

FREE

BONAIRE The REPORTER



Sept. 16-Sept. 30, 2019, Year 26, Issue 19

Box 603, Bonaire, Caribbean Netherlands, Phone (599) 796-4055, www.bonairereporter.com email: info@bonairereporter.com

Schouten warned reefs dying
Selibon Cleanup Day
Report on elderly



Sunfish Worlds participants from Curaçao out for a practice run. L-R Bruno Brouwers #4935, Darius Berenos #4934 and Derek Bongaertz #4936
Photo and story: Julie Morgan

Sunfish Worlds 2019 sails into Bonaire

Racing begins today, September 16, for the 49th annual Sunfish World 2019 championship competition September 14-25 at Plaza Resort. This is Bonaire's first time to host the event that has attracted 72 competitors from 11 countries.

As in all World Sunfish, Maclaren and Laser Performance are supporting the event with 72 new boats for each of the sailors. This levels the playing field leaving it up to the individual sailor to show his/her skills.

The sailors hail from Aruba, Bonaire, China, Columbia, Curaçao, Ecuador, Guatemala, Italy, The Netherlands, Peru, Puerto Rico and the USA.

The Open World competition runs from September 16-20. The Youth and Masters competitions take over the water from the 21st until the 25th .

The Youth (under 19) has six participants. The Masters runs in age categories of 40+, 50+, 60+, and 70+.

Each day following the competition there will be an awards ceremony, interviews and raffles. A full schedule is available at www.sunfishworlds.org.

Bonaire has a long history of sailing and this year's Bonaire team is expected to shine. On the water in the Open World contest are Gilbert Martis, Rowan Beenackers, Ramses Alberto, Wolter Benschop, Ezra Buys,

René Edwards van Muijen, Ton Nuijten, Fred Ros, George Soliano, Sipke Stapert, Brayen Thode, Rudo de Vries, and Peter Winterwerp.

Rowan and Rudo will sail again in the Youth contest along with Alexander Tromp. Sailing into the Masters competition will once again be Ezra, Ton, Fred, George and Sipke. They will be joined by Elisabeth Vos and Ramon "Yellowman" Martis.

Of the 72 competitors, five women are competing: three in Open World, one in Youth and one in Master.

Spectators can have the best view of the event from Plaza Resort or TeAmo Beach.

Judges for the Sunfish Worlds Bonaire are: Ronald Ramos, Puerto Rico; Benno Loske, Holland; Leo Vekemans, Holland; Henk Ploatje, Holland and Jorge Barreda, Peru.

Pro competition leaders for the event are Menno Vercoeteron and Rob Hoogstra.

At the end of the competition all of the great Maclaren boats and trailers will be for sale at more than half the price. A completely rigged boat with a dolly is \$3500. For more information visit www.sunfishworlds.org.

Bonsailing, Bonaire Sailing Federation, is primarily responsible for making this event happen on Bonaire but it couldn't have been done without the many volunteers and sponsors. Over 30 partners made this possible but a few are: the Ministerie van volksgezondheid Welzijn en sport, Openbaar Lichaam Bonaire, Jibe city, Littman's, Plaza Resort, Tropical Travel, Blue Bay, Budget Marine, BonRed and MBO for setting up the boats and working the registration.



The OLB draft 2020 budget contains monies for maintenance.

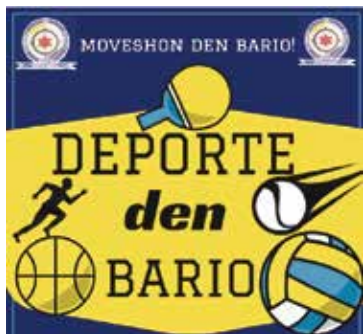


► “What we as a new Executive Council do differently is to budget reservations for maintenance. It is nice to build a road, but if you then have no money for maintenance, society will not get along very well. It sounds logical, but it didn’t happen,” said Deputy Elvis Tjin Asjoe.

For the first time in years, the finance department of OLB submitted its draft 2020 budget within the legally prescribed period. The Cft (Colleges financieel toezicht/Board of financial supervision) subsequently made its recommendations on the draft budget.

Deputy Tjin Asjoe said he expected the Cft’s response to the draft budget. “We know that we come from far. I see the Cft’s recommendations as free advice. It helps us improve financial management. What the Cft does for the OLB, the provinces in the European Netherlands do for the municipalities there. The provinces test all municipal budgets and give recommendations for improvement.”

Calling all children— neighborhood sports resumes



► Starting September 16, Indebon, the sports department of the Bonaire Public Body (OLB) will start sports activities in the neighborhoods for all boys and girls seven to 17 years old. This concerns the sports volleyball, hit ball (trebal and slagbal), and athletics. Athletics will take place at the Playa stadium and at the Antonio Trenidat Stadium in Rincon.

Peter Silberie, head of the Indebon, has announced the schedule from September 16 to October 27, 2019. The times will be the same every day: from 3 to 4.30pm.

Mon: Rincon gymnasium.
Tues: Nort’i Salifa community center.
Wed: Antriol sports hall, Kompleho Deportivo George Nicolaas.
Thurs: Nikiboko district center.
Fri: Tera Korá Cruiff Court.

Starting October 28, 2019 Indebon will be in ALL neighborhoods at the same locations and time as above.

Indebon calls on all children to come to a fun afternoon of sports.

Government Releases Ambitious Program for Next Three Years



► The Executive Council has published the Island Program for 2019 - 2023. The title of the 46-page document makes clear the intentions of the BC: “From all of us, by all of us and for all of us”.

“The management program is made with and for the entire Bonairean society,” writes Governor Edison in the preface. The management program has been established with the cooperation of many citizens, entrepreneurs and organizations who have responded to the invitation of the BC to let them know what they think is important for a positive development of Bonaire.

The governance program defines goals to be achieved in six areas: Socio-economic development; Opportunities for all through education; Sustainable economic development; Well-maintained, sustainable, qualitative and safe infrastructure; Good governance and a well-functioning government apparatus; and Financial substantiation, resources and feasibility.

“It’s a realistic program, Rijna said. The deputies did not allow themselves to be seduced into making all kinds of promises that are difficult to fulfill. At the same time it is also a very ambitious program with which the entire BC gives itself a hefty assignment. You can see that this BC opts for collegial administration: there is a connection between all parts and a common goal: to make life better for all Bonaireans and the generations that will come after us.”

The Administrative Program translates the Administrative Agreement, concluded with the government last November, into specific goals the government intends to achieve to improve daily life on Bonaire for everyone. “Together we stand stronger!” Governor Rijna said.

The entire management program can be read on the website of the Public Body Bonaire: [www. Bonairegov.com](http://www.Bonairegov.com)

On August 25, Sra. Seferina “Sefer” Statie celebrated her 102nd birthday. Deputies Nina den Heyer and James Kroon congratulated her on behalf of the government of Bonaire.



Flotsam & Jetsam continued on page 4



TUNG FONG STORE N.V.

“The Store With Almost Everything”
Great Service, Too!

Kaya Korona 52 Tel. 599-717 4224 FAX. 599-717-5224

Opening Hours: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm, 2:30 pm -6.30 pm
Open from Monday till Saturday. Sundays Closed.

This Week's Stories

Sunfish Worlds	1
Schouten told reefs dying	3
DeWolff leaves STINAPA	3
Air traffic = public transportation	4
Elders in poverty	4
Selibon Cleanup Day	5
Milestones: Marin; Bernabela; Wijman	5
Soapbox derby shut down	6
Author Jannet Butter	6
DNA office opens	6
Buena Vista Optics	7
Miss Tourism Crowned	8
Dia di Boneiru	11
Trespassing Tourists	11
Donkey Hoté in a tree	11
48Hr. film project	14

Departments

Flotsam & Jetsam (OLB budget 2020; plan 2019-23; Bario sports; Finies arrested; 2017 purchasing power; diver lost; generators online)	2,4
Who's Who in <i>The Reporter</i>	2
Ask Kate (septic tanks)	5
Law enforcement	5
Ask a Geek (Internet)	5
Parrots and People	8
Reef Glimpses (Octopus)	9
Picture Yourself (Telenius-Lowe, Spain)	9
A Garden? (CO2)	10
Making Bonaire “Accessible”	
#18 The elderly	10
Did You Know? (Sharks)	11
What's Happening: Events, Churches, Museums	12
Cruise ship schedule	12
Classifieds	12
Sky Park (Autumn equinox)	13
Yoga (Elisabetta Maccari)	13
Pet Of The Week (Atena, cat)	14
Shelter News	14
Business Directory	15

How to Find Us:

Read us online:

<https://bonairereporter.com>
 📍 <https://www.facebook.com/TheBonaireReporter/>

Available in 80 locations
 Printed every two weeks
Next edition: Sept. 30, 2019
News Deadline: Sept. 27, 2019
Contributor's Deadline: Sept. 25, 2019
Stories, tips, questions, ideas & ads:
 Phone (+599)796 4055
 Email: info@bonairereporter.com
 Address: Box 603, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean.

The Bonaire Reporter Staff:

Julie Morgan, Publisher
BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com
 Production: Barbara Lockwood
Contributors: Angliet Nature Lover, Ria Evers-Dokter, Jane Madden-Disko, Caren Eckrich, Dee Scarr, Dean Regas & James Albury, Kate Butler, Brian Niessen, Sanne Attevelt, Laurie Smith, Roxanne-Liana Francisca, Juliánka Clarenda, Camille Naylor, Brent Hoogervorst, Dennis Martinus, Therese Rosier
Distribution: Marlene & Co. (Playa), Yuchi Molina (Rincon), Divi-Divi Airline,
 Printed by: DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao
 Founders: George and Laura DeSalvo
 © 2019 The Bonaire Reporter

Schouten warned that coral reefs are dying

“Take action now because the coral reefs in the Dutch Caribbean are dying,” was the message repeatedly given to Minister Schouten of Agriculture Nature and Food Quality when she visited the islands of the Caribbean Netherlands September 2 to 6, 2019.

STINAPA, DCNA (Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance), and WWF (World Wildlife Foundation) all confirmed that coral reef death is the urgent issue. As the State of Nature report of the Caribbean Netherlands shows, the nature for which people come to the Caribbean Netherlands is disappearing.

In the Caribbean Netherlands (Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba) the size and quality of the reefs have been monitored since 1973. The research shows that 70% - 85% of the coral cover has disappeared in the Caribbean Netherlands. If this trend continues, it is expected that by 2030 the coral cover in Bonaire will fall below 1%. If drastic policy changes are not implemented quickly, the coral reefs will disappear from the Caribbean Netherlands.

