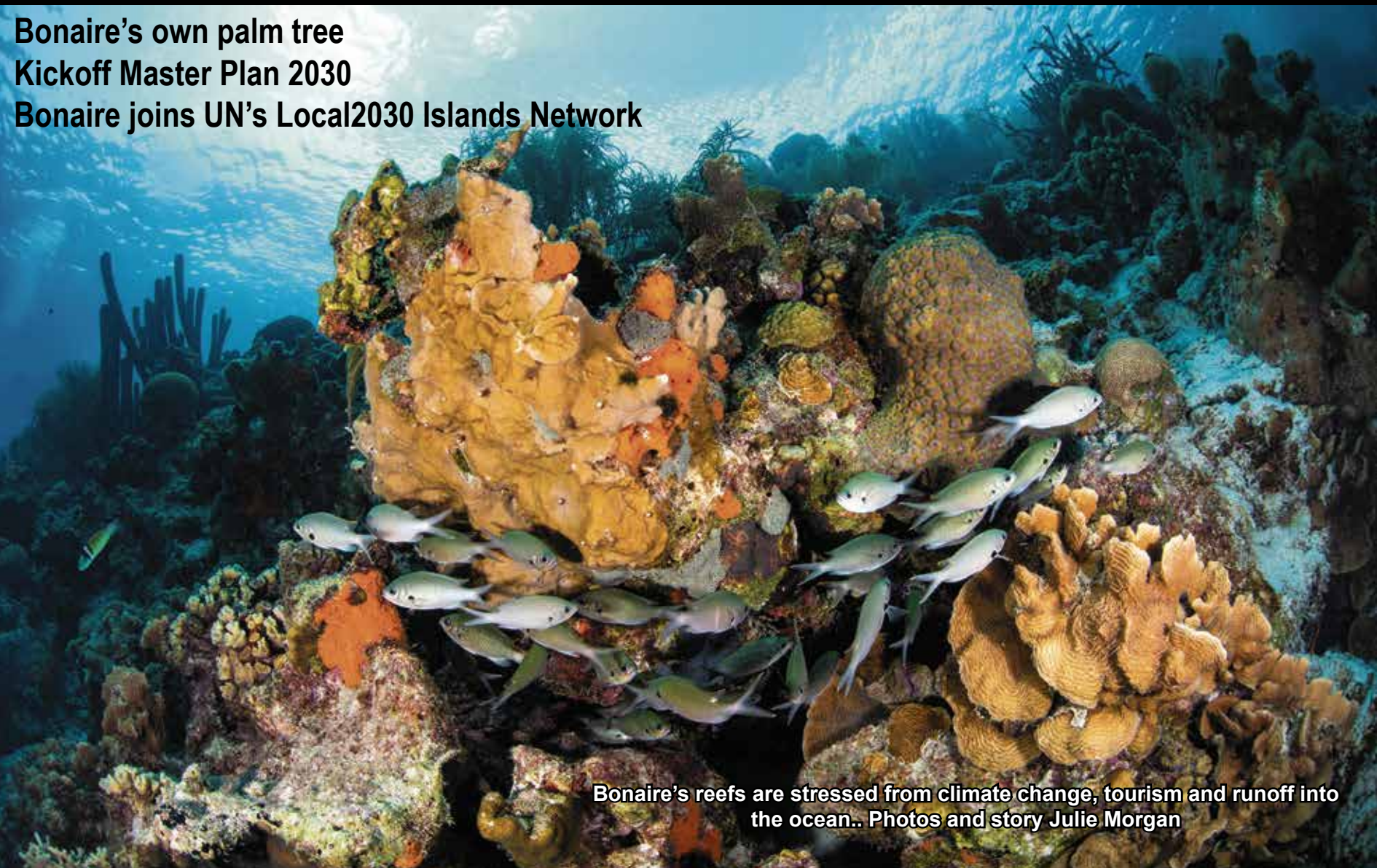


**Bonaire's own palm tree
 Kickoff Master Plan 2030
 Bonaire joins UN's Local2030 Islands Network**



Bonaire's reefs are stressed from climate change, tourism and runoff into the ocean.. Photos and story Julie Morgan

Meester reports: Bonaire's reef in crisis

In 1980 Captain Don Stewart began writing the book "Sea Trauma" because he was becoming aware of changes taking place on the reefs.

"I considered the world's reefs like the canaries of the sea. Like the canary in the coal mines, when our bird fell, I knew our reefs were sick and dying, the oceans not far behind," Captain Don Stewart.

At the DCNA (Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance) convention, Oct. 27-30, Dr. Erik Meesters presided over a public lecture at the Habitat conference room.

Meesters of WMR (Wageningen Marine Research) is well qualified to present the state of Bonaire's reefs. He was part of a reef research team of marine science students from University of Amsterdam in 1987. They actually lived at the research facility at Karpata for many months.

Meesters' presentation compared all six islands, Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, St. Eustatius, Saba and St. Maarten. Unfortunately, results weren't that great. Even though we have heard for years that our reefs are the best in the wider Caribbean, the outlook is pretty daunting.

Bonaire's reefs have been monitored since 1973 and the percentage of coral cover has been measured from 1970 to 2010 at 10, 20, 30 and 40 meter depth.

In the marine reserves, where entrance by humans is

prohibited, half of the sites are in reasonable condition, half in a bad condition.*

Based on scientific standards, the status of the reefs in the Dutch Caribbean is moderate to very unfavorable.

Coral wise, the reefs are different in the northern islands due to hurricanes, currents and waves. Their reefs are generally deeper, have formed on volcanic bottom, and coral layers are thin.

Meesters said Curaçao and Bonaire share the same fringing reef structure and health. And nowadays, they also have a lot of nutrients and organic matter in the water.

"We also have more diseases caused mostly by bacteria. Most of the time this is from human feces," said Meesters.

He explained that environmental changes are shaping everything. The problems include climate change, the domination of algae blooms, cyanobacteria and over-fishing.

"Overfishing goes way back. The larger reef fishes have decreased a lot. Fishermen are looking for very different kinds of fish now, like the parrotfish," said Meesters.

Things we do on land stress the coral too

Other problems affecting our reefs include land degradation through urbanization, septic systems, cesspools, dependence on importations and housing and hotel development. Bonaire's population has risen from 15,500 in 2011 to 21,000 in 2019.

Land degradation is bad for our reefs because we now have less vegetation, more evaporation of groundwater, and worsened water quality. More sediment is washed into the ocean. This nutrient filled water is great for

Meester report, continued on page 8



Meesters speaking at DCNA public lecture on the state of our reefs

The government's not spending enough money, but they're working on the problem

Spending public money is easy. Spending public money legally and responsibly is hard work. It's some of the most demanding work government leaders and employees do. One goal of the Administrative Agreement is to help Bonaire build a public service that spends public funds competently and within the necessary constraints of budgeting, laws and regulations, and financial reporting.

The Government Entity has been accumulating an unintended budget surplus. A number of improvement projects are approved and funded, but the money is still waiting in the bank. However,

throughout the government people are being appointed to unfilled jobs. Others are receiving additional training. Some jobs are even being twinned so that two people are available to carry the work load.

Good government depends upon competent people and adequate funding. Adequate funds are already available. Building wise management and a competent work force takes time. But the Public Body Bonaire (OLB) is working on the problem and will catch up. *D.M.R.*



The board of financial supervision (Cft) has told the local government to spend more of their budget. The Cft board for the BES islands consists of Herbert Domacasse (L), Raymond Gradus (C) and Henk Kamp (R). Photo: Cft

New departure hall entrance at BIA



Bonaire's Flamingo Airport (BIA) opened its new northern entrance for the departure lounge November 5, 2019. The northern entrance to the departure hall contains a new layout for both the Security Screening and the Royal Dutch Police who are responsible for border control on the BES-islands.

The stores in the expanded departure hall are still under construction, but we are told that the departure lounge will be fully operational at the beginning of December.

TCB welcomes Cristely Cranston who assumed the position of 'Social Media & Product Development' October 21, 2019. Cristely received her Bachelor's degree in Communications from the Netherlands. In the last year of her study, she interned at TCB (Tourism Corporation Bonaire) where she researched how to target the Dutch market through online marketing.



MBO Bonaire will train IT specialists

On October 31, government officials and Bonaire's business community met to discuss an MBO ICT training that will start in 2020. Its aim: to reduce the scarcity of IT specialists in the Caribbean Netherlands.

The MBO educational steam is oriented towards vocational training. MBO Bonaire has submitted its education proposal to the Research Centre for Education and the Labour Market (ROA) for the MBO course "IT Systems and Devices." The training is scheduled to start in August 2020 at MBO-3 and MBO-4 levels. The training will largely replace a training program offered by ROC Mondriaan in the Netherlands.

Students who want the training can contact MBO Bonaire for information or registration: 717 8120. MBO Bonaire will also approach young people from Curaçao, Aruba, Saba and Sint Eustatius. Campus facilities are currently being considered.

Members of the business community discussed two topics: firstly the need to align the training program with professional practice, and secondly offering internships to the IT students.

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Safe Nightlife

At the end of October, OLB (Public Body Bonaire) launched its "Safe Nightlife" Campaign. On Bonaire one must be able to go out safely, enjoy carefree enjoyment, and then return home safely. The campaign reminds party-goers to watch their drinks, practice responsible alcohol consumption, and respect each other's limits. Deputy Den Heyer handed over a set of "Safe Nightlife" posters to various entertainment venues including representatives of Cuba Compagnie, Havana, and Club Trocadero, shown here with Den Heyer.



