

Flamingo update
Power shut-down avoided
The first Regatta, 1968
Sunfish Championships, 2019



Riding out from Eden Beach.
 Photo and story: Julie Morgan

Duo Xtreme Bonaire 2019

Sunday, September 29, 102 bike riders (51 teams) rode the toughest race of the year. For the 10th year, Duo Extreme Bonaire offered serious riders two challenging routes through Bonaire's wilderness: the Pro 50 km (31.06 miles) and the Extreme 70 km (43.49 miles).

There is no solo riding in the Duo. Bikers ride with a partner, winning or finishing only as a team. The partners' combined age determines the category in which they compete. Winners of the extreme 70k receive cash prizes (1st place wins \$400; 2nd and 3rd place win \$200 and \$100 respectively). The top three teams in the Extreme 70k and Pro 50k races receive trophies. Everyone who finishes these grueling races receives a (well-earned!) medal.

The majority of this year's participants came from the ABC islands, but riders arrived from as far away as Switzerland, Portugal, and the US. Fourteen women competed. They rode in both the Pro 50k and Extreme 70k.

Eden Beach was the starting and ending point for the race. Cyclists set out at 6:30 am. They had to return by 12 noon to qualify.

The awards ceremony and lunch was held at the finish line.

And the winners were:

Extreme 70k

MEN: 1st. 3:02:43 time

Manuel Seintje & Faisel Camelia CUR

WOMEN: 1st. 4:18:10 time

Deborah v. Grootveld & Korine ter Meer CUR

MIXED: 1st. 3:31:31 time

Tamara Brank & Berry Poort CUR-BON

SENIOR MEN: 1st. 3:32:34 time

Arnold Kooler & Ahmed Hassouna BON-USA

JUNIOR: 1st. 3:28:08 time

Leonardo Servage & Dounkan Bernadina CUR

Extreme 70k: Total Teams 26; Total Riders Did Not Finish 7; Total Teams Disqualified 4

Pro 50k

MEN: 1st. 2:17:13 time

Olaf Creuteberg & Wilfred Camelia ARU-CUR

WOMEN: 1st. 4:07:44 time

Vera Toonen & Merjam Konijn BON

MIXED: 1st. 2:45:25 time

Iris Woerdeman & Bart Voskamp NLD

SENIOR MEN: 1st. 2:38:14 time

Claudio da Silva & Markus Zwahlen ZWI-POR

SENIOR WOMEN: 1st. 4:06:26 time

Gemma vd Linden & Byanka vd Veen BON

Pro 50k: Total Teams 25; Total Riders Did Not Finish 6; Total Teams Disqualified 5

Brandaris BV has been the main sponsor for the Duo for the last three years. Other sponsors are: De Free-wieler, Sunbelt Realty, Eden Beach Resort, Freixenet, Bonaire Logistics & Wholesaler, Napa Auto Parts, Dab-boussi Motors, Mega Hit FM, Karels, Bonaire Office Systems, Budget, Gaia Multi-Media, Bon Bida and Live 99 FM.

For more complete results, see Bonaire Duo Xtreme online at their web page, or facebook page.



Appointments

Imminent power and water shut down avoided

Bonaire was scheduled to run out of electricity and water on October 2, and the Lieutenant Governor was poised to declare an emergency order to guarantee the power supply. The emergency was avoided when the US government issued the licenses needed by CUROIL and Contour Global to continue purchasing fuel from the supply sequestered in the BOPEC tanks by U.S sanctions on Venezuela and state-owned oil and natural gas company PDVSA (Petróleos de Venezuela).

The licenses granted by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) imposed conditions, including the requirement that revenues from transactions with PDVSA benefit only Bonaire. The subsequent

agreement stipulates, among other things, that all payments go to BOPEC and are used for salaries and investments in the company. So the licenses assure many Bonaireans will keep their jobs, for the time being at least.

The licenses were requested by the companies and were issued on September 13, partly through the intervention of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Bonaire, together with the Fuels Task Force under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, is working hard on a structural solution that envisions two new storage terminals being built on Bonaire.

Come and influence the future of Bonaire



The Executive Council (BC) invites inhabitants of Bonaire to a public meeting on its Master Plan 2030. The meeting will be held on November 6, 7, and 8 at the Courtyard at Marriott hotel.

On the first day of, "Kickoff Master

Plan 2030," attendees will listen to local and international guest speakers. The two following days will consist of workshops where the participants can discuss, among other things, the main themes from the BC's current program: social-economic development, education, sustainable development, infrastructure, good government and finances.

"It is the task of the Executive Council to formulate a vision and to make plans, but we want to involve society as much as possible. We think it is important that the community can put its own stamp on its own future. It cannot be but that there are many residents of Bonaire with very good ideas for the future of Bonaire. This Executive Council is open to that," said deputy Elvis Tjin Asjoe.

It will be announced shortly how to register for the kickoff event. Everybody is welcome. Entrance is free.

After this kickoff the BC will also hold information and discussion meetings in the neighborhoods.

Flags at half mast

Just like in the Netherlands, flags at Bonaire's courthouse flew at half-mast in memory of lawyer Derk Wiersum who was shot dead in Amsterdam on Wednesday, September 18, 2019.

The murder has sparked outrage and calls for a tougher crackdown on vio-



lent underworld gangs. Derk Wiersum, was shot in the street shortly after leaving his house in Amsterdam. Police are hunting a hoodie-wearing assailant who fled on foot.

Wiersum was the lawyer for a state witness named Nabil B in a case against two Moroccan-born men dubbed the most wanted criminals in the Netherlands.

"That lawyers, prosecutors and judges should be able to do their work in freedom and safety is of universal value. Violation thereof undermines the rule of law as we know it within the Kingdom of the Netherlands," the Joint Court said in a statement on Thursday.

Flotsam & Jetsam
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► **Veroesjka de Windt has been appointed operational director, BONHATA as of November 1, 2019.** BONHATA is the official private sector interest group for Hotels and Tourism in Bonaire. Previously Veroesjka served as owner and managing director of Zjeitu Training en Coaching in Curaçao. She replaces Peter Jager who was appointed interim director of STINAPA following the resignation of Arjen De Wolff.



► **Kaj Schut will become manager of Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) effective January 1st, 2020.** Kaj replaces STCB's current manager, Mabel Nava, who has decided to step down after 15 years of service. Kaj has been communications coordinator with STCB since August 2016.



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Deputy Nina den Heyer paid a working visit to the European Netherlands September 12-20, 2019. Her visit was largely devoted to youth and youth policy.

Nina checks in on Bonaire's scholars studying in the European Netherlands

Den Heyer surprised Bonaire's students when she attended part of the training that the TuranGoeloe office provides for first-year students from Bonaire. The 'Buddyship' training is intended to prepare newcomers for their student life away from home.

"This training is very useful," said deputy den Heyer. "The students not only receive all sorts of practical tips, but they also focus on their skills, for example for networking. During my studies in the Netherlands, I have experienced that the sooner you make friendships, the better it is for your learning performance. Then you are not alone in a strange city and at a strange school." The representative asked students about their first experiences. "I wanted to hear what problems they face so that we can take this into account when preparing students who leave next year. Many problems did not occur, most of the time they are small practical matters that could be solved quickly with the help of the buddy from TuranGoeloe."

Deputy Den Heyer was impressed by the students' enthusiasm. "They are super motivated. This is also evident from the fact that they got out of bed early to participate in this training in The Hague. There are students from Groningen to Maastricht, which can easily be two hours [here] and two hours back by train."

The library as the social heart of society

September 16 Nina met with Alian Spelde, a regional manager responsible for library work in a number of municipalities in Holland.



Deputy Nina den Heyer and member of parliament Antje Diertens with the first-year students and employees of TuranGoeloe. Diertens is spokesperson for Kingdom Relations on behalf of the D66 group. Photos Nico van Ven / OLB

Den Heyer: "Libraries in the European Netherlands have changed from lending centers to places where people can meet, learn and develop. I saw in Veendam that the library is a meeting point for young and old. There are mothers with children, the elderly meet here and there are intensive training courses to work on language skills. They call that language buddies. Courses are also regularly given, from budgeting to chess. It is a concept that fits Bonaire very well."

Den Heyer thinks that Bonaire's library's current location is unsuitable and its resources limited. "Thanks to the enthusiasm and creativity of the employees they can achieve so much with so little. The library now falls under the public entity Bonaire, but it is better if it is privatized in the form of a foundation," said den Heyer.