The threats to the coral reefs are immense. The reefs are dying mainly due to climate change and pollution. In their September 5 presentation to Schouten and her entourage, STINAPA's chief scientist, biologist Caren Eckrich and biologist trainee Roxanne-Liana Francisca first explained the very high intrinsic value of the best remaining coral reefs

in the Caribbean. Their value is not only for the economy and the biodiversity, but as protection against the devastating consequences of global climate change. Bonaire's reefs are rapidly deteriorating due to waste water, deforestation, the profusion of sediment in our waters, population growth (from about 10,000 in 2003 to over 20,000 in 2019) and climate change. Additionally, as STINAPA's director Arjen de Wolff pointed out, the reefs are threatened by the exponential increase of cruise tourists (from a 'few' to almost 500,000 annually in less than ten years). “The time for action is now, if we don't want to lose them forever,” was STINAPA's loud and clear message.

There is hope, both biologists assured all present. Bonaire's coral still has a fighting chance, if we start investing more in reforestation, sustainable fisheries, invasive species control, and the management of Sargassum immediately.



photo Julie Morgan

De Wolff leaves STINAPA

The director of STINAPA, Arjen De Wolff, has resigned his normal duties immediately. The board of directors and management of STINAPA have decided in good mutual consultation to end the relationship.

“Our director, Mr. De Wolff, has taken important steps forward in the development of the organization in recent years,” said Delno Tromp, chairman of STINAPA. “Work peace has been created in this way, for example by concluding a collective agreement with the trade unions; the income of the foundation has almost doubled; relationships with different governments have improved; the workforce has been rejuvenated and the reorganization is in its final phase. Nevertheless, we now consider the time has come for a director with a different profile,” says Tromp.

De Wolff praised the STINAPA staff: “The people of STINAPA do difficult work, work that is not always popular, on an island that has grown strongly in recent years and where the pressure on our unique and vulnerable nature, such as our coral, has grown enormously and where the interests are great. I am proud to have been able to lead this small group of colleagues with a big heart for our island for over two years and I wish STINAPA all the best.”

The STINAPA board has announced that Mr. Peter Jager, former director of



Peter Jager will fill the role of interim director for STINAPA

Bonhata, will fill the position of interim director.

Jager writes: “I was asked to help STINAPA because of my HRM background. I am there to make sure on-going things can continue and the staff will have the support they need. We will look for a new director asap.”

Jager, 46, came to Bonaire about two years ago from Groningen (The Netherlands). His background is in finance and HRM. Jager had his own business as career coach, but mainly he worked as a senior manager or director in organizations helping with culture programs and staff changes.

The Executive Council had no comment on the termination of employment between STINAPA and its former director Arjen de Wolff. According to Elvis Tjin Asjoe, representative of Economic Affairs and Tourism, STINAPA is autonomous in personnel policy. As a non-governmental organization (NGO) the organization has a board that is responsible for policy.

FOR SALE Sabadeco Boulevard Santa Barbara 50 Caribbean Club Villa 305



- Lot size : 151 m2 / 1625 sq. ft. lease land
- Living area: approx. 120 m2 / 1291 sq. ft.
- 2 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms / storage / rinse tank

- Close to the northern dive sites, opposite Oil Slick
- Unobstructed panoramic ocean views
- Resort: restaurant, bar, 2 pools and dive shop

Listed for \$365,000 US Dollar



Kaya Grandi 24-A Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean Tel. +599-717-7362
info@bonairehomes.com www.bonairehomes.com
f <http://www.facebook.com/REMAXBonaire>

BC says air traffic is 'public transport'

The Executive Council of the Public Entity Bonaire (BC) sees air traffic between Bonaire and its surrounding islands as 'public transport' and therefore the responsibility of the Kingdom Government. Deputy Elvis Tjin Asjoe says, "In the European Netherlands the government is responsible for public transport options between cities and different parts of the country. That is not left to the various municipalities."

Tjin Asjoe and Lieutenant Governor Edison Rijna are both members of the Aviation Expert Group chaired by Mr. Peter Hartman. The group has been researching how to reduce the costs of air transportation from Bonaire.

Tjin Asjoe points out that the cheapest ticket to Curaçao currently costs around \$150 per person. "That's a lot of money for one person alone, but most people don't travel alone. A family with four people will soon lose \$600 to \$700, if only to the trip to Curaçao," says Tjin Asjoe. Ad-

ditionally, Bonaire has few direct flights within the Caribbean. Bonaireans must pay for the ticket to Curaçao, on top of the price for a ticket to their destination.

"Our ticket prices from Bonaire include a \$15 tax, which is collected and paid by the airlines. In Curaçao, passengers who transfer should only pay a \$10 transfer tax, but tickets from companies that depart from Curaçao also include a standard \$37 airport tax. In this way our travelers are taxed twice and also far too heavily," says Tjin Asjoe. According to Tjin Asjoe, travelers departing from Bonaire to the region pay a record amount of \$52 in airport taxes on departure alone, without taking into account what is charged at foreign airports for a return trip.

Tjin Asjoe says that the BC (Executive Council) is looking forward with interest to the decisions that will be taken by the Cabinet when it comes to making and keeping the costs of air transport affordable and guaranteeing a certain connectivity between the island and the region."

Flotsam & Jetsam continued from page 2

► **James Finies was arrested September 6 during a protest action.** Finies, leader of the Nos Kier Boneiru Bèk (NKBB/We Want Bonaire Back) movement, had permission to demonstrate at Wilhelminaplein at the official celebration of dia di Boneiru. Certain conditions were attached to the permit, but Finies would not stay at the booth designated for himself and his three supporters. After Finies ignored three instructions from the police, he was arrested for not complying with a police order. The NKBB demonstration did not continue.

► **Since 2007, Nazario Alberto has walked to raise money for the Princess Wilhelmina Fund.** This year Nazario leaves Rincon on September 28 at 3pm. He will then walk through the other neighborhoods of Bonaire to the Oranjeplein in front of El Mundo Restaurant. All residents of Bonaire can come to this end point to give a donation. PIN payments can also be made, all of course, for charity. September is the collection month for the PRINCESS WILHELMINA FUND. The fund supports patients living with cancer.

► **Statistics Netherlands (CBS): Purchasing power in the Caribbean Netherlands has risen year after year since 2012.** On Bonaire and Saba, the (median) change in purchasing power amounted to 1.0 and 0.6% respectively in 2017, the lowest increase on these islands since 2012. With a median 2.6% increase, the highest gain was on St Eustatius. Mainly low-income households benefited there, due to the additional increase in minimum wages and social benefits in 2017. Improved purchasing power means that incomes are rising more than the average price levels, so consumers can afford to purchase more goods and services.

On Bonaire, mainly households with children benefited: couples with children by 3.2% and single-parent families by 2.3%. Members of (other) multi-person households on Bonaire and Saba, on the other hand, lost some of their purchasing power. On Bonaire, the increase in statutory pension benefits (AOV) was lower than the increase in consumer prices; the spending power of local elderly residents declined slightly as a result.

► **The Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) and industry partners are helping to drive hurricane relief support for the Abacos, Grand Bahama.** CHTA has provided members with details as to how they can support immediate efforts with cash and urgent supply donations. To help support the long-term recovery, CHTA is putting in place an online auction. Hotels throughout the Caribbean basin are being invited to donate room stays which the travelling public can bid on, with the proceeds going towards the long-term recovery. "We are working with Charity Buzz and the Caribbean's 33 national hotel and tourism associations to organize the fundraiser which we hope to launch to the travelling public in the coming days," Comito explained. The CHTA Education Foundation is also undertaking a targeted fundraising campaign, with proceeds going to help with education and school-related initiatives for the children in The Abacos and Grand Bahama.

► **Saturday, September 14, the Day of Freemasonry, the Freemasons of Bonaire held open house at their new lodge, Harmonie.** Michiel Bijkerk, secretary, writes: "Lodge Harmonie is a true reflection of Bonairian society. Its members come from every walk of life and cultural background. Due to this fact a wide variety diversity of topics are dis-

Bonaire's elders living in poverty

National ombudsman Reinier van Zutphen presents Deputy Nina den Heyer with a copy of his report "Eye for the elderly in the Caribbean Netherlands."



"Older people in the Caribbean Netherlands often live in bitter poverty and lead an unworthy existence. Policy that guarantees their livelihood must therefore be given real priority." That is the conclusion of National Ombudsman Reinier van Zutphen in his report Eye for the Elderly in the Caribbean Netherlands.

On 11 September van Zutphen, who is also the ombudsman of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, discussed his report with representatives of government agencies and civil society organizations on the Island as a first step towards improving the facilities for the elderly in the Caribbean Netherlands.

Van Zutphen declared that "Elderly people who live around or below the poverty line in the Caribbean Netherlands have too little money to provide for their basic necessities, there are too few (care) facilities and they do not know for which schemes they are eligible."

The Ombudsman noted that elderly people receiving only an AOV benefit (state pension comparable to the Dutch AOW benefit) can hardly make ends meet and often live in bitter poverty. The costs of basic necessities in the Caribbean Netherlands are often almost twice as high as in the European Netherlands, while the AOV benefit is roughly the same as the Dutch AOW. Housing costs

are high and groceries expensive. Fresh vegetables and fruit are not affordable for many elderly people. And elderly people are often unaware they are entitled to, for example, special assistance (comparable to Dutch special assistance).

Facilities for the elderly are insufficient. The Island lacks public transport, has a shortage of day care places, only limited home care, and no rehabilitation centers dedicated to the elderly.

Van Zutphen, praised the seniors he had talked with. "Despite all the problems, the elderly in the Caribbean Netherlands complain with pride and are hardly shamed about their situation. But that is not acceptable and must improve quickly. All governments must now continue to work together, and on all fronts simultaneously."

According to the ombudsman, an integrated approach with strong direction is therefore needed to guarantee the livelihood of the elderly in the Caribbean Netherlands. He believes a 'Caribbean table' is needed. Different government agencies are unaware how their separate policies, not being coordinated with those of other agencies, can negatively impact vulnerable elderly people in the Caribbean Netherlands."

cussed. The need to sharpen one's mind and to engage in philosophical issues is the main reason why we come together."

Every other Tuesday evening, the members meet. September 29 will be the celebration of the one-year anniversary.

For (more) information please contact the Lodge's Secretary, Mr Michiel Bijkerk. Phone number; 796 2650. Or you could visit our website (www.logeharmonie.org).

► **Diver lost.** On Tuesday afternoon, September 3, a search was started for a missing diver. The diver dove with a group at Sharon's Serenity on the southwestern corner of Klein Bonaire. A team of technical divers, Stinapa, the Coastguard helicopter, and boats from diving schools conducted an intensive search Tuesday and Wednesday without success.

► **New generators operational at the Karpata power plant.** A few months ago, ContourGlobal started the expansion of the power plant with five new engines.