Bonaire joins UN's "Local2030 Islands Network"



UNITED NATIONS

Bonaire has joined "Local2030 Islands Network" initiated by the United Nations. These islands want to meet the sustainable development goals of the UN as quickly as possible.

The "Local2030 Islands Network" was launched in September 2019 during the United Nations Climate Change Summit in New York. Bonaire's entry to the international network was announced by Director Kate Brown of Global Island Partnership during Bonaire's Kickoff Master Plan 2030 Conference.

Local2030 Islands Network has two goals: searching for sustainable solutions and collaborating with partners.

"Islands are at the forefront of climate change and, as innovation laboratories, can lead the development of solutions that can be applied worldwide," said Brown, who is a leading member of the Local2030 Islands Network.

Partners in the Local2030 Islands Network include the Seychelles, the Marshall Islands, Grenada, Curaçao, Ireland, Hawaii and Guam as well as various branches of the United Nations.

Looking for EU funds to finance sustainable projects

Bonaire may be able to finance sustainable projects with funds from the EU as early as 2020, according to Deputy Elvis Tjin Asjoe.

"After our visit to the European Union three weeks ago, I am very happy with this visit from the EU's ReSEMBiD team to Bonaire," said Tjin Asjoe.

The ReSEMBiD program finances projects within the framework of Resilience, Sustainable Energy and Marine Biodiversity.

Bonaire has many projects and programs that closely match the goals of ReSEMBiD, such as renewable energy projects, the algae project and the sewerage project, which must prevent harmful substances from ending up in the sea and affecting the coral. All fit within the vision of Bonaire as Blue Destination.

The ReSEMBiD team is on a working visit to the 12 Caribbean islands that are part of the OCTs, the Overseas Territories and Countries of the EU. From the European Development Funds, EDF, an amount of 40 million euros is available for these twelve Caribbean areas. During the consultation with the ReSEMBiD team, agreements



Deputy Elvis Tjin Asjoe in conversation with members of the ReSEMBiD team during the Kickoff Master Plan 2030. During the conference, the team got a picture of how Bonaire wants to develop over the next ten years. Photo: Deedee Seintje

were made about the documents that Bonaire must supply in order to be eligible for the funds from the fund. The implementation can then start in Q2 of 2020.

Saturday October 26, Kiwanis extended a hand to Bonaire's neighborhood program when their volunteers cleaned in the North Salina area. Kiwanis volunteers pruned, cleaned up and painted, and local residents came out spontaneously to help. They all worked on a park, called Alejandro Nicolaas. Next week Kiwanis Bonaire will continue their neighborhood clean-ups.

OLB (local government) writes: "This is how we like it ... to work together with and for the neighborhood, thanks to Kiwanis Bonaire."



FOR SALE

Best Ocean View on Bonaire



- Location : Sabadeco
- Lot size : 1946m2 / 20945 sq. ft. owned land
- Living area: 180m2 + porch 90m2 (1937+969 sq.ft.)
- 4 bed / 3 bath / roof terraces / storage / carport
- Hillside villa adjacent to a green zone with spectaculair unobstructed ocean and island views

Listed for \$799,000 US Dollar

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 info@bonairehomes.com www.bonairehomes.com
<http://www.facebook.com/REMAXBonaire>



Business News

Bonaire Coastal Living



We are excited to announce that **Bonaire Coastal Living** has moved to a new location at South Beach Plaza on Kaya Industria. The new store is located between Addo's and Just 4 Pets. We are enthusiastic about the larger space to showcase our furnishings and

home decor. Shop online www.bonairecoastalliving.com.

Bonaire Coastal Living Home, Garden & Gift Shop, Kaya Industria, South Beach Plaza

9:30am - 5:30pm Mon. Tues. Thurs. Fri;

9:30am - 2:00 pm Sat; Closed Wed. & Sun.

Bonaire Tourism Partners are ready for DEMA Show 2019



In partnership with



The 43rd DEMA Show is taking place from November 13 - 16, 2019 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida.

The Bonaire Pavilion will consist of the following 16 partners: AB-Dive (#1029), Bamboo Bali (#1032), BONHATA (#1034), Buddy Dive Resort (#1015), Captain Don's Habitat (#1020), Courtyard by Marriott (#1028), Delfins Beach Resort (#1023), Dive Friends Bonaire (#1022), Divi Flamingo Beach Resort (#1021), Eden Beach Resort (#1037), Grand Windsock Bonaire (#1033), Plaza Beach Resort (#915), Sand Dollar Condominiums (#1024), STINAPA (#1030), Tourism Corporation Bonaire (#1033) and VIP Diving (#1036).

Each participating partner will have a special during the show, and a few of the partners are offering some great prizes for the raffle. Each day 150 visitors can take a Bonaire passport and visit the booth of the participating partners and receive a stamp and once they receive all the stamps; they can enter the raffle to have a chance to win great prizes. The raffle is taking place at the TCB booth from Wednesday to Friday at 3:00PM.

Tourism Corporation Bonaire will be represented by Mrs. Derchlien Vrolijk, Marketing Manager and Ms. Marjolein Oleana, Business Manager. TCB once again created a landing page with information about the Bonaire Pavilion. For more information visit: www.tourismbonaire.com/demashow.

The annual DEMA Show is the largest trade-only event in the world for companies doing business in scuba diving, ocean water sports and adventure/dive travel industries. It attracts hundreds of exhibitors and thousands of dive and travel industry professionals from around the world.

In addition to providing an arena in which to conduct business and network, DEMA offers participants the most extensive education curriculum in the industry including DEMA-Sponsored Seminars and Exhibitor-Sponsored Seminars from participating manufacturers, travel destinations and dive certification organizations. DEMA Show is produced by DEMA, the Diving Equipment & Marketing Association

*Business News,
continued on page 10*

Brussels holds conference on Venezuela Refugee and Migrant Crisis

Lieutenant Governor Edison Rijna represented Bonaire at the 'International Solidarity Conference on the Venezuela Refugee and Migrant Crisis' held in Brussels on October 28-29., 2019

The conference was a joint initiative of the European Parliament (EU), the UN Refugee Organization (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). All countries around Venezuela sent a delegation to Brussels.

The conference dealt with the societal and economic crisis in Venezuela and how it effects the countries near to her. It also dealt with the humanitarian needs of the Venezuelans themselves, both those who have left their country (an estimated 4.3 million) and those left behind.

"As the word solidarity in the title of the conference indicates, the concerns are first of all about the dire situation in our neighboring country. According to the latest figures from the UN, 94 percent of the Venezuelan population live in poverty, 60 percent of them even in extreme poverty," said Lieutenant Governor Rijna. According to international organizations, pressure to leave the country will increase as long as the authorities in Caracas will not allow massive humanitarian aid.

Rijna continues, "The ABC islands are confronted daily with the consequences. The impact on Bonairean society and economy is less significant than on Curaçao



1) Lieutenant Governor Edison Rijna in conversation with Vice-President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, who is also Vice-President of the European Commission. (Photo OLB).

and Aruba, but we must remain alert and prepared for various scenarios. That is why an emergency plan has been drawn up in consultation with the Ministry of Justice and Security."

Green Destinations Foundation to talk with Bonaire about the first Blue Destination

Experts from the Green Destinations Foundation will help Bonaire develop a certification program to measure how the Island meets the criteria for a Blue Destination.

A non-profit foundation, Green Destinations leads a worldwide partnership of expert organizations, companies and academic institutions that promote sustainable tourism. According to their website: "The Green Destinations program for Certification offers tailor-made solutions to local communities ... that are seeking international recognition for responsible tourism; for the way they manage their heritage, their environment and climate, and the quality of their tourism offering."

Deputy Elvis Tjin Asjoe: "A certification program is a welcome tool. It makes clear what we all have to do to become the first Blue Destination in the world. When we are ready, thanks to the certification process, we can



Deputy Elvis Tjin Asjoe signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the local representative of Green Destinations, Gerjanne Voortman, during the Kickoff Meeting Master Plan 2030, November 2019.

also prove that we actually are."

The Blue Destination concept is an initiative of the tourist office, nature organization Stinapa, the Chamber of Commerce and Bonhata and is supported by the Public Body Bonaire (OLB).



Take an Art Tour

When three local artists met through social media, they agreed that something was lacking in Bonaire's art scene. They felt that the public couldn't easily experience the art made locally

on the Island.

In July 2019, "The Art Committee" was formed to support local art. The three artists behind the committee are Joanne Nicolaas of the Workshop Factory, Monique Ojers of Nu Kua Ceramics Bonaire and Petra van Zoelen of Wonderful Pictures by Petra.

The committee believes there are many artists and artisans on Bonaire who need a platform for showing their work to the public. Their plan is to organize several events and business opportunities to bring the public and artists together. The first event, Art Route Bonaire, is only weeks away on November 31 and December 1.

Art Route Bonaire 2019 is a chance to explore the

work of local artists and artisans working in different media. The event is free and a fun activity for all ages.

Art lovers can grab an official Art Route map at TCB Bonaire, Between2Buns and other spots (check our Facebook page). Participants drive to the artist's home or studio, meet them, see their work and can even make a purchase.