State Secretary for Health, Welfare and Sport Paul Blokhuis and deputy Nina den Heyer sign the cooperation agreement 'Bonaire healthy and well' in The Hague. The agreement focuses on strengthening first-line family and youth care, the approach to domestic violence and child abuse, elderly care and informal carers.

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Bonaire MCB customers must pay new fee. Curaçao customers refused.



As of October 1, 2019, customers withdrawing or depositing money at a Maduro & Curiel Bank counter are being charged 1% of the amount to be deposited or withdrawn, with a minimum of five dollars.

The Bank is charging the new fee to discourage customers from doing their banking at the counter, a service the bank considers too costly to provide. Business customers can avoid the fee by purchasing inexpensive deposit bags and using the Bank's self-deposit boxes.

Private customers can deposit at ATM machines. Customers 60 years and older are exempted from the new fee.

When the MCB tried to introduce the new fees a few months ago on Curaçao, customers complained so strongly that the Bank withdrew the charge. It says Bonaire customers will still be required to pay the fee, however.

Partial Democracy reinstated on St Eustatius

In October 2020 the people of St Eustatius will once again go to the polls to elect a new Island Council. However, Statia's Island Council will not have the right to name an Executive Council.

"The situation we found a year and a half ago was very serious," said Mr Knops. "A great deal of work has been done since then, and the initial results are already visible. Given the progress that has been made and my strong belief that the Statian people should be able to elect their own representative body, I intend to hold elections for the island council on 21 October 2020. This is a major step towards a gradual return to a normal administrative situation."

On May 24, 2017 a Committee of Wise Persons ('the

Committee') was asked to investigate the governance of the Dutch public body St Eustatius. The Committee presented its report on February 5, 2018. The Committee established that in both socioeconomic and physical terms, St Eustatius was in a state of gross neglect. Given the disorder that permeated virtually every area of public administration and the prevailing state of lawlessness, the Committee made a finding of gross neglect of duty on the island. In its opinion, allowing the situation to continue unchanged would be disastrous for the people of the island. There was, in the Committee's view, only one possible response: administrative intervention by the Netherlands, which would include the appointment of a Government Commissioner.

Flotsam & Jetsam continued from page 2



► **State Secretary Tamara van Ark (Social Affairs and Employment) will visit Bonaire October 1-5.** Her agenda includes meetings/visits with:

- Central Dialogue Bonaire, the local consultative body of citizens and government;
- Krusada, where people work under supervision in a safe, adapted environment;
- The job center of Bonaire, the "Plenchi di Trabou";
- Childcare center "Hardin Tia Sus" in Rincon (part of the program Bes(t) 4 Kids)



► **The permanent Chamber Committee for Kingdom Relations has asked State Secretary Raymond Knops about the sewerage system on Bonaire.** The committee's questions were asked during budget discussions of Kingdom Relations

and the BES Fund for the year 2020.

Knops answered that although the sewer system on Bonaire is now partially operational, not many households or businesses are connected to it. He added that there is no sewerage at all on St. Eustatius and Saba.



► **According to Minister of Agriculture, Carola Schouten, the "regional envelope" (monies allocated) for Bonaire will be deployed in 4 areas:**

- renovation slaughterhouse / development of agriculture,

- infrastructure for social housing,
- labor market, and
- safe fuel storage.

In her letter, the minister reminded the House that the Administrative Agreement between the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and the Public Entity Bonaire was a condition for making the funds from the

"regional envelope" available; a condition that has since been met. The minister wrote that for the implementation in 2019 € 2.4 million was made available. "The projects are now in a preparatory phase. For the slaughterhouse / agricultural development and the Job Center (theme labor market) two project leaders were recruited, for the first 76 homes the construction of the infrastructure was started and for the safe fuel storage an independent market exploration was carried out," Schouten concludes in her brief to parliament.

► **Dutch Navy vessel Zr. Ms. Groningen rescued six fishermen about 60 kilometers off the coast of Bonaire.** In the night of September 19 to 20, the Coast Guard's DASH-8 aircraft spotted the crew of the fishing boat, *Eudismar*, on deck waving for help. The fishing boat lost its motor close to Trinidad. The prevailing currents then drifted it in the direction of Bonaire. The Zr. Ms. *Groningen* mounted one of its outboard motors on the fishing boat, so it could navigate to the harbor in Bonaire. The crew of the fishing boat was brought to Bonaire's hospital for medical attention.

► **Fuel prices for October will remain the same, except for kerosene.** The price increase for kerosene is 1.50 cents. Kerosene's price at the pump will be 63.40 USDct per liter.

► **September 30 is/was the deadline to make an appointment for a new license plate.** If you are reading this Monday, you can call 717 5330, extension 2637. A Whatsapp message can also be sent to 770 5330. You can mail for an appointment via tax-olb@bonairegov.com. You must bring:

- A valid proof of identity.
- (For companies): bring an extract from the Chamber of Commerce
- A receipt for motor vehicle tax assessment 2019
- Proof of payment for new license plate
- A valid insurance certificate for the car

Opinion: Two government writers quit, maybe

Since the elections brought in the new government, those of us in the press have become accustomed to good OLB press releases. We've been receiving regular reports of effective and transparent governance that contain plenty of factual information. However, something occurred recently in the Communications Department that has triggered three opaque press releases. What exactly happened is not clear; the course of events is defended without being revealed; and the significance of the occurrence is uncertain. But apparently the government considers the event newsworthy, so I'll try to interpret what the OLB wants the public to know.

Here is the government's announcement of the event: "The external parties with whom the public entity Bonaire has recently made agreements about support in compiling press releases and editing texts have advised the Executive Council to reconsider the cooperation." Probable translation: At least two recently hired writers decided to quit.

Having pondered all three releases, here are my speculations regarding what might have happened, with no claims to accuracy . . . Since 2005 the understaffed Communications Department has employed a part time writer on a casual basis. Recently the Executive Council decided to hire a second part time writer, and to continue the employment of the earlier writer. The significance, apparently, is that both hires were BC decisions, not casual departmental hires.

Strong feelings have been expressed. The decision was "leaked to the press by an unauthorized person." The Executive Council says the leak itself is not important, but the precedent is worrisome. Former commissioner Clark Abraham has charged that the decision to hire two journalists to strengthen the Communications Department "threatens the functioning of the free and independent press on the island." Perhaps he's right. Not sure what the government told us. *Don Ricks*

► **CHTA seeks jobs for hurricane-affected workers.** The Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) and its counterpart the Bahamas Hotel and Tourism Association (BHTA) have launched "Tourism Jobs for Bahamians" to secure temporary employment for these industry professionals. Hurricane Dorian, one of the strongest storms on record, blew more than 2,500 hospitality professionals out of work in The Abacos and Grand Bahama, eliminating jobs that were supporting more than 10,000 family members in these islands.

To identify such temporary positions, CHTA is deploying its Caribbean Tourism Job Bank, set up in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017, to connect Bahamian job seekers with opportunities in the 80 percent of The Bahamas that the hurricane missed. The Job Bank will also seek openings in the Caribbean region, the United States and Canada.

► **On September 17, 2019 Selibon took delivery of three press containers.** A press container is specially made for companies with a large amount of waste (residual waste, cardboard or plastic). It has a compaction grade of 4:1, so the waste can be made 4 times smaller. Due to its large capacity, it needs to be emptied less often and attracts fewer pests. The press container has a system that indicates when it is full. The system sends a message to Selibon so Selibon employees know that the press container must be emptied.

As an organization, Selibon is changing from a waste collector to a waste processor. Selibon's purchase of press containers is one instance of this change.

Law Enforcement

Police Report for September 13 — 23, 2019

Robberies

On September 13, a garbage container was removed from in front of a house on the Kaminda Sorobon between 9:30 - 11:30am.

Between Monday, September 16, and Tuesday, September 17, various Makita brand tools were removed from a car parked at a house on the Kaya Filomena.

On September 14 a burglary was reported in a house on the Kaya Petronilia. Between 9.50 am -1.30 pm, someone removed shutters from the bedroom window and stole, various food items, a TV reception box and golden ear studs.

In the night from Sunday to Monday, September 23, a report was received that goats were being stolen. When the police arrived, they found four bound goats. The case is being investigated.

On September 14 a report was made of the theft of a dark gray Toyota Vitz near the Kaya Kibra di Montaña.

Dive Site Robberies

On September 16, at a dive site near the salt pier a black "AEE action camera 71 S" was stolen from the glove compartment of a car.

On the Roads

On September 16, on the Kaya Internashonal at the Fire Station, a driver tried to dodge another car and ran into a lamppost.