September 13 WEB and ContourGlobal announced that three of the new HFO diesel generators with a total operational capacity of six MW are ready to start up. After the final tests and the completion of the project, the hybrid power plant in Karpata will be able to supply substantial energy supply through a combination of diesel generators (22 MW), wind turbines (11 MW) and batteries (six MW), controlled by a highly advanced energy management system.

► **THANK YOU FOR PRESS DAY.** *The Bonaire Reporter* would like to thank Telbo- Kla for the goodie box delivered to sustain our daily press duties on Dia di Prensa (Press Day). Another big thank you to the OLB and RCN for the Press Day celebration featuring a tour, scavenger hunt, official RCN notebook and BBQ.

Law Enforcement

Use your turn signals.

The KPCN wants to inform all drivers that they must, by law, use their turn signals. On September 10 a traffic control was held at around 5:30 pm at the Surnan di Rosendaal roundabout. A total of 78 fines were issued because drivers did not use their direction indicator before turning.

Police Report for September 4 — 11, 2019

Robberies

On September 4, a gray Bikkel bicycle was stolen from the yard of a house on the Kaya Ganimedes between 8am and 5.30pm.

On September 10 a burglary was reported in a house on the Kaya Berlin. Between August 24, and September 8 multiple televisions were taken from the home.

Also on the 10th a tourist accommodation in Sabadeco was burgled. Passports and a safe with money were taken.

On the Roads

On September 8 a motorbike crashed into a lamppost on the road to Washington. The motorcyclist was taken by ambulance to the hospital

On September 10 a traffic control was held at around 5:30 pm at the Surnan di Rosendaal roundabout. Traffic control was divided into three groups: Kaya L.D. Gerharts, Kaya Korona / Kaya Nikiboko North and Kaya Nikiboko South. The check focused on giving a sign with the direction indicator before turning. A total of 78 fines were issued during this check.

Arrests

On September 4, a man 20 years and a woman 18 years of age were arrested for domestic violence.

On September 7, a man 24 years was held for public intoxication and disruption of order. *Communicatie KPCN*

If you want to give an (anonymous) tip, phone (+599) 717 7251
If there is no emergency, phone Bonaire (+599) 715 8000 or 717 8000

World Clean Up Day 2019

Let's keep Bonaire clean and beautiful

Bonaire will join billions of people worldwide to help clean up our planet on September 21.

Selibon N.V wants Bonaireans to understand how important it is to keep our neighborhoods and island free of waste and debris. This year Selibon is focusing on Bonaire's historic neighborhoods: Tera Kòrá, Nikiboko, Playa, Antriol, Nort'i Saliña, Rincon, Playa Frans and Lac.

Bonaire has a huge problem with bulky waste being dumped on our public roads, beaches and in nature. Discarded items commonly include furniture, garden waste, and mattresses. For this reason, Selibon's main theme of "World Clean

Up Day 2019" is bulky waste.

Selibon will place debris containers and glass bins in the listed neighborhoods so everyone can dispose of their unwanted items and waste in an organized way. If the bins are full, the waste can be placed next to them. On September 23, Selibon will collect everything at the various bins. Selibon will announce via radio and Facebook where they will place the rubble and glass bins.

If you are a volunteer who wants to lend a hand to keep your own neighborhood clean, please contact Selibon by phone at +599-717-8159 or e-mail at balie@selibon.com.

Milestones

On September 1st, 2019. Rolando Marin celebrated his 25th year working for TCB (Tourist Board Bonaire). The occasion was marked by a lunch and presentation. In his role as an information officer, Rolando has worked with countless visitors to Bonaire, enriching Bonaire's reputation as a friendly and helpful island.



Eveline Bernabela and Gilliane Wijman recently celebrated 20 years of service at Belastingdienst (Tax authorities). Management and colleagues express their gratitude for their many years of loyal and dedicated service.



Ask Kate

Bonaire real estate advice



Question: Here's a weird question – tell me about septic tanks. I see most houses on Bonaire have them. Aren't there public sewers? I had a house in Pennsylvania years ago with a septic tank and it was such an expensive hassle I swore I'd never do it again, but I do want to buy a place on Bonaire. Thanks, Kurt

Hi Kurt,

Not a weird question at all, I bet a lot of people wonder about that, so thanks for asking! The Bonaire sewer system currently serves properties in some locations close to the ocean. However, there are some oceanfront homes that also have septic tanks.

You're probably picturing the septic tanks in the US that are completely buried and empty into long underground drain fields. Emptying these tanks and repairing drain fields involves digging up the ground and is labor and cost intensive.

On Bonaire, septic tanks are installed that are closed concrete tanks that sit in the ground and do not drain into the ground. These have anywhere from one to four separate chambers. The top of the tank is visible above ground, and there are caps that screw off so the tank can be quickly and easily emptied by a service truck with a long hose. The cost is generally \$50 to \$75, depending on how many chambers you want emptied. If you have a multi-chambered tank, your final chamber may be gray water suitable for connecting to your drip garden watering system, which saves on your water cost and reduces how often your tank needs to be emptied.

There are still some open bottom septic systems on some homes built in the decades prior to the requirement that new installations be closed tanks. So ask if you are not sure when you view a property. *All the best, Kate Butler, GRI, Real Estate Agent, RE/MAX Bonaire*

If you have a real estate question for Kate, email her at kate@bonairehomes.com Tollfree from US: 1-866-611-7362

Ask a Geek

by Brian Niessen

How do I get good Internet on Bonaire?

Nowadays, just about everybody is connected via the internet. Even your 90 year old grandparents are on-line.

So what happens when you decide to go on a holiday (or move) to an island in the sea? What are your options for maintaining connectivity on Bonaire?

There are a few ways – depending if you are just on a holiday or living here.

The first is to use your Cell Phone. You can use your service from home and just connect to the data network here on Digi- cel, UTS or Telbo. But be forewarned, the cost for data is exorbitant because your phone company increases the price dramatically. A better method is to pick up a SIM card for your phone at one of the local phone stores and then use a local data package. Unfortunately, this doesn't work for locked phones.

An alternative is to buy a MiFi Hotspot from Telbo, and pay for the service which allows up to five phones or other WiFi devices to connect to the internet. You also need to buy a prepaid SIM card which keeps the data price down. Pros: Works anywhere, up to 20 mbit/second, and can be shared by a family. Cons: Costs approximately \$150 for the device, but with a family using their home cell provider (AT&T, etc) for data, that can pay for itself in a day or two. (I personally have a MiFi as a backup to my other Internet providers here on the island.)

If you don't want to do that, you can use the free WiFi services around town. Hotels and resorts usually have free WiFi in public areas, but you may have to pay for it in your room. Some restaurants have free WiFi if you purchase something,

and there are also open/free WiFi in some places. The Tourist Board used to have free WiFi in the downtown area, but now you have to pay for it unfortunately.

If you live here, and need to have "always-on" internet, then you have three options for ISP's – Digi- cel (ADSL or Wi- Max), Telbo (ADSL or Fiber), or Flamin- go (Cable). Some are available in certain areas while others are not. Regardless of which one you choose, if internet access is "mission critical", I recommend you have at least 2 ISP connections. I have Flamingo and Digi- cel WiMax as my hardwired connections, and then Telbo (MiFi) as a backup. My cell phone has chips from both Telbo and Digi- cel as the backup to the backup. Why? Because there are days when one or two or even three of the connections go down as main- tenance or upgrades are happening.

BUT even that won't keep you online if the single fiber optic cable between Bonaire and Curaçao is damaged! It doesn't happen often, but it can when a boat anchor gets caught and breaks it. When this situation occurs you most likely will lose the ability to even phone off-island as well, so don't panic. Just go to the beach, relax, have a drink, and laugh at what we call the "Paradise Tax".

HELPFUL HINT: To test your internet speed, visit www.fast.com

Last issue we wrote about security camera issues. We have had some feed- back from residents who have had 'hack- er' type problems, and will be digging deeper into it for a future issue. Thanks to all for your feedback.

Soap Box Rally shut down



Bonaire's Soap Box rally ended before it began on Sept 7 in Rincon. Approximately 35 cars were expected to compete in both youth and adult runs. Guests lined up in the heat near the food and drink stands in anticipation of the race. Everything was called to a halt when the police arrived declaring the road barriers must be three levels of bumper tires not two. They said it was for the safety of the drivers and spectators.

Organizer Marisora Lake said the cars had come from all over Bonaire and one was even from Curaçao.

The rally was originally set to begin at

10 but was postponed until 1 pm. Winners would have received medals and even phones from Digicel.

Lake said she would not be organizing the event again.

The Lieutenant Governor released a statement declaring that, after discussions with the organizers, a permit for the event had been granted, subject to certain conditions regarding "public order and safety." The morning of the races the organizers were offered an opportunity to correct the safety bumper insufficiency but said they were unable to do so. *Story & photo: Julie Morgan*

Jannet Butter



"I write out of my heart. Sometimes I just show the emotion," said local author Jannet Butter, "You can't write a story without the emotion."

Jannet Butter, originally from the Netherlands, is the author of four books of short stories about the people, places and impressions of Bonaire. She recently released her first American English book "The Ghost of Washikemba." Her previous books were all in Dutch.

Either language, English or Dutch, her prose is thick with descriptive adjectives and adverbs painting a vivid image of the stories in the readers mind.

Even her liner notes whet the appetite for what is inside.

"Bonaire. Pearl of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Rustling palms, deep blue sea. Sultry, sensual and exotic. Beautiful nature reserves, glorious sunsets, special people."

Jannet is a reader. She was a teacher and read to her primary school students as her father did to her as a child.

"It's very important. I always read to my own children," said Jannet, "I noticed in teaching that it is sometimes difficult for them [the students], so short stories help them start to read."

"The Ghost of Washikemba" contains 48 short stories about 1500 words long. The stories are written about real people in present day circumstances, what's happening with the ocean, turtles, the animal shelter and everyday events on Bonaire. The stories range from a story about the Cadushy Distillery where you can drink a cactus liqueur to how the author met the American dive legend Captain Don Stewart and his partner Janet Thibault.

When she writes about real people, she sends the story to them for permission to include them. She said occasionally there are characters in the stories that are similar to real people but it is only a coincidence.

"My ideas come out of my observations and I totally disappear into the story. Sometimes there is a struggle and

sometimes it appears easily on the paper. I write the story with an objective point of view," said Jannet.

For the most part the stories are her impressions of what she saw and what happened.

Jannet and her husband Antonio have been married for 40 years. They came to Bonaire in 2007. Antonio does the publishing while Jannet does the writing.

"It's me writing the story..." said Jannet, "I don't want to publish a book because I want to publish a book, it has to be good!"

Jannet Butter's books are available locally at Cadushy Distillery, Van den Tweel, Delphins Beach Resort and MG Bonaire.

