



**Algae farm
 Carib Inn's 40th
 BonDoet next weekend**



Story & Photos: Julie Morgan

2020 Walkathon exceeds expectations

While most of Bonaire was still sleeping at 5am on the early Sunday morning of March 8, approximately 600 people gathered at White Slave for the 2020 Walkathon. They came to bike, walk and run the 32 kilometer (19.88 miles) to Rincon in support of Special Olympics.

Bonaire's 2020 Special Olympics Walkathon sold out beating last year's sales. There were 928 tickets sold equaling \$13,920. And 671 of the ticket buyers picked up their Walkathon t-shirt and complementary Digicel bag, cap and water bottle.

The route led participants from the south through town and then along the Queen's highway to Rincon. Along the way volunteers were stationed at eight different spots to distribute water, fruit and raisin buns. At the water stop at Karpata volunteers made pumpkin pancakes, hot dogs, sandwiches and even rum drinks! Many of the 80 volunteers have been a part of the Walkathon for years.

At the end of the trek participants were met with soup, breakfast, fruit and drinks prepared by volunteers.

Two Red Cross vehicles and five Special Olympics vehicles traveled the roads to ensure everyone's safety

and hand out lollipops. Luckily their services were only needed once when a small boy tumbled from his bike.

This is the 18th year for the Special Olympics Walkathon. Support for the fundraiser is island wide and everyone wants to chip in and help.

For the 11th consecutive year Digicel has been one of the main sponsors for the Special Olympics. This year Kentucky Fried Chicken joined the list of major supporters: Fundashon Wega di Number Bonaire, MCB Bank and Guardian Group.

In addition, this year's Walkathon received donations from Tung Fong, Cicilia Motoa at Play Trading, Bonaire Lions Club, Bonaire Logistics and Bondigro, Van den Tweel, Warehouse Bonaire, Mac Enterprises, Don Andres, Jenties and Achi Tours, Kooyman, Gerland Silberie and Watty Emerenciana, Budget Marine, Flamingo Party Rentals, El Mundo, Live 99 and FKPD.

Support was not isolated to Bonaire, a couple from Nebraska who support Special Olympics back home made a nice donation after reading about the event in *The Reporter*.

The Board of Special Olympics Bonaire and the athletes of Special Olympics Bonaire thank everyone for their support. Proceeds aid in funding the training of the athletes and Special Olympics competitions and trips.



More Walkathon photos on page 11 and *The Bonaire Reporter* Facebook page.

Wheels of 787 sink into asphalt at airport



Recently 350 Amsterdam bound passengers were delayed for more than 24 hours when the left main landing gear of their Boeing 787 sank into soft asphalt at Flamingo International. As the TUI aircraft was being towed from the gate, the plane was pushed onto an area not intended to support aviation traffic.

After several hours, ground officials were able to pull the aircraft out of the hole and, after an inspection, decided it was safe to fly. With crew hours close to expiring and further inspection warranted, the plane was flown to Curaçao, where the passengers were put up at various hotels. The flight, originally scheduled to depart at 9pm on February 29, left for Schiphol at 10:28pm on March 1st.

Airport director, Jos Hillen, acknowledged that the aircraft was pushed outside of the zone allowed for aircraft movement. But he was surprised that the surface had collapsed as repaving work on that segment bordering the grassy area was completed within the last two months. The incident will be investigated by the Inspectie Leefomgeving en Transport (ILT) in the Netherlands. *D.M.R. Source: <https://www.gatechecked.com>*

Bonaire and Curaçao agree to rebuild cooperation On the table: free import duties between the Islands.

A 'brotherhood agreement' (Akuerdo di Hermandat) has been signed in Willemstad by Deputy Elvis Tjin Asjoe on behalf of the public entity Bonaire and Prime Minister Eugene Rhuggenaath on behalf of the Curaçao government. The political dissolution in 2010 ended most existing cooperation arrangements. Under the new agreement, Bonaire and Curaçao will explore areas where working together more closely can be beneficial for both islands.

Heading the list is the possibility of transporting goods tax-free and free of import duties between the islands. The two leaders also discussed cooperation on promoting tourism, education, cultur-

al and artistic exchange, healthy lifestyle, disability care, and training of healthcare professionals. Other possibilities included data exchange and optimizing government organizations through knowledge exchange.

The announcement celebrated the family, cultural and business ties that have remained strong between the two islands. It declared "the fraternity agreement expresses a joint wish to strengthen the age-old fraternal ties between the peoples of Curaçao and Bonaire on the basis of equality and mutual trust" that existed before Bonaire voted to leave the Netherlands Antilles. *D.M.R. Source: Bonaire.nu*

Abraham makes a report against Lieutenant Governor



Clark Abraham Lt. Gov. Edison Rijna

On the eve of the Hague's scheduled reappointment of Lieutenant Governor Edison Rijna for another six-year term, Opposition leader Clark Abraham (PDB) reported to the Public Prosecutor that Rijna had committed forgery of documents.

The Island Council recently amended the new road traffic regulation. Accord-

ing to Abraham, Rijna subsequently changed some wording in the document, then signed it, a deliberate attempt to change the law. "If he puts his signature on something that has not been accepted as such, then we must see it as forgery in the most literal sense of the word," said Abraham.

Lieutenant Governor Rijna, asked by the editors of Bonaire.nu, does not yet want to respond substantively. "We will await the steps of the Public Prosecution Service," said Rijna. Rijna added that citizens can be sure nothing significant has happened. *D.M.R. Source: Bonaire.nu*

Bonaire to have "new" airport by 2026

Flamingo International Airport, "the engine of Bonaire's economy," will be upgraded to accommodate the expected growth in tourism, business traffic, and inter-island traffic. It will also meet international requirements in terms of capacity, efficiency, passenger comfort, safety and sustainability.

The management of Bonaire International Airport (BIA N.V.) has instructed the NACO agency, which specializes in airport design, to update the existing master plan, taking into account the Strategic Tourism Plan, the Blue Destination concept, the growth of the population, and the Economy Executive Council's sustainable development plan — while preserving nature and culture.

NACO will explore three possibilities in the coming months. The first relocates the airport to the area near the current control tower and fire station. Expanding the existing airport with a new terminal for international traffic. Or third, maintaining the existing airport for inter-island

traffic and building a new terminal for international traffic.

The Executive Council will receive NACO's report in July and begin extensive public consultation in the fall. Walking-in meetings will be scheduled where the opinions of all stakeholders will be sought, as well as the views of the general public and community organizations. A definitive decision will be made before the end of the year. Further planning, then tendering and implementation, will follow. The new airport is expected to be operational in 2026.

The renewal of Flamingo Airport extends beyond the terminal and the platforms, chief executive officer of BIA Jos Hillen, said. The sustainability of the plan, both in the choice of building materials and in the daily activities at the



The first of the three proposed plans relocates the airport to the area near the current control tower and fire station.

airport, will be considered. Flight procedures will be adjusted to reduce noise pollution. Environmental effects will be researched and protective measures taken.

The entire process will be monitored by a steering group, chaired by Lieutenant Governor Rijna, which includes representatives from the ministries of I&W and the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. The steering group will advise the Executive Council and the ministers. *D.M.R. Source: Bonaire.nu*

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Trash bin winners announced

Photographers, judges and supporters gathered at the North Pier on March 6 for the announcement of the winners of the “Help Keep Bonaire Beautiful” photo contest. Attending were also members of the island Executive Council, Nina den Heyer and James Kroon. Over 180 photos were submitted during the contest with over 3,000 visits to the contest site. The top 20 selected by the public were given to a panel of five judges who chose the eight winners. Each winner was awarded a 50 x 70cm print of their image to hang on their wall. The grand prize of \$250.00 was awarded to photographer Kevin Pursley. His name was drawn from a hat by Executive Council Member Nina den Heyer.

Winners of the 2020 Help Keep Bonaire Beautiful photo contest:

- Aja Radl – pelican and flamingos
- Caitlin Hale – mas bongos and diver
- Cathleen Willcock - secretary blenny
- Claydrick Clarinda – salt flats
- Kevin Pursley – turtle and grand prize winner
- Marijke Wilhelmus – sunset
- Doug Sich - fishing boat

The eight winning photos will be placed on front of the bins for the next two years. After that time, another island-wide photo contest will held to select eight more photos to represent Bonaire.

