Caribe #5 Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean

Ideally located on Playa Lechi, the boulevard of Kralendijk, this is the perfect place to enjoy your stay on Bonaire.

A beautiful tropical garden surrounds the building with private parking and free shaped pool.

Highlights

- Oceanfront location with great views.
- Large outside terrace with dining table and chairs maintained.
- Direct ocean access and garden with palm trees.
- Fully equipped kitchen, fridge with freezer, microwave, oven and dishwasher.
- Private terrace with furniture and ceiling fan.
- Excellent rental possibilities.

Features

- Property type: Oceanfront Apartment
- Bedrooms: 2
- Bathrooms: 2
- Pool: Swimming pool on site
- Living area: 120 m²
- Extra: Private parking

Asking price:
US\$ 469.000 + Buyers Costs



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Making Bonaire "Accessible"

A BUSY TWO WEEKS (Wheelchair Challenges #18)

Well, it has been quite a fortnight, and while I write this column we are still reeling.

It started when friends from Holland invited us for a trip around Bonaire. That was a very good idea, because my husband has not been around for a while. First leg of the trip was to Rincon and we loved it. We even visited our sweet old little house and noticed that the postbox we got as a wedding-gift was still there. After that we took off for Lagun and the landmark *Sterke Yerke*. Very happy but also overtiring. My husbands slept the rest of the day. When our friends left for Holland again, they presented us with our post box, so that was even more special.



The Iron Order T-shirt gift

black rubber band and more little presents. While eating and drinking one could hear the bikes arriving. The typical Harley rumble hung in the air and made us shiver. At 11am the rally started with the singing of our beautiful national anthem and words of praise for **Orlando Fransisca**, the organizer. Then all the bikes lined up in an orderly manner and started their motors. A beautiful sound, moving us to tears. The police and the Red Cross joined and together they went on their way to Rincon where the festivities continued.

I have never seen a happier husband. We went home and he went straight to his bed where he stayed and slept for the remainder of the day.

And then the Aviramp appeared.... We had been wondering if it was really on Bonaire and how long we would have to wait for it. In the meantime, however, it must have arrived, because all of a sudden on Facebook somebody had posted a short film of our "vliegveld" and you could see a device being raised and getting connected to a Delta Jet! It looks very much like the dream of Michael Gaynor (RIP) and others really will come true: a Bonaire Airport that is 100% accessible.

Remember to stay cool and drink lots of fluids. It is September and it will be very hot. □