De Knoek heeft duizend ogen 2015/ revised edition 2019 (The Knoek has a thousand eyes)

Flamingo's op brood 2016 (Flamingo's on bread)

De Leguanenvanger 2017/ revised edition 2019 (The Iguanacatcher)
The Ghost of Washikemba 2019)

Photo and story by Julie Morgan

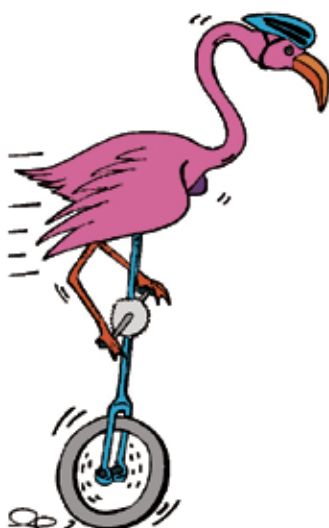
DCNA opens new office



photo Julie Morgan

The Dutch Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, Carola Schouten, opens a new office for the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance together with Island Governor Edison Rijna. DCNA said they were honored by Schouten's important visit. They used the opportunity to advocate for the involvement of every Dutch Caribbean island in projects and plans for nature conservation in the Kingdom's beautiful backyard.

DE FREEWIELER



Sales & Repair:
Road, Mountain & Dutch Bikes.
Giant, Specialized, Bikkel & Golden Lion Bikes
Parts and accessories for all brands of bikes
Beautiful bike clothes, shoes, helmets
House and car keys duplicated
Kaya Grandi #61 "The blue building"
Open 8:30-12:30, 14:00-17:00
Owner Operated Call 717-8545

Website: www.freewielerbonaire.com
Email: freewieler@bonairefreewieler.com



For the Protection of Your Family or Business

Your Most Trusted Name in Security since 1983

717-8125

E-mail: info@sssbonaire.com

Website: www.sssbonaire.com



SPECIAL SECURITY SERVICES

Kaya Nikiboko Noord 37, PO Box 225, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean

Perfect service and quality are our passion

After working as optometrists for 30 years in the Netherlands, Nick and Elizabeth (Els) Madlener decided it was time to do something different. Nick, who is originally from Aruba, thought it was time to return to the Caribbean. He and Els saw Bonaire as Aruba was in the 1970s. So in 2007 they packed up their belongings and young daughter and headed to Bonaire with a vision of doing sailboat charters.

Unfortunately this was pre 2010 and tourism business permits weren't that easy to get.

After a couple of years on Bonaire, Nick was back in the eye business, freelancing for a local optometrist while Els worked in vacation rentals part time.

With the population of Bonaire ever increasing, the island needed another optometry store and Nick and Els decided to fill the need. They had worked side-by-side for one optical company for 10 years. Then they had their own company in Groningen, Holland for 17 years. They knew they could do it again on Bonaire.

As a result, Buena Vista (Good Vision) optometry opened in December 2011 in a little shop on the other side of Gios. They moved to the current location on Kaya Grande in 2016.

Nick said, "We give very good service to the population. Our motto is service and quality in the shop. We try to give the best experience we can."

Buena Vista has a contract with the hospital for all optical services and exams.

"You buy your glasses and we organize everything with the government insurance. Not just for diabetes, but for all prescriptions," said Nick.

Buena Vista is fully equipped with the

latest professional instruments for testing eye pressure and retinal photography for diabetes screening and macular degeneration. There are specialty microscopes and even instruments that show the topography of the eye for detailed magnification and imagery. The optical workshop includes the latest equipment for manufacturing eyeglasses and repairs.

The eye chart, which everyone knows, is now digital with changeable screens in color for more conclusive eye testing.

"We make prescription dive masks, sunglasses and specialty glasses," said Nick, "Specialty lenses, graduated, multifocal, bifocal or transition lenses, we have to order. No one makes them anymore. It takes about two weeks, but everything is possible."

Buena Vista has over 3000 lenses for mono vision and distance in stock, daily and monthly contacts and the largest selection of name brand and designer sunglasses and frames on the island.

Nick, can be found working Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and Els only pops in on occasion. On other days the shop is 'manned' by ophthalmologist assistant (TOA) Ingrid Zodenkamp and optician Jennifer Riley.

Buena Vista can be found at Kaya Grandi 36, 717-9181 or email buenavistaoptics@gmail.com.

The shop is open Monday – Friday 8:30-12pm/ 2-6 and Saturday 9-1pm. *Photos & story by Julie Morgan*

1.3 billion people have vision problems in the world.



**Buena Vista is fully equipped with the latest professional instruments
L-R Nick Madlener, Jennifer Riley and Ingrid Zodenkamps**



L-R Ingrid Zodenkamp, Els Madlener, Jennifer Riley, Raviene Martinus, Giovanna Peluso. Center Nick Madlener, not pictured Rosanna Castillo.



Freedom | Comfort | Royal Treatment

Majestic
Comfortable banking

Comfortable banking

Orco Bank is your personal banker in Curaçao, Bonaire and St. Martin. Entrust all your banking needs to us and be sure to receive the most courteous and competent of services available. With ample experience operating in the international arena, we offer expert advice and the perfect platform to design a mortgage tailor-made to your needs.

At Orco Bank, it's all about your comfort: knowing that your finances are well taken care of, so you can enjoy a carefree lifestyle!

Orco Majestic: the ultimate feeling of freedom and comfort

Orco Majestic is our private banking service for select customers only. No other bank in Curaçao, Bonaire or St. Martin will offer you more personal attention or privileges. We provide a complete package of extraordinary banking products featuring attractive conditions and lots of extras. Your freedom, comfort and flexibility are our first priority.

Majestic Current Account | Majestic Savings Account | Majestic Mortgage | Majestic Car Loan

The Majestic Lifestyle: you deserve it!

WORLD CLEANUP DAY 2019 21 SEP

**21 September 2019
Ban tene Boneiru
Limpi!**

Lokalisashon di glasbol i puinbak

RINCON SÛIT	- Banda di Stadion Antonio Trenidat
RINCON NORT	- Na Kaya Trinitaria (stashon medio ambiente)
NORTI SALINA	- Dilanti di Sentro di Bario Nort'i Salina
ANTRIOL PABOU	- Dilanti di Sentro di Bario Antriol
ANTRIOL PARIBA	- Na Kaya Ramona
NIKIBOKO	- Dilanti di Sentro di Bario Nikiboko
TERA KORA	- Dilanti di Sentro di Bario Tera Kora
PLAYA	- Na Stadion di Playa
PLAYA FRANS	- Na bich
LAC	- Na bich

BONAIRE BLUE DESTINATION SELIBON

Kaya Grandi #48, Bonaire
Tel: (599) 717-2000 Fax: (599) 717-2035
www.orcobank.com
email: John.soliano@orcobank.com



Your Personal Banker

Miss Tourism 2019 pageant held September 7

A sold out crowd of 190 people, decked out in sparkles, sequins and formal attire, attended Tourism Corporation Bonaire's Miss Tourism 2019 pageant at the Bonaire Courtyard by Marriott on September 7. Guests came to cheer on their favorite candidate and enjoy the entertainment.

Carlton Janzen served as MC for the show on a beautifully decorated stage complete with theatrical lights and an enormous digital screen as the backdrop where videos and synced images played. Entertainment was interwoven with the appearances of the five candidates giving the young women an opportunity to show off their dancing and modeling skills.

The Dominican dancers got things started. They were followed by individual tourism pitch speeches from each of the candidates.

The girls changed costumes five times, participating in a mini contest of 'who wore it best' as each girl wore the exact same outfit, shoes, jewelry and even hairstyle.

A swimsuit and formal dress competition culminated with a spontaneous

question and answer for each individual candidate.

In between costume changes the guests were entertained by the Dominican dancers and singers: Capella Chirina, Zanid, Gerald and JC Music ending with the popular Dibo.

A film depicting the journey of the candidates enjoying Bonaire's tourism showed the girls snorkeling, windsurfing enjoying a nature walk and an introduction to Echo.

The judges deliberated and the results were announced with each candidate receiving sashes and awards for various attributes and placings in the Miss Tourism contest. Miss Tourism 2018 Carolin Coffie performed her final duties by crowning the new Miss Tourism and runners up.

Fourth place - Lorienny Draper and Miss Press Bonaire

Third place - Katharine Montero and Miss Photogenic, Internet, and Best Body

Second place - Shanyvienne Seraus Miss Elegance and Model

First place - Ewellin Lambert and Miss Discipline



Miss Tourism 2019 Rayshantaly Coffie

Miss Tourism Bonaire 2019 - Rayshantaly Coffie and Best Speech, Miss Popular, Miss Smile, Miss Interview, Miss Tour Guide and Miss Nature Ambassador Deangelo Martijn was voted Mr. Bonaire 2019.

Judges for the contest were: Delno Tromp, Aimer Ayubi, Miss Curacao



The five contestants show perfect poise in the swimsuit competition.



Miss Tourism 2019 Rayshantaly Coffie and Mr. Bonaire 2019 Deangelo Martijn

Universe Alisha Alberts, Gionel Virginie, Melissa Rosalia and Juliette de Griyze. Story & photos by Julie Morgan

Parrots and People

The six healthy baby Loras born in captivity are out of their nests and capable of flying to the feeding bowl. We can still hear them constantly begging their parents for food even though they get enough. The babies are still dependent and will remain so for some weeks. We are very hopeful they will get all the skills they need in the flying aviary to be introduced to the wild in 2020.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality funded our reforestation project. Because the Ministry supports the re-introduction of endemic species, especially plants, all around the island, we invited Minister Carola Schouten to visit Echo on September 5th.

When we gave her a tour around the Dos Pos Conservation Center, we emphasized the conservation of Bonaire's dry ecosystem. It is clear if reforestation is to continue, we must fence off all free roaming grazing areas. Until the goats and other herbivores are controlled on the island, the biggest cost for our numerous nature funded projects will be building and maintaining the exclusion areas. The funds for these projects are commissioned by the Public Entity Bonaire in collaboration with local organizations.

Reaching out...

We should all be aware that reforestation is an effective mitigation strategy to fight global warming. In addition to

benefiting the climate, reforestation rebuilds the habitats and degradation that threaten the health of different plant and animal species.

As an NGO we reach out to locals, asking them to play a big role in our reforestation success. We have planted 15,000 trees with the help of volunteers with little and big hands, Continuation of the program should create more jobs and internship opportunities for MBO students and prisoners. On their first day of MBO1 Greenery Study by Forma, we gave a presentation to the group. By valuing people and culture we can safeguard our Intangible heritage and tackle the social aspect integrated in a sustainable plan.

Give Nature a hand...

On September 7th we initiated community work with a small group securing the fence and digging holes at the latest exclusion area in Washington Slagbaai National Park.