On December 15, the second event, "December Art Market" is scheduled.

Bonaire's local artists participating in the Art Route are:

Han van der Mijn / painting; Vanessa Peralta / water-color paintings and stained glass panels; Liek Cremers / fashion design and tailor made clothing; Tjaakolina ten Have / jewelry; Monique Ojers / pottery; Tineke Mourits / mosaics; Lenny Maat / painting; Wil Weenink / Mandala art; Jose Smit / mosaics; Janice Huckaby / painting; Rhonda Bennet / painting and Petra van Zoelen / photography and driftwood

The route map distribution will be announced on Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/artroutebonaire/>

Law Enforcement

Police Report for Oct.28 - Nov. 7, 2019

Robberies

On the afternoon of Oct. 31, a raid took place at a lottery office on Kaya Korona. Two men walked into the office with their hands under their shirts and demanded money. One of the men jumped behind the counter and grabbed a cash box, after which they both ran away. The criminal investigation department is investigating. The police ask anyone with information to contact the police via 715 8000 or via the anonymous tip line 717 7251.

Between 6 and 10 pm thieves entered a house in Sabadeco through front sliding door that was unlocked and took, among other things, an iPad Air and cash.

Between Saturday, Nov. 2 and Monday, Nov. 4, thieves entered a business at Kaya Soeur Bartola by forcing a window. Among other things, they took a television and a phone.

Between Nov. 5-6 thieves forced the back door of house on Kaya Tintorero. They took various articles and jewelery.

Around 3am Nov. 6 thieves broke into a car. They destroyed a small side window and took away a bag with contents. The car was in the yard of a house on the Kaya Patachi and was locked.

The night of Nov. 6 thieves forced a window to enter an office of a company at Kaya Soeur Bartola. They took away a cash register with cash.

On the morning of Nov. 7, a theft of a telephone was reported from the room of a tourist accommodation on the Kaya Internashonal.

Dive site robberies

On Nov. 2 the right-hand side window of a rental car was smashed in at the Oil Slick Leap dive site between 8:30 - 9:20am and various goods (including a camera and sunglasses) were taken.

On Nov. 6 between 4-5 pm items were stolen from a car at the Red Slave Huts dive site on Bulevar E.E.G. Sunglasses, a diving bag with contents and cash were taken.

On the roads

On Oct. 28, around 4:15pm, two cars collided on Kaya Korona when one car bumped into the rear of the other car. All passengers of the cars were checked on the spot by ambulance personnel.

On Oct. 30 at 3:45pm on Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot the driver of a scooter lost control and fell into the bushes with his passenger. They both suffered grazes on their arms and feet and were treated on the spot by ambulance personnel.

In the early evening hours of Oct. 30, two cars collided on Kaya Corantijn. The drivers of both cars were taken to the hospital by ambulance.

On Nov. 3, a car driving north on the Kaya Korona was hit by a car coming

from the Kaya Dr. Jose G. Hernandez. This car then drove away. There were no injuries.

On Nov. 5, a car and a scooter collided on Kaya Korona. The driver of the scooter saw too late that the car stopped in front of her and she bumped into the car and fell. The ambulance took the driver of the scooter to the hospital. The fellow passenger tried to take the scooter off the road, making her nauseous and dizzy. As a result, she accidentally throttled, with the result that the scooter collided with another car.

Arrests

On Nov. 3 at 7:29 am, man of 35 years was arrested for vandalism when he destroyed a scooter on Kaya Soeur Bartola.

On Nov. 6, a man of 50 years was apprehended for destruction, and a man of 19-years was arrested in connection with death threats.

Public Safety

On Nov. 3 around 8am a child who was in danger of drowning was taken to the hospital for medical assistance.

Around noon of Nov. 3, a man who was unknown to the police threatened the project manager of a construction project at Kaminda di Lac with a machete. He then caused damage to the victim's service vehicle.

Investigations

On Nov. 1, supervisors from the Supervision and Enforcement Department, Labor Inspectorate, Fire Department and the Dutch Caribbean Police Force inspected five hospitality companies in the north of Bonaire. The inspections were carried out in the context of the Bonaire Beverage and Catering Ordinance, the BES Business Establishment Act, the BES Occupational Safety Act and the BES Aliens Employment Act. Various violations were found: fire extinguishing agents were not present or not approved. Fireworks were found at one location and were destroyed. One company was closed because of hygiene violations. There was no illegal work found at the companies.
Communicatie KPCN

How to contact the Dutch Caribbean Police Force

If every second counts:
emergency number 911 (free)

If you want to give an (anonymous) tip,
phone (+599) 717 7251

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



Ask Kate

Bonaire real estate advice

Question: *Hi Kate, can you get an appraisal on Bonaire when you are buying a property?* Elle

Hi Elle,

If you are mortgaging the property through a Bonaire bank, the bank will require an appraisal prior to loan approval. If you are paying cash, an appraisal is not required but you can still choose to pay for one. There are three values on an appraisal - market price, rebuilding cost and execution value.

Market price is what the appraiser thinks the property can sell for in the current market. The rebuilding cost estimates what it would cost to rebuild the home if it was damaged or destroyed. This figure will be used by your insurance agent to help determine how much

insurance you will need. The rebuilding estimate does not factor the cost of the land into the total, just replacing the structure.

The execution value is the amount that the home is estimated to sell for at auction, if the house is put in default for non-payment of mortgage, taxes, etc. The mortgage bank generally loans 70% of the purchase price and the buyer contributes 30%, so the bank is looking for an execution value that protects their investment.

*All the best, Kate Butler, GRI,
RE/MAX Bonaire*

If you are looking to buy or sell a home on Bonaire, or if you have a real estate question for Kate, email her at kate@bonairehomes.com. Tollfree from U.S.: 1-866-611-7362

Letters and Opinions

In *The Reporter's* last issue (#22), Charles M. Baltayan addressed a letter to Caren Eckrich and Quirijn Coolen. He suggested that if STINAPA wants to rid the park of goats, it should use the Dutch Armed forces to do the job. Currently the park has been given only two gun permits for hunting.

Responses:

Dear Charlie,

You have very good points. I'm glad this resonated with you. However, we are not allowed more permits currently and permits are very restricted since 2010 (and before). Permits are restricted to certain areas as well and certain activities. We would love to be able to bring in trained control experts to shoot and are working towards that. Police are not interested and, frankly, don't have the time. Just to be granted two permits took more than 10 years of effort on our side.

To be blunt, you're preaching to the choir. *Best regards, Caren*

#####

Hi Charlie,

Thank you for your email regarding the goat situation. I tend to agree with you on certain points, such as that two hunters might not be the most effective option. I can go into details as to why it is technically possible to do it with 2 people, but it doesn't matter as there will always be other factors (sickness, holiday, budget cuts, other priorities) why it's going to be very hard to make sure those damn goats are finally targeted.

However, to be honest with you, the solutions you offered are also not going to get the job done in my opinion. Not because they are not effective, but because they do not tackle the real problem. To explain this; there is a goat problem and there is a goat problem. The first one is simple; there are goats in WSNP

and they need to go. Most people agree with the problem and most of them are in agreement that something should be done about it. Then there's the other problem. That problem has to do with the people that do NOT agree with the first problem or have some kind of benefit to why the goats should remain in the park. Take a pick on why that might be. I am convinced that the first problem, getting rid of the goats, is a very tiny problem compared to the second one. Whether it is the army, a goat killing derby, hungry kunukeros, shooting practice, official hunters or unofficial hunters, they will all get the job done somehow if they are given the opportunity to do so. But they have not succeeded and will not succeed unless the second problem is not addressed. The struggles Caren describes in her email are an example of that.

Now, I have given up trying to mingle in the entire goat discussion for the above-mentioned reason. There are enough people on both sides trying to make each other's life difficult and I do not like being a part of that. It's easy to tell STINAPA they are doing it wrong and although occasionally I also wonder whether STINAPA is even trying to make it work, I force myself to be careful in my judgement as I know enough about some of the difficulties you'd have to go through to get things done on this island that might not be in the interest of the person signing your permit or whatever.

The most important part I think is not to give up. If STINAPA at least has two people legalized to start the goat removal, I think the best option is to make sure those two people are given all the possible support and opportunities to get the job done.

All the best, Quirijn

Bonaire has its very own palm tree

Botanists have announced the discovery of a new and critically endangered species of palm tree. Only 25 mature trees are still alive. They all grow on Bonaire.

Fifteen - now 16 - different kinds of Sabal palms grow in, and around, the Caribbean. The ones on Curaçao and Bonaire have always been assumed to be the same species (known first as Sabal cf. Causiarum and later as Sabal antillensis). But recent research has established that the Sabal palm on Bonaire is an entirely different species. It has been given the scientific name Sabal lougheediana, and the discoverers suggest its popular name should be the Bonaire palm.

The Bonaire Sabal is relatively tall, slender, and grows on limestone flats at sea level. The Curaçao version is shorter, fatter, and grows on cherty mudstone hills only above 140m elevation. The botanists also confirmed many other differences, both visible and internal, as

required to declare Sabal lougheediana a new species.

One of the authors of the study is Quirijn Coolen, director of BonBèrdè, formerly managing director of Echo Bonaire. Coolen led much of the early work of Echo's ongoing reforestation project. The Bonaire palm is one of the native trees Echo Bonaire is propagating.