On September 17 the driver of a scooter tried to avoid a hole in the road of Kaya Inglatera, fell and grazed her arm. The driver was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

Investigations

In the early evening hours of September 16, uniformed BPZ agents conducted a house search in a property in Bario Mexico. Drugs and a firearm were seized. A man of 31 years was held. Investigation is ongoing.

In the morning hours of September 17, the Dutch Ca

ribbean Police Force found a construction project while patrolling the Punt Vierkant and Belnem neighborhoods. At the location two people were found who had no legal residence documents. They were arrested for further investigation.

Early in the morning at around 6am, three cars were reported to be on fire on an empty site near Kaya Orinoco. The fire brigade was able to extinguish the fire. Investigation is ongoing.

Arrests

On September 13, a man 33 years was arrested for severe abuse.

Natural Death

In the evening hours of September 17, the police station was informed that a body was found in a house in Nort Salina. After examination of the 56-year-old lady with initials V.M.C.P., the doctor found the death to be natural. Our condolences to the relatives of the deceased.

Public Safety

On Sunday, September 22, an aggressive dog was reported. The dog jumped into the gardens of various people destroying property and acting aggressively towards residents. When they arrived, the dog also was aggressive to the police. The police were unable to find the owner of the dog. Police called the two animal aid organizations. However, they could not help because no one was available to deal with an aggressive animal. The shelters also had no room for this dog. On the basis of the dog ordinance, police then asked the lieutenant governor for permission for the dog to be shot. *Communicatie KPCN*

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If there is no emergency,
phone (+599) 715 8000 or 717 8000



**Ask Kate
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advice**

Question: How do HOA dues work on Bonaire? Are they only for condos or do houses in a development have them too? Thanks, Lily

Hi Lily,

Home Owners' Associations (HOA or VVE), apply to most condominiums in Bonaire, and some houses in developments. These associations charge various monthly or yearly fees according to what services they provide, such as maintenance of pool, landscaping, etc. Some associations also provide vacation rental services to the owners who choose to rent their condos.

Houses may also belong to an association that has dues for any common areas such as a gate or entrance landscaping, or no dues if there are no common areas to maintain. In developments with no common areas to maintain, there are frequently what we refer to as silent HOAs, which means there are no dues and no meetings. These associations exist in order to be able to enforce any neighborhood restrictions.

Happy to help, Kate Butler, 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

New signs warn motorists of Bonaire's busiest pedestrian crossings

Some of Bonaire's busiest pedestrian crossings are freshly painted and have new signs.

In **Kralendijk** you will find zebra striped crossings at SGB and Tung Fong Store on Kaya Korona; at the post office in Playa, MCB Playa, the Pelican School and MCB Hato.

In **Rincon** you will find the traffic signs on the Kaya Encarnacion B. Sint Jago at the pharmacy.

As of August 1, 2019, Bonaire's new traffic law states that pedestrians and people in a disabled vehicle have priority at a pedestrian crossing even when they are waiting to cross. Cyclists, drivers of cars, scooters, motorcycles or quads must stop for them.



Use your turn signals!!!

91 fines handed out during traffic control at Kralendijk roundabout



During a traffic check at the 'Surnan di Roosendal' roundabout Wednesday, September 25, police handed out 91 fines. The vast majority of the fines were given because motorists did not use their indicator lights, according to a spokesperson for the Police Force Caribbean Netherlands (KPCN),

The driving public wasn't always cooperative with the police officers. Apparently some motorists acted aggressively. A few drivers tried to drive away from the police. KPCN says that aggressive behavior towards officers performing their normal duty will not be tolerated. In addition to the fine, aggressive drivers can also face prosecution.

The traffic check also led to the arrest of two 28-year-old men who were found to be staying on the island illegally. A few drivers did not have a driver's license or insurance papers.

How the regatta began



L-R, Hubert "Ebo" Domacasse, Ismael Soliano and Captain Don" Stewart. Photo Julie Morgan

The regatta started in 1968 with just two fishing sailboats, *Sislin* and *Velia* when regulars at a waterfront resort bar (today the Divi Flamingo Beach Hotel) began betting cases of beer on whether resort manager "Captain Don" Stewart or bartender Hubert "Ebo" Domacasse could win a race clockwise around Klein Bonaire. On September 8, Ebo won 27 cases of Amstel by finishing three minutes ahead of Stewart—and the regatta became an annual tradition.

Here is how Captain Don told the story:

Zee Bad was the original name of the Flamingo Beach Club. It was the kind of place that one didn't go to, but rather "wore." I had often been quoted as saying, "It's a frame of mind and not to be mistaken for a hotel." I would guess that in the early days, had Bonaire been a wheel, this is where you'd have put the axle. I loved that place.

I was in there the other day and saw the Gouden Verrader nailed to the wall in the foyer. The ancient ship's figurehead used to stand watching over all Zee Bad's happenings both good and bad. . . .

Old Cowboy, what a rascal he was. He would spring up on his toes, give me a cocky Floridian grin and say, "I'll betcha!"

One such time, sitting at this very bar, out of the clear blue he said it. "I'll betcha!" So I asked him, "What?" After all, I was an innkeeper trying to be polite.

"Betcha Ebo can whap ya."

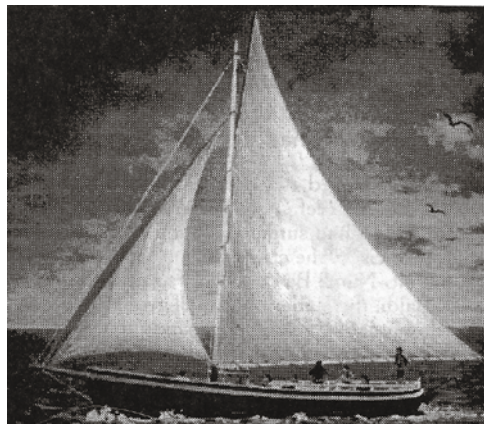
Now I was surprised. "Whap me? Why in the hell would Ebo want to whap me?"

"Because I said so!" he yelled. I looked over at the bar top to see how many empty Amstels were in front of him.

Ebo was at the cash register and looked over at me with a *hende bai loco* expression on his face. I prodded, "Beat me at what?"

He laughed. "Sailing of course."

Well now, I thought, *that's an idea*. Ebo's boat the *Velia* is a super boat but mine, the *Sislin*, had a history. *Hmmmm!* Jimmy Oliemans was fast on the uptake.



The *Sislin* from a painting owned by Larry Thielgard

Though he didn't take sides, being a banker, he sure did a great piece of organizing with the wager,

"Well I'll betcha 10 cases of Amstel," Cowboy crowed. I had to think about that for a moment. I looked over at Ebo again who smiled that wonderful smile of his and shrugged his shoulders.

"Okay, you're on," and a cheer went up at the bar that had now become packed. The loyalties of friends, family and neighbors were being split at that moment. There was no question that Ebo and the *Velia* were the favored team. It made me feel unwanted until Larry Thielgard came in and heard of the bet, "Ten more cases in favor of the *Sislin*." Naturally, as half-owner of the boat, Larry was somewhat biased.

By midnight, the bets were complete: 27 cases of beer were now the prize.

More important things had to be done. Secret sails made. Ballast trimmed and checked. Crew lists prepared, Shrouds tightened. Bottoms scrubbed, And most important, the designing of the flags.

By day two, enthusiasm was running high, and the date was set for the coming Sunday, September the 8th. I was happy to see that more Bonaireans began to have confidence in their old Captain Don. Surely he knew all there was about sailing because his schooner was so big. Yet on the other hand, some shyly said, "Ebo knows the waters." I should have paid more attention to that.

It seemed that all was in readiness, except for one small detail: the rules! There was no question that we were to circle Klein Bonaire. But in which direction, and how to start and where to finish?

"The rules!" I kept screaming. "What are the rules?"

The bar went quiet, and the Gouden Verrader waited. All of us looked at Cowboy and waited some more. Then he sprang off the bar stool, landing on his toes and hollered, "There are no rules!"

I looked at Ebo, who registered nothing. Then the both of us looked at Cowboy Royce and broke out laughing. "Let's do it!"

By Don Stewart, taken from his book, *The Adventures of Captain Don*.



The 52nd edition of the Bonaire Regatta runs October 9-12, 2019. The regatta is now one of Bonaire's biggest festivals.

Four Days Marches: Walking and Cycling Bonaire (Wandel en Fiets Vierdaagse Bonaire)

The Vierdaagse Bonaire 2019 is a sporting and tourist event for walkers and cyclists from the age of five years. It takes place during the Regatta Week and has a total distance of 106 km spread over four days. Participants can choose between the total distance (four days) or shorter distances (one, two or three days).