To allow our team and others to help out on World Clean Up Day in Bonaire on September 21, we have moved our tree planting day to September 22. You are invited to join us at Jankok near Goto Lake in the park at 8 am or meet us at Dos Pos between 7:45 and 8 am and then follow the arrows to the south entrance.

If you would you like to volunteer with a big group, please sign up at info@echobonaire.org.

We recommend wearing closed-toed shoes. Bring your own reusable water bottle/cup, sunscreen and insect repellent. If you have your own gardening gloves and tools, please bring those as well! *Julianka Clarenda, Director Echo Foundation* September 22



Minister of Nature, Agriculture and Food Quality Schouten receives tour from Echo director Julianka Clarenda

JOIN US SEPT 22: Tree planting at Jankok. See details in story.



Little and big hands volunteer planting trees in Echo's ongoing reforestation project

Buena vista Optics

Perfect service and Quality. Our Passion!

Experienced Staff	Over 1000 different frames
Eye Exams on Site	and sunglasses
Insurance Accepted	Ray Ban, Oakley,
Advanced Equipment	Maui Jim, and more
Lens Fabrication	Mon-Fri 9-12; 2-6

Kaya Grandi 36, Across from Littmans 717-9181

Reef Glimpses

Octopus Intimacy

On a tropical Pacific reef, I turned a corner and disturbed this octopus before I had any idea it was there. I got one photo of his unusual arm as the octopus departed.



Male octopus arm specialized for mating

Later I learned that one arm of every male octopus is specialized for mating: this is the arm which selects a sperm packet and places it into position under the mantle of the female. The design of the mating arm is different for each species of octopus, so those in the know could tell us exactly who this octopus was. The formal name of the mating arm is hectocotylus (heck-tow-KOTT-uh-luss), which means “hundred cups” and is particularly apt for the arm in the photo! In contrast, the common octopus – the one we see in dens around Bonaire -- has a more subtle design distinguishing its hectocotylized arm. From the top, it looks like his other arms. From underneath, though, you can see that the suckers of his mating arm are not in two neat lines like all the rest of his suckers, and that a few of them are oversized.



A male octopus on the left places a sperm packet into the mantle of the female

He's happy to display his special arm to a female, probably any female he finds; octopuses are solitary rather than social creatures, so he doesn't get a chance to display his oversized suckers very often. But when a male and a female cross paths, they're likely to take advantage of the opportunity to mate. If he can, the male will make himself a den within inches of a female's den – the octopus version of moving in together, I guess, since he can do his stuff with his mating arm without leaving home! *Dee Scarr*

Dee has been guiding divers on Bonaire since 1982. She's written about her undersea experiences in her books, Touch the Sea, The Gentle Sea, and Coral's Reef (for children); in Dive Training Magazine from 1990 to 2000, with "Coral Glimpses" in the Bonaire Reporter, and now with "Reef Glimpses". The Bonaire Reporter is delighted to bring "Reef Glimpses" to you free of charge. Dee's books are available for purchase at the Carib Inn on Bonaire or through touchthesea.com.



Picture Yourself with The Reporter

Alcázar royal palace, Seville, Spain



Full-time Bonaire residents **Eva and Steve Telenius-Lowe** from the UK visited Andalusia in Spain this summer. They are seen here at the Alcázar royal palace complex in Seville - with a copy of *The Reporter*, of course!

WIN A PRIZE! Are you elsewhere? We'd love to see you in *The Reporter*. Hold up the printed cover, or go digital and pose with *The Reporter* on your tablet, computer, or phone. Please identify everybody in your photo. All 2019 photos are eligible for the annual prize.

Duo Extreme is just down the road

Duo Extreme Bonaire celebrates its 10th anniversary mountain bike race on Sept 29. An expected 100 cyclists will be mounting up to maneuver Bonaire's off road trails of rough desert, jagged rocks and vicious plants.



Last year's participants hailed from Bonaire, Curaçao, Aruba, Netherlands and the United States.

Cyclists can choose between the Pro 50 km (31.06 miles) or the extreme 70 km (43.49 miles) route. The mountain bike race is called the Duo as bikers ride with a partner and can only win or finish as a team. There is no solo riding.

Participants sign up for their discipline of Pro 50 or Extreme 70km in the men, women, mixed, junior or senior men or senior women category. Your combined age determines the exact division. The race is open to anyone, pro or amateur, but the minimum age is 16.

There will be 35 volunteers spread out over the routes with water. They will check your bike and rider numbers to make sure you are following your correct sign-up category.

Bike failures or crashes have to be handled by the team members. No outside help is allowed otherwise you could be disqualified.

Frank Bohm, avid rider, sponsor and owner of De Freewieler said, "Depending on the category, people have taken as little as two hours and 40 minutes, but the average time is three to five hours for

the 70km."

Starting point and ending point for the race is Eden Beach. Cyclists set out at 6:30 am and the race ends at 12 pm. Anyone returning after 12 noon is disqualified. The awards ceremony and lunch will be held at the finish line.

Most of the riders are in the Duo for the challenge and fun but there are awards given and even money! The fastest teams in the Extreme will be awarded a trophy and receive: first place - \$400; second place \$200 and third place - \$100. There will be trophies for all categories and everyone receives a medal.

Registration for the Duo Extreme is at Karels Beach Bar September 27, 5-7 pm and Eden Beach on September 28, 5-7 pm. Registration is also available online at www.bonairextreme.com.

Main sponsor for the Duo for the last three years is Brandaris B.V. Other sponsors are: De Freewieler, Sunbelt Realty, Eden Beach Resort, Freixenet, Bonaire Logistics & Wholesaler, Napa Auto Parts, Dabboussi Motors, Mega Hit FM, Karels, Bonaire Office Systems, Budget, Gaia Multi-Media, Bon Bida and Live 99 FM.

BRANDARIS B.V.
Accounting • Taxes • Consultancy

PRESENTS

DUO XTREME BONAIRE
10TH XTREME EDITION

ELITE ROUTE PRO ROUTE
29 SEPTEMBER 2019

1ST 2ND 3RD CASH PRIZES
CASH PRIZES FOR ELITE ROUTE

REGISTRATION 27 SEPTEMBER
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM AT KARELS BEACH BAR

REGISTRATION 28 SEPTEMBER
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM AT EDEN BEACH RESORT

RACE STARTS AT EDEN BEACH
6:30 AM LUNCH AT 12 PM

SPONSORS: Freixenet, Sunbelt Realty, Eden Beach Resort, Dabboussi, Mega Hit FM, Office Systems, Gaia Multi-Media, Bon Bida, Live 99 FM.

WWW.BONAIREXTREME.COM
BONAIREXTREME
BONAIREXTREME

Climate change & CO2

We have all heard about it. It is a topic in our daily news. It's THE NEWS of the year: CLIMATE CHANGE. We are experiencing extreme changes more and more worldwide. For example in the Caribbean, the hurricanes have become extremely powerful. But in other areas, there are catastrophic volcanoes, disastrous bush and jungle fires, earthquakes, tsunamis, tornadoes. The warming of Earth leads to the melting of the glaciers and Antarctica and warming of the oceans. All life in the world suffers from the big change. On Bonaire we have had extreme drought and hot weather. Plants and animals try to survive. We avoid the hot sun and stay inside with aircos and fans.

Scientists all over the world are busy with this subject of vital and urgent importance for all life on Earth, and that includes us on Bonaire. Some people act as if Bonaire is on another planet and we don't need to take care of it. They think the threat is not happening now, not in this century.

Keep on dreaming, until reality wakes you up!

Scientists trying to save Mother Earth by bringing down CO2, a byproduct of pollution from worldwide industry, and one of the major causes of climate change. Of course this is not a small thing. It will require a total life change by each and every one of us in the whole world. So if you think, what does Bonaire have to do with it? Well you will soon see that even you in your little garden have a lot to do with it.

Scientists have figured out the plants with the most vital stuff to survive in extreme situations, like drought and war. The names of the plants have been published in a paper and I was surprised to read that about 10 of the 25 plants are growing easily on Bonaire and they are a part of the Bonaire vegetation.

Here are some: Aloe, moringa, all kind of cactus and nopales, seabeads, seaweed, beans from plants like tuturutu, coco, nuts like from almonds, grapes like sea grapes and more. You are surprised too, right?

And you never know, maybe one day Bonaire will be one of the last places to survive with all this natural food full of the highest concentration of nutritional values the body needs in urgent situations.

Yes, CO2 is one of the biggest threats of the world. Scientists say that we can do something to bring down the amount of CO2. An easy way to help is to plant trees in our yards. If everybody on earth would plant a tree, we could reduce a good amount of the CO2. If you don't have a yard or garden, you can put plants on your porch or hang them on the wall of your balcony. Companies can grow plants against walls creating indoor jungles. WE NEED MORE GREEN IN THE WORLD, so why not start today with it. The longer we wait, the bigger the negative consequences are for all life on Earth. Plants give us oxygen and the more the better. For that reason we need



We need more green in the world.



Austria has banned Glysofaat.

to save the big Amazon jungle, the lung of the world, and other jungles on the planet.

WE NEED CLEAN AIR, OXYGEN H2O TO FIGHT AGAINST TOO MUCH CO2 TO BRING NATURE IN BALANCE. This will result in the survival of humans, animals and plants.

Another way to fight CO2 is to grow food in your own area or yard. The more things we transport from other parts of the world, including food, the more pollution. All those carriers by sea, land and air cause pollution - to build, to use, maintain and they all run on oil. This is a lot of pollution. Instead of that potato shipped from Europe, you could have a great sweet potato from your own garden free of pesticides and way more healthy.

Talking about pesticides, this year Austria forbade the use of the chemical product Glysofaat, otherwise known as Round up. According to World Health Organization this product can cause cancer. The Round up producer Bayer has more than eleven thousand court cases against it because of this life threatening stuff. This is a great step Austria has taken to save its people.

So do you want to be part of the most challenging movement on Earth ever in history? You don't need to sign up to be part of an organization.

No, just accept the responsibility as an inhabitant of this planet and plant a tree in your yard. Your grandchildren will be thankful for that, so just do it now.

Angliet, Nature lover.



Making Bonaire "Accessible"

OUR WHEELCHAIR CHALLENGES # 19



The elderly

Just when I thought I had a great topic for my story, I was confronted by so many disturbing facts on social media that I needed to change my mind.

To begin with, the news that so many elderly in the Dutch Caribbean go to bed hungry! We live in the year 2019 and one would think that this is impossible, but then the reality hits you in the face. These now elderly generations always worked so hard to provide for their families to have a reliable source of income. But once they turned 60 so many things changed. Their income was not enough anymore.

The generation that built up our island is now being buried by it. How can this be true? Something must be done, and very quickly!