The Bonaire palm is a tough plant, a survivor. Twenty five wild palms now grow in a one square kilometer area in the southern part of the island, in the Lima region. A study 40 years ago found 31 trees. So the loss in that time has been only six trees. However, 40 years ago the trees were dispersed over a larger area, five square kilometers. And there has been no sustaining propagation. Both studies found mostly adult trees. Free roaming goats and donkeys are destroying most young palms before they can grow into mature trees.

People on the Island have long known



Quirijn Coolen, former managing director of EchoBonaire and one of the co-authors of the study, inspecting a Bonaire palm that is thriving at the north end of the Island. It was planted there by Echo Bonaire's reforestation project. Photo Julie Morgan

the Bonaire palm by its Papiamentu name, Kabana. They used to use the fronds as thatch and to make baskets. They hacked steps into the trunk so they could climb the tree to harvest the fronds. The scars left by steps are still visible on some of the older trees. Boi Antoin told Coolen that he knew a man who cut those steps. One of the Fathers told the man to stop, because "that is a special tree."

So the Island now has its own endemic palm, but the species is on the threshold of extinction. What can Bonaireans do to try to save the Bonaire palm? The immediate priority, according to Coolen, is to secure the 25 remaining trees. They need to be fenced in for protection. The enclosures need to be large enough to provide a safe seed bed so young, new trees can germinate around the older trees.

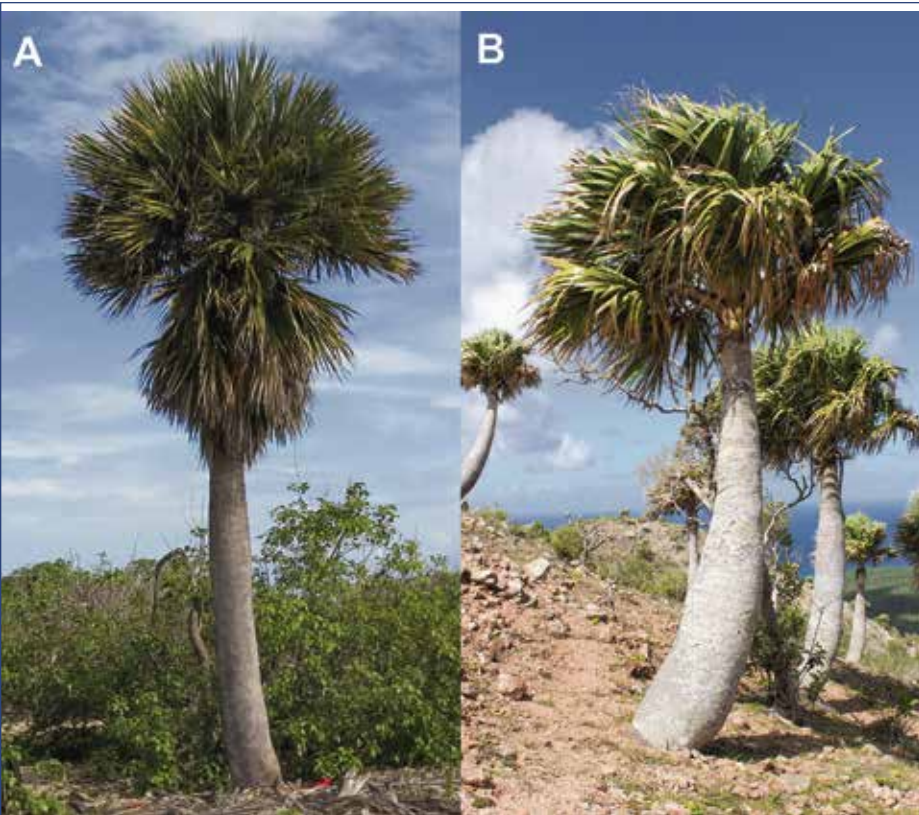
Second, new trees need to be propagated at other sites on the island. Echo Bonaire is already doing that as part of its reforestation project. Lack of genetic diversity is a major problem, however. All the seedlings being started in Echo-Bonaire's nursery come from the same parent, a tree conveniently located in Foodies Restaurant. Collecting seeds

from the wild stock is difficult and unpredictable. The trees are remotely located, and little is known about when and under what conditions new seeds are likely to be found.

Coolen says that, over the centuries, the small Bonaire palm population has gradually been migrating to the west. Because they are wind-pollinated, their range cannot expand in any other direction. Unless we intervene, the Bonaire palms that finally put down roots next to the ocean will be the end of the species.

Bringing back the Bonaire palm will not be a simple or easy task. But now we know the species is native to the Island, and we know we are its only caretakers. We can try to save it. Or we can continue to neglect it until it is gone forever. D.M.R.

The study that established the Bonaire palm as a separate species is available in the online version of PHYTOTAXA (<https://doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.420.2.1>). The authors are M. Patrick Griffith, Quirijn Coolen, Michelle Barros, and Larry R. Noblick.



A. The Bonaire version of the Sabal palm (Sabal lougheediana).
B. The Curaçao version of the Sabal palm (Sabal antillensis).

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Bonaire's 28th annual Siman de Buki

Reading opens up new worlds, develops the imagination and is vital in today's society no matter what age you are.

Children from Bonaire's primary and secondary schools accepted the reading challenge at the opening day of 'Reading Week' (Siman di Buki) on Sunday, November 10 at the Bonaire Public Library. This is the reading week's 28th year and for the first time it is sponsored by Digicel.

As in past years, reading week is based on one theme: horror, animals, friendship etc. This year the theme is travel.

The children will be given the opportunity to expand their world through reading and hearing about traveling to far away places. The library has lined up some amazing speakers, guests who will talk and read to the kids. The kids will make travel themed collages and crafts to compete for some great prizes.

"We try to make reading week better every year to promote reading as much as possible," said Greta de Lancy, head of the library.

Reading week is open to all children who attend school. The library and Digicel are doing their best to ensure everyone participates in reading week. Digicel has organized a bus to transport the children to the reading centers. Readings will be held at the library, Kolegio Rayo di Solo, while Digicel will stage some fun activities involving reading and technology.

Andre Mckenzie of Digicel said, "We support higher education, and reading of any kind whether it is a physical book from the library, an electronic reader, or on your phone."

Children who are library members can compete for a prize that will be awarded to the kid who reads the most books.

Digicel has donated four Alcatel A3X phones, 10 - \$5 vouchers, 20 inflatable branded "bang bang" cheer sticks, 15 branded horns and 15 branded pens.

Guest readers and speakers scheduled for the week are; Ronald Colastica, author from Curaçao; Nora Coyea, travel speaker from Curaçao; Sidney Martin, illustrator and author of Bonaire; Delno



Library staff receive prizes from Digicel for Siman de Buki (Reading Week):
L-R - Ludrid Bernabela, Ashanty Toppenberg of (Digicel), Greta De Lancy, Misorgia van Langeveld-Beaumont, Dorothy Cicilia, Johalla sint Jago and Shalena Balentin. Photo by Digicel

Tromp, travel speaker of Bonaire; Gisele Sint Jago, writer and teacher of Aruba.

Parents and children are invited to a presentation on Wednesday, November 13 featuring Colastica and Coyea. They will instruct parents on how to read a book or tell a bedtime story to their children.

Bonaire Public library is open six days a week: Mon 1-5; Tues. 8-6; Weds 8-5; Thurs 8-6; Friday 8-4:30 ad Saturday

8-12. The library has books in Dutch, English, Spanish and Papiamentu for children and adults. Computers are available with a free Internet café. A full time staff is available to help or assist anyone visiting the library.



Picture Yourself with The Reporter

Casablanca, Morocco.

Asko "King Kong" Zuidam and guide Monsieur Driss Amrani Idrissi in front of the King Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca, Morocco.

Asko and Jana, were taken on an eight day trip through Morocco to mark Asko's mother's 75 birthday, on the 1st of Nov. They visited the five King cities, starting in Casablanca then to Fez, Meknes, Rabat and Marakesh. In their journey, they traveled by bus through the Atlas mountain range; tried all kinds of Tahin dishes; walked many markets; and of course, drank mint tea on every corner.

Asko writes: "The photo is of me and our guide, who was very knowledgeable and made sure we did see and taste the real Morocco. On the last day I was 'cream cracked.' The holiday was great."



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Master Plan 2030 –What future do we want?

“What will become of us in the future?” posed Bonaire’s Governor Edison Rijna at the kickoff of the Masterplan 2030 conference on November 6, 7, and 8th at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel.

Concerned Bonaire residents, government officials and guest speakers gathered at the conference to contribute their ideas, all seeking to mold the government’s Masterplan. Glenn Thode guided the group through the presentations with entertaining quizzes and skits by the BYOF (Bonaire Youth Outreach Foundation.)

The conference was designed to give everyone the opportunity to first listen to the varied speakers and then join workshops to speak their minds on days two and three.

Major topics were the economy, education, sustainable tourism, culture, good governance and sustainable technology.

Rijna went on to ask, “What future do we want to make together and what should the Bonairean community look like in 2030?”

The Governor encouraged the crowd to think out of the box and to challenge themselves with ideas that could be implemented to mold the future of Bonaire.

“Dare to express your dreams in the coming days...consider this master plan that we are creating together an assignment for administrators and politicians to make our shared dream come true,” said Rijna.

Sandra Brown of Aruba was one of the many of the speakers’ who echoed this idea.