The first bin will be installed at the North Pier early next week. All eight trash/recycle receptacles will be in place by mid April.

James Kroon has been an advocate of the project since it was first introduced last year. Elvis Tijn-Ajoe who was not present due to other commitments has also been active in supporting the project along with Ms. Nina den Heyer.

Special thanks to Carolyn Caporusso from Clean



L-R Kevin Pursley, grand prize winner; Commissioner James Kroon; Claydrick Clarinda; Cathleen Willcock; Marijke Wilhelmus; Michael LaFortune, director of A Plastic Free Bonaire; Carolyn Caporusso, Clean Coast Bonaire; Aja Radi; Commissioner Nina den Heyer; Denise de Jongh; Caitlin Hale and Doug Sich.

Coast Bonaire and Julie Morgan from the The Bonaire Reporter for helping at the event.

This project would not be possible without the support of community businesses sponsoring the project: Sunbelt Realty, Kooyman, Dive Friends and Budget Marine. If your business would like to join A Plastic Free Bonaire in keeping Bonaire and our oceans cleaner for future generations please contact us at: aplasticfreebonaireinfo@gmail.com *Michael LaFortune, photos Julie Morgan.*

See all the winning photos on our facebook page



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—Letters and Opinions—

Editor. The following exchange of opinions occurred when *The Reporter* published *Algae Farming? What Happened to Consultative Government on Bonaire?*, by Dr. Don M. Ricks. Prof. dr. Rene Wijffels, head of the algae project, responded.

Opinion: Algae Farming Wijffels' response to Ricks, February 28, 2020

It was a big surprise for us to hear the negative article about an algae farm in Bonaire. That we were going to pollute the environment with genetically engineered microalgae and that there has been no communication about it at all.

First of all, I would like to explain what we are doing there. It is a research project for the sustainable production of microalgae making use of local resources only (seawater, CO2 from the air and sunlight). Objective is to produce biomass, rich in proteins and oil which can be used as a feed ingredient, e.g. to start fish cultivation on Bonaire. In any case an application to stimulate the local economy of Bonaire and to do that in a completely sustainable way.

We want to develop a laboratory for research on nature and sustainable processes to give young people from Bonaire the opportunity to return to Bonaire after their studies and contribute to innovations on the island.

The microalgae used are not genetically modified, they are even not originating from locations outside Bonaire, because we do not want to introduce strains that can become invasive for the local environment. We only use microalgae that have been isolated on Bonaire.

What we are constructing at Barcadera is a small laboratory and an outdoor unit to produce at very small scale (liters) microalgae with the objective to study whether we can cultivate these organisms on local resources only. The microalgae produced will not be discharged in the environment.

The project developed in close communication with STINAPA. STINAPA has controlled all our activities.

We did communicate our activities in several workshops on Bonaire in the last years before we started our experiments and have been published in newspapers on Bonaire.

We are not constructing an algae farm. We do hope,

of course that the technology could develop in a farm, but before that can be done it has to be proven that it is technologically and economically feasible, that it is safe for the environment and permits for construction have been given. Permits for construction can only be given after public announcements and requests for objections.

Opinion: Algae Farming Ricks' response to Wijffels' Response, March 2, 2020

I notice you didn't address my expert source's two primary objections: that you are asking Bonaire to commit resources to "new" science that is already old science; and that you've proposed a potential business plan without declaring what business the island would consequently pursue—not to mention with what resources?, despite what negative consequences?, and with what likelihood of success?

Take, for example, your example: "To produce biomass, rich in proteins and oil which can be used as a feed ingredient, e.g. to start fish cultivation on Bonaire." That's certainly an eye-catching objective to write on proposals and permit applications.

However, even 30 years ago, when my wife and I spent three years cruising the vast chain of islands along the west coast of Canada, communities were already battling the intrusion of commercial salmon farming. It was taking over recreational sites and, many feared, seriously endangering the natural fishery.

Are you knowledgeable about commercial aquaculture operations? Have you considered the effects one would have on Bonaire's marine environment? Do you have other hypothetical commercial applications to propose for the algae, "for example?"

My source says that synthetic biology is producing new approaches to many real problems . . . for example, promising research in using enzymes to break down plastic bottles. He believes Bonaire should be looking to import new technologies that are already proven solutions to real problems that are critical to the island.

Opinion: Algae Farming Wijffels' second response to Ricks, March 3, 2020

We are not introducing synthetic biology on the island.

I know that 30 years ago attempts have been done to develop microalgae cultivation and to do that commercially. As a matter of fact, the first peak in activities on microalgae developed in the 1950s. After the second world war the planet was at risk of having insufficient protein as a food and feed source. A lot of the fundamentals of the technology of today have been developed at that time. However, the technology was still too expensive and mechanization and crop development in agriculture provided the solutions and attention for algae reduced. In the decades that followed there was renewed attention because of the energy crisis in the 1970s and the need for sustainable alternatives today. Every time technology improved leading to cost reduction. Presently the global challenge is to find alternatives for palm oil, fish oil, soy protein etc and microalgae have potential. New technologies develop in circles and take time; this is the case for many technologies developed. I would like to refer to a techno-economic model we developed in which we show that the technology if scaled up can be used to produce these alternatives. Microalgae will have their place in these commodity markets but can also be used in niche markets.

Our project in Bonaire is a research project. The objectives are to demonstrate that under the climatological conditions of Bonaire a high productivity can be reached. We also have the objective to do this in a stand-alone system, independent of the electricity grid, using CO2 from the air and nutrients and water from the ocean. For us it is basic research. If we achieve these goals this would be the first time ever done. It would be possible to develop modules that can operate stand-alone on any place. The laboratory we established on Bonaire will be used for research on nature protection as well. We intend to provide research jobs making it possible for young people who left the island for their studies to return to the island.

If results are good and if the technology developed is promising it will give opportunities for pioneers to start new business, sustainable business making the island less dependent of tourism alone and imports of products from abroad. I totally agree with you that the latter can only be done if activities have no negative effects on nature.

Editor. Thank you to prof. dr. Rene Wijffel for giving us permission to publish his responses. The March 25th issue of the Reporter will feature a story on the Algae Farm pilot project based on an interview and tour with Dr. Rene Wijffels.

Coronavirus

Dear Editor,
Does the health commissioner of Bonaire have a plan if the corona virus strikes Bonaire? If so can you publish it? Are there any plans to limit or stop cruise ships from coming to Bonaire especially if they have people on board who test positive for the virus or are already sick? Are there any plans to limit air travel to the island or to scan people for fevers as they arrive in Bonaire? As all health care officials are now saying it is not a matter of whether the corona virus will spread to other countries it is only a matter of when.
Todd Lichtenstein

If you think you have the coronavirus, stay home and call your doctor.

Don't go to the clinic, hospital or doctor's office if you think you have the virus, say Bonaire's health professionals. Stay at home and phone your doctor. Professionals say that the risk of the virus reaching the Island is now high. The COVID-19 symptoms are: difficulty

breathing, extended coughing and fever.

Is Bonaire prepared for the Coronavirus?

Health experts Dr Izzy Gerstembluth, department of epidemiology in Curaçao and Alcira Jana Jansen, head of the Public Health Department Bonaire, say yes.

They have the testing kits and have established guidelines to handle the virus. They have the facilities to isolate cases.

COVID-19 and cruise ships

On March 10, the cruise ship MS Braemar, operated by Fred Olsen, docked in Curaçao, but the Department of Public Health (GMN) allowed no one to land. The ship itself reported that one person aboard tested positive for the virus. A few days later four people were showing symptoms of COVID-19: three crew members and one passenger. At least one of them had contact with the first person that was infected. The physician on the ship took the necessary measures by isolating the four people.

Curaçao medical experts including epidemiologist Izzy Gerstembluth went aboard to perform tests. The cruise ship departed later in the day according to plans.

Braemar is not scheduled to visit Bonaire in March.

Other cases of the coronavirus are now being reported in the Caribbean. Cases have been confirmed in Dominican Republic, St Barts, French Guiana and French St Martin.

Major cruise ship destination islands of Jamaica and Grand Cayman have denied access to boats telling them to go elsewhere. St Lucia is not allowing boats with passengers originating from Asian countries. Bonaire says it will allow the ships.