The *Four Days Marches Bonaire 2019* is part of the

grand project, *The Four Days Marches Dutch Caribbean*, including Curaçao and Aruba. Charitable proceeds go to the *Against Child Abuse Foundation*. Participants from different countries will participate, as will organizations such as schools and scouting.

Route 4-day Bonaire 2019

The route covers a total distance of 106 km over the 4 days. Every day there is the possibility to walk long and shorter distances. Starting times for each distance are different. The Vierdaagse Bonaire offers the possibility to camp at the end of the third day. The first day is Te Amo Beach EEG Blvd / Bonaire Marine Park and the

end day on the 4th is Karel's Beach Bar in Playa.

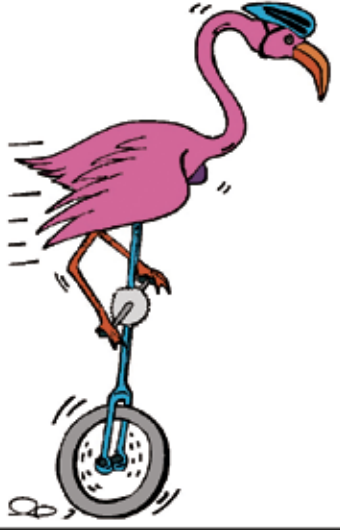
Participation costs and registration

Cost: US \$ / Euro 50.00 for adults 18 years and above for all 4 days. Youths 12-17 years pay US \$ / Euro 20.00. Children 11 years and younger participate for free.

Registration online via email Vierdaagsebonaire@gmail.com. Payment is possible by depositing on Maduro & Curiel's Bank Rack. # 33-000-000 (savings) n / a Foundation Against Child Abuse.

For information and sponsorship please contact us at 599-9-5221235.

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A far from perfect situation

Here is the current news about 2019's flamingo generation. Since March we have received over 400 baby and juvenile flamingos and we have released all of the survivors. And although we do not like to share negative posts, this is really where the good news ends.

The last three releases have not been successful. Many of the birds released have been returned to us: most of them were found hungry and weak in the streets of Kralendijk; concerned citizens contacted the animal rescue teams, who returned them to us. Some made their own way back to the Rehab.

We are still not sure what is causing the problems in the sanctuary and since many of the birds have already been released at least twice, we have stopped releasing them there. Instead, we have set them free at the Rehab. From here they can make their way on foot to the mangroves, which has a significant population of resident adults, but they can also return to the Rehab, where we feed them only once a day. This is far from perfect, since we now have about 60 to 80 juveniles hanging around behind the Mangrove Center, but they are alive and hopefully they will make their way into the wild soon.

Necropsies were performed on several of the birds who died. Infections were found throughout their bodies and most had enlarged livers, though no traces of arsenic or other poisons were found. (Tests of the sargassum that washed up on Bonaire were inconclusive for arsenic, although sargassum in other parts of the Caribbean did



The young flamingos are free to leave the rehab center, but approximately 70 of the young birds (less than a year old) hang out in the area that was once an enclosure and is now a safe place.

contain arsenic.) The causes of their health problems have not yet been found.

If you visit the mangrove center or if you drive to Lac, please slow down, because you will very likely encounter many juvenile flamingos on your path.

Flamingos are amazing birds. Volunteering to help Elly with these flamingos who are in jeopardy is a unique opportunity to get close to the birds and to help them at

the same time.

If you'd like to help, funds can be donated to Bonaire Wild Bird Rehab, Kaminda Lac 140, Bonaire. Reference account #8400000900026943 at RBC Royal Bank (RBTTBQBN). There is also a go fund me page under wild bird rehab bonaire. Visit wild bird rehab bonaire facebook page for more photos and information about the flamingos. *By Dee Scarr. Photo Julie Morgan.*

Picture Yourself with The Reporter The courtroom in Somers, NY, US



Somers Town Justice Michael McDermott, and his wife Fausta McDermott, having just completed their first trip to Bonaire, pose with *The Bonaire Reporter* in Judge McDermott's courtroom in Somers, NY. Michael has been one of two town justices in Somers, NY for the past twenty years and is currently in his fifth term. He will be running unopposed in the November election. Mike and Fausta have been in private law practice together for twenty years. The courtroom is located in the town hall building officially know as the Elephant Hotel. It was built by Hachaliah Bailey, of Barnum and Bailey Circus, in 1825. The site is the symbolic location for the emerging traveling menagerie and circus industry. Somers, NY August 2, 2019. *Photo by Alan Zale for The Bonaire Reporter. (Alan Zale is also the photographer of the cover photo that the McDermott's are holding.)*

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.



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Sunfish World Championships

Bonaire has successfully hosted the Sunfish World Championships, despite light and inconsistent winds. Rules even needed to be changed so the course could be adjusted to the low, twisting, and turning winds. The officials, displaying great team work, assured all the races were completed.

The ABC islands were well represented with a team of thirteen sailors from host island Bonaire, eight from Curaçao and three from Aruba. Eugene Hendrikx from Curaçao, a student in the Netherlands, competed under the Dutch flag.

Local and international firms were generous with their support. Laser Performance and sponsor Maclaren brought down 72 brand new boats to make the event fair for all. Blue Bay provided VIP boats, press boats, and boats for coaches and officials. Jibe city fed the people on the water and provided a fun day when the sailors had a break. Tropical Travels got everyone here in style.

In Open World competition, September 16-10, the top three sailors were from the Guatemala and Peru. Their scores differed by only one point. The winner, Hernández from Guatemala, received his trophy to loud cheers. Second and third place went to the Peruvians Renzo Sanguinti and Alonso Collantes. In fourth place the Colombian Simon Gomez Ortiz finished ex aequo with the Curaçao-born Eugene Hendrikx. Hendrikx had to settle for fifth place due to a lower score in the last race. The 2018 champion, Jean-Paul de Trazegnies, finished in sixth place. The last top ten places were filled by Eugene Schmitt (7, America) Andre Quitero (8, Colombia), Alejandro Mago (9, Peru) and Matias Rosenberg (10, Guatemala). There were prizes for the youngest and oldest sailor. Chinese sailor Nancy Huang Yineng received the Marco Polo

prize for traveling furthest to participate. Five participants from Curaçao ended up among the 21 best Sunfish sailors: Tijn van der Gulik, who sailed for Aruba (12) his brother Bas (16) and their father Hans (21); Derek Bongaertz (20) and Curaçao champion 2019 Darius Berenos (17). Of the 13 participants from Bonaire, Sipke Stapert performed the best, finishing in 27th place. The full results can be found on the Yachtscoring.com website.

The Youth and Masters classes sailed together for the first time ever September 21 through 25. The even lower winds let many of the youth pass by the masters in this event. As expected, more sailors from South America came into the spotlight. Peru in particular scored frequently alongside Ecuador, Chile, Guatemala, the US and Martinique. But there were also podium places for the local sailors and sailors from the neighboring islands. Sipke Stapert delivered the best performance for Bonaire with a second place in Masters 50+ and Overall, followed by the local organizer Ton Nuijten who won the Grand Masters category. Ezra Buys was the best in the Apprentice Masters category, and Ramon -Yellow- Martis was fifth in the Masters. Hans van der Gulik (Curaçao) finished fourth in the Masters. He missed placing in the top three by only one point. The same happened to 17-year-old Bas van der Gulik, who had to settle for an 11th place in the Youth, outside of the top ten prize-winners. Darius Berenos, the Curaçao Sunfish champion 2019, greatly improved his position on the last day and finished in an honorable fifth place. Job Laboyrie showed the Aruban flag in second place at the Grand Masters. And 14-year-old Jeanneau Thode (Bonaire) received the prize for the youngest participant.

We are proud to say that the event was

true to Bonaire's Blue Destination identity. Each day details reminded sailors and their supporters that Bonaire is committed to the sustainable use of natural resources. Participants were given eco-friendly items such as sustainable drinking cups and water bottles from Web, Selibon, and MG. They were also given Stream to Sea sunscreen without oxybenzone, a component harmful to the coral reef. Organizers used paper straws. Bonaire Logistics supplied transparent, rapidly degradable food containers.

More than 30 partners made the event possible. The boats were hauled up on the beach at Playa. The striking yellow and blue logo of Bonaire's Blue Destination identity decorated their sails. BonRed constructed the boat ramp. Viktor Wijnand designed the event shirt, while Budget Marine and Marlow Ropes sponsored it.