“Everyone should participate and be a part of it and embrace it,” said Brown.

Commissioner Nina den Heyer said one of her dreams for Bonaire is that girls and women can see their full potential to achieve more. And, that we can all live together with respect sincerity and honesty where no one is excluded.

Commissioner James Kroon addressed new traffic patterns, parking, public transport, road upgrades and maintenance and a bicycle plan complete with a cycling network. Currently road budget is 18.5 million and the projected plan is 90 mil-

lion for a 10 year plan. Possible innovations to reduce costs are to use ground recycled glass and old asphalt for the foundations. Kroon also introduced the idea of electric transport.

Kate Brown of the Islands Network of the United Nations announced Bonaire’s entry to the network at the conference (see related story page 3). Bonaire will join other small islands in addressing the challenges of climate change and sustainability.

Brown said, “We have 12 years left to do something. We are in a major extinction crisis.”

She explained that islands should not be defined by size. Brown used the island of Palau as an example. Palau pledged the United Nations that they manage an ecologically friendly tourism. They are the first nation to issue visas to tourists who sign an eco-pledge promising to act in an environmentally responsible way.

“Even facing climate change, we can identify local solutions...People have to rise up,” said Brown.

Robertico Croes, designer of the Master Tourism Plan for Bonaire and Aruba highlighted some of the points of his plan.

“People should be our main focus and then we can take care of our flora and fauna,” said Croes.

He says tourism is the pathway and roadmap to achieve goals and overcome poverty on the island. Croes believes the Bonairean product is being sold for too little and is marketed incorrectly. The tourism plan Croes helped design sets twin goals of attracting another 60,000 tourists and building another 600 rooms.

Fabian Cousteau, ocean environmentalist and first grandson of Jacques Cousteau, appeared via Skype.

“Up until a few decades ago the ocean was able to bounce back from whatever we imposed on it. But we have been emitting so much waste that our oceans cannot handle it,” said Cousteau.

He related that 300 million tons of plastic fills our oceans and there is more every day. We are down to 10% of our pelagic fish and climate change has affected 65% of our corals around the world.



Governor Rijna, MC Glen Thode and Deputy Nina den Heyer enjoy the break at Master Plan 2030 Photo Julie Morgan

Sustainable solutions for tourism include growing our own food and implementing renewable resources of energy like wind, geothermal and ocean thermal. “Sustainability is not about the cost but the investment,” said Cousteau.

He stressed educating the people more about nature. Cousteau said, “It’s up to the people of Bonaire to choose.” Bonaire has a real opportunity to give to nature.”

From now until July, there will be organized meetings in Bonaire’s neighbor-

hoods to gauge how peoples’ needs are being met and what their expectations are.

Completion of Master Plan 2030 is slated for some time in late 2020.

Results of the workshops will be addressed in our November 25 issue. We welcome your opinions about the Master Plan 2030.

To stay informed on updates visit: www.masterplanbonaire.com and [facebook.com/MasterplanBonaire](https://www.facebook.com/MasterplanBonaire). Story & photo by Julie Morgan.



Meesters report on reef. continued from page 1

the production of algae and bacteria but it is a death sentence to coral, our reefs and marine life. Algal blooms cause less light for the corals to live and grow.

Solutions to the problems according to Meesters:

-Reef restoration can rebuild our reefs but unless we take care of the other things like water quality, it is useless.

-Reforestation of exclusion areas is very important. Our land is flowing into the seas along with sewage, animal droppings and topsoil. We need to plant more vegetation to prevent runoff and control the goat and donkey problem.

-Builders need to have a different mindset. They should be more thoughtful of water and how it reaches the shore. For example, construction should be restricted to building a minimum of 100 meters from the shore.

- We need to keep the rain water flowing into the salinas to protect the reef. Salinas catch the sediment and organic matter. Maintaining their depth is necessary to keep them functioning.

“You need to become aware that water and plants work together to create a good place for people and nature. People should be careful in removing vegetation because that may well lead to erosion and water with sand and feces flowing into the sea.” said Meesters, “With every plan to change the environment

(building houses, roads, etc.), we should think about the consequences for water flow, plant life and erosion and try to minimize the effects.”

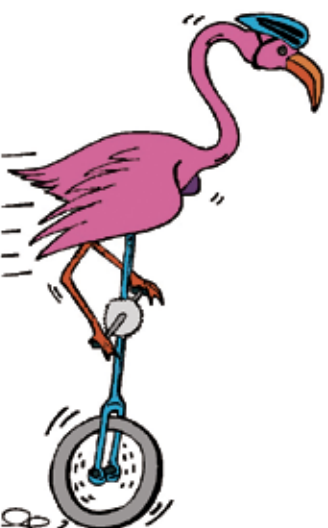
Meesters added, he is often asked if the corals will survive. But the question should be whether we will survive. Corals are just the canaries in the climate change coal mine and when they are threatened, our life support system is in dire straits.

“Corals are however likely to survive ultimately because they have been around some 240 million years while we walk the earth only a mere 150-200,000 years,” said Meesters. Story & photos by Julie Morgan

Dr. Erik Meesters is a researcher, marine tropical ecologist and coordinator of policy supporting research on marine topics for the Caribbean Netherlands at Wageningen Marine Research. He works within rescq.eu on coral restoration, cyanobacteria on coral reefs and large scale assessments.

**(de Bakker DM, van Duyl FC, Perry CT, Meesters EH. Extreme spatial heterogeneity in carbonate accretion potential on a Caribbean fringing reef linked to local human disturbance gradients. Global Change Biology. 2019;00:1-13 <https://doi.org/10/1111/gcb14800>)*

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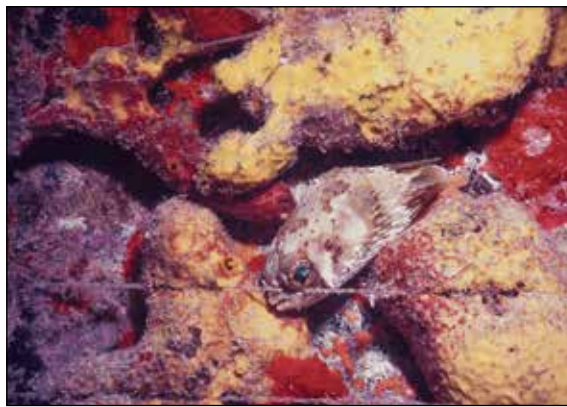
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Reef Glimpses

Measuring Progress

When they first began scraping growth off the North Pier pilings in 1988, divers were dismayed by all the detached sponges rolling around on the bottom. I didn't think so much about the mobile animals who'd lived on the pilings with



Balloonfish nestled into the sponge encrusted piling.

concrete, we know that the red and orange sponges visible behind the balloonfish grew on the piling after it was scraped. It was astonishing – in the most wonderful way – how quickly new growth began on the pilings. In less than five years, regardless of whether sponges were tied onto them, most of the scraped pilings went from looking horribly denuded to more or less normal. Only if you knew about their past would you have been likely to notice that some pilings had lower profile growth than others.

Have you noticed that balloonfish bodies are the same basic shape as those of porcupinefish and spiny burrfish?

They're all close relatives, with one big difference between the balloonfish and porcupinefish, and the burrfish: the burrfish's spines are erect all the time, because each spine is fixed in three places and must stand. Balloonfish and porcupinefish spines are attached in only two places so the spines lie down and straighten up on what's like a hinge. When the puffer inflates, the hinge is activated and the spine stands. When the puffer deflates, the spines lie back down.

Years ago at a U.S. consumer dive show, a booth in the non-profit section had several underwater prints displayed, including one of an inflated puffer. I asked the woman why she was displaying a photo of a terrified fish, and she replied, "People don't know what kind of fish they are if they aren't inflated." She and I had a nice talk. Next year their booth did not include the inflated puffer photo.

You knew as soon as you saw this photo that the fish was a type of puffer, didn't you?

Who says there's no progress? *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.

the scraped sponges -- and who'd also been forcibly evicted -- because they mostly managed to stay out of sight.

The severity of the housing shortage finally registered on me one day when we had begun our dive by tying a bunch of unattached sponges to a piling. When I checked the piling about an hour later, an arrow crab was already perched on one of the tied-up sponges!

The balloonfish in this photo has also found refuge among tied-up sponges. Its refuge has been there longer than the arrow crab's single hour, but the lack of growth on the fishing line shows that these sponges were tied only a few days before the photo was taken. Another clue that the sponges were tied recently is that the fishing line is pressing against the outsides of the sponges; eventually the fishing line sort of melts into the sponges, and the sponges heal over its passage, looking as if the fishing line has been sewn through them.

Since the pilings were originally scraped down to bare

All are invited to the 'Study & Career' information market



Students, parents, and the public are invited to the Study & Career Event, Monday November 11 at Jong Bonaire.

This annual event helps Bonaire's young people make a choice about their further education or profession. It focuses on students who are in the last classes of secondary or vocational education. In the morning, presentations are given for different classes of the SGB, so the students can learn about the different options. After school, a large number of the higher classes go with their mentors to the information market at Jong Bonaire.

But the information market is, of course, not only for SGB students. Large and small are welcome to come and take a look. Parents of SGB students in particular are encouraged to come too, in order to support their children in making their study choice. The information market on November 11 is open to the public from 1 to 5 pm at Jong Bonaire.