Story & photo by Ria Evers-Dokter

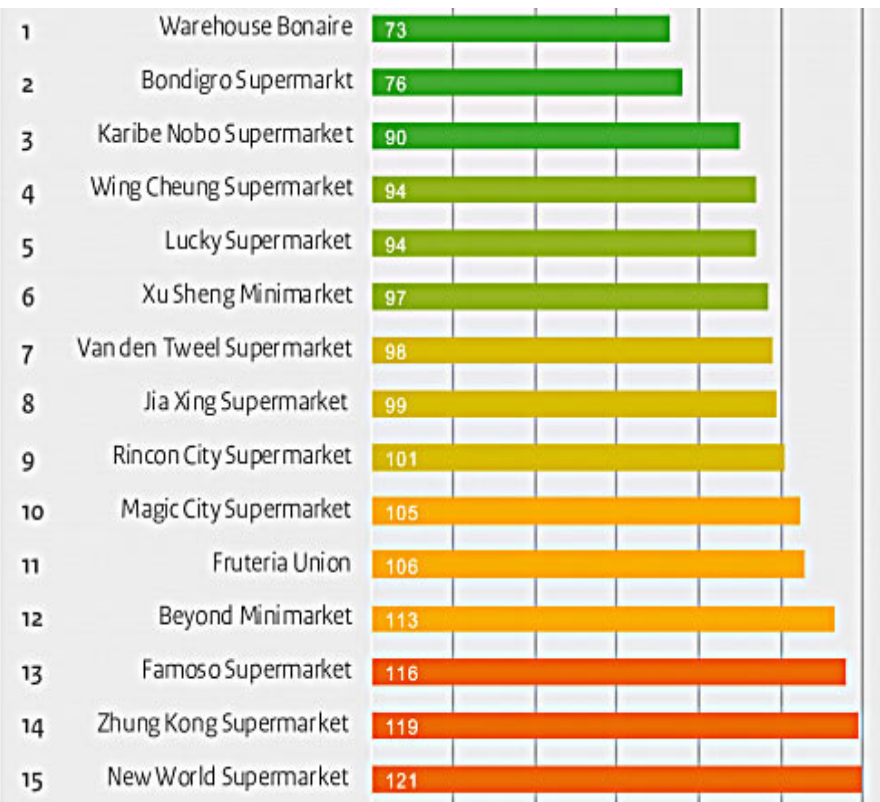


Barre installed

The physiotherapist who comes to our house thought it would be a very good idea to keep my husband active. His eyesight has gone very bad and he was to afraid to train walking with his cane. So we have been looking to get a barre at the porch. The ergotherapist recommended Mr. Henry and he made and attached a great barre for us. Last Wednesday my husband walked the porch! Three times! Thank you, Mr. Henry, for that.

On flag-day, Dia di Boneiru, my husband was invited to attend the celebration breakfast and start of the motorcycle rally. This year the special motorcycle-rally was organized for the 20th year and that called for a special celebration. The festivities started at the Rent-0-Fun and there were so many bikers present, so many awesome motorcycles to be admired. And of course a lot of friends and acquaintances were present to talk to and to share a cup of coffee with. My husband was presented with a goody bag, which contained an Iron Nation T-shirt with a beautiful jubilee-design, a beautiful pin, a

Comparing Bonaire Market Prices



Bonaire's first market price comparator of 60 different grocery items was published two weeks ago. The market basket contains groceries such as vegetables, meat, bread, washing powder, shampoo and toilet paper.

Unkobon, in collaboration with Fundashon Tienda pa Konsumidó Boneiru (FTpKB), are conducting the comparisons by order of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy.

The project aims to create price awareness among Bonaire residents. It showed Warehouse Bonaire to be the least expensive market and new World Supermarket to be the most expensive. Go to www.unkobon.org for more info. □ Press release

Penny Lane Exchange

The Fashion Revolution



#NEWITEMSDAILY

@pennylanebonaire

Penny Lane is one flight upstairs of La Terraza, downtown Kralendijk

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.
Phone 599-795-9332 email- Pennylanebonaire@hotmail.com

A Garden? Just Do It

COTTON



Red cotton plant in my yard

Do you know about Red Cotton? I have a plant in my yard. It's a small, skinny plant, a cotton type, very beautiful. When it is blooming and has some cotton balls among the green-red-purple leaves, it's a nice plant to see. This plant/tree, for which I got the seeds from Surinam, has a history with me. It's quite a while ago but I remember it as if it was yesterday.

I had been living some years in Holland, and my parents and we kids went on holiday to Surinam. Of course we were staying at Grandma's place. After a few days staying there I got some pains in my belly. Grandma's eyes, sharp as those of a bird of prey, noticed that there was something wrong with me and start questioning me. When she heard my problem she jumped up, went to this red cotton plant in her yard and picked some leaves. She boiled water in a big old pot and poured that water into an old fashioned aluminum bucket. I had to drink from it and splash the water with the red cotton leaves over my belly. I wondered if this, in my eyes a simple remedy, would be able to solve my serious problem and take away the skin irritation that appeared on my belly and the belly pain. But I tell you what, after drinking this tea the whole day and splashing it on my belly, all was gone. I was totally surprised and impressed by the wonder of this plant and Grandma's knowledge. Since then I always have some leaves of this plant with me where ever I travel in this world.

Once I started living on Bonaire, I planted two cotton trees in my yard. You never know, one might not be enough. I've given a lot of people this remedy. They've also asked for seeds and now have they too have this plant in their yard.

In reading about this cotton plant I was surprised about its medicinal power. It's a sister of the cotton plant which we used to see on Bonaire. But this one is a jungle one which likes shade, rainwater and soft dirt. When it has this all it grows like crazy. It's good for high blood pressure, infections, kidney and liver problems, a good tea to clean the womb after deliver-

ing a baby and good for menstruation problems and to solve Candida eczema. The leaves dry in two or three days in a crunchy way to make tea. Leave the branches in the shade under the porch. It's a nice tea with a nice red color. With some honey, ummm.

What I like about my cotton trees is that early in the morning some hummingbirds come around to suck from the beautiful big yellow flowers. I guess there is some sweet liquid there. They also find some bugs in the branches so there's enough food for those hummingbirds. Of course there are some wild cats hunting there too. When I see them, I chase them with the hose and water. They know me now so as soon as they notice me with the hose they start running.