The VWS (welfare and sports) and



Youth Champ Simon Gomez Ortiz from Colombia leads. (sail 4956). The other sails visible are Bonairean sailors: 4966, Ton Nuijten, organizer and winner of the Grand Masters, 4961, Gerard Vos, and 4970, Ezra Buys. Photo Els Kroon

OLB (Public Body Bonaire) made Sunfish Worlds 2019 a reality. In addition to the main races, the VWS encouraged two side events. Throughout the year VWS ran training courses and qualification races for our local sailors. As a result of this enthusiasm, 20 boats were purchased from Laser Performance. They will remain in the region, so this is not the last of the sunfishes that you will see. Regatta begins next week and, in November, Budget Marine will sponsor sailing races and a triathlon. Text by Els Kroon, edited by Pam Teitel. Photos Else Kroon.



Bonaire's team. All photos by Els Kroon

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Reef Glimpses

Sea Turtles

In the 1980's, I was lucky enough to dive with Norine Rouse.

Norine Rouse was known as the "Turtle Lady of Palm Beach" because of her rapport with the loggerhead turtles who spend part of their years off Palm Beach, including one, Rajah, who interacted with her for more than a decade. Loggerhead turtles are subject to injury from barnacles growing on their shells (carapaces) and their skin. Cleaner fishes and shrimp can only help when the barnacles are small.

Norine scrubbed the shells and heads of every loggerhead who would let her (which was most of them). Whenever she saw a resting turtle she'd approach slowly, and if the turtle remained undisturbed she'd scour it with a plastic kitchen scrubber. It was clear that many of the loggerheads viewed her as an unusual and efficient kind of cleaner, and I know that sometimes Rajah and others came to her rather than waiting for her. She was a special lady who lengthened the lives of hundreds of loggerheads with her unique services.

I've seen a video of a loggerhead turtle crunching a full-sized queen conch shell to smithereens in order to eat the conch – yet not one of the loggerheads ever harmed Norine in any way.

I was involved with one turtle experience in which several other divers and I were almost hurt by sea turtles, although their intentions had nothing to do with us. We were diving off Sipadan Island in the early 1990's. Sipadan was famous for its green turtles, who mated in the waters surrounding the island and deposited their eggs in nests along its beaches.

We were on a leisurely afternoon drift dive. Now and again we'd see a big green turtle resting under a ledge, or one would swim by. Suddenly our attention was caught by swift movement in this casual scene: the focus was a mating pair of green turtles, the female swimming hard, the male holding onto her from the top. Racing along behind them were two more male turtles. Since the female was providing propulsion for two, the extra males



"A little hawksbill turtle checks me out."

could catch up; one at a time they'd bite onto the mating male's tail, trying to dislodge him and (presumably) to take his place.

The female was paying much more attention to what was going on above and behind her than she was to where she was going. We realized this when one of our group had to dive down between coral heads to get out of their way. We watched more alertly after that. The female occasionally smashed into the coral and occasionally would have smashed into us. It was a sea turtle version of Distracted Driving. Eventually they continued along the reef and we were left, feeling abandoned but relieved.

A couple of nights later, we learned firsthand that newly hatched turtles were attracted to light. Although the dive locker was dimly lit, the sky was cloudy, and one little turtle headed for the locker light instead of the moonlight. We picked it up oh-so-gently and brought it out into the water -- and it turned right around and swam back toward the locker light! Second try, same result.

So we took the little turtle along the beach until we got to a place where the only light we could see was the moonlight on the water. We waded out, showed the baby the moonlight, and placed it in the water facing the moon. This time it immediately began swimming straight away from land. Out to sea. Three inches (8cm) long, all alone, swimming out to sea. Despite the hundreds of eggs most sea turtles deposit in each nest, it's astonishing (and wonderful) that any of these little

creatures survive.

Yet one of the strongest positive differences from when I first started diving to the present is that we see many more sea turtles.

A major factor in our rising sea turtle population is Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire, which has been researching, rescuing, and protecting sea turtles, and educating people about them, on Bonaire, since 1991. They give a free, entertaining and educational presentation about Bonaire's sea turtles every other Wednesday, at 8 pm at Yellow Submarine. Both the presentation and their website (bonaireturtles.org) will give you great information about Bonaire's turtles. In addition, their website will let you know ways to help protect Bonaire's turtles, including information on how you can become a STCB volunteer. *Dee Scarr*



Turtle competition: Here are the turtles from our R (X?)-rated dive on Sipadan. The female turtle is on the lower right. Her mate is above, holding on. His rival is on the left, trying to dislodge him by biting his tail. You can see that the rival is trying to slow things down by braking with his flippers. The female can store sperm, so when she deposits her eggs, they often have been fertilized by more than one male.

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.

Local kids learn about tourism for World Tourism Day



TCB (Tourism Corporation Bonaire) marked World Tourism Day, September 27th, with drawing competition in the schools. TCB collected 375 drawings on the theme of Bonaire's tourism.

According to TCB, the judges received so many talented drawings, they had a difficult time picking the winners. The winners were chosen in three different categories:

Group 3 - 4:

- 1st: Qshendrick Winklaar, 8 yrs, Kolegio Luis Betran
- 2nd: Denicia Brooks, 6 yrs, Kolegio Kristu Bon Wardador

3rd: Katriana Gonzales Durango, 6 yrs, De Pelikaan
Encouragement prize: Lirmarion Mata, 6 yrs, Kolegio Kristu Bon Wardador

Group 5 - 6:

- 1st: Arlene Statia, 8 years, Kolegio Amplio Papa Cornes
- 2nd: Ronaishela Ters, 9 years, Kolegio Amplio Papa Cornes
- 3rd: Adrianny Duran, 9 years, Kolegio San Bernardo
Encouragement prize: Kaydan, 9 years, Kolegio Amplio Papa Cornes

Group 7 - 8:

- 1st: Jaidah Romero, 11 yrs, Kolegio Amplio Papa Cornes
- 2nd: Jzahyr Lacle, 11 yrs, Kolegio Rayo di Solo
- 3rd: Marthina H, 12 yrs, Kolegio Rayo di Solo
Encouragement prize: Ibrahim Valentijn, 10 yrs, Kolegio Kristu Bon Wardador
- Creative drawing: Jose Meza, 8 yrs, Kolegio Kristu Bon Wardador

The winners received their prizes during Taste of Bonaire on Saturday, September 28th, held in Wilhelmina Park with the theme Tourism.

Also on World Tourism Day, TCB introduced a book about local tourism to all elementary schools on the island. The book 'Turismo na Boneiru' is written for kids between the ages of 8 and 12.

The book is by Denise de Jongh-Rekwest who has studied tourism and has worked in tourism for many years both in the Caribbean and Europe.

Written in Papiamentu, the colorful book has beautiful illustrations and valuable information about Bonaire. Some of the topics covered are: What is tourism? Why is tourism important for Bonaire? Work in tourism. Keep Bonaire clean.

Tourism Corporation Bonaire would like to thank everyone who made this project possible—especially EZ AIR.

The book was delivered to the schools September 27 by the author, the Commissioner of Tourism deputy Elvis Tjin Asjoe, and three members of TCB: Marjolein Oleana (Business Manager), Derchlien Vrolijk (Marketing Manager), and Delno Tromp (Interim Director of TCB).

Making Bonaire “Accessible”

Our wheelchair challenges # 20



FKPD celebrates 40 years

How beautiful to have a person in your life with special needs. It teaches you to look at the world by focusing on possibilities.

This was the message on the invitation to a very special evening to celebrate 40 years of FKPD (Fundashon Kuido Pa Personanan Desabilita/Foundation for the Care of Persons with Disabilities).

And celebrate we all did.

We celebrated the fact that 40 years ago seven concerned mothers of children with mental retardation decided it was time that their beloved children get the attention they needed and so much deserved.

These parents and all the volunteers who helped them deserve a commendation because now, 40 years later, the FKPD is still a force to be reckoned with.

And a commendation they got! Those parents who are still amongst us, stepped forward proudly to receive a beautiful ovation. And those parents who are not here anymore were proudly represented by their offspring.

The location was great, a vast accommodation that contained all invited. The decoration was tasteful and the whole evening was well organized.

And, of course, the clients of the FKPD were well prepared. They had trained and practiced to perform two dances and their performance was excellent. They harvested a huge applause.