But, Jansen and Gerstembluth agreed that the medical department of each ship is required to send a status of health two days before arriving in port. If there is anything suspicious then the ill are quarantined. Only the suspected ill, not the entire ship, the other 'healthy' passengers are allowed to disembark.

We will post critical local updates on the coronavirus on The Bonaire Reporter's Facebook page. Julie Morgan.

Police Report for Feb. 26 to March 6, 2020

Property Crimes

Between Thursday, Feb. 27, around 7:30pm and Friday, Feb. 28, around 7:15am, thieves took two batteries from a pick-up. The locked pick-up was parked at a house on Kaminda Djabou.

On Friday Feb. 28 between 7am and 5:30pm thieves stole jewelry and a Samsung white tablet from a house on the Kaya Carlota.

Dive sites/ tourist spots

Between 5:45 and 6:45pm on Wednesday, Feb. 26 at the dive site 1000 Steps on the Tourist Road thieves destroyed the right windshield of a car with a stone and took away a total of five bags with contents.

Sunday, March 1 between 9:45 - 11am, thieves stole three bags with contents from a car parked at the Karpata dive site. The windows of the car were open.

Traffic accidents & violations

In the night hours of Wednesday, Feb. 26, around 02.20am a car and a motorcycle collided at Kaya Lodewijk L.D. Gerharts. The driver of the car saw the motorcycle coming and wanted to turn left quickly towards Kaya G.C.M. Piar to prevent the motorcycle from crashing into her. The motorcycle arrived at high speed and crashed into the right front of the car. The driver of the motorbike injured his head and wrist and was taken by the ambulance to the hospital. KPCN emphasizes once again that speeding is a danger for both the person doing it, as in this case, and for other road users.

On Thursday, Feb. 27, between 5 and 7pm, traffic controls were held at the Kaya Industria, the Kaya Korona and the Kaya Internashonal. A number of processes were issued, mainly for driving without a license, without valid insurance or license plate. For other violations such as not wearing a seat belt and not using a child seat, a warning was issued.

On Saturday, Feb. 29, around 2am a car hit a man on Kaminda Tra'i Montaña. The driver of the car stated that she felt she had bumped into something. When she stopped, she saw a man lying on the ground. The victim was drunk and was walking in the middle of the road. The victim had injured arms and was taken to the hospital by ambulance. Later he was diagnosed with internal injuries and was admitted to the special care unit for observation.

On Saturday, Feb. 29 and Sunday, March 1, the Public Body and KPCN set up two check points so that the public could measure the light transmittance of the driver's and passenger's car windows. KPCN measured 127 cars in Rincon 127 and 296 cars in Playa.

The new traffic regulation has set the light transmittance at 35%. From March 1, the fine will be determined by the percentage of windscreen tint of the driver's and passenger windows.

The new traffic regulation came into

effect March 1, and traffic controls were held on Kaya Korona and Kaya Industria on Monday March 2. A total of 62 vehicles were checked. There were 12 verbal proceedings for, among other things, not having valid insurance documents, driving without a license, but mostly for driving without a seat belt. A car seat belt is for the safety of the occupants of a car. The fine for driving without a seat belt is \$ 115.

On Wednesday, March 4, between 10 - 11:20 am, a traffic check was held at Kaya Amsterdam. During this traffic control, drivers were checked for driving without a seat belt or helmet. Attention was also paid to tinted car windows. Police handed out two official processes for driving without a valid driver's license, three official reports for driving without valid insurance and seven official reports for driving without a safety belt.

Around 4pm a traffic check was also held at Kaya Simon Bolivar in which three processes were written for not wearing the seat belt.

Arrests

Around 1:30am Wednesday, Feb. 26, a man, 19, was arrested on Kaya Gilberto F. Croes for insulting, threatening, and abusing a police officer.

Around 12:30am Tuesday, March 3, man, 61, was arrested at a house on Kaya Rincon for threatening with a gun and mistreatment.

At around 6pm March [6] a man, 35, on Hanchi Amboina arrested for abuse.

Fire

In the evening hours of Sunday, March 1, around 8:20pm, the police station was notified of a fire in the kitchen on the eastern side of the stadium in Playa. The fire brigade arrived and immediately had the fire under control. The stadium was full of people watching a football match. No one was injured.

Public Assistance

In the morning hours of Friday, Feb. 28, assistance from the ambulance was requested at a tourist accommodation on Bulevar J.A. Abraham where a boat was moored with four injured persons on board. At Belnem the boat was hit by a large wave causing a passenger to go overboard. One person fell on her side and complained of pain in her ribs and neck. Another person hit the side of the boat, was cut above her left eye and complained about neck pain. The fourth person suffered a blow to her chest and became dizzy and almost fainted. The ambulance personnel treated all victims on the spot and took the victim with the cut wound to the hospital for medical treatment.

How to contact the KPCN
emergency number 911 (free)
anonymous tips, (+599) 717 7251
general (+599) 715 8000 or 717 8000



Ask Kate

Bonaire real estate advice

Question: Are counter-offers not used on Bonaire? I started off with a low offer and the Seller just rejected it, and didn't counter offer. I raised it a little and they rejected it again. How do I know what price they'll take if they don't counter offer? Thanks, Jed

Hi Jed,

Counter offers are used here on Bonaire, so I'm guessing if you received two rejections to your offers, the offers were simply too low for the Seller to want to enter a negotiation. If you currently live in an area where Sellers overprice their homes because they expect any buyers to offer a much lower price, I can see why you're using the strategy you described.

However, Bonaire homes are usually priced for sale at their market value. Many homes on Bonaire sell at the asking price, and most sell within just a few

percentage points of the asking price. We are a small island with a limited number of properties for sale and you have a lot of competition from other buyers who want to own here, especially in the below \$300,000 market. Low offers are not a good strategy here.

I understand wanting to "get a deal" but try to re-set that thought to consider that the best deal is owning a home on Bonaire. That's what we did. My husband and I paid the asking price for our home, and so did my real estate partner Jean when she bought hers.

Best of luck in finding your Bonaire home, let us know if we can help!

*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

BobBus is only five bucks!



Owners Anna Kroodsmas and Leo Dykgraaf along with organizer Kitty Ladiges return from the first BobBus tour.

As of March 2, guests and locals who jump on board the BobBus can get to their destination for only five bucks and at the same time make a difference in Bonaire child care. The bus operates everyday: 5pm to 12 midnight Sunday through Tuesday and Wednesday; Thursday through Saturday from 5pm to 2am. The bus stops at all your favorite spots from Hato to Sorbonne and on through Belnem. There are two buses; one goes south and one north and they pass each other along the way. The entire route takes a little over an hour and there is no deviation from the tour.

There are 56 partners on the bus route including hotels, restaurants, bars and cafes.

The Bob Bus doesn't operate on cash, only tokens. The tokens may be purchased at one of the 56 partners along the route. Riders cannot board the bus without a token.

Half of that price of the five dollar to-

ken goes to Bonaire child care.

The buses are owned by Orlando Francisca of Rento Fun, one of the biggest transportation providers for tourists. He holds the licenses and permits. Owners of Bob Bus, Anna Kroodsmas and Leo Dykgraaf said, "Orlando is the biggest, so we thought, let's work with him."

Orlando saw an opportunity to create jobs for his drivers and cleaners; more income for the island; and finally, to help the island kids.

Owners Anna Kroodsmas and Leo Dykgraaf said that this is not a booze bus. You can drink something if you want, but there are no beverages sold on the bus.

Organizer Kitty Ladiges said, "This is an affordable transport for anyone that wants to go out and enjoy themselves without having to worry about driving."

For a route map for BobBus go to www.BobBusBonaire.com. Photo and story Julie Morgan

Carib Inn celebrates 40 years



Bruce Bowker

From 1988 to the early 1990's, Carib Inn had 100% repeat and return guests. Even today, many of those early guests return at least once a year. And their families bring their families creating generations of divers at Carib Inn. Some of the guests be-come such good diving buddies that they even plan their trips to coincide with one another.

"People have been coming back since the beginning. It's the family atmosphere with the same people so its kind of like a reunion," said Bruce, "It's a friendly place. We're the way Bonaire used to be."

Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn is Bruce Bowker and the people who have worked for him over the years. And that's not many, as his employees seem to stay. He started with four employees (all Antillean). Today there are 14 total (three maids, three tank guys and seven dive staff) and seven of them have been there for more than 20 years.

Dive office manager Kitty Handschuh has worked at Carib for over 32 years.

Kitty said, "Part of the reason people stay is because Bruce treats everyone fairly, equally and with respect. And they get a raise every year."

Carib Inn also has a great dive shop with fair prices. And, for years, Bruce has been the 'go-to' man for dive equipment re-pairs.

As for the man, Bruce understands people's love for diving and what they want. He began diving in the 50's and never missed a single episode of Seahunt on television. In April 1973, Bruce met Captain Don Stewart at the Princeton Aqua Club in New Jersey. Bruce was a member and Don was there to get his YMCA instructor certification. He was looking for instructors to go to Bonaire for three weeks and teach his dive staff and 25 year old Bruce signed on.

"When I got here I just fell in love with the place. I absolutely loved everything about it; the people, the culture, the diving and everything was absolutely gorgeous," said Bruce.

He was Don's very first dive instructor.

Bruce was the first person to dive Rappel along with Stan Gdowski. He said the



Five of the crew pictured are still working at Carib including one member not pictured, Rishi Anthony. Photo published in Skin Diver magazine 1996: L-R Bruce Bowker, Tessa Ley, JJ Joslin, Edward Thomas, Kitty Handschuh, Ed Diehl and Linda Baker.

only reason we did that was because it was a sheer wall and we had no idea what was down there.



Bruce's famous first dive at Rappel

In the early days of Carib Inn and Bonaire, no one even thought about driving all the way down south to dive.

Bruce said, "It was considered a very long way. We just got in a boat and went and whenever we found a safe place to anchor we would dive in. We discovered all these wonderful sites; Margate Bay, Oasis (aka English Garden) The Lake, Invisibles, it was lovely."

Carib Inn also made regularly scheduled two tank dive trips to the east side and the park either by boat or from shore and discovered White Hole and Devils Garden (no mooring).

Bruce is also responsible for naming Small Wall, Rock Pile, Divi Tree and Carl's Hill Annex.

In the 90's, Bruce led the way for clean-ups on Bonaire. He bought a flat bed truck and for three years every Saturday they scavenged the mundis for trash. At the

peak there were four trucks and 40 people cleaning basketball size court areas. They finally quit because there was nothing left to cleanup.

As the president of the Preservation for Klein Bonaire Foundation, Bruce led the fight to keep Klein Bonaire from development in the late 90's. He says they are still trying to build there to accommodate the cruise ships.

"Tourism is like fire. It can cook your food or burn your house down. They are destroying the very place they came to see," said Bruce.

He believes in keeping things small and the fact that Carib Inn is celebrating its 40th anniversary is a testimony to that. Congratulations to Bruce and Carib Inn!

Photo of Bruce and story Julie Morgan

course with either a PADI or YMCA certificate issued to those who successfully complete all requirements.

One of the best features of the Carib Inn are the prices. Tanks with back pack, weight belt and lead weights are only \$4.00 per day. Air fills are only \$2.50 per fill. Rooms are from \$20.00 to \$24.00 per night for two people. There is no service charge. The Carib Inn is located only a few minutes from the airport and a very short distance from

From Skin Diver magazine February 1980



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Reef Glimpses Reef Queens

Once upon a time, divers at Ol' Blue were routinely examined by this very curious angelfish named Queen Beatrix. Queen angels get their name from a dark-and-electric-blue spot surrounded by an electric blue line. This crownlike spot sits right on the angel's forehead, exactly where a crown should be, and that's exactly where Queen Beatrix wore hers (just out of the photo).

Sponges are one of the basic foods of angelfish, and, here on Bonaire, touch me not sponges are definitely a favorite. The challenge for angelfish is that sponges are protected by especially distasteful outer surfaces. Angelfish meet this challenge by keeping a lookout for damaged touch me not sponge colonies, and digging into them with the enthusiasm of hyenas

at a freshly killed water buffalo. In fact, a damaged sponge will often be shared by queen angels and rock beauties.

Queen angels travel alone, as Queen Beatrix did, or in pairs, or, occasionally, in groups. When they're ready to mate, usually around dusk, each pair of angelfish rises, the male together with or a little lower than the female. They release eggs and sperm, then separate and return downward.

Many years ago, at the end of a dive off Australia, I saw a pair of angelfish swimming together in a way that made me pay attention. They swam in a circle, spiraling upward closer and closer together, and then – and then a 4' (1.3 m) jack, wearing a black leather jacket (I swear! Black leather with chrome zippers is exactly how I remember it.) swam aggressively by, and the angelfish bolted under a shelf. After a while the pair cautiously emerged from their sanctuary and began to circle, first slowly, then in an upward spiral, and then – and then a couple of 5' (1.7 m) sharks cruised along and the lovers dashed back into the reef. Every time

the angelfish got busy the jack or the sharks would cruise by and the lovers would hide again. After more than 30 minutes, my nitrogen content was high and my air supply low so I had to end the dive. I'll never know if those angelfish lovers were able to spawn, or if they became prey – or both.

Fertilized angelfish eggs hatch in about a day and settle down to the reef at three to four weeks. A school of young grunts used to live in a mangled old fish trap resting on the sand off Playa. Also living in the fish trap was a two-inch juvenile queen angelfish who flutter-swam every time I saw it, advertising its services as a cleaner. Even though it advertised to us, for months it was too shy to actually clean. Then one day my buddy wore a brightly-colored, flower-patterned dive skin – and the little angelfish zoomed right in and began to clean!

That juvenile queen angelfish cleaner and Queen Beatrix each related to divers much more than most queen angelfish, showing once again that fish can be as different from each other as people. But



whether a queen angelfish is curious or aloof, it's always "spectacular, beautiful beyond the description of words," Ronald E. Thresher (Reef Fish, 1980[!]) *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.



Practicing yoga on Bonaire

by Loly Sanchez Pouchet

Yoga has become popular because people are looking for peace, less stress and an alternative solution for their health problems. I teach mindfulness through the stress reduction program (MBRS) program used in medical centers worldwide.

Yoga nidra is called body scan meditation. Prompted by a guided meditation, it is a state of consciousness between waking and sleeping that can go into the deepest level of the mind. It is practiced lying down, and can last from 20 minutes to an hour and a half. I teach yoga nidra based on studies of one of my teachers with a Masters in Psychology from Harvard. The studies looked at the most effective relaxation and meditation techniques to help with body illness, stress release and emotional pain. Yoga nidra practices were found to be more therapeutic.

Power yoga, on the other hand, is energetic, rapidly moving exercise. It includes lots of vinyasas (series of poses done in sequence) practiced with speed. I call power yoga "the yoga of the ego." The teacher's commands force the students' minds to respond easily to an order, so they don't get distracted by a multitude of other cues or words.

Most of my yoga work is to private and semi private groups and yoga events such as Full Moon Yoga which I have hosted for six years. I now give only one public group class weekly: Sunset Yoga Flow Thursday 6:30pm at Divi Flamingo: a combination of Power yoga flow, meditation and slow vinyasa.

Over a year ago I began teaching at the jail three times a week. My yoga class-

es are a new approach to let the inmates find peace with themselves. I teach power yoga, yoga anatomy, yoga nidra, meditation, restorative yoga and breathing exercises.

When I started practicing yoga at 28, it seemed very fun and relaxing. My only goal was to be able to reach the positions perfectly. Due to my busy career I decided to stop yoga and started the practice of meditation to help manage my stress between work and being a dedicated mom. Over time, and thanks to the stress, I decided to quit my job. Without knowing what to do, my lovely husband told me to take some time for myself. It was then that I took up yoga again. Practicing with Desiree (the only yoga teacher on the island then) I met Laura my lovely yoga partner who inspired me also to teach together with Desiree. But it wasn't until I met a yoga teacher in Curaçao, that I became inspired to teach yoga.