It was a mistake to plant those cotton trees so close to the house. I thought no problem, they are so small, I can plant them just two meters from the house. But right there was the problem. Iguanas like to hang in the trees too and when the cats or I am around they run under the roof. So I will never plant any tree close to the house again.

Oh, yes, small branches can be close to the house but not those tall ones that are about as high as the roof. Then the iguana goes there too.



Cotton Boll

Besides this cotton type plant with all kinds of medicinal possibilities (the jungle type), there are many other types in different warm climates. There is also the one growing on Bonaire, a local type. You find it in different yards, just growing there, or in wild nature, in the "mondi." The seeds spread easily via birds, bugs, rainwater and wind. People often just leave it in the yard because it does not take so much space as a tree.

The local type has green leaves and also a lot of cotton balls and yellow flowers. This cotton plant fits perfectly into the Bonairean climate; it needs a bit of rain to grow and dry weather to ripen the cotton balls which are called "bolls" when the cotton is mature. And if it only has some soft dirt to start growing from seed, it's fine. It doesn't have many roots and these roots find their ways easily in the rocky soil of Bonaire. Once the cotton is ready to pick, you can use them too. I always use them for facial cleaning or to clean a wound. I pull out the seeds of the bolls and collect them in a bowl. Cotton can have a lot of small bugs and worms so I leave my collection out of the

Inter Island Water Polo



What is normal for Bonaire is unique to most places. Without a swimming pool, we need to make the best of what we have. What we have is a beautiful waterfront. There you will find the members of all ages of the Bonaire Barracuda Swim Club swimming and practicing water polo in front of Parke Tuoli nearly every day. There are teams for all age groups beginning with under 10 and finishing with Masters (over 25).

Last school year, the team traveled once a month, each time with a different age group, to Curacao to play one of the Curacao teams. This year, Curacao is coming to Bonaire. Last Friday afternoon a "sea swim-pool" was laid out off the North Pier. On Saturday all day and Sunday morning numerous events with the U-10 and U-12 players. Photos are from those events.

Afternoon sessions began at 4, morning sessions at 9. Each of these sessions opened with a game of the Selection of Bonaire against the Selection of Curacao for bragging rights. After that followed two more games, each session having the Bonaire and Curacao kids mixed to form four teams which will compete to win the tournament, learning team work and meeting new players.

Watching Water Polo was fun. There was shade and seating set up. Want to play? You can get info on how you can join and learn to play. On September 21- 23 will be a tour-



name at the "Sea Pool" in front of Parke Touloi for the U-14 team. Are you between 12 and 14? We need more players in this age group! If Water Polo is not your thing, Barracudas also have a speed swimming group that is training at the sea side as well. Stop by the seaside, or check out www.bonairebarracudas.org for more information. **■ Pam Teitel/G.D.**— photos from the Facebook report of the Barracudas.

house, just on the porch. You never know what comes inside when you have these cottons for a while in the house.

Cotton used for fabrics undergoes all kinds of cleanings. It was one of the first products used for fabrics. I'm talking about 5000 B.C. In ancient times it was also popular for medicine. Nowadays there is less cotton used in fashion as there are so many other materials available. Still in a warm climate like Bonaire, cotton is the best fabric to have on your body. It absorbs sweat, it feels fresh and it cools down the body. They say nature gives you what you need. And so with cotton. In the hot weather of Bonaire cotton clothes feels the best.

Is it an idea to make cotton plantations on Bonaire since it grows so easily here? To use as fabrics, in art and for facial cleansing.

All together, around those small cotton trees in my yard there is all kinds of life which I like to observe and to enjoy early in the morning: birds, lizards, iguanas, bugs and cats—all busy starting the day. It's so peaceful and stress less to observe nature, just for a moment, your moment with a cup of herbal tea from your own garden. Grandma used to do that too. And that is how she knew so much about nature and became a healthy old wise person. Its also for you. So just do it. **■**

Story & photos by Angliet, Nature Lover



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 Cruscita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

CHURCH SERVICES

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints --Kaya Sabena 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
11- Sep.	Monarch	0700-1800	2744
18-Sept	Equinox	0700-1800	2850
29- Sept	Equinox	0700-1800	2744
25- 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

Saturday, Sept. 15—Bonaire Cleanup Day. Sign up with SELIBON's Facebook page by Sept. 11. Meet at Plasa Medio Ambiente, 7:30am-noon

Sept. 17-21—Dive Friends Clean up Bonaire during Project Aware week.