Another client had written a very touching poem. What a talent! Too bad she was unable to present it herself. One of her friends presented it for her:

40 years of struggling
40 years of waiting for this big day
40 years full of love and happiness
40 years of patience and pride of all we have achieved
40 years of friendly and loving guidance
40 years of processing set-backs and we made it by perseverance
40 years of exploring of what is best for all our clients

Thank you, dear founders for our awesome FKPD.

Then came a Tony Sherman impersonator. He presented the song: “Ayo amor.”

He had everybody in awe, singing along and applauding their hands off. What a talent!

Plus there were speeches. No celebration can exist without speeches.

.....

A delicious meal was offered buffet-style and for dessert we all had cake! A delicious cake with the FKPD logo on it in the familiar blue/white.

During the dinner all invited could enjoy the rhythmic beats of the Silver Bullet Steelband. And after that—we danced the night away to the music by Grupo ESO.

Enjoying the evening one could not help but wonder; most of the clients are 50 years and older. What will the future bring for them? Will they be able to stay with the FKPD with appropriate help and assistance?

Should not small group-homes be available for aging FKPD clients where they can live happily and safely? Group-homes so that if they should they get dementia, they would not have to move. Forty years ago, FKPD gave them a secure place and focused attention. Now we should secure their future, and thusly secure the daycare facilities for the younger generation. *Ria Evers-Dokter.*



(L-R) Felix Martijn, Emmy Schermer, Boelie Evertsz, Erlie Pourier display the 40 year awards. Felix, Boelie and Erlie accepted on behalf of their parents. Emmy is a special education specialist who has been helping and advising parents from the start.



A Garden? Just Do It!

Nolly Oleana is a gardener who so loves gardening that he likes to share his experience with others. When I heard about a year ago that Nolly gives gardening workshops at his house, I was surprised. I knew him only as a math and science teacher. But more and more people told me about Nolly’s workshops and his fantastic green house with all kinds of vegetables. Once I met Nolly at Kriabon farmers market, and he said he can help people build a greenhouse for a small price with a small group of kunukeros. After one pays for the materials, the labor itself hardly costs anything.

Nolly told me once that he grew up on a kunuku where people always grew their own fruits and vegetables. I got so curious, I called him for an appointment. He told me to make a group of seven to eight people for a Saturday workshop from 8 to 11 am. I organized a group of interested gardeners to go on September 21. We were all excited and very curious.

We arrived about 8 am at Nolly’s, and you know what, he was waiting in front of his gate. Wow, that made an impression on me. The workshop was in a real classroom made from two containers: air conditioned, chairs, tables, school board, writing materials and so on. We were back in school with an experienced teacher in front!

Nolly covered three topics from his knowledge of gardening on Bonaire. First, he discussed different types of water. Bonaire has water from: WEB household water, cesspits, caves, dams, public sweet water wells, rainwater, yard wells, sea water, half salt-sweet water and WEB sewer water.

He explained that the best inexpensive water is the sweet water from the three natural sources on Bonaire at Fonteyn, Dos Pos and Bros Winkel. All other water you have to pay for, or it is somewhat salty which some plants cannot handle. Also cave water is very good, because it runs through the rocks and stones. WEB is selling recycled sewage water for gardening via Krusada. (See The Bonaire Reporter, Issue 18, page 2).



A workshop by Nolly in his greenhouse.

Second, Nolly discussed composting. Nolly uses only his own compost for his garden. He combines all kinds of manure of plant-eating animals with fine red-brown dirt from Bonaire and rotten dry leaves mixed with charcoal or BBQ ashes. He then adds wood dust from carpenters, Cocos fiber, cardboard and paper. Every three weeks he adds his compost to the vegetable containers in his green house. The plants constantly get nutrients by being given just a handful of compost at a time. And lastly, he spreads another handful of “ongeblyste kalk” (quick lime) every two to three weeks in his garden against bugs, fungus and bacteria.

Third, Nolly discussed the vegetables he grows from seed, and his yard full of flowers.

After a 90-minute lesson, we went to the porch where drinks, snacks and fruit awaited us. That was a lovely surprise. Ann, his partner, now enjoyed the rest of the morning with us. Very nice.

After the break Nolly and Ann took us to the huge green house. Our eyes grew big seeing all those green healthy vegetables in self-made big wooden containers: paksoi (bok choy), amsoy, kouseband (long beans), cucumbers, tomatoes, selder (celery), dagoelblad (greens from Surinam), fat young okra plants and red / green

klaroen. Nolly said most leaf vegetables grown from seed are ready to consume in six weeks.

After Nolly explained how he works in his greenhouse, Ann came up with big bags and said we could fill them with vegetables, whatever and how much we wanted. No need to say how glad we were with this offer. Nolly had so many vegetables that even when we had full bags, there were a lot of vegetables left. We also were given plants, like the fat okra plants, and buckets filled with compost. It felt like a garden happy hour. And for sure Nolly and Ann were happy to share their vegetables, knowledge and time with us. You could see the enthusiasm and big smiles on their faces. The message Nolly gave us is: IT CAN BE GROWN ON BONAIRE! ENJOY FRESH HEALTHY VEGETABLES EVERY DAY FROM YOUR OWN GARDEN. Just do it, start now.

Just do it, start now.. *Angliet, Nature lover.*



Nolly’s plants in his greenhouse. Amazing!



Did You Know...that pollution from human activities has major impacts on biodiversity worldwide? The question is, does this pollution affect Washington Slagbaai National Park's biodiversity as well?

Washington Slagbaai National Park (WSNP) offers approximately 4,300 ha of protected habitat for Bonaire's (native) flora and fauna. This includes gorgeous kibrahacha and wayaka trees, as well as flamingos, parrots, iguanas, and many migratory birds. The park's beaches are also where the hawksbill, loggerhead, and green turtles make their nests. All three of these turtle species are considered endangered, but the green turtle population seems to be slowly increasing. Besides turtles, many migratory water birds, such as the enigmatic flamingo, also nest within the park. But the park is not just teeming with animal life, there are abundant native tree and cactus species as well. If you look closely you can see the amazing variety of animal and plant life that calls WSNP home, even if for some it's just a vacation home.

In the last 10 years, Bonaire's population has grown quite a lot. We are also seeing more tourists than ever before. These increased numbers of people are putting more and more pressure on our nature. While the biodiversity in the park is a result of the natural resources that can be found there, it might also be affected by all types of human behavior. Due to Bonaire's dry climate, only certain plants can grow here. Generally these are plants that can cope well with long periods where there is little to no rain fall. Because of drought there are limited food resources for all animals that inhabit the park. Bonaire's vegetation has had a lot to contend with: logging for wood to be exported in the 1800s, high levels of overgrazing, and increasingly longer and more severe droughts. The already reduced amount of greenery is mostly eaten by goats, which out compete native species. Sometimes the ever-hungry goats turn to human waste, such as plastic and cigarettes, which they think is edible. These animals get a false sense of having eaten enough; however, they

do not receive any nutrients. Because the body does not receive the required nutrition, it keeps wanting more.

Plastics bring toxins into the food chain and when they break down, they produce toxic byproducts. When goats eat plastic trash, toxins are released in their feces. These toxins enter and impact the marine life as well as the terrestrial ecosystem. Other than plastic pollution, cigarettes have a large impact on marine and terrestrial life. Studies have shown that even small quantities of cigarette butts can be deadly to animals. In the last year, Clean Coast Bonaire surveyed the same 50m stretch of coastline at Te Amo Beach five times. They collected 5,455 cigarette butts, undoubtedly left behind by beach goers! We were dismayed by these numbers! They have agreed to write more about their clean-ups and what they are finding in a Did You Know in the near future.

Knowing that there is trash in the park, the question is how much is there and what can we do to reduce it? In the next 16 weeks we will be collecting information on human behavior and how trash influences WSNP's ecosystem. To better understand human behavior, surveys will be used. Hopefully this information will help us understand the extent of the trash problem and why people litter. In approximately six weeks, an intervention will be introduced in Washington Slagbaai National Park. The goal of this intervention is to reduce the trash problem and, hopefully, decrease it's negative impact on the environment. The surveys will make the intervention as efficient as possible. With the results of the survey we hope to determine the level of awareness of different types of visitors, but also how we can better inform them. Combining all these observations and knowledge we hope to reach the best strategy for pre-



Bonaire's goats ingest a toxic diet when they eat plastic trash and cigarettes.

venting littering in and outside the park.

Written by Romy Geertsma, STINAPA intern from Avans University in the Netherlands. Connecting People with Nature



Clean Coast Bonaire launches its second year

Every month volunteers acting as citizen-scientists help Clean Coast Bonaire fight pollution.