Family has always been important. You have always taken care of each other. The extended family members have always worked well together. There were always people who one could rely on. The elderly stayed at home, took care of the kids and the grandkids. Children were brought up with norms and values that were maybe old-fashioned, but good and stable.

Now these elderly live by themselves, visit a day-care facility or they live in a home for the elderly. And they are lonely, very lonely. They rarely have a visitor and if they do, it is only for a short while, because for the visitors there are always things to do and places to go. Many of the long days go by without a hug or a kiss from a family member. There are nurses who take this to heart and ask on social media for volunteers who would like to be a "buddy".

These days we experience the usual September heat. And we all know that drinking enough fluids is very important. The elderly seem to lose their sense of thirst and tend to dehydrate. So the care-givers do the best they can to provide enough fluids and make everyone drink enough. When you drink a lot, your bladder works hard and one has to go to the bathroom more often.

Now there seems to be a rule that states people who receive care may not use more than four pampers per 24 hours. I wonder how they calculated that. Personally I learned that when drinking a lot, you need many more pampers than the meager four pampers allotted. I would even go so far to suggest that the persons making those rules use pampers themselves for two weeks in a row, and then re-evaluate the needs after that.

Elderly who cannot handle their finances anymore, often ask a family member to do so. They do this because they think that one can always trust family.

How wrong they are. Financial abuse is the most occurring crime now a days!

It is so easy.... get Nana's bank card, get the pin-code and one can do whatever one likes. Nana trusts you and won't ask questions.

So you see why we MUST take more and better care of our elderly? They deserve to be honored, loved and cherished. And not to be stolen from, to have food taken away from, but rather be provided with excellent care. We are here because of them.

The Dutch minister of healthcare wants that care to improve. And he wants those improvements to be measurable and palpable.

Let's get to work. ALL of us.

Ria Evers-Dokter.

Bobbejan's







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

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

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

Source: www.ijgoud.nl

WEEKENDS ONLY...

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

Did You Know!

What have we learned about sharks in the Dutch Caribbean sea?

From 2015-2018, the Save Our Sharks project was organized by the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance and funded by the Nationale Postcode Lotterij. The project included a shark and ray awareness campaign, fishermen outreach meetings and a research component. During this time, the Yarari Marine Mammal and Shark Sanctuary was established giving protection to sharks and rays in the territorial waters of Bonaire, Saba and Statia. As far as research went, here are some of the highlights:

Satellite tracking

Saba Bank

Little is currently known about the status of shark populations in Dutch Caribbean waters. In Saba, a tiger shark named 'Quinty' was tagged with a satellite transmitter by scientists and researchers from Saba, Sint Maarten and the United States. Satellite tags allow researchers to track exactly how a shark moves in the ocean. Quinty swam all the way from the Saba Bank to Trinidad, crossing 13 maritime boundaries off which only three areas were shark sanctuaries! Unfortunately, Quinty has not shown herself for quite some time. What happened to her? Was she killed by fisherman for her fins? Did her tag fall off? Or is something else going on...?

Sint Maarten

In the waters around Sint Maarten, a juvenile tiger shark was caught and satellite tagged. This Shark, named "Sea Fairy", spent the majority of its time swimming in inshore waters. Until one day it decided it wanted to go on an adventure. It followed an underwater mountain ridge all the way to Venezuela. This juvenile tiger shark has shown us that we might have stumbled onto the first

real indications of a migratory pattern.

BRUV project Bonaire

There is no historical data on the diversity and relative abundance of sharks in the Dutch Caribbean. This means we have no way of knowing how effective the "Save our Sharks" project and other conservation measures have been. To learn more about shark species frequenting our island, researchers put out cameras with bait all over the east and west coasts of Bonaire. Each time a camera is deployed, referred to as a drop, the cameras would film underwater for 1 to 1,5 hours. This method of researching sharks is called baited remote underwater video, or BRUV. Around Bonaire over 100 drops were done to see which species were attracted to the bait and how frequently. All the Dutch Caribbean islands participated in the BRUV project to learn more about the sharks in the Caribbean Sea. The most shark visits per BRUV drop was on the Saba Bank, while the least action was found around Curacao. The reasons behind this are not straightforward, but may have to do with coastal development, remoteness, and the amount of use of the marine environment. The island with the highest number of shark species visiting the BRUV setup was Aruba, with eight species of sharks observed. Scientists think Aruba's high species diversity of sharks may be attributed to its under-sea geography – unlike for Bonaire and Curacao, there is no deep chasm between Aruba and South America. The data collected during the BRUV project is being used as a "baseline" and will be especially useful in the future to measure change.

Written by Roxanne-Liana Francisca, Wildlife and Marine Biology Trainee; Connecting People With Nature



Underwater image of a Caribbean reef shark caught on camera by BRUV. Credits: Sander Delacauw & Mavelly Velandia.

Moving Forward:

Shark Acoustic Telemetry Project

My name is Brent Hoogervorst; I am an intern at STI-NAPA working on a shark telemetry project on Bonaire. We are now in the preliminary stages of the research, but will soon be placing some receivers around the coast of Bonaire. We will also, with the help of experts, be catching and tagging sharks. After the tag is attached we of course release the shark. The receivers will receive a signal every time a tagged shark gets within a few hundred meters, allowing us to track the shark's movement. With this project we hope to learn about how sharks move through their environment: for instance, do sharks move in and out of Lac Bay on a daily basis? Do young sharks stay in one area? Do sharks leave Bonaire and then return? We will keep you informed as we do this exciting research!

Written by Brent Hoogervorst, STINAPA intern. Connecting People With Nature.

Dia di Boneiru



Dia di Boneiru photos Julie Morgan



Lt. Governor Rijna, Deputy Nina den Heyer, former Lt. Governor Herbert Domascasse and other officials reigned over the ceremony.

Bonaire Day was celebrated in Kralendijk with an official ceremony at Wilhelmina attended by officials and locals.

The raising of the Bonairean flag by the local scout troops brought looks of pride and honor to the faces of those attending.



Iron Order Motorcycle Club held their annual four-day road rally funding a local charity. More than 250 riders attended the event.

What's the answer?

These tourists left their golf carts to trespass in the Cargill salt pans despite the blue "no trespassing sign."

photo by Therese Rosier





Sportswear. fashion. skate and sporting goods.
Keeping Kaya Grandi cool since 2015.... That's Dushi Style!



dushi style
kaya grandi 6
kralendijk bonaire
599.717.3911 retail@diver-friends-bonaire.com

What's Happening

September 14-25	Sunfish World Championships. Competition dates: 14/15, 16-20, 21/22, 23-25
September 16-18, 19-21	Coral Spawning Night Dives with Dive Friends Bonaire 8:30 pm - 11:30 pm Guided night dive to witness coral spawning. Based on predictions from research center CARMABI For information and to check pricing and availability, email info@divefriendsbonaire.com.
Saturday Sept. 21	STINAPA Clean-up Day
Fri.&Sat. Sept 27-28	2019 Beach Festival, Coco Beach
Saturday Sept. 28	Taste of Bonaire, Tourism Edition. 6pm-11pm, Wilhelmina Park. Sample local and international food from fine restaurants, meet Bonaire's artisans, buy local souvenirs, enjoy live music and dancing.
Saturday Sept. 28	Mashe Rincon Krioyo Street market in Rincon, 1st & last Saturday each month Nos Zjilea Cultural Event from 8am till 2pm at Mangazina di Rei located at the east-entrance of Rincon. Enjoy delicious food, live music, local arts & crafts, plants & vegetables, educational presentations and an exhibition about Rincon. Fun, relaxed and entertaining for kids and adults alike. All proceeds go to our educational programs. SEE, FEEL AND TASTE THE CULTURE OF BONAIRE.
Sunday, Sept. 29	Bonaire Duo Xtreme Mountain Bike Race. 6 am - 1pm
Sunday, Sept. 29	Monument Day 8am - 12pm. Bonaire's Department of Culture, SKAL, and the Bonaire Monument Care Foundation, introduce you to the monuments on Bonaire. Monument Day is an International Day established by UNESCO.
Saturday, October 5	Mashe Rincon Krioyo Street market in Rincon, 1st & last Saturday each month
Sunday, October 6	Jong Bonaire Swim to Klein Bonaire 7:30 am -11:30 am Fund raising for youth center. Tickets at Jong Bonaire or Spice Bonaire. Adults \$15 Children \$10.

2019 Cruise Ships

DAY	DATE	CRUISESHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY	& LINE
Tuesday	9-17	Monarch	0800-1800	N.pier	2744	Pullmantur
Tuesday	9-24	Monarch	0800-1800	N.pier	2744	Pullmantur
Thursday	9-26	Freedom	0800-1700	S.pier	3782	RCCL

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 **Wednesday** to play starting at 6 pm at Tera Cora Ranch.
- **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.
- **Toastmasters Club** every two weeks. For more info. call Crusita 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-10am in Dutch. Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian; Sunday 8:30am in Papiamentu/ Dutch.

Children's Club Saturday 4:30-6pm in Kralendijk, (church annex) Marytjin@gmail.com or Daisycoffie@hotmail.com

Dutch service Sunday 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 in English; 10:45am-Sunday school for all ages. 717-8332 or ride bonaireibc@gmail.com.

Catholic. San Bernardus in Kralendijk. Services, Sunday at 8am & 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

Casa de Oracion para todas las naciones. Hanchi Amboina 37 Kralendijk, Spanish service: every Sunday morning at 9 am.

Prayer Walk at Rooi Lamoenchi every first Sunday of the Month (or on request) for all followers of Christ. 4.30pm-7.30 pm.Contact Ellen Cochrane-Herrera at ellenherrera-cochrane@yahoo.ca or phone 717-8489 or +5999-540-9800. English/ Papiamentu/Dutch/Spanish.

MUSEUMS & EXHIBITS

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. *Coral Restoration exhibit.* 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. *Salute to the Sailors exhibit*-Free

• **Chichi i Tan Museum.** Step into the past in an old Bonairean home and garden. Open Thurs.- Sun.Reserve 717-3183 or 795-2021 Donations appreciated. Kaya Melon #4, behind Rose Inn in Rincon.

• **Washington-Slagbaai National Park Museum and Visitors' Center.** Open daily 8 am-5 pm. 788-9015 or 796-5681

• **Tanki Maraka Heritage Park and Open Air Museum.** Site of WWII American soldiers' camp. Self-guided tour. After leaving Kralendijk on the Rincon Road watch for sign to on the right. Entrance just a short distance. Free entry.

• **Yana's Fine Art Museum** at Lagoen Hill 19- Call:599 785-5002. Free entry. Also exhibited at Bon Bida Spa and Gym.