I found "LIVE LOVE and TEACH" and I went to my first training, where I got totally inspired to start up my own yoga studio, YOGARRIBA—a name inspired through a stormy training day, which identified my authenticity. Through the storm I could see my fears, blockages, communication and culture barriers. My studio, an Earthship, is located in the middle of Bonaire's beautiful nature. Sometimes I teach in two languages, mixing English with and Spanish or Papiamentu. The classes are simple, fun and suitable for everybody.

Yoga is the practice that I love from the deepest part of my being.

Contact: www.yogarribabonaire.com
Loly Sanchez Pouchet (+599) 701-2302

Come for the party. Stay for the work.



Sign up for whatever day or work you want to do.

BONDOET, the biggest volunteer event on Bonaire, March 13-14, begins with a kick off party at FUHIKUBO (Fundashon Historiko Kultural Bonaeriano) on day one, March 13 at 8am.

At the kick-off party, there will be a few inspiring speeches from NGO Platform, Orange Fonds, participants and various volunteers. The party ends with a countdown to charge-up the crowd for the two day event.

The BONDOET team will visit all the work sites to encourage and keep the volunteers' energy levels high throughout the day. They will take photos to exhibit the fun of joining in to make a better community.

Volunteers are the heart and soul of community organizations. BONDOET and Orange Fonds want to emphasize how important it is for our community to

have actively engaged citizens making a difference together.

In 2011 BONDOET began with 31 organizations and 750 volunteers. This year, so far, there are 94 organizations and 614 registered volunteers. If you still haven't committed, grab your friends and sign up. The last day to register for all participants is Thursday, March 12 at www.ngobonaire.org.

On Sunday after two days of fun and bonding through some hard work volunteerism, participants will enjoy an 'invitation only' closing ceremony. This will be an evening of surprises and thanks to everyone involved in making BONDOET 2020 a successful event. *Story and photos by Julie Morgan*



Mystery book series inspired by Bonaire Talk



Davin "Dave" Goodwin, author of *Diver's Paradise*, the first book in the Roscoe Conklin Bonaire mystery series



BonaireTalk is a popular online discussion group where people trade information about the island. For Davin "Dave" Goodwin, and active participant on the group, it evolved into something more.

Goodwin has been coming to Bonaire with his wife, Leslie, since 1999 and has visited 30 times. In the frequent BonaireTalk discussion groups he developed a following by answering people's questions about the island and telling about his visits.

Eventually, Bonaire Talkers began saying, "You should write a book." After giving it some thought, Goodwin said, "Why not?"

In 2008, Goodwin spent a year writing a "rough, rough draft" of his first novel, *Diver's Paradise*, the first book in his Roscoe Conklin Bonaire mystery series. It then sat on the shelf for seven or eight years, before he started an almost complete re-write in 2017.

Diver's Paradise follows the adventures of Roscoe Conklin, a fictitious retired Rockford, Illinois, USA police officer known as "R." He takes his pensions and lifesavings and relocates to Bonaire because the lifestyle offered him: shorts, sandals and scuba diving.

R buys a mom and pop hotel, Yellow Rock Resort, hoping to establish himself in the island community. Things begin to change five years after settling into his new life on Bonaire. R gets word from a friend on the Rockford, IL police force, that his former partner and partner's wife were found murdered in their home.

Shortly after hearing about the murder, people close to R mysteriously start dying, here on Bonaire!

This sets the story for a mystery novel filled with great character development, intrigue and interesting plot twists that will have the reader asking, "What's next?"

Diver's Paradise is filled with many local references, including dive sites, characters, the salt flats, street names, and Flamingo Airport. Karpata is the location of one of the mysterious deaths that takes place in the book.

Readers will recognize that Vinny's is obviously Karel's Beach Bar. Vinny's owners, Jan and Ruth, are actually the real life owners of KFC. The Green Iguana restaurant at Captain John's Resort, gets its name from the legendary Green Parrot restaurant at Sand Dollar and Captain John's was inspired by Captain Don's Habitat.

Erika, the office manager at the Yellow Rock Resort, was based on Erika who worked at Bonaire Dive and Adventure.

Besides the local references in the book, there are

many personal ones to Goodwin. Rockford, IL is his hometown, Conklin is a family name, and Roscoe was his father. Abby, from Abby's Seaside Truck Rental, is Goodwin's niece. Tiffany Wilcox, who mysteriously "drowns" at Karpata, is the name Goodwin's wife, Leslie, used in her single days when guys would hit on her in a bar.

Goodwin credits BonaireTalk as being the foundation of how *Diver's Paradise* became set on Bonaire.

He says, "If it wasn't for Jake Richter starting BonaireTalk, none of this might have ever happened."

Diver's Paradise is scheduled for release in hardcover and ebook in just a few weeks, April 7th, 2020. It will be available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and most bookshops. Oceanview Publishing is the publisher. The next book in the Roscoe Conklin series is *Paradise Cove*. *Story and Photos by Alan Zale*



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Picture Yourself with The Reporter Cascade mountains, Oregon U.S.A.



feet) in elevation. The photo is taken from Mount Bachelor above the timberline at ~2,100 meters/7,000 feet, where I was snowboarding on 1 May.

We have been spending months in Bonaire for many years, first owning a place in Kralendijk before finding a wonderful home in Belnem. C.C. & Lynda Wilson

2019 Winners are: Howard and Kim Harrison who read *The Reporter* from the back of a camel in Dubai. They will be awarded their prize for the best Picture Yourself when they return to Bonaire in April.

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, and tell us about yourselves. All 2020 photos are eligible for the annual prize.

Hi Bonaire Reporter,
Please find attached a photo of the beautiful Karnaval issue in Oregon's Cascade mountains. The peaks on the left are the Three Sisters, named Faith, Hope, and Charity. All are over 3,00 meters/10,000 feet in elevation. The series of peaks on the right are called Broken Top, which is over 2,750 meters (/9,000

The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) received a gift of € 500,000 from the National Postcode Lottery March 4.



The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) received a gift of € 500,000 from the National Postcode Lottery March 4. DCNA has also won awards in recent years, including for their Shark Conservation Project which was supported by the National Postcode Lottery from 2015 to 2018.

The money will be spent on youth education and information on protecting coral reefs. In addition, the funds will be used to further strengthen the capacity of the cooperating nature organizations on

the six islands: the Aruba National Parks Foundation, Stinapa Bonaire, Carmabi Curaçao, Saba Conservation Foundation, Stenapa Sint Eustatius and the Sint Maarten Nature Foundation.

“Shop Drop & Ship” offered by 5999CARGO



Celebrating the Bonaire opening: John Noventa: Manager 5999CARGO NL; Germaine Martina: managing director; John den Boef; manager 5999CARGO hub Bonaire Sharelda Janzen: manager 5999CARGO St.Maarten; Raylison Monte: maintenance officer; Frandjeli Martina: area manager; Grace Winklaar, marketing

5999CARGO, a new solution for shipping, announced their presence on Bonaire with a launch party on February 28 at their new location in Tera Cora. Bonaire was invited to learn about the company, sign up as a customer and enjoy a party with music, drinks, snacks and a cake.

Digicel’s Grace Winklaar assisted as the MC and entertained the crowd with some fun games and prizes including a new phone and Shake to Win coupon prizes.

5999Cargo is establishing itself as a leading logistics provider in Aruba, Panama, United States of America, Suriname, The Netherlands, and Curaçao. They provide value-added, customized solutions with a “Shop, Drop & Ship”

experience for small, medium and large-sized enterprises, multinational companies and private customers worldwide.

The 5999CARGO headquarters was established and launched as a US Based company in April 2017 in Miami, Florida. The inauguration was immediately followed with the opening of a destination hub in Curaçao. Due to shipping demand across Latin America and Europe they expanded to Suriname, the Netherlands and now Bonaire and St. Martin. They are gearing up to further expand to Colombia, Jamaica, and Trinidad.

The founder and CEO of the 5999Cargo Group is Germaine Martina. For free registration, please visit their portal at www.5999cargo.com/register. *Story & photo, Julie Morgan*

Prevent colds, flu and coronavirus

Wash
Wash your hands for at least **30 seconds** with soap and warm water.

Do not touch
Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth! These are the areas where a virus can enter your body.

Cover
Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze with your elbow or tissue.

Avoid
Avoid close contact with those who are sick. Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer after.