September is World Cleanup Month, and September 14 marked the one year anniversary of these workers who pick up, identify, and log micro plastics on Bonaire's beaches. Clean Coast is the first group in the Caribbean to employ the OSPAR Marine Litter Monitoring method. A kind of garbage trail or map is created when



Clean Coast throws a first year anniversary party to thank its resident citizen-scientist volunteers for their hard work.

they examine the refuse that they collect for its constitution and source.

The September survey collected a total of 1,530 items – 815 of these items were cigarette butts! Following the cleanup, a party was held to mark the one year anniversary. A group of 14 people who volunteered during the past year were treated to homemade (plastic free) snacks, drinks and a gift key chain made of recycled plastic from Nobo. The next citizen science clean up survey will take place at Boka Onima from 4 to 6pm on Saturday, October 12th. All are welcome to attend. *Carolyn Caporusso*



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599.717.3911 retail@diver-friends-bonaire.com

What's Happening

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.
October 9-12	Sailing Regatta One of Bonaire's biggest festivals. Sails fill the bay. Parades fill the streets. Parties fill the nights. (See page 6 for its beginnings.)
Saturday, October 12	Clean Coast Bonaire Clean-up Survey Boka Onima. 4pm. Clean Coast Bonaire recruits volunteers and trains local residents and visiting eco-tourists to complete monthly surveys of marine litter.
Sunday, October 13	Bonaire National Marine Park's 40th Anniversary
Saturday, October 19	Global Big Day Birdwatching Event How many birds can be found worldwide in one day? Join by counting Bonaire's birds. See: http://www.bonairebirdtours.com/october-global-big-day-is-coming/
October 20-22	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 .

REGULAR EVENTS

“Reef Renewal Bonaire.” A free educational presentation every Sunday at 6:30pm at Blennies at Buddy Dive. For questions, email info@reefrenwalbonaire.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 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 Satur-

days. 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 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

2019 Cruise Ships

DAY	DATE	CRUISESHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY	& LINE
Tuesday	10-1	Monarch	0800-1800	N.pier	2744	Pullmantur
Tuesday	10-8	Monarch	0800-1800	N.pier	2744	Pullmantur
Thursday	10-8	Freedom	0800-2100	S.pier	3782	RCCL
Thursday	10-10	EQUINOX	0700-1600	S.pier	2850	CEL
Monday	10-14	Crown Princess	1200-1900	N.pier	3150	PCL

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.

Bonaire Reporter Classifieds: Employment Opportunity

STCB is looking for a full time Field Coordinator (40 hours).

The Field Coordinator helps to carry out field work activities and day to day operations of STCB under the direction of the Manager.

Qualifications-short list: Bachelor degree; Fluent English; Must be able to work flexible hours, including evenings, weekends and holidays; Dive training certificate is desirable, snorkel experience and strong swimming ability is a must; Experience with Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Outlook); must be comfortable working with spreadsheets. **To see the full job description, please e-mail stcb@bonaireturtles.org and cepa@bonaireturtles.org (attns. Mabel Nava & Kaj Schut). Deadline for submitting applications is November 15th.**

Tues.-Fri. 9-6 pm
Sat. 9-2 pm



Ask a Geek

by Brian Niessen



Be my friend – again....

Have you had Facebook send you an email saying “Mary wants to be your friend” and you are sure that you were already friends with her? But you click on it, and it’s Mary’s Facebook page – all her friends are there, her photos are there, and so you accept the friending.

Then in a few moments, you receive a message from Mary that says “Hi Sally. I am so glad you re-friended me. I have been trying to reach you to tell you that I have had a great surprise. I won \$100,000 in the Publisher’s Clearing House lottery and they told me that you were on the list. To get yours, just send an SMS to this number xxx-xxx-xxxx”

Does this actually happen? Yes – even here on little old Bonaire. I was re-friended by two friends here on Bonaire in the last 2 weeks... While I ignored the first one, the second one I decided to follow through and got that message.

So, I continued with the ruse and sent an SMS from my USA phone to the number, and got into a long step-by-step discussion with Mark, Customer Service representative, of how to receive my Publisher’s Clearing House prize. But surprise, surprise, I had to pre-pay the taxes on it. I can pay \$5,000 to get \$500,000 prize, or \$10,000 to get my \$1 million prize.

So, in the spirit of journalistic curiosity, I played dumb and asked “How do I do it?” I was told to go to the bank and get cash and wrap it up like a gift and take it to FedEx and send it to a specific address. Of course I Googled the address and it is an empty house that is for sale. So when FedEx showed up, I am sure someone would be there to sign for it.

I told Mark “My bank would not allow me to take out that much cash, so is there another way?” He offered up “Go and buy \$10,000 worth of Ebay gift cards.” to which I replied “I can’t get that much cash, remember?” The next option was “Can you get a cashier’s check?” to which I replied “Yes, I can” and he pushed me to go back to the bank immediately to get that.

I told him that the bank wouldn’t give me a blank cashier’s check to send to him, thinking that it would end there, but no... He had another option “We have a service where you can enter your check information, and the money is taken out of your account automatically. Just give me the information on your checks.”

At that point, I decided to just let them hang... now for a week, Mark keeps texting me with promises, semi-threatening messages, and sincere sounding messages. Meanwhile, I am also getting SMS messages and voice messages/phone calls from another number that I do not know asking “Are you OK?”

So, this is just a warning... when you get the re-friend request, make sure it really is your friend by asking him/her first and showing them the Facebook page with all of their stolen identity.

Happy Surfing... but be careful, there ARE sharks out there.

For more information: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0199-prize-scams>

Do you have a question about using computers and computer technology on Bonaire? Email it to the editor, and we’ll get an answer for you next issue.

BONAIRE SKY PARK *Perseus and the Seven Sisters*

Autumn is finally here and there’s a very special constellation that’s going to be making its reappearance in the evening sky. Perseus the Hero is back, and not only is he associated with a great story in the sky, but he also has some interesting celestial company.

We’ve got our skies set up for this week at 11pm facing northeast. If you look more to the east, you’ll see what looks like a tiny little dipper-shaped cluster of stars, the beautiful Seven Sisters. Now, most people can see only six stars here with the naked eye, but if you have really good eyesight you may see seven. And with a pair of binoculars you can see several dozen. In reality however, there are over 250 stars here, all much larger than our own sun, and burning much, much hotter. Cosmically speaking, they’re not very distant, only 400 light years away. Which means we see the Pleiades not as they exist now, but as they existed 400 years ago, at about the same time Galileo trained a telescope on them and discovered them to be a family of dozens of suns.

Nearby we have the double cluster, which is in the constellation Perseus. First look up and to the right of the

north star where you’ll see the 5 stars that trace out the ‘m’-shaped constellation of Cassiopeia the Queen. The double cluster is down and to the right of Cassiopeia and you probably will need binoculars to see them. But if you are far away from city lights, you’ll notice that they are embedded in the river of light we call the milky way.

The double cluster of Perseus might not look like much at first, but each cluster has about 100 more stars than the Pleiades, the reason they aren’t as bright as the Pleiades is because they are a whopping seven thousand light years away. Much further away than the Pleiades, which means we see them not as they exist now, but as they existed seven thousand years ago. However, like the Pleiades, the double cluster also consists of super-hot-blue-white stars. And through a small telescope you may be able to detect a few much cooler red ones. And imagine, if you can, what the twin clusters of Perseus would look like if they could be magically positioned in our skies as close as the Seven Sisters are. They’d be a dazzling sight to see!

Speaking of dazzling stars, there are two in Perseus that we want you to check out. At 11 p.m. and at the center of the constellation Perseus, you’ll see a star named Mirfak. Mirfak is Arabic for elbow. To the right of Mir-

fak we see Perseus holding something in his outstretched arm. To the ancient Greeks it’s the star Algol a.k.a. the winking eye of Medusa. She’s the Gorgon with snakes for hair that could turn you to stone. But other cultures had some very frightening names for this star, like: the spectre’s head, ghost’s head, Satan’s head, the double eye, and piled up corpses! Why such scary names? Well, Algol is no ordinary star - it’s a special type of star called an eclipsing variable. Algol is really two stars that orbit each other. When the bigger, dimmer star blocks the light of the smaller brighter star, Algol dims like clockwork every 2.87 days.