This year's theme is "Entrepreneurship." What does that mean? Rosemarijn de Jong, coordinator of the event, explains: "We want to make young people think about what entrepreneurship means to them. Is it something for you to start your own business after your education? A large company or a small company? But you can also be entrepreneurial without starting your own business. It means that you are curious: that you look for challenges and find a solution for them."

As always, the information offered is broad. Employers and institutions for further education will be present. To give a few examples of the schools: the IFE, the MTS, the University of Curaçao and the UDC / CDC of Curaçao, the University of Aruba, and SGB MBO of Bonaire. In addition, Bonaire's employers present the professional possibilities found on the island. Once again there is the "hospitality square" that promotes work in the tourism sector and Qredits is there to show you how you can look for financing for your own company.

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Making Bonaire "Accessible"

Our wheelchair challenges # 23

Moving is good for you.

Last week we read a news article that Mivabo had a good conversation with deputy Nina den Heyer. They discussed benefits of moving for the health of persons with physical challenges.

How true this is. Moving is healthy for the body and stimulates the brain functions. So, it is important to get moving.

There is this global organization, called Paralympics. Of course everybody must at least have heard or seen something about this organization, and the presentations made to the athletes. Now many people seem to think that they should move and compete like these prize and award winning athletes. But this is absolutely untrue! Depending on your handicap, just a couple of minutes a day can work wonders as long as you do so on a regular basis. What also helps a lot is to try to do things standing up instead of sitting down. This also depends on your physical condition. But as long as you can move one or more body parts, it will help.

There are sports that you can participate in such as a friendly bocce game or a walk by yourself or with others;

that is much more fun. And here on Bonaire we have this luxury of a sea surrounding our island. Being and moving in water is very stimulating and it connects people. Everybody is the same while in the water and you do not put a lot of pressure on your joints. Go for a nice swim everyday with friends and you will have lots of fun and exercise at the same time. There is a large group of elderly who swim every day at ChaChaCha beach. They even have cooperation from the government. A handrail was set in place so they can enter and leave the water safely.

I hear there are games for the elderly like chess, playing draughts or LUDO at Sentro di Bario. You may even play in your wheelchair or use your walker.

For persons living in an institution, there are also endless possibilities. There is almost always a special person responsible for R.& R. They often organize fun games like musical chairs and wheelchair rallies. The physiotherapist is able to come and work with each patient individually. Volunteers can be asked to help and think up activities. And what about dancing? When they were young, they danced the night away and they still can, only less wild but just as exciting.

Nowadays there are adapted sports and activities for every handicap, so there are no excuses. And if not available, one can improvise. That is how Special Olympics

started. The only thing one needs are great volunteers and/or professionals and enthusiastic "athletes".

At INDEBON there are trainers/coaches available who can help. Plus there are physiotherapists who could assist.

And when everybody is into some kind of sport or moving-activity, an island-wide sports day can be organized. I remember seeing a documentary about a "sports day for the elderly". This was organized a few years ago and the plan was to have this happen every year, but alas this never happened. So why don't we start this up again? We can include many more athletes along with the elderly and physically challenged. Soccer, baseball, tennis and bocce are all sports that can be adapted. Many awesome games can be designed for the severely handicapped and elderly. Ask Indebon, Bon Fysio and Fysio di Bario to help and I am sure they can find volunteers to help and it will be a piece of cake.

Just a friendly reminder, November 10 was the day of celebration of the private home-caretakers. All those mothers, fathers, daughters, sons, grandchildren and others that take care of their loved ones, day by day, year after year will be acknowledged. These caretakers do it just because they want to, and because you take care of "your own"! *Ria Evers-Dokter.*



A Garden? Just Do It!

Okra (Jambo)

Didn't I foretell a few months ago that we will get rain at the end of the year so start preparing your garden?

Well there you go, rain enough these days. I hope you followed my advice so now you can start right away with sowing seedlings, vegetables, flowers and fruit trees. You have to make use of the short rainy time to get your harvest over four- five months when its dry season again.

One of the vegetables that will do very well with this regular rain is local called jambo. On Bonaire and in the Caribbean it's a very popular veggie used in many recipes like in jambo soup, stews and salads. Want to try?

Okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus*) also known as lady fingers or gumbo is related to hibiscus. It is an edible green seed pod that came from Africa and Asia to America around 1600.

How to grow okra.

First of all this plant needs full sun, so Bonaire is the perfect place. It will grow in ordinary garden soil, but does best in fertile loam. Sow two seeds per pot and clip off the weaker seedling when growing. When okra seeds are older than a half year they may no have the energy to grow anymore. So as soon as the pod dries on the plant it is ready to sow.

Put the seeds in water for a few hours before sowing the seeds a half inch deep in light soil or one inch deep in heavy soil.

When they are seedlings, choose the strongest young plants and space them three inches apart. When okra is four inches tall, mulch the ground to keep out weeds



okra pods

and conserve moisture.

There are two types of okra plants. Standard plants can grow six to eight feet tall. The smaller type grows to about three to four feet tall.

Problems

Okra sometime succumbs to pests or diseases. Hand-pick any stink bugs that appear, as they can cause misshapen pods. There can be more problems like flea beetles, aphids and white fly (known as pies-pies). Fusarium wilt, a soil born disease, is sometimes an issue. If the disease causes leaves to yellow and wilt, pull and destroy

affected plants. Also to keep bugs away, spray with self made tea from leaves of the neem tree, which is growing all over the place. If necessary do this every two days if there are a lot of bugs and diseases.

Harvesting.

About 50 to 60 days after planting, edible pods will start to appear. They are tough when mature. Harvest daily with a sharp knife when they are more than finger sized and the stems are still tender and easy to cut. Pods grows fast and when picked frequently the plants will keep producing. Remove any mature pods you might have missed earlier because they keep the plant from producing. If your skin is sensitive to pods "prickly spines", wear gloves and long sleeves when harvesting.

Nutrition facts

Okra is a very healthy vegetable.

There is no cholesterol, no fat, its high in potassium and dietary fiber, protein, Vitamin A, Vitamin C, calcium, sodium, iron and magnesium. All the goodies that we need.

How to store

Only a few plants can produce a lot of pods which you can store in the freezer; uncooked and uncut in freezer bags.

When using the pods uncut the slimy gel inside will not mix with the stew. One can dry the slimy gel when cutting the pods in parts and let it dry on a plate in the sun or in the oven. There are delicious recipes on the net to make exotic dishes.

And you can grow them easy by yourself. Just do it.

Angliet, Nature lover.

Business News, from pg 4

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SHEARWATER

Bonbons Bonaire

BonBons Bonaire pastry shop will open Friday Nov. 15 on Kaya J.C. van der Ree 2B. You will find the shop with its small cafe in the same building as Hitess electronics, opposite E-terrace.

Janos Vermaat and his partner Henrieke Vaandering have been selling pastry to the local hospitality industry for more than three and a half years. Now at BonBons Bonaire individuals also can purchase their luxury cakes,

layered cakes, handmade BonBons, special delicacies and a range of tea and tea supplies from Theemeesters

Papiamentu lessons

Take Author Xiomora Frans is offering two courses in basic Papiamentu, November and December.

Crs 1: Tues 8-10am; Nov. 12,19,26; Dec. 3,10,17
Crs 2: Thurs 8-10am; Nov. 14,21, 28; Dec.5,12,19
Call (00599) 782-2166 for details and price.



Remember - November 11

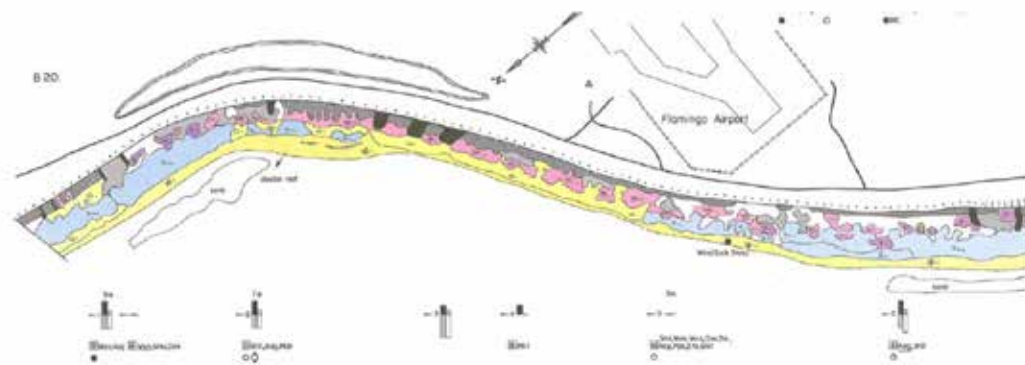
Did You Know? Last week Bonaire hosted a Coral Biologist convention. Managers and researchers from all the Dutch Caribbean islands came together to try and find solutions to some of our most pressing issues.



The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) organized a convention that brought together not just the park managing and conservation organizations from the various islands, but also some of the people that most often conduct research in the Dutch Caribbean. On October 28th we all came together to get an overview of the current state of nature on the various islands, share our challenges, and brainstorm potential solutions.

Most of the difficulties we deal with here at STINAPA are issues that our sister islands of Aruba, Curacao, St. Martin, Saba, and St. Eustatius can also relate too. Some of the issues that were most prominent on the logistics side of things were the need for structural funding for nature related activities and projects, the need for more rangers, more enforcement of nature laws, and the need to align policy and legislation with those objectives we need to achieve to ensure nature on the six Dutch Caribbean islands is not left behind as the islands continue to grow and develop.