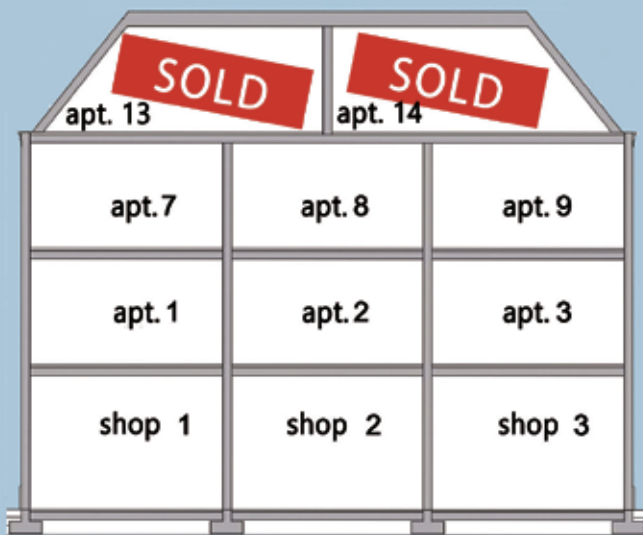
What is coronavirus?
An international outbreak of COVID-19 (also known as novel coronavirus) is currently ongoing. The virus can cause symptoms such as a fever, cough, and shortness of breath. In a limited number of cases it has led to more severe infections, even death.

FOR SALE

the '9 straatjes'



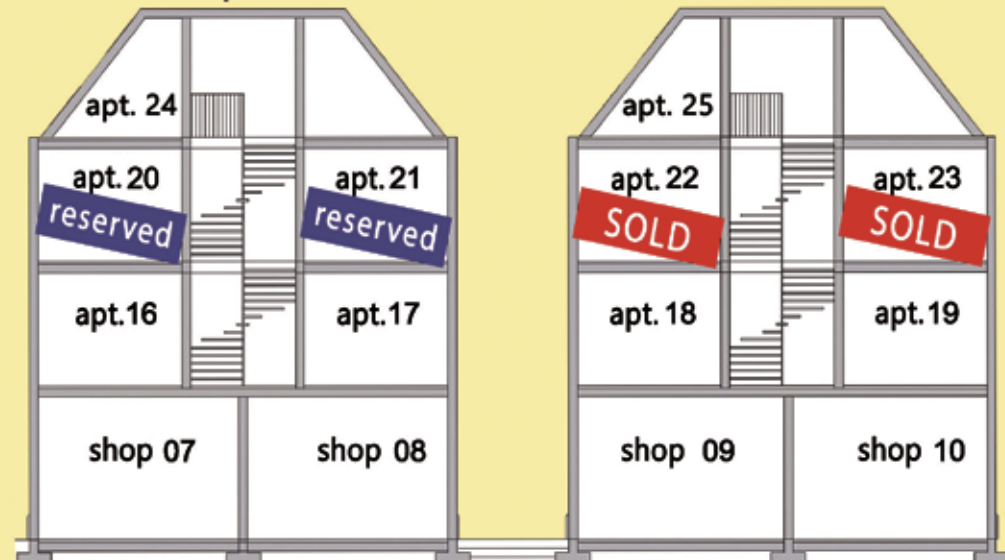
apartments KAYA VITTE side



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apt. 13 & 14: US\$ 155,000.-

* the shops are not for sale

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apt. 24 & 25: US\$ 295,000.-



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Making Bonaire "Accessible"

Our wheelchair challenges

Accessibility in the home

Bonaire) is the one that has to write the application for the occupational-therapist (ergotherapeut). This occupational-therapist will come to the house and do an investigation of the house/bathroom and will recommend upon adaptations according to the handicap and special needs.

These recommendations will be handed to the OLB, department of Zorg en Samenleving and from there technicians will be detached to the location to execute the job.

You may also go to this department yourself, tell here what you think you need and make your application.

People using a scooter-mobile often have trouble finding a decent and safe spot to charge the battery of the vehicle. They also can apply for help. Maybe they need to have a ramp installed, another power-outlet in a safer place.

This process is executed in straight cooperation with MIVABO. MIVABO is the organization that coordinates this project, in cooperation with OLB, so if you have any questions, are unsure of what to apply for or need additional information, you can contact MIVABO. One of the board-members will attend to your application and guide you through the process, and see to it that you get what you need

And if you, the readers of The Bonaire Reporter, know of a person that needs help and assistance in this department, you may also tell these persons what to do and where to attend.

Accessibility in the home is just as important as anywhere else. Maybe even the most important, because that is where people live. *Ria Evers-Dokter*

Selibon offers businesses their own trash compactor



Melinda Marchena of Selibon and Rodney Winklaar, Head of Maintenance at Buddy Dive shake on the delivery of a press container.

Buddy Dive Resort is the second organization to purchase a press container from Selibon. This equipment can compress three types of waste: cardboard, plastic and residual waste. The container is specifically intended for organizations that produce large quantities of waste and want it disposed of in an efficient and hygienic manner.

The first container was implemented at Delfins Beach Resort in October 2019. Selibon NV says they are working to make Bonaire more environmentally friendly and efficient in waste management.

Last year the OLB set up a project, where the elderly and persons with a disability could get a ramp built from their doorstep to the entrance-gate of their garden. The kick-off was in Rincon, where 16 ramps have been built. This way the inhabitants can get safely to and fro the wheelchair-bus, as assistance from the drivers begins and ends at the gate. Easy access on foot, with a walker or driven in a scooter-mobile. The project is an ongoing one, because situations changes, people get sick and consequently suffer from chronic diseases. And of course Rincon is not the only bario on Bonaire.

The next urgent project is to get the bathrooms as accessible as possible, again for this same group of citizens. Nowadays one can acquire hand-grips, small portable doorstep-ramps, folding shower-stools and other gadgets, that make going to the bathroom, taking a shower, getting dressed and undressed easier and safely.

Most Bonairian homes do not have accessible bathrooms. Most bathrooms are very small, have a doorstep at the entrance and into the shower, the shower is often very narrow, the toilet is too low, the place for towel and toilet paper is not in the right position, etc. ... it is very important to be able to do what you need to do in a safe matter.

Of course, the team of persons working on this project have no way of knowing what the patients need. Therefore it is important to know how to proceed:

The G.P. (general practitioner or huisarts as we say in

A Garden? Just Do It!

Avocados



Most of us are fond of avocado. With its rich taste and all the different recipes one can make it is one of most wanted fruits in the world.

A young baby can even eat it. Here on Bonaire we love avocado in our meals and for that reason many of us try to grow a avocado tree. But we are disappointed when the young plant dies after awhile, no matter what we do. Of course It happened with me too. So I tried to find out why an avocado tree always fails on Bonaire. I know the answer now and I will share it with you.

suddenly the leaves turn brown, dry up and drop off and the plant dies. So what happened? You don't understand because it was doing so well, and then it dies so suddenly and fast. It's the salt the plant has problems with and all other things I mentioned already. But maybe you are a tough one and don't give up that easy and want to keep on trying. Here is some information you can follow so maybe one day you'll be lucky and have an avocado tree on Bonaire with fruit.



An avocado tree can range from 15 to 30 feet tall, depending on the region it is grown. The tree can thrive for decades. If you grow your tree from an avocado pit, it won't bear fruit until it is at least 10 to 15 years old. But if you plant it from a nursery or garden center, it should begin to produce a crop in three to four years.

Avocado trees thrive in well-aerated, loose soil. The main soil types that encourage lush fruit growth are limestone, sandy loam and decomposed granite. The best PH range for a successful tree ranges between 6 and 6.5 with lime and sulfur. Compacted soils will hinder root spread and stop tree growth. Good soil drainage is very important for healthy growth and slightly dry conditions are the best. As said, salt occurring naturally in soils can be a problem for the plant if in high concentrations. You will notice the salt issue if you observe that the tree leaves

appear sunburned or brown. An avocado tree near the ocean, where salt concentrations become heightened from sea air, makes salt control more difficult. And that is the problem we have on Bonaire with avocado plants.