Perseus is using Medusa’s head to save Princess Andromeda from the sea monster constellation, Cetus. Look farther to the southeast, and maybe you can make out the sea monster. His outline looks more like a recliner chair. Nevertheless, this was Poseidon’s vicious pet sea monster who we see turned to stone by... Medusa’s head! (Algol strikes again!) So go outside and check out the Pleiades and the double cluster of Perseus, along with Mirfak, his elbow... And Algol, the winking eye of Medusa. It’s all there when you... Keep looking up! *Dean Regas & James Albury* <http://www.stargazersonline.org/index.html>

Quiz with no consequences!

by Dee Scarr

1. From the front, Caribbean boxfish (cowfish and trunkfish) are
 - a. Rectangular
 - b. Triangular
 - c. Oval
 - d. None of the above
2. Which type of marine turtle has a carapace with serrated-like edge?
 - a. Green
 - b. Leatherback
 - c. Loggerhead
 - d. Hawksbill
3. Which of the following animals also make use of plants in their tissues?
 - a. Corals
 - b. Sponges
 - c. Nudibranchs
 - d. All of them

4. Which of the following shrimp are usually found living with an anemone?
 - a. Spotted cleaner shrimp
 - b. Scarlet lady cleaner shrimp
 - c. Banded coral shrimp
 - d. Red-veined shrimp
5. The juveniles of which fish look extremely different from the adults?
 - a. Blue tangs
 - b. Queen angelfish
 - c. Trumpetfish
 - d. None of them
6. Which is most closely related to a sting ray?
 - a. Flounder
 - b. Lionfish
 - c. Cornetfish
 - d. Tiger shark
7. Which of the following are most closely related?
 - a. Octopus, clam, sea slug
 - b. Sea cucumber, nudibranch, flatworm
 - c. Coral, sponge, anemone
 - d. Arrow crab, sea spider, urchin

8. Which of the following are most closely related?
 - a. Octopus, squid, oyster
 - b. Urchin, sand dollar, brittle star
 - c. Crab, lobster, shrimp
 - d. All are pretty closely related
9. Which would hurt you if you got hungry during a dive and munched on/ate it?
 - a. Sponge
 - b. Sharpnosed puffer
 - c. Lionfish
 - d. All of the above
10. Which are considered a delicacy in some places?
 - a. Sea cucumber
 - b. Trunkfish
 - c. Sea urchin
 - d. All of the above
11. Captain Don Stewart created/invented:
 - a. Boat moorings on dive sites
 - b. The outboard engine
 - c. The buoyancy compensator vest
 - d. The ELF, the lionfish device used on Bonaire

Answers on page 14.

The Jong Bonaire Swim to Klein Bonaire 2019 kicks off Regatta

As in previous years, the Jong Bonaire Swim to Klein Bonaire will be a festival, a family event, a fun swim. The people of Bonaire will come out in full force to celebrate the Island's seashore heritage and strength of community. The proceeds will support the Island's youth.

This year the swim takes place at Eden Beach on Sunday October 6th, at the beginning of the Bonaire International Sailing Regatta.

The swim is Jong Bonaire's major fundraising event. All proceeds go to the youth of Bonaire. Tickets are available at Jong Bonaire or Spice Bonaire. The cost is \$15 for an adult and \$10 for a child, and includes an event t-shirt, lunch, and a drink.

The event runs 7:30 - 11:30am. The morning begins with a group warm up to prepare bodies for the half mile swim to Klein. It's not a race. Swimmers use fins, masks, or even flotation devices. For those who do not wish to swim back, there are many boats available to pick up people and return them to the shoreline. The Marine Park, water taxis and volunteers patrol the route,



so someone is always available to help those who need to take a break or quit.

Proceeds from this event are used to fund Jong Bonaire youth enrichment programs such as computer literacy, homework assistance, and life skills. Professional staff and local volunteers also offer lessons and activities in different sports, music, arts, and the environment.

In 2018, over 500 participants of all ages did the swim. Come, add to the head count for 2019.

Pets of the Week: Tio and Amy



Hello Friends!

We are Tio and Amy, brother and sister, almost 9 months old and are healthy and sterilized. Tio is almost full black with some white on his chest, Amy is full beige with a black snout.

When we were one week old our mother passed away and we needed to go in foster care. Now we are back at the Animal Shelter and we are looking for our forever homes. Our brothers and sisters already found theirs!

We both were raised in loving homes and are used to being around other animals. Amy was raised in a home where they also had goats. She really likes them! We are very playful and active and we both love water... we sit in the water bowls or just play with it. Amy likes to play fetch with a ball. Tio prefers pulling on a rope. We can also be great lap dogs, and will ask for some "me" time to snuggle up.

Do you think one (or both!) of us will fit in your family? Then please come visit us at 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 photos by Sanne Attevelt*



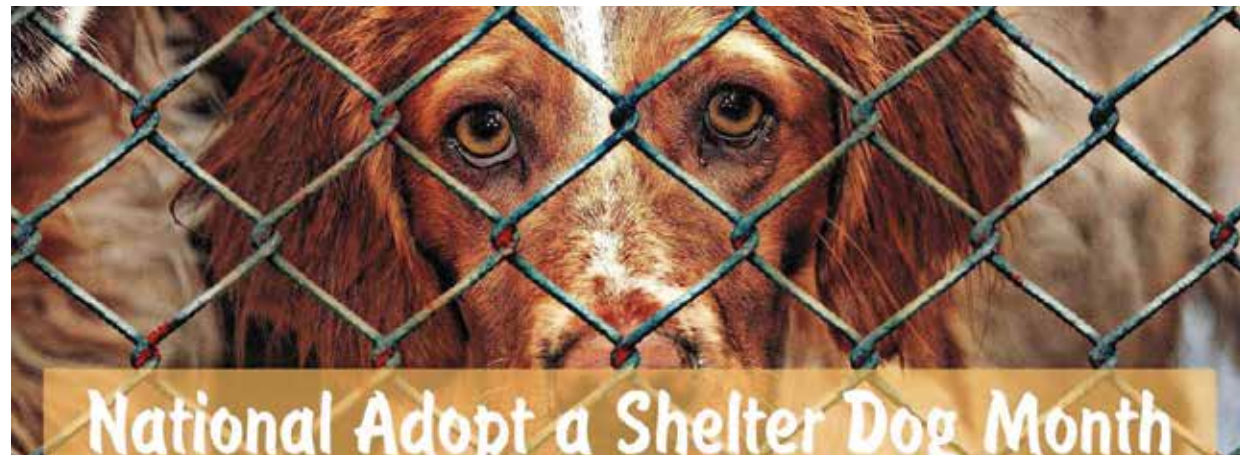
Answers to quiz.

by Dee Scarr

1. b, triangular
2. d, hawkbill
3. d, all of them (corals are probably the best-known)
4. a, spotted cleaner shrimp.
5. a, blue tangs
6. d, tiger shark

7. a, all are mollusks
8. d, all; animals in each category are in the same group: mollusks, echinoderms, crustaceans
9. d, all; sponge spicules wreck our insides; sharpnose puffers have poisonous organs, if you got pierced by lionfish spines you'd regret it.
10. d, all
11. a, permanent protective boat moorings

-----Shelter News-----



Top four myths about shelter dogs

If you're the proud pet parent of an adopted dog, you already know how special your bond is with your rescued best friend. Unfortunately, there are a lot of misconceptions out there about rescue dogs that discourage some people from opting for adoption from a shelter. Below are four rescue dog myths that are just not true:

1.) There is something wrong with them.

False! The truth of the matter is, most dogs end up in Animal Shelter Bonaire through no fault of their own. Most times it is because their family's circumstances have changed, or their owners have died or fallen ill, or are moving and do not wish to take their dog with them. Given a loving family and a stable home, even the most shy or timid of shelter dogs can thrive.

2.) Not knowing their history is risky.

First of all, Animal Shelter Bonaire does have information about the history of many of our animals. Secondly, dogs are pretty resilient creatures. Even canines who have experienced some sort of known trauma in

their past can make loving, loyal companions. The Shelter has many such successful adoption stories. Speak with one of our staff at the Shelter and they will help find the best match for you.

3.) They're diseased.

All our animals that are available for adoption are fully vetted before being adopted out. They are vaccinated, healthy and sterilized at the appropriate age. Any health issues that may be related to the age of much older dogs are clearly relayed to the adopter.

4.) They're too old.

There are so many benefits to adopting an adult dog. They're likely out of the chewing stage, potty training goes a lot faster, and they're a little more independent than young puppies. Their personalities are already well defined so you know exactly what's in store with your new fur-ever companion. If your heart is absolutely set on a puppy, adoption is always an option as puppies are as likely to enter the Shelter as older dogs.

Choosing to adopt from the Shelter is such a rewarding experience, don't let these myths hold you back!

At Your Service

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

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