Tuesday, Sept. 18-Connecting People with Nature. Fun and educational experience, sponsored by Stinapa and DCNA. 7-8pm, DCNA, Kaya Finlandia 10a. Free

Saturday, Sept. 22—Sunset Hike of Mt. Brandaris, Bonaire's highest point. Washington Slagbaai Park. 5pm-8pm. \$10. Stinapa 717-8444 to reserve.

Saturday, Sept. 29—Nos Zjilea Cultural Event, Mangazina di Rei, 8am-1pm
—**Marsha Rincon Krioyo**—12 noon-6pm. Street market in Rincon: crafts, local foods, sweets

Sunday, Sept 30—Duo X-treme Mountain Bike Race. Cash Prizes. (see page 14)
—**Monument Day**

— **Soapbox Derby. (Kareda di Garoshi)** down the hill from Karpata to Rincon. 10am-6 pm. See page 5.

Sunday, October 7—Swim to Klein Bonaire, 9 am. Sign up at Jong Bonaire or at Eden Beach before the swim.

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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
Mon 10	00:40 0.79 ft	08:19 -0.02 ft	13:52 0.58 ft	20:23 0.13 ft		6:25	18:39
Tue 11	01:52 0.68 ft	09:07 0.02 ft	14:52 0.68 ft	21:53 0.09 ft		6:25	18:39
Wed 12	03:07 0.59 ft	09:55 0.05 ft	15:47 0.77 ft	23:12 0.03 ft		6:25	18:38
Thu 13	04:20 0.52 ft	10:41 0.08 ft	16:37 0.85 ft			6:25	18:37
Fri 14		00:19 -0.03 ft	05:27 0.48 ft	11:25 0.11 ft	17:24 0.91 ft	6:25	18:37
Sat 15		01:16 -0.07 ft	06:26 0.44 ft	12:06 0.14 ft	18:08 0.94 ft	6:25	18:36
Sun 16	First Quarter	02:07 -0.09 ft	07:18 0.42 ft	12:45 0.16 ft	18:50 0.94 ft	6:25	18:35
Mon 17		02:54 -0.09 ft	08:05 0.40 ft	13:22 0.17 ft	19:30 0.93 ft	6:24	18:35
Tue 18		03:38 -0.06 ft	08:48 0.38 ft	13:57 0.19 ft	20:10 0.91 ft	6:24	18:34
Wed 19		04:20 -0.03 ft	09:28 0.37 ft	14:31 0.20 ft	20:48 0.87 ft	6:24	18:33
Thu 20		05:01 0.01 ft	10:09 0.36 ft	15:07 0.22 ft	21:26 0.82 ft	6:24	18:33
Fri 21		05:42 0.05 ft	10:51 0.36 ft	15:46 0.24 ft	22:06 0.76 ft	6:24	18:32
Sat 22		06:21 0.09 ft	11:36 0.37 ft	16:37 0.27 ft	22:50 0.69 ft	6:24	18:31
Sun 23		06:58 0.14 ft	12:21 0.41 ft	17:46 0.29 ft	23:40 0.61 ft	6:24	18:30
Mon 24		07:32 0.18 ft	13:05 0.46 ft	19:16 0.29 ft	Full Moon	6:24	18:30

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Pet Of The Week

Meet our handsome friend Neo! This one year old male has a gentle and caring "old soul." He also has the most beautiful green and teal eyes you have ever seen. Neo loves to see what you are doing and just hang out with you. Many of the younger cats love to snuggle with him and he is always gracious with his cuddles. Even though Neo has only been with us a short time, he was quick to make many friends, feline and human alike.



Neo is a perfect fit for a single or multiple cat household. He is healthy, sterilized, vaccinated and ready for his new forever home. If you are interested in adding Neo to your family, please come by the Shelter to see him and all his friends! Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26, open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 3- 5 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. nonstop. 717-4989/701-4989. □

Story & photo by Laurie Smith



"The Spirit of Bonaire"

In the 1980s the Beach Boys' hit song, "Kokomo," helped super-charge Caribbean tourism. ("YTR Aruba, Jamaica, oh I want to take ya.... Key Largo, Montego, baby why don't we go ... Kokomo). Do you remember it?