But there is also another way, the container tree. If you choose to grow the avocado in a container, the soil should be a specialized planting mixture designed for avocados along with some cultivated soil from your garden. The miniature soil environment can trap moisture that encourages root rot, so coupling the tree with thirsty flowers below is a smart way to equalize the soil and water ratio. Transplanting the tree into larger containers as it grows will help you cultivate the plant into a mature fruiting tree. Avocados need moist soil, so the surface should never be allowed to dry out. Water the plant frequently, but on the other hand, avocado plants can not tolerate wet feet. Waterlogged soil can lead to plant death. It also needs plenty of direct sunlight to survive and needs to be fed once a month. Plants that do not get magnesium or phosphorous, iron and potassium can suffer. But also plants can suffer from too much fertilizer and that can lead to death.

You need to inspect the plant for pest. Spider mites are a common problem. They're tiny and barely visible. These pests damage plant foliage by feeding on content of leaves. You can use anti-bacterial soaps to help control spider mites.

Avocado seeds are relatively easy to sprout and it is a great project for kids to do. Look on the internet how to sprout the seeds and also for delicious recipes.

And if you still want to try a plant, just do it. Success. *Angliet, Nature lover*

Did You Know? STINAPA is using sensors to measure temperature and light on the coral reefs?

Corals have a symbiotic relationship with certain types of algae. This means both benefit from each other's existence by helping the other survive. The algae live in the corals' tissue and they provide food and give them their color. The algae that live inside the corals need light for photosynthesis. This is their way of producing food for the corals.

But what happens when the algae leave the corals? This happens when the symbiotic relationship gets stressed due to increased ocean temperature or pollution. As you can imagine, this is bad news for the corals! When the algae leaves the coral, they lose their food supply and turn pale or white. When the temperature is high, high solar irradiance contributes to the bleaching of corals in the shallows. When the temperature rises

about 1°C (33.8 F) above the average for a longer time, it can cause the algae to leave the corals and the corals will not let the algae back in until the temperature goes back to normal. The result is that the corals become very vulnerable and eventually die.

Why does it matter?

Thousands of animals depend on the coral reefs for their survival, as they provide shelter and protection from predators. Oh, and not only the animals get protection, we do too! The reefs are natural barriers that absorb the force of waves and storms.

What can we do to protect our corals?

STINAPA has started measuring temperature and light with sensors at some of the spots where there is probably a lot of stress to the reef. Sensors are also placed in spots where there's less stress, so comparisons can be made.

How do we place the sensors?

To place the sensors, we need a rope attached to a brick to serve as an anchor and an empty PET bottle to serve as buoy.

The heavy brick sinks slowly with the help of a lift bag. This bag can be filled with air using a dive regulator. The brick is placed at a depth of ca. 22 meters in a sandy place where no coral can get damaged by it. The rope is attached to the anchor. The sensors are attached to the rope at the depths of 20(65.6 ft), 12 (39.3 ft) and six meters (19.6 ft) facing up to the surface so all the incoming sunlight will hit the sensors. The buoy is attached to the rope around five meters (16.4 ft) under the surface, so no boats can accidentally hit it. The buoy makes sure the rope will stay straight and the sensors will stay in the same position and at the same depth.

What can we do with the information the sensors give?

The information the sensors give can be used to help us better manage the Bonaire National Marine Park. For

the most part light and temperature will vary in the same way; when there is more light, the temperature will also be higher. Conversely lower light correlates with lower temperatures.

For instance, when it's raining very hard, a lot of sediment will come into the ocean from the run-off, polluting the normally clear waters of the park. The sensors will measure less light, since the water will become murkier. This way it can be shown that dirt is running into the reefs. The government can then be informed of where problem areas with run off flows are, but also how intense the run off can be and how long the effects of it last. We hope that this information can be used to better guide development on the island to make it as sustainable as possible.



HOBO sensor (depth 5m) + STINAPA tag to inform divers not to remove the sensors. The sensors are installed pointing upward to catch as much light as possible. They are also cleaned of algae and other things that might be growing on them every week.

Written by Alike de Zwart, STINAPA intern. Connecting People With Nature.



Alike de Zwart installing a sensor at Klein Bonaire location. In total we have sensors installed at four locations. two at Klein Bonaire, one at the entrance of the Harbour Village Marina and one at the entrance of the Plaza Marina. Photos by Roxanne-Liana Francisca



Walkathon participants were greeted at Karpata by these great volunteers making pumpkin pancakes, hotdogs, sandwiches and special drinks. More Walkathon photos on our FB page.



Digicel is at it again with another great opportunity for you to win big with Shake to Win! The newest winner is Nohley Karina R. Alvarea originally from Venezuela. Nohley said she has had some financial hardship and this is a true blessing.

From now through April 16th, Digicel users who top up their phones with as little as \$10 and activate with a three-day data plan in 24 hours receive Double Data and can play Shake to Win for \$1000. The campaign ends on April 16th and the grand draw for \$1000 is on April 17th.

Picture L-R Grace Winklaar, Digicel; winner Nohley Alvarea and Andre McKenzie, Digicel marketing. Photo Julie Morgan

Sportswear. fashion. skate and sporting goods.
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At Your Service-pg 15.
this issue's featured advertiser

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The Bonaire Reporter needs your ideas, stories and/or photos to celebrate April Fool's Day in our March 25 issue.

Send your submissions to:
 info@bonairereporter.com or
 BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com

What's Happening

2020 Cruise Ships (TCB)

Fri. March 13	Bon Doet Volunteer weekend.
Sat. March 14	
Saturday March 28	Cultural Dinner Show every last Saturday of the month. Two shows at 7:15 and 8:45pm. A collaboration of Dance Sensation Dansschool Bonaire and the Cuba Compagnie. Proceeds co-finance singing and dancing lessons for disadvantaged children. Reserve: 717 1822 or email to cubacompagnie@gmail.com.
Sunday April 3	Taste of Bonaire Cultural Edition, 6pm-11pm, Wilhelmina Park. Sample local and international food from fine restaurants, meet Bonaire's artisans, buy local souvenirs, enjoy live music and dancing.

—Regular events—

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

—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 cruiseship days, 9am—3pm. Free.

DAY & DATE:MM/DD	CRUISESHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY	& LINE
Wednesday 03-11	<i>Silhouette</i>	0700-1600	S.pier	3000	Celebrity
Thursday 03-12	<i>Freedom of the Seas</i>	0800-1700	S.pier	4900	RCCL
	03-12 <i>Marella Explorer 2</i>	0700-1300	N.pier	1924	TUI UK
Tuesday 03-17	<i>Monarch</i>	0800-1800	N.pier	2250	Pullmantur
	03-17 <i>Seven Seas Explorer</i>	0700-1400	S.pier	750	Regent
Thursday 03-19	<i>Celebrity Summit</i>	0700-1600	S.pier	2158	<i>Celebrity</i>
	<i>Koningsdam</i>	0800-1800	S.pier	2650	HAL
Sunday 03-22	<i>Crown Princess</i>	1200-2000	N.pier	3100	Princess Cruises
Monday 03-23	<i>Aida Perla</i>	0700-1800	S.pier	3300	Aida Cruises
	03-23 <i>Monarch</i>	0900-1900	N.pier	2250	Pullmantur
Tuesday 03-24	<i>Sirena</i>	0700-1400	N.pier	684	Oceania Cruises
	03-24 <i>Mein Schiff 2</i>	0730-1900	S.pier	2894	TUI
Wednesday 03-25	<i>Celebrity Summit</i>	0800-1700	S.pier	2158	<i>Celebrity</i>
Thursday 03-26	<i>Freedom of the Seas</i>	0800-1700	S.pier	3634	RCCL
Sunday 03-29	<i>Hansseatic</i>	1200-2200	N.pier	230	HCL
Monday 03-30	<i>Club Med</i>	0700-1900	N.pier	386	Club Med
Tuesday 03-31	<i>Monarch</i>	0800-1800	N.pier	2250	Pullmantur
	03-31 <i>Adventure of the Seas</i>	0900-1700	S.pier	3114	RCCL

—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

International Bible Church. Kaya Papiago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob.N. De-brot. 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.

—Clubs & meetings—

• **Bridge club.** Meets every 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.

• **12 Step Meeting Wednesdays** at Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona 47. Meeting starts at 7:15pm. Info: 12stepsbonaire@gmail.com

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.