• **Bonaire Museum of National History** Kaya Julio C. van der Ree #7, open Wednesday through Saturday, and cruise-ship days, 9am-3pm. Free.

REGULAR EVENTS

tours \$25/person 2 person minimum.

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 the first Saturday of the Month. Kaminda Jatu Baco #55,next to Aquamarin School, 8am-12noon.

• **Monthly Cultural Event 'Nos Zjilea' at Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei** - Every last Saturday of the month. See the calendar above.

• **Marshe Rincon Krioyo** 1st & last Saturdays. Street market in Rincon, crafts, local food, sweets, noon-6pm.

• **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.

• **Food Bank (Stichting voedselbank Bonaire)** Last Saturday of the month. Donate foods & household items 9:30am-2pm at Van den Tweel Supermarket.

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

CLUBS and MEETINGS

• **Rotary** lunch meetings **Wednesdays**, 12:15-2 pm - Marriott Courtyard Hotel, Piet B meeting room. All Rotarians welcome. Call Gregory Obersi 785-9446.

• **General 12-step meeting (AA, NA, CoDa etc.)** -Every **Wednesday** at Bonaire

"Reef Renewal Bonaire." A free educational presentation every Sunday at 6:30pm at Blennies at Buddy Dive. For questions, email info@reefrenewalbonaire.org".

"Sea Turtles of Bonaire" is a free public presentation about Bonaire's endangered sea turtles—topics such as where to see sea turtles, how they live, what they eat, how they reproduce and how you can help! Where: Yellow Sub, Dive Friends Bonaire (on the front porch) 8:00pm, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays.

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 information of events for the rest of 2019: stinapabonaire.org/events, Tel. 717-8444

Bonaire Goat Farm Tour. Monday, Wednesday & Friday. 9 am. Meet the goats, see milking, and more. \$10 includes tea. Kids \$5. 786-6950.

Echo. See Bonaire's parrots. Wednesday at 5pm \$10 per person. Public Conservation Tour. No reservation needed. For optimal birding, book a private tour by calling 701-1188 or email info@echobonaire.org. We need at least one day's notice. Private

Bonaire Reporter Classifieds SELL!

BONAIRE GIFT SHOP NV is looking for a sales supervisor and a maintenance man. Please contact us in person with CV at Kaya Industria 36; 717 - 2210

Pensions & Pensioners

September 10, 2019. State Secretary of Social Affairs and Employment, Tamara van Ark has confirmed that people who move from the Caribbean to the European Netherlands can't claim a higher state pension (AOW in Holland/AOV in Caribbean).

In her letter to the Chamber, Van Ark points out that in the run-up to the constitutional reform of 2010, a conscious decision was made to link up with the existing regulations of the Netherlands Antilles. The amount of the benefit is lower, the minister acknowledges, but there are also benefits in return.

"The AOV is a national insurance policy. The level of the premium and the amount of the benefit are linked to the Dutch Caribbean. This excludes a higher benefit for benefit claimants who have moved to live outside the Caribbean Netherlands just as a lower, but no higher, state pension is possible when living outside the European Netherlands," says Van Ark.

Donkey Hoté in a tree



At midnight on Sunday while driving back home from a friend's dinner party, I noticed something strange in a tree in Hato. I turned the car around and was astounded to see... a donkey in a tree. Yep, you read it right... A donkey in a tree.

I named him Hoté as in Donkey Hoté, because it seemed like Don Quixote, he was jousting with the tree and lost.

As you can see in the photo, he must have been trying to jump through the tree and didn't make it. He was wedged in there so tight, there was no way for him to get himself out, or for us to get his ass in a sling to lift him up, so I called the Donkey Sanctuary's Emergency Number to get some help.

Unfortunately, they were "not able" to come help save the donkey, so we were on our own. The lady on the phone did suggest calling Al Catalfumo. Since I had no way to contact him, we tried to figure out who do we know and could wake up to come help find Al. We called Julie from

The Reporter to help find Al. She jumped into action and drove down to Hato and got her Al out of bed to come help.

What a godsend he was. The donkey was in no mood to be jostled. He was nipping and finally landed a good bite on Al's neck, causing a bloody mess...literally.

With the help of another friend we called, we eventually got a lasso over the donkey's head and Al took the chain saw and cut half of the tree to free our Donkey Hoté.

By 1:30 am he was out and able to hobble off. I followed by car to make sure he was OK and could walk.

I only wish the Donkey Sanctuary called me back in the morning to ask if we were able to free him... On my next donkey rescue I know who I am calling first....

PS. I still see the tree on the sidewalk. If anyone wants to help by taking it away, it would be appreciated.-- *photo and story Camille Naylor*

Practicing yoga on Bonaire

by Elisabetta Maccari

"Eight women faced me. They were all scowling."

"It was October. I was on the terrace at Eden Beach, and I had replaced their usual yoga teacher. The women wanted to flow from one posture to another: 'Sun Salutation, downward dog, cobra...'"

"They knew I was going to put them on the mat and ask them to breathe and stretch; to strengthen a muscle group, to hold a simplified version of a pose."

"It was March. Twelve women faced me, smiling. After five months of working hard they found their backs no longer hurt. Their bodies weren't as tense. Their posture was better. My yoga practice had been asking their bodies to do things their bodies were capable of doing."

Yoga Sensibile is a personal and original method built on 30 years of study and experimentation by Carla Baruchello, a physiotherapist and yoga teacher. Its techniques include Hatha yoga, Iyengar yoga, postural technique, and physical and respiratory physiokinesis rehabilitation therapy. In Hatha yoga, yogis practice physical postures designed to align and calm their minds, bodies and spirits. Iyengar yoga, an offshoot of Hatha yoga, is a form of yoga as exercise that emphasizes detail, precision and alignment in yoga postures. Physiokinesis is physiotherapy based on movement. Its exercises help people achieve their potential for full natural movement. And of course, respiratory rehabilitation therapy is all about breathing.

"A yoga student doesn't have to be flexible, young or on a spiritual journey. Many of my students aren't. They are exercising to build their health."

"Yoga Sensibile is both hard work and fun. When a class groans, I joke: 'That's the sound of yoga.' I design a step-by-step, gradual practice that will strengthen and develop each student in the class. Students do the form of the exercise their body allows them to do. I am very concerned with preparatory exercises. As a teacher, I must watch closely each individual's journey toward correct alignment, balance, strength and grace." After most exercise sets within the class, students lie on their mats



photo Lorenzo Mittiga

in Savasana (corpse pose) and 'listen to their bodies'. Has anything changed? If they have worked with the left side of their bodies, does the left side feel different from the right? 'Maybe yes; maybe no.' Mind-body awareness is a journey for everyone.

"If a student attempts postures that the body doesn't have the strength or flexibility to do, there is little to no gain. At the worst, over-reaching oneself causes physical harm. At the very least, over-reaching denies progress. Progress comes from advancing in approximations of the final postures, building the body's strength and the mind's acceptance. Flowing too quickly from one posture to another can disguise an incorrect alignment which diminishes the gain offered by the postures."

"My classes allow anyone, at any age and in any health condition, to practice yoga with ease. Those who practice Yoga Sensibile learn to listen to their body and their breath. This awareness ultimately creates harmony at every level: physical, mental and spiritual. The harmony is delicate, essential and deep."

Group Classes: at Eden Beach: Mon.-Thurs. 8am; Fri. & Sat. 8.30 am; Monday 5:30 pm

Info: <http://elisabettamaccari.com>; FB: <https://www.facebook.com/yogasensibilebonaire/>

Contact: betta@web.de; +599 780 7362.



Bonaire has a strong and diverse yoga community. We have invited each of the Island's teachers to write about the type of yoga they teach.

With these markers they could measure the length of year and create the first calendars.

So put those sun visors down as you drive back and forth to work next week and why not start your own personal record-keeping track of where the sun rises and sets on your horizon throughout the year.

Starting next week, you'll definitely notice that the sun will rise and set farther south each day -and that means winter is only a few months away. *Dean Regas & James Albury* <http://www.star-gazersonline.org/index.html>

rise a little bit less northeast each successive day until once again on the first day of autumn it will rise due east. Then each successive day it will rise a little bit farther south of east until on the first day of winter when it will rise at its farthest point southeast, after which it will slowly start to retrace its journey north once again.

And this entire cycle repeats year after year after year. In fact, almost all ancient cultures kept track of this rising and setting of the sun at different places on the horizon. Maybe they would set up stones to mark the sunrise and sunset points. Or posts. Or mounds. Or windows. Or even buildings.

night are equal to the hours of daylight.

You've probably learned that as the earth circles the sun, it is tilted. When the northern hemisphere of the earth is tilted toward the sun, that's when we have summer. We get more energy from the sun and have longer days and shorter nights.

When we're on the other side of the sun, and the northern hemisphere is tilted away from the sun, we get less energy from the sun and have shorter days and longer nights.

But in between summer and winter we come to points where the sun falls directly on the equator. And that means as the earth turns, everywhere on our planet receives 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness. Equal day, equal night, equinox.

If you watch the sun rise on the first day of spring you'll see that it rises due east. But if you watch the sun rise each successive day after that you'll notice that it'll rise a little bit farther north of east each successive day until it reaches it's farthest point north of east on the first day of summer,

Then the sun will seem to back up and



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it—just look up

Autumnal equinox – it's Fall

What happens during the equinox is truly amazing. The sun rises due east and sets due west. And there are 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness over the entire world.

Autumn officially begins at the autumnal equinox, September 23rd, so get ready for some in-your-face sunrises and in-your-face sunsets.

On the equinoxes the sun rises due east and sets due-west. That means if you drive to work on a due-east road at sunrise the sun will rise directly over the yellow line in the middle of the road. And if you drive home at sunset on a due-west highway, the sun will set right in front of you. That could make for a blinding commute!

You actually might notice this dazzling sunrise and sunset for a week on either side of the equinoxes, and driving can be treacherous. So get out your sunglasses and put those sun visors down.

But what are the equinoxes anyway? Well, the word 'equinox' comes from the Latin, 'equi' which means equal, and 'nox' which means night. So on both the spring and fall equinoxes, the hours of

Bonaire enters fourth year in 48 Hour Film Project



The 48 Hour Film Project



Filming The Hero in 2016 at Zeezicht Restaurant L- Boris Lubo, David Martinus and Dennis Martinus



The team competes at 48 Hr film Project at Filmapalooza in Paris L- Boris Lubo, David Martinus and Angel Alberto

Although the 48 Hour Film Project first began in 2001, current organizer and producer Dennis Martinus of Bonaire had never heard of it. He was asked to participate in the 2015 challenge in Curacao and that opened the door for Bonaire to enter as a part of the Curacao competition.