The Blue Island Collective and Friends Blue Island Collective photo

A few years ago the head of the Caribbean Tourism Organization told me, "If you want to boost your island get it a hit song." And now maybe we have one, "The Spirit of Bonaire." The song was released to the world on September 1 and islanders got a preview the night before in a gala party at Delfins Resort.

The song is the creation of the Blue Island Collective whose key members are familiar to most of us on Bonaire: TAFKAH, Gerald Eulogio Jurian Martines, Robert Felida, Michiel Van

Bokhorst, Gabriel Mercera and Dirk-Wim van t' Hof. Performed by TAFKAH (The Artist Formerly Known As Harry) with lots of island talent backing the catchy tune and lyrics will keep running around in your head. You can stream or download it from Itunes, Amazon or Spotify: <http://thespiritofbonaire.com/download/>. And the CD is for sale around the island.

Please buy a copy and share the news as all the sale revenues will be donated to help the future of Bonaire through its youth, the Bonaire Youth Outreach Foundation (BYOF). □ G.D.

Shelter News

MEET THE SHELTER'S NEWEST TEAM MEMBER



Selfie photo

Sanne Attevelt has joined the staff of Animal Shelter Bonaire and we are so pleased to have her! Sanne was born in Utrecht and moved to Bonaire with her family in 2007. In 2013, she returned to the Netherlands to work as hospitality manager for Shell in the Hague.

While at Shell, Sanne had some interesting experiences that believe it or not included animal care. Some of the Arab dignitaries visiting Shell required that live camels be present at their visit to bring them good luck. Sanne ended up caring for the camels during their "stay" at the Hague. Makes scooping poop at the Shelter seem like child's play!

Sanne moved back to Bonaire in 2017 with her "baby," Rocky, a two year old "pit bull." Asked about her experience so far on the Shelter team, Sanne said: "It fills my heart with joy to work with all the animals at the Shelter and with such great colleagues." Pass by the Animal Shelter Bonaire and meet our new team member. □ J.M.D.

The organizers of the DUO Xtreme MTB Race set for the end of the month needs volunteers to help them manage the race. The volunteers are there to make the race orderly, safe and enjoyable. Unfortunately, there too few volunteers so far. If you want to volunteer, know people or want to ask people, please let them know. Lunch, a T-shirt and camaraderie are provided for all volunteers. Call De Freewieler bike shop 717-8545 or see Facebook page. ↓↓



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PRESENTS

30 SEPTEMBER 2018

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BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

FINDING THE MILKY WAY WHEN DOWNTOWN

We're going to talk about the Milky Way. You can usually see it from almost anywhere in the Bonaire Sky Park. But not from Playa, as Kralendijk is called by locals. The only Milky Way I can see in Kralendijk is filled with chocolate and nougat. For me, light pollution is a big problem. Too many lights illuminate signs, parking lots, buildings... And in the night sky; the more light that we shine up, fewer stars shine down. Even though it's invisible from downtown, I can share a sneaky tip to find the Milky Way in the Sky Park, even if you are downtown or in a brightly lit resort.

Let's pretend it's 10 o'clock at night and we're far from those lights. Look at all the summer stars you can see; so many stars that you can't even count them all.

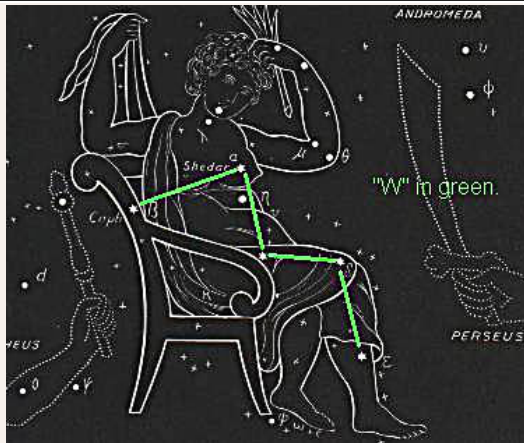
You can also see a band of faint light stretching from the northeast, up overhead, and down to the southwest. This is the Milky Way. When you look at the Milky Way, you're observing billions and billions of stars. Most of the stars in our galaxy are stretched out in a band all around us... with us in the middle. There are so many stars in our line of sight that they appear as milky clouds. Most ancient cultures were just as fascinated with the Milky Way as they were with any planet or constellation. You can definitely see why. Out in Bonaire's *mondi* it dominates the sky.