Injuries can leave you with lasting pain and dysfunction. P-DTR eliminates the cause.

by Annemiek Le Noble and Rebecca Hayes



Injuries can leave you with lasting pain and dysfunction. After an injury, such as a twist/fall, over use, operation, scar, or tattoo, the body is able to heal all of its structures within three to six months. During this healing period, the body compensates through the nervous system, doing everything it can to help you perform regular activities. But over time, you still hurt — not from the healed structures, but because the neurological compensation patterns are causing you pain. Painkillers, rest, exercises, or muscle massage won't change the pain, since these interventions don't address the cause.

A cutting edge approach to physical therapy (PT) has arrived on Bonaire. It is called P-DTR. It is set apart from traditional PT by its focus on neurology; why the brain creates pain and movement restriction around your body.

Local physiotherapist, Annemiek Le Noble, owner of Bonaire Basics, has for some time wanted to explore a more scientific and effective approach to her traditional therapy. Over the past year she has been studying advanced neurological techniques (known as P-DTR, Proprioceptive-Deep Tissue Reflex) with London based practitioner, and neuromuscular therapist, Rebecca Hayes.

Annemiek is confident that P-DTR uses techniques to “reboot” the nervous system so that the brain no longer reacts to “misinformation” by compensating. Diagnostic P-DTR techniques are able to find the causes of the compensation patterns. Therapeutic P-DTR techniques change the pattern by showing the nervous system a new way of functioning. It is by far the most effective method to deal with long-standing pain, movement issues, and “unexplained” problems.

Annemiek has invited Rebecca to Bonaire for two weeks from March 23rd to share her experience and offer consultations for those on Bonaire who are interested in understanding their symptoms, increasing their performance and pain relief.

For more information on PDTR or appointments with Rebecca and Annemiek, please contact 785-1378 or annemiek.lenoble@gmail.com.

Annemiek Le Noble has worked as a physical therapist since 1996. She moved to Bonaire in 2003 and started a successful physiotherapy practice at Bonaire Basics in 2008.

Annemiek has always educated herself in new developments in international medicine. Learning about world-leading neurological techniques to assess why the nervous system creates pain has fueled her passion: helping people to be able to do what they enjoy most, pain free.

Rebecca Haynes, a successful commercial barrister for several years, underwent a radical career change to become a highly qualified neuromuscular therapist using functional neurology. She has a rigorous science-based approach to therapy and is passionate about anatomy, neurology and biomechanics which extends to teaching neuromuscular therapy to physiotherapists, osteopaths and movement specialists in London and around Europe.

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Ask a Geek: Remember when...

by Brian Niessen

Remember when you picked up a phone, listened for a dial tone, put your fingers in the little holes, and pushed the dial around to the number you wanted. You listened to the “tikity tikity” as it rotated back to its original position or, in the new “modern” version, when you pushed buttons.

You would do that seven times to call someone in your town, or 10 times to reach someone in the same country, and you paid quite a bit of money per minute to talk to them. Heaven forbid you had to call “internationally”. That was usually a very short call due to the cost. And it was only in case of a congratulations, good news, bad news, Mother's Day or a birthday, etc..

But it was still pretty simple and magical. The key

being simple...

Nowadays when you ask someone how to call them, you get this:

Phone is 1-234-567-8910
Whatsapp is +599 555 1212
Skype is “catman”
Telegram is “@bniessen”
Facebook messenger is “bonairegeek”
Google Hangouts is “beachnerd”
Signal is “oldgeek”
MagicJack is 1-443-555-1212
And many others...

So when you actually need to call them, you first email and ask “Which system should I call you on?” and they reply “Try Skype, and if that doesn't work, Telegram, and if that doesn't work...”

So you load up Skype, and get the demand, “You must update Skype. It will only take five minutes.” Once that is done, 30 minutes later, you spend the next 20 minutes trying to connect with “Can you hear me now?” over and

over as you try every program.

When you finally do connect, you forgot what you wanted to say, or you don't have time to have the call anymore.

Now imagine that when you have three or more people trying to get on a conference call. It's a miracle that they can all get on the same call at the same time with all of the different programs, different versions that don't cooperate, or just not being able to connect at all because their internet isn't working correctly.

All this technology was supposed to make this easier... NOT!

In case you need to reach me, please go outside, look up into the sky and scream my name... It'll work just as well.

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 Supermoon ... Happy New Year?

March 9th –15th
The moon is super!

Hey there star gazers! This week we've got a supermoon, also known as the worm moon because it's almost spring!

If you go outside this week the moon will look a max of fourteen percent larger, and about thirty percent brighter. While you're out enjoying it, keep in mind that “supermoon” isn't actually a scientific term -- it was coined by astrologer in the 1970s -- the astronomical term, which is arguably more awesome, is perigee-syzygy. That's a good one for crossword fans.

Perigee means the moon is at its closest orbit, and syzygy is a straight line through three celestial bodies; which happens at every full and new moon. When these two events coincide, the moon is both close and bright -- it's a super moon.

The best time to check out this perigee-syzygy is right after moonrise, so get outside, and keep lookin' up.

March 16 – 22
It's spring! Happy New Year?

Happy new year star gazers! Confused? This week is the vernal equinox: spring has sprung!

We call spring, spring because leaves literally spring forth at this time of year -- as opposed to fall when they literally fall.

For thousands of years, this week would have seen us all celebrating the start of a new year and vernal equinox.

It makes sense, spring means rebirth, fertility, new life... Literally a new year!

But then the Roman empire decided to copy the Egyptian calendar, add a number of days to celebrate Roman emperors and start a new year on January first. The English adopted this calendar in 1752. Think about that. When George Washington was a young British officer he would celebrate New Year this week, on the first day of spring! Cool right?

Anyway, Happy New Year everyone, get outside and enjoy the equal parts day and night, while you keep lookin' up!

WWSource: <https://www.stargazersonline.org>. Hosts: Trace Dominguez & Ata Sarajedini.

Shelter News



Paws & Footprints



and socialize with refreshments and each other at Red Palm Village

Many thanks to all the walkers, our great dogs and last but not least Red Palm Village and Jacqueline Otter for the coffee, refreshments and wonderful ambiance. Thank you for allowing the walkers and dogs to socialize and relax at your beautiful place ... see you all soon!

Story: *Sanne Attevelt, Jane Disko*

Photos: *Paws & Footprints Members*



Paws & Footprints is a new initiative at Animal Shelter Bonaire. It's a group of Shelter volunteers, coordinated by staffer Sanne Attevelt, who started "walks" at the beginning of this year. Every other week, the group takes the dogs out of their kennels at the Shelter, loads them into cars, vans and trucks and off they go for a long, fun-filled walk.

The initial group of six volunteers has expanded to as many as 18 walkers. The main goal of Paws & Footprints is to get the dogs used to walking on a leash in open spaces and gain trust in human beings and each other. After the walk, the humans and their furry companions relax



L-R: Sanne Attevelt



Amy Weir



Travis Sullins



Laurie Smith



Jane Madden-Disko

Pet of the Week: Marco



In Search Of Human Servant!

Greetings, my name is Marco. I am currently searching to fill the position of my personal lifelong human servant. A little about myself: not to brag, but I am a handsome 2 ½ year old white cat with some gorgeous gray tabby patches. I have been enjoying my current servants here at the Animal Shelter Bonaire for over a year now and am ready for a more personal servant to love me fur-ever.

The human servant must have a sharp eye to pick the best cardboard boxes for me to rest and play inside, and must also be ready to rub my head and accept my head bumps whenever I request. I love receiving attention from humans. In fact, I love it so much that I can get excited and give my favorite humans harmless love nibbles. I am not a shy cat and enjoy meeting my servant's other human

friends and rolling my big belly around for everyone to see how majestic I am.

I love my human servants so much that I do not wish to share them with other cats. I don't mind dogs in my home since, as a cat, I view them as servants to my human servant.

If you think you fit my job description as my lifelong personal human servant, and I like you back, then I will fill your ears and heart full of my loud and loving purring every day! Please contact my human secretaries at the Animal Shelter Bonaire via email at animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com or give them a call at 717-4989/701-4989. Or even better, just stop by for an "interview" with me in the Cat Palace on Mon-Fri 9am-12pm, and 3-5pm and on Saturdays from 9am-3pm nonstop. *Photos and story by Amy Weir*

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