Another commonality between all the islands was the deterioration of shallow coral reefs between the 1970s and now. For Bonaire and Curacao we have excellent records detailing the abundance of reefs dating back to 1985. Fleur van Duyl (PhD) produced a wonderful report titled "Atlas of the Living Reefs of Curacao and Bonaire". In this atlas she details the coral abundance at various depths around the two islands. For Bonaire we can see that during this time even the shallow areas (less than 10m) had a lot more living coral than what we see now. At many places, including in front of the airport, more than 80% of the sea bottom in the shallows consisted of various different corals. If we compare these historical



Map of corals present before 1985 in front of Bonaire International Airport. From Atlas of the Living Reefs of Curacao and Bonaire by Dr. Fleur van Duyl. Each coral represents a different coral community with the pink being coral communities comprised primarily of staghorn coral.

maps with more recent findings it becomes clear just how dire the problems we are facing are; more than half of the corals that used to be in these areas have disappeared!

Luckily there was also good news. Many organizations and researchers are working tirelessly in an effort to preserve the reefs we have left. And there have been some very promising results! Reef Renewal Bonaire, together with their many volunteers and interns, are working very hard to restore elkhorn coral in Bonaire's shallow areas. They have made a large difference at many sites in terms of increasing coral cover. But the positive results are not just the return of coral to sites where they were in the past. Once the coral start recovering we also see the fish returning. The entire reef community benefits from replanting efforts. And in turn so do we!

To date Reef Renewal Bonaire has not only planted thousands of corals and increased coral cover, they have

also made many improvements to increase the efficiency of coral restoration efforts. These improvements will help other islands to also embark on their own coral restoration projects. While Reef Renewal is working very hard, it is still not enough. We all need to band together to tackle these problems. While many of their outplant sites are thriving, there are areas where they fail. It seems like these are also the more polluted areas which underscores the need for comprehensive nature management approaches. One of the goals for the islands is to have 30% coral cover on average in the shallows. While reef renewal is doing an amazing job, without additional help it would still take us 42 years to achieve this on Bonaire. This may sound like a very long time, but it is actually great news! If we can cooperate and quadruple their efforts, we would reach this goal in time to stave off some of the worst effects of climate change for Bonaire.

Written by Roxanne-Liana Francisca, STINAPA Biologist. Connecting People with Nature



And it's a wrap...

The 48 Hour Film Project allows Bonairean filmmakers of all levels to practice their craft by making a film in a

weekend. At the 'kickoff event' Friday, October 4 at 7pm each team drew the genre for its film. Each team was then required to employ the same required elements: a specific character, prop and line of dialogue. This year the required elements for Bonaire were:

Character: Eli or Elizabeth Rosaria, Scientist

Prop: an egg carton

Line: "Keep playing with fire until you burn your hand."

All the nine submitted films (both late and on-time) were screened at BYOF theater on October 27. The participating filmmakers experienced the thrill of seeing their creative work on the big screen in front of an audience. In total, 223 people came to watch the screenings. During these screenings the audience selected "Serenity" by OrigiOne as their favorite. Coming a close second (by one vote) was "Weekend Vibes" by We Were Born Ready. "The Seer" by Ray Production was voted the third most popular.

The OrigiOne team won the Best Film Award. This team consists of young Bonairean students studying in the Netherlands. Serenity is a film about a climate activist who takes extreme measures to protect the planet. Serenity will go on to represent Bonaire against 153 films from 44 countries at Filmopalooza 2020 in Rotterdam, Netherlands on March 3-7, 2020.

Other awards selected by the judges:

Best Poster – "My lovely Friend" by JMH Studio

Best Trailer – "The Seer" by Ray Productions

Best Use Of Character – "Sara" by MBO MEDIA

Best Use Of Line – "Libertat" by 599Empire

Best Use Of Prop – "Top Secret" by Kabritu Team

Best Use Of Genre – "The perfect breakfast" by MegaD productions

Best Writing - Giovanni Gijsbertha, "Libertat" by 599Empire

Best Sound Design - Denzel Martis, "Libertat" by 599Empire

Best Editing - Mary St. Jago, Jeremy Pikerie & Jorge Gonzalez, "Weekend Vibes" by We Were Born Ready

Best Directing - Jean Vier Janga, "Serenity" by OrigiOne

Best Cinematography - Erick Alvarez, "Top Secret" by Kabritu Team

Best Actress - Nathania Velásquez, "Serenity" by OrigiOne

Best Actor - Jeremy Pikerie, "Weekend Vibes" by We Were Born Ready



Deputy Elvis Tijn Asjoe presents the Best Film Award, 2019 to the OrigiOne team.

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What's Happening

2019 Cruise Ships

DAY DATE:MM/DD CRUISESHIP TIME PIER CAPACITY & LINE

Tuesday	11-12	Monarch	0800-1800	N.pier	2744	Pullmantur
Tuesday	11-12	Britannia	0700-1700	S.pier	3600	P&O
Wednesday	11-13	Adventure of the Seas	0800-1700	S.pier	3114	RCCL
Thursday	11-14	Summit	0800-1800	S.pier	2450	CEL
Sunday	11-17	MV Hanseatic Inspiration	0700-1400	N.pier	230	Hapag-Lloyd
Monday	11-18	Monarch	0800-1800	N.pier	2744	Pullmantur
Monday	11-18	AidaPerla	0700-1800	S.pier	3286	Aida Cruises
Tuesday	11-19	Mein Schiff 2	0730-1900	N.pier	2894	TUI
Tuesday	11-19	Silhouette	0700-1600	S.pier	2886	CEL
Wednesday	11-20	Edge	0800-1700	S.pier	2918	CEL
Thursday	11-21	Marella Discovery 2	0700-1300	N.pier	1836	Marella Cruises
Thursday	11-21	Royal Clipper	1300-1900	N.pier	227	Star Clippers
Thursday	11-21	Freedom	0800-1700	S.pier	3782	RCCL
Tuesday	11-26	Monarch	0800-1800	N.pier	2744	Pullmantur

Monday, November 11	Study & Career Event (SCE) Bonaire. Open to the public from 1 to 5pm at Jong Bonaire. See page 9. Sky Watch Global Event: Mercury Transit Local Type: Mercury Transit, in Kralendijk Begins: Mon, Nov 11, 2019 at 8:36 am Midpoint: Mon, Nov 11, 2019 at 11:20 am Ends: Mon, Nov 11, 2019 at 2:04 pm Duration: 5 hours, 28 minutes https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/in/netherlands/kralendijk-bonaire?i-so=20191111
November 10-16	Reading week. See page 7
Sunday, November 17	Waterfront Event. Two levels of triathlons. Sailing & Fishing. See page 14.
November 30	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.
November 31 December 1	Art Route Bonaire 2019. Free. Travel to the workshops of local artists. See page 4. Grab an official Art Route map at TCB Bonaire, Between-2Buns and other spots (Check Facebook page: Art Route Bonaire.)

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 Koeke 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 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 & meetings

• **Bridge club** meets Wednesday to play. Start at 19.30 at Jasmin Garden. To join: call 7174052 or mail to: tonsailing@gmail.com

• **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 Sabena 26 Sunday Services - Papiamentu/Espanol 9am to 12 noon Add’l Info (599) 701-9522 Dutch/English 1pm to 3pm. Add’l Info (599) 701-2892

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire (VPGB), Kralendijk, Plaza Wilhelmina; Sunday-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.



Ask a Geek

by Brian Niessen

Hanging by a thread?

The Internet, home of the WWW (World Wide Web) is really fragile like a spider's web. The fiber optic "cables" are nothing more than strands of molten glass no thicker than a human hair which can easily be broken. That is why they are usually encased in plastic and for undersea cables, even more layers of strong materials.

Nowadays, everything runs thru the Internet. Your phone calls, your TV shows, your surfing, bank ATM's, business transactions, medical records, music, movies, email and all the instant messengers.

Even if you have a "landline" telephone, it is usually connected to the Internet on fiber optic somewhere near your house. Same with TV – that cable coming out of the wall is only the last 100s of feet to your house. Somewhere in the neighborhood there is a fiber optic to coax adapter to allow analog (old) TVs to continue to

work. Digital TVs aka Smart TVs connect directly to the Internet to get all the shows in digital format.

So, what does all this mean? First off – quality gets worse. The good old POTS (Plain Old Telephone System) phones were usually quite clear and you could both be talking at the same time. Now with digital phone services, it's like the old walkie-talkies where you have to wait for the other person to stop talking before you can talk. And TV – Remember you would see pretty clear pictures, even though they were not HD quality... Now when you watch TV, it's blocky, blurry, and generally poor quality. Chalk up another one for technology not giving us anything better... but it does make it cheaper for the phone and TV broadcast companies.

Secondly – There is now a single point of failure - the Internet or fiber optic cables. Back in the "old days", if the TV cable stopped working or the electricity went out, the landline phone still worked. Now, with everything connected through the Internet, when it fails – everything fails. No more TV, Skype, phone, SMS, Whatsapp, Facebook, Instagram, surfing, email, bank machines giving money, business data transfer, airport

flight information, etc, etc, etc.