Some bright and famous constellations can be found along this galactic river such as Cassiopeia the queen, Cygnus the swan, and Scorpius the scorpion.

Cassiopeia is one of the most recognizable constellations. In the summer evenings, she sits on her throne low in the northeastern sky. It's those stars that look like the letter W... That's a queen? Well no, picture this W shape of stars as Cassiopeia's crown sparkling with five stellar jewels.

Now kick back and look high in the sky. Almost straight overhead you'll see three very bright stars marking the Summer Triangle. The Summer Triangle is not an official constellation - it's really three constellations: Lyre the harp, Cygnus the swan, and Aquila the eagle.

Focus in on Cygnus since it's probably the easiest to identify because of its cross-like



shape. In fact it's also called the Northern Cross. Cygnus' brightest star is Deneb, which marks the tail of the swan. Cygnus is located in an extremely rich part of the Milky Way, so imagine it flying along the great river in the sky.

Near Deneb, the Milky Way branches into two channels leaving a dark region in the middle. This is called the Cygnus Rift or the northern Coal Sack.

Now face south. Here the Milky Way threads between two zodiacal constellations - Scorpius and Sagittarius. Scorpius the scorpion is easy to spot with its bright red star for a heart and its curved tail and stinger stars. The stars in Sagittarius resemble more of a teapot than a centaur wielding a bow and arrow.

When you look between Scorpius and Sagittarius, you're peering into the center of our galaxy. In that direction are billions and billions of stars, and at the very center of those is a super massive black hole. X-ray satellites have captured amazing activity around this region called Sagittarius A.

Even though the Milky Way may not be visible, we still have three constellations clearly visible to guide us. Cassiopeia in the northeast, Cygnus high overhead, and Scorpius low in the south.

And that's where the Milky Way is - even if you can't see it. Once you identify Cassiopeia, Cygnus, or Scorpius, scan these regions of the sky with binoculars. With just a little magnification, a wealth of stars will be revealed to you. So start counting those billions and billions of stars tonight

Dean Regas & James Albury



THE STARS HAVE IT

Late September 2018

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You have been going through a period of change that no doubt caused problems with your loved ones. Keep an open mind when listening to the opinions of others. Re-evaluate your position and make decisions about your future goals. Education may be the answer. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You've been hurt before and could be again if you don't play hard to get. Your doubt could lead to insecurity. You need to look into ways to change your self-image. Think twice before you agree to take on any new projects. Your luckiest events will occur on a Monday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Go out with friends or family. Look out for those wanting to push you into a disagreement. Focus on your own domestic problems. Residential moves are evident. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) You are able to make changes in your home that will be favorable to all involved. Help elders get their personal papers in order. Home improvement projects will enhance your residence and bring the family closer together. Find out exactly what's expected of you and you'll be surprised to find out how capable you are. Your luckiest events will be on a Sunday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Be careful not to lead someone on if you truly have no interest. Get involved in the activities of children. Health problems may prevail if you haven't been getting enough rest. Family trips or projects should be on your mind. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Don't make large purchases or investments. Take care of any pressing medical problems that you or one of your parents may be suffering from. Lending and borrowing may be a problem. Get involved in creative projects that will enhance your earning power. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You need to spend time with friends and family.

Be sure to pay attention to your bank account. You may not be happy if members of your family are not pulling their weight. Get back to the comforts of cottage or home. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You can accomplish a lot if you deal with other people's money or possessions this month. You can make financial deals, but it may be best if you're not using your own cash. Health problems may prevail if you don't take care of them immediately. Get involved in sports events that will benefit your physical appearance. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) You may find it difficult to discuss personal matters with family members. Difficulties with your mate may lead to isolation. Someone you live with is ready to play emotional games. Your honesty will not only win you points but also respect. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You can help other people with their financial problems by setting up a budget for them. Outdoor sports events should entice you. This is not the time to lend or borrow money or possessions. Your involvement in groups will be favorable for meeting new and exciting individuals. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Do not over expand if you have your own business. Sit tight. Get motivated and follow up on some self-improvement resolutions. Don't get upset. This may not be the day to get involved in risky joint financial ventures.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You will be quite excitable this month. Trying to deal with your mate will be unproductive and possibly hurtful. Moneymaking opportunities will surface. You will upset your partner if you have spent money on things that aren't necessary. Your luckiest events will occur on a Tuesday.

Michael Thiessen

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