Martinus became a part of the BYOF Media crew. As the only team from Bonaire, they had to have a Curacao representative draw their film genre and also receive the character, prop and line of dialogue required for the film. The results were: “detective” for film genre, the character was John or Johanna X who should be a spiritual coach, the prop was a shoe and the line of dialogue was “Every song has its swing”. With all these required elements the team made

a funny detective short titled “Big & Mac Files” that illustrated how people can easily jump to conclusions. The film was sent to the Curacao representative and submitted just in time for the competition. After three days of deliberation by the judges, the screening and awards ceremony, the team was informed they had won best film against 12 other films.

The following year “Big & Mac Files” represented the 48 Hour Film Project Curacao at Filmapalooza 2016 in Atlanta, Georgia. Unfortunately they didn’t take home the big prize but they did return with a lot of experience and inspiration. <https://www.48hourfilm.com/en/curacao-cw/films/10483>.

Through Martinus’ urgings, Curacao organized a kickoff and drop event on Bonaire for the October 2016 competition. Eight teams participated, three from Bonaire and five from Curacao. The Bonairean film “Crossroad” by MBO Media students won second place.

<https://www.48hourfilm.com/en/curacao-cw/films/22439>.

In 2017, Martinus began lobbying for permission to organize a Bonaire competition. Curacao had opted not to organize the contest so Bonaire was granted the rights.

Martinus became the City Producer for Bonaire 48 hour Film Project but had to drop out of film making so he could organize an impartial competition. That year six teams competed. The film “The Hostage” from BYOF Media was selected as the best on Bonaire. The film was screened at Filmapalooza 2018 in Paris and selected as one of the 12 best films made in 2017 in 48 hours. <https://www.48hourfilm.com/en/bonaire/films/30309>

With that honor, “The Hostage” was screened as one of the top 48 Hour Film Project films from around the world at the Short Film Corner in the prestigious 2018 Cannes Film Festival.

With that recognition, Bonaire’s participants increased to 14 teams in 2018 setting a new record for the Caribbean.

<https://www.48hourfilm.com/en/bonaire/48hfp/2018>.

This year’s competition will be October 4-6. There are 11 teams registered to date. If you love filmmaking or you want to share the beauty of Bonaire through film with the world sign up at <https://www.48hourfilm.com/en/bonaire/registernow> to participate. *Story and photos, Dennis Martinus*



Shelter News



Sunday volunteer support needed

Although Animal Shelter Bonaire is closed to visitors on Sundays, our resident cats and dogs still need care, food and love! Sundays are always a fun and special work day at the Shelter because without the distraction of a normal business day, staff and volunteers get to spend extra quality time with our fur friends while caring for them. If you have an hour or two to spend on Sunday mornings at 8 a.m., the staff and most importantly the residents would love to have you help out. You can choose your favorite species (cat or dog) to work with...or if you are “non-denominational” you can work with both! If you can help us, please contact the Shelter via email at animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com. We’d love to have you!

at 770-4651 to determine if they have space available for you.

Fur-ever homes

August was a great month for Shelter cats and dogs! Twenty of our residents were adopted by loving human families. We would love to keep this trend going. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a pet guardian, please Adopt – Don’t SHOP! Our animals are healthy, vaccinated, dewormed and age appropriately sterilized. Recently, the Animal Shelter has made available gift certificates for an adoption. If you want to help a responsible person adopt a Shelter pet, what a lovely gift idea!

Jane Disko



Reminder: shelter dog boarding facilities closed until November 17

Animal Shelter Bonaire boarding facilities for dogs is closed until November 17. Construction will be taking place during this time. If you are in need of boarding facilities for your dog(s), we suggest you contact Jellastone Pet Park

Pet of the Week: Athena



Hello Friends!

My name is Athena. I am about 1 ½ years old now. Some nice people found me by the South Pier. I was so tired and very pregnant. They brought me to the Shelter where I could rest and be safe. They were just in time too. You see, I had my babies the very next day. Now my babies have all grown up and most of them have found their fur-ever loving homes. Now I would like to find a loving family to call my very own. Would you be that family for me? I get along with other cats, although I can be a little grumpy in the morning until I have my

breakfast. Humans have to have their coffee, I need my kibble! I would really like it if you would come and see me at the Shelter and maybe take me home. My address is the Animal Shelter, Kaminda Lagun 26, and I can have visitors on Monday-Friday, 9 am-12 pm and 3-5 pm, Saturday 9 am-3 pm nonstop, or call the Animal Shelter at 7014989 or 7174989.

Story and photo by Laurie Smith.



At Your Service

The following businesses have been recommended by Bonaire residents.
Introductory rate - call or email for availability - 796-4055 - BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com

Drive a few minutes -
Save a lot!
Best prices on gear!!

CARIB INN

717-8819

JA Abraham Blvd 46.
Just south of
Divi Flamingo Hotel



SHEARWATER

TOUCH THE SEA
books by
Dee Scarr

Now Available
CARIB INN-717-8819
JA Abraham Blvd 46

BEST CELLARS
WINE & SPIRITS

Wines & Bubbles Liquors & Tobacco
Kaya Industrial, Mon.-Sat. 9am-6pm

Denture Prosthetist

Full or Partial Dentures
Repairs, Relines and Soft Liners
Mon-Thurs 9-12 / 2-4pm; Fri - 9am-12pm
E.M. Rijswijk - Denturist
Kaya Dr. J.G. Hernandez (near Botica Korona)



\$45

Unlimited Fitness

FLAMINGO FITNESS
STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING BONAIRE
lowest price on the island



Eden Beach Resort
Mon. 8am & 5.30pm; Tue. Wed. Thu. 8am
Fri. & Sat. 8.30am; Private class on request
Elisabetta +599 7807362 betta@web.de
www.elisabettamaccari.com

island time
vacation rentals bonaire
indulgent ocean view vacation rentals

Skip VRBO/Home Away.
We can save you \$\$\$\$
by booking directly with us.
Info@islandtimebonaire.com
www.islandtimebonaire.com

Papia Papiamentu Ku Mi
Speak Papiamentu With Me

Classes with
Xiomara Frans
papiapapiamentukumi@hotmail.com
00599-782-2166

SMile
Handmade personalized driftwood
wood magnets, clocks & more

Kaya Grandi 13 - Elements shop
email: smile.bonaire2016@gmail.com
599-7883793 599-7883792

NEED SEWING?
full service company
for your marine &
residential needs

CUSTOM MADE
cushions and covers
roofs and shades
kite and sail repair
repairs and alterations
and much more...

780 9124 / 782 5755
located at kaya Rotterdam 22
www.phishphactory.com

ezone

Easy, Affordable, Fast
Shop on-line & we will ship to you
https://www.getezone.com

Penny Lane Exchange
The Fashion Revolution

Kaya Grandi #23-G First Floor
Shopping Hours:
Tuesday to Friday 10:30 to 5:30
Saturday 11:00 to 3:00

Affordable name brands
Upmarket consignment

CLEAN COAST
BONAIRE

Next Cleanup October 12th, at
Boka Omina 4 pm

this space available

HOME, GARDEN, & GIFT SHOP

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri
9:30 - 5:30
Saturday
9:30 - 2:00
Sun, Wed
Closed

Bonaire Coastal Living
700.6049
Kaya Hulanda #58A
bonairecoastalliving@gmail.com
www.BONAIRECOASTALLIVING.com

OUTDOOR BONAIRE
DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT!

KAYAKING • CAVING • CLIMBING • RAPPPELLING
ABSEILLEN • ISLAND TOURS • BIRDWATCHING
+(599) 785-6272
hansoutdoor@hotmail.com
www.outdoorbonaire.com

THE STOREHOUSE
MANGASINA
STORING EVERYTHING UNDER THE SUN

Call 700-1753
www.bonaireselfstorage.com
info@bonaireselfstorage.com

HISTORIC
Stop catching our Donkeys
Bonaire

Donkey Protection League
BDPLF@hotmail.com/785-2205

Elegance Spa
Health & Beauty

Manicures, Pedicures
Hair treatments
and much more

Kaya Gob. N. Debrof 66 #10
717-7777 / 785-7777
Elegancespabonaire

Frequent Daily Flights
Between Bonaire, Curaçao & Aruba
Divi Divi Air
Reservations
24 hours a day
Call (+5999 839-1515)
Or (+5999 563-1913)
Now Non-stop to AUA

DIVI DIVI AIR

Echo
PARROTS AND PEOPLE

MULTISHOP
Local Arts and Crafts - Souvenirs

Handmade One of a Kind Items
Unique and Locally Made
paintings, drawings, photography, jewelry,
cards, clothing and so much more...

Located at Hato roundabout
next to Between 2 buns
Mon.-Fri. 9 to 5 / Sat. 10 to 4 / Sun. Closed
599-785-6029

Nikiboko, Kaya Thomas Marchena 1A

Highlights:

- 2 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms
- living room with dining area and open concept kitchen
- separate half bath/ guest bath
- the landing is spacious enough for an office nook or additional closets
- Ample parking right in front
- Only 5 minutes to city center of Kralendijk
- total ground area: 9.838 / 914 sq.ft. /m2
- total living area: 1,399 / 130 sq.ft. /m2

Asking price
US\$ 210,000

Buyers cost



Kaya Grandi 41, Kralendijk
Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean

Sunbelt  Realty

717 6560 info@sunbeltbonaire.com
www.sunbeltbonaire.com

 **ROCARGO**
Logistics Services, B.V.

Kaya Industria #12, PO Box 20, Kralendijk, Bonaire, C.N.
Phones (599) 717 8922 / (599) 717 8033
WEB- www.Rocargo.com Email: info@rocargo.com
Office Hours: 07:30-12:00 13:30-17:00



Offering solid, reliable and efficient service in Aruba, Curacao and Bonaire since 1982.

-Shipping Agents, Cruise and Yacht Agents.

- Cargo Handling: incoming and outgoing moving by air or by sea.

- International Freight Forwarders: regular service from U.S.A., Europe, Puerto Rico, Venezuela and Curacao.- All types of Cargo and Projects. Movements handled.- Customs Clearance.- Stevedoring.- Inland Transportation- Air Courier Services-- Bonded Warehouse.



From the USA

AmCAR
AMCAR FREIGHT, INC.

Amcar Freight, Inc.

The ONLY company offering direct weekly consolidation services from Miami, USA

to Bonaire

www.amcarfreight.com

Amcar Freight

12600 NW 25 Street

Suite 107

Miami, FL 33182

Tel. (305) 599-8866

Fax (305) 599-2808

From Europe

IFC

International Freight (Car) BV

The ONLY company offering direct weekly consolidation services from Europe/Holland to Bonaire

www.ifc-consolidators.nl

Jupiterweg 1A (Ecopark)

4761 RW Moerdijk, Holland

Tel 31-(0) 168-40-94 94

Fax 31-(0) 168-40 94 70