To me that's a very scary thought, especially after living through a situation like that in Costa Rica – For about four hours we had no power, no communications. I thought it was the end of the world... when in reality it was just a guy who smashed his car into the utility pole that had the electricity and fiber optic cable on it.

Another time in Sint Maarten, a mega-yacht anchor broke the fiber optic undersea cable. For two days, the Dutch side had no internet (the French side was fine because they have their own system.) In a show of island solidarity and helpfulness, the internet company on the Dutch side carried a cable over the top of the mountain and plugged into the internet on the French side and we had Internet again until the cable was fixed.

So I leave you with this point to ponder – What will you do when the ATM machines all stop working?

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.

Practicing yoga on Bonaire

by Ladinar van Swoll-Melchior



Yoga on the water ...

Yoga on the water takes away the walls & the ground! It opens new perspectives. When yoga classes are held outdoors (and most of mine are at Jibe City or Marriott), yogis connect with nature. This connection happens specially during Stand Up Paddle & Yoga (SUP). Apart from the mental benefits, SUP is one of the best core and balance trainings! There are two passions in my life that I enjoy sharing: yoga and windsurfing! Combining these passions inspired me to create a special program of yoga poses designed to meet the needs of the windsurfer.

I work with the professional windsurfer, Arrienne Auke, to organize windsurf and yoga clinics at Jibe City where locals and tourists improve their windsurf skills, while their bodies benefit from the yoga poses.

Eighteen years ago I attended my first yoga teacher training, and I have been taking further yoga training ever since. I saw yoga as a way to help my fitness clients release their stress. Many of my clients were recovering from injuries. I had to help them rebuild lost muscle mass, regain balance, and stretch tight tissues. One client asked me: "Why do I have to practice yoga? I already do a daily workout, and stretching sessions." My answer: "Yoga is not only stretching and physical exercise; it reduces stress, even if we don't talk about any spiritual, or religious component."

My yoga sessions include: asanas (physical postures), pranayama (control of breath), and meditation. The combination of all three makes yoga different from stretching exercises, and combo gives the stress relief which many of my clients appreciate. If they keep on practicing these three on a regular basis, soon they will be able to carry all the benefits yoga teaches them and use them in their daily life!

My only indoor-class is a Vinyasa Flow where we co-ordinate movement with breath and flow, from one pose (Asana) to the next. It is a meditation in movement and

helps my students to transform their monkey-minds to a quiet peaceful mind although they are working physically at a very high rate of intensity.

When I'm teaching my yoga classes I'm not focusing on a particular style unless advertised as "Vinyasa Flow." In each class I ask clients what their goals and intentions are, and give them what they need to benefit from the class.

IRIE Sports & Wellbeing offer a wide range of yoga classes for anyone, at any age, and physical condition. Clients profit from small classes and get the individualized modification. Practicing yoga on a regular basis has many health benefits. It relieves stress, and just generally makes you feel better and happier. Please join me in my happy Yoga place soon.

For more information about classes and special events: <http://iriesportwellbeingbonaire.com>; FB: IRIE sports & wellbeing Bonaire
INSTAGRAM: iriesportwellbeing
email: ladina@irie-bonaire.com



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.



BONAIRE SKY PARK The Disappearing Dipper

What is the most recognizable star pattern in the sky?

Most people would say the easiest to identify is the Big Dipper. There is something about those seven semi-bright stars that grab your attention.

And the Big Dipper is up almost all year-round. Emphasis on the almost. There is one season where the Big Dipper dips so low in the northern sky that it may become invisible. And that season is now. It may seem weird that we're doing a show on what not to look for in the night sky. But we don't want you to freak out when you step outside and not see the Big Dipper.

The Big Dipper is always somewhere in the northern sky. We call it circumpolar -since it can be seen making a complete circle around Polaris, a.k.a. the North Star.

When you face north and watch the stars long enough, you'll notice that they move in a slow counter-clockwise circle around one point.

That pivot point is the North Star. Any constellations near the North Star make a tiny circle around it. Like the constellations Ursa Minor (which includes the Little Dipper stars), Cassiopeia the Queen, and Ursa Major (which includes the stars from the Big Dipper).

But the Big Dipper can get low in the sky in its nightly

journey around Polaris. So, while most nights you can see the Big Dipper somewhere in the northern sky, for about two months, it can skim across the horizon and be blocked by trees, buildings, or the ground itself.

And so, on November evenings, you will have a hard time finding the Big Dipper.

This annual disappearance of the Big Dipper is chronicled in some Native American myths. Instead of a big spoon, they saw a big bear. Now the normal picture of the bear shows the body with a long stretched out tail.

But other Native American groups pictured it a little differently. The Iroquois tribes saw the four stars in the spoon as the bear, and the three stars in the handle as three hunters. The first hunter is carrying a bow and arrow. The second is carrying a pot. And the third is carrying sticks to make a fire.

If you look carefully at the second hunter, the bright star is called Mizar, but if you squint, you may be able to see a dimmer star above it. That is the star Alcor and it can be seen with the naked eye too. Mizar can be the hunter and Alcor is the pot that he is carrying.

As the night moves on, it looks like the hunters are chasing the bear. Legend has it that when the bear is too low in the sky and becomes invisible, that the hunters finally caught him. And this happens on the evenings of October and November every year.

And what happens to the trees in every October and November in the northern United States? Story-tellers would point to the changing leaves as evidence of the cosmic battle. Now this may be a little gross but... They would say that the first hunter had shot and killed the bear, and its blood fell from the sky and turned the leaves on the trees orange and brown and red.

And that's why you can't see the Big Dipper in the night sky this fall. But don't worry, it will be back. In fact, if you stay up past midnight you can see it standing on it's handle. And every spring the bear comes back to life, the hunters resume their chase, and the leaves return to the trees.

The circle of life in the stars. It's all there when you... keep looking up! *Dean Regas & James Albury* <http://www.stargazersonline.org/index.html>

Global Event: Mercury Transit
Local Type: Mercury Transit, in Kralendijk
Begins: Mon, Nov 11, 2019 at 8:36 am
Midpoint: Mon, Nov 11, 2019 at 11:20 am
Ends: Mon, Nov 11, 2019 at 2:04 pm
Duration: 5 hours, 28 minutes
<https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/in/netherlands/kralendijk-bonaire?iso=20191111>

Shelter News

How much is that doggie (kitty) in the window? **Not for sale!**

Many people ask if Animal Shelter Bonaire “sells” dogs and cats. **We do not “sell” our animals.** We adopt our animals to qualified fur-ever homes and we charge a fee for the process. The fees we charge (\$75.00 for dogs and \$55.00 for cats) do not cover the expense the Shelter incurs in insuring that the animals are healthy, vaccinated, parasite-free and age-appropriate sterilized. The adoption fee includes vaccinations, worming, flea and tick treatment, micro-chipping and sterilization. If the adopted animal is still too young to be sterilized, the Shelter pays for the sterilization at the appropriate age.

The Shelter makes no profit from the adoption fees we charge. The average costs to the Shelter for “adoption ready” animals are : Female Cat \$89.50, Male Cat \$60.00, Female Dog \$96.00, Male Dog \$87.00.

These figures do not include the daily food and care each animal receives while they are in residence at the Shelter. Our mission in adopting out our animals is not to make money, it is to find loving homes for the abandoned and unwanted animals of Bonaire.

So please remember: **ADOPT...DON'T SHOP!**



Help Wanted!



New Position!

Do you love animals? Not afraid of hard work?
Animal Shelter Bonaire needs you!

Animal Caregiver 1: 15 hours per week (incl. some weekend work) Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM
\$6.25-\$6.50 per hour depending on qualifications.

Requirements:

- Love of animals
- Physically able
- Good people skills
- Speak and read basic English
- Bonaire sedula
- Minimum 21 years old
- Clear conduct record
- Basic Papiamentu, Spanish and/or Dutch are pluses

If you are interested in this position, please email animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com with your CV for an interview appointment. **DO NOT APPLY VIA FACEBOOK OR MESSENGER.**



Pets of the Week: Kimba, Kirby & Paige



Hello, cat people of Bonaire!

We are Kimba, Kirby and Paige and together we are the orange and white kitties here at the Shelter. Being orange kitties, we are certain that the humans here understand they work for us and that we just get to have fun. Kimba loves water, Kirby enjoys playing with noisy toys and Paige likes to lay in the bed and watch. While we all have a great life here and the humans take really good care of us, this is not where we want to live forever. We are all available and looking for a new family to love us. Come and see for yourself just how adorable we all are! Animal Shelter Bonaire is located at Kaminda Lagun 26, We are open Monday-Friday from 9am-12pm and 3-5pm and Saturday from 9am-3pm non stop or call the Animal Shelter at 701-4989 or 717-4989 *Story and photos by Travis Sullins.*



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Kaya Dr. J.G. Hernandez (near Botica Korona)



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3/31



Noord Saliña, Kaya Cacique 19

Highlights:

- 3 bedrooms / 1 bathroom
- large living room with open kitchen
- separate storage shed in back garden
- three covered terraces
- 5 minutes to the center of Kralendijk
- mature landscaped garden with trees and plants
- long lease land (registered 4-A-192)
- total ground area: 5,597 / 520 sq.ft./m2
- total living area: 1,076 / 100 sq.ft /m2

Asking price
US\$ 178,000 Buyers cost



Kaya Grandi 41, Kralendijk
Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean



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



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